

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

7. Local survey organization

Clio Group, Inc.

8. property owners name and address

School District of Philadelphia  
 1835-69 N. 54th St.  
 Philadelphia, PA 19103

9. tax parcel number / other number

521361700

10. U.T.M. Zone Easting Northing  
 18 4810210  
 4425940

11. status (other surveys, lists etc.)

usgs sheet: Phila. Quad.

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

13. date(s) (how determined)  
 1923(D.S.)

14. period  
 1920-39

15. style, design or folk type

Georgian Revival

19. original use

school

20. present use

school

16. architect or engineer  
 probably  
 Irwin T. Catherine

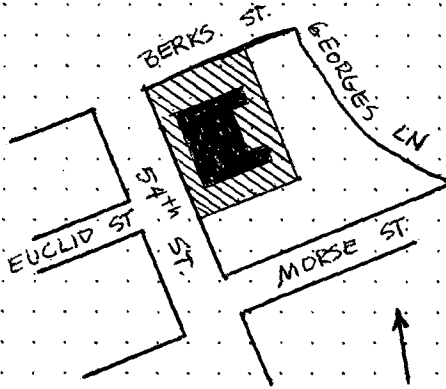
17. contractor or builder

18. primary building mat./construction  
 brick with stone and  
 wood trim

21. condition average

22. integrity  
 excellent

23. site plan with north arrow



24. photo notation

CD-NWP-8-30

25. file/location



26. brief description (note unusual features, integrity, environment, threats and associated buildings)

Another of the early Georgian designs executed by Catherine before he adopted and personalized Art Deco. The school is built of brick, often used decoratively in soldier courses and diaper patterns, with stone trim and wood sash. The parapet is trimmed with stone coping and set off with a string course. A heavier cornice was placed above the second floor and a stone water table above the basement story. Windows are generally small paned and double-hung with an arcade along the main facade and two-story arched window compositions above the classically treated entranceways.

(continue on back if necessary)

27. history, significance and/or background

Catherine began designing schools for the city in the early 1920s. At first he continued the Georgian lines of his predecessor, J. Horace Cook. But by 1926, he had developed as one of Philadelphia's most creative Art Deco architects.

(continue on back if necessary)

28. sources of information

29. prepared by:

C. Doebley

30. date 7/12/82 revision(s)

(continue on back if necessary)

1. County

Philadelphia

2. Municipality

Philadelphia

3. Street address or specific location

1835-69 N. 54th St.

4. Survey code

013-88870-01837

5. Present name

William B. Mann Pub. School

3. ADDRESS: 54th Street, 1835-1869 N.  
5. NAME: Mann, William, School  
6. FORMER NAME:

13. DATES: 1923-1924

ADDITIONS:

DESCRIPTION: A 3-story, 9-register, brick building set upon a raised brick basement. The left and right registers are recessed with narrow horizontal openings on each floor. The interior registers are set within a shallow U in a 1-5-1 pattern. Large stone arched surrounds appear on the first level, which is between floors. A double stone cornice sit above these arches. Square openings pierce the third floor. Another stone cornice appears above the third floor openings. A brick parapet capped by stone coping is above this cornice. The name of the school is carved within this parapet. The side elevations measure five registers with a projecting entrance pavilion in the second register from the front. These entrances are framed with double pilasters and an entablature. A large arched opening appears above this entryway. The remaining registers have bands of double-hung windows in a 1-3-1 pattern. A stone dripcourse appears above the basement; stone cornices above the second and third floors.

HISTORY/SIGN.: The School District of Philadelphia engaged in an ambitious building program in the early 1920s. Eight junior high schools and 13 elementary schools were authorized between September 1921 and December 1923, along with numerous additions to existing schools. Of the 13 elementary schools, eight were constructed from the same set of plans, School Board Type Number 137. The first was the Ferguson School, awarded in September 1921. The second was the Cassidy School, in 1922. The other six, all begun during 1923, are the Edmunds, Hamilton Disston, Logan, Mann, Bregy and Blankenburg Schools, respectively. The design is another which adhered to many of the standards set up by H. deCoureyy Richards when he was Chief Designer, similar to that employed for the Patterson, Thomas and Fell Schools in 1920-1922. The windows were replaced around 1986, as part of a general window replacement program.

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 Public School Buildings 1818-1934 School Board, "New Buildings Under Contract"

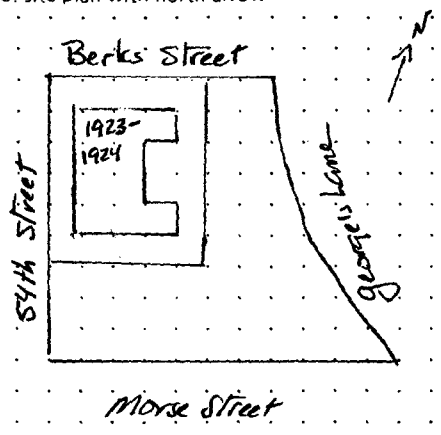
EVALUATION: This building warrants inclusion to the National Register as part of the Philadelphia Public Schools Thematic District, despite the recent window alterations.

There is one contributing building on the nominated property.

Verbal boundary: the nominated property is tax parcel #886267000.

EVALUATION

EVALUATOR(S)

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		5. present name William Mann School	1. County Philadelphia
8. property owners name and address School District of Philadelphia 21st & Winter Streets Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103		9. tax parcel number / other number 886267000			
12. classification site ( ) structure ( ) object ( ) building ( ) Thematic in N.R. district yes ( ) no ( )		13. date(s) (how determined) 1923-1924		10. U.T.M. zone easting 18 480220 4 acres 4421591410 northing usgs sheet: Philadelphia	
14. period 1923-1924		15. style, design or folk type Colonial Revival		19. original use School	
16. architect or engineer Irwin T. Catharine		17. contractor or builder Unknown		20. present use School	
21. condition Good		18. primary building mat./construction Brick with limestone trim		22. integrity Good/Fair	
23. site plan with north arrow 		6. other name (historic name if any) N/A			
24. photo notation		2. municipality Philadelphia			
25. file/location		3. street address or specific location 1835-1869 N. 54th Street			
26. brief description (note unusual features, integrity, environment, threats and associated buildings) See reverse side					
27. history, significance and/or background See reverse side					
28. sources of information See reverse side					
29. prepared by: Jefferson M. Moak				4. survey code	
30. date 5-28-87				revision(s)	

BLACK AND WHITE PRINT(S)  
 3 1/4" x 5" enlargement or medium format contact  
 note location of negative in block 24.

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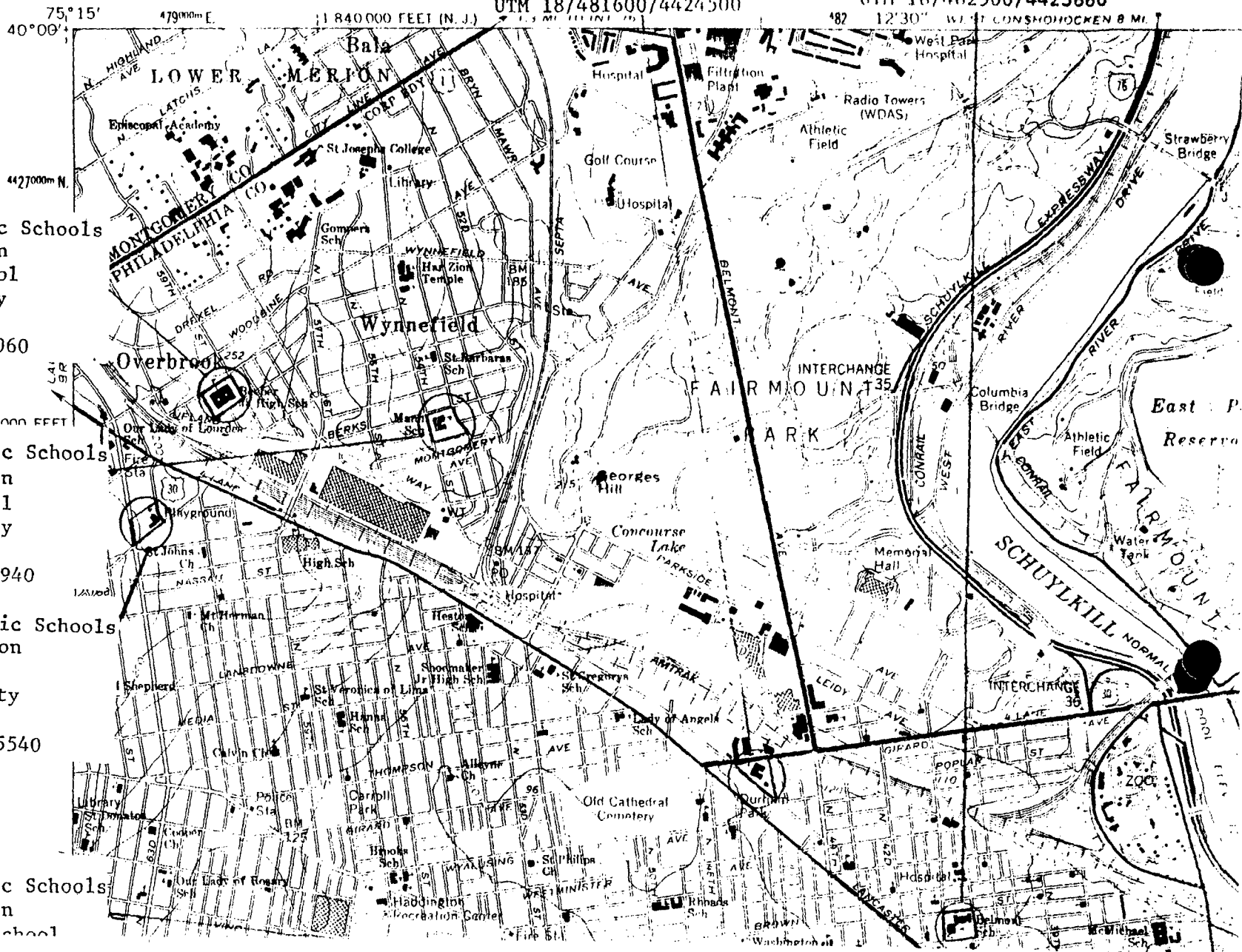
UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Thematic Nomination  
Rudolph Blankenburg School  
Philadelphia County  
Zone 18  
UTM 18/481600/4424500

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Thematic Nomination  
Belmont School  
Philadelphia County  
Zone 18  
UTM 18/482500/4423880

*Philadelphia  
Zuad*

56° 11' 55" E  
(NORRISTOWN)



Philadelphia Public Schools  
Thematic Nomination  
Dimmer Beeber School  
Philadelphia County  
Zone 18  
UTM 18/479280/4426060

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Thematic Nomination  
William Mann School  
Philadelphia County  
Zone 18  
UTM 18/480220/4425940

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

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Thematic Nomination  
Mayer Sulzberger School