

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
 Allegheny East Conference Assoc.
 4701 Germantown Avenue
 Philadelphia, Pa. 19144

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

10. U.T.M. Zone Easting
 1 less than one acre
 4430580
 usgs sheet: Germantown
 northing

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

13. date(s) (how determined)
 1876
 14. period

15. style, design or folk type
 Gothic

19. original use School
 20. present use Church

16. architect or engineer
 Lewis H. Esler

17. contractor or builder
 P.H. Somerset

18. primary building mat./construc.
 Stone

21. condition Good
 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

Computer Coding (BHP Survey Grantees Must Complete)

30. date 7/1986
 revision(s)

31. county 101 32. style _____
 32. construction material 02; _____ 34. roof _____
 35. design type _____
 36. historic function 080301P; _____
 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 GERMANTOWN AVENUE AND ABBOTTSFORD STREET
 4. survey code
 5. present name 7th DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
 6. other name (historic name if any) CHARLES SCHAEFFER SCHOOL

Charles W. Schaeffer School

Physical Description

The Schaeffer School is a 3 1/2 story, three bay wissahickon schist building with brownstone trim. The building is square in its plan and massing and is dominated by a three story projecting frontispiece, added to the building in 1914. The basement area is defined by a brownstone bandcourse. Resting within the frontispiece is the main entrance, a segmented opening supported by a segmented lintel with keystone. The size of the opening has been closed down, with a transom like infill to accommodate modern, flush doors. The fenestration pattern is regular with segmented, double hung sash with segmented lintels at the flanking ends and a square headed sash in the frontispiece. Brownstone band course define the floor levels. Below the center, third floor window is the building's name and date stone, executed in brownstone. The building rises to a pedimented gable roofline with an ocular vent window resting in the gable end. Crowning the building is a molded cornice with decorative bracketing. The building culminates in a terved metal, hipped roof.

Statement of Significance

The Charles W. Schaeffer School is one of the few surviving examples of schools built by the Philadelphia School Board in the 1870's. The building was constructed in 1876 from the design of Louis Esler, the first Building Supervisor for the School District of Philadelphia. Appointed to this position in 1867, this office was created in response to the need for new schools following the Consolidation of the City of Philadelphia in 1854. The annexation of new areas, found the Board seriously lacking in educational facilities in many parts of the newly created city, particularly in what were once considered suburban enclaves. While the Board displayed great daring in undertaking such a large scale effort, their new Building Supervisor was timid, at best, in his design of these new structures. Esler, not a trained architect, followed the traditional rectangular plan for these school designs which closely resembled the Sloan Plan or Philadelphia Plan, created by the noted architect Samuel Sloan, in 1850. Following the established formula the building was designed with several classrooms on each floor. A corridor-less plan, the classrooms were accessed by staircases at the flanking ends of the building. The continued use of this simple plan, as seen in the Schaeffer School underscores the slow place of change in nineteenth century school design in Philadelphia.

Thus the Schaeffer School is significant as a rare survivor among early schools that utilized the important Sloan Plan.

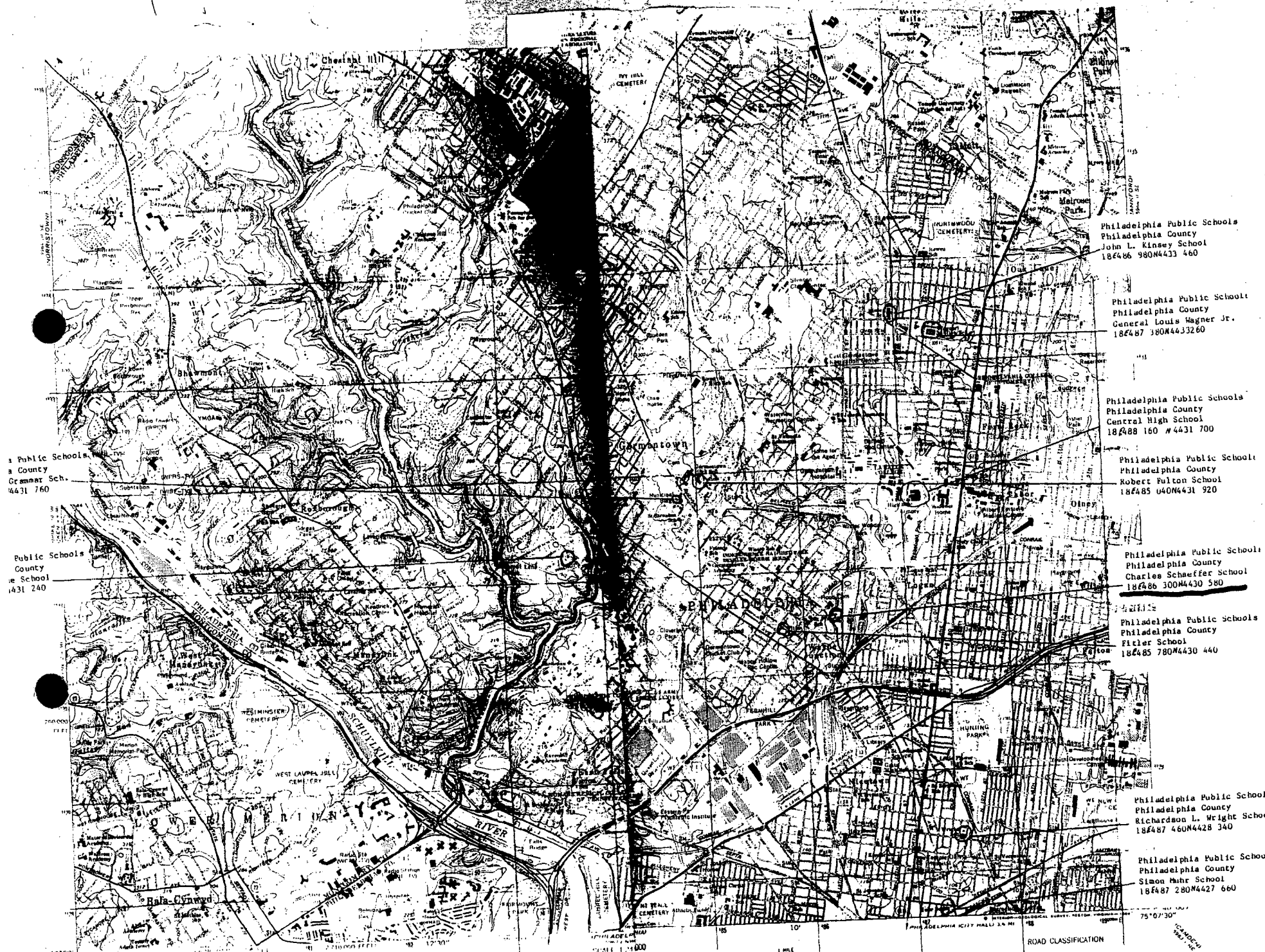
area of significance: architecture

verbal boundary description

The nominated property consists of Philadelphia County lot 121148410 which contains the school and its contiguous grounds.

EVALUATION

EVALUATOR(S)



Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
John L. Kinsey School
18466 980N4431 460

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
General Louis Wagner Jr.
18487 380N443260

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
General High School
18488 160 #4431 700

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Robert Fulton School
18485 040N4431 920

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Charles Schaeffer School
18486 300N4430 580

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Fidler School
18485 780N4430 440

Philadelphia Public School
Philadelphia County
Richardson L. Wright School
18487 460N4428 340

Philadelphia Public School
Philadelphia County
Simon Muir School
18487 280N4427 660

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Crammet Sch.
4431 760

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
School
431 240

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CONTINUED INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODESIC TRIGONOMIC DATUM OF 1929

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty _____ Light duty _____
Medium duty - - - - - Unimproved dirt _____
Interstate Route 1 1 S Route 2 2 State Route

GERMANTOWN, PA.