

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

1. local survey organization  
 Philadelphia Historical Commission

8. property owners name and address  
 School District of Philadelphia  
 21st & Winter Streets  
 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103

9. tax parcel number / other number  
 886273000

10. U.T.M. zone **118** 49461010  
 4 acres  
 7141310181410  
 Northing

11. status (other surveys, lists etc.)

usgs sheet: **Frankford**

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

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

15. style, design or folk type  
 Art Deco

19. original use  
 School

14. period  
 1929-1930

20. present use  
 School

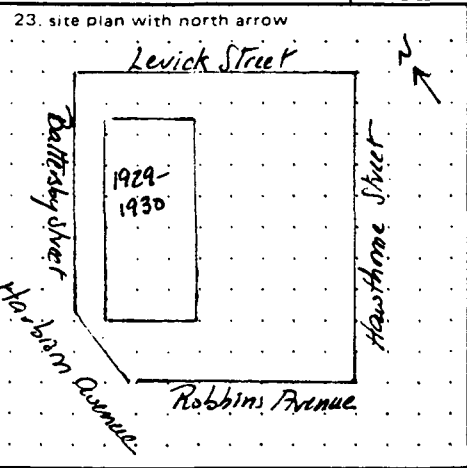
16. architect or engineer  
 Irwin T. Catharine

17. contractor or builder  
 Unknown

18. primary building mat./construction  
 Brick with terra  
 cotta trimmings

21. condition  
 Excellent

22. integrity  
 Excellent



6. other name (historic name if any)  
 N/A

2. municipality  
 Philadelphia

3. street address or specific location  
 3001 Robbins Avenue

4. survey code

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  
 5-31-87

revision(s)

(continue on back if necessary)

1. County  
 Philadelphia

5. present name  
 Ethan Allen School

3. ADDRESS: Robbins Avenue, 3001

5. NAME: Allen, Ethan, School

6. FORMER NAME:

13. DATES: 1929-1930

ADDITIONS:

DESCRIPTION: A 3-story, 8-register, yellow brick school set upon a raised basement. The outside registers have no openings. A diapered brick panel occupies the full height of this space. The second openings from the outside are the projecting stairtowers. A colorful arched entryway with terra cotta trim and clustered pilasters forms the focus of this register. Terra cotta panels form a rectangular surround to the entrance on the first floor. A band of three windows appear at the landing levels above the entrance. Tall, narrow single openings pierce the register at the floor level on either side of the central band. Another three windows appear above the third floor cornice. The central four registers each contain five windows in a 1-3-1 pattern. A brick dripcourse appears above the basements openings. A terracotta cornice is set above the third floor. The name of the school appears on a carved stone in the middle of brick parapet.

HISTORY/SIGN.: This is one of six schools designed by Catharine using School Board Type Number 144. The first, the Clara Barton School, was constructed in 1924-1925. The attractiveness of this school, and the new use of colored terra-cotta tiles, apparently was received well and school design took a new direction from the Colonial Revival of Catharine's predecessors into the modern Art Deco. Soon Catharine was designing many schools in this style. However, he did something unusual for him: he returned to a particular design years after originally conceiving of it. Between 1926 and 1930, five additional school buildings were erected from Type Number 144: the Francis Hopkinson School (1926-1927), the Edwin Forrest School (1928-1929), and the Thomas K. Finletter, James J. Sullivan and Ethan Allen Schools (1929-1930). Catharine also executed a Gothic variant, which he employed for the Pennypacker, Creighton and Carnell Schools between 1929 and 1931.

One of a group of six constructed on the same model by Catharine between 1924 and 1930, the Ethan Allen School possesses a very high degree of integrity. It is an excellent example of Catherine's 1920s and 1930s Art Deco designs.

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

EVALUATION: This building should be included on the National Register as part of the Philadelphia Public Schools Thematic District.

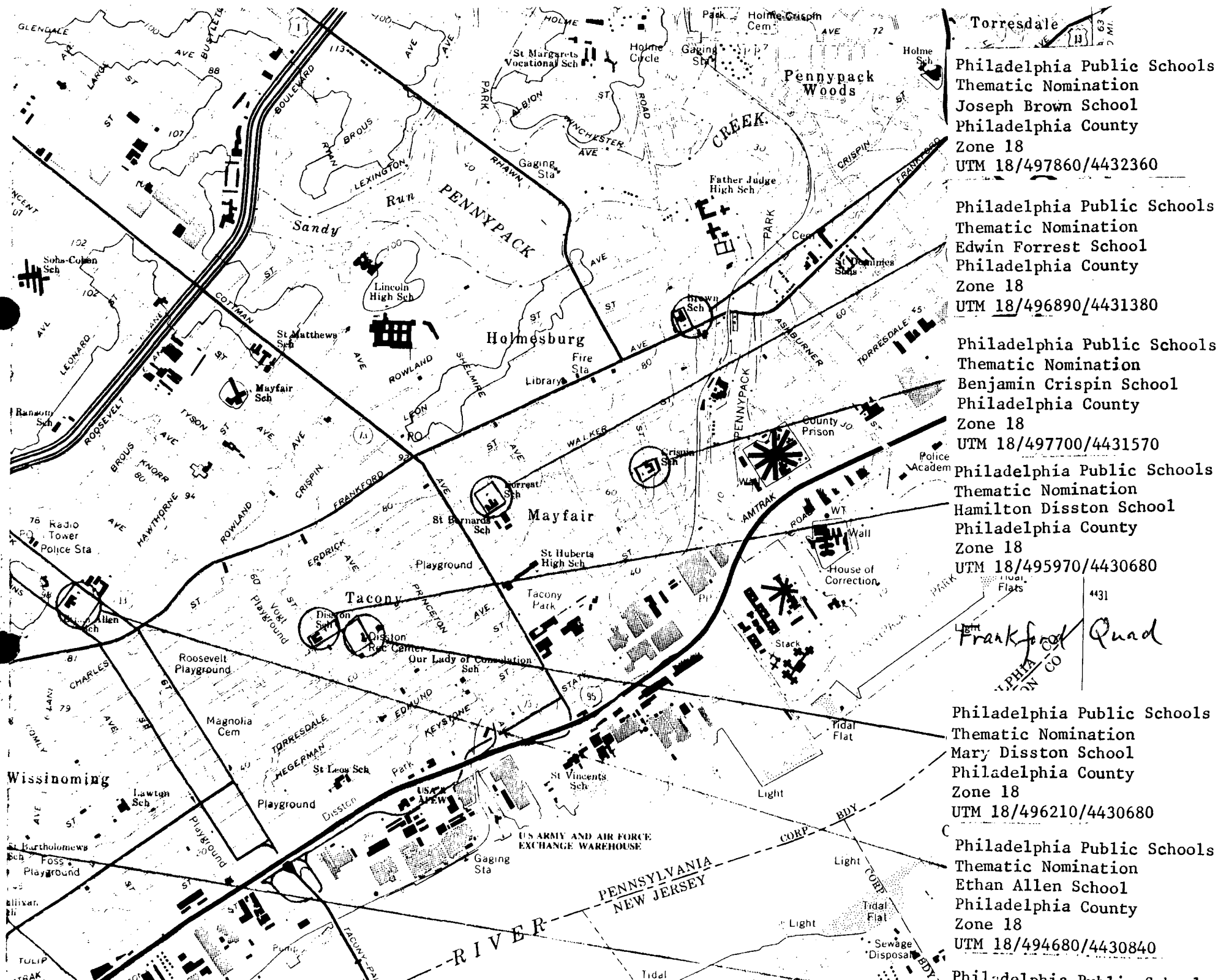
National Register Criteria: C, Architecture

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

There is one contributing building on the nominated property.

EVALUATION Verbal boundary: the nominated property is tax parcel #886273000.

EVALUATOR(S)



Torresdale  
 Philadelphia Public Schools  
 Thematic Nomination  
 Joseph Brown School  
 Philadelphia County  
 Zone 18  
 UTM 18/497860/4432360

Philadelphia Public Schools  
 Thematic Nomination  
 Edwin Forrest School  
 Philadelphia County  
 Zone 18  
 UTM 18/496890/4431380

Philadelphia Public Schools  
 Thematic Nomination  
 Benjamin Crispin School  
 Philadelphia County  
 Zone 18  
 UTM 18/497700/4431570

Philadelphia Public Schools  
 Thematic Nomination  
 Hamilton Disston School  
 Philadelphia County  
 Zone 18  
 UTM 18/495970/4430680

Philadelphia Public Schools  
 Thematic Nomination  
 Mary Disston School  
 Philadelphia County  
 Zone 18  
 UTM 18/496210/4430680

Philadelphia Public Schools  
 Thematic Nomination  
 Ethan Allen School  
 Philadelphia County  
 Zone 18  
 UTM 18/494680/4430840

Philadelphia Public Schools

Frankford Quad