

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 80  
 one acre  
 44 BBB 26  
 northing  
 usgs sheet: Germantown

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

13. date(s) (how determined)  
 1927-1928  
 14. period

15. style, design or folk type  
 Classical Rev.

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/reinf.con

21. condition Fair  
 22. integrity Fair

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  
 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  
 5. present name GNL. LOUIS WAGNER JR. HIGH SCHOOL  
 2. municipality PHILADELPHIA  
 6. other name (historic name if any) SAME

3. street address or specific location 17th AND CHELTEN STREETS

4. survey code

## General Louis Wagner Junior High School

### Physical Description

The General Louis Wagner Junior High School is a three story, fifteen bay yellow brick building with limestone trim. A projecting center entrance bay with monumental portico features stylized Ionic columns supporting entablature with name panel crowned by dentil band and cornice, above which spans a balustrade. The center double leaf fire door is flanked by single leaf fire doors with large scale multi-light sash above doors, capped by stylized panels. The second floor balcony windows feature band of five double hung sash flanked by single windows; lanterns between windows. A projecting bay is crowned by a plain limestone fascia band capped by dentillated cornice above which rises a plain brick parapet. The main body of the building and projecting end bays feature limestone watertable pierced by basement sash, crowned by a drip course. The fenestration pattern consists of groupings of three, six over six double hung sash separated by thin brick piers. Each grouping is delineated by brick pilasters with limestone bases and capitals, rising from the first to the third floor. A limestone fascia band is capped by a dentillated cornice and a plain brick parapet.

### Statement of Significance

The Wagner Junior High School is a relatively simplified example of Classical Revival school design prevalent in Philadelphia during the early twentieth century. Built in 1927 from the design of Irwin T. Catharine, the building is a notable example of his work in this popular revival style. Son of School Board member, Joseph Catharine, Irwin 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 Wagner School. In 1930 Catharine succeeded John D. Cassell as Superintendent of Buildings, a position he held until his retirement in 1937.

This school is distinctive among Catharine's Classical Revival public school designs. It is not as intricately detailed as two other Classical Revival schools designed by Catharine and included in this nominated thematic group--the W. and E. Martin School and the Julia Masterman School. However, the monumental scale and long, horizontal lines of the Wagner Junior High School are much more striking than the scale and lines of the other two schools.

Thus the Wagner Junior High School is a distinctive Neo-Classical public school design by Catharine.

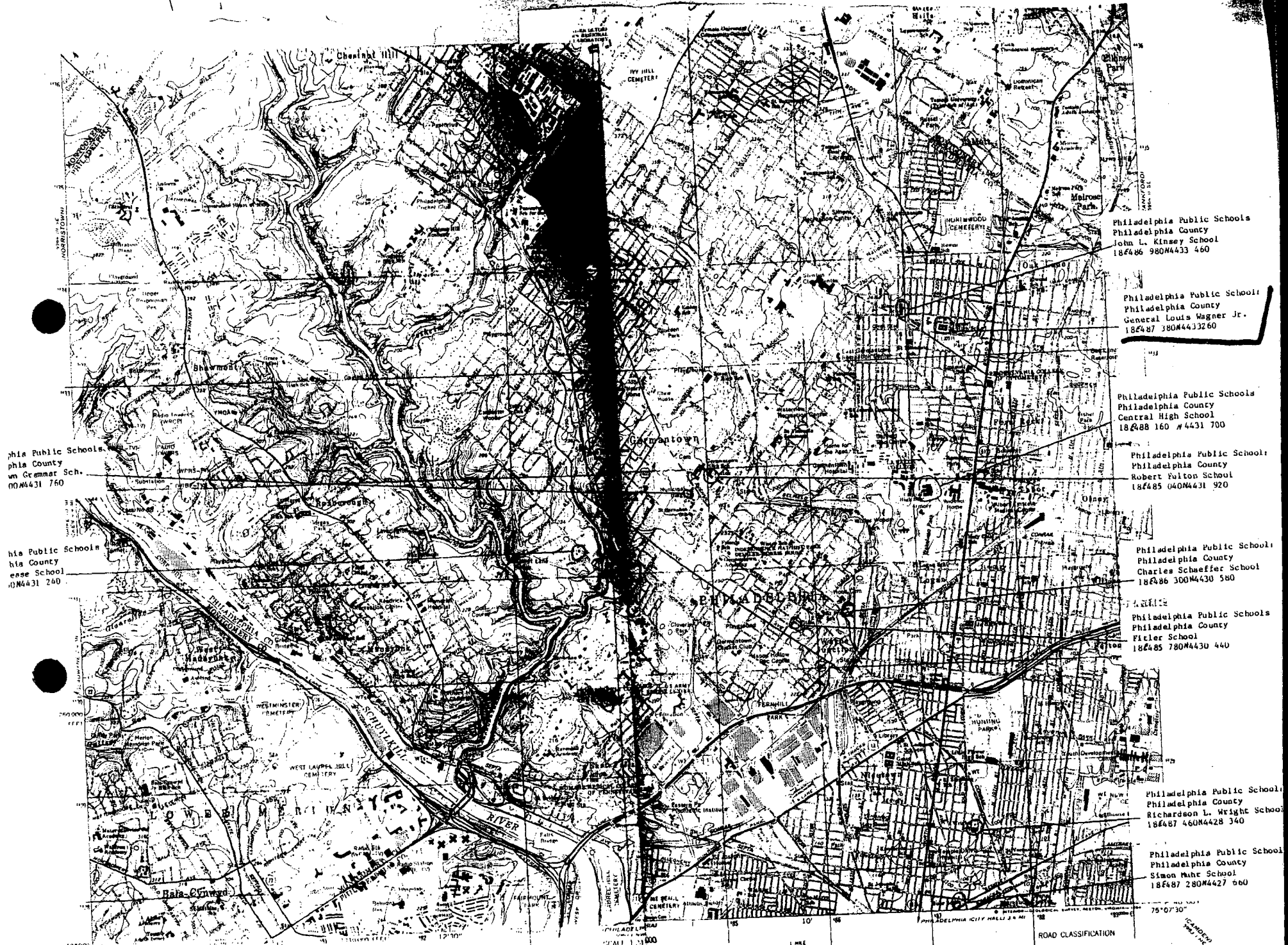
area of significance: architecture

verbal boundary description

The nominated property consists of Philadelphia County lot 886155000 which contains the school and its contiguous grounds.

EVALUATION

EVALUATOR(S)



Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
John L. Kinsey School  
182486 980M4433 460

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
General Louis Wagner Jr.  
182487 380M443260

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
Central High School  
182488 160 #4431 700

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
Robert Fulton School  
182485 040M4631 920

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
Charles Schaeffer School  
182486 300M4430 580

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
Fidler School  
182485 780M4430 440

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
Richardson L. Wright School  
182487 460M4428 340

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
Simon Muhr School  
182487 280M4427 660

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
Emma Sch...  
00M4431 760

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
Emma Sch...  
00M4431 260

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NATIONAL GEOPOLITICAL DATUM OF 1929

ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Heavy duty      Light duty  
Medium duty      Unimproved dirt  
Interstate Route      U.S. Route      State Route

GERMANTOWN, PA.