

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

10. U.T.M. Zone easting
 18 488880

11. status (other surveys, lists etc.)

one acre
 4426620
 northing
 usgs sheet: Camden

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

13. date(s) (how determined)
 1907-1908

15. style, design or folk type
 Classical Rev.

19. original use School

16. architect or engineer
 H.deC. Richards

17. contractor or builder

18. primary building mat./construc.
 Brick

20. present use School

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
 2. municipality PHILADELPHIA
 3. street address or specific location EMERALD & ORLEANS STREET
 4. survey code
 5. present name FRANCIS E. WILLARD SCHOOL
 6. other name (historic name if any) SAME

Willard School

Physical Description

Rising four stories in height, and spanning three bays in width, the Willard School is constructed of concrete with brick cladding and limestone trim in the Classical mode. The Hawthorne School and its companion structure, the Francis E. Willard School, are the first reinforced concrete, fireproof school structures built after the passage of major school legislation in 1906.

E shaped in plan, the building is dominated by its enormous decorative building ends. The main building entrance is defined by an elaborate hooded limestone surround with limestone quoining around the lower portion of the doorway. Above the door is an overscale arched opening, rising 2 1/2 stories in height. Two large windows are set into the opening, the upper sash set into the head of the arch. The window surround is handsomely detailed with light and dark paning resembling quoining. The window openings provide light to the main stair resting immediately behind. Decorative, molded limestone bands define the floor levels at the first and second floors. Flanking the arched window opening are two decorative rectangles created by the combined use of the lighter and darker brick with small limestone squares. The rectangular basement windows at the two flanking ends are enhanced with limestone lintels and sills. Along this elevation, the decorative molded cornice mimics the shape of the arch window at the point where the two parallel. Rising above the cornice is a brick parapet wall also with an arched shape.

The side elevation is defined by a wall of windows set together in groups of five. The center portion of the building projects out from the building plane, creating a nice sense of rhythm. The basement sash, located at grade level are crowned by straight brick lintels. The decorative band courses continue around the main elevation, giving definition to the lower area of the building. At the fourth floor level, projecting brick panels rest below the window openings. The opposite elevation to the main facade is identical in detailing. The classical style detailing on the main facade rests in interesting juxtaposition to the commercial style, ribbon banding of windows.

Statement of Significance

The Willard School was designed by noted school architect, Henry deCoursy Richards, working under the direction of School Superintendent J. Horace Cook. Cook began his career with the schools in 1887 when he was hired as an assistant architect. He rose to the newly created position of Superintendent in 1906 where he remained until his retirement in 1918.

One of the first schools in Philadelphia of fire-proof construction, the Willard School represented a new philosophy and advancement in technology in school construction. Urged by school reform advocates to increase safety and health requirements in its schools, the School Board adopted a policy in 1906 which required that schools be constructed of fireproof materials. The Hawthorne School, the first reinforced concrete, fireproof school building, was soon joined by the Willard School and others, as the new improved technology and policy was put into effect.

EVALUATION

EVALUATOR(S)

ADDITIONAL DATA/PHOTOS
number all continuations from front

4. survey code

Thus this school is important as one of the first examples of fireproof construction, a method of construction that was subsequently used throughout the Philadelphia public school system.

area of significance: architecture

verbal boundary description

The nominated property consists of Philadelphia County lot 8861810 which contains the school and its contiguous grounds.

EVALUATION

EVALUATOR(S)

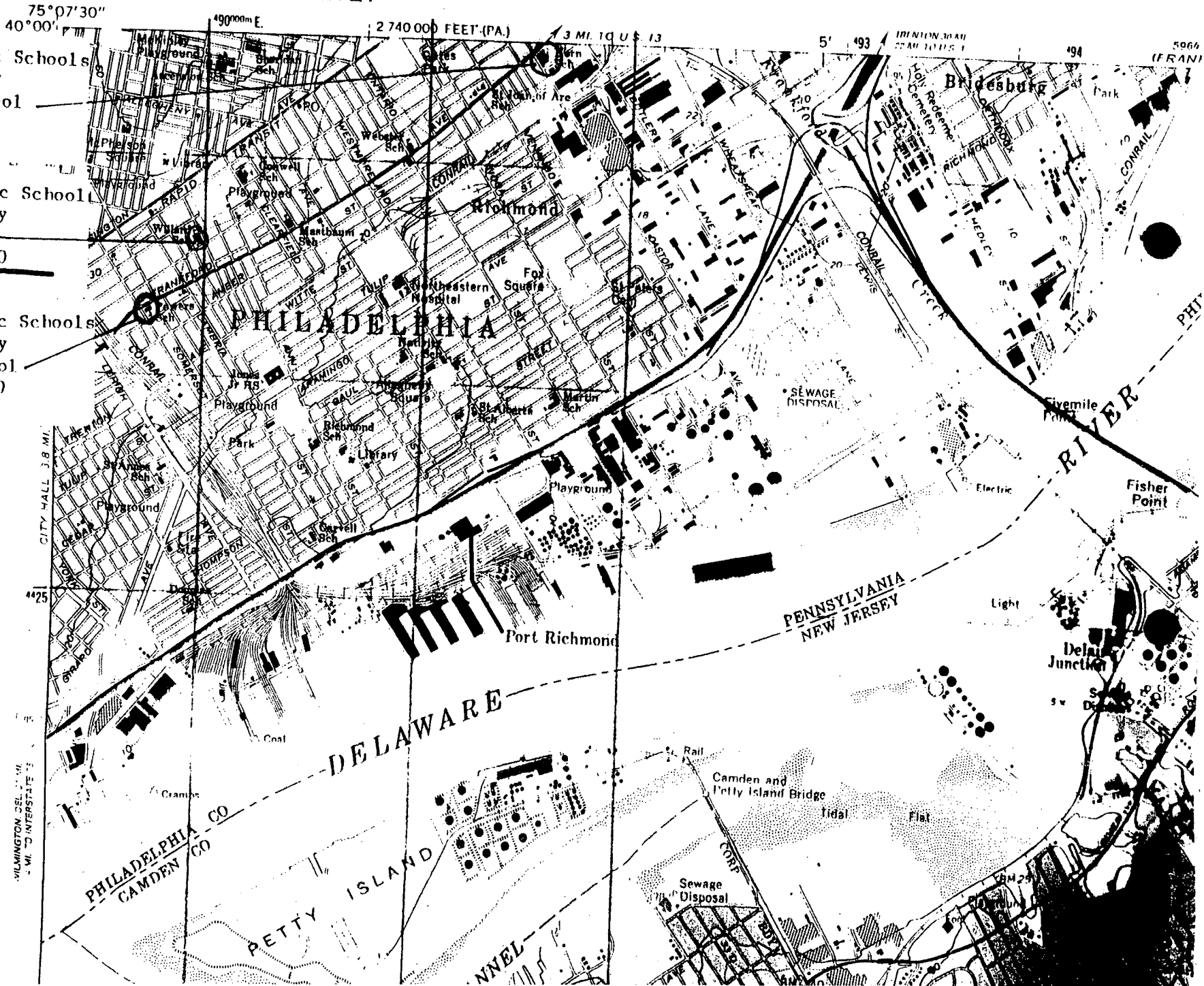
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Camden, NJ-PA Quad

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
George L. Horn School
8E491 520N4427 480

Philadelphia Public School
Philadelphia County
Willard School
18E489 980N4426 620

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Thomas Powers School
18E489 760N4426 280



5964 U.S.W.
GERMANTOWN

WILMINGTON DEL. 11 MI.
- MI. TO INTERSTATE 76

CITY HALL 3.8 MI.

4425

PHILADELPHIA CO
CAMDEN CO

DELAWARE

PETTY ISLAND

PENNSYLVANIA
NEW JERSEY

RIVER

Fisher Point

Delaware Junction

Camden and Petty Island Bridge

Sewage Disposal

28M 29