

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY FORM OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION Box 1028 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 886260500		10. U.T.M. zone 18 48 17 18 10 1.1 acres 44 13 21 12 10 northing usage sheet: Germantown	
12. classification site () structure () object () building () Thematic in N.R. district yes () no ()		13. date(s) (how determined) 1913-1914		15. style, design or folk type Tudor Revival	
16. architect or engineer Henry deCourcy Richards		14. period 1913-1914		19. original use School	
17. contractor or builder Thomas Reilly		18. primary building mat./construction Brick with terra cotta trim		20. present use School	
21. condition Good		22. integrity Very Good		2. municipality Philadelphia	
23. site plan with north arrow 		USE THIS COPY FOR DUPLICATING BLACK AND WHITE PRINT(S) 3 1/2" x 5" enlargement or medium format contact note location of negative in block 24.		5. present name Julia Ward Howe School	
24. photo notation				6. other name (historic name if any) N/A	
25. file/location				3. street address or specific location 1301-1331 Grange Street	
26. brief description (note unusual features, integrity, environment, threats and associated buildings) A 3-story, 5-register brick-faced reinforced concrete school with terra cotta trim. Basement windows pierce the watertable which is capped by a limestone dripcourse. The basement level consists of plain brick. The limestone center entrance surround is topped by an entablature. The five registers of the front step back from the center to the ends. Each register contains four double-hung windows with a common limestone lintel. Decorative panels appear between the first and second floors and between the third floor and the cornice. A stone beltcourse separates the second and third floors. The side elevation features a projecting entrance with a large arched opening above the entrance and an entrance surround that matches that of the main entrance.					
27. history, significance and/or background During his thirteen years with the School District, 1906-1918, Henry deCourcy Richards bore the primary responsibility for the design of forty-nine public school buildings in Philadelphia. For his several high schools, e.g., Kensington High School for Girls, he sought to impart some architectural originality and distinctiveness. For his many elementary schools, however, he worked with a limited number of basic					
28. sources of information Edmunds, School Buildings of Philadelphia, 1908-1918 School District, New Buildings Under Contract				29. prepared by: J. M. Moak	
(continue on back if necessary)				30. date 5-26-87	
revision(s)					

4. survey code

27. HISTORY/SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

buildings, structural systems and plans. He introduced some variety to these basic forms through ornamentation. In 1912-1914, for example, eight schools were built on the same model, type 128, of reinforced concrete with brick walls and limestone and/or terra cotta trim, decorated in Jacobethan or Classical Revival styles. One of the eight, the Edgar Allen Poe School, was entered on the National Register in 1986. Four others, including the Julia Ward Howe School, follow the same pattern and possess integrity equal to the Poe School.

The Julia Ward Howe School, along with the three others in this group and the Poe School, represents the developmental and architectural response to the demands of the building program implemented by the School Board following its reorganization in 1905 through World War I. This expansion in itself was a response to the continuing increase in the population of the city which grew from 1.3 million in 1900 to over 1.8 million in 1920. It led to the construction of 70 schools. It also represents Richards's talent in giving some design variety to a single basic, expandable, structural form and plan.

National Register Criteria: C, Architecture

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

There is one contributing and one non-contributing building on the nominated property.

Verbal boundary: the nominated property is tax parcel #886260500.

EVALUATION

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

EVALUATOR(S)



Philadelphia Public Schools
 Thematic Nomination
 Eleanor Cope Emlen School
 Philadelphia County
 Zone 18
 UTM 18/484780/4433560

Philadelphia Public Schools
 Thematic Nomination
 Julia Howe School
 Philadelphia County
 Zone 18
 UTM 18/487810/4432120

Philadelphia Public Schools
 Thematic Nomination
 James Russell Lowell School
 Philadelphia County
 Zone 18
 UTM 18/488960/4432050

Philadelphia Public Schools
 Thematic Nomination
 Logan School
 Philadelphia County
 Zone 18
 UTM 18/487000/4430980

Germantown *Quadrant*
 Philadelphia Public Schools
 Thematic Nomination
 Andrew Morrison School
 Philadelphia County
 Zone 18
 UTM 18/488900/4430820

Philadelphia Public Schools
 Thematic Nomination
 General David Birney School
 Philadelphia County
 Zone 18
 UTM 18/488150/4430800

Philadelphia Public Schools
 Thematic Nomination
 Jay Cooke Jr. High School