

7. Local survey organization
 Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation

8. property owners name and address
 Ann Swartz
 Box 7100
 Pittsburgh, PA 15213

9. tax parcel number/other number
 124J-322

10. U.T.M.

1	7	5	9	2	1	8	0
Zone				easting			

 one acre

4	4	7	9	7	6	0
usgs sheet:			northing			

 Pgh. East 1:24000

11. status (other surveys, lists etc.)
 Allegheny Co. Survey

12. classification
 site () structure () object ()
 building (X) district ()
 thematic (X)

13. date(s) (how determined)
 1896; 1904; 1932

15. style, design or folk type
 Renaissance Revival

19. original use
 School

14. period
 1881-1900; 1921-1940

20. present use
 School

16. architect or engineer
 U.J.L. Peoples
 George M. Rowland

17. contractor or builder

18. primary building mat./construc.
 Brick, terra cotta;
 Limestone

21. condition
 good
 22. integrity
 good

23. site plan with north arrow

BLACK AND WHITE PRINT(S)
 3 1/2" x 5" enlargement or medium format contact
 note location of negative in block 24.

24. photo notation

25. file/location

26. brief description (note unusual features, integrity, environment, threats and associated buildings)
 Larimer School is an Italian Renaissance style school with an Art Deco addition to the southeast.
 The school was built in three parts. The oldest portion, dating (continue on back if necessary)

27. history, significance and/or background
 Larimer School is the most elaborate and intact of the Pittsburgh public schools designed by Ulysses J. Lincoln Peoples. The architect, a native of Allegheny City, received his degree in architecture from the University of Illinois and apprenticed with D. H. Burnham's firm during the preparation of drawings for the 1893 Columbian Exposition in Chicago. Many of the unique terra cotta features of his buildings are (continue on back if necessary)

28. sources of information
 Plans. Owner. (continue on back if necessary)

29. prepared by:
 Lu Donnelly
 PHLF

Computer Coding (BHP Survey Grantees Must Complete)

30. date
 5/85
 revision(s)

31. county 003 32. style 09; _____; _____; _____
 32. construction material 03; 20, 25; _____; _____ 34. roof _____; _____; _____
 35. design type _____; _____; _____
 36. historic function 0 8 03 01 P; _____; _____; _____
 37. construction feature _____; _____; _____ 38. ext. walls 03; 25 39. plan _____
 40. facade width 6 41. roof material _____ 42. stories C 43. depth _____
 44. ext. design _____; _____; _____; _____
 45. int. design _____; _____; _____; _____

1. County Allegheny
 Larimer School
 2. municipality Pittsburgh
 6. other name (historic name if any) N/A
 3. street address or specific location Larimer Avenue at Winslow Street
 4. survey code

26. (cont.)

from 1896, is a five-by-nine-bay, two story plus basement rectangle facing Larimer Avenue. A hipped roof is pierced by narrow central chimneys and has deeply overhanging eaves. Double sash windows alternate between rounded arch and rectangular. The entry on the north facade is a recessed double door with a rounded arch transom above. The surround is a stone rounded arch springing from an entablature supported by Ionic columns and ornamented with medallions. The entry on the west elevation is triple-arched with similar rounded arches and medallions.

An elaborate entry joins the 1904 addition to the original portion. This one story one bay junction originally sported an eight story campanile. The entry now consists of double doors within a terra cotta surround of successive thin partially engaged Corinthian columns supporting a tympanum with figures in relief. Concentric moldings frame the tympanum. Above is a band of terra cotta facing with open arcading supported by miniature columns, and a cornice of carved figures with handsome animated faces. A similar cornice ornaments the east side of the junction. The 1904 three bay addition is very similar to the original school in appearance; it added an additional thirteen classrooms. Its only unique feature is the exposed metal I-beam with metal rosettes above a large stair hall replacement window on the south elevation. The bases of both the 1896 and 1904 sections are battered slightly.

The 1932 400 seat auditorium wing to the south is two stories and three by six bays. It has a limestone facade with three rounded arch entries facing west. The entries are slightly recessed and delineated by thick Doric columns. Second story windows have ornamental grillework. A raised parapet completes the formal ensemble.

The interior of the school is not elaborate. It is a standard school plan: a wide central hall with classrooms lining it. The interior of the 1904 addition is nearly indistinguishable from the 1896 portion. The library in the 1904 wing has a stone mantel, and some remaining shelving. Tennessee marble lines the hallways as wainscoting. The floors are terrazzo.

The school's most interesting interior feature is the Art Deco 1932 addition. It is joined to the 1904 wing of the school by a canted interior ramp. The lobby entrance has ornamental light fixtures and a projection room upstairs with restrooms below. The auditorium itself has black marble wainscoting and an aluminum acoustical tile ceiling in a geometric arrangement. To the east in this 1932 wing is a small gymnasium with a retractable wood and metal divider used to separate the space into two play areas. The entire wing is independent of the remainder of the school, with its own utilities and entrances. An enormous basement area underlies the wing.

27. (cont.)

reminiscent of those seen at the Exposition. Peoples was a popular local school architect at the turn-of-the-century. He is credited with the design of Holmes Elementary School (1893), Wightman School (1898), and Madison School (1902). His 1915 terra cotta-clad Moose Building in downtown Pittsburgh featured the most extensive use of terra cotta of his major commissions.

EVALUATION

EVALUATOR(S)

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY FORM
OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION Box 1026
PA HISTORICAL & MUSEUM COMMISSION Harrisburg, PA 17120

ADDITIONAL PHOTOS -- References:

1 County Allegheny
2 Municipality Pittsburgh
3 street address or specific location Larimer Avenue at Winslow Street
4 survey code
page

27. (cont)

At Larimer School Peoples designed the original section and the 1904 addition including the elaborate connecting entry. The extravagant ornamentation of this entry is unique in the City. The campanile formerly above the entry was a neighborhood Landmark and is very evident in John Kane's famous painting of the Larimer Avenue Bridge. The campanile was demolished in 1958. The 1932 addition was designed by George M. Rowland. The building functioned as a school until 1980.

Larimer school is named for William Larimer, Jr. (1809-1875) who opened the first Conestoga wagon business in the area. He was active in coal, railroads, and the wholesale grocery businesses. In 1855 at the age of 46 he moved west and is credited with founding Denver, Colorado and Larimer City, Nebraska.

significance: architecture

Verbal boundary description and justification.

The nominated property consists of Allegheny County Block and Lot 124J-322 which encompasses the school building and its contiguous grounds.

PITTSBURGH PUBLIC SCHOOLS:
Larimer School
Allegheny County

Zone 17
E592180 N4479760

PITTSBURGH EAST QUADRANGLE
PENNSYLVANIA—ALLEGHENY CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

