

7. Local survey organization ( )

9. tax parcel number/other number

10. U.T.M. Zone Easting Northing  
 18 484480  
 one acre  
 4429620  
 usgs sheet: Philadelphia

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

15. style, design or folk type  
 Vict. Gothic

19. original use  
 School

20. present use  
 Vacant

21. condition  
 Fair

22. integrity  
 Good

8. property owners name and address  
 City of Philadelphia  
 Department of Public Property  
 Room 1030 MSB  
 Philadelphia, Pa. 19107

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

13. date(s) (how determined)  
 1889

14. period

16. architect or engineer  
 J.W. Anshutz

17. contractor or builder  
 Chas. McCaul

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

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 1201 S. 23rd Street

4. survey code

5. present name VID LANDRETH SCHOOL

6. other name (historic name if any) SAME

## The Landreth School

### Physical Description

The Landreth School, rising two stories in height and three bays in width, along the Federal Street elevation, is a brick building resting on a random coursed stone foundation. The center projecting frontispiece is capped by a gabled dormer. The building's fenestration varies with four windows grouped together; single, double hung sash with segmentally arched heads and tripartite, straight headed sash. Sandstone lintels and sills adorn each of the openings. Following the standard formula established by Anshutz, brick corbel bands accent the window openings. A large corbelled brick cornice crowns the building. Rising above is a hipped roof. Three large brick chimneys with decorative corbelled caps, rest along the 23rd Street Elevation. A later, addition (1923), designed in the Academic Gothic mode spans along the Federal Street elevation.

### Statement of Significance

The Landreth School, together with its contemporaries the Drexel 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.

The Landreth School carries on a tradition of public education on this site begun in 1845, when David Landreth, founder of the prominent Philadelphia nursery and seed business, sold his private home, at 23rd and Federal Streets to the Public School Board. An earlier Landreth School stood on the site from 1865 until 1889, when it was moved to the rear of the property. The 1865 wing was demolished in 1923 when two large wings were added to the present 1889 structure.

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 Landreth 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 in almost "cookie cutter" fashion throughout the city. Anshutz worked primarily in the Furness inspired High Style Victorian Gothic, although his later commissions favored the Colonial Revival mode.

In its brick corbelling, towering, attenuated chimneys and molded brick belt courses, the Landreth School stands as a handsome reminder of Furness-influenced Queen Anne design permeating institutional, residential, and commercial building forms alike. Of the numerous "Landreth 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 to survive to the present.

EVALUATION

EVALUATOR(S)

**David Landreth School**

The floor plan of this school represents the single loaded corridor variation of the Sloan Plan popular in Philadelphia for some 50 years. Like its companion schools, Drexel and Key, the original part of the Landreth School has a single-loaded corridor with flanking stairs. From the corridor are five class rooms on each floor.

Thus the Landreth School is important as an example of a prototypical, Queen Anne influenced design by Anshutz that represents the single loaded corridor variation of the Sloan Plan.

area of significance: architecture

verbal boundary description

The nominated property consists of Philadelphia County lot 886224700 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 #2  
12th & Melon St.  
184886 620M423 660

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
Spring Garden School #1  
12th & Ogden St.  
184886 660M424 040

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
W&R Martin Orthopedic Sch.  
184885 100M424 220

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
Lydia Darrah School  
184885 820M424 020

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

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
Rudolph Walton School  
184884 900M427 020

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
George Meade School  
184885 900M425 140

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
Verbrook High School  
184881 460M422 540

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
Wm. Shoemaker Jr. High  
184880 480M424 840

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
William B. Hanna School  
184879 800M424 680

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
George L. Brooks School  
184880 020M424 040

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
Thomas Dunlap  
184881 040M423 440

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
East Phil. High School  
184881 460M422 520

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
Julia R. Masterman School  
184882 820M423 460

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
David Landreth School  
184884 480M420 620

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
Weir Mitchell School  
184880 880M420 520

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
Tony Wayne School  
184881 660M419 960

Philadelphia Public Schools

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
Daniel Boone School  
184888 920M423 240

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
Edison High School  
184887 660M426 710

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
David Farragut School  
184888 420M420 240

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
William S. Stokely  
184884 040M425 960

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
Paul Lawrence Dunbar  
184886 800M430 600

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
William Penn School  
184886 040M423 660

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
Alexander Dallas B. School  
184885 140M424 220

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
Mifflin School  
184887 760M423 540

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
Frederick C. Fisher  
184886 340M423 460

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
Thaddeus Stevens  
184886 340M423 340

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
Heredit School  
184887 100M420

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
J. Sylvester Kame  
184886 300M421 440

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
Samuel J. Randall  
184886 340M421

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
Robert Ralston School  
184887 460M420

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
Francis M. O'Reilly  
184885 220M421

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County