

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

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 40
 two acres
 4420300
 usgs sheet: Philadelphia
 northing

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

13. date(s) (how determined)
 1924-1925
 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.
 Brick/limestone

21. condition Good
 22. integrity Fair

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)

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 _____; _____; _____; _____; _____

1. County PHILADELPHIA
 2. municipality PHILADELPHIA
 3. street address or specific location 1300 S. 14th STREET
 4. survey code
 5. present name WALTER GEORGE SMITH SCHOOL
 6. other name (historic name if any) SAME

Walter George Smith School

Physical Description

The Smith School, rising four stories in height is an imposing building constructed of brick with limestone trim. Handsomely scaled and proportioned, the building is designed in the Academic Gothic mode, popular in the early twentieth century. The building is designed with two projecting ends flanking the main surface of the front elevation. The basement sash, located at street grade are double hung sash grouped in threes and enhanced with limestone mullions and surrounds. The main building entrance, fronting along 19th Street, has a small, enclosed porch with a gothic arched entrance surround with stepped parapet wall. A multi-light transom arched in shape, rests above the double leaf entrance doors. Flanking the doorway are arched sash, set in at the first floor level. This portion of the building face, executed in limestone rises two additional stories framing the center bay of windows. Decorative mullions support a limestone banner with brick diaper panels, incised with the building name. The building fenestration is regular with triplet, double hung sash with limestone surrounds. Delicate limestone band courses define the basement, first and fourth floors. On the main face of the building, gothic arched windows with decorative tracery, set into limestone surrounds, provide light to the attic area. The projecting flanking ends have stepped parapet walls with battlementing. The battlemented parapet continues around the Wharton Street elevation. A one story brick addition rests along the 19th Street elevation.

Statement of Significance

Built in 1924, the Walter George Smith School is an exceptionally intact example of the design talents of Irwin T. Catharine. A graduate of the Drexel Institute's architectural program, in 1903, he was soon hired by the Board of Education in an assistant design position. By 1919 Catharine had risen to the position of Head Draftsman and in 1930 he became the Superintendent of Buildings. Catharine's innate talents and sense of aesthetics enabled him to successfully work in a variety of design vocabularies. Working here in the Academic Gothic mode, Catharine skillfully employed the window and door elements, as well as colors and textures (red brick and limestone) to achieve a balanced effect. The total effort shows no flaws, no understatements or over embellishments of detailing.

The Walter George Smith School compares quite favorably with one of Catharine's best designs in the Gothic style, Olney High School. Although the Smith School lacks the monumental scale and numerous pointed-arch windows found on the Olney High School, the Smith School possesses the intricate detailing that is most notable in Catharine's best Gothic designs such as Olney High School.

Thus the Walter George Smith School is significant as an excellent example of Catharine's Gothic public school designs.

area of significance: architecture

verbal boundary description

The nominated property consists of Philadelphia County lot 886224500 which contains

EVALUATION the school and its contiguous grounds.

EVALUATOR(S)

Neis Hittchell School
EARN 880N4420 520

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Tony Wayne School
EARN 660N4419 960

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
J. Tilden Jr. High
EARN 060N4418 840

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
John Bartram High Sch
EARN 100N4418 820

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
George Smith School
EARN 940N4420 300

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Buchanan Road
EARN 780N4417 200

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Robert Kalston School
184487 460N4420 960

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Francis M. Drexel School
184485 220N4421 120

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Abigail Vare School
184487 160N4419 440

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Francis Scott Key School
184486 260N4418 760

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Southwark School
184486 420N4419 400

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Horace H. Jones Jr. High
184487 040N4419 040

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Delaplane McDaniel School
184484 280N4419 560

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Edgar Allen Poe School
184484340N4418 860

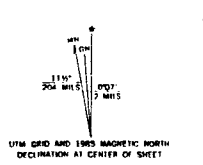
Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Edward Bok Vocational School
184486 300N4419 320

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Andrew Jackson School
184486 020N4420 260

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Nathaniel Hawthorne
184486 100N4421 040

75° 15' 30"
75° 15' 00"
75° 14' 30"
75° 14' 00"
75° 13' 30"
75° 13' 00"
75° 12' 30"
75° 12' 00"
75° 11' 30"
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75° 7' 00"
75° 6' 30"
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75° 3' 30"
75° 3' 00"
75° 2' 30"
75° 2' 00"
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75° 1' 00"
75° 0' 30"
75° 0' 00"

Mapped by the U. S. Coast & Geodetic Survey
Edited and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and USCT
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1946. Topography by planetable 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.



Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled
by the Geological Survey from aerial photographs
taken 1987 and other sources. This information
not field checked. Map edited 1985.

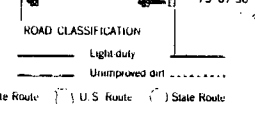
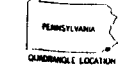


CONTOUR IN
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET-DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TWO DATUMS IS VARIABLE
SHORTLINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDES APPROXIMATELY 5.9 FEET

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACTUALITY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
George Washington Sch.
184486 920N4420 160

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Frank C. Palumbo School
184486 180N4420 880



PHILADELPHIA, PA. - N. J.
39075-H2-1F-024

1967
PHOTOREVISED 1985
IMA DMS I NW SERIES 1983