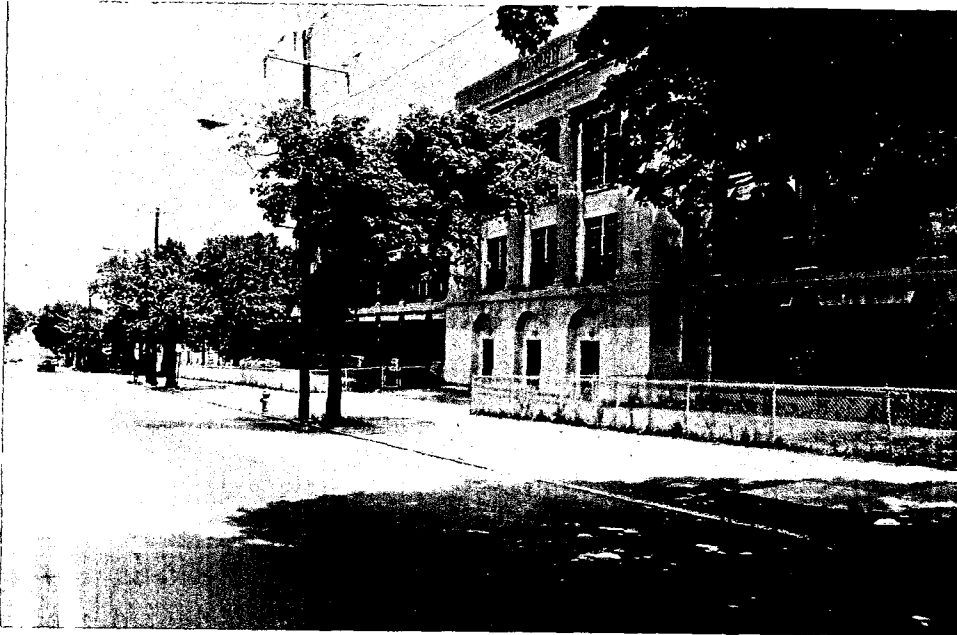


Physical Description

Built in 1923, the Mayer Sulzberger Junior High School is a three story 17 bay brick faced concrete structure. Limestone center projecting bay features three arched recessed entries altered to accommodate modern fire doors; 2 story column screen with Corinthian order fluted columns framing second and third floor center bays with modern industrial sash; columns support entablature with name panel capped by cornice and balustrade; regular fenestration pattern of triplet double hung replacement sash, crowned with splayed stone lintels on first and third floors, only. Belt course between first and second floors. Second floor windows capped with ornamented stone panels; Brick piers with stone bases and capitals delineate bays on upper floors. Facade crowned by stone frieze band, capped with stone cornice, above which rises plain parapet.

Statement of Significance

The Mayer Sulzberger School represents one of the less distinctive or intact examples of the Classical design mode for Philadelphia school design. Major alterations to windows and doors inhibit original character and architectural significance of structure.



EVALUATION

EVALUATOR(S)

3. ADDRESS: 48th Street, 701-741 N.
5. NAME: Sulzberger, Mayer, Junior High School
6. FORMER NAME:

13. DATES: 1923-1924

ADDITIONS:

DESCRIPTION: A 3-story, 17-register, brick building set upon a raised stone basement. The front of the building is in the shape of a shallow W. The center three registers form a projected pavilion. This pavilion has a stone first floor with arched entrance openings, stone pilasters between the openings on the upper floors, a stone course with the name of the school above the third floor and a balcony on top. The six registers on either side have a brick first floor with triple sash within the openings, stone sills and stone keystone-centered lintels. A stone beltcourse/cornice runs above the first floor. The registers are recessed on the second and third floors and separated by brick pilasters with stone caps. A stone cornice runs beneath the brick parapet. The end registers project with the same sash arrangement as that found on the previously described registers. The side elevations stretch 12 registers deep with projecting entrances in the third registers from the end. All openings along the side are at the same level, including those fronting the stairwells.

HISTORY/SIGN.: The concept of junior high schools in Philadelphia was relatively new in 1922. The first was the Holmes Junior High School at 55th and Chestnut Streets, a conversion from an elementary school design. Following its success, the School Board authorized the construction of five junior high schools in 1922 and three in 1923 in locations throughout the city. Each of these eight, designed from School Board Type Number JHS-4, contained 2.46 million cubic feet, a figure exceeded only by the various high schools constructed in the mid-1910s. The first of these buildings was the Edwin H. Vare School, for which the contract was awarded in March 1922. Both of the contracts for the Anna H. Shaw and the Jay Cook Junior High Schools were awarded less than a month later. The 1923 group included the John Paul Jones (contract awarded May 1923), Warren B. Harding (June 1923) and the Mayer Sulzberger (July 1923) Schools.

28. SOURCES: Edmunds, Chronological List of Public School Buildings, 1818-1934 School Board, "New Buildings Under Contract"

EVALUATION: This building warrants inclusion onto the National Register as part of the Philadelphia Public Schools Thematic District.

EVALUATION

EVALUATOR(S)

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY FORM OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION Box 1026 PA HISTORICAL & MUSEUM COMMISSION Harrisburg, PA 17120		7. Local survey organization Philadelphia Historical Commission		1. County Philadelphia
8. Property owners name and address School District of Philadelphia 21st and Winter Streets Philadelphia, PA 19103		9. tax parcel number / other number 886115000	10. U.T.M. zone 18 48 11 54 10 2.6 acres 4 14 21 31 64 10 easting northing	
12. classification site () structure () object () building () Thematic in N.R. district yes () no ()		11. status (other surveys, lists etc.) PHRS (6-25-82)		5. Present name Mayer Sulzberger Junior High School
13. date(s) (how determined) 1923-1924 14. period 1923-1924		15. style, design or folk type Colonial Revival		
16. architect or engineer Irwin T. Catharine		17. contractor or builder Michael Melody, Son & Co.		3. street address or specific location 701-741 North 48th Street
18. primary building mat./construction Brick with stone trim		19. original use School 20. present use School 21. condition good 22. integrity Excellent		
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		USE THIS COPY FOR DUPLICATING		
25. file/location				
26. brief description (note unusual features, integrity, environment, threats and associated buildings) A 3-story, 17 register, brick building set upon a raised stone base-ment. The front of the building is in the shape of a shallow W. The center three registers form a projected pavilion. This pavilion has a stone first floor with arched entrance openings, stone pilasters between the openings on the upper floors, a stonecourse with the name of the school above the third floor and a balcony on top. The six registers on either side have a brick first floor with triple sash within the openings, stone sills and stone keystone-centered lintels. A stone beltcourse/cornice runs above the first floor. The registers are recessed on the second and third floors and separated by brick pilasters with stone caps. A stone cornice runs beneath the brick parapet. The end registers project with the same triple sash arrange-ment. The side elevations stretch 12 registers deep. (continue on back if necessary)				
27. history, significance and/or background In response to changes in educational theory and practice, the School District of Philadelphia undertook a program of erecting junior high schools. The first junior high school in the city, Holmes Junior High School, was built as an elementary school and, with the addition of an auditorium and other rooms, converted into a junior high school. (continue on back if necessary)				
28. sources of information Edmunds, Chronological List of Public School Build-ings, 1818-1934 School Board, "New Buildings Under Contract" (continue on back if necessary)			29. prepared by: J. M. Moak 30. date: 8/28/87 revision(s)	

26. DESCRIPTION (continued)

with projecting entrances in the third registers from the end. All openings along the side are at the same level, including those fronting the stairwells.

27. HISTORY/SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

soon after its completion in 1916-1917. This school appears as a part of this nomination. During the expansive years after World War I, the School District began to design and erect buildings specifically as junior high schools. The first plans for junior high schools as junior high schools received the type designation JHS-4. This new school was large by the standards of the era and was exceeded in size only by the senior high schools of the second decade of the twentieth century. In the years 1922-1924, the School District had eight identical buildings erected from this model devised by Irwin T. Catharine. The contract for the first of this form, the Edwin H. Vare School, was let in March 1922, followed the next month by two more. The Sulzberger School was the last of the group of eight with a contract awarded in July 1923. The Mayer Sulzberger Junior High School represents this innovation in pedagogy, and in the development and implementation of an architectural response to the new need. This school possesses excellent integrity.

National Register Criteria: A and C, Architecture and Education.

Boundary Justification: The nominated property contains the contributing building and all historically associated land.

There is one contributing building on the nominated property.

Verbal boundary: the nominated property is tax parcel #886115000.

EVALUATION

This building warrants listing on the National Register for its place in the history of education and school architecture in Philadelphia.

EVALUATOR(S)

Philadelphia Public Schools
Thematic Nomination
Overbrook School
Philadelphia County
Zone 18
UTM 18/479000/4425540

Philadelphia Public Schools
Thematic Nomination
Mayer Sulzberger School
Philadelphia County
Zone 18
UTM 18/481540/4423640

Philadelphia Public Schools
Thematic Nomination
Harambee/Holmes Jr. High School
Philadelphia County
Zone 18
UTM 18/480260/4423060

Philadelphia Public Schools
Thematic Nomination
Henry Lea School
Philadelphia County
Zone 18
UTM 18/481480/4422450

Philadelphia Public Schools
Thematic Nomination
Anna Shaw School
Philadelphia County
Zone 18
UTM 18/480600/4421080

Philadelphia Public Schools



Philadelphia
Quad