

8. property owners name and address
 School Board of Philadelphia
 21st Street & the Parkway
 Philadelphia, Pa. 19103

9. tax parcel number/other number

10. U.T.M. Zone Easting Northing
 4 4 3 3 2 4 0
 usgs sheet: two acres
 FRANK FORD

11. status (other surveys, lists etc.)

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

13. date(s) (how determined)
 1927-1978
 14. period

15. style, design or folk type
 Neo-Classical

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 Good

23. site plan with north arrow

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 FOR DUPLICATING**

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 revision(s)

7/1986

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. present name WOODROW WILSON JR. HIGH SCHOOL
 4. other name (historic name if any) SAME
 5. street address or specific location COTTMAN AVENUE & LORETTA STREET
 6. survey code

Woodrow Wilson Junior High School

Physical Description

The Wilson School rises three stories in height and spans a width of fifteen bays, almost filling the block. Constructed of brick with limestone trim, the building has a symmetrical placement of elements and horizontal emphasis typical of Neo-Classical design. The building is defined by a center projecting frontispiece and two flanking projecting building ends. The main entrance is handsomely detailed with four smooth dressed Doric columns supporting an entablature incised with the school name. Above is a molded cornice and a balustraded parapet. The main facade of the building is broken down into elements beginning with a smooth dressed limestone basement. The first floor is defined by a smooth dressed band course above the window heads. The main body of the building is characterized by slightly projecting brick pilasters with stone bases and capitals with flank the slightly recessed window bays. These pilasters support a smooth dressed fascia with molded cornice with dentillation. Rising above the cornice is an unadorned brick parapet wall. The fenestration pattern is regular with tripartite, double hung sash with molded mullions. The original sash have been replaced with aluminum sash with paning infill.

Statement of Significance

Designed in the Neo-Classical style, the Woodrow Wilson Junior High School exemplifies an architectural style that epitomized institutional and public structures. Constructed in 1927, the school is an excellent example of the design flexibility of School Board Architect Irwin T. Catharine. Son of School Board Chairman, Joseph Catharine, he studied architecture at Drexel Institute in preparation for a career with the school board. Undertaking the position of Head Draftsman, in 1919, he succeeded John D. Cassell as Building Superintendent in 1930. Working within the basic constraints of standard school plan and massing, Catharine designed an impressive junior high school plant in the then popular Neo-Classical style. Commonly used for public and institutional buildings as banks, courts and museums, the building's handsome appearance could easily imply any one of the aforementioned uses.

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

Thus the Wilson 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 8862715 which contains the school and its contiguous grounds.

EVALUATION

EVALUATOR(S)

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Woodrow Wilson Jr. High
18F494 200N4433 240

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Clney School
18F489 700N4430 940

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Clney High School
18F489 460N4430 600

