8. Property owner's name and address

School District of Philadelphia
21st Street and the Parkway
Philadelphia, PA 19103

9. Tax parcel number/other number

10. U.T.M. Zone

11. Status (other surveys, lists etc.)

12. Classification

13. Date(s) how determined

14. Period

15. Style, design or folk type

16. Architect or engineer

17. Contractor or builder

18. Primary building material/construction

19. Original use

20. Present use

21. Condition

22. Integrity

23. Site plan with north arrow

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

30. Date

7/1986
Physical Description

The Jacobs School is comprised of an original 1855 wing designed by Samuel Sloan, joined to a later Colonial Revival building constructed in 1915. While alterations obscure some of the original detailing, the Sloan wing consists of a two story stone building sheathed with stucco. A stone water table is pierced by partially below grade basement windows, now sealed with concrete. Sloan’s concern for adequate lighting can be seen in the use of large elongated windows which pierce the easternmost bay of the side, or southern elevation. A later band of four double hung sash windows and continuous granite sills distinguishes the center bay, with single six over six double hung sash.

The later main portion of the school consists of a hip-roofed two and a half story three bay rectangular brick building. The main elevation is distinguished by three bands of four, double hung six over six sash with granite sills. An overhanging cornice supported by decorative modillions crowns the elevation. Gabled dormers cap the building.

A modern one story brick addition with modern safety doors and bands of thin casement windows adjoins the building at the northernmost end.

Statement of Significance

The Jacobs School stands as the only surviving example of a school designed by Samuel Sloan in Philadelphia. Sloan’s plan for school interiors featured multipurpose rooms divided by moveable partitions and flanked by stairways. Sloan’s plan formed the basis for the design of school interiors during the second half of the nineteenth century.

The original Jacobs School featured a floor plan typical of Sloan’s plan—three interconnected classrooms with flanking stairways. The building was substantially enlarged in 1915, when its name was changed from Fayette School to Jacobs School. Despite the addition, the Jacobs School remains as the only surviving Philadelphia public school designed by Samuel Sloan, a key figure in the design of Philadelphia public schools.

area of significance: architecture

verbal boundary description

The nominated property consists of Philadelphia county lot 8862750 which contains the school and its contiguous grounds.