

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic SIMON CAMERON SCHOOL

and/or common SIMON CAMERON SCHOOL

2. Location

street & number 1839 Green Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Harrisburg *N/A* vicinity of

state Pennsylvania code *042* county Dauphin code *003*

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"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<i>N/A</i> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<i>N/A</i> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name We Help Ourselves of Harrisburg, PA., Inc.

street & number 1839 Green Street

city, town Harrisburg *N/A* vicinity of state Pennsylvania

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of Recorder of Deeds, Dauphin County Courthouse
Record Book 19, Page 11 (See Attached)

street & number Front and Market Streets

city, town Harrisburg state Pennsylvania

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Harrisburg Historic Sites Survey, Thomas R. Deans Associates, Fall 1981
has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date August 2, 1982 within eligible district— federal state county local

depository for survey records Pa. Historical and Museum Commission, Bureau for Historic Preservation

city, town Harrisburg state PA

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Cameron School is a two story, detached, brick and frame school building erected in 1896. The structure and surrounding grounds occupy an entire block bordered by Green Street to the west, Muench Street to the north, Susquehanna Street to the east, and Dauphin Street to the south. The school is comprised of two major sections (front and back) connected by a two story corridor link. The front portion of the building, facing Green Street, is twelve bays wide and eight bays deep; the twelve bays are grouped in three segments of four bays each. The center segment protrudes from the (flanking) segments resulting in a symmetrical facade. Two main entrances are contained within each of the side segments, which further reinforces this symmetry. The building is capped in its entirety with a hipped roof surfaced with slate shingles. The rear portion of the building is eight bays wide and six bays deep. As with the Green Street facade, the Susquehanna Street facade of the building's rear portion is broken in the center by a protruding bay, however this bay is in addition to the eight and is capped with a gabled-end pediment projecting from the building's hipped roof. The gabled-end pediment is adorned with galvanized neo-classic egg and dart and dentilled moldings.

The front portion of the building was erected in 1896. The back portion was designed by the same architect and was added in 1900 and duplicated the design of the front portion.

The entire building is mounted on a brownstone foundation and water table in which wooden basement windows of six lights each are located. Above this point, the exterior walls are of butter jointed tapestry brick with brownstone trim and highlights. The first story exterior features horizontal bands of brick string courses which tie together the rhythm of the numerous window openings resulting in a rusticated effect. All first story windows are wood, four over four and double hung and are original to the structure. They are accented by brownstone sills and flat arched brickwork with a central keystone. The main entrance doors onto Green Street are capped with segmented brownstone arch surrounds in which egg and dart detailing is molded. The heads of these arches are joined with a brownstone cornice (separating the first and second stories) by brownstone scrolled brackets.

The second story exterior is characterized by numerous segmented arched window openings capped with brick voussoirs and brownstone surrounds. These surrounds are linked to brownstone caps on brick piers which separate the windows. These piers, which are of the same plane as the brick facade above these windows, become protruding at the base of the window arches as the windows are recessed, along with a certain amount of surrounding masonry area, from the principal facade plane. The result of this element, plus the voussoirs and arch brownstone surrounds, is a series of archvolt effects which emphasize the rhythm of the second story fenestration. The window sash here are likewise wood double hung and four over four, however arched to conform to the window openings.

The top of the building's facade, below the roof eave line, is defined by metal corncing. Projecting from the hipped roofs of both the front and rear portions of the building are several dormers, which allow for light and ventilation into the attic. These dormers, which vary in size, are neo-classically expressed with gabled-end pediments and volute scrolled decoration.

(See continuation sheet)

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The classrooms inside the building retain their original configuration, ceiling height and window and doorway trim. Although some modifications were made to the hallway finishes and stairways, the building's original floor plan remains in tact.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<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 type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1896, 1900 **Builder/Architect** Charles Howard Lloyd/Charles James Foose

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Harrisburg's landmark Simon Cameron School is one of the city's best examples of Romanesque and Second Renaissance revival architectural styling and is one of two surviving school buildings in Harrisburg erected prior to 1900.

With the development of the late 19th century City of Harrisburg northward from the original borough, the need increased for educational facilities to serve a growing school age population. In addition to being the State Capital, Harrisburg's importance as a railroad and manufacturing center led to a surge in population growth and subsequent housing development during the last forty years of the 19th century. Between 1860 and 1900, the City's population jumped from 13,404 to 50,167 with the most rapid increase occurring between 1880 and 1900. Much of the new housing development flanked North Third Street, as the thoroughfare was one of the first in the City to receive public transportation: a horsecar line in 1860. By 1890, all uptown school buildings were filled to capacity resulting in preparations for the construction of the Cameron School.

The School Board purchased the grounds for the building at Green and Muench Streets for \$10,225 in 1893. On February 14 of 1896, the plans of Foose and Lloyd, city architects, were adopted for the building's design.

On May 1, 1896 Cameron's building contract was let to city contractor Josiah K. Ness. Harrisburg Steam Heat and Power Company installed an indirect steam heat and ventilating system utilizing a propelling fan. The basement of the twelve-room school (later to be twenty rooms when the rear portion was erected in 1900) contained automatic flush closets, engine, power and fuel rooms, as well as play areas for recess during inclement weather. Total cost of the building and ground came to \$52,319.41.

Cameron School was finally accepted from the architect and contractor by the Board on February 5, 1897, with dedication ceremonies following on February 22. The school's namesake was the late Harrisburger, United States Senator, and Secretary of War under Lincoln's Administration, Simon Cameron (1799-1889).

Architect Charles Howard Lloyd (1873-1937) was just beginning his prominent career when the Cameron Building was commissioned. Lloyd was educated at the Cowles Art School in Boston, and, while there, served as an apprentice to Edward March Wheelwright (1854-1912). Wheelwright was a well known Boston architect responsible for the design of such building's as Horticultural Hall, the Boston Opera House, and the widely acclaimed Brighton High School, noted for its innovative school house architecture. Upon returning to Harrisburg, Lloyd joined in architectural practice with Charles James Foose (1872-1898) who also attended Cowles. The Cameron School Building was Foose and Lloyd's first school house commission and was considered to have launched Lloyd's architectural specialty of designing school buildings, which would distinguish him through the first quarter of the

(see continuation sheet)

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20th century. Though Lloyd designed many schools, his work included many other varied and significant buildings in Harrisburg and surrounding areas.

Lloyd's surviving Harrisburg area works include the original Harrisburg Public Library Building (1892), the Old Waterworks (brick buildings, 1903), Steele Elementary School (1915-1918), Shimmel Elementary School (1913-1916), Commercial Bank (1908), Edison High School (1919), William Penn High School (1921-1926), Zembo Mosque (1928-1930), the Tracy Mansion (1918), Potts Apartment Building (1906), the Blackstone Building (1920), the Kunkle Building (National Register) addition (1925), Technical High School (1910 and 1904 National Register), Lincoln Elementary School (1905), Stephens Memorial Methodist Church (1909), State Street United Methodist Church (1922), Hamilton School (1910), Elphinston Apartments (1910) and Boas School (1922).

While many of Lloyd's buildings still stand, many others have been demolished, especially the homes of Harrisburg's "first families" of the early 20th century, which gave North Front Street its unique distinction. Lloyd's demolished works include the residences of Edwin S. Herman (1907), E. Z. Wallower (1910), E. J. Stackpole (1907), and Archibald G. Knisely (1905, as well as the Donaldson Apartments (1906), the Telegraph Building (1910) (National Register), the Board of Trade Building (1899), Camp Curtin Junior High School (1904), the Riverside Apartments (1906-1912), the Dauphin Hotel (1907) and Burns and Company Furniture Store (1907).

The exterior design of the Cameron School incorporates a host of finely executed design elements of the Romanesque and Second Renaissance period, which are not found on other unaltered buildings in Harrisburg. Perhaps inspired by McKim, Meade, and White's Boston Public Library (erected 1888-1892) while in Boston, Foose and Lloyd's repetitive use of the segmented arch, brownstone surrounds, voussoirs and resulting archvolt effects emphasized the most important architectural features of the late 19th Century schoolhouse: (1) the allowance for abundant*light at a time when electric light was in its infancy, and (2) ventilation, which was also considered to be conducive to the learning environment.

As was characteristic of the Second Renaissance Revival, the first story, which exhibits the appearance of rustication and highlighted by the neo-classical flat arch, is clearly broken from the second story by a brownstone cornice with both exteriors treated differently horizontally, however, with all windows vertically aligned. In addition to the style, texture is important through the selected use of tapestry brick in various formats (i.e. second story piers and arches, and first story lintels and string courses) balanced against an equally selective use of brownstone trim. Such facade relief is architecturally significant in Central Pennsylvania, not just for a school building, but for public buildings generally.

Located within the center of a district in Uptown Harrisburg, which has been determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, Cameron School remains unaltered and true to the photographs taken the year it was built. It stands as an architectural and educational symbol to Harrisburg and through its reassuring presence, as a catalyst to the growth and expansion of Pennsylvania's Capitol City.

*natural

*James Cameron School
Dorchester Co.*

9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .78 acre

Quadrangle name Harrisburg

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	8	3	3	8	9	0	0	4	4	5	9	8	7	0
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 and justification

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code NA county NA code NA

state N/A code NA county NA code NA

11. Form Prepared By

name/title James Allan Stuart, III, Projects Coordinator

organization Weintraub and Kogan date February 18, 1986

street & number 118 Market St., P.O. Box 11843 telephone (717) 233-3997

city or town Harrisburg state Pennsylvania 17108

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 

title Dr. Larry E. Tise, State Historic Preservation Officer date 3/14/86

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

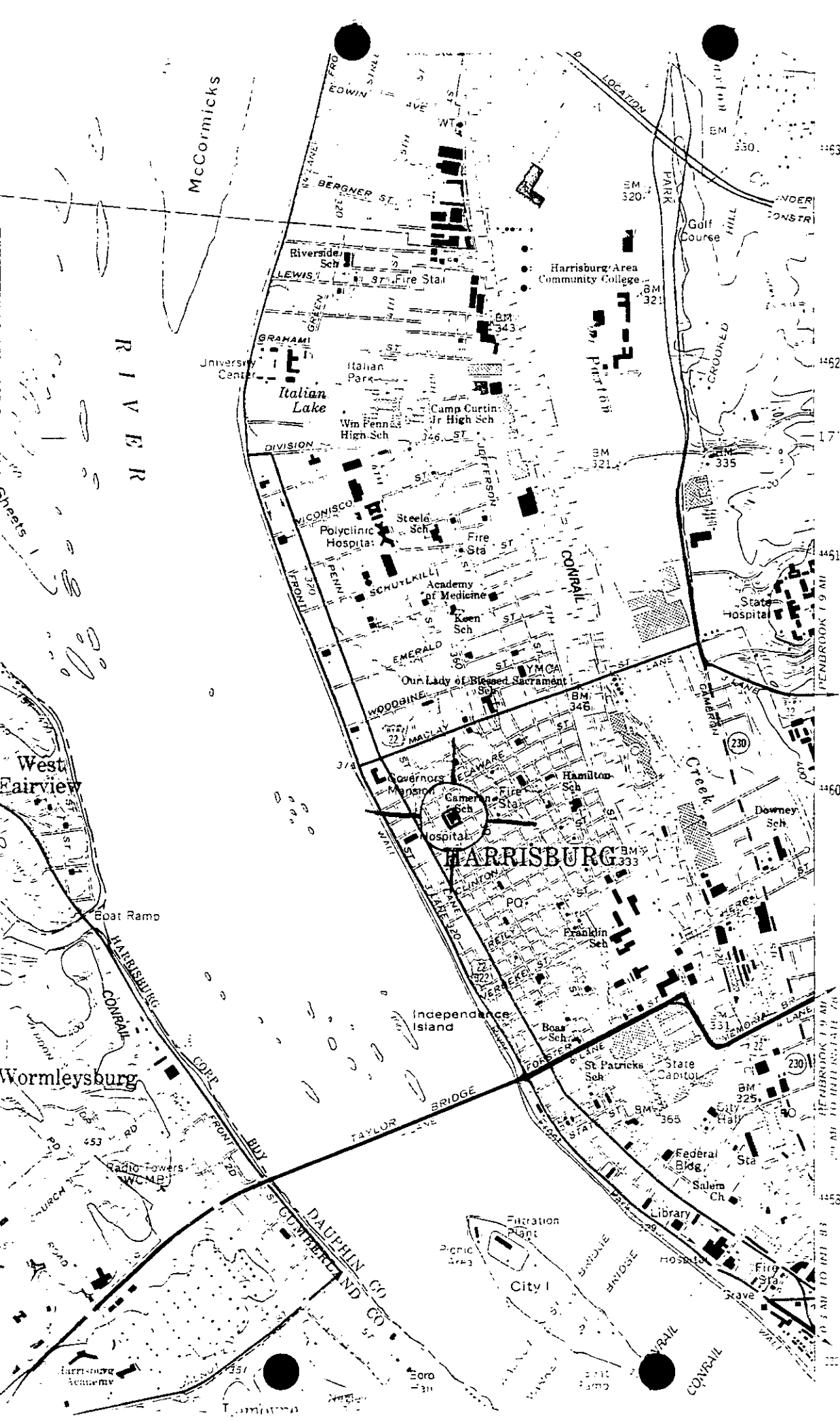
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1. Annual Report of the Public Schools of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, with Manual for the Year Ending the First Monday in June 1897. Harrisburg: 1898
2. "Harrisburg Telegraph". February 22, 1897
3. Atlas of the City of Harrisburg, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania. 1901.
Published by the Harrisburg Title Company
4. Frew, Kenneth. Competition: The Harrisburg of Architect Charles Howard Lloyd (1892-1932). An unpublished manuscript 1982. Copyright registration number: TXu 106-953.



SIMON CAMERON SCHOOL
 Dauphin County
 Harrisburg Quadrangle
 Zone 18
 E338900 N4459870

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