

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

7. Local survey organization

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

9. tax parcel number/other number

10. U.T.M. Zone **18** easting **486300**
 usgs sheet: **Philadelphia**
 one acre
 northing **4419320**

11. status (other surveys, lists etc.)
 SPHSS

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

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

15. style, design or folk type
Deco/Classical

19. original use
School

20. present use
School

16. architect or engineer
Irwin T. Catherine

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

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 _____
 33. 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 **1901 S. 9th Street**
 4. survey code
 5. present name **EDWARD BOK VOCATIONAL SCHOOL**
 6. other name (historic name if any) **SAME**

Edward Bok Vocational School

Physical Description

This school, constructed of yellow brick and limestone, is striking for its immensity and scale. Spanning the block, the building appears to be two structures with a limestone low rise section abutting the main brick section of the building. Smooth dressed pilasters define the main entrance as well as the window openings. Carved cartouches depict figures at various work activities. An incised panel enhanced, with border detailing, proclaims the school name. The body of the building is yellow brick, also with pilasters and piers. The fenestration pattern is regular with bands of windows on each of the floors. The upper portion of the building has a series of set backs including the stair towers which flank the recreational area cage.

Statement of Significance

Built in 1935-1937, the Bok School represents a new generation of vocational schools in Philadelphia. Expanding on the purposes of the early manual training schools the vo-tech school offered both traditional woodworking and carpentry together with training in the newer fields requiring technical expertise. To meet the needs and interests of a varied urban student population, the school assigned space to offer a broad and diverse curriculum. The school's program provided rooms equipped for training in the building trades with inclusion of bricklaying, plastering and plumbing shops. In addition, shops were assigned for elementary and advanced machine construction. An expanded home economics program introduced both elementary and advanced tailoring. Rooms were designated for training in men's and women's hairdressing.

Architecturally, the Art-Deco influenced building displays a high level of integrity, and provides another example of architect Irwin T. Catharine's skillful use of attenuation, verticality and ornament in school design.

The floor plan, built around two large central light courts, included double loaded corridors. From one horizontal main corridor stemmed double and triple parallel corridors, with stairs placed at front, rear and sides.

Thus the Bok School is exceptionally significant because it highlights Catharine's use of verticality and detailed ornamentation in the Art Deco style. It is also the only example of an important type of school--vocational schools--designed by Catharine that is included in the nominated thematic group.

areas of significance: architecture and education

Verbal boundary description

The nominated property consists of Philadelphia County lot 886234500 which contains the school and its contiguous grounds.

EVALUATION

EVALUATOR(S)

ADDITIONAL DATA/PHOTOS
number all continuations from front

survey code

061-87980-01901

EVALUATION

Eligible for National Register.

EVALUATOR(S)

G. Thomas

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Wm. Shoemaker Jr. High
PARO 480N4424 840

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
William B. Hanna School
PARO 480N4424 680

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
George L. Brooks School
PARO 020N4424 040

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
James Dunlap
PARO 040N4423 440

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
West Phil. High School
PARO 340N4422 320

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Willa R. Masterman School
PARO 320N4423 440

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
David Landreth School
PARO 480N4420 620

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Weir Mitchell School
PARO 880N4420 520

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Tony Wayne School
PARO 660N4419 960

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

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
John Barrtram High Sch
PARO 100N4418 820

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

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
James Buchanan Read
PARO 780N4417 200

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Paul Lawrence Dunbar
PARO 860N4430 600

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
William Penn School
PARO 040N4423 660

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Alexander Dallas Baskin
PARO 140N4424 220

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Huffman School
PARO 760N4423 500

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Fleischer
PARO 340N4423 460

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Matthew Stevens School
PARO 340N4423 300

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Harold Th School
PARO 100N4420 800

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
J. Sylvester Kamee
PARO 300N4421 420

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Samuel J. Randall
PARO 340N4421 100

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Robert Ralston School
PARO 460N4420 900

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Francis M. Oregel
PARO 220N4421 100

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Abigail Vane School
PARO 160N4419 400

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Francis Scott Key
PARO 260N4418 760

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Southwork School
PARO 420N4419 400

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Horace Furness Jr
PARO 080N4419 000

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Delaplane McDaniel
PARO 280N4419 500

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Edgar Allan Poe School
PARO 840N4418 860

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Edward Bok Vocational
PARO 300N4419 300

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Andrew Jackson School
PARO 020N4420 200

