

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

9. tax parcel number/other number

10. U.T.M. Zone 18 Easting 060
 four acres
 Northing 441BB4
 usgs sheet: Philadelphia

11. status (other surveys, lists etc.)

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

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

15. style, design or folk type
 Gothic 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 Fair
 22. integrity Fair

23. site plan with north arrow

**USE THIS COPY
 FOR DUPLICATING**

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 66th STREET AND ELMWOOD AVENUE
 4. survey code
 5. present name WILLIAM J. TILDEN JR. HIGH SCHOOL
 6. other name (historic name if any) SAME

William T. Tilden Jr. High School

Physical Description

This building of three stories with basement is composed of eleven bays and constructed of brick and limestone in the Gothic style. The flat plane of the building rests in juxtaposition to the projecting, flanking building wings. The two entrances placed on each side of these wings are one story with arched openings enhanced with limestone trim. The flanking wings are detailed with ribbon bands of tripartite sash. Decorative spandrel panels provide emphasis to the elevation. The tripartite fourth floor sash have Gothic arched heads and a string course running below. The parapet is detailed with limestone crenellation. The main body of the building is punctuated by a series of strong vertical and horizontal lines. The ribbon band of windows is reinforced by the brick piers defining each of the bay openings. Limestone band courses at the first and fourth floors introduce a contrasting movement to the building face. The window fenestration found in the flanking ends is repeated with the addition of paired, Gothic arched sash, with limestone lintels at the basement level. At the left of the building, an open stairwell carefully repeats the sash division, without the infill glass.

Statement of Significance

Architecturally, the William Tilden Junior High School characterizes one of the broad range of styles used in academic design. School architecture turned from the heaviness of Victorian style to the lighter, more classical Colonial, Georgian, Tudor and Gothic designs in the twentieth century. These styles recalling our Anglo-Saxon heritage are interpreted in rich tones of brick and limestone. Gothic tracery, door and window surrounds, as well as battlemented parapets were popularized in school institutions. Irwin T. Catharine, who in 1927 was the School Board's Chief Draftsman, continued the traditions established by J. Horace Cook and H. deCoursey Richards in the design of these new school types. Under his direction school design continued to maintain a high level of sophistication and integrity. Following in the tradition of Ivy League institutions, Gothic style of architecture came to symbolize the highest standards of excellence and achievement by both the institution and its students. The Philadelphia public school system embraced this style of design as a subtle suggestion of the high standards and opportunities offered through the public school system.

The Tilden Junior High School is an outstanding, large example of a Gothic school executed by Catharine. With its numerous arched windows, crenellated parapets, and detailing, the Tilden junior High School compares quite favorably with one of Catharine's best, large Gothic style schools, Olney High School.

Thus the Tilden Junior High School is important as an outstanding example of Gothic style schools designed by Catharine.

area of significance: architecture

verbal boundary description--The nominated property consists of Philadelphia County lot

EVALUATION 8862405 which contains the school and its contiguous grounds.

EVALUATOR(S)

WEST MOUNTAIN SCHOOL
E4R1 80N4420 520

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Tony Wayne School
E4R1 66N4419 960

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
J. Tilden Jr. High
E4R1 06N4418 840

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
John Bartram High Sch
E4R1 100N4418 820

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
George Smith School
E4R1 940N4420 300

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Mrs Buchanan Read
E4R1 780N4417 200

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Robert Ralston Sch
18E487 460N4420 500

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Francis H. Drexel
18E485 220N4421 12

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Abigail Vore School
18E487 160N4419 440

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Francis Scott Key Sch
18E486 260N4418 700

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Southwark School
18E486 420N4419 400

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Horace Furness Jr.
18E487 080N4419 040

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Delaplane School
18E486 260N4419 560

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Edgar Allen Poe Sch
18E484340N4418 860

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Edward Bok Vocational
18E486 300N4419 320

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Andrew Jackson Sch
18E486 020N4420 280

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
National Hawthorne
18E486 100N4421 040



Mapped by the U. S. Coast & Geodetic Survey
Edited and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and USCG
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1945. Topography by planimetric surveys 1947. Revised by
the Geological Survey from aerial photographs taken 1965.
Field checked 1967.
Selected hydrographic data compiled from NOS chart 280 (1967).
This information is not intended for navigational purposes.
Polyconic projection 10,000-foot grid ticks based on the Pennsylvania
coordinate system, south zone, and New Jersey coordinate system
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 18, shown in blue.
1927 North American Datum.
To place on the projected North American Datum 1983
move the projection lines 6 meters south and
31 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks.
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown.
They may be private inholdings within the boundaries of
the National or State reservations shown on this map.

UTM GRID AND 1983 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET
Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled
by the Geological Survey from aerial photographs
taken 1967 and other sources. This information
not field checked. Map edited 1985.



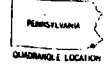
CONTOUR IN
NATIONAL GEODETIC METRIC DATUM OF 1929
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THIS DATUM IS VARIABLE
SHORTLINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROPRIATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDES APPROXIMATELY 6 FEET

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACQUISITION STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
George Washington Sch.
18E486 920N4420 160

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Frank C. Palumbo School
18E486 180N4420 880

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty Light-duty
Medium-duty Unimproved dirt
Interest route U.S. Route State Route



PHILADELPHIA, PA.—N. J.
39075-N2-1F-024

1967
PHOTOCHEMISED 1986
IMA DMS 1 NW 86NH 963