

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY FORM BUREAU FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION PA HISTORICAL & MUSEUM COMMISSION		Box 1026 Harrisburg, PA 17120		7. Local survey organization Philadelphia Historical Commission		5. present name William Rowen 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 886134500		10. U.T.M. zone 18 8 17 13 10 2.5 acres 41 43 14 01 6 0 usgs sheet Germantown			
12. classification site ( ) structure ( ) object ( ) building ( ) Thematic in N.R. district yes ( ) no ( )		13. date(s) (how determined) 1937-1938		15. style, design or folk type Colonial Revival/ Moderne		19. original use School	
16. architect or engineer Irwin T. Catharine		14. period 1937-1938		18. primary building mat./construction Brick with limestone trimmings		20. present use School	
17. contractor or builder <i>unknown</i> Unknown		21. condition Good		22. integrity Good		2. municipality Philadelphia	
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		25. file/location		6. other name (historic name if any)		4. survey code	
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	
(continue on back if necessary)						30. date 5-20-87	
(continue on back if necessary)						revision(s)	

3. ADDRESS: 19th Street, 6801 N.  
5. NAME: Rowen, William, School  
6. FORMER NAME:

13. DATES: 1937-1938

**ADDITIONS:**

DESCRIPTION: A 2-story brick school building similar in shape to the Thomas Mifflin School in East Falls but not relying upon Georgian Revival motifs as much. The front of the building measures five registers wide with a large stone entrance on the first floor and a pseudo-Palladian opening on the second floor. The various registers are stepped towards the center. Each outside corner is highlighted with a vertical band of stone. Single openings appear in the left and right center registers on each floor. No openings pierce the left register: a large rounded arched opening appears within the right register. At the juncture between the main building and the long rear L appears a steeple whose top appears truncated. The rear L stretches 7 registers: the two outside with two openings each, the five inside with five openings in an 1-3-1 pattern.

HISTORY/SIGN.: The Mifflin and Rowen Schools are not true duplicates but variations of the same plan. The Rowen School appears to be a uneasy marriage between the Art Moderne and Georgian Revival Styles with its flat surfaces, truncated Georgian steeple and flat roof. A number of Catharine's later designs returned school architecture back to the Colonial Revival styles which Catharine abandoned in the early 1920s. As such this school is a fine representative of the stylistic range in which Catharine designed schools.

National Register Criteria: C, Architecture

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

28. SOURCES: School Board, "New School Buildings Under Contract"

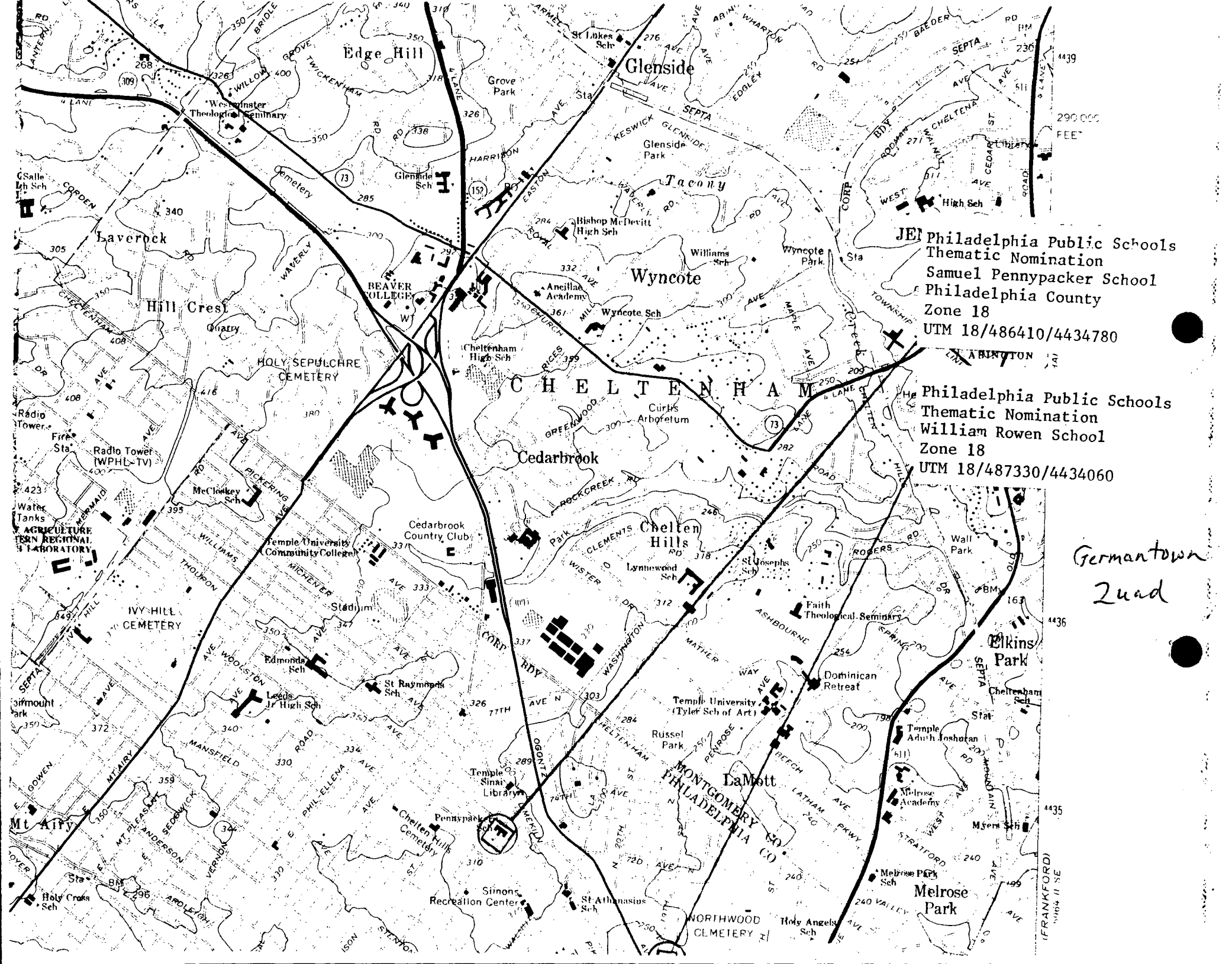
EVALUATION: The unique nature of this design warrants its inclusion onto the National Register as part of the Philadelphia Public Schools Thematic District.

There is one contributing and one noncontributing building in the nominated property.

Verbal boundary: the nominated property is tax parcel #886134500.

EVALUATION

EVALUATOR(S)



Philadelphia Public Schools  
Thematic Nomination  
Samuel Pennypacker School  
Philadelphia County  
Zone 18  
UTM 18/486410/4434780

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Thematic Nomination  
William Rowen School  
Zone 18  
UTM 18/487330/4434060

*Germentown  
Quadrant*

(FRANKFORD)  
1064 11 SE