

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

8. property owners name and address

School District of Philadelphia
 21st & Winter Streets
 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103

9. tax parcel number / other number

88629000

10.

U.T.M. zone 118 easting 4942610

2.1 acres
 44293010
 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 bullder

Unknown

18. primary building mat./construction

Brick with terra
 cotta trim

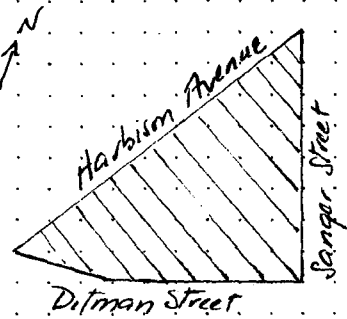
21. condition

Excellent

22. integrity

Excellent

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

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

30. date
 5-31-87

revision(s)

(continue on back if necessary)

1. County Philadelphia
 5. present name James J. Sullivan School

2. municipality Philadelphia
 6. other name (historic name if any) NA

3. street address or specific location 5300 Ditman Street

4. survey code

3. ADDRESS: Ditman Street, 5300
5. NAME: Sullivan, James J., 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 basement 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 James J. Sullivan School possesses a very high degree of integrity. It is an excellent example of Catherine's 1920s and 1930s Art Deco designs.

28. SOURCES: Edmunds, 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

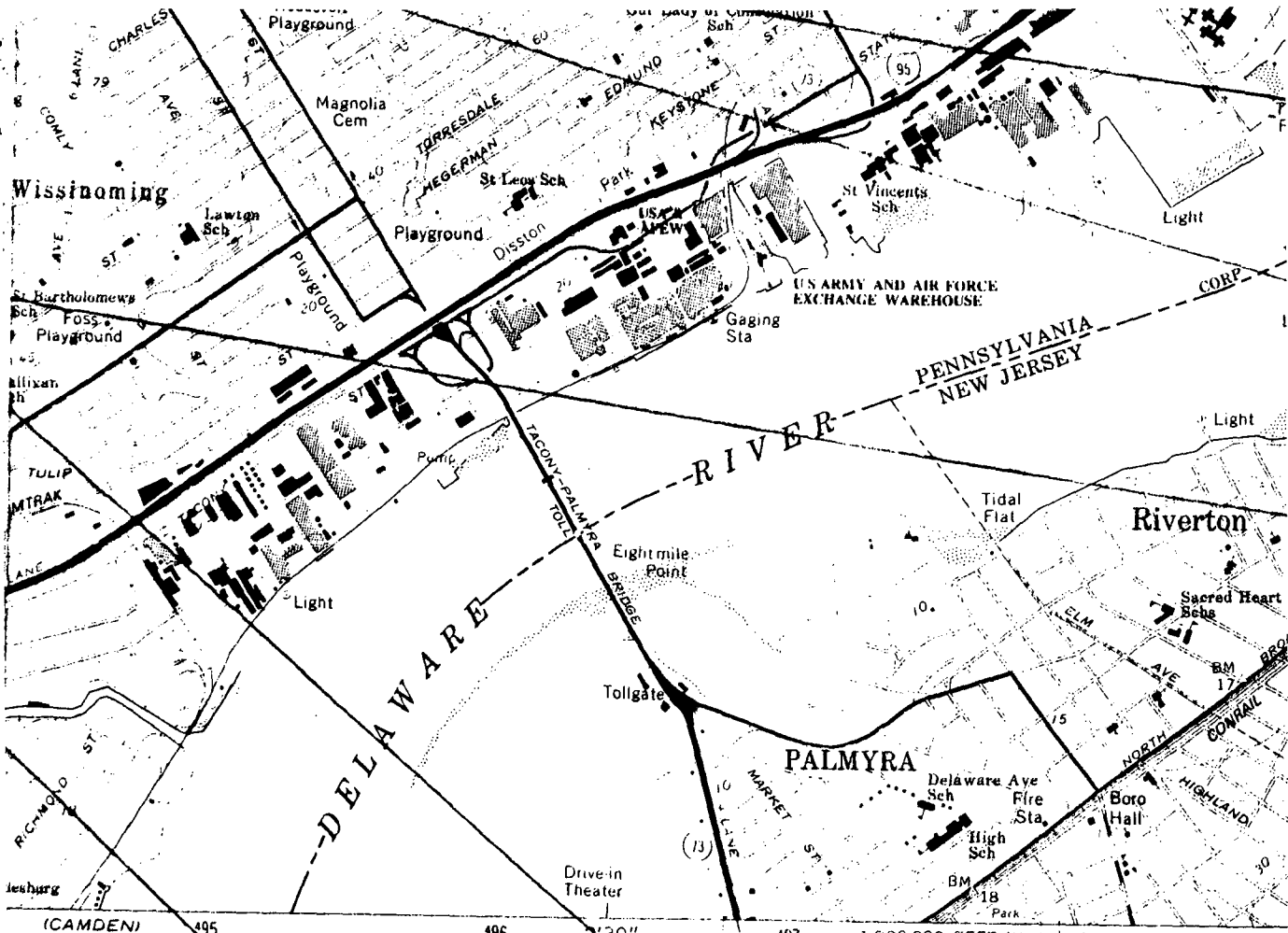
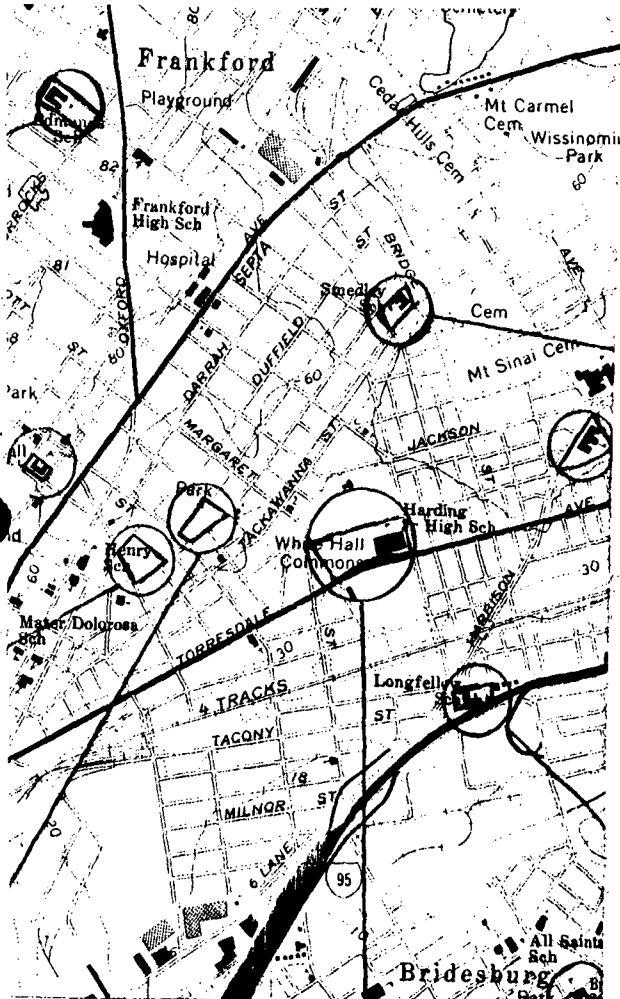
Boundary Justification: The nominated property contains the contributing building and all the historically associated land.

There is one contributing building on the nominated property.

Verbal boundary: the nominated property is tax parcel #886290000.

EVALUATION

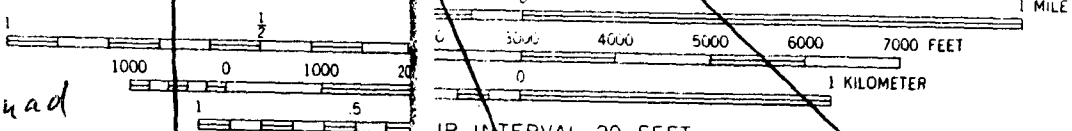
EVALUATOR(S)



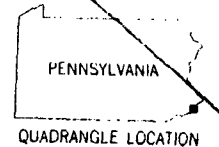
MI 5' 493 494

(CAMDEN) 495 496 497 498
 5963 LINE 2'30" 1 900 000 FEET (N. J.) 130
 1.5 MI TO U.S. 130 NEW JERSEY TURNPIKE 7 MI. INTERIOR—GEOLOGIC

Tools
 Frankford Quad



SCALE 1:24 000
 JR INTERVAL 20 FEET
 REPRESENT 10-FOOT CONTOURS
 METRIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
 READINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
 BETWEEN THE TWO DATUMS IS VARIABLE
 IS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
 OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 6 FEET



MAGNETIC NORTH
 OF SHEET
 and compiled fr
 other sources
 Map edited 198
 in areas

Philadelphia Public Schools
 Thematic Nomination
 Warren Harding School
 Philadelphia County
 Zone 18
 UTM 18/493630/4428940

Philadelphia Public Schools
 Thematic Nomination
 Bridesburg School
 Philadelphia County
 Zone 18
 UTM 18/494180/4427820

Philadelphia Public Schools
 Thematic Nomination
 Henry Longfellow School
 Philadelphia County
 Zone 18
 UTM 18/493900/4428480

Philadelphia Public Schools
 Thematic Nomination
 James Sullivan School
 Philadelphia County
 Zone 18
 UTM 18/494260/4429300

Heavy-duty
 Medium-duty
 Interstate Route