



Haverford Township Historical Society



SCHOOLS IN HAVERFORD TOWNSHIP

By Richard D. Kerr

I have compiled this chronological overview of school buildings in Haverford Township from numerous sources, including the historical collections of the Haverford Township Historical Society and the School District of Haverford Township. The various school buildings were known by many names during their existence, and their history is far more complicated than most people imagine. For example, there have been six different school buildings in what we today call the Manoa area. I have used the most "official" names for schools in this document, with the intent of avoiding much of the confusion that has crept into past histories. I have used my best judgement to resolve discrepancies in past accounts. I would like to thank school district employee (and unofficial district historian) Blu Taylor for his early assistance. Delaware County amateur historian Keith Lockhart provided information from his own collection, including abstracts from old annual county school superintendent reports to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, which were used to confirm many dates and details concerning the "Early Schools" and "Public Schools" eras. The history of Haverford College is summarized in a separate document.

EARLY SCHOOLS (PRE-1834)

The early schools consisted of classic, rural one-room schoolhouses. They were typically built by groups of neighboring farmers, who would buy a small piece of land carved out of one farm and erect a school building on it. Children from nearby farms would attend on a subscription basis, and the group would see to the hiring and housing of a teacher, which was not a particularly prestigious or remunerative job. The common notion of bringing an apple for the teacher has its roots in the fact that it might have been sent as the teacher's lunch. Government-provided schooling did not exist until 1834, when Pennsylvania passed its first public education law, the Free Public Schools Act. The law was controversial at the time, with critics arguing that the education of children was a matter for their parents, and that there was no constitutional basis for government to get into the business of free education for all children.

Federal School (1797-1849)

Haverford Seminary No. 1 (1849-1872)

This early stone one-room schoolhouse, Haverford Township's first purpose-built school and Delaware County's second, served as a school for 75 years, from 1797 until 1872. It has been preserved and still stands on the northeast side of Darby Road between its intersections with Marple Road and Dartmouth Lane. Originally a subscription school supported by farmers, it was folded into Haverford's new public school efforts after Pennsylvania passed its enabling public education law in 1834. While some Pennsylvania municipalities dragged their feet on implementing the law in their areas, Haverford was a quick adopter and assumed operation of the Federal School. In 1849 the school became known as "Haverford Seminary #1." Penn Hall (see below), built just to the south, replaced this building as a school in 1873. The disused school later served as a house, and a 1916 sale made it part of Horatio G. Lloyd's Allgates country estate. Lloyd wisely retained it as a storage building.



In an odd twist of history, in 1967 the Federal School building came back into possession of the school district, when it purchased the 26-acre Allgates tract as a site for a proposed "middle school" which ultimately was not built. The Federal School was added to the National Register of Historic Places on November 5, 1971. The old one-room school has benefitted from much restorative work since then, beginning with a Havertown Optimists Club project during the 1976 U. S. Bicentennial excitement. In 1985 the school district sold the Allgates land, but as part of the sale, control of the historic schoolhouse was transferred to Haverford Township in

order to preserve it. Under agreement with the township, the Haverford Township Historical Society helps look after the school and uses it to provide public interpretive programs. Since 1991 the society, in conjunction with the school district, has conducted annual spring school days at the Federal School for all fourth grade students in the district's elementary schools.

Edgewood School (1799-1846)

In 1799 Jesse Davis sold for the nominal price of 5 shillings to a committee of Quakers comprised of Joseph Davis, Abraham Lewis, George Hayworth and John Gracey, acting as trustees, a lot "for school purposes only" measuring 3 perches by 4 perches. (As a surveying measure of length, a perch or rod is 16.5 feet or 5.5 yards.) A small stucco-over-stone schoolhouse was built "soon after" on this lot, located on the south side of present-day Steel Road, just to the west side of present-day N. Drexel Avenue, a road which did not exist then. (A corner of the parking lot of Hope United Methodist Church now occupies this place. In 1967, Edmund Viguers, author of "Your Land and Mine," an historical account of this local area, had a memorial marker stone created and installed there.) The school, which appears on the 1816/1818 map of Delaware County by John Melish and John Whiteside, served the southern part of the township, while the Federal School served the northern part. The name "Edgewood" came from the name by which Davis' parent tract of farm land was known. Two of the early teachers in this school were John Hayes and David Bond. In 1846 the old school was razed and replaced by a new building named "Haverford Seminary #2" (see below).

Lukens School (abt. 1814-1830)

A stone schoolhouse was located on what is now the southeast corner of Manoa Road and Myrtle Avenue, along the descent of Manoa Road toward Cobb's Creek. It was built on the land of Levi Lukens, who on August 8, 1812 purchased 110 acres of ground from the tract known as "The Grange," then owned by the Brinton family. The school faced the road, as today's Myrtle Avenue was then a lane leading to the Lukens barn and came to a dead end at the Grange property a short distance beyond. The school was built by John Lukens, Robert Clark, John Hayes, and others, in about 1814. It appears on the 1816/1818 Mellish/Whiteside map of Delaware County. According to earlier research, the children of William Johnson, Levi Lukens, Dennis Kelly, and George Smith attended this schoolhouse. It was torn down about 1835, having been discontinued as a schoolhouse, likely when the Cobb's Creek school was built. By 1840, when Townsend Cooper purchased this ground from Lukens, the school had disappeared. The present day house on this corner, at the northern segment of Myrtle Road, is 701 E. Manoa Road.

Cobb's Creek School (1831-1897)



Also known as the “**Old School**,” this small stucco-over-stone one-room schoolhouse was built in 1831 on a quarter-acre sold from Jonathan Miller’s lands located near the grist mill on Cobb's Creek. Levi Lukens (see just above) was one of four trustees for this school. Earlier research notes that John Moore was known as a teacher there for several years, a Miss Elizabeth Peary taught at this school for ten years, Margaret Hipple taught for two years, and Elizabeth Welch was the last to teach in this building. The school was enlarged in 1854 as

the population grew. In the early 1900s the building served as the home to a Christian Bible study group, which spawned both Brookline Methodist Episcopal Church (now Union United Methodist Church) and Temple Lutheran Church in 1916. The building still exists as a home at 501 Strathmore Road, set back on the south side of Strathmore Road and on the east side of Earlington Road.

Kelly's School (by 1848-at least 1870)



This small private schoolhouse was located on the east edge of Haverford Township on land owned by highly successful textile mill owner Dennis Kelly and later Sarah O'Connor, his married daughter. It has been dated back to at least 1848 by the 1936 Delaware County WPA survey, and appears marked as a school on the 1870 Hopkins Delaware County atlas map of Haverford Township. It was located on the north side of present-day Powder Mill Lane, between Cobb's Creek and the boundary with Lower Merion Township. It served as a school for the children of workers (mostly Irish Catholics) in Kelly's

mills in the 19th century. Earlier research indicates that Cora Shaw and Henry McClosky, as well as students from Villa Nova College (as Villanova University was called in those times), were employed here as teachers. The building lasted until 2000 as a home, when it was torn down to make room for new homes. It is wrong to call it the “first St. Denis School,” and it was not really a parochial school.

COMMON SCHOOLS AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS (1834 AND AFTER)

“Haverford Seminary” Era

Haverford Seminary No. 1 (1849-1872)

(See the **Federal School** description above for this same building.)

Haverford Seminary No. 2 (1846-1883)



This small school was built on the site of the earlier Edgewood School (see above) to replace it, as part of the still fairly new public school system. Reportedly it rested on the same foundation as its predecessor building. Mary Bessor, Tillie Williams, Mary Donnelly, Frank Rodgers and William Glee are recorded as having taught in this school. By 1883, this school was in turn replaced by Haverford Public School No. 2 (see below). After a fire destroyed the roof of the disused

“seminary” building, it was torn down between 1928 and 1933 (accounts differ). The datestone from this school, reading “Haverford Seminary #2 1846,” was saved and built into the community hall of the Bon Air Fire Company, and in 1963 was moved again to the entry hall of Manoa School.

“Haverford Public School” Era

This brings us to the “Haverford Public School” era, which followed the “Haverford Seminary” era. The “Seminary” schools were one-room schoolhouses, while some of the “Public Schools” were multi-room. (In a word usage that seems strange today, each classroom was sometimes referred to as a “school,” so that a building was said to hold “two schools.”) It is interesting (and perplexing) that the following “Haverford Public School No. x” schools were not numbered in order of their dates of construction. Preserved carved datestones confirm the following order: 1869 (No. 3), 1872 (No. 1), 1876 (No. 5) and 1883 (No. 2) - all followed in 1904 by No. 4. The numbering system appears on atlas maps as early as 1902 (No. 5) and 1908 (No. 2).

Haverford Public School No. 3 (also called “Redmont School”) (1869-1896)

This school was on the south side of present-day Manoa Road, two hundred and fifty yards west of Darby Road. On August 24, 1869, the School District of Haverford Township purchased one acre of ground from William Davis and wife, on which a one-room school house was built. While officially known as Haverford Public School #3, earlier research notes that Sallie Eachus, the first teacher, called the building “Redmont School” owing to the ground being red clay, and that some of the teachers at this school were Sallie Lewis and Miss Mater. On May 27th, 1896, a portion of this ground was granted to the Philadelphia and Delaware County Railroad as a right of way for its proposed railroad line. The school was discontinued in 1896, and in September 1897 the pupils were transferred to the new Manoa Public School (see below). On December 31st, 1898, the property was sold at an auction sale to William H. Stewart and the school was torn down. Today there are two double houses on the site, owned in 1936 by the widow of Mr. Stewart. Mrs. Stewart retained the datestone, which reads “Haverford Public School No. 3 – 1869,” taken from the old school building. It is now preserved by the Haverford Township Historical Society. The two double houses still stand at 37 and 39, and 41 and 43 Manoa Road.

Haverford Public School No. 1 (1872-1912)



Sometimes referred to as the “Coopertown School and Lyceum” or “Penn Hall,” this two-story brick building was located within the fork where present-day Coopertown Road and Darby Road separate, just south of the Federal School. Built by the Penn Hall Association, a civic organization, it was sold to the school district on March 27, 1873. The ground floor served as the school, while the upper floor served as a community meeting hall. The school was discontinued in 1913 (Oakmont School opened in 1912), and the building was torn down in the summer of 1921. Sue Stern and Sue Lynch taught in

this building. A datestone, reading “Haverford Public School #1 – 1872,” was located above the door leading into the school room. The upstairs Lyceum, a meeting room, also had a datestone. It was located on a building wall and read “Penn Hall – 1872.” These stones are preserved today by the School District of Haverford Township in its Oakmont administration building.

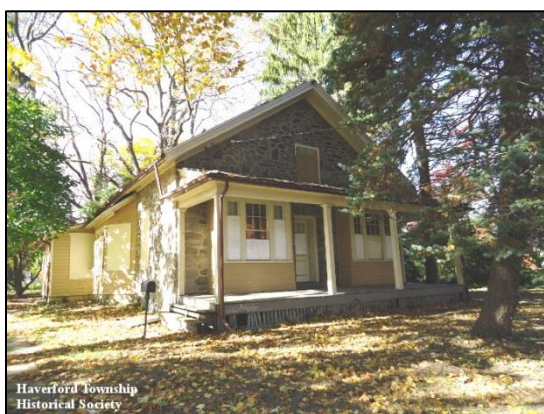
Haverford Public School No. 5 (1876-1917)



Public School No. 5 was later informally referred to as “**Preston Public School**” following the establishment of the Preston neighborhood that it came to serve. It was a brick two-room schoolhouse located on the south side of Buck Lane, one property west of Railroad Avenue. This building was supplanted as a school by the officially-named Preston School, construction of which began in 1913 (see below). It went out of use as a school in December 1917 and

was sold in February 1918. It then served as a hall, where dances and social events are known to have been held. In 1937 the Church of God in Christ of Montgomery and Delaware County, founded in 1934 and now known as the Memorial Church of God in Christ, bought the property. This church, at 747 Buck Lane, has seen many expansions and renovations. The south (rear) wall, west wall and roof of the original school building remain today and were uncovered during a 2018 interior renovation of the sanctuary. The school’s original datestone, reading “Haverford Public School No. 5 – 1876,” survives in the possession of the church, having been removed from a wall during a 1997 expansion.

Haverford Public School No. 2 (1st) (1883-1896)



Originally a small single-story schoolhouse built of random rubble stone, this school replaced the nearby Haverford Seminary No. 2. It was located on the west side of S. Eagle Road, north of Steel Road. Mary Donnelly taught in this old school. This school was soon replaced by a larger building (see just below). The property and building were sold back to John Leedom, the original owner, on April 23, 1898. The building was adapted and converted by about 1900 into a home which ended up with the address 516 S. Eagle Road. A datestone bearing the name and 1883 date was preserved and has been relocated to later “Manoa” schools over the years.

Haverford Public School No. 2 (2nd) (also called “Manoa Public School”) (1897-1928)



This first school to actually be called “Manoa” was a two-room schoolhouse built in the English Tudor style. (The name “Manoa” first came into use in Haverford Township as a post office designation in 1882.) This larger school building replaced the earlier Haverford Public School No. 2 described just above. It was located on the southeast side of Manoa Road, north and east of where Furlong Avenue now meets Manoa Road. This school was later expanded in the back, but as the population of the area continued to grow dramatically, it became inadequate and was in turn replaced by the

larger Manoa School in 1928 (see below). Hilda Schadel Lucas attended school here (about 1916-1922) and in her historical writings documented that there were 3 grades in each of the two rooms. Students then used special school tickets to take the West Chester Pike trolley line to Llanerch School for grades 7

and 8. After that they would take the same trolley line and transfer to the Ardmore trolley line for high school at Oakmont.

Haverford Public School No. 4 (“Chestnutwold School”) (1904-1985)



The original Chestnutwold School, officially known in its early days as “Public School No. 4,” represented a transition between eras of school buildings in Haverford Township. It was the last of the numbered public schools and the first of a generation of two-story, institutional-looking stone school edifices typical of the early 20th century, when residential suburban development boomed. It was located on the north side of Loraine Street, across from Rosemont Avenue, in the Ardmore postal area of Haverford Township. The school property later expanded eastward to Belmont Avenue. A rear addition enlarged the school in 1909-1910, and a side

addition added in the late 1950s included a gymnasium, offices and several classrooms. After many decades of service, this school closed in 1985 because of declining township school enrollment numbers and consolidation of facilities. There followed a long public debate about what use to make of the building, or a portion of it, or the land. Meanwhile it was rented in part and then whole from 1979 until 2004 by the Delaware County Intermediate Unit for its **Community School**, after children with severe emotional issues were taken out of Haverford State Hospital. It was also used by various community groups. Finally, with school district enrollment growing again, the school district razed the century-old building in 2004 and built a new **Chestnutwold Elementary School** (see below) in 2006 on the same site.

Early 20th Century Schools Era

Llanerch School (1905-1986)

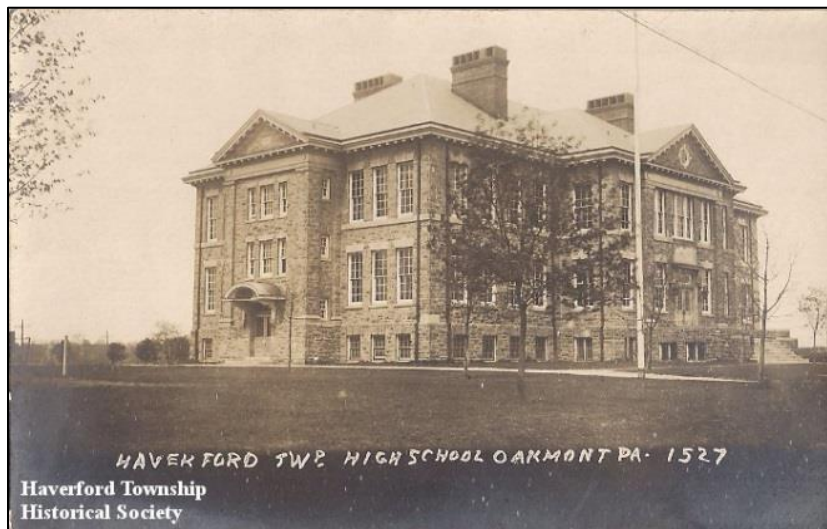


Llanerch School, at Llandillo Road and East Darby Road (now the northbound side of Darby Road), was designed by Clarke Churchman. It served not only as a grade school, but also as the township’s first high school, with a two-year curriculum. In 1906, there were two high school graduates, and in 1910 high school classes moved to Chestnutwold School. As the population grew, Llanerch School was significantly altered in 1913, being absorbed into a larger design by architect Wesley Blithe. After 80 years of service and with declining school enrollment in the township, the building was sold in 1986 and became the

home of the private **Stratford Friends School** (see below). In 2016 the building was again sold for conversion into apartments.

Oakmont School (1912-present)

School District of Haverford Township Administration Building (abt. 1990-present)



Oakmont School, located on the north side of E. Eagle Road and east of E. Hathaway Lane, served as the school district's high school as well as a grade school from the time of its opening until 1923, when a separate, larger high school building was constructed. Dedicated on December 14, 1912, it is built in the district's traditional early 20th Century style, with an addition being added in 1917. Many years later, as the postwar "baby boom" waned, Oakmont's shrinking student body was

transferred (about 1990) to Coopertown Elementary School, and the building was repurposed as the School District of Haverford Township's Administration Building, along with serving special needs students.

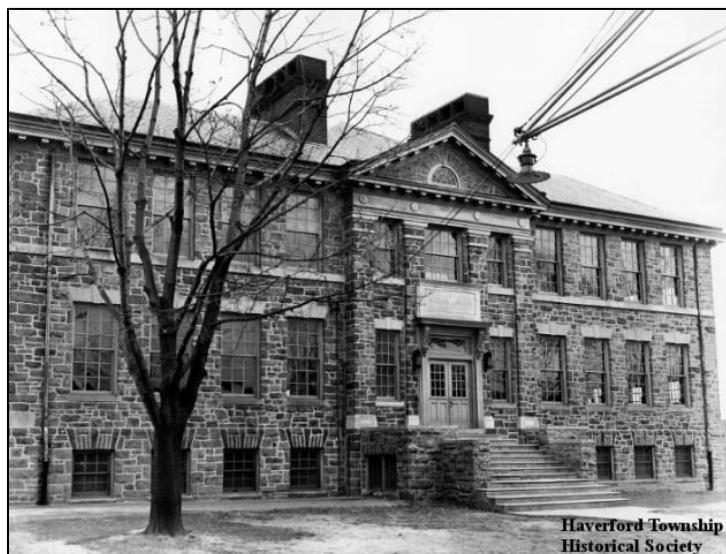
Brookline School (1913-1985)



Although the Brookline neighborhood was an early one in the township's development, its Brookline School was among the last of the institutional early 20th Century grade schools to be constructed. It was built on the east side of Earlington Road, between Kenmore and Sagamore roads. Originally a four-room schoolhouse, it was expanded over time. In 1955, part of its student body was transferred to the newly-opened Chatham Park Elementary

School. The last elementary school classes in Brookline School ended in 1985. The building continued to host various forms of use for many years, including a Staff Development Center and some high school language classes in the 1990s during renovation of the high school. The school district sold the Brookline School property to Haverford Township in 2019. After much public deliberation and controversy, including the option of relocating the Haverford Township Free Library to this site, the school building was razed in 2021, with a decision ultimately made to use the site for Brookline Park, a new public park for the Brookline neighborhood.

Preston School (1913-after 1958)



Construction of the larger, institutional-looking Preston School began in 1913, to replace the earlier, smaller Haverford Public School No. 5, also called "Preston Public School." A six-room, two-floor stone schoolhouse, it was located on a two-acre lot on the south side of Martin Avenue. When Coopertown Elementary School opened its doors in 1958, some Preston students were transferred to that school. Later, the Preston School was closed completely, with all students in that area attending Coopertown. The building was finally torn down in 1972. Its location is now the parking area of present-day Preston Park.

Haverford High School (1923-1956) Haverford Junior High School (1956-1986)



The school district's first building used exclusively as a high school was a large stone structure constructed on the east side of East Darby Road (now the northbound part of a combined Darby Road), just below E. Marthart Avenue. Students helped lug school materials from the Oakmont School down to their new, bigger school. It housed the entire four-year span

of high school classes, which followed eight years of grade school at the time. The year after the new Senior High School was built in 1956, this building was combined by a connecting corridor into the adjacent Junior High School to handle growing enrollment (see below).

Haverford Junior High School (1926-1986) Haverford Middle School (1986-present)



In 1926 another large stone building was built just south of the Haverford High School, to serve as a Junior High. When it was finished, the grade assignments to the district's various school buildings changed. Grades 1 through 6 remained at the grade school

locations, while the “Junior High” now housed grades 7 through 9 (the “Little Fords”) and the “Senior High” held grades 10 through 12. Moving Grades 7 and 8 out of the local grade schools gave them breathing-room capacity as the school district’s enrollment continued to swell. When the later Senior High School building was opened in 1956, these two older adjacent buildings were joined together by a “Connecting Corridor” to form a larger, combined Junior High facility. This building also housed the school district administrative offices, until they were moved to the Oakmont School building. A major renovation of the Middle School was accomplished between 2008 and 2012 in six phases, which resulted in 1000 windows being replaced, 30 additional classrooms being added, and complete rebuilding of electrical, plumbing and climate control systems.

Manoa School (1928-2010)

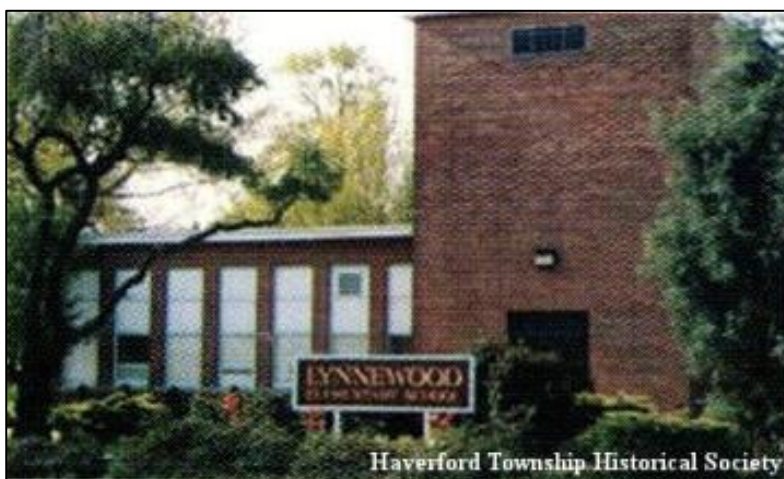


The large two-story, institutional-looking stone Manoa School building, the last of the series, was built to replace the second Haverford Public School No. 2 (“Manoa Public School”) to address a rapidly growing population in the Manoa area. It was located on the northeast corner of Manoa Road and Furlong Avenue, where the school it supplanted had been located. Even this larger building had to be expanded several times. After over 80 years of service, it was replaced in 2010 by the Manoa

Elementary School at Manoa and Eagle roads, and its location is now a playfield.

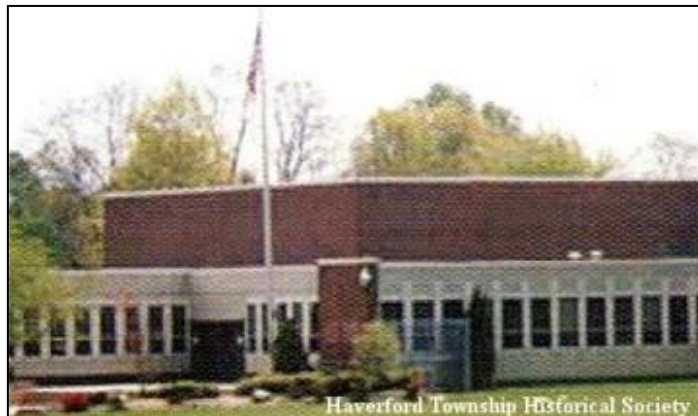
Mid-20th Century Schools Era

Lynnewood Elementary School (1st) (1951-2020)



Despite a continually-growing population in the township, there was a 23-year gap in the construction of new schools. The postwar “baby boom” brought the issue to a head, and in 1951 the Lynnewood Elementary School became the first of a next generation of school buildings. It was located at 1400 Lawrence Road, west of Eagle Road. The township-owned Lynnewood Park, located alongside the school property farther down Lawrence Road, offered additional open space.

Chatham Park Elementary School (1955-present)



The next 1950s school to be built was the large two-story Chatham Park Elementary School, located at 400 Allston Road on a 9.53-acre site in the neighborhood development of the same name. Many Brookline School students were transferred to Chatham Park Elementary when it was opened in 1955. An addition to the school building was made in 1990.

Haverford Senior High School (1956-1986) Haverford High School (1986-present)



As part of the 1950s boom in school enrollment and construction, a new Senior High School was erected at 200 Mill Road, across from Allston Road, on the site of the old Brookline Square Club (later the Brookline Country Club). The new Senior High and the revamped Junior High could share track and playing field facilities under this arrangement. In 1986 the Junior High School (grades 7-9) became the Middle School (grades 6-8), while the Senior High School (grades 10-12) became the High School (grades 9-12). The building underwent extensive renovation and expansion in the 1990s and in 2021.

Coopertown Elementary School (1958-present)

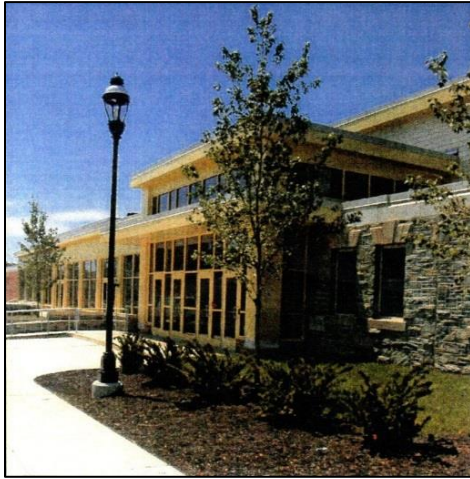


The northernmost school in the township is Coopertown Elementary School, located at 800 Coopertown Road. (Highland Lane forms the township boundary with Radnor Township, so children living across the street from this school go elsewhere for education.) Its construction closely followed that of the Highland Farms and Bryn Mawr Homes housing

developments that surround the school and created much of the need for it. Developer Highland Farms Inc. sold the land to the school district in February 1955. In 1958 Coopertown Elementary School opened its doors with 14 classrooms, a library, a small gymnasium, a cafeteria and an auditorium with a music area behind its stage. The school is sited on a 12-acre lot, with the township's 3-acre Highland Farms Park adjoining it. The single-level school was expanded in 1991 and 2006 to meet changing needs.

21st Century Schools Era

Chestnutwold Elementary School (2006-present)



The Chestnutwold Elementary School opened in 2006 on the 5-acre school site where the former Chestnutwold School had stood since 1904. Because of the small size of the school property, the old school had to be demolished before the new school could be built. The new school retained the old Chestnutwold School colors and for its mascot chose the Phoenix, emblematic of rising again. The school has a ground floor, first floor and second floor. It is located at 603 Loraine Street in the Ardmore postal service area of Haverford Township.

Manoa Elementary School (2010-present)



The present Manoa Elementary School at 201 S. Manoa Road opened in 2010 on a 2.58-acre site at the southeast corner of S. Manoa Road and S. Eagle Road. It replaced the stone Manoa School which dated back to 1928 and was subsequently razed, the land becoming an open field. It has a general “L” shape, consisting of three floors of classrooms along S. Eagle Road and a single level along S. Manoa Road.

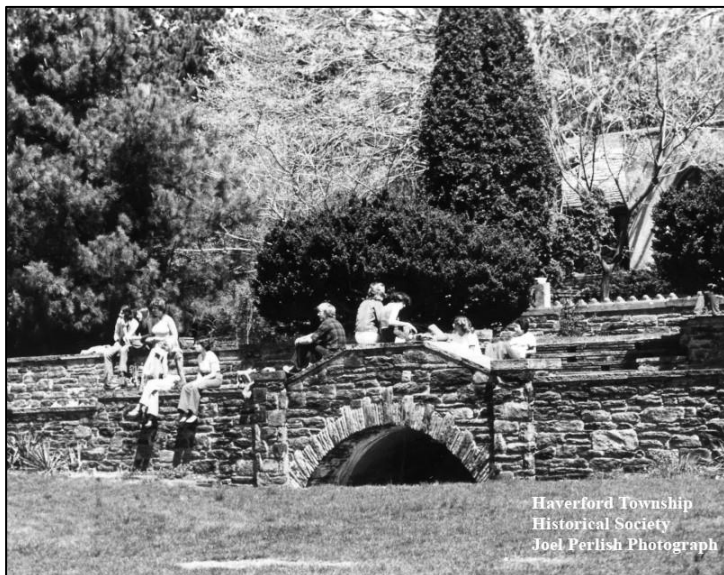
Lynnewood Elementary School (2nd) (2020-present)



In 2020 a new "V"-shaped Lynnewood Elementary School building opened for use, adjacent to the 1951 building that it replaced and closer to the neighboring township Lynnewood Park property. The former school building was then demolished, resulting in a swap of locations for the school and its neighboring field space on the 11.8- acre site. The new building has three floors.

Other Public Schools

Allgates School (1969-1984)



In 1967 the Haverford Township School District bought the Allgates estate for short-term use of the mansion house as classroom space, and for longer term use of the site as the location for a new proposed middle school. The Allgates mansion, the largest of 19 buildings on the property, had been built in 1912 for financier Horatio G. Lloyd (Sr.) to a design by architect Wilson Eyre. The Allgates School, at 15 Coopertown Road, helped the school district deal with an immediate capacity problem at the height of the "baby boom." It was structured as an experimental "alternative" school for college-bound students, who were given more college-like independence in their

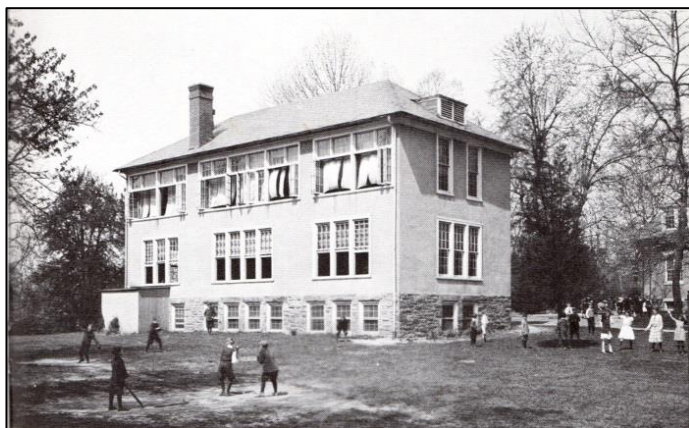
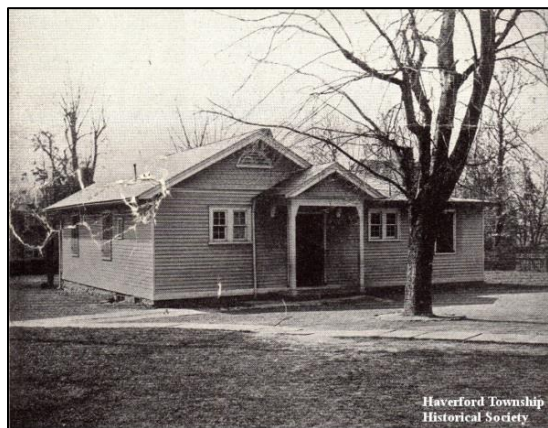
learning. They produced their own yearbooks. The Allgates School continued for 15 years, while the school district unsuccessfully pursued its middle school plan. Finally, in 1985, the school district sold the Allgates property, less the Federal School (see above), to a developer who surrounded the mansion house with additional houses.

PAROCHIAL AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Haverford Primary School (1885-1913)

Haverford Friends' School (1913-1977)

Friends School Haverford (1977-present)



This small Quaker-based school began as a one-room wood schoolhouse in 1885, on land provided by the Haverford Monthly Meeting. The name has changed over the years, reflective of the general public confusion over similar-sounding school names: the public Haverford Township school district, the private Haverford School in Lower Merion (originally the Haverford School for Boys, a “grammar school” on the Haverford College campus), and this “Haverford” school. A second classroom was added in 1897. A two-story, six-room building (shown above right, pictured from rear) replaced the original building (shown above left) in 1913. It too was expanded, with a 1927 “office” addition and then a 1937 addition adding a basement auditorium and three classrooms. A separate auditorium / gymnasium building and other facilities for the school have since been added at the 851 N. Buck Lane location.

St. Denis School (1924-2012)



Construction of this first parochial school in Delaware County began in 1923 (the centennial year of the start of construction of St. Dennis church itself) to the east of the cemetery grounds. The square, grey stone building opened in September 1924, with a basement lunchroom, a first-floor auditorium and four classrooms on the second floor. Teachers originally came from the Religious Sisters of Mercy convent in Merion. A rear addition in 1930 added four classrooms, making a classroom available for each of the eight grades. Two more classrooms followed in 1949, but even this along with the establishment of other neighboring parochial schools was not enough. An additional school building was proposed in 1955. An L-shaped plan was adopted with the provision for a second floor, added in about 1958, resulting in 14 classrooms.

Annunciation School (1927-2012)

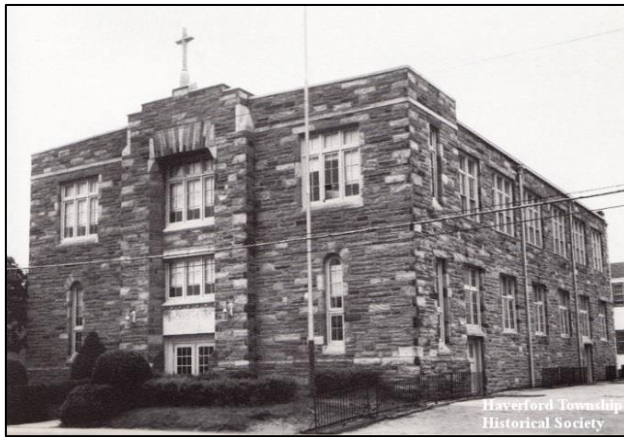


The Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary parish was created in 1927. At first, services were held in the basement lunchroom of Brookline School, but by year's end ground had been broken for a building combining a chapel (first floor), school classrooms (2nd floor) and an auditorium (3rd floor). The school opened in September 1928, with Religious Sisters of Mercy coming from Merion convent and later St. Denis to teach. Beginning in 1941, Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (C.C.D.) summer religious education evening classes, for Catholic children attending public schools, have also been held in the classrooms. Like other

schools in the township, and despite other parish schools forming, the eight grades of Annunciation School were overwhelmed by suburban growth, and in 1958 a new three-story school was built, connected to the original building. The Annunciation School closed in 2012, being merged with the neighboring (and similarly half-full) St. Denis School to form the **Cardinal John Foley Regional Catholic School** (see below), a transition that caused much initial anger and concern among some parishioners.

Sacred Heart School (1928-present)

The Sacred Heart parish was established in 1927 and “made do” with temporary quarters until the first church building was completed in November. Work then turned to construction of a parish school at Manoa Road and Wilson Avenue, which opened in 1928, served by Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The growth typical of Haverford Township in the first half of the 1900s led to the parish hall being converted into four additional classrooms in 1947.



Planning then began for a larger church building at Manoa and Shelbourne roads, completed in 1952, and a new school across Manoa Road from the old school, finished in 1961 on a lot stretching back to West Chester Pike. School enrollment had grown from under 100 originally to 1,000. The new school featured a large basement gymnasium / auditorium and two floors with 17 classrooms and other facilities. In addition, the old buildings were modernized. In 1978 the original church building, which had been pressed into use as additional classrooms, was converted back to a chapel.

Blessed John Neumann School (1967-1976)

SS. Colman – John Neumann School (1976-present)



The St. Colman's Parish School opened in Ardmore in Lower Merion Township in 1915. The Blessed John Neumann School opened on the north side of Highland Road in the Bryn Mawr postal area of Haverford Township in 1967. In 1976 the two schools merged as the St. Colman – Blessed John Neumann School, using the Neumann building in Haverford Township. Its teachers came from the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph (who had served the St. Colman School), the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia (who had served the Blessed John Neumann School) and lay faculty. The school, renamed SS. Colman – John Neumann School in 1977, had a major expansion and building project in 1982, adding a separate building housing a cafeteria, auditorium and athletic facility. Two classrooms, a science lab and a technology lab were built in 1988. Three additional classrooms, along with other educational facilities, followed in 2013.

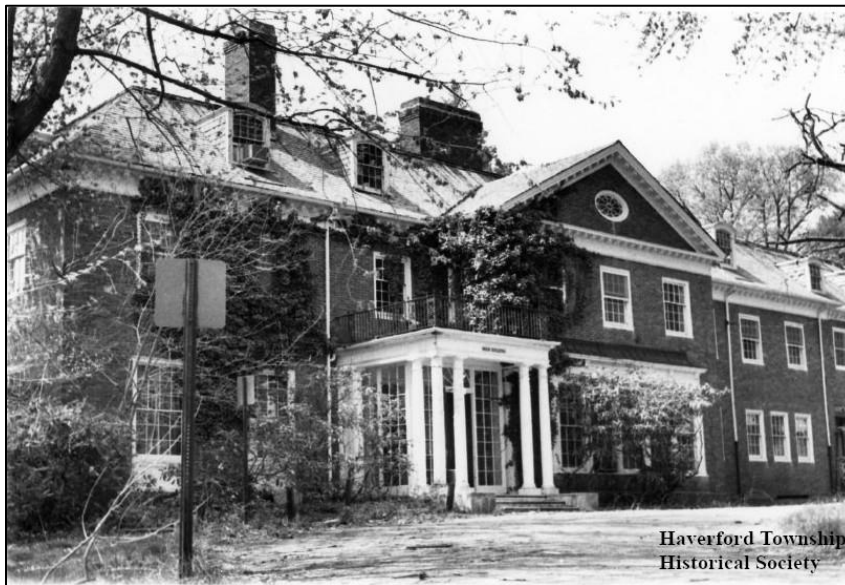
Main Line Reading Center, Inc.

Mitchell School (about 1968-mid 1980s)

Main Line Day School (about 1968-mid 1980s)

In 1967, the Main Line Reading Center, then located at 527 E. Lancaster Avenue in St. Davids, Pennsylvania, under Dr. Barry P. Hershone, bought the Brookthorpe estate of J. Stanley Reeve, located on Darby Road across from College Avenue. In that same year it incorporated both the Mitchell School and the Main Line Day School. The Mitchell School, operated by John A. and Bickley E. Mitchell, was a

for-profit preparatory school, while Main Line Day School was a specialized institution for children with learning difficulties resulting from social and emotional factors. The Mitchell School revenue came from tuitions, while Main Line Day School's much larger budget was derived largely from state and local public funding for special education.



The two co-educational schools, both covering grades 1 through 12, shared the Brookthorpe facility from about 1968 until about 1983. To accommodate needs, Hershone built an addition to the original estate house, converted the former carriage houses and added a gymnasium. In 1972 the campus claimed 575 students and 48 staff members. It closed in the mid-1980s, and the land was bought by the Marriott Corporation to expand its Quadrangle life-

care community next door. The existing buildings were subsequently demolished, and Quadrangle cottage apartments took their place.

Stratford Friends School (1988-2009)

The Stratford Friends School was incorporated in 1976 as the first Quaker-affiliated school for children with learning differences. It uses a multi-sensory approach to deal with learning disabilities. The school, for children of elementary and middle school age, first operated at two successive locations in Lansdowne. In late 1987, the school's bid was accepted for the former **Llanerch School** in Haverford Township (see above). It moved to the 5 Llandillo Road location in 1988 with 43 students. After 21 years in Llanerch, the growing school moved in 2009 to the former Delaware County Christian School building at 2 Bishop Hollow Road in Newtown Township.

Cardinal John Foley Regional Catholic School (2012-present)

In the early 21st century, following the post-World War II "baby boom," the Archdiocese of Philadelphia faced declining parochial school enrollment and budgetary issues, and tough decisions had to be made. Locally, at that time both **St. Denis School** and **Annunciation School** (see above) were only about half filled, and the obvious solution was to merge the two parish schools into a new regional grade school. The new school was given a new name honoring John Foley, a Delaware County native who once served at Sacred Heart Church and ultimately rose within the Roman Catholic Church to become the Vatican's spokesman, among many other duties. However, the new regional school used the former, larger St. Denis School facilities, and a feeling of loss upset some Annunciation parish members with strong ties to their own parish school and its history.

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