Community College

Gets 1-Year Lease

For Dante School

The Delaware County Community College has obtained an agreement to lease the 20-acre Dante school property at a cost of $45,000 for the upcoming year of operations, it was announced today.

The lease includes an option for another year of rental, but a college spokesman said today that it is hoped the institution will be located on its permanent site in Marple before the next school year.

Located at Thornton Road and Baltimore Pike, the Dante School was operated by the Order of the Sons of Italy as a private elementary school until it closed this May because of decreasing enrollment.

The three-story school building contains 15 classrooms and will require very little renovations for use as a temporary college facility, the spokesman said.

College Solicitor D. Barry Gibbons said the building contains 30,000 square feet and the rental works out to $1.50 a square foot, which he termed "quite reasonable."

The college was hoping to begin classes this September on a 122.6-acre site at the Gideon Stull estate in Marple but it has been unable to obtain a zoning change for the location.

Now in temporary facilities behind the Ridley High School in Ridley Township, the college will be split into two locations this year.

Some laboratory and science facilities will continue to be used at the Ridley High School providing the Ridley School Board approves the college's request, which is likely.

Most of the classrooms, however, will be located at the Dante site and many students will have to commute between