

**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. Street & the Parkway  
 Philadelphia, Pa. 19103

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

10. U.T.M. Zone Easting Northing  
 18 485100  
 three acres  
 442422  
 usgs sheet: Philadelphia

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

13. date(s) (how determined)  
 1936-1937  
 14. period

15. style, design or folk type  
 Class. Rev.

19. original use School  
 20. present use School

16. architect or engineer  
 Irwin T. Catharine

17. contractor or builder

18. primary building mat./construc.  
 Brick/Limestone

21. condition Good  
 22. integrity Good

23. site plan with north arrow  
 24. photo notation  
 25. file/location

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

**USE THIS COPY  
 FOR DUPLICATING**

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 \_\_\_\_\_  
 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 800 N. 22nd Street  
 4. survey code  
 5. present name W. & E. MARTIN SCHOOL  
 6. other name (historic name if any) MARTIN ORTHOPEDIC SCHOOL

**W.E. Martin School**

**Physical Description**

The Martin School, one story in height and ten bays in width is a brick building is designed in the Georgian Revival mode, with projecting pedimented portico supported by Corinthian columns. Rising from the portico is a bell tower with quoined corners and balustrade, capped by a cupola. The main entrance features a double leaf door with decorative broken pediment frontispiece. Flanking the entrance are double hung windows in arched surrounds. Decorative limestone panels embellish the building surface above the entrance and flanking windows. The first floor fenestration follows a regular pattern of paired six over six double hung sash with keystone lintels. The gable roof is pierced by arched dormers.

**Statement of Significance**

~~Built in 1936-37~~, the Martin Orthopedic School indicates the move toward further specialization of schools as the twentieth century progressed. The school was the first in the system designed especially for teaching physically handicapped students. For many years Philadelphia had taken a leading place in the treatment of handicapped children. With the assistance of a federal grant the school was completed and opened in 1936. One of the few orthopedic schools in the country, the Superintendent's Report highlighted its importance in the advancement of special education facilities and reported that Philadelphia's orthopedic children had access to the most approved facilities and the most modern methods of treatment.

The school reflects a shift toward more conservative domestic-scaled Georgian Revival School design in the wake of Art Deco sophistication. Only one story in height, to accommodate the limitations of physically handicapped students, the building is defined by Georgian portico and crowning cupola, indicating a shift in architectural taste towards nationalistic images of the past. The school is the best example of a Georgian Revival school designed by Catharine and included in the nominated group. U-shaped in plan with double loaded corridors, the school featured special rooms that were innovative to meet the requirements of physically handicapped students. Adjacent to a special exercise room is a tank room containing an 8' by 20' pool for aquatic exercise and therapy. As highlighted in the Report of the Superintendent of Schools Report for 1936, the school features ramps, instead of stairs, built around an inner court. Within the court is a macadam space for play as well as a unique area created for flower gardens. The assembly room was designed with ample space provided for wheel chairs. The 1937 Superintendent of Schools Report reflects the importance and pride in this new school with the inclusion of a photograph of the school and newly enrolled students. In 1943 the school became a center for deaf, severely hard of hearing and partially sighted classes.

Thus the Martin Orthopedic School is exceptionally important as the first school for teaching physically handicapped students in the Philadelphia public school system, and as one of the first such schools in the nation. It is also exceptionally important as the most outstanding Classical Revival design executed by Irwin T. Catharine.

EVALUATION

EVALUATOR(S)

ADDITIONAL DATA/PHOTOS  
number all continuations from front

4. survey code

area of significance: architecture and education

verbal boundary description

The nominated property consists of Philadelphia County lot 8060860 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.  
182486 620N4423 660

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
Spring Garden School #1  
12th & Odgen St.  
182486 660N4424 040

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
W&E Martin Orthopedic Sch.  
182485 100N4424 220

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
Lydia Carrah School  
182485 820N4424 020

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

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
Rudolph Walton School  
182484 900N4427 020

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
George Heade School  
182485 900N4425 140

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
Verbrook High School  
182481 460N4422 560

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
M. Shoemaker Jr. High  
182480 480N4424 840

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
William B. Hanna School  
182479 800N4424 680

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
George L. Brooks School  
182480 020N4424 040

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
Thomas Dunlap  
182481 040N4423 440

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
East Phil. High School  
182481 460N4422 520

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
Ellia R. Masterman School  
182482 820N4423 440

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
David Landreth School  
182484 480N4420 620

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
Weir Mitchell School  
182480 880N4420 520

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
Lonny Wayne School  
182481 660N4419 960

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
Daniel Boone School  
182488 920N4423 220

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
Edison High School  
182487 660N4426 720

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
David Farragut School  
182488 420N4426 220

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
William S. Sokel  
182484 040N4425 920

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
Paul Lawrence Dant  
182486 800N4430 620

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
William Penn School  
182486 040N4423 620

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
Alexander Dallas  
182485 140N4424 220

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
Mifflin School  
182487 760N4423 520

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
Fleischer  
182486 340N4423 460

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
Thaddeus Stevens  
182486 340N4423 320

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
Hereditth School  
182487 100N4420 120

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
J. Sylvester Kansas  
182486 300N4421 420

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
Samuel J. Randall  
182486 340N4421 120

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
Robert Ralston School  
182487 460N4420 920

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
Francis M. Drexel  
182485 220N4421 120

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County