

7. Local survey organization

8. property owners name and address
 School District 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 486340
 two acres
 4423380
 usgs sheet: Philadelphia

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

13. date(s) (how determined)
 1926 - 1927
 14. period

15. style, design or folk type
 Gothic/Eccles.

19. original use School
 20. present use Sch. Adm.

16. architect or engineer
 Irwin T. Catharine

17. contractor or builder

18. primary building mat./construc.
 Fire proof cons.
 Brick/Tile

21. condition Excel.
 22. integrity Excel.

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 _____
 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 1301 SPRING GARDEN STREET
 4. survey code
 5. present name STEVENS ADMINISTRATIVE BLDG
 6. other name (historic name if any) THADDEUS STEVENS SCHOOL OF OBSERVATION

Thaddeus Stevens School of Observation

Physical Description

A wonderfully "typical" Irwin T. Catharine structure, the Thaddeus Stevens School of Observation and Practice is now used by the School Board to house administrative offices. While the building's of these gentlemen are readily identifiable by the unique use of light colored brick and colorful, enameled ornamentation, no two Catharine structures are exactly alike. A tall, linear building, the Stevens School rises five stories with a grade level basement. The main entrance projects from the building with a Gothic arch opening reflecting the roof line detail. The building rests on a limestone base, with the exception of the sash located in the projecting bay. The fenestration pattern consists of paired sash. A limestone band course rests above. At the far right side of the building is a two story, projecting bay. Resting above the basement sash, in this addition are three round arched sash with a corbeled brick cornice crowning the bay. This bay rests on a projecting end section of the building. The main body of the building is dominated by Catharine's signature round arched openings rising the full height of the building. These openings, enhanced with smaller, paired arched sash create the appearance of an attenuated arcade. These details hint at ecclesiastical influences, regularly found in Catharine's designs. The building fenestration pattern is regular with paired, double hung sash on all floors. Spandrel panels give further emphasis to the verticality of the building. Catharine's rich use of building materials creates a polychromatic appearance to the building which is both appealing and sophisticated.

Statement of Significance

Originally the School of Observation and Practice, the Philadelphia School system pioneered in the field of professional training for teachers and educators. Beginning as early as 1891, the School system established demonstration schools where professionals could come to observe and learn about teaching. Created as a regular elementary school, the Stevens School had a staff of specially trained teachers, whose function was to demonstrate approved classroom methods and approved teaching techniques. Teachers from within the school system, as well as from other cities came to observe the techniques used in the Philadelphia School system. This special type of school was not considered experimental, but rather an integral function of the school system, in order to provide the best education possible.

The Stevens School is the only example of its particular kind of specialized school--a school of teacher observation and practice--included in the nominated thematic group.

area of significance--education

verbal boundary description

The nominated property consists of Philadelphia County lot 141235000 which contains the school and its contiguous grounds.

EVALUATION

EVALUATOR(S)