

November 1, 1939

\$140,000 Building Has Gymnasium, Lab, Library, Auditorium

**Equipment Permits Inter-
Communication and Radioed
Educational Programs**

SESSIONS START MONDAY

**415 Pupils Have Vacation this
Week as Transfer Is Made
from Old Building**

Next Monday the pupils of Dinwiddie high school will be in session in their new \$140,000 school building at the Courthouse, resuming classes after a week's "lay-off" while the school authorities, assisted by the NYA boys, moved equipment from the old building near the new structure.

It had been planned to complete the moving in the first three days of the week and to start sessions in the new building today, but rainy weather was a big handicap on a job so big and it proved impossible to get moved and arranged before Friday night.

Beautiful Building Set Where Thousands Will See It

Severely plain, in the best Colonial type of architecture, the new Dinwiddie high school faces U. S. Route 1, where, when grading and landscaping are completed, beautiful level grounds will extend the approximately 100 feet to the highway. The building, standing out against its forest background, even in the present unfinished state of the grounds, presents a picture that is certain to catch the eye and win the admiration of the multitude of passers-by, from every state in the union and many foreign countries who travel that "main street of eastern America."

The new school, two stories in height, is entirely fireproof, even to most of the equipment. The elementary pupils occupy the first floor, and the high school and seventh grade are on the second floor.

New Modern School Ready For Classes

What's Inside

On the first floor are eight class rooms, the principal's office, a first aid room where treatment can be given in emergencies, and two store rooms, one shelved for books and the other for school equipment.

The auditorium and gymnasium are also entered from this floor.

Each elementary classroom has closets for the pupils' wraps with ingenious folding doors that provide extra room in the closets and are noiseless.

On the second floor are located the entire high school department and a classroom occupied by the seventh grade pupils. The upper floor rooms do not have closets but the hall is lined with 180 modern individual lockers for the use of the students. Each locker is equipped with a combination lock. There are six classrooms on this floor, the science laboratory and library.

The science laboratory has the very latest in equipment with individual work bench and sink for each pupil, and each is furnished with the most modern essentials for their highly important branch of school work. The large library room is celled with material which cuts down sound. Adjoining are a small conference room and a workshop for book repairs.

The halls in the building are particularly attractive, with brown tile reaching up about four feet, providing attractive decoration and being easily cleaned. The ceilings are celled as is the library, reducing very considerable the hall noises which otherwise would interfere with the pupils' studies or recitations.

The Wonders of the Public Address System

An innovation in the school is its public address system, the last word in this sort of equipment. Every room is provided with a loud speaker which is connected with a control board in the principal's office. This control board is equipped with a radio and a phonograph and from it either phonograph music or radio programs may be switched to any one or all rooms in the building.

On the principal's desk is a loud speaker by which he can talk to any room in the building, and in turn any one in any room-including the gym, storage rooms, library or auditorium-speaking in an ordinary tone of voice, may be heard by him. Thus at any time the principal is able to "listen in" on any of the work going on anywhere in the school. The radio equipment is of the very latest and most powerful design, capable of picking up almost any of the major stations, domestic or foreign. Eventually educational programs, nationally broadcast, can be heard by any class or by the whole school in assembly.

In the principal's office is also located the clock which operates the automatic gong and bell system.

A Modern, Attractive, Well- equipped Auditorium

One of the most modern and attractive features of the building is the auditorium. This has a seating capacity of approximately 600 and is bowl shaped in the most modern manner. One standing on the stage has a feeling of closeness to the entire audience that is very pleasing to a speaker. The acoustics are fine.

The stage is of the very latest pattern and the lighting system the finest to be had anywhere, the stage alone using 16,000 watts in its foot and drop lights, which are so colored and arranged that with a little practice an operator can provide almost any possible illumination effect.

A Fine Gymnasium

Another feature of which the school authorities and pupils are particularly proud is the splendid modern gymnasium. A standard playing space, 45x70, has a maple floor. Bleacher space on one side provides for approximately 300 spectators. The lighting system of the gym is of the daylight type, giving the nearest thing to actual sunlight that can be had by artificial means. This lighting system requires 10,000 watts.

Commodious dressing rooms are provided for both boys and girls with lockers and with individual showers for the girls.

It is planned to make this gymnasium available to the entire county for athletic and social events, thus school authorities believe, filling a want that has been vitally felt in the various communities.

Other Notable Features

The floors throughout the building with the exception of the gym, are of mastic tile, providing a permanent, noiseless and easy footing.

The heating system is the last word in public-building air-conditioning. Each of the classrooms is provided with a thermostat, located near the door. This is set at the desired temperature and is connected with the large radiator located on the outside wall. In each of these radiators is an electric motor. When the temperature is under the required heat this motor drives the heat that comes in from the central plant into the room. If the temperature becomes too high the apparatus automatically reverses itself and draws in cool air from the outside through ventilators located in the wall and distributes this through the room. The same system is used in the auditorium and gymnasium with necessary adaptations because of their larger size.

The heating plant is in a separate building and is the one used for the old school building enlarged and modernized. It is equipped with an automatic firing system, using coal dust instead of lump coal, thus reducing work and utilizing a much cheaper fuel.

The building was erected by the Labunum Construction Company of Richmond. B.M. Lukehard was the general superintendent.

415 Enrolled Now

At present the school has an enrollment of approximately 415 with about 150 pupils in the high school department. Nine buses bring pupils to both departments from a wide territory. The Smith Grove and Sapony schools were closed at the beginning of this term, all the Smith Grove pupils being transported now to Dinwiddie while the former Sapony pupils have been divided between the Dinwiddie and McKenney-Sunnyside schools.

The old building which has housed school activities at the county seat for so many years will be used temporarily at least for NYA activities. The home economics and vocational agriculture departments will continue to use their present quarters in separate buildings.

The Faculty

The Dinwiddie faculty is composed of the following:

The High School

Ivan Butterworth, principal. Mr. Butterworth, in addition to his duties as principal teaches chemistry and science. He also coaches athletic teams.

John R. Doyle, assistant principal, who teaches English and is the school librarian. Mr. Doyle is assisted in his library duties by NYA librarians.

R.M. Ritchie, vocational agriculture.

Miss Elizabeth Lambert, home economics. Miss Lambert divides her time between the Dinwiddie and Sunnyside-McKenney high schools.

Miss Evelyn Howell, English and social studies.

Miss Leola Brown, mathematics and Latin.

Miss Ercelle Reade, science and French.

The Elementary Grades

Seventh - Miss Mary McKissick

Sixth - Miss Virginia Hargrave and Miss Alice Baskerville

Fifth - Miss Margaret Rose. Miss Rose also coaches the girls' athletic teams.

Fourth - Miss Alice V. Abernathy and Miss Edrie Brinkley.

Third - Miss Ruth Haskins

Second - Miss Nan Edmunds

First - Miss Charlotte McCalley

Happy

50th

Anniversary

1939

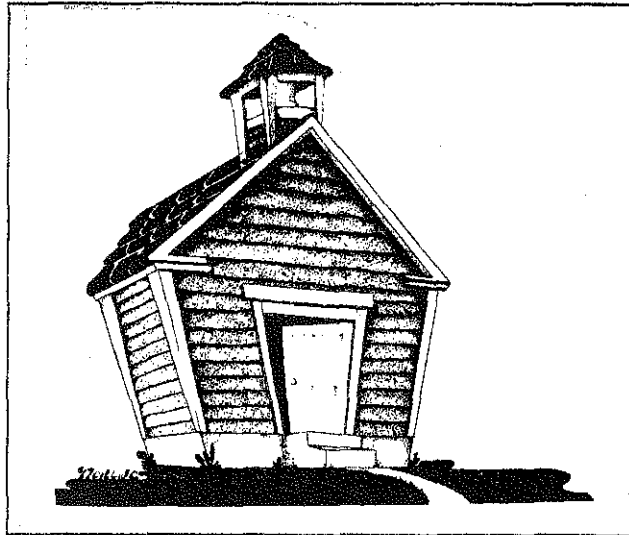
to

1989

HISTORY

Public education began at Dinwiddie Elementary School in 1882 when a one-room structure costing sixty dollars was built on the present school grounds. In the fall of 1906, the first high school courses were offered.

Three years of high school work were offered until 1913 when the four-year program was initiated. The high school was first accredited by the State Department of Education at the end of the 1918 session.



The corner stone of the present school plant, built at the cost of \$136,000.00, was laid with appropriate ceremonies by the Dinwiddie Masonic Lodge on May 5, 1939 and classes were first held on November 6 of the same year. The building was officially dedicated at commencement exercises on June 7, 1940.

A new addition consisting of eight classrooms and a modern cafeteria was made to the original building in 1956.

In 1965 Dinwiddie High School, Midway High School and Sunnyside-McKenney High School were consolidated. A new high school was built and Dinwiddie High School became Dinwiddie Elementary School serving grades one through seven. In the fall of 1969 Southside Elementary and Dinwiddie Elementary were paired. Grades one through three were sent to Southside Elementary and grades four through seven remained at Dinwiddie Elementary. In 1988, due to the new middle school concept, this school was changed to house grades three through five.

On Sunday, October 8, 1989 a celebration to commemorate the present school plant's 50th anniversary was held. The highlight of the occasion was the opening and viewing of the contents in the cornerstone that was laid in 1939. Some information pertaining to this memorable celebration was placed in the cornerstone and it has been resealed.