

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

7. Local survey organization

1. County  
 PHILADELPHIA  
 5. present name  
 FRANCIS M. DREXEL SCHOOL

8. property owners name and address  
 City of Philadelphia  
 Department of Public Property  
 1030 Municipal Services Building  
 Philadelphia, Pa. 19107

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

10. U.T.M. Zone Easting Northing  
 1 4 9 5 2 2 0  
 one acre  
 4 4 1 9 6 0 0  
 usgs sheet: Philadelphia

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

13. date(s) (how determined)  
 1888-1889  
 14. period

15. style, design or folk type  
 Victorian

19. original use School  
 20. present use School

16. architect or engineer  
 J.W. Anshutz

17. contractor or builder  
 Chas. O'Neill Jr.

18. primary building mat./construc.  
 Wood/ Brick  
 w/stone trim

21. condition Good  
 22. integrity Excel.

23. site plan with north arrow

BLACK AND WHITE PRINT(S)  
 31/2" x 5" enlargement or medium format contact  
 note location of negative in block 24.

2. municipality  
 PHILADELPHIA  
 6. other name (historic name if any)  
 SAME

24. photo notation  
 25. file/location

3. street address or specific location  
 1800 S. SIXTEENTH STREET  
 4. survey code

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  
 30. date 7/1986  
 revision(s)

Computer Coding (BHP Survey Grantees Must Complete)

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 \_\_\_\_\_

## Francis M. Drexel School

### Physical Description

The Drexel School rising three stories in height and spanning three bays in width, is constructed of brick resting on a random coursed stone base. A central, projecting frontispiece with a segmented window at the second floor and a round arched sash with transom, at the third floor dominates the main facade. Smaller, sash with stone lintels and sills flank the arched openings. A double leaf wood and glass door with transom and flat stone lintel rests at the first floor. The fenestration pattern is regular with three, segmentally arched, double hung sash, with transoms, on all floor. Rough cast segmented stone lintels with keystones and plain sills support each of the openings. Brick corbelling banding is employed to define the window openings. The building culminates in an overscale corbelled brick cornice with molded cap. Pedimented, double dormers pierce the hipped roofline. In typical Anshutz/Furnessian style, three large brick chimneys with corbelled caps pierce the roofline.

### Statement of Significance

The Drexel School, together with its contemporaries the Landreth and Key Schools, represents an important period in the history of school design. More representative of popular styling than schools built in any previous period, this school embodies the flamboyance and eccentricities of the Victorian era.

Constructed in 1889, the building was designed by architect Joseph Anshutz. A prolific designer, Anshutz worked under School Architect Joseph D. Austin for some ten years, preparing designs for school buildings. He later served as Architect and Supervisor of School Buildings for the School Board.

Anshutz designed some 75 school buildings during his tenure, many identical in style and basic plan to the Drexel School. This sameness illustrates a formula which characterized School Board building policy of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, namely, the selection of a limited number of plans and variations translated into one style and duplicated with faithful reproduction throughout the city. Anshutz worked primarily in the Furness inspired High Style Victorian vocabulary, although his later commissions favored the Colonial Revival mode.

In its brick corbelling, towering, attenuated chimneys and molded brick belt courses, the Drexel School stands as a handsome reminder of Furness-influenced Queen Anne design permeating institutional, residential, and commercial building forms alike. Of the numerous "Drexel School" models constructed throughout the city in the 1880's and '90's, the Key, Drexel and Landreth Schools represent the few relatively intact examples surviving to the present.

Like its companion schools, Frances Scott Key and David Landreth, the floor plan exhibits the single loaded corridor variation of the Sloan plan. The building is designed in a single-loaded corridor plan with stairs at flanking ends. Each floor has five class rooms, some with sliding partitions to create larger classroom space.

EVALUATION

EVALUATOR(S)

ADDITIONAL DATA/PHOTOS  
number all continuations from front

4. survey code

Thus the Drexel School is significant as a proto-typical Queen Anne-influenced design by Anschutz that utilizes the single loaded corridor variation of the Sloan plan.

area of significance: architecture

verbal boundary description

The nominated property consists of Philadelphia County lot 481194500 which contains the school and its contiguous grounds.

EVALUATION

EVALUATOR(S)

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
Spring Garden School  
12th & Nelson St.  
18486 4208421 640

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
Spring Garden School  
12th & Adgen St.  
18486 4208422 081

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
M&E Martin Ursinpedic Sch.  
18485 1408424 220

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
Lydia McFarr School  
18489 4208424 120

PHILADELPHIA QUADRANGLE  
PENNSYLVANIA-NEW JERSEY  
15 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
Pauline Maitre School  
18486 4208427 020

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
George Heade School  
18485 4008425 140

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
Westbrook High School  
4281 4008422 540

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
J. Shewmaker Jr. High  
18486 4008424 840

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
William S. Hanna School  
18479 8008424 640

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
Rose L. Brooks School  
4281 0208424 040

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
Wm. Doolay  
4281 0408423 440

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
St. Phil. High School  
4281 4408422 520

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
W. R. Westerman School  
4281 4408421 440

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
Lud Landreth School  
18486 4208422 420

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
Weir Mitchell School  
4281 4408421 520

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
Wm. Wayne School  
4281 4008419 940

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
J. Tilden Jr. High  
4281 4408424 840

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
Daniel Boone School  
18488 9208423 240

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
Edison High School  
18487 0008426 700

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
David Ferragut School  
18488 4208426 240

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
William S. Schantz  
18486 0408423 900

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
Paul Lawrence Dunbar  
18486 0208420 840

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
William Penn School  
18486 0408423 040

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
Alexander Dutton Sachs  
18485 1408424 220

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
Wittin School  
18487 7408423 500

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
Fletcher School  
18486 3408423 440

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
Thaddeus Stevens School  
18486 3408423 380

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
J. Sylvester Mumay  
18486 3408421 420

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
Samuel J. Woodruff  
18486 1408421 120

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
Robert A. Linton School  
18487 4008420 900

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
Francis M. Stewart  
18485 2208421 120

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
Abigail Vere School  
18487 1408421 120