

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY FORM BUREAU FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION PA HISTORICAL & MUSEUM COMMISSION Box 1026 Harrisburg, PA 17120		7. Local survey organization Philadelphia Historical Commission		1. County Philadelphia	
8. property owners name and address School District of Philadelphia 21st & Winter Streets Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103		9. tax parcel number / other number 886401100		10. U.T.M. zone 18 4 80 2 60 1.1 acres 4 4 23 01 60 easting northing	
12. classification site ( ) structure ( ) object ( ) building ( ) Thematic in N.R. district yes ( ) no ( )		13. date(s) (how determined) 1916-1917		15. style, design or folk type Classical Revival	
16. architect or engineer H. deCourcy Richards		14. period 1916-1917		19. original use School	
17. contractor or builder Warren Moore & Company		18. primary building mat./construction Brick with stone trim		20. present use School	
21. condition Good		22. integrity Good		2. municipality Philadelphia	
23. site plan with north arrow 		6. other name (historic name if any) Holmes Junior High School			
24. photo notation		BLACK AND WHITE PRINT(S) 3 1/2" x 5" enlargement or medium format contact note location of negative in block 24.			
25. file/location		3. street address or specific location 5429-5455 Chestnut Street			
26. brief description (note unusual features, integrity, environment, threats and associated buildings) See reverse side <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">USE THIS COPY FOR DUPLICATING</p>					
27. history, significance and/or background See reverse side <p style="text-align: right;">(continue on back if necessary)</p>					
28. sources of information See reverse side				29. prepared by: Jefferson M. Moak	
<p style="text-align: right;">(continue on back if necessary)</p>				30. date 5-21-87	
				revision(s)	
4. survey code					

3. ADDRESS: Chestnut Street, 5429-5455

5. NAME: Harambee Institute

6. FORMER NAME: Holmes Junior High School

13. DATES: 1916-1917

ADDITIONS: 1917

DESCRIPTION: A 3-story, six-register, brick building set upon a raised brick basement with stone dripcourse above the ground floor openings, four windows within a single opening on each floor, a slightly projected central block measuring four registers, a stone cornice and brick parapet. The center of the parapet is stepped and contains a carved stone panel with the name of the school. The entrances are located on the north and south elevations. Typical of Richards' designs, the stairwell project slightly from the main facade and contains three openings: the central one at the between-floor levels and the outside openings at the floor levels. Originally U-shape in design, a large wing was added shortly after completion of the main building in 1917 onto the north elevation.

HISTORY/SIGN.: "Shortly after this building was opened as an elementary school, a contract for an auditorium and additional rooms was awarded and the school organized as a Junior High School" (Edmunds). The Holmes Junior High School, subsequently given School Board Type Number JHS-1, appears to have been the first junior high school within the city of Philadelphia and so rests its significance upon this fact. Another junior high school, the George C. Thomas Junior High School (1920-1921) was another adaptation of an elementary school design. It was not until 1922, with the evolution of School Design Type JHS-4 that schools were being specifically designed for junior high school use. This school marks the beginning in the evolution of Phila. public schools - the construct of junior high schools.  
National Register Criteria: A, Education

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

28. SOURCES: Edmunds, Public School Buildings of Philadelphia, 1908-1918  
Edmunds, Chronological List of School Buildings, 1818-1934  
School Board, "New School Buildings Under Contract"

EVALUATION: The significance of this building in the evolution of junior high schools in Philadelphia warrants its inclusion onto the National Register as part of the Philadelphia Public Schools Thematic District.

There is one contributing building on the nominated property.

Verbal boundary: the nominated property is tax parcel #886401100.

EVALUATION

EVALUATOR(S)

7. Local survey organization  
 Clio Group, Inc.

1. County Philadelphia  
 5. Present name O.W. Holmes School

8. property owners name and address  
 School District of Phila.  
 21st & Parkway  
 19143

9. tax parcel number / other number  
 603012300

10. U.T.M. zone 18 Easting 418021810  
 Northing 4423079

11. status (other surveys, lists etc.)

usgs sheet: Phila. Quad.

12. classification  
 site ( ) structure ( ) object ( )  
 building (X)  
 in N.R. district yes ( ) no (X)

13. date(s) (how determined)  
 1916  
 14. period  
 1900-1919

15. style, design or folk type  
 Beaux Arts  
 Institutional

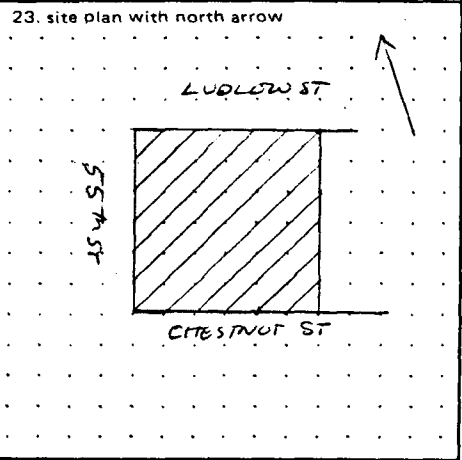
19. original use School  
 20. present use School

16. architect or engineer  
 J. Cook

17. contractor or builder

18. primary building mat./construction  
 Brick

21. condition Above Avg.  
 22. integrity Excellent



2. Municipality Philadelphia  
 6. other name (historic name if any)

24. photo notation  
 JC/ WP C-1

25. file/location

3. street address or specific location  
 NEC 55th & Chestnut Street

26. brief description (note unusual features, integrity, environment, threats and associated buildings)

A large four-story, brick school block constructed of brick with limestone banding and detail. Thick soldier courses span openings. Classrooms are glazed with quartets of large 6/6 windows. Certain simply stated classical decorative passages mark the entrances and main subdivisions. Large diapered brick patterns embellish the blind cornerwalls. The whole is capped by a brick parapet.

(continue on back if necessary)

27. history, significance and/or background

One of several early-20th century schools by the Board of Education's architect, J. Horace Cook. Repetitively and liberally glazed, Cook combines some degree of the industrial/commercial vernacular with the civic character appropriate to a public school building.

(continue on back if necessary)

28. sources of information  
 Clio Index 0029621

29. prepared by:  
 J. Cohen  
 3/9/81 revision(s)

4. survey code  
 015-22820-05429