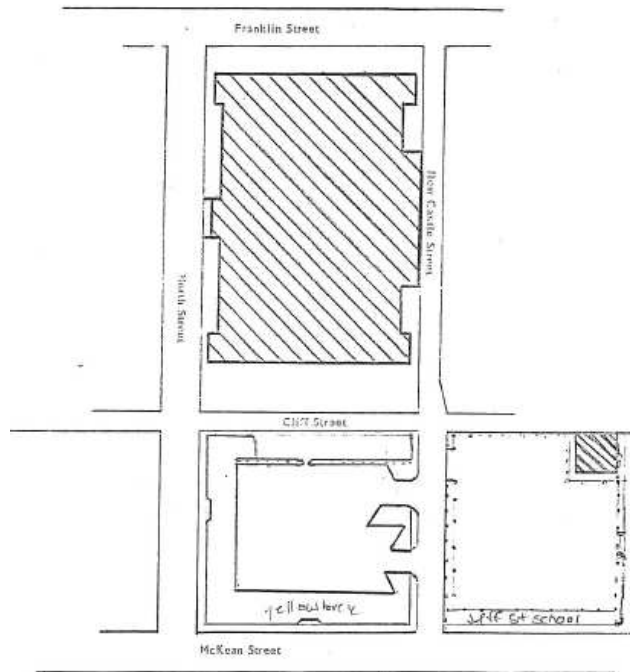


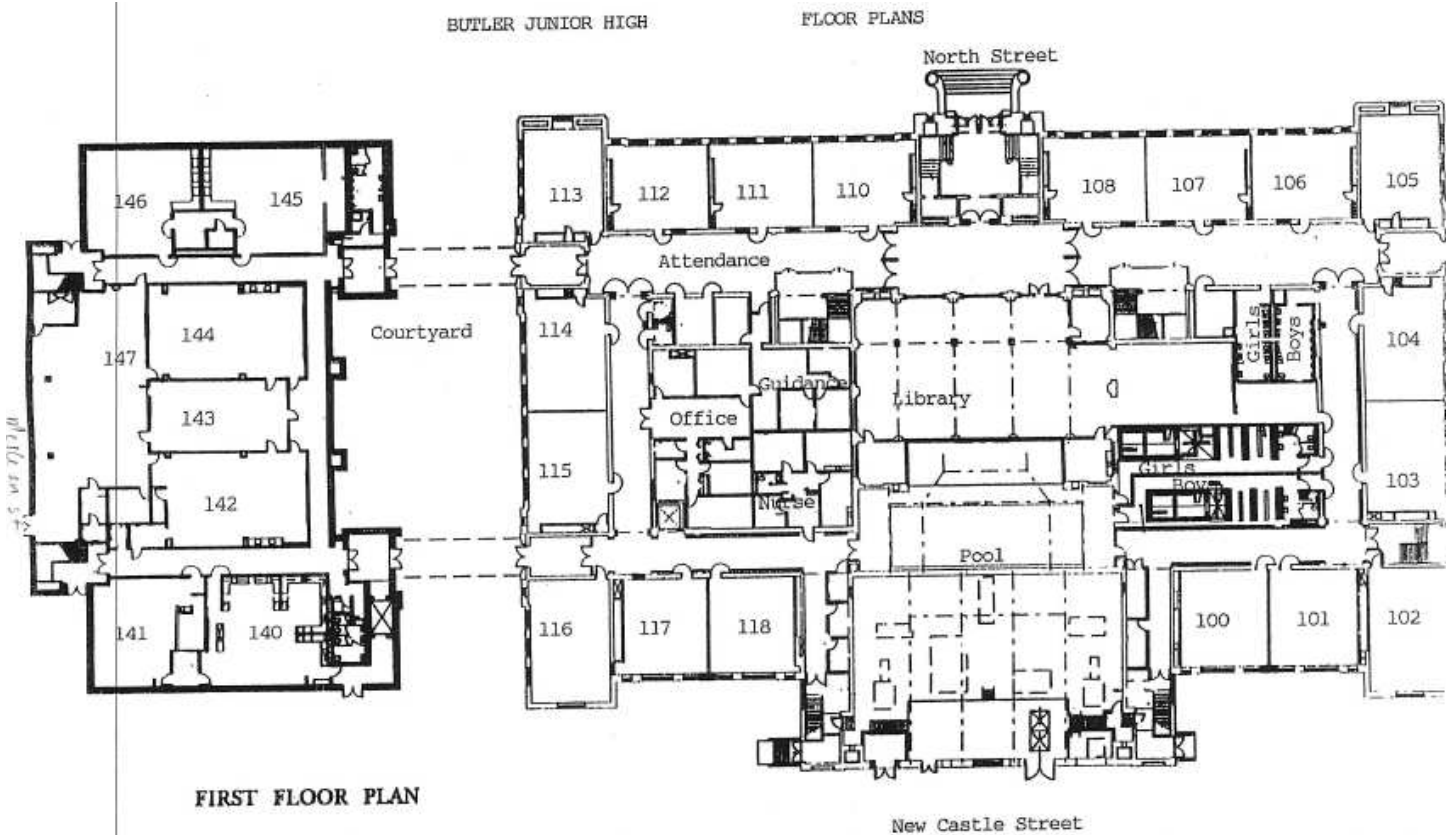
# 150042 – Butler Junior High School





Butler Junior High School  
 Butler City, Butler County 150042

*Site Plan of Butler Junior High*



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

*Floor Plan of Butler Junior High*

150042; Butler Junior High School. This school is located on East North Street, Butler, Pennsylvania in the City of Butler, Butler County. It is part of the Butler Area School District. The 1917 school building is located at the eastern end of an urban block bounded by North Street, Franklin Street, New Castle Street, and McKean Street. Cliff Street previously bounded the property on the west side. A portion of Cliff Street was converted to a courtyard which currently separates the 1917 school from a partially attached new building addition constructed in 1994-95 on the grounds of a previous junior high school razed in 1987. West of the new structure is a teacher's parking lot and a narrow strip of lawn. The school lot is surrounded by a municipal sidewalk. A narrow lawn on the front, north, façade of the 1917 school is separated from the sidewalk by a low concrete retaining wall. Small areas of lawn are located east and south of the 1917 building. A playground and parking lot are located south of New Castle Street. A few small trees are scattered around the property.

The 1917 school building is a rectangular structure with classrooms lining the perimeter of interior hallways that surround centralized large public spaces including a multi-level auditorium and multi-level gymnasium. Second floor enclosed walkways connect the 1917 building to a separate 1994-95 addition on the west side. The original 1917 Classical Revival structure is a three-story brick building set on a cast stone foundation. The building features a variety of decorative brick and cast stone embellishments including pilasters, pediments, panels, and roofline balustrade. Built-up tar covers a very low-pitched hipped roof. Two interior brick chimneys were dismantled and rebuilt in 1970. The original main entrance is set into a multi-story shallow projection with a variety of decorative details. Two sets of modern (1994-95) metal-frame glass double doors are topped by transom windows. The current main entrance is a previous side entrance, now accessed by the western courtyard between the 1917 and 1994-95 buildings. The school is lit by picture and hopper windows installed in the 1994-95 renovation of the building. Some window bays were replaced in the mid-twentieth century with glass block. The addition to the school is a two-story brick-clad structure with modern design elements somewhat reflective of the 1917 building. The addition is lit by picture and hopper windows.

The original entryway to the 1917 school building features a highly decorative vestibule with a "grand staircase." The entryway features terrazzo floor tiles, plaster walls and ceilings, stone wainscoting and door surrounds, decorative plaster crown molding, and a staircase with decorative wood and metal railings and stone steps with visible fossils. Terrazzo and slate floor tiles and plaster crown moldings were located throughout the building until the 1994-95 renovations when some were removed due to deterioration. Large hand-painted hallway murals created by graduating classes were also removed at that time due to deterioration. The elaborate auditorium of the school features plaster walls and ceiling, decorative plaster moldings and pilasters, a proscenium stage, and a second-story balcony. A gymnasium features wood floors replaced in 1997, padded brick walls, a plaster ceiling covered with acoustic ceiling tiles and a metal truss system, climbing ropes and rings, glass-block windows, and a second-story balcony with wood bleachers that extends around the perimeter of the room. Basketball hoops are attached to the railing of the balcony. An original pool features hexagonal ceramic tiles. The room

features plaster walls and ceiling. An expanded seating area for the pool was previously the former cafeteria serving line. The original cafeteria was converted in 1994-95 to a library which was moved from elsewhere in the building. The room now features a dropped ceiling with acoustic tiles (dropped to the level of decorative plaster molding), fluorescent lights, drywall walls, modern shelves and furniture. The original kitchen has been converted into a reading room. The current cafeteria is located in the 1994-95 addition, along with reading and foreign language rooms, art rooms, home economics including food and sewing rooms, traditional technology rooms, and robotics and drafting labs. The 1917 building had metal, electrical, and wood shops. These were moved to the addition due to ADA accessibility issues.

In 1908 a yellow brick senior high school was constructed on the site of an old cemetery at the corner of McKean, North, Cliff, and New Castle Streets. The new red brick senior high school was built next door in 1917. The yellow brick building became a junior high school. In 1937 the senior high school was named John A. Gibson High School in honor of the Superintendent of the Butler School District who served in that position from 1896 until retiring in 1937. Minor alterations to the 1917 school building occurred in the ensuing decades including the installation of an elevator in 1979. A new high school for the consolidated Butler Area School District was built off-site in 1960. In 1985, the yellow brick building was closed. It was razed in 1987. A new building was built on the site in a large construction and renovation project in 1994-95. Converted to a junior high school, the 1917 building and the new structure operate as one school, connected by two enclosed walkways and an outdoor courtyard which replaced the Cliff Street roadway that separated the yellow and red brick buildings. The project also entailed some reconfiguration of the interior of the 1917 building and removal of some original details. The elaborate auditorium of the school is used for a variety of community events, including services for a local church.

Dreher, V. Jean Dickson

1990 *A Collage of Decades Deeds and Dreams.*

United States Department of Agriculture

1939 Aerial Photograph APR-60-60. Created on May 10, 1939. On file at the Pennsylvania State Archives, Record Group 31, Records of the Department of Commerce, State Planning Board Collection.

United States Geological Survey

1977 *Butler, PA Quadrangle.* 7.5 minute series. Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods and by planetable surveys 1957-1958. Photorevised 1969. Photoinspected 1977. Denver, CO or Reston, VA.

1993 *Butler NE, PA Aerial Photograph.* USGS Reference Number 440079-G8-02-PHT. Created on April 23, 1993.



*Aerial View of Butler Junior High*

More Photos of Butler Junior High School

