

Physical Description

This building is an imposing three and one half story, random coursed granite school. Rectangular in plan, the building resembles an English castle with a battlemented center turret flanked by projecting, gable ends. A powerfully designed structure elements of Jacobean detailing give the facade a strong emphasis. The gable ends have tripartite sash with transom panels set into a granite surround with pronounced mullions. A smaller window rests in the splayed gable wall. The body of the building has large square, head sash with multi-light windows. Straight stone lintels and sills punctuate the openings. The center of the building has a strong projecting bay with buttressed piers culminating in crenellated caps.

Statement of Significance

Built in 1903-1905, the Thomas Edison High School stands as a prototypical design of specialized interior spaces. Schools constructed before the Edison High School had multi-purpose classrooms. These multi-purpose classrooms were often divided by moveable partitions in accordance with the Sloan plan. Lloyd Titus departed from these earlier floor plans in designing the Edison High School. Titus created twenty classrooms and seven shops arranged around a central auditorium. The Edison High School was one of the first schools in Philadelphia to have specialized interior spaces. With the adoption of much of William Wirt's ideas on school interior design after 1905, the use of specialized classrooms later became standard practice in Philadelphia public schools.

This school originally began in 1890 as the Northeast Manual Training School. As such it was one of the first specialized vocational schools opened in Philadelphia. As late nineteenth century school reformers in the industrial Northeastern United States called for vocational and industrial curricula in public schools in order to train students for industrial work, the Philadelphia public school system responded by opening schools dedicated to vocational and industrial courses.

Thus the Edison High School is important for its innovative use of specialized interior spaces, and for its history as one of the first vocational schools in Philadelphia.

areas of significance: architecture

verbal boundary description

The nominated property consists of Philadelphia County lot 886228500 which contains the school and its contiguous grounds.

EVALUATION

EVALUATOR(S)

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

7. Local survey organization

8. property owners name and address
 School Board of Philadelphia
 21st and the Parkway
 Philadelphia, PA 19103

9. tax parcel number/other number

10. U.T.M. 118 418176610
 Zone easting
 three acres
44 26 78 10
 usgs sheet: Philadelphia
 northing

11. status (other surveys, lists etc.)

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

13. date(s) (how determined)
1903-1905
 14. period

15. style, design or folk type
 Romanesque

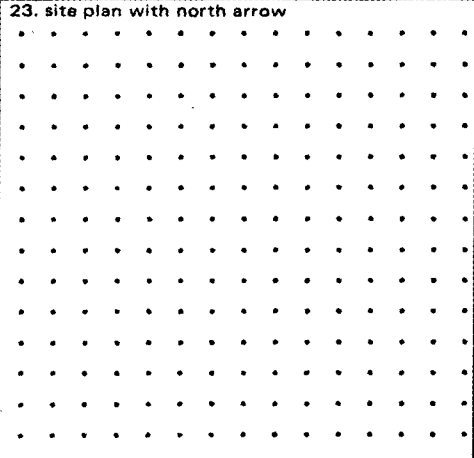
19. original use school
 20. present use school

16. architect or engineer
 Lloyd Titus

17. contractor or builder
 Henderson & Co.

18. primary building mat./construc.
 wood/stone
 stone trim

21. condition good
 22. integrity good



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

24. photo notation

25. file/location

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 _____

1. County Philadelphia
 2. municipality Philadelphia
 3. street address or specific location 701 Lehigh Street
 4. survey code
 5. present name Edison High School
 6. other name (historic name if any) Northeast Manual Training School

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

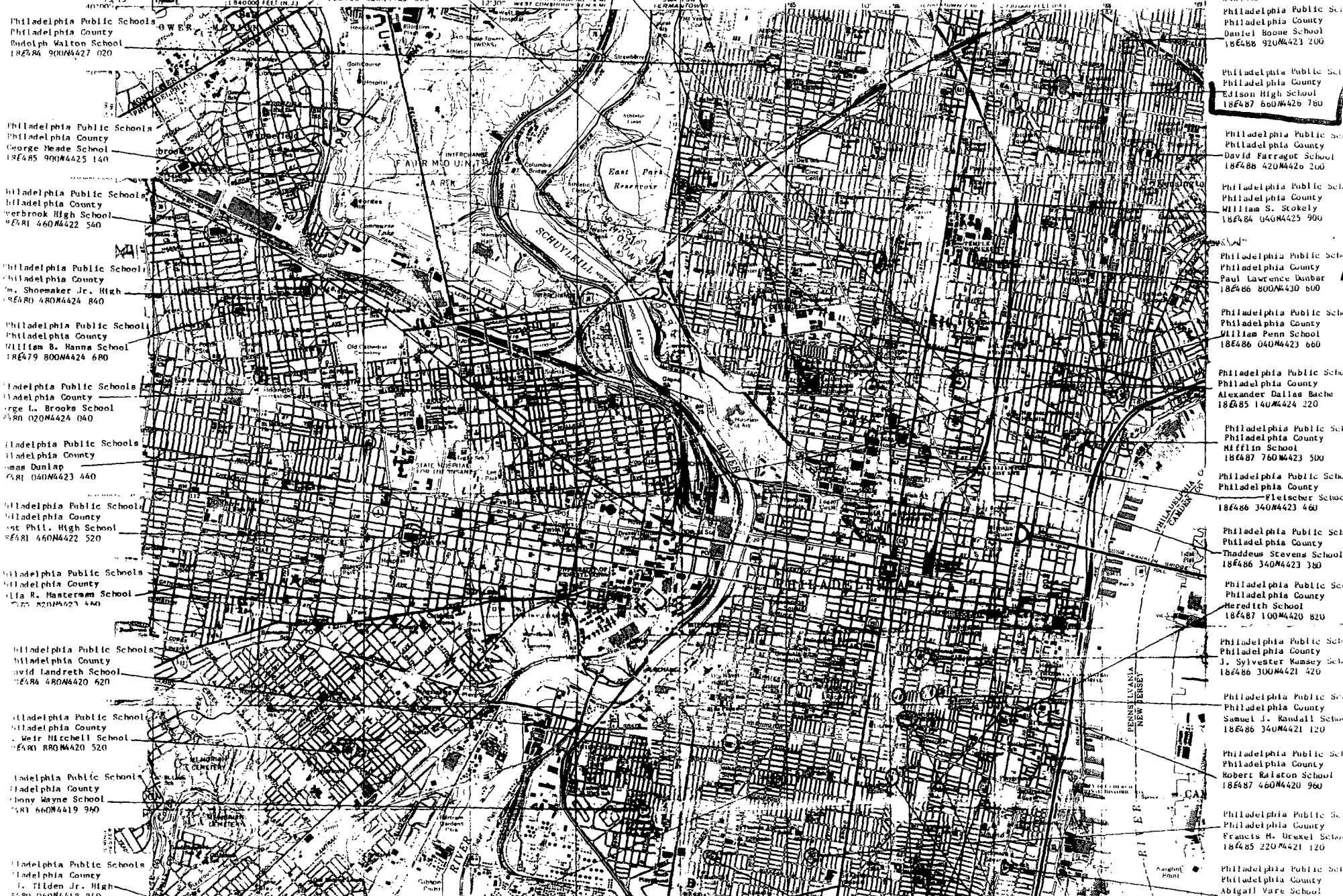
Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Spring Garden School #2
12th & Melon St.
182886 620M423 660

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Spring Garden School #1
12th & Odgen St.
182886 660M424 040

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
W&E Martin Orthopedic Sch.
182885 100M424 220

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Lydia Darrah School
182885 820M424 020

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



Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Rudolph Walton School
182884 900M427 020

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
George Heade School
182885 900M425 140

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Verbrook High School
92881 460M422 540

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Wm. Shoemaker Jr. High
92880 480M424 840

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
William B. Hanna School
182879 800M424 680

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
George L. Brooks School
4880 020M424 040

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
James Dunlap
6881 040M423 440

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
West Phil. High School
92881 460M422 520

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Alfa R. Masterson School
8285 820M423 440

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
David Landreth School
82884 480M420 620

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Weir Mitchell School
82880 880M420 520

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Tony Wayne School
82881 660M419 940

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
E. Hilden Jr. High
82880 880M420 520

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Abigail Vane School

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Daniel Boone School
182888 920M423 200

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Edison High School
182887 600M426 780

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
David Farragut School
182888 420M420 200

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
William S. Stokely
182884 040M425 900

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Paul Lawrence Dunbar
182886 800M430 600

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
William Penn School
182886 040M423 660

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Alexander Dallas Bache
182885 140M424 220

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Hiffin School
182887 760M423 500

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Fleischer School
182886 340M423 460

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Matthew Stevens School
182886 340M423 380

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Meredith School
182887 100M420 820

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
J. Sylvester Ramsey Sch.
182886 300M421 420

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Samuel J. Randall School
182886 340M421 120

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Robert Ralston School
182887 460M420 960

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Francis H. Urexel School
182885 220M421 120

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Abigail Vane School