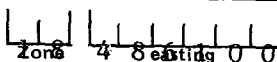


7. Local survey organization

8. property owners name and address

Hawthorne Community Development Corp.  
 713 South 12th Street  
 Philadelphia, Pa. 19147

9. tax parcel number/other number

10. U.T.M.   
 Zone 48 easting 00

11. status (other surveys, lists etc.)

usgs sheet: Philadelphia  
 northing 414121101410

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

13. date(s) (how determined)  
 14. period 1907-1908

15. style, design or folk type  
 Classical Rev.

19. original use School

20. present use Residence

16. architect or engineer  
 H. deC. Richards

17. contractor or builder

18. primary building mat./construc.  
 Brick

21. condition Good

22. integrity Good

1. County PHILADELPHIA  
 2. Municipality PHILADELPHIA  
 5. present name NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE SCHOOL  
 6. other name (historic name if any)

3. street address or specific location  
 712 S. 12th Street

4. survey code

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

BLACK AND WHITE PRINT(S)  
 31/2" 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 \_\_\_\_\_

## Nathaniel Hawthorne School

### Physical Description

Rising four stories in height, the building is a load bearing concrete slab structure with a brick skin, detailed with brick and terra cotta trim. Constructed in 1907, the Hawthorne School and its companion structure, the Francis E. Willard School, are the first reinforced concrete, fireproof school structures built after the passage of major school legislation, in 1906.

E shaped in plan, the building is dominated by its enormous decorative building ends. The main building entrance, fronting on Fitzwater Street is defined by an elaborate, hooded limestone surround with limestone quoining around the lower portion of the doorway. Above the door is an overscale arched opening, rising 2 1/2 stories in height. Two large windows are set into the opening; the upper sash being set into the head of the arch. The window surround is handsomely detailed with and dark banding resembling quoining. The window openings provide light to the main stair, resting immediately behind. Decorative, molded limestone bands define the floor levels at the first and second floors. Two decorative diaper squares, created by the combined use of lighter and darker brick with limestone squares flank the arch window opening. The rectangular basement windows, at the two flanking ends, are enhanced with limestone lintels and sills. Along the Fitzwater Street elevation, the decorative molded cornice mimics the shape of the arched windows, at the point where the two parallel. Rising above the cornice is a brick parapet wall, also with an arched shape.

The 12th Street elevation is defined by a wall of windows set together in groups of five. The center portion of the building projects out from the building plane, creating a nice sense of rhythm along the north - south street. The basement sash, located at grade level, are crowned by straight brick lintels. The decorative band courses continue around the Fitzwater Street side giving definition to the lower area of the building. At the fourth floor level, projecting brick panels rest below the window openings. Decorative brick quoining flank either end of this projection. The molded cornice continues along this elevation as does the parapet wall. Projecting from the parapet wall is a limestone panel incised with the name NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE PUBLIC SCHOOL and the year of construction, 1907.

The opposite elevation to the Fitzwater Street facade is identical in detailing. The classical style detailing, on the Fitzwater Street facade, rests in interesting juxtaposition to the commercial style, ribbon banding of windows.

The interior of the building consists of a single loaded corridor with seven classrooms on the second, third and fourth floors. Oak doors and trim remain intact in some places. Some of the classrooms were designed with sliding paneled doors inset with a blackboard. These movable walls enabled the rooms to be combined for multi-purposes, a forerunner to the modern, modular classroom.

EVALUATION

EVALUATOR(S)

## Nathaniel Hawthorne School

### Statement of Significance

The Hawthorne School was designed by noted school architect Henry deCoursey Richards, working under the direction of School Superintendent J. Horace Cook. Built in 1907, this school was the first fire proof structure constructed under the auspices of the School Board after the enactment of legislation, in 1906. The Board of the Philadelphia Public School system pioneered various improvements in the quality of education, including the latest in building technology and construction. Among their concerns was adequate light, heating, ventilation as well as fire and safety standards. Fire provisions, were long a priority with the system which resulted in the enactment of legislation dictating the construction of fireproof school structures. The Hawthorne School and its companion structure, the Willard School, represented a turning point in the Board's efforts to initiate safety measures for their student population.

J. Horace Cook began his career with the School Board in 1887 when he was hired as an assistant architect. He rose through the ranks to the newly created position of Superintendent of Buildings in 1906 where he remained until his retirement in 1918.

Thus the Hawthorne School is significant as the first fire-proof structure constructed by the School Board. it marked the beginning of such fire-proof construction in Philadelphia.

area of significance: architecture

verbal boundary description

The nominated property consists of Philadelphia County lot 881002381 which contains the school and its contiguous grounds.

EVALUATION

EVALUATOR(S)

Philadelphia Public School  
Philadelphia County  
M. Shoemaker Jr. High  
18E480 480N424 840

Philadelphia Public School  
Philadelphia County  
William B. Hanna School  
18E479 800N424 680

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
George L. Brooks School  
18E480 020N424 040

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
Thomas Dunlap  
18E481 040N423 440

Philadelphia Public School  
Philadelphia County  
West Phil. High School  
18E481 460N422 520

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
John R. Nastermann School  
18E482 520N423 460

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
David Landreth School  
18E484 480N420 620

Philadelphia Public School  
Philadelphia County  
Weir Mitchell School  
18E480 880N420 520

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
Honoy Wayne School  
18E483 660N419 960

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
J. Tilden Jr. High  
18E481 060N418 840

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
John Bartram High Sch  
18E480 100N418 820

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
Herbert George Smith School  
18E484 940N420 300

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
James Buchanan Read  
18E480 780N417 200

Philadelphia Public School  
Philadelphia County  
Paul Lawrence Dunbar  
18E486 800N430 800

Philadelphia Public School  
Philadelphia County  
William Penn School  
18E486 040N423 660

Philadelphia Public School  
Philadelphia County  
Alexander Dallas Bache  
18E485 140N424 220

Philadelphia Public School  
Philadelphia County  
William School  
18E487 760N423 500

Philadelphia Public School  
Philadelphia County  
Fleischer School  
18E486 340N423 460

Philadelphia Public School  
Philadelphia County  
Thaddeus Stevens School  
18E486 340N423 380

Philadelphia Public School  
Philadelphia County  
Heredith School  
18E487 100N420 820

Philadelphia Public School  
Philadelphia County  
J. Sylvester Ramsey School  
18E486 300N421 420

Philadelphia Public School  
Philadelphia County  
Samuel J. Randall School  
18E486 340N421 120

Philadelphia Public School  
Philadelphia County  
Robert Ralston School  
18E487 460N420 960

Philadelphia Public School  
Philadelphia County  
Francis M. Drexel School  
18E485 220N421 120

Philadelphia Public School  
Philadelphia County  
Abigail Vane School  
18E487 160N419 440

Philadelphia Public School  
Philadelphia County  
Francis Scott Key School  
18E486 260N418 700

Philadelphia Public School  
Philadelphia County  
Southwark School  
18E486 420N419 400

Philadelphia Public School  
Philadelphia County  
Horace Furness Jr. High  
18E487 080N419 040

Philadelphia Public School  
Philadelphia County  
Delaplane McDaniel  
18E484 280N419 560

Philadelphia Public School  
Philadelphia County  
Edgar Allen Poe School  
18E484340N418 860

Philadelphia Public School  
Philadelphia County  
Edward Bok Vocational  
18E486 300N419 320

Philadelphia Public School  
Philadelphia County

