Walter Nichols
Hawthorn Building
Altoona, PA

Background

The Hawthorn Building was substantially completed in January of 2004. Before then, the existing library and computer lab shared the same building. As the campus continued to grow, it was soon realized that each would need its own building. The Hawthorn Building was built to replace the old computer labs, and the library took over where the computer labs once where. The project was a design-bid-build, and took just over a year to complete. The architect for the project was WTW Architects of Pittsburgh and the contractor was Lawruk Builders, Inc. of Altoona.

I mainly chose this building because it is located 10 minutes outside my home and a close friend of my family works there. This allowed me to easily visit the building relatively whenever I needed, as well as gave me a personal another personal contact if I needed additional information on the building. The spaces of this building are also multipurpose, which created some problems when designing the building systems, but also allowed me to be more creative in my design.

Architecture

The Hawthorn Building is just less than 59,000 sq. ft. in area. Its architectural style is similar to the other Penn State buildings on the Altoona Campus, in that it is relatively rectangular in shape, uses a steel structural system, and has a red brick façade. Grass and trees surround the building. It is 2 stories high, and is designed to allow for lots of circulation and gathering points inside.

Site Plan