

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
 886286000

10. U.T.M. zone 18 4 8 9 80 10
 3 acres
 easting
 4 14 13 12 40 10
 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

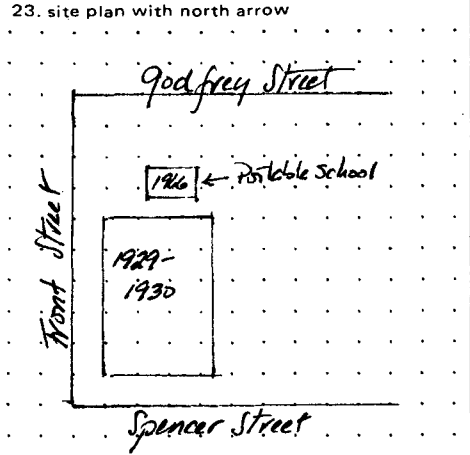
16. architect or engineer
 Irwin T. Catharine

17. contractor or builder
 Unknown

18. primary building mat./construction
 Brick with terra
 cotta trim

21. condition Excellent

22. integrity Excellent



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

(continue on back if necessary)

27. history, significance and/or background
 See reverse side

(continue on back if necessary)

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 Thomas K. Finletter School

2. municipality Philadelphia
 6. other name (historic name if any) N/A

3. street address or specific location
 6101 N. Front Street

4. survey code

3. ADDRESS: Front Street, 6101 N.
5. NAME: Finletter, Thomas K., 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 basements 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 Thomas K. Finletter School possesses a very high degree of integrity. It is an excellent example of Catherine's 1920s & 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, one non-contributing building, and the historically associated land.

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

Verbal boundary: the nominated property is tax parcel #886286000.

EVALUATION

EVALUATOR(S)

Philadelphia Public Schools
Thematic Nomination
Thomas Finletter School
Philadelphia County
Zone 18
UTM 18/489800/4432400

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

