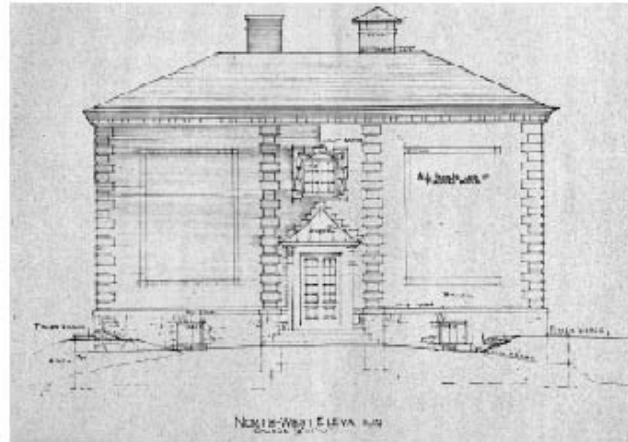


## STATE COLLEGE HISTORIC SITE



### Nittany Avenue Elementary School

Built in 1924, this school building opened to State College students on Monday, January 5, 1925. Overwhelming pressure on the nearby Frazier Street School (400 pupils in 1921) had necessitated its construction.

A. Lawrence Kocher, head of Penn State's Architecture Department, designed this six-room, 250- to 300-student "central grammar school," with its decorative brickwork and classical symbols framing the sole front window. (Four years later, he would be one of the architectural advisors guiding restoration of Colonial Williamsburg.) William Kennedy was the general contractor; T.E. Hafer did the brickwork. John R. Bracken, Penn State professor of Landscape Architecture, did the grounds planning.

This school building was the final piece of the then "central school area," which included the 1897 Frazier Street School, 1914 high school, and the emerging playing field.

The Nittany Avenue School—for many years, a fifth and sixth grade building—closed at the end of the 1963-64 school year. In 1965, it became the State College Area School District's Administrative Building, replacing the central office at 114 West Foster Avenue. In January 1966, the School Board began meeting in the new board room here—no longer in school libraries or offices, the cafeteria of the old high school, or other school spaces.

