

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY FORM
 OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION Box 1026
 PA HISTORICAL & MUSEUM COMMISSION Harrisburg, PA 17120

7. Local survey organization
 Clio Group, Inc.

8. property owners name and address
 School District of Pennsylvania
 1464-1488 N. 53rd Street
 Philadelphia, PA 19131

9. tax parcel number / other number
 442339300

10. U.T.M. zone: 18, easting: 480460
 northing: 4424900
 usgs sheet: Phila. Quad.

12. classification
 site () structure () object ()
 building
 in N.R. district yes () no

13. date(s) (how determined)
 1925

14. period
 1920-1939

15. style, design or folk type
 Gothic Art Deco

19. original use
 school

20. present use
 school

16. architect or engineer
 Irwin T. Catherine

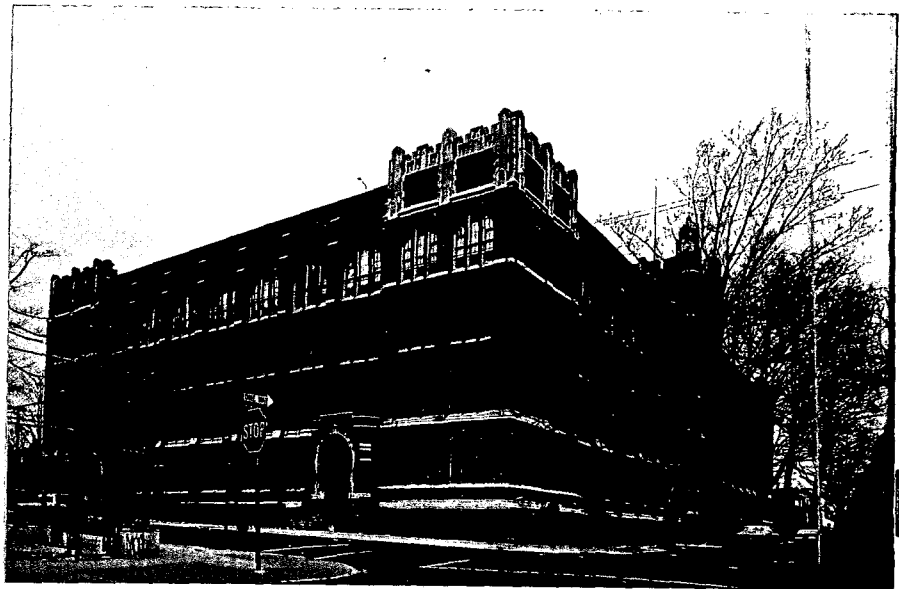
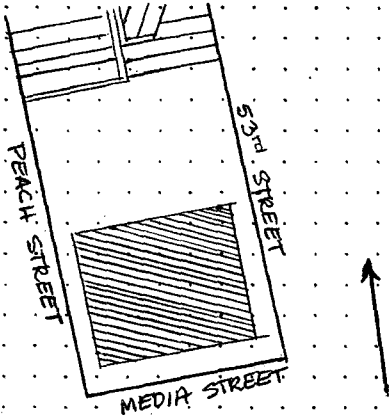
17. contractor or builder

18. primary building mat./construction
 brick with stone trim

21. condition
 average

22. integrity
 excellent

23. site plan with north arrow



24. photo notation
 CD-NWP-6-7

25. file/location

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

For the Shoemaker Junior High School, Catherine merged traditional Academic Gothic design with the vertical, streamlined forms of Art Deco. The immense building occupies the equivalent of a full city block; a series of pavilions at each corner and one centrally located on the long, main facade break up the form. Five story turrets trimmed in light stone frame the tower of the main entrance; while extensively ornamented pier caps finish the secondary pavilions. Pointed arch windows open onto the fourth story which combined with the stylized buttresses create the effect of three story stilted arch window bays. The ground story, also detailed with pointed arches, is separated by a heavy, molded water table of stone.

(continue on back if necessary)

27. history, significance and/or background

Another of Catherine's numerous, handsome designs for the School Board of the City of Philadelphia. His mid-decade gothic Art Deco designs developed into full-blown, Dutch-influenced Art Deco early in the 1930's.

(continue on back if necessary)

28. sources of information
 Clio Index: 0000230

29. prepared by:
 C. Doebley

30. date: 6/14/82 revision(s)

(continue on back if necessary)

1. County Philadelphia
 2. Municipality Philadelphia
 3. street address or specific location: 1464-88 N. 53rd Street
 4. survey code: 014-88840-01468
 5. Present name: William R. Shoemaker
 6. other name (historic name if any): J.H. School

William H. Shoemaker Junior High School

Physical Description

Built in 1925, the William H. Shoemaker Junior High School is a four story fourteen bay yellow brick-faced concrete building designed in the ecclesiastic Gothic mode. A central castle-like projecting entrance bay with overscale Gothic arched door highlights the facade. There is a brick watertable with stone dripcourse Gothic arched, paired double hung windows are at the first floor level. Brick panels in herringbone pattern enliven the first floor windows. Upper floor fenestration follows regular pattern of bands of narrow windows defined by thin brick piers rising through each story to create a strong vertical character. Thin mullions between mullions also rise into piers, further emphasizing verticality.

Statement of Significance

Designed in the Gothic mode this building is similar in styling materials and plan to Overbrook High School. Both schools are excellent examples of the work of Irwin T. Catharine who was then working in this popular revival style. Son of School Board member Joseph Catharine, Irwin T. Catharine studied architecture at Drexel Institute in preparation for a career with the School Board. He succeeded Henry deCoursey Richards as Head Draftsman in 1919. It was during this period that he drew plans for the Shoemaker School. In 1930 Catharine succeeded John D. Cassell as Superintendent of Buildings, a position he held until his retirement in 1937.

The Shoemaker Junior High School is a distinctive design by Irwin T. Catherine. This architect's Gothic public school designs in Philadelphia usually had ornate detailing and square piers. Olney High School is a superb example of such detailing and piers. By contrast, Shoemaker Junior High School and Overbrook High School have conical piers and less intricate detailing.

Thus the Shoemaker Junior High School stands as a distinctive Gothic design by Catharine, a very important Philadelphia public school architect.

area of significance: architecture

verbal boundary description

The nominated property consists of Philadelphia County lot 8862500 which contains the school and its contiguous grounds.

EVALUATION

EVALUATOR(S)

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.

1	1	0	4	6	4	8
Zone			Easting			

 three acres
 4 4 2 4 8 4 0 1
 usgs sheet: Philadelphia
 northing

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

13. date(s) (how determined)
 1925-1927
 14. period

15. style, design or folk type
 Acad. Gothic

19. original use School
 20. present use School

16. architect or engineer
 Irwin T. Catharine

17. contractor or builder

18. primary building mat./construc.
 Reinf. concrete

21. condition Good
 22. integrity good

23. site plan with north arrow

24. photo notation

25. file/location

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)

Computer Coding (BHP Survey Grantees Must Complete)

29. prepared by:
 B. Mintz

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 _____; _____; _____; _____; _____

1. County PHILADELPHIA
 2. municipality PHILADELPHIA
 3. street address or specific location 1464-1488 N. 53rd STREET
 4. survey code
 5. present name WM SHOEMAKER JR. HIGH SCHOOL
 6. other name (historic name if any) SAME

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Spring Garden School #2
12th & Melon St.
18°48' 620N4423 660

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Spring Garden School #1
12th & Odgen St.
18°48' 660N4424 040

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
W&E Martin Orthopedic Sch.
18°48' 100N4424 220

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Lydia Darrah School
18°48' 820N4424 020

PHILADELPHIA QUADRANGLE
PENNSYLVANIA-NEW JERSEY
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Rudolph Walton School
18°48' 900N4427 020

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
George Meade School
18°48' 900N4425 140

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Verbrook High School
18°48' 460N4422 540

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
M. Shoemaker Jr. High
18°48' 480N4424 840

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
William B. Hanna School
18°48' 800N4424 680

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
George L. Brooks School
18°48' 020N4424 040

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Thomas Dunlap
18°48' 040N4423 440

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
West Phil. High School
18°48' 460N4422 520

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
William R. Masternam School
18°48' 820N4423 440

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
David Landreth School
18°48' 480N4420 620

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Weir Mitchell School
18°48' 800N4420 520

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Tony Wayne School
18°48' 660N4419 960

Philadelp
Philadelp
Daniel Bo
18°48' 88 92

Philadelp
Philadelp
Edison Hi
18°48' 76 66

Philadelp
Philadelp
David Far
18°48' 88 42

Philadelp
Philadelp
William S
18°48' 84 04

Philadelp
Philadelp
Paul Lawr
18°48' 86 80

Philadelp
Philadelp
William Pe
18°48' 86 04

Philadelp
Philadelp
Alexander
18°48' 85 14

Philadelp
Philadelp
Miffin S
18°48' 87 76

Philadelp
Philadelp
18°48' 86 34

Philadelp
Philadelp
Thaddeus
18°48' 86 34

Philadelp
Philadelp
Meredith
18°48' 87 10

Philadelp
Philadelp
J. Sylvest
18°48' 86 30

Philadelp
Philadelp
Samuel J.
18°48' 86 34

Philadelp
Philadelp
Robert Ral
18°48' 87 46

Philadelp
Philadelp
Francis M.
18°48' 85 22

