Pennsylvania Historic Resource Survey Form

Bureau for Historic Preservation
PA Historical & Museum Commission
Box 1026
Harrisburg, PA 17107

8. Property owner's name and address
City of Philadelphia
Department of Public Property
1030 Municipal Services Building
Philadelphia, PA 19107

9. Tax parcel number/other number

10. U.T.M. Zone
11. Status (other surveys, lists, etc.)
UsGS Sheet: Camden
Reg. N. 18
Easting 4176
Wasting 4176

12. Classification
Site ( ) Structure ( ) Object ( )
Building ( ) District ( )
Thematic

13. Date(s) (how determined)
1899-1900

14. Period

15. Style, design or folk type
Victorian Romanesque

16. Architect or engineer
J.W. Anshutz

17. Contractor or builder
J.E. and A.J. Pencock

18. Primary building material/construction
Wood/brick stone trim

21. Condition
Good

22. Integrity
Excellent

23. Site plan with north arrow

24. Photo notation

25. File/location

26. Brief description (note unusual features, integrity, environment, threats and associated buildings)
NPS counting purposes: one contributing building

27. History, significance and/or background

28. Sources of information
See bibliography for nomination (continue on back if necessary)

29. Prepared by: B. Mintz

30. Date
7/1986

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
Thomas Powers School

Physical Description

Constructed of random coursed granite blocks, this three story, with basement structure rests on a coursed stone base with smooth dressed band course broken by the sills of the first floor windows. The square plan of the building is broken by two projecting, stepped Flemish gable, frontispieces, of varying designs. The fenestration pattern is regular with single and paired, square headed sash on the first and third floors, and single and double arched sash on the second floor. Straight lintels cap the first and third floors; arched granite and limestone lintels with keystone enhance the second floor. The projecting frontispiece sash are embellished with linked, round arched, splayed and square headed lintels. At the building corner is a subtle, projecting round arched tower, rising the full height of the building. The structure culminates in a hipped roof with large projecting chimneys.

Statement of Significance.

Constructed in 1899-1900, the Powers School is unique among Philadelphia public schools designed by Anschutz and included in the thematic group. Most of the first schools designed by Anschutz are in the Queen Anne and Gothic styles. He tended to adopt the Classical and Colonial Revival styles for his later schools. The Powers School, on the other hand, incorporates elements of the Victorian Romanesque style as well as Flemish gables. The polychromy and voussoirs found on the Powers School relate back to the Victorian Romanesque style popular in Philadelphia well before the turn of the century. No other schools designed by Anschutz and included in the thematic group share these Victorian Romanesque features or the Flemish gables.

Thus the Powers School is significant as a distinctive Victorian Romanesque school designed by Anschutz at the turn of the century.

area of significance: architecture

verbal boundary description

The nominated property consists of Philadelphia County lot 8861825 which contains the school and its contiguous grounds.