

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 886248500	10. U.T.M. zone 118 481210 2.5 acres 41421921210 northing usgs sheet: Germantown	5. present name Alexander K. McClure School
12. classification site () structure () object () building (Thematic in N.R. district yes () no ())	13. date(s) (how determined) 1910-1911	14. period 1910-1911	15. style, design or folk type Colonial Revival	19. original use School
16. architect or engineer Henry deCourcy Richards	17. contractor or builder Cramp & Co	18. primary building mat./construction Brick with lime-stone trim	20. present use School	21. condition Good
23. site plan with north arrow 		22. integrity Good		
24. photo notation		25. file/location		
26. brief description (note unusual features, integrity, environment, threats and associated buildings) A 3-story, 5-register brick building set upon a raised basement highlighted by horizontal stone bands with slightly projecting end registers with rounded parapets, five matching sash within each opening on the major floors of each register, stone lintels, and a stone belt-course above the third floor. The end elevations each contains a central stairtower/entrance with a 3-story rounded arched opening above the entry. Brick diapering fills the registers on either side of this projecting entry tower. An addition of 1915 produced an auditorium, a domestic science room, a manual training room and 12 classrooms. A small addition was erected in 1967. The additions do not compromise Richards' original design.				
27. history, significance and/or background Upon the reorganization and centralization in 1905, the School District undertook a major construction program with J. Horace Cook as Superintendent of Buildings and Henry deCourcy Richards as principal designer. Under Cook and Richards' direction, the District erected 44 elementary school, one junior high school, five senior high schools and 20 additions to existing buildings from 1906 and World War I. In some				
28. sources of information Edmunds, Chronological List of Philadelphia School Buildings; Edmunds, Public School Buildings of Philadelphia; School District, New Buildings			29. prepared by: J. M. Moak	
(continue on back if necessary)			30. date 5-22-87	
4. street address or specific location 4139 North 6th Street				
6. other name (historic name if any) N/A				

27. HISTORY/SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

instances, Richards built from two to eight elementary schools from the same plans; in yet others, he devised a new plan for each school. The individually designed buildings essentially rest on a similar expandable plan differentiated by ornamentation. Richards adopted a rather wide range of styles, including Classical Revival, Georgian Revival, Regency, Academic Gothic, Mediterranean and Jacobethan, with a tendency to emphasis on American or "Americanizing" forms as befitted an immigrant city. This variety illustrates an architectural versatility in Richards uncommon among his predecessors.

The Alexander McClure School, a Regency building, provides an example of this variety and versatility in Richards in the context of a major public school construction program in Philadelphia. It also illustrates the use of traditional architectural forms to assert a connection with an earlier American past in the early twentieth century.

National Register Criteria: C, Architecture

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

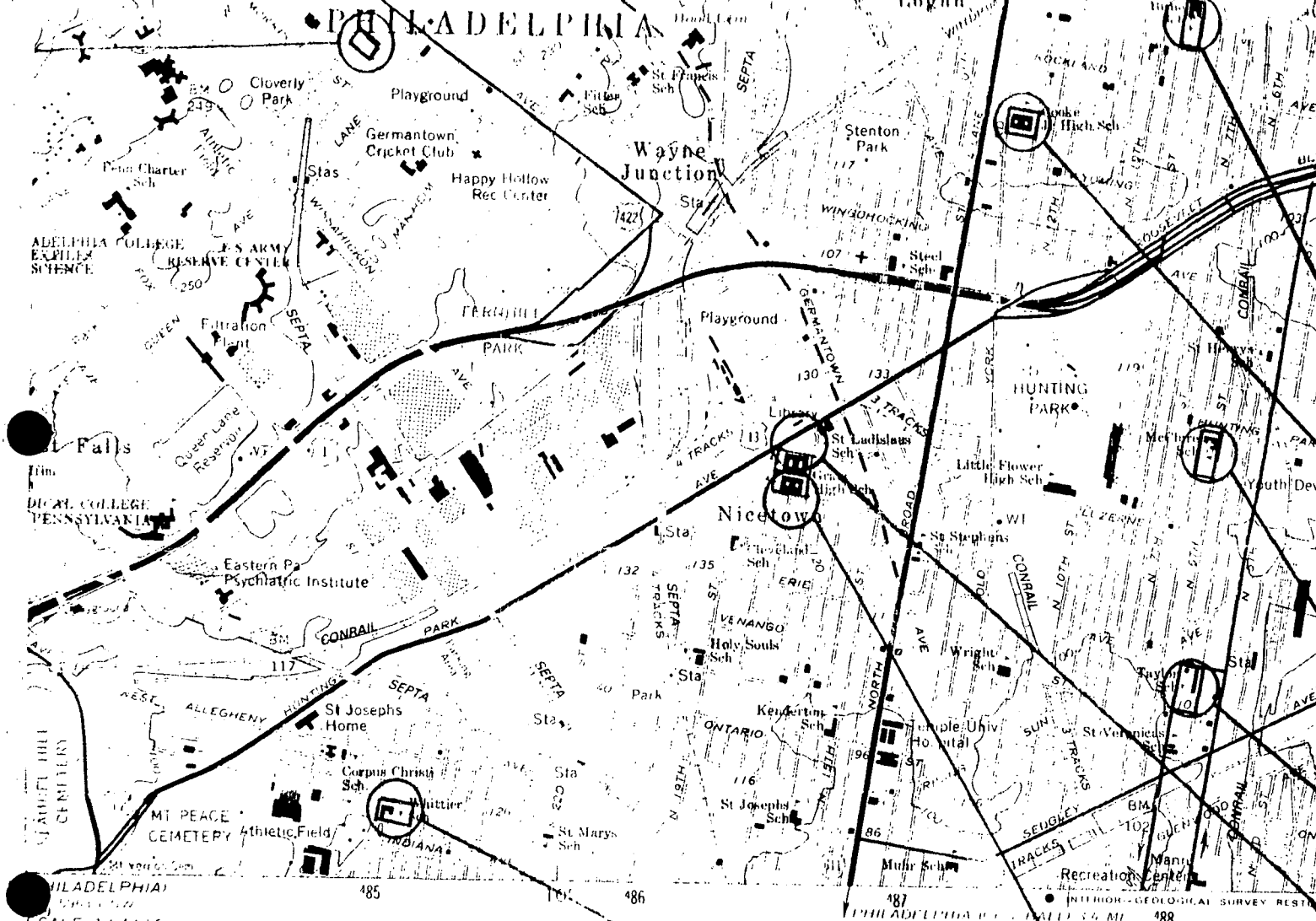
There is one contributing building on the nominated property.

Verbal boundary: the nominated property is tax parcel #886248000.

EVALUATION

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

EVALUATOR(S)



- 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 18/487500/4430380
- Philadelphia Public School
Thematic Nomination
Alexander McClure School
Philadelphia County
Zone 18
UTM 18/488220/4429220
- Philadelphia Public School
Thematic Nomination
Bayard Taylor School
Philadelphia County
Zone 18
UTM 18/488170/4428320
- Philadelphia Public Schools
Thematic Nomination
Elizabeth Gillespie School
Philadelphia County
Zone 18
UTM 18/486630/4429020
- Philadelphia Public Schools
Thematic Nomination
Simon Gratz School
Philadelphia County
Zone 18
UTM 18/486650/4429110

SCALE 1:24000

0 5000 10000 15000 20000 FEET

0 5 10 15 20 KILOMETER

IR INTERVAL 10 FEET
METRIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

Philadelphia Public Schools
Thematic Nomination
John Greenleaf Whittier School
Philadelphia County
Zone 18
UTM 18/485130/4427800

Philadelphia Public Schools
Thematic Nomination
Elizabeth Gillespie School
Philadelphia County
Zone 18
UTM 18/486630/4429020

Philadelphia Public Schools
Thematic Nomination
Simon Gratz School
Philadelphia County
Zone 18
UTM 18/486650/4429110

PENNSYLVANIA
QUADRANGLE LOCATION

GERMANTOWN, PA.

U.S. NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
THIS MAP AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Revised edition shown in purple and yellow and compiled from
aerial photographs taken 1953 and 1954.

40075-A2-TF-024

1967