

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY FORM OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION Box 1026 PA HISTORICAL & MUSEUM COMMISSION Harrisburg, PA 17120		7. Local survey organization Philadelphia Historical-Commission		1. County Philadelphia		
8. property owners name and address School District of Philadelphia 21st and Winter Streets Philadelphia, PA 19103		9. tax parcel number / other number 886162000	10. U.T.M. zone 18 4181714810 2.5 acres 4425560 sheet: Philadelphia		5. present name Joseph C. Ferguson School	
12. classification site () structure () object () building () Thematic in N.R. district Yes () No ()		13. date(s) (how determined) 1921-1922	11. status (other surveys, lists etc.)			14. period 1921-1922
16. architect or engineer Irwin T. Catharine		15. style, design or folk type Colonial Revival		17. contractor or builder Unknown		6. other name (historic name if any) N/A
18. primary building mat./construction Brick with stone trim		19. original use School		20. present use School	3. street address or specific location 2000-2046 N. 7th Street, aka 701 Norris St.	
21. condition Good		22. integrity Good		4. survey code		
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. DUPLICATING THIS COPY				
24. photo notation		25. file/location				
26. brief description (note unusual features, integrity, environment, threats and associated buildings) A 3-story, 9-register, brick building set upon a raised brick basement. The left and right registers are recessed with narrow horizontal openings on each floor. The interior registers are set within a shallow U in a 1-5-1- pattern. Large stone arched surrounds appear on the first level, which is between floors, masking the auditorium within. A double stone cornice sits above these arches. Square openings pierce the third floor. Another stone cornice appears above the third floor openings. A brick parapet capped by a stone coping sits above this cornice. The name of the school is carved on a stone set in this parapet. The side elevations measure five registers with a projecting 1-story entrance pavilion in the second register from the front on both elevations. These entrances are framed with double pilasters and an entablature. A large arched opening appears above the (continue on back if necessary)						
27. history, significance and/or background During the expansive years of the 1920s, the School District of Philadelphia had 77 new schools erected and 24 additions constructed on existing buildings. The 77 included 56 elementary schools, 16 junior high schools, three senior high schools and two technical schools. Indeed, between September 1921 and December 1923 alone, the School Board authorized 13 elementary schools and eight junior high schools. (continue on back if necessary)						
28. sources of information Edmunds, Chronological List of Public School Buildings, 1818-1934 School Board, New Buildings Under Contract (continue on back if necessary)				29. prepared by: J. M. Moak 530-28-87 revision(s)		

26. DESCRIPTION (continued)

entryway. The remaining registers have bands of windows in a 1-3-1 pattern. A stone dripcourse appears above the basement, stone cornices above the second and third floors. An addition was erected to the rear in 1962.

27. HISTORY/SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

This program reflected the needs that arose from the continued growth of population, the spread of new development, and, to a lesser extent, the modernization of the District's facilities.

In response to this program, Irwin T. Catharine adopted the expedient of employing the same or essentially the same plans and elevations for a number of buildings. For example, Type 137, a 3-story, 9-register brick building with Regency inspired ornamentation, was used for eight schools in several sections of the city. The first of these, the Joseph C. Ferguson School, was started in 1921 and was followed by seven others which appear as a part of this nomination. The Ferguson School, despite the 1962 addition to the rear, possesses comparable integrity to the others.

The Ferguson School and its seven duplicates represent Philadelphia's response to the needs of a rapidly growing and changing educational system.

Nation Register Criteria: C, Architecture

Boundary Justification: The nomination property contains the contributing building and all historically associated land.

There is one contributing building on the nominated property.

Verbal boundary: the nominated property is tax parcel #886162000.

EVALUATION

For its place in the history of education and of school architecture in Philadelphia, this building warrants entry on the National Register.

EVALUATOR(S)

PHILADELPHIA QUADRANGLE
 PENNSYLVANIA-NEW JERSEY
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

5968 II SE
 (FRANKFORD)

