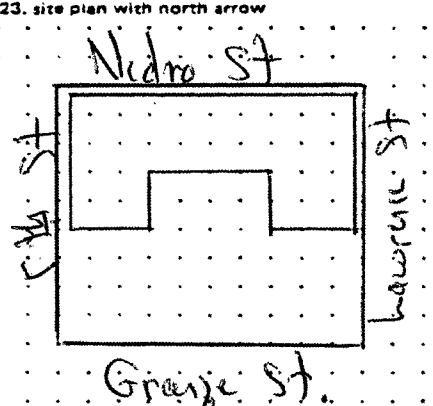


PENNSYLVANIA HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY FORM OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION Box 1026 PA HISTORICAL & MUSEUM COMMISSION Harrisburg, PA 17120		7. Local survey organization Philadelphia Historical Commission		1. County Philadelphia	
8. property owners name and address School District of Philadelphia 21st and Winter Streets Philadelphia, PA 19103		9. tax parcel number / other number 886288000		10. U.T.M. zone 18 4889610 2.4 acres 443201510 Northing usage sheet: Germantown	
12. classification <input type="checkbox"/> site <input type="checkbox"/> structure <input type="checkbox"/> object <input type="checkbox"/> building <input type="checkbox"/> Thematic in N.R. district yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>		13. date(s) (how determined) 1913-1914		15. style, design or folk type Classical Revival	
		14. period 1913-1914		19. original use School	
16. architect or engineer Henry deCourcy Richards		17. contractor or builder Charles McCaul Co		18. primary building mat./construction Brick with granite & terra cotta trim	
				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) A 3-story, 5-register, brick-faced, reinforced concrete school with granite and terra cotta trim. Basement windows pierce the watertable which is capped by a dripcourse. The basement level consists of plain brick. A Classical Revival center entrance surround is topped by an entablature. The five registers of the front elevation step back from the center to the ends. Each register contains four double-hung windows with a common lintel. Decorative panels appear between the first and second floors and between the third floor and the cornice. A beltcourse separates the second and third floors. The side elevation features a projecting entrance with a large arched opening above the entrance and an entrance surround that matches that of the front. Two registers extend to the rear of the side entrance. Thin belt-courses ornament the piers that mark the registers at the third floor.					
27. history, significance and/or background During his thirteen years, 1906-1918, with the School District, Henry deCourcy Richards bore the primary responsibility for the design of forty-nine schools. For his several high schools, e.g., Kensington High School for Girls, he sought to impart some architectural originality and distinctiveness. For his many elementary schools, however, he worked with a limited number of basic buildings, structural systems					
28. sources of information Edmunds, Public Schools of Philadelphia, 1908-1918 School District, New Buildings Under Contract				29. prepared by: J. M. Moak	
				30. date 5-27-87	
				revision(s)	
2. municipality Philadelphia 3. street address or specific location 5801-5851 North 5th Street 4. survey code					

27. HISTORY/SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

and plans. He introduced some variety to these basic forms through ornamentation. In 1912-1914, for example, eight schools were built on the same model, type 128, of reinforced concrete with brick walls and limestone or terra cotta trim decorated in the Jacobethan or Classical Revival styles. One of the eight, the Edgar Allen Poe School, was entered on the National Register in 1986. Four others, including the James Russell Lowell School, follow the same pattern and possess a degree of integrity that warrants inclusion on the National Register.

The James Russell Lowell School, along with the three others in this group and the Poe School, represents the developmental and architectural response to the demands of the building program implemented by the School Board from its reorganization in 1905 to World War I. This expansion, which resulted in the construction of 70 schools, in itself was a response to the continuing increase in the population of the city which grew from 1.3 million in 1900 to over 1.8 million in 1920. It also reflects Richards's talent in giving some design variety to a single, basic, expandable form and plan.

The addition by Irwin T. Catharine in 1926 and another in 1976 do not compromise the overall appearance and integrity of the Lowell School.

National Register Criteria: C, Architecture

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 #886288000.

EVALUATION

For its place in the history of education and of school architecture in Philadelphia, the Lowell School warrants listing on the National Register.

EVALUATOR(S)



Philadelphia Public Schools
 Thematic Nomination
 Eleanor Cope Emlen School
 Philadelphia County
 Zone 18
 UTM 18/484780/4433560

Philadelphia Public Schools
 Thematic Nomination
 Julia Howe School
 Philadelphia County
 Zone 18
 UTM 18/487810/4432120

Philadelphia Public Schools
 Thematic Nomination
 James Russell Lowell School
 Philadelphia County
 Zone 18
 UTM 18/488960/4432050

Philadelphia Public Schools
 Thematic Nomination
 Logan School
 Philadelphia County
 Zone 18
 UTM 18/487000/4430980

Germantown 2nd
 Philadelphia Public Schools
 Thematic Nomination
 Andrew Morrison School
 Philadelphia County
 Zone 18
 UTM 18/488900/4430820

Philadelphia Public Schools
 Thematic Nomination
 General David Birney School
 Philadelphia County
 Zone 18
 UTM 18/488150/4430800

Philadelphia Public Schools
 Thematic Nomination
 Jay Cooke Jr. High School
 Philadelphia County
 Zone 18
 UTM 18/488150/4430800

Philadelphia Public Schools
 Thematic Nomination
 Jay Cooke Jr. High School
 Philadelphia County
 Zone 18
 UTM 18/488150/4430800