

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY FORM OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION Box 1026 PA HISTORICAL & MUSEUM COMMISSION Harrisburg, PA 17120		7. Local survey organization Philadelphia Historical Commission		1. County Philadelphia
8. property owners name and address School District of Philadelphia 21st and Winter Streets Philadelphia, PA 19103		9. tax parcel number / other number 886211000		
12. classification site () structure () object () building () Thematic in N.R. district yes () no ()		13. date(s) (how determined) 1928-1929		5. present name William S. Peirce School
16. architect or engineer Irwin T. Catharine		14. period 1928-1929		
17. contractor or builder Weiss Construction		15. style, design or folk type Late Gothic Revival		2. municipality Philadelphia
18. primary building mat./construction Brick with lime-stone trim		19. original use School		
23. site plan with north arrow 		20. present use School		6. other name (historic name if any) N/A
24. photo notation		21. condition Excellent		
25. file/location		22. integrity Excellent		3. street address or specific location 2400 Christian Street
26. brief description (note unusual features, integrity, environment, threats and associated buildings) A 4-story, 9-register, brick building on a raised basement. Stone beltcourses appear above and below the first floor. Each register contains three openings separated by pilasters extending the full height of the building. Limestone capitals top each of the pilasters as well as the piers that separate the registers. The central register has a projecting 1-story entrance with an arched opening with two doors and tracery in the transom. A stone band along the top of the entry projection has the name of the school carved in it. Both the north and south elevations stretch six registers and are mirror images of each other. The rear four registers match those of the front. The second register from the front projects slightly and has four openings in a 1-2-1 arrangement. The first register has no openings but is ornamented by pilasters.		18. primary building mat./construction Brick with lime-stone trim		
27. history, significance and/or background During the expansive years of the 1920s, the School District had 77 new schools erected and 24 additions constructed on existing buildings. The 77 included 56 elementary schools, 16 junior high schools, 3 senior high schools and 2 technical schools. The program reflected the needs that arose from the continued growth of population, the spread of development and, to a lesser extent, the desire to modernize		29. prepared by: J. M. Moak		4. survey code
28. sources of information Board of Education, New School Buildings Under Contract Building Permit 1928, #5800		30. date - 87 revision(s)		

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

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27. HISTORY/SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

the District's facilities.

In response to this program, Irwin T. Catharine adopted the expedient of employing the same or essentially the same plans and elevations for a number of schools. For example, Type 153-A, a 4-story, 9-register, Collegiate Gothic building, to all intents and purposes duplicates Type 153, represented by five other schools. For 153-A, Catharine simply added a floor and employed a little more lavish ornamentation. Although less flamboyant than other Catharine designs, this type and the Peirce School, nevertheless, provide a statement of connection with buildings of learning and education through the use of the Collegiate Gothic style.

The Peirce School represents Philadelphia's response to the needs of a rapidly growing and changing educational system and the remarkable versatility of Catharine's basic plans to satisfy the space requirements of neighborhood schools through expandability.

National Register Criteria: C, Architecture

Boundary Justification: The nominated property contains the contributing building and all historically associated land.

There is one contributing building on the nominated property.

Verbal boundary: the nominated property is tax parcel #886211000.

EVALUATION

For its place in the history of education and of school architecture in Philadelphia, this building merits entry on the National Register.

EVALUATOR(S)