

7. Local survey organization

1. County Philadelphia
 5. present name John L. Kinsey School

8. property owners name and address
 City of Philadelphia
 Northeast corner of 65th Avenue and
 Limekiln Pike
 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

9. tax parcel number/other number
 11. status (other surveys, lists etc.)

10. U.T.M. Zone easting
 usgs sheet: northing

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

13. date(s) (how determined) 1915-1916
 14. period

15. style, design or folk type
 Late Gothic

19. original use educational
 20. present use educational

16. architect or engineer
 Henry Decoursey
 Richards

17. contractor or builder
 Cramp & Co.

18. primary building mat./construc.
 Reinforced concrete
 const.; brick;

21. condition good
 22. integrity good

23. site plan with north arrow



24. photo notation

25. file/location

2. municipality Philadelphia
 6. other name (historic name if any) Limekiln Pike

3. street address or specific location
 NE corner 65th Avenue and
 Limekiln Pike

4. survey code

26. brief description (note unusual features, integrity, environment, threats and associated buildings)

The John L. Kinsey School rises three stories above a raised basement to a fourth floor attic space. Limestone and terra cotta ornament fully embellish the five register Limekiln Pike facade. A limestone belt course divides the basement from the
 (continue on back if necessary)

27. history, significance and/or background

Constructed in 1915-1916, the John L. Kinsey School was designed by Henry Decoursey Richards, school architect for the City of Philadelphia from 1906-1919, and represents one of his finest achievements in the late Gothic mode. An abundance of ornament in limestone and terra cotta attest to the superior quality of Richards' design for this building. The school today remains virtually intact and in good condition.
 (continue on back if necessary)

28. sources of information

Edmunds, F.D., Public School Buildings of Philadelphia, 1908-1918, pp. 169-172.
 (continue on back if necessary)

29. prepared by:

Computer Coding (BHP Survey Grantees Must Complete)

30. date 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 _____

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15. terra cotta and granite trim.

16. First floor; the second and third floors are framed with a more narrow limestone course above and below. Blocks of windows are ordered neatly around the building and are encased in limestone frames. The two entrance bays step out beyond the plane of the building along the Limekiln Pike elevation giving each entrance a special emphasis. Gothic details adorn the entrance bays and testify to the institutional character of the structure. Patterned brickwork further adds to the profusion of texture and detail.

EVALUATION

The John R. Kinsey School stands as a fine example of Richards' work in the Late Gothic mode and appears to meet the criteria for entry on the National Register.

EVALUATOR(S)

John L. Kinsey School

Physical Description

The John L. Kinsey School is a handsome four story, seven bay brick building with rich terra cotta and limestone trim. The building face is defined by the flat plane flanking by two, projecting building end towers. The basement, located above street grade features fixed sash with granite sills and protective grilles. The basement is capped by a limestone belt course. The building fenestration follows a regular pattern of bands of four double hung four over four sash defined by quoined surrounds and pronounced mullions. Thin string courses span between the second and third floors and between the fourth floor and the parapet wall. Small paired windows with quoined surrounds pierce the parapet wall at each of the larger bay openings. The main building facade is dominated by a projecting main entrance bay and projecting, secondary entrance bay at the flanking building end. Similar in detailing to both the Furness Junior High School and the Mitchell School, the Kinsey School displays projecting frontispieces which are a study in Gothic inspired detailing with oversized Gothic arched surrounds. Tripartite entrance doors with pronounced mullions are capped by tripartite stylized panels featuring coffered panels between. On the upper floors the fenestration follows a pattern of tripartite sash with transom panels on the second and third floors. The fourth floor repeats the tripartite arched window detail. The adjacent detailing, pierced with small windows, projects, creating brick pilasters framed with terra cotta quoining. The detailing is complete with blind terra cotta panels in Gothic styling and bell shaped parapet walls. Above the main entrance, of the far end frontispiece are relief panels depicting a map of the United States, a globe and other elements which speak of knowledge and learning. The building has a tree lined side recreational yard and is framed by a simple fence.

Statement of Significance

One of only three schools designed in the Academic Gothic mode known as Type 130, the John L. Kinsey School represents an exceptionally intact structure designed by Henry deCoursey Richards. Together with the Furness and Mitchell Schools, the building is a richly ornamented example of Richards' work in this stylistic mode. A prolific designer, Richards served as Chief Draftsman, under the direction of Superintendent of Buildings J. Horace Cook, from 1906 until 1916. This structure is among Richards' last designs for the Board. The interior plan of this building was conceived in a wide U shape with a central auditorium and 34 classrooms along the single loaded corridor. Specialized rooms were included for manual training, domestic science, a gymnasium, infirmir and offices.

Thus the John l. Kinsey School is significant as an exceptionally detailed design in the Gothic style done by Richards at a time when such richly ornamented designs were unusual.

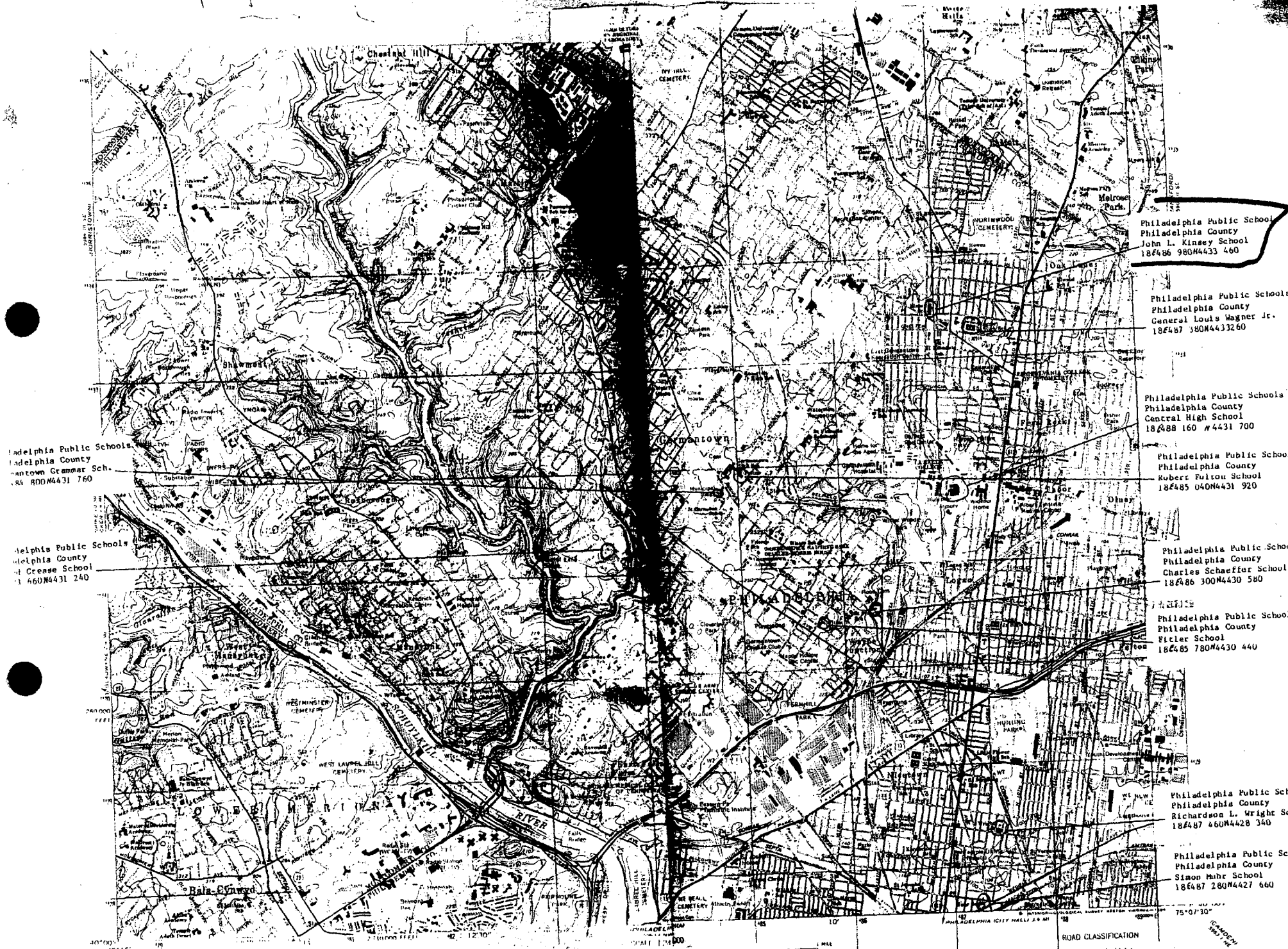
area of significance: architecture

verbal boundary description

The nominated property consists of Philadelphia County lot 8861850 which contains the school and its contiguous grounds.

EVALUATION

EVALUATOR(S)



Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Montgomery Grammar Sch.
184 800N4431 760

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Montgomery Grammar Sch.
1 660N4431 240

Philadelphia Public School
Philadelphia County
John L. Kinsey School
184 86 980N4433 460

Philadelphia Public School
Philadelphia County
General Louis Wagner Jr.
184 87 380N4432 60

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Central High School
184 88 160 N 4431 700

Philadelphia Public School
Philadelphia County
Robert Fulton School
184 85 040N4431 920

Philadelphia Public School
Philadelphia County
Charles Schaeffer School
184 86 300N4430 580

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Fisher School
184 85 780N4430 440

Philadelphia Public School
Philadelphia County
Richardson L. Wright Schol
184 87 460N4428 340

Philadelphia Public School
Philadelphia County
Simon Mahr School
184 87 280N4427 660

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taken 1950. Field checked 1952. Revised from aerial

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
 Heavy-duty _____ Light-duty _____
 Medium-duty _____ Unimproved dirt _____
 Interstate Route U.S. Route State Route