

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

7. Local survey organization
 Philadelphia Historical Commission

8. property owners name and address
 School District of Philadelphia
 230 N. 21st Street
 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103

9. tax parcel number / other number
 886167500

10. U.T.M. zone: 18, easting: 4180131210, northing: 4431101310
 one acre

11. status (other surveys, lists etc.)

12. classification
 site () structure () object ()
 building () Thematic
 in N.R. district yes () no ()

13. date(s) (how determined)
 1929-1930

14. period
 1929-1930

15. style, design or folk type
 Late Gothic Revival

19. original use
 School

20. present use
 School

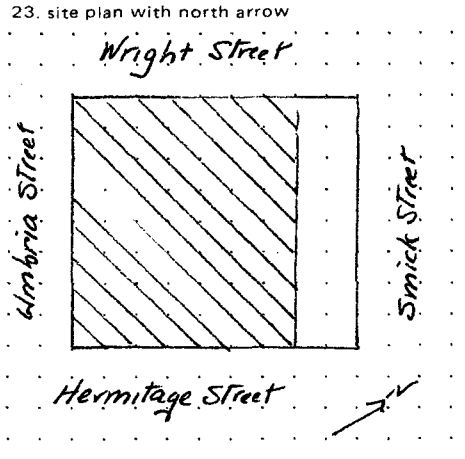
16. architect or engineer
 Irwin T. Catharine

17. contractor or builder
 Unknown

18. primary building mat./construction
 Brick with stone trim

21. condition
 Excellent

22. integrity
 Excellent



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)

See reverse side

(continue on back if necessary)

27. history, significance and/or background

See reverse side

(continue on back if necessary)

28. sources of information

See reverse side

29. prepared by:
 Jefferson M. Moak

30. date: 6-19-87, revision(s)

(continue on back if necessary)

1. County: Philadelphia
 5. present name: James Dobson School
 2. municipality: Philadelphia
 6. other name (historic name if any): N/A
 3. street address or specific location: 4665 Umbria Street
 4. survey code

3. ADDRESS: Umbria Street, 4665

5. NAME: Dobson, James, School

6. FORMER NAME:

13. DATES: 1929-1930

ADDITIONS:

DESCRIPTION: A 3-story, 5-register, brick school building sitting upon a raised brick basement. The center of the front facade contains an entrance pavilion with a center stone-trimmed arched opening. The name of the school is carved above this opening. Three openings pierce this central register on the upper floors. The remaining registers each contain five windows, set in a 1-3-1 pattern with brick piers separating the openings and larger pilasters the various registers. Stone trim is found at the top of each pier or pilaster: a stone coping tops the building. Many of the details of the front facade are carried onto the side elevations, each of which stretch four registers with a stairtower filling the second register from the front. These registers are designed to emulate the front entrance register.

HISTORY/SIGN.: Two buildings were designed using the School Board's Type Number 159: The Shawmont School in 1927-1928 and the Dobson School in 1929-1930. Later additions to the Shawmont School have severely damaged its integrity. The designs of these schools reflects Catharine's penchant for using Gothic details and stand as good examples of the typical Philadelphia elementary school building of this time.

National Register Criteria: C, Architecture

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

28. SOURCES: Edmunds, Chronological List of Philadelphia School Buildings
School Board, "New Building Under Contract"

EVALUATION: The Dobson School should be included onto the National Register as part of the Philadelphia Public Schools Thematic District.

There is one contributing building on the nominated property.

Verbal boundary: the nominated property is tax parcel #886167500.

EVALUATION

EVALUATOR(S)

Philadelphia County
Zone 18
UTM 18/485050/4432900

Philadelphia Public Schools
Thematic Nomination
Charles Wolcott Henry School
Zone 18
UTM 18/483200/4432650

Philadelphia Public Schools
Thematic Nomination
Joseph Pennell School
Philadelphia County
Zone 18
UTM 18/487100/4472340

Philadelphia Public Schools
Thematic Nomination
James Dobson School
Philadelphia County
Zone 18
UTM 18/480320/4431030

Philadelphia Public Schools
Thematic Nomination
William Levering School
Philadelphia County
Zone 18
UTM 18/481790/4430980

Philadelphia Public Schools
Thematic Nomination
Thomas Meehan School
Philadelphia County
Zone 18
UTM 18/485000/4430620

Germantown Quad

