

**PENNSYLVANIA HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY FORM**  
**BUREAU FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION** Box 1026  
**PA HISTORICAL & MUSEUM COMMISSION** Harrisburg, PA 17120

7. Local survey organization

8. property owners name and address  
 City of Philadelphia  
 Department of Public Property  
 1030 Municipal Services Building  
 Philadelphia, PA 19107

9. tax parcel number/other number

10. U.T.M. Zone easting  
 1 8 4 8 9 7 6 0  
 one acre  
 4 4 2 6 2 8 0  
 northing  
 usgs sheet: Camden

11. status (other surveys, lists etc.)

12. classification  
 site ( ) structure ( ) object ( )  
 building ( ) district ( )  
 thematic

13. date(s) (how determined)  
 1899-1900  
 14. period

15. style, design or folk type  
 Vict. Romanesque

19. original use school  
 20. present use comm. center

16. architect or engineer  
 J.W. Anshutz

17. contractor or builder  
 J.E. and A.J. Pencock

18. primary building mat./construc.  
 wood/brick  
 stone trim

21. condition good  
 22. integrity excellent

23. site plan with north arrow

.....

2. municipality Philadelphia  
 5. present name same  
 6. other name (historic name if any)  
 Thomas Powers School  
 3. street address or specific location  
 Frankford Avenue and Somerset Street  
 4. survey code

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)  
 NPS counting purposes: one contributing building  
 (continue on back if necessary)

27. history, significance and/or background  
 (continue on back if necessary)

28. sources of information  
 see bibliography for nomination  
 (continue on back if necessary)

29. prepared by:  
 B. Mintz

Computer Coding (BHP Survey Grantees Must Complete)

30. date 7/1986  
 revision(s)

31. county \_\_\_\_\_ 32. style \_\_\_\_\_

33. construction material \_\_\_\_\_ 34. roof \_\_\_\_\_

35. design type \_\_\_\_\_

36. historic function \_\_\_\_\_

37. construction feature \_\_\_\_\_ 38. ext. walls \_\_\_\_\_ 39. plan \_\_\_\_\_

40. facade width \_\_\_\_\_ 41. roof material \_\_\_\_\_ 42. stories \_\_\_\_\_ 43. depth \_\_\_\_\_

44. ext. design \_\_\_\_\_

45. int. design \_\_\_\_\_

Thomas Powers School

Physical Description

Constructed of random coursed granite blocks, this three story, with basement structure rests on a coursed stone base with smooth dressed band course broken by the sills of the first floor windows. The square plan of the building is broken by two projecting, stepped Flemish gable, frontispieces, of varying designs. The fenestration pattern is regular with single and paired, square headed sash on the first and third floors, and single and double arched sash on the second floor. Straight lintels cap the first and third floors; arched granite and limestone lintels with keystone enhance the second floor. The projecting frontispiece sash are embellished with linked, round arched, splayed and square headed lintels. At the building corner is a subtle, projecting round arched tower, rising the full height of the building. The structure culminates in a hipped roof with large projecting chimneys.

Statement of Significance.

Constructed in 1899-1900, the Powers School is unique among Philadelphia public schools designed by Anschutz and included in the thematic group. Most of the first schools designed by Anschutz are in the Queen Anne and Gothic styles. He tended to adopt the Classical and Colonial Revival styles for his later schools. The Powers School, on the other hand, incorporates elements of the Victorian Romanesque style as well as Flemish gables. The polychromy and voussoirs found on the Powers School relate back to the Victorian Romanesque style popular in Philadelphia well before the turn of the century. No other schools designed by Anschutz and included in the thematic group share these Victorian Romanesque features or the Flemish gables.

Thus the Powers School is significant as a distinctive Victorian Romanesque school designed by Anschutz at the turn of the century.

area of significance: architecture

verbal boundary description

The nominated property consists of Philadelphia County lot 8861825 which contains the school and its contiguous grounds.

EVALUATION

EVALUATOR(S)

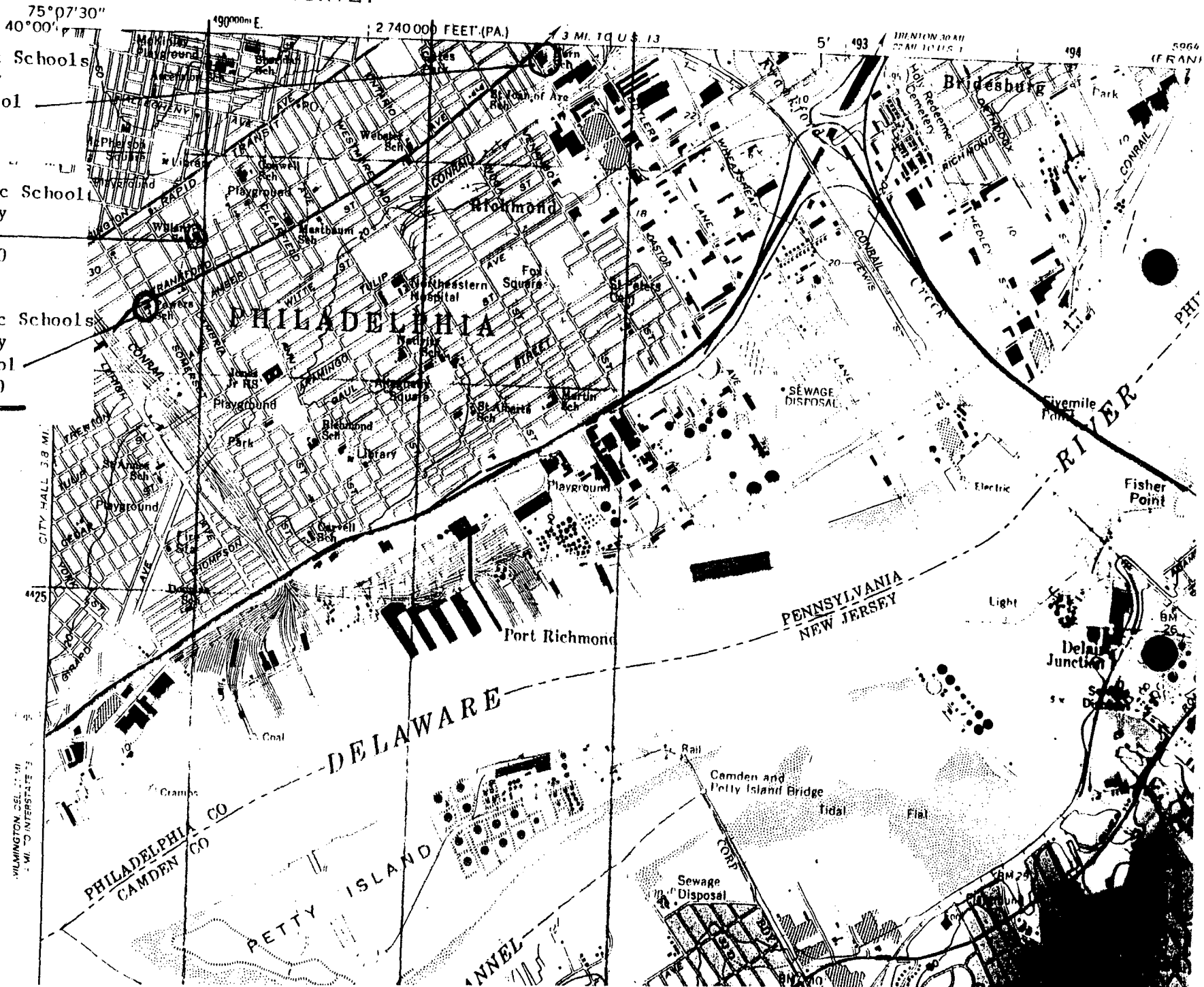
UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Camden, NJ-PA Quad

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
George L. Horn School  
18E491 520N4427 480

Philadelphia Public School  
Philadelphia County  
Willard School  
18E489 980N4426 620

Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia County  
Thomas Powers School  
18E489 760N4426 280



58° 11' 50" N  
SERMANTOWN

75°07'30"  
40°00'

1900000 E.

2740000 FEET (PA)

3 MI. TO U.S. 13

5' 493

BENTON 30 AN  
72 AN 10 U.S. 1

494

5064  
(FRAN)

CITY HALL 3.8 MI.

425

WILMINGTON, DEL. 27. MI.  
1 MI. TO INTERSTATE 76

PHILADELPHIA CO  
CAMDEN CO

DELAWARE

PETTY ISLAND

ANNEL

PENNSYLVANIA  
NEW JERSEY

Camden and  
Petty Island Bridge

Sewage  
Disposal

Tidal  
Flat

Delaware  
Junction

BM 26

BM 25