

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. 11 4 80
 zone easting
 less than once across
 usgs sheet: Philadelphia
 northings

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

13. date(s) (how determined)
1906-1908
 14. period

15. style, design or folk type
 Georgian Revival

19. original use School
 20. present use School

16. architect or engineer
 H.deC.Richards

17. contractor or builder
 Stewart Const. Co.

18. primary building mat./construc.
 Brick/Granite 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
 25. file/location

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 _____
 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 _____

1. County PHILADELPHIA
 2. municipality PHILADELPHIA
 3. street address or specific location SEVENTY EIGHTH AND BUIST AVENUE
 4. survey code
 5. present name THOMAS BUCHANAN READ SCHOOL
 6. other name (historic name if any) SAME

Thomas Buchanan Read School

Physical Description

The Thomas Buchanan Read School is a two story, twenty bay red brick building with limestone trim. The building displays the symmetry, domestic scale and detailing characteristic of the Georgian Revival style. The structure rests on a granite base. The structure is visually broken into three sections with a large projecting frontispiece, some 16 bays in width flanked by recessed entrance bays, each two bays wide. The building detailing begins with double hung, six over six basement sash with splayed brick lintels. Defining the level of the first floor is a stone drip molding. The fenestration follows a regular pattern of four over four double hung sash with splayed brick lintels with stone keystones. Brick piers between the windows are crowned with stone capitals. A stone belt course with consoles spans below the second floor windows, forming a continuous sill. The window sash are slightly recessed into the building face and are framed by rusticated brick pilasters, creating additional depth and rhythm to the main facade. The flanking entrance ends have segmentally arched door surrounds with splayed stone voissours and a decorative keystone. The surround entablature supports the school name panel. Adjacent to the door is a tripartite, arched window also with lintel and keystone. Above are two, single sash inset into an arched surround with blind transom panel and brick lintel with stone keystone and console stops. Crowning the facade is a stone fascia band with decorative stone brackets. A copper cornice caps the building. Rising from the hipped roof is a copper cupola with vents.

Statement of Significance

The Thomas Buchanan Read School stands as a handsome intact example of the domestic scale, Georgian Revival style school which gained popularity throughout America in the twentieth century. Built in 1908, the School was designed by prolific Chief Draftsman Henry deCoursey Richards, employed by the Philadelphia School Board between 1906 and 1916. Richards designed numerous large scale Colonial Revival and Classical Revival school buildings throughout the city, however, the Board seldom required the smaller, domestic scale of the Read School. Indeed, the Read School is one of only two schools designed in domestic-scale, Georgian Revival style, and included in the nominated thematic group. The second school is the Olney Elementary School, which compares favorably in appearance with the Read School.

The school is located at 78th and Buist Avenue in the extreme southwestern portion of the City, almost at the Delaware County line. The site might be considered an unlikely location, at that time, to construct a school with a capacity for five hundred and seventy-six students. However, a 1910 map published by the Board of Public Education revealed that District 1, where the school is located, was then one of the largest outlying districts serving a student population widely scattered but surprisingly numerous. In Ward 40 alone, 442 high school age boys and girls resided. The Read School's enrollment statistics further allay any doubt about the prudence of the Board's decision to build close to the City's edge. The school opened in 1908 with two hundred and eighty-two boys and girls in grades one through seven. Enrollment grew steadily reaching capacity, actually one over, to five hundred and seventy-seven by 1920.

EVALUATION

EVALUATOR(S)

ADDITIONAL DATA/PHOTOS
number all continuations from front

4. survey code

Thus the Read School is important in this thematic group as one of only two domestic-scale public school buildings designed in the Georgian Revival style.

area of significance: architecture

verbal boundary description

The nominated property consists of Philadelphia County lot 8862400 which contains the school and its contiguous grounds.

EVALUATION

EVALUATOR(S)

7. Local survey organization

9. tax parcel number/other number

10. U.T.M. Zone Easting

11. status (other surveys, lists etc.)

usgs sheet: Northing

8. property owners name and address

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

13. date(s) (how determined)

14. period

15. style, design or folk type

19. original use

20. present use

16. architect or engineer

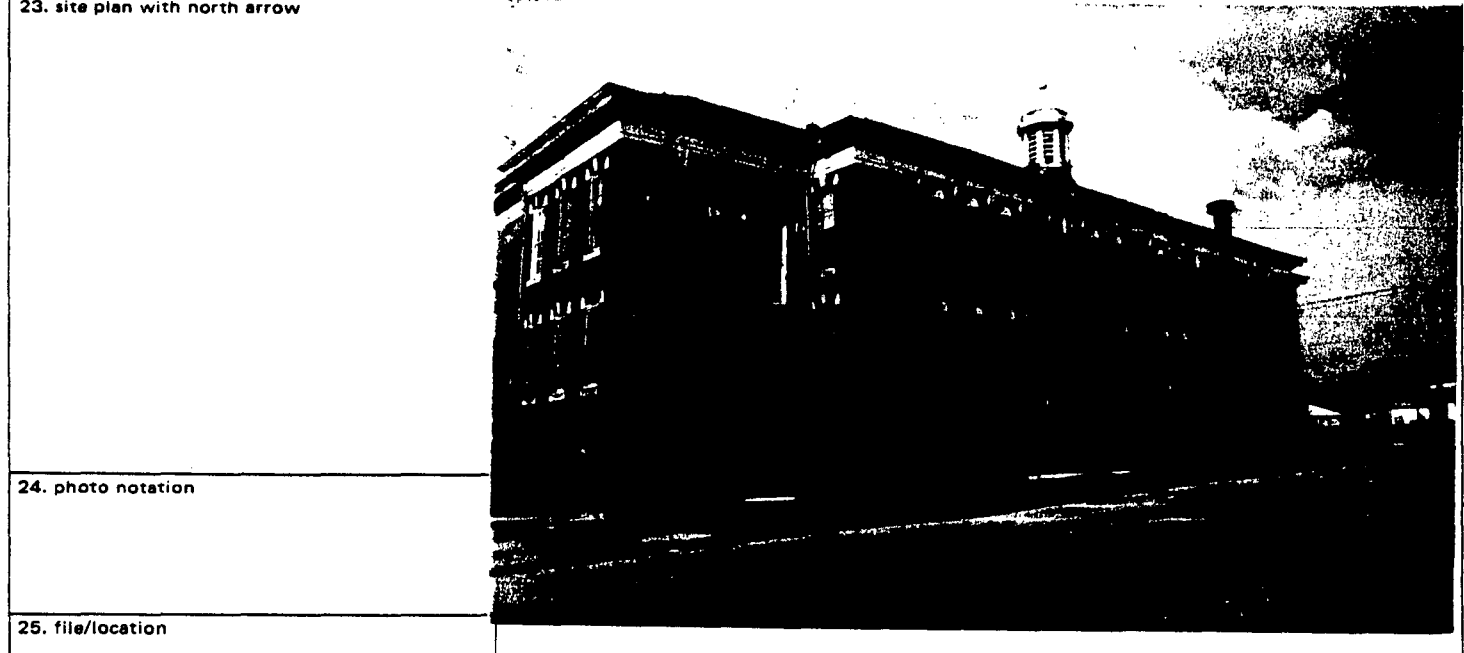
H.deC.Richards

17. contractor or builder

18. primary building mat./construc.

21. condition

22. integrity



24. photo notation

25. file/location

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

(continue on back if necessary)

27. history, significance and/or background

USE THIS COPY FOR DUPLICATING

(continue on back if necessary)

28. sources of information

(continue on back if necessary)

29. prepared by:

30. date

revisions

Computer Coding (BHP Survey Grantees Must Complete)

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 _____

5. present name

6. other name (historic name if any)

7. other name

Physical Description

Built in 1908, the Thomas Buchanan Read School is a 2 story 20 bay red brick building with limestone. The building displays the symmetry, domestic scale and detailing characteristic of the Georgian Revival style. The structure rests on a granite base. detailing begins with double hung 6 over 6 basement sash with splayed brick lintels. Capping the basement level is a stone drip molding forming the lintels of first floor windows. Fenestration follows a regular pattern of 4 over 4 double hung sash in groups of 4 with splayed brick lintels with stone keystones. Brick piers between windows are crowned with stone capitals. A stone belt course with consoles spans below the second floor windows, forming a continuous sill. Crowning the facade is a stone fascia band with decorative stone pendants delineating each group of six windows. A copper cornice caps the building. Rising from the hipped roof is a copper cupola with vents. Recessed end bays delineate entrances to the building. The main entrance features a handsome stone Gibbsian surround framing a modern double leaf metal door. Resting adjacent to the entrance is a tripartite fixed sash window with Gibbsian surround and pronounced keystone. Crowning this entrance bay is a stone name plate with molded stone cornice above. Recessed arched window panels with one 12 over 12 double hung sash and a later altered sash rise above the first floor entrance. The panels are highlighted by brick arched lintels with stone end voisoirs and keystones.

Statement of Significance

The Thomas Buchanan Read School stands as a handsome intact example of the domestic scale Georgian Revival style school which gained popularity throughout America in the twentieth century. Built in 1906, the School was designed by prolific Chief Draftsman Henry deCoursey Richards, employed by the Philadelphia School Board between 1906 and 1916. Commissioning Richards to design numerous large scale Colonial Revival and Classical Revival school buildings throughout the city, the Board seldom required the smaller, domestic scale of the Read School. Indeed, the Read School represents one of only two known examples of this particular school type in Philadelphia. The only such design to survive intact, the building is a noteworthy prototype.

EVALUATION

EVALUATOR(S)

PHOTO 880N4420 520

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Thony Wayne School
FR 87 660N4419 960

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
J. Tilden Jr. High
FR 80 060N4418 860

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
John Bartram High Sch
FR 80 100N4418 820

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Ter George Smith School
FR 85 960N4420 300

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Wm Buchanan Read
FR 78 780N4417 200

Philadelphia Publ
Philadelphia Coun
Robert Kingston Sch
186487 460N4420 9

Philadelphia Publ
Philadelphia Coun
Francis M. Drexel
186485 220N4421 1

Philadelphia Publ
Philadelphia Coun
Abigail Vane Scho
186487 100N4419 4

Philadelphia Publ
Philadelphia Coun
Francis Scott Key
186486 260N4418 700

Philadelphia Publ
Philadelphia Coun
Southwark School
186486 420N4419 400

Philadelphia Publ
Philadelphia Coun
Horace Mann Sch Jr
186485 419 0

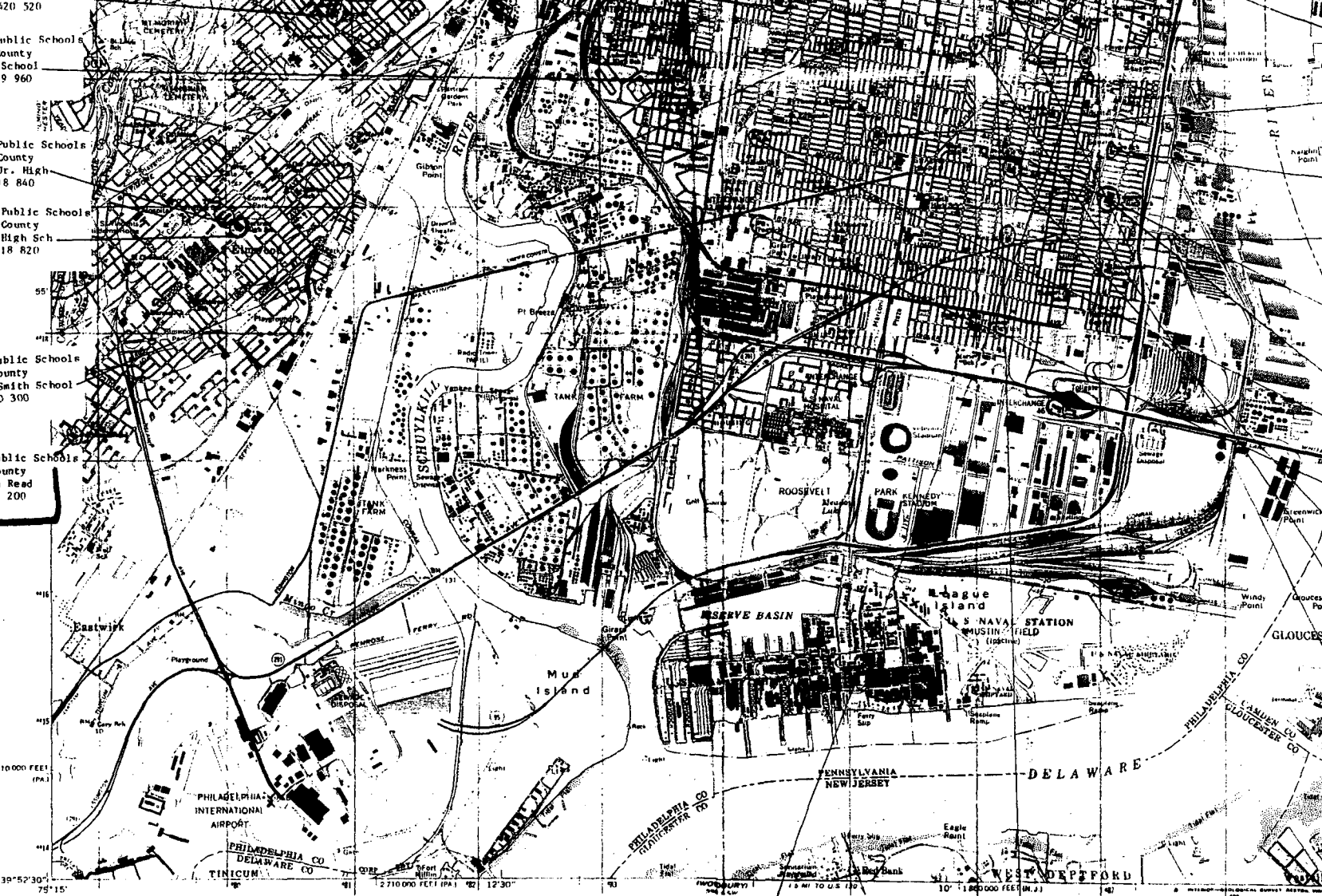
Philadelphia Publ
Philadelphia Coun
Delaplaine Sch
186484 280N4419 5

Philadelphia Public
Philadelphia County
Edgar Allen Poe Sch
186484340N4418 860

Philadelphia Publ
Philadelphia Coun
Edward Bok Vocatic
186486 300N4419 3

Philadelphia Publ
Philadelphia Coun
Andrew Jackson Sch
186486 020N4420 2

Philadelphia Publ
Philadelphia Coun
Nathaniel Hawthorn
186486 100N4421 04



Mapped by the U. S. Coast & Geodetic Survey
Edited and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and USCF
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1946. Topography by planimetric surveys 1947. Revised by
the Geological Survey from aerial photographs taken 1965
Field checked 1967.
Selected hydrographic data compiled from NOS chart 280 (1967)
This information is not intended for navigational purposes.
Polyconic projection. 10,000-foot grid ticks based on the Pennsylvania
coordinate system, south zone, and New Jersey coordinate system
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks.
zone 18, shown in blue.
1927 North American Datum
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983
move the projection lines 6 meters south and
31 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks.
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the
National or State reservations shown on this map.

1100
300 METERS
0007
7 METERS
UTM GRID AND 1983 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET
Features shown in purple and woodblock compiled
by the Geological Survey from aerial photographs
taken 1982 and other sources. This information
not field checked. Map edited 1985.



CONTOUR IN
NATIONAL GEODETIC METRIC DATUM OF 1929
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET-DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE DATUMS IS VARIABLE
SHORFIRE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE PROBABLE LIMIT OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDES APPROXIMATELY 5.8 FEET

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
George Washington Sch.
186486 920N4420 160

Philadelphia Public School
Philadelphia County
Frank C. Palumbo School
186486 180N4420 880



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

PHILADELPHIA, PA. - N. J.
39075-N2-1F-024

1987
PHOTOCHEMISLED 1986
IMA 8803 (REV. 11/85) V851