

<b>PENNSYLVANIA HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY FORM</b> OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION Box 1026 PA HISTORICAL & MUSEUM COMMISSION Harrisburg, PA 17120		7. Local survey organization Philadelphia Historical Commission		1. County Philadelphia	5. Present name Thomas Creighton School
8. Property owners name and address School District of Philadelphia 21st and Winter Streets Philadelphia, PA 19103		9. Tax parcel number / other number 886224000			
12. Classification site ( ) structure ( ) object ( ) building ( ) Thematic in N.R. district (see ( ) No. 1)		13. Date(s) (how determined) 1929-1930		14. Period 1929-1930	
15. Style, design or folk type Late Gothic Revival		16. Architect or engineer Irwin T. Catharine		17. Contractor or builder Unknown	
18. Primary building mat./construction Brick with lime- and terra cotta		19. Original use School		20. Present use School	
21. Condition Excellent		22. Integrity Excellent		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.		6. Other name (historic name if any) N/A	
24. Photo notation				3. Street address or specific location 5401 Tabor Road	
25. File/location		26. Brief description (note unusual features, integrity, environment, threats and associated buildings) A 3-story, 8-register, brick school set upon a raised basement. The outside registers are blank, featuring a large diapered brick panel. The central four registers each have five windows in a 1-3-1- arrangement and are separated from each other by brick piers containing terra cotta capitals above the third floor window line. The registers next to the outside contain ground floor stone arched entryways, a stone 2-story bay at the second and third floors, paired windows within a single opening at the fourth level and a crenellated battlement at the top marked by four small towers at each corner. Generally, the details of this building follow those introduced in 1922 with the Jenks and Morrison Schools, but brought to full flower in this design.		4. Survey cover	
27. History, significance and/or background The School District undertook a massive construction program in the 1920s. Between 1924 and 1930, it erected six 3-story, 8-register, yellow brick, Art Deco elementary schools on Irwin T. Catharine's model of type 144; they appear in this nomination. He used this same basic form and plan in three other schools in 1929-1931, including the Thomas Creighton School, which substituted red brick for yellow and Academic		29. Prepared by: J. M. Moak		30. Date 5-20-87	
28. Sources of information Edmunds, Chronological List of Public School Buildings, 1818-1934 School Board, "New School Buildings Under Contract"		(continue on back if necessary)		(continue on back if necessary)	

3. ADDRESS: Tabor Road, 5401  
5. NAME: Creighton, Thomas, School  
6. FORMER NAME:

13. DATES: 1929-1930

ADDITIONS:

DESCRIPTION: A 3-story, 8-register, brick school set upon a raised basement. The outside registers are blank, featuring a large diapered brick panel. The central four registers each have five windows in an 1-3-1 arrangement and are separated from each other by brick piers containing terra cotta capitals above the third floor window line. The registers next to the outside contain ground floor stone arched entryways, a stone 2-story bay at the second and third floors, paired windows within a single opening at the fourth level and a crennated battlement at top marked by four small towers at each corner. Generally, the details of the building follow those introduced in 1922 with the John Story Jenks and Andrew Morrison Schools, but brought to full flower with this design.

HISTORY/SIGN.: The School Board records contain a duplicate in School Board Type Numbers. Number 144 is applied to both the Art Deco Allen, Barton, Finletter, Forrest, Hopkinson and Sullivan Schools and to the Academic Gothic Creighton and Pennypacker Schools. In 1930, the Academic Gothic design had its designation to 144-E when it was applied to the Carnell School. The floor plans may actually have been the same, but the exterior details were certainly distinct in the two designs, something which ordinarily would call for two separate Type Numbers. It is interesting to note that, with the exception of the Pennypacker School, all of the schools of this type were erected in the Northeast and Juniata Park sections of the city. These Academic Gothic buildings were among the last designed by Catharine in this style.

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

EVALUATION: The architectural merits of this building warrants inclusion onto the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Philadelphia Public Schools Thematic District.

EVALUATION

EVALUATOR(S)

27. HISTORY/SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

Gothic for Art Deco. This group of three -- or more properly nine -- illustrates the proliferation of school buildings in the 1920s, the versatility of Catharine and a peculiar ambiguity or tension between stylistic statements of modernity and tradition. The group of three were also among the last of Catharine's designs in the Academic or Collegiate Gothic style. The Creighton School possesses excellent integrity.

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.

Verbal boundary: the nominated property is tax parcel #886224000.

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  
Thomas Finletter School  
Philadelphia County  
Zone 18  
UTM 18/489800/4432400

Frankford Quad

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Thematic Nomination  
Benjamin Franklin School  
Philadelphia County  
Zone 18  
UTM 18/491060/4432260

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Thematic Nomination  
Laura Carnell School  
Philadelphia County  
Zone 18  
UTM 18/492780/4431850

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Thematic Nomination  
Thomas Creighton School  
Philadelphia County  
Zone 18  
UTM 18/491000/4430340

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Thematic Nomination  
Feltonville School  
Philadelphia County  
Zone 18  
UTM 13/489500/4430280

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Thematic Nomination  
Clara Barton School  
Philadelphia County  
Zone 18  
UTM 489750/4429800

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Thematic Nomination  
Henry Edmunds School  
Philadelphia County

