

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
 Opportunities Industrial Center, Inc.
 Broad & Thompson Streets
 Philadelphia, Pa.

9. tax parcel number/other number

10. U.T.M. Zone Easting Northing
 18 4 8 4 8 0 0
 less than one acre
 4 4 3 1 7 6 0
 usgs sheet: Germantown

11. status (other surveys, lists etc.)

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

13. date(s) (how determined)
 1874 - 1875
 14. period

15. style, design or folk type
 Italianate/Gothic

19. original use School
 20. present use Training Ctr.

16. architect or engineer
 Louis Esler

17. contractor or builder

18. primary building mat./construc.
 Brick/Brownstone

21. condition Good
 22. integrity Fair

23. site plan with north arrow

24. photo notation

25. file/location

BLACK AND WHITE PRINT(S)
 3 1/2" x 5" enlargement or medium format contact
 note location of negative in block 24.

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 _____
 32. 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 _____

1. County PHILADELPHIA
 2. Municipality PHILADELPHIA
 3. street address or specific location MCCALLUM & HAINES STREETS
 4. survey code
 5. present name O.I.C. INC.
 6. other name (historic name if any) GERMAN TOWN GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Germantown Grammar School

Physical Description

The Germantown Grammar School is a three story serpentine brownstone structure with smooth dressed brownstone trim. Designed in the Italianate style with Gothic Revival overtones, the building is square in massing and is punctuated by the projecting, pedimented cross gables. Smooth dressed brownstone quoining and brownstone stringcourses bring some architectural interest to the standard school form. The projecting, pedimented frontispiece is pierced by three bay openings. The main entrance has a segmented surround detail with brownstone quoining. Infilling the opening are modern, double leaf metal and glass doors. Above the transom opening has been infilled. The fenestration pattern is regular with segmentally arched, four over four sash. Segmented brownstone lintels with decorative keystones support the openings. Select window openings have been closed in, although the shape of the opening is still clearly read. The bays on the flanking sides of the frontispiece follow the same fenestration pattern. Crowning the building is a large molded wood, bracketed cornice with a return at the pediment. Inset into the gable end wall is an ocular vent window with brownstone surround. Adjacent to the main structure is a new two story addition. Constructed in a material compatible both in color and texture to the original, this addition provides a slightly jarring note to the building plant. The building is located on a tree lined site and is framed by a wrought iron fence.

Statement of Significance

The Germantown Grammar School stands as one of the few surviving examples of school architecture dating from the 1870's. Constructed in 1874, this structure was designed by Louis H. Esler, the first architect appointed Building Supervisor for the school district of Philadelphia, in 1867. This office was created in response to the need for new schools following the consolidation of Philadelphia in 1854. With this annexation of new school populations, additional structures had to be provided for these new pupils. The office of Building Supervisor was responsible for initiating a boom in school building activity in the post Civil War years. Prior to the creation of this official position, the School Board commissioned architects and builders to construct their school buildings, many of which were based upon the Sloan Plan. The earliest of Esler's structures indicated his hesitancy to stray from basic forms and standards; however, his design for the Germantown Grammar School indicates some glimmer of individuality. Larger in plan and massing, and slightly more sophisticated in detailing, this structure appears to rest at the opposite end of the spectrum from its contemporary structure the Alfred Crease School. Perhaps the high style Victorian, residential architecture surrounding the site of the Germantown Grammar School, inspired Esler to create a structure which would stand out on the street. Despite this apparent departure from the norm, the building is very much residential in character.

Thus this school is significant as one of the few examples of school architecture surviving from the 1870s. It is also outstanding for its exterior design which is fairly sophisticated for its time.

EVALUATION

EVALUATOR(S)

ADDITIONAL DATA/PHOTOS
number all continuations from front

4, survey code

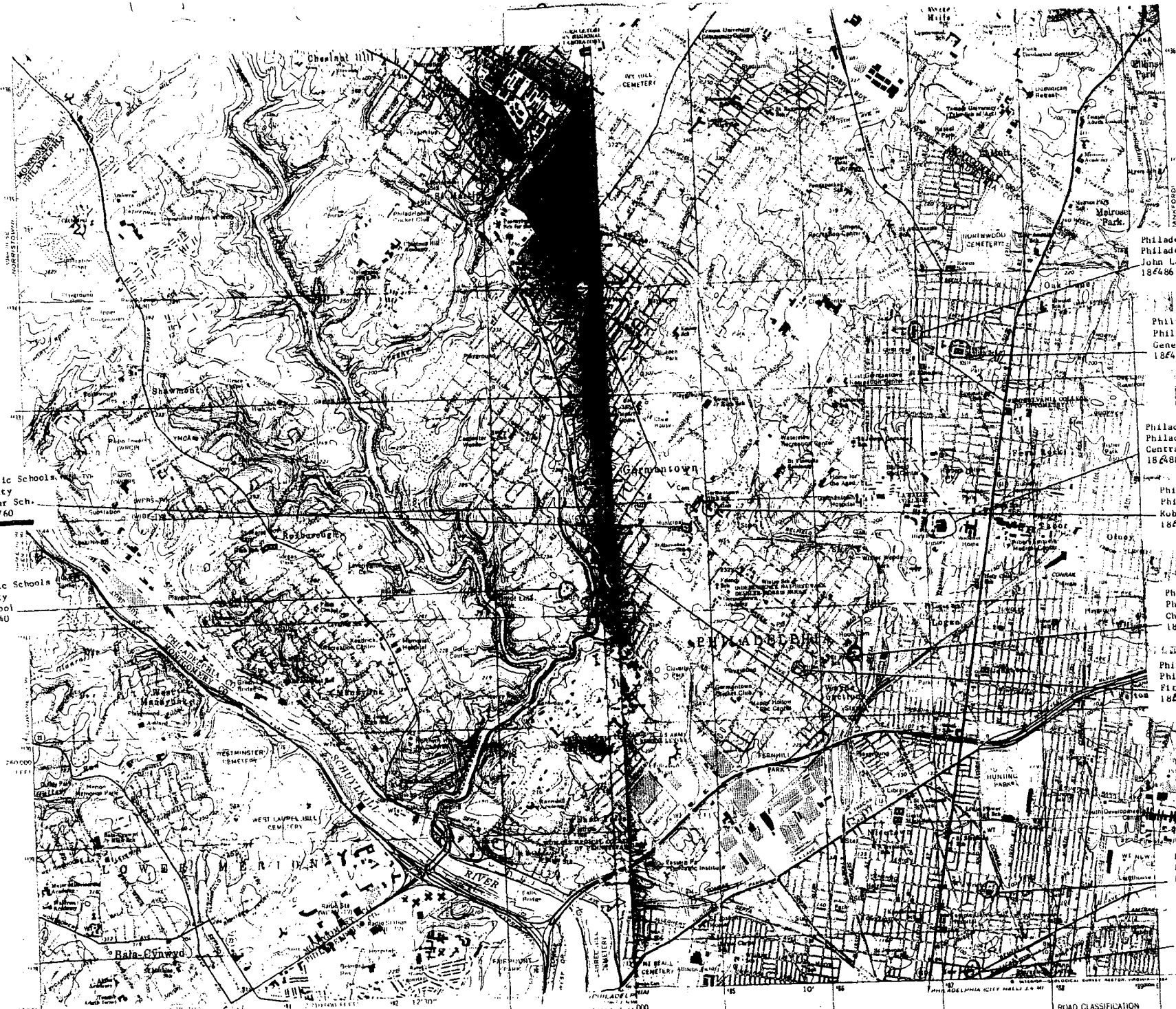
area of significance: architecture

verbal boundary description

The nominated property consists of Philadelphia County lot 8862795 which contains the school and its contiguous grounds.

EVALUATION

EVALUATOR(S)



Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Germantown Grammar Sch.
86 800N4431 760

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Crease School
3 660N4431 240

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
John L. Kinsey School
182486 980N4433 460

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
General Louis Wagner Jr.
182487 380N4433260

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Central High School
182488 160 N4431 700

Philadelphia Public School
Philadelphia County
Robert Fulton School
182485 040N4431 920

Philadelphia Public School
Philadelphia County
Charles Schaeffer School
182486 300N4430 580

Philadelphia Public School
Philadelphia County
Fidler School
182485 780N4430 440

Philadelphia Public School
Philadelphia County
Richardson L. Wright Sch
182487 460N4428 340

Philadelphia Public School
Philadelphia County
Simon Fair School
182487 280N4427 660

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Produced by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs

VERTICAL INTERVAL 10 FEET
HORIZONTAL INTERVAL DATUM OF 1929

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy duty	Light duty
Medium duty	Unimproved dirt
Interstate Route	U.S. Route
	State Route