

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
 Mr. & Mrs. Ken Siegel
 Mechanicsville Road
 Philadelphia, Pa. 19154

9. tax parcel number/other number

 11. status (other surveys, lists etc.)
 N/A

10. U.T.M. 11g 15 66860
 Zone Easting
 less than one acre
443948
 usgs sheet: Beverly northing

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

13. date(s) (how determined)
1866-1867
 14. period

15. style, design or folk type
 Vernacular

19. original use School
 20. present use Res.

16. architect or engineer

17. contractor or builder
Seth K. Samm

18. primary building mat./construc.
stone/stucco

21. condition Good
 22. integrity Good

23. site plan with north arrow

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
 5. present name MECHANICSVILLE SCHOOL
 2. municipality PHILADELPHIA
 6. other name (historic name if any)

3. street address or specific location
MECHANICSVILLE ROAD

4. survey code

The Mechanicsville School

7

Physical Description

One story in height and three bays in width this building is constructed of stone with smooth stucco finish. A center, single-leaf door topped by single transom pierces the building face. Two flanking windows are 1/1 double hung. The side fenestration, with transoms, is similar. Above the door is a plaque announcing the Mechanicsville School. This tablet is crowned by a semi-circular single light. The gable roof has a wood cornice and side brick chimney.

Statement of Significance

Constructed in 1866, the Mechanicsville School is a noteworthy example of the variation in school design occurring in the 1851 to 1904 period. Rural in character, and retardataire in design, this small one room schoolhouse epitomizes the rural village nature of Mechanicsville, to this day the northern most community of all neighborhoods within the city limits. Its small scale and Greek Revival detailing recall vernacular school architecture of the Pennsylvania countryside, and serve as a reminder of the rural nature of much of Philadelphia throughout the nineteenth century.

Although the original interior plans for this school could not be located, the plan likely consisted of one spacious and light open class room. This plan was the characteristic form established, in 1832, with the publication of a brief treatise on school architecture by William A. Alcott. His plan for a building's physical plant stressed fresh air, space and light, separate desks for each pupil and open surroundings for recreation.

Thus the Mechanicsville School is important as a throw-back to earlier one-room schoolhouses found commonly in rural areas. This school offers a dramatic contrast to the many schools based on the Sloan plan that were built between 1851 and 1904.

area of significance: architecture

verbal boundary description

The nominated property consists of Philadelphia County lot 663059300 which contains the school and its contiguous grounds.

EVALUATION

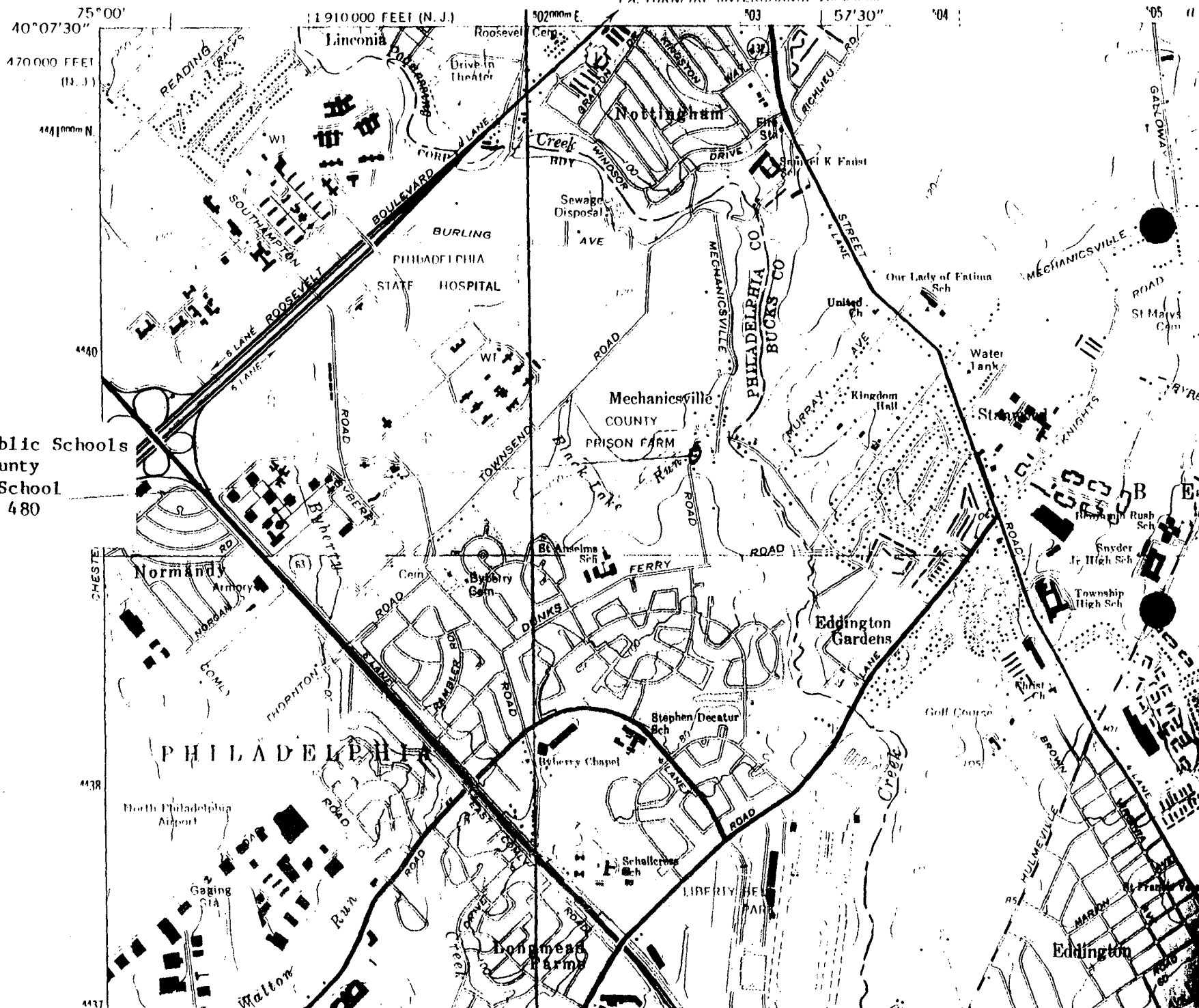
EVALUATOR(S)

Scale 1:1 NE
(HATBORO)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Beverly PA-NJ Quad.

TRENTON, N.J. 14 MI.
PA. TURNPIKE INTERCHANGE 20 0.6 MI



Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Mechanicsville School
18 502 800N4439 480