

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC ADELPHI SCHOOL OF THE PHILADELPHIA ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDS, FOR THE INSTRUCTION OF POOR CHILDREN

AND/OR COMMON  
1223-25 Spring Street

**2 LOCATION**

USE THIS COPY  
FOR DUPLICATING  
NOT FOR PUBLICATION

STREET & NUMBER  
1223-1225 Spring Street

CITY, TOWN  
Philadelphia

VICINITY OF  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
13th

STATE  
Pennsylvania

CODE  
42

COUNTY  
Philadelphia

CODE  
101

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
Stewart Neil Schlosser and Luis V. Rivera

STREET & NUMBER  
1223-1225 Spring Street

CITY, TOWN  
Philadelphia

STATE  
VICINITY OF  
Pennsylvania

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Philadelphia City Hall

STREET & NUMBER  
Broad Street and Penn Square

CITY, TOWN  
Philadelphia

STATE  
Pennsylvania

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
List of Certified Buildings of the Philadelphia Historical Commission

DATE  
January 28, 1969

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
Philadelphia City Hall

CITY, TOWN  
Philadelphia

STATE  
Pennsylvania

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Adelphi School Building, at 1223-1225 Spring Street, was erected in 1831-34. It is a two and one-half story, brick and wood structure 30 feet wide and 40 feet deep to which was added a two story mansard rear ell, later in the 19th century. The original building is topped with a gable roof.

The principle facade is a symmetrical composition with a round headed central door, flanked by 12 over 12, double hung windows; above, three similar windows light the second floor while smaller 8 over 8 windows were used for the garret. Four panel shutters, several of which survive on the first floor, flanked the windows on the first and second floor. 12 over 12 windows also were used on the side walls. Above, a simple brick cornice abuts with the roof. The rear wall is now partially obscured by the later addition. Contemporary documents, however, indicate that a straight stair, located at the rear of the building and enclosed with a wood shed, provided the only communication to the upper floors.

As might be expected of a Quaker institution, the interior of the school is extremely simple, but was made pleasant by large windows which insured good lighting and ventilation. On the first floor, two Tuscan-styled, wood columns --- placed on line with the door --- support a center beam. A fireplace was located off center at the rear. Indications are that the first floor was plastered, though the wall surfaces recently have been demolished for a restoration of the bearing walls. The second floor, now reached by a stair located in the addition, is similar to the first floor in its simplicity and layout, although the two posts supporting the center beam are square and chamfered. Against the facade, intersecting a second floor window, there also is a quarter-turn stair with winders that rises to the garret. Its hand-shaped newel and balusters still exist. The 1834 insurance survey indicates that the third floor, initially, was floored but not plastered.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTOMIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES      1831-1834      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      Unknown

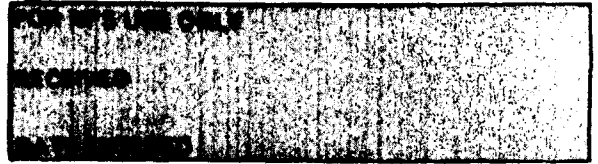
## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1807, a group of Philadelphia Quakers formed the Philadelphia Association of Friends, for the Instruction of Poor Children to educate indigent white children in the Northern Liberties section of the city. With the institution of a public school system in 1818, they closed their doors --- the needs of their charges now provided for by the city. A few years later, they again opened a school, although now their attention was directed to the "coloured population" of the city. In 1831, the association purchased land on Wager Street (now Spring Street), east of 13th Street, and began construction of a new school called the "Adelphi School," taking the name of their first building. By February 21, 1832, after an outlay of \$2,520, sufficient progress had been made to hold the first classes in the new building. Two years later, the upper stories were reported to be finished.

The Philadelphia Association of Friends held title to the property until 1906. In 1908, the school building was purchased by an organization with aims similar to those of the Friends, the Pennsylvania Society for Promoting the Abolition of Slavery, for the Relief of Free Negroes Unlawfully held in Bondage and for the Improvement of the Condition of the African Race. The Board of Directors of this second organization included such noted Philadelphians as John Gribbel, Mary R. Livezey and Agnes G. E. Shipley. The program established by the society consisted of social work, family counseling, a boy's club, Boy Scouts, a cobbler class, basket-making and chair-caning classes, a girl's club, a sewing class and a Sunday School. Through these functions, the Spring Street Settlement, as the group was commonly called, sought "the improvement of the moral, social, industrial and domestic conditions of the people of the Negro Race in the City of Philadelphia." They maintained ownership of the property until 1945.

As indicated, the significance of the Adelphi School lies in several areas: architecture, education, religion and social/humanitarian. The center-beam structural system and the overall simplicity of the school document the survival of a Federal styled venacular well into the 19th century. The hand-shaped balusters and planed beams used in conjunction with milled work mark the transition from hand-crafted to machine-made modes of construction. In addition, as part of one of the largest free school systems in the nation in the early 19th century, the school serves to underline the concern of the Society of Friends for the Black population in ante bellum America. The schools and a number of major population reports made by the Society of Friends, currently being studied by Dr. Theodore Hershberg at the Philadelphia Social Research Project, form the basis of our information on Black

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FRIENDS, FOR THE INSTRUCTION OF POOR CHILDREN --- Philadelphia County

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

Significance Continued:

Philadelphians at this time. The school is also probably the last surviving example of a free school building in Philadelphia. Finally, the edifice, through its association with the Pennsylvania Society, stands as a symbol of the concern among segments of the white population for the condition of the American Black, long after the abolition of slavery, a continuation of the mid-western settlement house movement in Philadelphia.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"The Origin and Proceedings of the Philadelphia Association of Friends, for the Instruction of Poor Children," The Friend (Philadelphia) 6 May 1832 p. 239-240.  
 J. T. Scharf and T. Westcott, History of Philadelphia 1609-1884, Philadelphia 1884, ii, p. 1475.  
 Dorothy S. Byrd, "'Free School' Is Certified as Historic," The Sunday Bulletin (Philadelphia) 2 February 1969, section 1, p. 20.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .5 acre  
 QUADRANGLE NAME Philadelphia, Pa. - N.J. QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000  
 UTM REFERENCES  
 A 

1	8	4	8	6	2	8	5	4	4	2	2	7	1	5
ZONE			EASTING				NORTHING							

  
 B 

ZONE			EASTING				NORTHING							

  
 C 

ZONE			EASTING				NORTHING							

  
 D 

ZONE			EASTING				NORTHING							

  
 E 

ZONE			EASTING				NORTHING							

  
 F 

ZONE			EASTING				NORTHING							

  
 G 

ZONE			EASTING				NORTHING							

  
 H 

ZONE			EASTING				NORTHING							

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

## LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Carl E. Doebley, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Clio Group

DATE

August 25, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

3920 Pine Street

TELEPHONE

215-386-6276

CITY OR TOWN

Philadelphia

STATE

Pennsylvania

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*William J. Wewer*

TITLE

WILLIAM J. WEWER, Executive Director

Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

DATE

3/17/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION



Connie Mack Stadium

PHILADELPHIA

TEMPLE UNIVERSITY

Kensington

PHILADELPHIA CO  
CAMDEN CO

PENNSYLVANIA  
NEW JERSEY

4427

250 000 FEE  
(PA.)

4426

5 MI. TO U.S. 13

4425

4424

4423

57'30"

2.7 MI. TO U.S. 130

ATLANTIC CITY 62 MI.

4422

4421

U.S. 130

U.S. 130