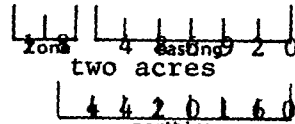


8. property owners name and address
 School Board of Philadelphia
 21st Street & the Parkway
 Philadelphia, Pa. 19103

9. tax parcel number/other number
 11. status (other surveys, lists etc.)
 SPHSS

10. U.T.M. 
 two acres
 usgs sheet: Philadelphia

12. classification
 site () structure () object ()
 building () district ()
 Thematic

13. date(s) (how determined)
 1935-1937
 14. period

15. style, design or folk type
 Deco/Moderne

19. original use School
 20. present use School

16. architect or engineer
 Irwin T. Catharine

17. contractor or builder

18. primary building mat./construc.
 Brick/Limestone

21. condition Good
 22. integrity Excel.

23. site plan with north arrow
 24. photo notation
 25. file/location

USE THIS COPY FOR DUPLICATING

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

26. brief description (note unusual features, integrity, environment, threats and associated buildings)
 NPS counting purposes: one contributing building
 (continue on back if necessary)

27. history, significance and/or background
 (continue on back if necessary)

28. sources of information
 see bibliography for nomination
 (continue on back if necessary)

29. prepared by:
 B. Mintz

Computer Coding (BHP Survey Grantees Must Complete)

30. date 7/1986
 revision(s)

- 31. county _____ 32. style _____; _____; _____; _____
- 32. construction material _____; _____; _____; _____ 34. roof _____; _____; _____
- 35. design type _____; _____; _____
- 36. historic function _____; _____; _____; _____; _____; _____; _____; _____
- 37. construction feature _____; _____; _____; 38. ext. walls _____; _____ 39. plan _____
- 40. facade width _____ 41. roof material _____ 42. stories _____ 43. depth _____
- 44. ext. design _____; _____; _____; _____; _____
- 45. int. design _____; _____; _____; _____; _____

1. County PHILADELPHIA
 2. municipality PHILADELPHIA
 3. street address or specific location FIFTH & FEDERAL STREETS
 4. survey code
 5. present name GEORGE WASHINGTON SCHOOL
 6. other name (historic name if any) SAME

George Washington School

Physical Description

The George Washington School, rising three stories, and spanning almost the length of the block is constructed of brick and limestone. Designed in the Art Deco/Moderne style, the building is dominated by its vertical lines. Ribbon bands of windows punctuated by thin and thick brick piers further emphasize this verticality. The main entrance, an attenuated column, projects from the building roofline in skyscraper fashion. The building fenestration pattern is regular with triplet sash separating a single sash with a thin brick pier. All of the sash is double hung six over six. Limestone sills give some horizontal emphasis to the regular pattern of windows. A thick limestone lintel above the third floor sash is a bold contrast to the attenuated detailing above. The large brick piers, rising above the parapet line, in battlement style, have limestone caps. The main entrance tower has an ornately carved, limestone entrance surround. The overscale detail, with the characteristic rounded corners is created by two figures, wearing robes and carrying lanterns, lighting the way to the main door. These figures constitute the columns which support a smooth dressed entablature with a carved name plate and fascia detailing. Rising from the entablature is a band of windows two stories in height. The sash is figured with a double hung center opening and two, small, double hung side sash. A decorative limestone panel continues to the roofline. Adjacent to the main entrance is the auditorium area which continues the building's appearance with the exception of the window pattern.

Statement of Significance

The construction of the George Washington School marked the close of a brilliant career for Irwin T. Catharine as Superintendent of Buildings for the School Board. During his tenure the level of design for school buildings was unsurpassed by any other Superintendent including the prolific combination of J. Horace Cook and Henry deCoursey Richards. This skillfully crafted building represents the subtle shift in design from the boxy, heavy detailed Art Deco style to the more streamlined Moderne style of architecture. Moreover, the building's entrance is superbly and cleverly detailed with figures in historical dress lighting the path to knowledge and enlightenment. With the retirement of Catharine, the office of the Superintendent fell into dormancy and the construction of new school buildings dropped sharply. The construction of the George Washington School represented a high watermark in the first 70 plus years of the school board. This period of excellent and often unusual design, for institutional structures, would not be repeated by the School Board. The late Fifty's and Sixty's, when school construction once again occurred, are particularly unremarkable periods for school design, as boxy, undecorated structures came into vogue.

The George Washington School is similar in appearance to the Robert Fulton and George Meade Schools. Much like the other two schools, the Washington School is a highly sophisticated design. Its detailing and streamlined appearance make it a superb example of Art Deco/Moderne styling.

EVALUATION

EVALUATOR(S)



Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Anthony Wayne School
18481 660N4419 960

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
J. Tilden Jr. High
18481 060N4418 840

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
John Bartram High Sch
18480 100N4418 820

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
George Smith School
18481 940N4420 300

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
James Buchanan Road
18478 780N4417 200

Philadelphia Public Sch
Philadelphia County
Robert Ralston School
18487 460N4420 960

Philadelphia Public Sch
Philadelphia County
Francis H. Draxel School
18485 220N4421 120

Philadelphia Public Sch
Philadelphia County
Abigail Vane School
18487 140N4419 440

Philadelphia Public Sch
Philadelphia County
Francis Scott Key School
18486 260N4418 760

Philadelphia Public Sch
Philadelphia County
Southwick School
18486 420N4419 400

Philadelphia Public Sch
Philadelphia County
Horace Furness Jr. High
18487 080N4419 640

Philadelphia Public Sch
Philadelphia County
Delaplaine McDaniel Sch
18484 280N4419 560

Philadelphia Public Sch
Philadelphia County
Edgar Allen Poe School
18484340N4418 880

Philadelphia Public Sch
Philadelphia County
Edward Bok Vocational Sch
18486 300N4419 320

Philadelphia Public Sch
Philadelphia County
Andrew Jackson School
18486 020N4420 260

Philadelphia Public Sch
Philadelphia County
National Hawthorne
18486 100N4421 040

Mapped by the U. S. Coast & Geodetic Survey
Edited and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and USCF
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1946. Topography by planimetric surveys taken 1965.
Field checked 1967.
Selected hydrographic data compiled from NOS chart 280 (1967).
This information is not intended for navigational purposes.
Polyconic projection, 10,000-foot grid ticks based on the Pennsylvania
coordinate system, South zone, and New Jersey coordinate system
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 18, shown in blue.
1927 North American Datum
to place on the projected North American Datum 1983
move the projection lines 6 meters south and
31 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks.
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown.
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of
the National or State reservations shown on this map.

UTM GRID AND 1983 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

Reservoirs shown in purple and woodland compiled
by the Geological Survey from aerial photographs
taken 1962 and other sources. This information
not field checked. Map edited 1985.

CONTOUR
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TWO DATUMS IS VARIABLE
SURFACE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROPRIATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDES APPROXIMATELY 5.8 FEET

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP-ACQUISITION STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
George Washington Sch.
18486 920N4420 160

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Frank C. Palumbo School
18486 180N4420 880

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty _____ Light-duty _____
Medium-duty _____ Unimproved dirt _____

() Interstate Route () U.S. Route () State Route

PHILADELPHIA, PA.—N. J.
39075-H2-1F-024
1967
PHOTOREVISED 1985
JMA 2003 / NW 8/18/85