

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 886181500		10. U.T.M. zone 18 4901910 1.2 acres 44216191010 usgs sheet: Camden	
12. classification site () structure () object () building () Thematic in N.R. district Yes () No ()		13. date(s) (how determined) 1925-1926		15. style, design or folk type Late Gothic Revival	
16. architect or engineer Irwin T Catharine		17. contractor or builder Unknown		19. original use School	
				20. present use School	
				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) A 3-story, 9-register, brick building set on a raised basement with a stone dripcourse, projecting outside registers, central arched door opening with stone surrounds, projecting 2-story stone bay at the second and third floors over the entry, and stone surrounds to all windows. The left and right center registers mirror each other with a 1-2-1 arrangement on the left and right and two small openings in the center. Stone coping tops the structure. Carved stone panels form part of the window designs in the end pavilions.					
(continue on back if necessary)					
27. history, significance and/or background The Russell Conwell School reflects the subtle variety Irwin T. Catharine utilized to differentiate and individualize schools that followed essentially the same model. It also reveals a progression over time of the detailing of similar forms and plans. In his Morrison School of 1922-1924 which also appears in this nomination, Catharine applied a Jacobethan motif in red brick with stone trim to the basic					
(continue on back if necessary)					
28. sources of information Edmunds, Chronological List of Philadelphia School Buildings School Board, New Buildings Under Contract				29. prepared by: J. M. Moak	
30. date 6-19-87				revision(s)	
(continue on back if necessary)					
6. other name (historic name if any) N/A					
2. municipality Philadelphia					
3. street address or specific location 1829-1951 East Clearfield Street					
4. survey code					

27. HISTORY/SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

3-story, 9 register elementary school with projecting end registers. His George Wolf School, now the Bartram High School Annex and also included in this nomination, of 1926-1927 employed yellow brick with stone trim with rather spare collegiate gothic embellishment. In the Russell H. Conwell School (1925-1926), he provided a richer collegiate gothic treatment with red brick to much the same form. In this, and in his abandonment of the earlier Georgian and Regency Revivals inherited from Richards, he seems to have sought a more pronounced association of an ancient and traditional academic architecture with the new schools of the expansive period of construction after World War I in Philadelphia. This treatment has a particular appropriateness for this school, for it was named for Russell H. Conwell, the founder of Temple University. Moreover, the Conwell School was one of a small number of demonstration schools, a further illustration of Philadelphia's attempt to keep its school system current in theory and practice.

National Register Criteria: A, Education and 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 #886181500.

EVALUATION

For its place in the history of education and of school architecture in Philadelphia, this school should be placed on the National Register.

EVALUATOR(S)

Camden Quad

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Philadelphia Public Schools
Thematic Nomination
James Martin School
Philadelphia County
Zone 18
UTM 18/491680/4425940

Philadelphia Public Schools
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

586 11 SW
(GERMANTOWN)

