

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		1. County Philadelphia	5. present name Edwin Forrest School
8. property owners name and address School District of Philadelphia 21st & Winter Streets Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103		9. tax parcel number / other number 886242500			
12. classification site () structure () object () building () Thematic in N.R. district yes () no ()		13. date(s) (how determined) 1928-1929		15. style, design or folk type Art Deco	
16. architect or engineer Irwin T. Catharine		14. period 1928-1929		19. original use School	
17. contractor or builder <i>with record</i> Unknown		18. primary building mat./construction Brick with terra cotta trimmings		20. present use School	
21. condition Excellent		22. integrity Excellent		6. other name (historic name if any) N/A	
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.		2. municipality Philadelphia	
24. photo notation		3. street address or specific location 4300 Bleigh Street		4. survey code	
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		29. prepared by: Jefferson M. Moak		30. date 5-31-87	
28. sources of information See reverse side		29. prepared by: Jefferson M. Moak		revision(s)	
(continue on back if necessary)		(continue on back if necessary)		(continue on back if necessary)	

3. ADDRESS: Bleigh Street, 4300

5. NAME: Forrest, Edwin, School

6. FORMER NAME:

13. DATES: 1928-1929

ADDITIONS: 1953

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, this school possesses a very high degree of integrity. It is an excellent example of Catharine'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

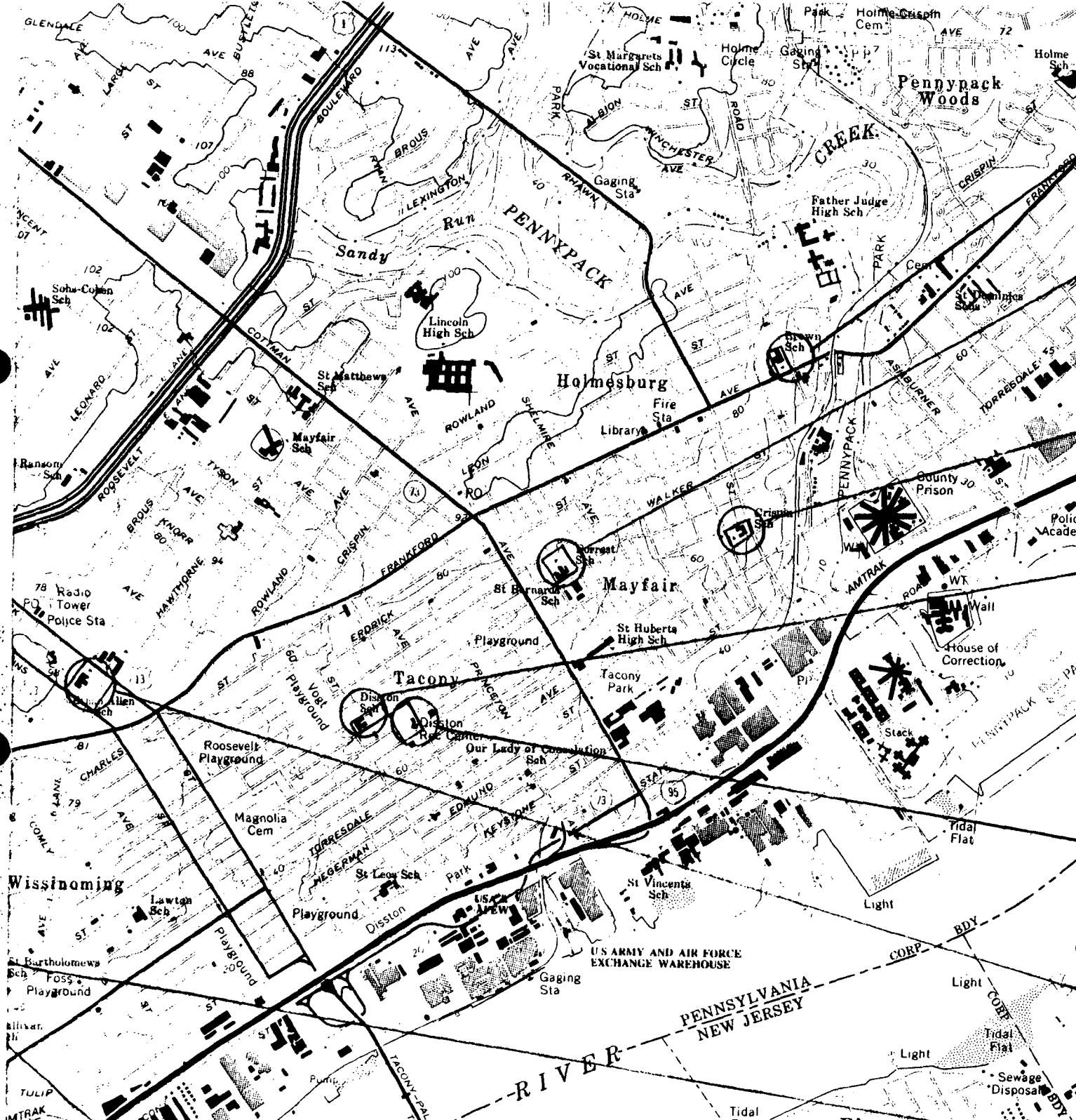
Boundary Justification: The nominated property contains the contributing building, one non-contributing building and the historically associated land.

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

Verbal boundary: the nominated property is tax parcel #886242500.

EVALUATION

EVALUATOR(S)



Torresdale
 Philadelphia Public Schools
 Thematic Nomination
 Joseph Brown School
 Philadelphia County
 Zone 18
 UTM 18/497860/4432360

Philadelphia Public Schools
 Thematic Nomination
 Edwin Forrest School
 Philadelphia County
 Zone 18
 UTM 18/496890/4431380

Philadelphia Public Schools
 Thematic Nomination
 Benjamin Crispin School
 Philadelphia County
 Zone 18
 UTM 18/497700/4431570

Philadelphia Public Schools
 Thematic Nomination
 Hamilton Disston School
 Philadelphia County
 Zone 18
 UTM 18/495970/4430680

Frankford Quad
 Philadelphia Public Schools
 Thematic Nomination
 Mary Disston School
 Philadelphia County
 Zone 18
 UTM 18/496210/4430680

Philadelphia Public Schools
 Thematic Nomination
 Ethan Allen School
 Philadelphia County
 Zone 18
 UTM 18/494680/4430840

Philadelphia Public Schools