

7. Local survey organization

8. property owners name and address
 School Board of Philadelphia
 21st Street & the Parkway
 Philadelphia, Pa. 19103

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

10. U.T.M.

Zone	4	Easting	900
Northing	4425114	one acre	

 usgs sheet: Philadelphia

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

13. date(s) (how determined)
 1935-1937
 14. period

15. style, design or folk type
 Moderne

19. original use School
 20. present use School

16. architect or engineer
 Irwin T. Catharine

17. contractor or builder
 Smith & Bradley

18. primary building mat./construc.
 Brick

21. condition Good
 22. integrity Good

23. site plan with north arrow
 24. photo notation
 25. file/location

2. municipality PHILADELPHIA
 3. street address or specific location 1801 Oxford Street
 4. survey code
 5. present name GEORGE MEADE SCHOOL
 6. other name (historic name if any) SAME
 BLACK AND WHITE PRINT(S)
 3 1/2" x 5" enlargement or medium format contact
 note location of negative in block 24.

26. brief description (note unusual features, integrity, environment, threats and associated buildings)
 NPS counting purposes: one contributing building
 (continue on back if necessary)

27. history, significance and/or background
 (continue on back if necessary)

28. sources of information
 see bibliography for nomination
 (continue on back if necessary)

29. prepared by:
 B. Mintz

Computer Coding (BHP Survey Grantees Must Complete)

30. date 7/1986
 revision(s)

31. county _____ 32. style _____
 32. 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 _____

George G. Meade School

Physical Description

Built in 1936, the George G. Meade School is a three story eleven bay yellow brick building designed in the Moderne stylistic mode, and closely resembles the George Washington Public School. The building is dominated by vertical lines including the ribbon bands of windows punctuated by thin and thick brick piers which further emphasize this verticality. Limestone sills give some horizontal element to the regular pattern of triple and single six over six double hung sash. The large brick piers, delineating individual bays across the facade, rise above the parapet in battlement style. Highlighting the building is a slightly projecting entrance bay characterized by overscale detailing and the characteristic Moderne rounded corners. A handsome smooth dressed limestone surround is framed by large, stylized low relief Greek figures. Carrying lanterns and wearing robes, they constitute columns supporting the stylized frontispiece. A decorative limestone panel, pierced by three part double hung sash rise through the entrance bay and above the roof line. The top section of this panel is embellished with a stylized sunburst motif. Adjacent to the entrance is a one story auditorium which continues the stylistic detailing of the main building. A four story five bay yellow brick addition on the building's north end, featuring vertical piers between horizontal bands of windows, is sympathetic to the original building.

Statement of Significance

The construction of the George G. Meade School, the Robert Fulton School and the George Washington School marked the close of a brilliant career for Irwin T. Catharine as Superintendent of Buildings for the Philadelphia School Board. The level of Catharine's designs for school buildings was unsurpassed by any other architect working for the School Board in the early twentieth century, exceeding even the prolific careers of J. Horace Cook and his Chief Draftsman Henry deCoursey Richards. This skillfully crafted building represents the subtle shift in design from the boxy, Art Deco style to the more streamlined Moderne mode. The building's entrance is handsomely detailed with symbolic figures lighting the path to knowledge and learning. With the retirement of Catharine in 1937, the Office of Superintendent fell into dormancy, and the construction of school buildings in Philadelphia dropped sharply.

The George Meade School is similar in appearance to the Robert Fulton School and the George Washington School. Like the other two schools, the Meade School is a highly sophisticated Moderne design. Its size, scale, material and understated detailing make it a superb example of the Moderne style.

Thus the George Meade School is exceptionally significant as an outstanding example of the Moderne style designed by Irwin T. Catharine, a highly important Philadelphia public school architect.

area of significance: architecture

verbal boundary description

The nominated property consists of Philadelphia County lot 886256000 which contains

EVALUATION the school and its contiguous grounds.

EVALUATOR(S)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Spring Garden School #2
12th & Melon St.
18F886 620N4423 660

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Spring Garden School #1
12th & Odgen St.
18F886 660N4424 (DA)

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
W&E Martin Orthopedic Sch.
18F485 100N4424 220

Philad
Philad
Lydia
18F485

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Randolph Walton School
18F884 900N4427 020

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
George Heade School
18F485 900N4425 140

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Verbrook High School
82F81 460N4422 540

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Wm. Shoemaker Jr. High
18F480 480N4424 840

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
William B. Hanna School
18F479 800N4424 680

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
George L. Brooks School
18F80 020N4424 040

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Thomas Dunlap
18F81 040N4423 440

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
East Phil. High School
18F81 460N4422 520

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Ellis R. Masterman School
18F81 820N4423 440

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
David Landreth School
18F484 480N4420 620

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Weir Mitchell School
18F80 880N4420 520

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Tony Wayne School
18F81 660N4419 960

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County

