

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY FORM BUREAU FOR 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 & Winter Streets Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103		9. tax parcel number / other number 886168000	10. U.T.M. zone easting 18 4811790 2.1 acres 443109180 northing usgs sheet: Germantown	5. present name William Levering School
12. classification site () structure () object () building () Thematic in N.R. district yes () no ()	13. date(s) (how determined) 1894-96/1928-1929 14. period 1894-96/1928-29	15. style, design or folk type Colonial Revival/ Art Deco	19. original use School 20. present use School	2. municipality Philadelphia
16. architect or engineer Joseph W. Anschutz / Irwin T. Catharine	17. contractor or builder C.M. Byrens / unknown	18. primary building mat./construction Stone / Brick with limestone trim	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		3. street address or specific location 5938 Ridge Avenue		
25. file/location		26. brief description (note unusual features, integrity, environment, threats and associated buildings) See reverse side		
27. history, significance and/or background See reverse side		(continue on back if necessary)		
28. sources of information See reverse side		29. prepared by: Jefferson M. Moak		4. survey code
(continue on back if necessary)		30. date 5-21-87	revision(s)	

3. ADDRESS: Ridge Avenue, 5938
5. NAME: Levering, William, School
6. FORMER NAME: Levering School
13. DATES: 1894-1896

ADDITIONS: 1899, 1928

DESCRIPTION: A 2 1/2-story, 5-register stone building with a granite drip course over the above grade basement. The outside and center registers are projecting, each with two openings on each floor, stone lintels and sills and a stone and wood cornice. Gabled dormers pierce the hipped roof over each of these registers. The left and right center registers contain the same details without the dormer windows. A 3-story limestone trimmed brick addition was built in 1928-1929 from the designs of Irwin T. Catharine in an Art Deco style. This addition, set upon a raised basement, contains much of the vertical detailing espoused by Catharine in other designs of this period, separating each register into a 1-3-1 window pattern with brick piers separating the openings. The entrance register, the second from the left, is more finely detailed than the other three.

HISTORY/SIGN.: There have been numerous buildings which have served school purposes on this site in Roxborough, all of which have borne the name of the Levering School. In addition to the original 1894-1896 building designed by Anschutz, there have been an annex erected in 1899 (Joseph W. Anschutz, architect, and Charles McCaul, contractor), a mansion purchased for school purposes (known as Levering School No. 3) and later a large addition replacing the mansion in 1928. Irwin T. Catharine designed this latter addition not to match the original structure, but in the style he employed so effectively throughout the city. Rather than impairing the integrity of the Anschutz design, the juxtaposition of these two structures illustrates in one location how the design and concept of public schools have changed so radically in thirty years. The later school was designed as an addition the School Board designating its unique plan Type Number 161.

National Register Criteria: C, Architecture

28. SOURCES: Edmunds, Public School Buildings of Philadelphia, 1890-1899
Edmunds, Chronological List of Public School Buildings, 1818-1934
School Board, "New School Buildings Under Contract"

EVALUATION: Since both sections comprising the Levering School were erected during the periods of significance for the Phila. Schools Thematic District, the Levering School should also be included as part of the district.

Boundary Justification: The nominated 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 #886168000.

EVALUATION

EVALUATOR(S)

Philadelphia County
Zone 18
UTM 18/485050/4432900

Philadelphia Public Schools
Thematic Nomination
Charles Wolcott Henry School
Zone 18
UTM 18/483200/4432650

Philadelphia Public Schools
Thematic Nomination
Joseph Pennell School
Philadelphia County
Zone 18
UTM 18/487100/4472340

Philadelphia Public Schools
Thematic Nomination
James Dobson School
Philadelphia County
Zone 18
UTM 18/480320/4431030

Philadelphia Public Schools
Thematic Nomination
William Levering School
Philadelphia County
Zone 18
UTM 18/481790/4430980

Philadelphia Public Schools
Thematic Nomination
Thomas Meehan School
Philadelphia County
Zone 18
UTM 18/485000/4430620

German town
Quad

