

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY FORM OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION Box 1026 PA HISTORICAL & MUSEUM COMMISSION Harrisburg, PA 17120		7. Local survey organization Philadelphia Historical Commission		1. County Philadelphia	
8. property owners name and address School District of Philadelphia 21st and Winter Streets Philadelphia, PA 19103		9. tax parcel number / other number 886180500	10. U.T.M. zone 18 49015140 2.2 acres 41421517 D 10 northing use sheet: Camden		5. present name Richmond School
12. classification site () structure () object () building () Thematic in N.R. district yes () no ()		13. date(s) (how determined) 1928-1929	14. period 1928-1929	15. style, design or folk type Late Gothic Revival	
16. architect or engineer Irwin T. Catharine		17. contractor or builder Weiss Construction		18. primary building mat./construction Brick with stone trim	20. present use School
19. original use School		21. condition Excellent		22. integrity Excellent	2. municipality Philadelphia
23. site plan with north arrow 		24. photo notation		6. other name (historic name if any) N/A	
25. file/location		26. brief description (note unusual features, integrity, environment, threats and associated buildings) A 3-story, 9-register brick building on a raised basement. Each register contains 3 windows within a stone opening on each floor, a stone dripcourse, small stone beltcourse/cornice above the first and third floors, and a stone coping atop a crenellated parapet. The central register has a projecting stone entryway with a Tudor-arched opening and the name of the school carved above the opening. A pair of small openings with stone surrounds pierces the parapet above the third floor in the central register. The side elevation stretches seven registers with a blank wall in the first register, a slightly projecting second register with 1-2-1 openings highlighted by stone surrounds and stone panels under the openings, triple sash within the third to sixth registers and a single opening in the last register.		3. street address or specific location 2942 Belgrade Street	
27. history, significance and/or background During the expansive years of the 1920's, the School District had 77 new schools erected and 24 additions constructed on existing buildings. The 77 included 56 elementary schools, 16 junior high schools, 3 senior high schools and 2 technical schools. The program reflected the needs that arose from the continued growth of population, the spread of development and, to a lesser extent, the desire of the		29. prepared by: J. M. Moak		4. survey code	
28. sources of information Edmunds, Chronological List of School Buildings, School Board, New Buildings Under Contract		30. date 5-29-87 revision(s)			

27. HISTORY/SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

District to modernize its facilities.

In response to this program, Irwin T. Catharine adopted the expedient of employing the same or essentially the same plans and elevations for a number of buildings. For example, Type 153, a 3-story, 9-register, Collegiate Gothic model, was used for five schools in various parts of the city. Although less flamboyant than other Catharine designs, it, nevertheless, made a strong statement of association with the tradition of learning and education through the use of Collegiate Gothic detailing.

The Richmond School and its four identical buildings represent Philadelphia's response to the needs of a rapidly growing and changing education system. The Richmond School possesses an extraordinarily high degree of integrity.

National Register Criteria: C, Architecture

Boundary Justification: The nominated property contains the contributing building and all historically associated land. A non-contributing portable school of 1966 also stands on the site.

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

Verbal boundary: the nominated property is tax parcel #886180500.

EVALUATION

For its place in the history of education and of school architecture in Philadelphia, the Richmond School warrants entry on the National Register.

EVALUATOR(S)

3. ADDRESS: Belgrade Street, 2942

5. NAME: Richmond School

6. FORMER NAME:

13. DATES: 1928-1929

ADDITIONS:

DESCRIPTION: A 3-story, 9-register brick building set upon a raised basement, with each register containing three windows within a stone opening on each floor, a stone dripcourse, small stone beltcourse/cornice above the first and third floors, and a stone coping atop the crenellated parapet. The central register contains a projecting stone entryway with a Tudor-arched opening and the name of the school carved over this opening. A pair of small openings with stone surrounds pierces the parapet above the third floor in the central register. The side elevation stretches seven registers with a blank wall filling the register closest to the front, a slightly projecting second register with 1-2-1 openings highlighted by stone surrounds and stone panels beneath the openings, triple sash within the third to sixth registers and a single opening within the far register.

HISTORY/SIGN.: The Richmond School is one of five erected from the plans of School Board Type Number 153. It is not as flamboyant as some of Catharine's other designs of this period. The other schools of this type, and their dates of construction, are the Henry H. Houston School (1926-1927), the Avery D. Harrington School (1926-1927), the Franklin Smedley School (1927-1928) and the William H. Harrison School (1928-1929). The integrity of the original designs of the first two mentioned schools has been seriously compromised by later additions.

28. SOURCES: Edmunds, Chronological List of School Buildings, 1818-1934
School Board, "New Buildings Under Contract"
Building Permit 1928 # 2862

EVALUATION: Despite its pedestrian appearance, this building is a good example of its style and type and should be included as part of the Philadelphia Public Schools Thematic District.

EVALUATION

EVALUATOR(S)

Thematic Nomination
Phillip Sheridan School
Philadelphia County
Zone 18
UTM 18/490240/4427500

Philadelphia Public Schools
Thematic Nomination
Russell Conwell School
Philadelphia County
Zone 18
UTM 18/490190/4426900

Philadelphia Public Schools
Thematic Nomination
John Paul Jones Jr. High
Philadelphia County
Zone 18
UTM 18/490360/4426000

Philadelphia Public Schools
Thematic Nomination
Richmond School
Philadelphia County
Zone 18
UTM 18/490540/4425700

Camden Quad

