



# PENNSYLVANIA SCHOOLS SURVEY SUMMARY REPORT



Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Bureau of Historic Preservation  
Preservation Pennsylvania

# **PENNSYLVANIA SCHOOLS SURVEY SUMMARY REPORT**

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# CONTENTS

|  | Page |
|--|------|
| CONTENTS   | i    |
| ILLUSTRATIONS  | ii   |
| INTRODUCTION   | 1    |
| METHODOLOGY REVIEW   | 1    |
| OVERVIEW OF ARCHITECTURAL DATA COLLECTED   | 5    |
| Introduction   | 5    |
| 1900-1930 (Late Progressive Era)   | 6    |
| 1931-1938 (Great Depression)   | 8    |
| 1939-1948 (World War II)   | 9    |
| 1949-1969 (Post-WWII and Suburbanization)  | 9    |
| REGIONAL SUMMARY OF FEATURES AND SCHOOL CHARACTERISTICS                          | 11   |
| RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER PROJECT WORK   | 12   |
| BIBLIOGRAPHY   | 13   |
| APPENDICES   |      |
| Appendix A: Qualifications of Researchers  | 14   |
| Appendix B: List of Schools—February 2006  | 15   |
| Appendix C: Final List of Schools—March 2007                                     | 18   |
| Appendix D: List of Recommended Schools for Preparation of PHRS Forms—March 2007 | 21   |

## ILLUSTRATIONS

| Figure | Title               | Page |
|--------|---------------------|------|
| 1      | School Location Map | 4    |

## INTRODUCTION

The Pennsylvania Schools Survey is an enhanced reconnaissance-level survey of public schools located throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The survey was conducted in accordance with both the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission's "*Guidelines for Historic Resource Surveys in Pennsylvania*" and the National Park Service's *National Register Bulletin 24*, "Guidelines for Local Surveys: A Basis for Preservation Planning." The project is being funded through a grant awarded to Preservation Pennsylvania by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Bureau for Historic Preservation (BHP).

This project is an enhanced reconnaissance-level examination of public elementary and secondary school properties constructed between 1900 and 1969 that still function as educational facilities. These schools are distributed throughout the five BHP Historic Preservation Management Regions. Limited physical and historical data, a recommendation for further study, and accompanying graphic and photographic materials collected for each resource have been submitted. This material will form the foundation for an intensive survey of select schools identified during this survey and future surveys of additional schools in the Commonwealth. No National Register evaluations were included as part of this project. This report presents a review of the project methodology, an overview of the architectural data collected, and a summary of regional features and school characteristics as allowable based upon the relatively limited size of the survey.

## METHODOLOGY REVIEW

The work necessary to complete the Pennsylvania Schools Survey was divided into multiple tasks. Outreach and coordination, fieldwork preparation activities, fieldwork, and preparation of submissions were conducted during the duration of the project. A list of 75 schools was prepared to facilitate initial outreach to school principals by the BHP (Appendix B). The Draft Pennsylvania Public Schools Historic Context provided by the BHP establishes two historical periods within the chronological period of the project. These two periods, 1867-1930 and 1930-1969, were further divided to fit within the 1900-1969 period of the project and to reflect historical events and educational trends discussed in the context and culled from other accessible secondary sources. These four time periods include 1900-1930 (Late Progressive Era), 1931-1938 (Great Depression), 1939-1948 (World War II), and 1949-1969 (Post-WWII and Suburbanization). Key historical issues, key shifts or trends in education theory, and key school building and landscape elements of each time period were noted.

Cultural Heritage Research Services, Inc. (CHRS) received a listing of Pennsylvania schools from research pulled together by Tom Hylton. Mr. Hylton's research was manipulated to form a database of only those schools with a noted date of construction, and organized primarily by BHP Management Region, county, year, and school district. Within each BHP Management Region, beginning with the Great Valley and Piedmont Region, counties were chosen that were distributed through the region and that contained districts with a reasonable number of schools listed in Mr. Hylton's edited database. Using the goal of surveying an early period neighborhood school and a later period consolidated school in a single district, school districts with at least a few of each type

of school were noted in each selected county in anticipation that some schools would be eliminated from evaluation by principals during initial outreach. This strategy was used in each region for consistency and fieldwork efficiency. Where possible, consideration was also given to surveying a mix of urban, suburban, and rural school districts. The online school district website for each selected school district was accessed to find photographs and information for each of the district's schools identified in the database. Mr. Hylton's research (identifying acreage and walking student numbers) and Yahoo!® Local Maps, were used to help determine whether a school was likely a neighborhood school. On the basis of the selection criteria, three selection levels, or tiers, were produced which prioritized the schools which could have been surveyed. The tiered system was intended to rank the schools to be surveyed and provide additional choices should access issues arise. The first tier included schools which appeared to best meet the needs of the project. This tier included 50 schools across five regions. Ideally, this group would have been the schools which would have been surveyed for the project. Four neighborhood schools and six consolidated schools were chosen in the first-tier list for each region. The second tier was an alternate list of schools for survey, including 25 additional schools across five regions. Two neighborhood schools and three consolidated schools were on the second-tier list for each region. The third tier schools were a second level of back-up if denial of access to the first and second tier schools became an issue. These schools were scattered throughout the Commonwealth.

Chosen schools were cross-referenced with a Pennsylvania Cultural Resources Geographic Information System (CRGIS) list of all schools in Pennsylvania from the period between 1900 and 1969. Two second-tier schools had already been surveyed and determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. These were replaced with two other schools on the list.

Using the list of 75 schools, the BHP initiated contact with principals to introduce schools to the project and ascertain interest in participation. This is the phase of the project that presented the largest obstacle towards completing the project in terms of the project schedule and the final total number of surveyed schools. The BHP's efforts to obtain access approval to schools extended well beyond the anticipated schedule in early Spring 2006. A very low response rate from schools precipitated the BHP to expand their contact list and coordination to schools beyond those on the list provided by CHRS. Over the course of Spring, Summer, and Fall 2006 the BHP attempted to obtain additional access approvals. The BHP forwarded school responses to CHRS. Per coordination with Carol Lee (BHP), it was determined that the approved access list as of November 1, 2006 would constitute the final number of surveyed schools. This number was further altered slightly due to unforeseen circumstances during the field survey.

All interested schools were contacted by CHRS to schedule survey appointments and request information, materials, and potential school contacts. Coordination between CHRS and these schools was relatively trouble-free, with few exceptions. Those exceptions related in some cases to changeover of school principals between the time of the initial coordination and the time of scheduling survey appointments.

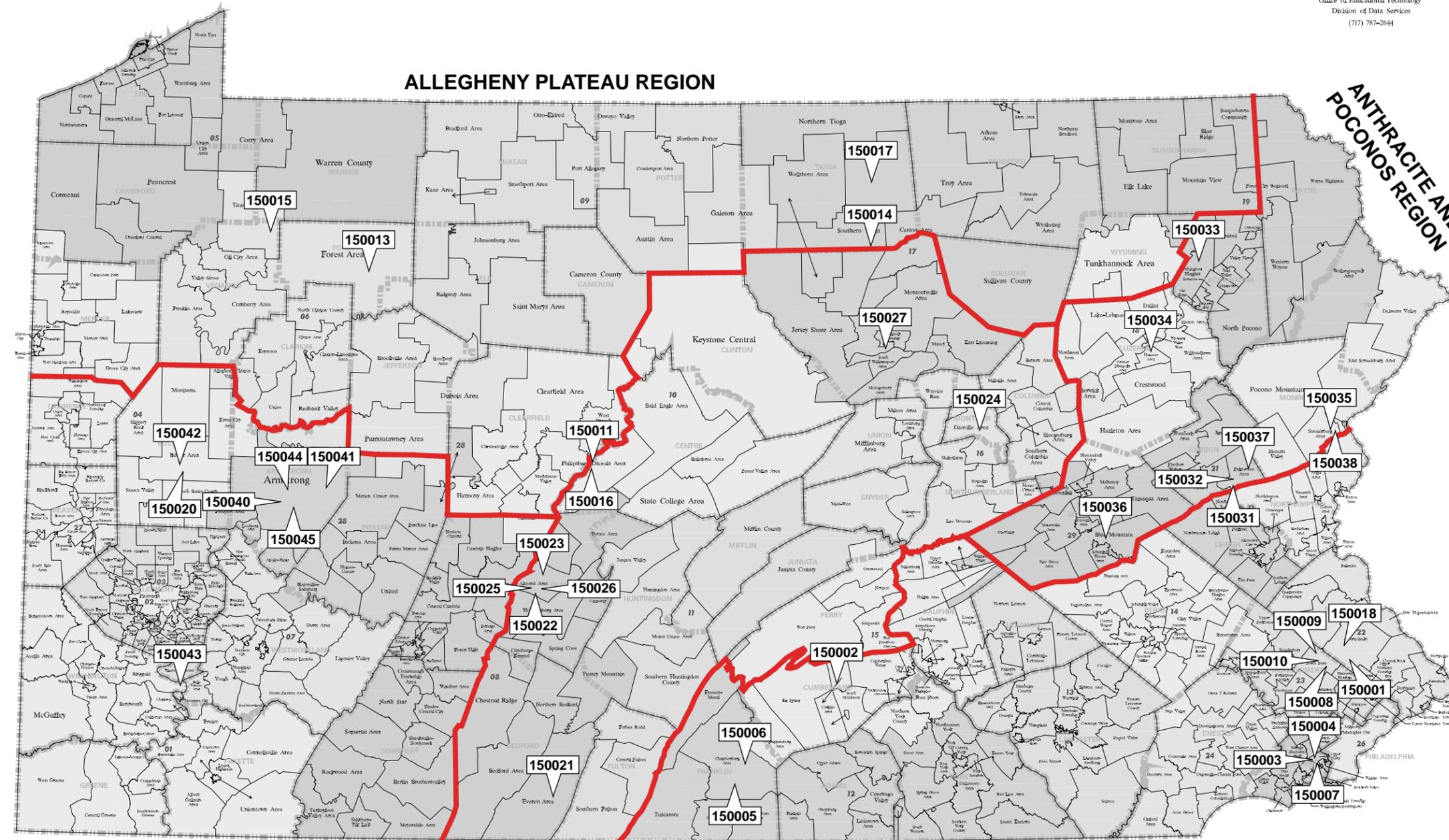
Ultimately, the methodology used to prepare the list of 50 preferred and 25 alternate schools became secondary to the need to accumulate a total of 50 schools to survey. Unfortunately, the initial anticipated distribution of surveyed schools (four "neighborhood" and six "consolidated"

schools, and a total of 10 per region) proved infeasible for this project. That said, the 39 schools that comprise the final survey list do represent a distribution of earlier neighborhood and later consolidated schools, construction time periods, urban, rural, and suburban locations, architectural styles (or no style), and educational levels (Figure 1; Appendix C).

To help avoid similar scheduling and survey content issues, CHRS recommends that preferred schools are identified and a base approved access list of schools is compiled by BHP prior to the Notice-to-Proceed for future school survey projects. CHRS also recommends that BHP provide each school on the list with an official letter noting the school's agreement to participate in the survey. This could alleviate concerns of new principals who have no prior knowledge of the survey, and help avoid a second round of approval coordination. CHRS also recommends that time be included in the project schedule to accommodate the considerable coordination necessary to arrange field survey appointments. It is not possible to commence fieldwork immediately upon receipt of an approved school list.

Additional activities conducted prior to fieldwork included the preparation of field survey packets for each of the schools to be surveyed. Each packet included a modern aerial photograph and USGS map, field survey form based upon data fields provided by the BHP (due to delay in completion of the Enhanced Reconnaissance Survey Form), photo logs, and task/photograph/question checklists. Surveyors also carried identification, and copies of their cleared criminal and child abuse history background checks. Early in the project, the BHP provided CHRS with a block of 50 CRGIS Key Numbers to assign to the 50 schools anticipated to be part of the project. In order to prepare graphics for field use, organize field survey packets, and manage coordination, access approved schools were assigned CRGIS Key Numbers prior to field survey, rather than after as anticipated. Ten CRGIS Key Numbers were initially set aside for each of the five regions. Each access approved school was assigned a number within the range of its region. Over time, as it became apparent that each region would not include 10 schools, some numbers were carried over to other regions as "fill-in," and some numbers were never assigned. CRGIS Key Numbers that have not been used as part of this project include: 150012, 150019, 150028, 150029, 150039, 150046, 150047, 150048, 150049, and 150050.

The field survey was conducted in a systematic manner. Schools were surveyed in clusters as much as possible. Several tasks were completed at each school. A hard copy of a field survey form was completed in the field. One Global Positioning System (GPS) point was taken at the school's main entrance. Digital photographs were taken showing setting and landscape elements, the exterior of the school building, and accessible interior public spaces. Floor plans, site plans, and historical information were gathered from the school or district. All schools had some level of a floor-plan drawing; however, many of the schools were not able to provide site plans. Modern aerial photographs were used as a base to note current site plans and building and landscape elements (such as additions, playgrounds and parking areas) that may have undergone recent changes. Although initial coordination with schools proved difficult, surveyors encountered no difficulties gaining both exterior and interior access once overall access to a school was approved. It was apparent in many instances that the initial step of coordination between the BHP and the school was crucial due to security and safety issues.



- 150001 - Tamanend Middle School
- 150002 - Crestview Elementary School
- 150003 - Garrettford Elementary School
- 150004 - Drexel Hill Middle School
- 150005 - Marion Elementary School
- 150006 - Sharpe Elementary School
- 150007 - Stonehurst Hills Elementary School
- 150008 - North Wales Elementary School
- 150009 - Pennfield Middle School
- 150010 - Inglewood Elementary School
- 150011 - Philipsburg-Osceola Junior High School
- 150013 - East Forest School
- 150014 - Liberty Elementary School
- 150015 - Pleasantville Elementary School
- 150016 - Philipsburg-Osceola Area High School
- 150017 - Warren L. Miller Elementary School
- 150018 - Lenape Middle School
- 150020 - McQuiston Elementary School
- 150021 - Chaneyville-Cove Elementary School
- 150022 - Baker Elementary School
- 150023 - Logan Elementary School
- 150024 - Liberty-Valley Elementary School
- 150025 - D.S. Keith Junior High School
- 150026 - Penn-Lincoln Elementary School
- 150027 - Thaddeus Stevens Elementary School
- 150031 - S.S. Palmer Elementary School
- 150032 - Palmerton Area High School
- 150033 - Abington Heights High School
- 150034 - Lee Park Elementary School
- 150035 - Arlington Heights Elementary Schools
- 150036 - Blue Mountain Cressona Elementary School
- 150037 - Towamensing Elementary School
- 150038 - B.F. Morey Elementary School
- 150040 - Ford City High School
- 150041 - Shannock Valley Elementary
- 150042 - Butler Junior High School
- 150043 - Donora Elementary Center
- 150044 - Kittanning Area Middle School
- 150045 - Kittanning Township Elementary School

SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA REGION

RIDGE AND VALLEY REGION

GREAT VALLEY AND PIEDMONT REGION



SCALE  
NOT TO SCALE

SOURCE  
PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
2004

Prepared by CHRS, Inc.

SCHOOL LOCATION MAP

FIGURE 1

Additional background research was conducted for those schools that were field surveyed in an effort to establish construction dates for a school's main building and additions, and ancillary features on a school's campus. This included discussion with a variety of school staff members, materials provided by the schools and districts, readily available published information, and historic aerial photographs.

CHRS recommends that future school surveys of this type be conducted one region at a time to facilitate surveying schools in clusters. While the overall access issues and scheduling constraints that necessitated some multiple trips to the same vicinity during this project may be alleviated in future surveys, initially restricting future surveys to smaller geographic areas could automatically increase the potential for survey efficiency. A larger cross-section of schools in each region would result as well.

As noted above, each surveyed school was assigned a CRGIS Key Number upon preparation of field survey materials. As the BHP Enhanced Reconnaissance Survey Form was not completed in time to use during this project, photocopies of the field survey form and narrative descriptive text were provided in its place. Modern and historic aerial photographs, USGS location maps, site plans, and floor plans were prepared as not-to-scale graphics with a simple label including the CRGIS Key Number, county, municipality, school name, and basic map/aerial photo reference information. Each graphic was prepared as an individual .PDF file named according to the BHP file naming protocol. After conversion and submission of digital photographs in .TIF format proved to be significantly inefficient and cumbersome due to the size of this file format, all electronic submissions of digital photographs subsequent to the initial May 2006 submission of seven Great Valley and Piedmont Region schools have been submitted only as .JPG files with the approval of BHP. These are also named according to the BHP file naming protocol. A photo log was provided with information including CRGIS Key Number, school name, basic photo identification information, and photo view direction. GPS points were provided in UTM format in a table with CRGIS Key Numbers and school names for reference. Hard copies of all documentation were printed on standard-weight white paper, and were submitted unbound in end-tab manila folders provided by the BHP.

## **OVERVIEW OF ARCHITECTURAL DATA COLLECTED**

### Introduction:

Of the 39 schools surveyed during this project, 25 currently function as elementary schools, five as middle schools, three as junior high schools, four as high schools, and one as a kindergarten through twelfth grade school. The educational level of many of these have changed during the schools' histories. High schools, for example, have been converted to junior high schools or elementary schools. The core sections of 16 schools were constructed during the 1900-1930 time period (Late Progressive Era). One school was constructed primarily during the 1931-1938 time period (Great Depression). Two schools were constructed between 1939 and 1948 (World War II), and 20 schools were built during the 1949-1969 time period (Post-WWII and Suburbanization). Per themes previously established, 21 schools are considered neighborhood schools while 18 schools are considered consolidated. Thirteen of the schools in the survey are classified with a formal

architectural style. Six additional schools exhibit some informal decorative elements. The remaining 20 schools are simple structures. Schools in each of these categories are scattered throughout Pennsylvania. Most early period schools in the survey were built in urban areas including cities and boroughs. These are typically neighborhood schools, many of which are designed in distinct architectural styles. Schools constructed during the mid to later time periods tended to be located in rural or suburban areas, or adjacent to urban cores. These are typically consolidated schools, most with little to no architectural style elements.

The following presents a very basic overview of historical, economic, and social trends through the first seven decades of the twentieth century, and how those trends influenced educational theory and in turn, educational buildings and landscapes. More detailed discussion of these trends and their influence on Pennsylvania's educational history can be found in the Draft Pennsylvania Public Schools Historic Context, and in additional histories of education in the Commonwealth and elsewhere. The physical features and use over time of the schools surveyed during this project are reflective of these trends. Additions to schools also reflect the evolution of educational theory over time. Schools are identified by their current name, for consistency of reference.

#### 1900-1930 (Late Progressive Era):

The period between 1900 and 1930 encompasses the later decades of the Progressive Era in the United States. As a response to waves of extensive immigration, industrialization, and professionalization of the work force, key issues during this period related to education's place in democracy, labor and the economy, and public health. Educational theory during the Progressive Era included increased nursery and kindergarten education at one end of the spectrum and high school and junior high school education on the other end, as well as education of handicapped children. A shift in curriculum included specialized coursework including music, art, physical education, science, home economics, and agricultural and industrial education. Community education was also important. This all manifested in a public school building campaign that included high schools, junior high schools, and graded schools that replaced closed one-room schools. The ideal of these new schools emphasized uniformity in building plans and architectural styles, specialized classrooms and spaces, safety and sanitary building provisions, playgrounds and park-like settings.

Seven of the 16 schools in the survey constructed during this time period were originally opened as high schools. All but one, Ford City High School (150040), have since been converted to junior high, middle, or elementary schools. These include North Wales Elementary School (150008), S.S. Palmer Elementary School (150031), Blue Mountain Cressona Elementary School (150036), Butler Junior High School (150042), Donora Elementary Center (150043), and Kittanning Area Middle School (150044). Two schools originally opened as junior high schools including D.S. Keith Junior High School (150025) and Thaddeus Stevens Elementary School (150027). Many elementary schools in the survey were constructed between 1900 and 1930 to replace one-room schools or accommodate increasing student populations in urban areas. The 1911 core of the Marion Elementary School (150005) in Guilford Township, Franklin County is an example of a two-room graded school that replaced at least one one-room school in the community. McQuiston Elementary School (150020) in Butler Township, Butler County opened in 1930 as a multi-grade consolidation of four of Butler Township School District's one-room school buildings. Urban elementary schools

constructed during this period include Mary B. Sharpe Elementary School (150006) in Chambersburg Borough, Franklin County, Stonehurst Hills Elementary School (150007) in Upper Darby Township, Delaware County (adjacent to Philadelphia), and B.F. Morey Elementary School (150038) in Stroudsburg Borough, Monroe County. These elementary schools typically included kindergarten classes.

Schools in this period were often set in landscaped, park-like settings and/or situated on a hill or berm above the community. Many were situated to reflect their connection to the neighborhood, and to facilitate walking students. S.S. Palmer Elementary School (150031) and North Wales Elementary School (150008) are both located directly across from community parks. Lee Park Elementary School (150034), D.S. Keith Junior High School (150025), and Thaddeaus Stevens Elementary School (150027) are all situated well above-grade. Most of the early period schools surveyed were located relatively close to the sidewalk, set back only slightly by narrow lawns. Many of the schools from this period have small improvised parking areas, on-street parking, or off-site parking. Students walked to Stonehurst Hills Elementary School (150007) was a completely neighborhood school until the 1960s. Only then, when some children from other neighborhoods began attending the school, was a small circular driveway constructed in front of it. Nine schools in the survey reflect this period's trend towards uniformity in building plans and architectural styles. Mary B. Sharpe Elementary School (150006) is an example of a Romanesque Revival building. Stonehurst Hills Elementary School (150007) is an H-plan Gothic Revival school. Its "sister" school, Bywood Elementary School, was designed similarly. Collegiate Gothic was the style chosen for the T-plan Thaddeaus Stevens Elementary School (150027) and S.S. Palmer Elementary School (150031). Four schools can be characterized as Classical Revival. These include the E-plan D.S. Keith Junior High School (150025), Ford City High School (150040), Butler Junior High School (150042), and the U-plan Kittanning Area Middle School (150044). Baker Elementary School (150022) is an example of the central tower school plan. Constructed at the later end of the period, in the first year of the Great Depression, the Donora School Board was forced to eliminate an entire wing from the Donora Elementary Center (150043), changing the planned T-plan school to a constructed rectangular building.

Many schools exhibit various architectural elements intended to increase safe and sanitary conditions. Circulation of natural light and air was facilitated by large functional exterior windows and interior transom windows such as those in Stonehurst Hills Elementary School (150007), Marion Elementary School (150005), and Lee Park Elementary School (150034). The large windows in most schools were partially closed or fixed during late twentieth-century renovations, and transoms in some schools, such as Lee Park Elementary School, have been closed. Water fountains and bathrooms also became popular. A water fountain extant in Mary B. Sharpe Elementary School (150006) dates to the 1920s. A bathroom in the 1925 B.F. Morey Elementary School (150038) has original elements. Fire safety features visible in surveyed schools include an original compartment for a fire hose (now housing a modern fire extinguisher) in Stonehurst Hills Elementary School (150007).

This period also exhibited an increase in specialized coursework and classroom spaces. A non-extant 1917 annex of Lee Park Elementary School (150034) housed sewing and shop classrooms. Blue Mountain Cressona Elementary School (150036) was built with a "manual training" shop,

laboratory, domestic science classroom, recitation room, and a library. Initial courses included history, biology, mathematics, chemistry, physical education (separate girls' and boys' locker rooms were located in the school), English, and civics. Mid-twentieth-century additions to the coursework and building included "commercial" courses and industrial arts. By 1921, Butler Junior High School (150042) had introduced separate whole curriculums for students which included preparatory, general, commercial, home economics, industrial, and music. Thaddeus Stevens Elementary School (150027) included the first school library in the Williamsport School District in 1927. Donora Elementary Center (150043) featured a library and physics, biology, and chemistry laboratories.

Community use of schools increased during this period. Stonehurst Hills Elementary School (150007) served as a voting station, a baby clinic, and a local branch of the Upper Darby Library. The auditorium in North Wales Elementary School (150008) was intended by the local Women's Civic Club (who donated money for its construction) for use by the community as a whole. In exchange for their donation, the group was given space in the new school building for another community project. The North Wales Memorial Free Library had been formally established in 1924 and has operated in the school since 1928. School auditoriums, particularly those in urban junior or senior high schools, were designed with the community in mind. D.S. Keith Junior High School (150025) features a decorative secondary entrance and lobby specifically designed for access from the street to the auditorium. The large auditoriums in Ford City High School (150040), Butler Junior High School (150042), and Thaddeus Stevens Elementary School (150027) are located directly in front of the main entrances to the buildings.

#### 1931-1938 (Great Depression):

During the era of the Great Depression many schools played roles in their communities above and beyond that of education. Schools were part of the recovery effort, providing work relief and as community resources. Federal aid and involvement resulted in shifts in school attendance, increasing rates of school consolidation, and school construction. The National Recovery Act of 1933 kept children under 16 out of the work force, thus large numbers of previously working children needed to be accommodated in schools. Many older children stayed in school longer as well, as jobs were no longer available to them. Consolidation of one-room schools in Pennsylvania continued due to improvements in transportation and Works Progress Administration support in the construction of new schools. School sites were typically larger. By the mid-1930s it was noted that over two hundred new school buildings were being constructed in Pennsylvania with substantial federal aid (Vitiello 2006:63). Art Deco and Moderne were architectural styles popular for school construction during this time period.

Only one school surveyed in the project was built during this period, Philipsburg-Osceola Junior High School (150011). Although the original school on the site and a subsequent addition were built ca. 1887 and 1914, respectively, a substantial fire in 1934 forced the Philipsburg School District to re-build the building. Only the small 1914 addition of the pre-fire school remains, absorbed by the Art Deco structure that was constructed partially around it. The building features the linear lines and geometric patterns typical of this simpler, more modern style. A new high school had opened in Philipsburg in 1930, and the newly reconstructed school housed elementary and

junior high school students. Anticipated community use of the building is evident in the three prominent entrances that lead directly to an auditorium lobby and the auditorium.

Only one major addition to surveyed earlier-period schools appears to have occurred during this time period. Based upon review of early photographs and architectural evidence, a wing was added to Ford City High School (150040) during the 1930s, in similar design to the original Classical Revival 1908-09 structure.

#### 1939-1948 (World War II):

Construction of schools during this period was severely curtailed by World War II. Construction materials, money, and workers were all diverted to the war effort. In addition, older students were leaving school for the military or home-front factories, decreasing school populations. Schools that were constructed during this time period tended to reflect building trends popular in the years leading up to the war.

One school was newly constructed during this period. The 1941 Garrettford Elementary School (150003) in Upper Darby Township, Delaware County, outside of Philadelphia, replaced two previous schools on the site. It was necessitated by an increased student population in the area, likely children of workers who moved to the area to work in war-time industries in the region. The school was designed in accordance with many architectural details common to early twentieth-century schools. When it opened, the Classical Revival school featured large exterior windows and interior transom windows, fireproof construction materials, a library, a full kindergarten wing with “home-like” elements such as bay windows and fireplaces, and a decorative stone staircase at the rear of the lot facilitating access for walking children from the surrounding residential neighborhood.

The second school categorized in this time period, Pleasantville Elementary School (150015), is comprised of additions to an 1873 school building that was partially damaged in a 1940 fire and later razed in 1977. The oldest portion of the extant school is a 1940 addition. The newly formed Pleasantville Joint School District renovated and re-built the school, which was dedicated as a high school in 1942. The 1940 section of the school is a simple structure with minimal decorative elements. At the time, the 1873 building was renovated to include an industrial arts shop and a homemaking department.

No major additions were constructed to surveyed schools during this time period.

#### 1949-1969 (Post-WWII and Suburbanization):

Key issues during the decades after World War II include the post-war baby boom, suburbanization, widespread access to higher education, the nuclear age and the Cold War, and racial tensions (particularly in large cities). Increased numbers of young students, open space for school construction, changing roles of public education with respect to college preparation, changing roles in the community, and a shift towards flexible, activity-based learning combined with continued school district consolidation influenced both landscape (setting) and building trends

during post-war school building campaigns. These trends include the construction of sprawling one-to-two-story schools set in non-commercial or industrial areas, often on “campuses,” with large parking areas for commuters and bus fleets, and “safety zones” between the school building and roadway traffic. Architecturally, these new schools were simple structures with brick and concrete facades. Multi-use spaces became popular. School basements were sometimes identified as fall-out shelters.

Within the definition used in this survey, of the 20 schools surveyed that were built between 1949 and 1969, 19 are classified as consolidated schools. One school, the 1961-62 Penn-Lincoln Elementary School (150026), is located on a small block in the City of Altoona. It is tightly connected to the urban neighborhood in which it sits and considers itself to be a neighborhood school.

Surveyed schools in suburban areas included four located outside of Philadelphia: Drexel Hill Middle School (150004), Tamanend Middle School (150001), Inglewood Elementary School (150010), and Pennfield Middle School (150009). Schools that were built or became part of educational campuses include Shannock Valley Elementary School (150041), Lenape Middle School (150018), Liberty Elementary School (150014), Palmerton Area High School (150032), and Warren L. Miller Elementary School (150017). Some schools were built in open space adjacent to highly developed areas, such as along the outer edges of boroughs. Logan Elementary School (150023), Philipsburg-Osceola Area High School (150016), and Palmerton Area High School (150032) are three examples in the survey. Continued consolidation of rural school districts resulted in the construction of multiple small schools situated on large properties to allow for expansion. Chaneyville-Cove Elementary School (150021), Liberty-Valley Elementary School (150024), Crestview Elementary School (150002), Kittanning Township Elementary School (150045), and Towamensing Elementary School (150037) are examples. The latter school was initially designed with the construction of later additions in mind. Although no cafeteria or even multi-purpose room was included in the original plans, a full kitchen was included in the original school building. These schools are all built on relatively large parcels with a mix of open fields, playgrounds, sports fields, and parking lots.

The developing relationship between school buildings and car and bus traffic is evidenced in large expanses of land between school buildings and roadways, designated bus lanes and “bus line” shelters, large parking areas, and an orientation towards parking lots vs. the roadway. Abington Heights High School (150033) is an example of a school that was situated far back from the roadway behind a large lawn. The school is set perpendicular to the roadway, with the main entrance oriented towards a large parking lot, including an area originally and continuously designated for student parking. Lenape Middle School (150018) is also set back from the roadway behind a large field. Long overhangs along the side of the school shelter students waiting to be picked up by buses or parents. Warren L. Miller Elementary School (150017), Logan Elementary School (150023), Liberty-Valley Elementary School (150024), Arlington Heights Elementary School (150035), and Shannock Valley Elementary School (150041) were all constructed at the end of long driveways off of main roadways, separated from the roadway by other parcels.

Multiple schools have been designed to accommodate the irregular grading of the large parcels they are situated on. Lenape Middle School (150018) and Palmerton Area High School (150032) are examples of schools with sloping sections of hallways and ramps between wings located at slightly different levels. The surveyed schools constructed during this time period are all simple one-to-two-story buildings with little to no decorative embellishment. Most are stand-alone rectangular buildings or comprised of flat-roofed boxy sections connected into various shapes. Reliance on natural air circulation and light diminished with the use of modern mechanical, electrical, and heating systems. School windows during this time period tended to be smaller with fewer functional sashes. Seven schools in the survey were constructed with a mix of solid panels of porcelain enameled steel, fixed sash, and hopper or awning windows in each window bay. These include Abington Heights High School (150033), Shannock Valley Elementary School (150041), and Philipsburg-Osceola Area High School (150016), among others. Some other schools, such as Towamensing Elementary School (150037), Crestview Elementary School (150002), and East Forest School (150013) feature smaller window bays and larger expanses of brick or other cladding.

Fourteen of the surveyed schools constructed between 1949 and 1969 feature multi-use public spaces. These consist of a mix of gymnasiums with inset or proscenium stages, cafeterias with stages, or single combinations of gymnasiums, auditoriums, and cafeterias. Some of the schools that feature shared cafeteria space have tables which fold out from the walls and have their own seats. These can be completely concealed when the room is put to other uses. Shannock Valley Elementary School (150041) and Arlington Heights Elementary School (150035) both have this feature. All surveyed schools built as elementary schools during this period have multi-use spaces. Of the six schools with separate gymnasiums, auditoriums, and cafeterias, three were constructed as large high schools, and three were constructed as large junior high schools. It is in these junior and senior high schools that updated specialized classrooms were included during this period. Classrooms for industrial arts, state-of-the-art science laboratories, and specialized spaces for fine arts and music are some of the facilities intended to provide students the background to pursue vocational training and college.

This period also brought about additions to schools built earlier in the century. Six of the schools in the survey constructed between 1900 and 1949 received major additions in the 1950s and 1960s. Half of these reflected the architectural style of the original structure while half appended a more modern structure to the original building. Most of the 39 schools in the survey received major additions and/or renovations in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries, reflecting additional changes in educational theory and student population needs.

## **REGIONAL SUMMARY OF FEATURES AND SCHOOL CHARACTERISTICS**

Based upon the limited number of schools surveyed in each region, no conclusive summary can be determined regarding regional features and school characteristics. Patterns between urban, suburban, and rural schools are more evident. Urban schools tended to have been built earlier, in neighborhoods on small lots, many of which were designed in a formal architectural style. Consolidated suburban schools built post-World War II are typically large simple structures on

expansive properties. Rural schools, constructed during early waves of school district consolidation throughout the first half of the twentieth century, tend to have been built as small school buildings on plots of land with room for expansion. Regional characteristics may become evident by comparing the results of potential future surveys of additional schools in each region.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER PROJECT WORK**

The following schools are recommended for preparation of Pennsylvania Historic Resource Survey Forms during Phase II of this project (Appendix D) These include the 1927 Collegiate Gothic Thaddeus Stevens Elementary School (150027) in the Ridge and Valley Region, the 1917 Classical Revival Butler Junior High School (150042) in the Southwestern Pennsylvania Region, the 1941 Classical Revival Garrettford Elementary School (150003) in the Great Valley and Piedmont Region, the 1964 Palmerton Area High School (150032) in the Anthracite and Poconos Region, and the 1930s Art Deco Philipsburg-Osceola Junior High School (150011). This last school was erroneously identified by Tom Hylton as being located in Clearfield County, in the Allegheny Plateau Region. Its correct location in Centre County (along with Philipsburg-Osceola Area High School) was noted during the course of the survey. Located close to the boundary of two regions, the correction now includes it in the Ridge and Valley Region. As it is the only school in the survey constructed during the 1931-1938 time period, it is recommended for future work. These schools include a mix of current and former elementary, junior, and high schools, four neighborhood schools and one consolidated school.

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## APPENDIX A

### QUALIFICATIONS OF RESEARCHERS

## QUALIFICATION OF RESEARCHERS

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| Principal Investigator:  | Kenneth J. Basalik   |
| Professional Experience: | 28 years   |
| Education:               | Ph.D. Anthropology, Temple University<br>M.A. Anthropology, Temple University<br>B.A. Anthropology, University of Pennsylvania   |
| Project Responsibility:  | Administration, analysis, and review   |
| Project Manager:         | Laura S. Black   |
| Professional Experience: | 9 years  |
| Education:               | M.A. History (Concentration in Public History; Emphasis in<br>Historic Preservation), Arizona State University<br>B.A. History, Binghamton University  |
| Project Responsibility:  | Administration, field survey, analysis, review, and report writing   |
| Surveyor:                | Melissa Timo   |
| Professional Experience: | 2 years  |
| Education:               | B.A. Anthropology, Mercyhurst College  |
| Project Responsibility:  | Field survey   |
| Graphics Illustrator:    | Bradley Harrison   |
| Professional Experience: | 7 years  |
| Education:               | M.Sc. Archaeological Computing, University of Southampton, UK<br>M.A. Eastern Mediterranean Archaeology, Catholic University of<br>Leuven, Belgium<br>M.A. Jewish Studies, Gratz College<br>B.A. Jewish Studies, Gratz College |
| Project Responsibility:  | Graphics Preparation   |
| Editor:                  | Kevin Quigg  |
| Professional Experience: | 12 years   |
| Education:               | M.A. English, Beaver College<br>B.A. Communications, Temple University   |
| Project Responsibility:  | Report editing   |
| Editor:                  | Maria DiNicola   |
| Professional Experience: | 1 year   |
| Education:               | B.A. English with Communications, Gwynedd-Mercy College  |
| Project Responsibility:  | Report editing   |

APPENDIX B

LIST OF SCHOOLS—FEBRUARY 2006

**Pennsylvania Schools Survey**  
**List of Schools**  
**February 2006**

| <b>Great Valley and Piedmont Region</b> |               |                        |                                    |
|---|---------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|
|   | <i>County</i> | <i>School District</i> | <i>School Name</i>                 |
| 1*                                      | Berks         | Boyertown Area         | Boyertown Area Senior High School  |
| 2                                       | Berks         | Boyertown Area         | Washington Elementary School       |
| 3                                       | Bucks         | Central Bucks          | Tamanend Middle School             |
| 4                                       | Cumberland    | Carlisle Area          | Crestview Elementary School        |
| 5                                       | Delaware      | Upper Darby            | Garrettford Elementary School      |
| 6                                       | Delaware      | Upper Darby            | Drexel Hill Middle School          |
| 7                                       | Franklin      | Chambersburg Area      | Marion Elementary School           |
| 8                                       | Franklin      | Chambersburg Area      | J. Frank Faust Junior High School  |
| 9                                       | Montgomery    | North Penn             | North Wales Elementary School      |
| 10                                      | Montgomery    | North Penn             | Pennfield Middle School            |
| 11                                      | Bucks         | Central Bucks          | Lenape Middle School               |
| 12                                      | Cumberland    | Carlisle Area          | Carlisle High School               |
| 13                                      | Delaware      | Upper Darby            | Stonehurst Hills Elementary School |
| 14                                      | Franklin      | Chambersburg Area      | Sharpe Elementary School           |
| 15                                      | Montgomery    | North Penn             | Inglewood Elementary School        |

| <b>Allegheny Plateau Region</b> |               |                          |  |
|---------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|--|
|                                 | <i>County</i> | <i>School District</i>   | <i>School Name</i>                         |
| 1                               | Bradford      | Wyalusing                | New Albany Elementary School               |
| 2                               | Clearfield    | Philipsburg-Osceola Area | Philipsburg-Osceola Junior High School     |
| 3                               | Clearfield    | Philipsburg-Osceola Area | North Lincoln Hill Elementary School       |
| 4                               | Elk           | Saint Marys Area         | Bennetts Valley Elementary School          |
| 5                               | Elk           | Saint Marys Area         | Fox Township Elementary School             |
| 6                               | Forest        | Forest Area              | West Forest Elementary School              |
| 7                               | Forest        | Forest Area              | East Forest School                         |
| 8                               | Tioga         | Southern Tioga           | Liberty Elementary School                  |
| 9                               | Venango       | Titusville Area          | Pleasantville Elementary School            |
| 10                              | Venango       | Oil City Area            | Oil City Senior High School                |
| 11                              | Clearfield    | Clearfield Area          | Bradford Township Elementary School        |
| 12                              | Clearfield    | Philipsburg-Osceola Area | Philipsburg-Osceola Area High School       |
| 13                              | Elk           | Saint Marys Area         | South Saint Marys Street Elementary School |
| 14                              | Tioga         | Southern Tioga           | Warren L. Miller Elementary School         |
| 15                              | Venango       | Cranberry Area           | Rockland Elementary School                 |

\* Schools 1-10 in each region comprise Tier 1. Schools 11-15 in each region comprise Tier 2. Tier 3 schools are not listed. Refer to the Pennsylvania School Survey Project Plan for further explanation of this tiered system.

| <b>Ridge and Valley Region</b> |                |                        |                                    |
|--------------------------------|----------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|
|                                | <i>County</i>  | <i>School District</i> | <i>School Name</i>                 |
| 1                              | Bedford        | Everett Area           | Chaneyville-Cove Elementary School |
| 2                              | Blair          | Altoona Area           | Baker Elementary School            |
| 3                              | Blair          | Altoona Area           | Logan Elementary School            |
| 4                              | Juniata        | Juniata County         | Mountain View Elementary School    |
| 5                              | Lycoming       | Williamsport Area      | Andrew G. Curtin Middle School     |
| 6                              | Lycoming       | Williamsport Area      | Hepburn-Lycoming Elementary School |
| 7                              | Montour        | Danville Area          | Mahoning-Cooper Elementary School  |
| 8                              | Montour        | Danville Area          | Liberty-Valley Elementary School   |
| 9                              | Northumberland | Line Mountain          | Trevorton Elementary School        |
| 10                             | Northumberland | Warrior Run            | Warrior Run High School            |
| 11                             | Blair          | Altoona Area           | D.S. Keith Junior High School      |
| 12                             | Blair          | Altoona Area           | Penn-Lincoln Elementary School     |
| 13                             | Lycoming       | Williamsport Area      | Thaddeus Stevens Elementary School |
| 14                             | Lycoming       | Williamsport Area      | Round Hills Elementary School      |
| 15                             | Northumberland | Warrior Run            | Warrior Run Middle School          |

| <b>Anthracite and Poconos Region</b> |               |                        |                                      |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
|                                      | <i>County</i> | <i>School District</i> | <i>School Name</i>                   |
| 1                                    | Carbon        | Palmerton Area         | S.S. Palmer Elementary School        |
| 2                                    | Carbon        | Palmerton Area         | Palmerton Area High School           |
| 3                                    | Lackawanna    | Abington Heights       | Abington Heights High School         |
| 4                                    | Lackawanna    | North Pocono           | North Pocono Middle School           |
| 5                                    | Luzerne       | Hanover Area           | Lee Park Elementary School           |
| 6                                    | Luzerne       | Greater Nanticoke Area | J.F. Kennedy Elementary School       |
| 7                                    | Monroe        | Stroudsburg Area       | W.H. Ramsey Elementary School        |
| 8                                    | Monroe        | Stroudsburg Area       | Arlington Heights Elementary School  |
| 9                                    | Schuylkill    | Blue Mountain          | Blue Mountain Elementary Cressona    |
| 10                                   | Schuylkill    | Blue Mountain          | Blue Mountain East Elementary School |
| 11                                   | Carbon        | Palmerton Area         | Towamensing Elementary School        |
| 12                                   | Luzerne       | Hanover Area           | Lyndwood Elementary School           |
| 13                                   | Monroe        | Stroudsburg Area       | B.F. Morey Elementary School         |
| 14                                   | Monroe        | Stroudsburg Area       | Hamilton Township Elementary School  |
| 15                                   | Pike          | Delaware Valley        | Delaware Valley Elementary School    |

| <b>Southwestern Pennsylvania Region</b> |               |                        |                                       |
|---|---------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
|   | <i>County</i> | <i>School District</i> | <i>School Name</i>                    |
| 1                                       | Armstrong     | Armstrong              | Ford City High School                 |
| 2                                       | Armstrong     | Armstrong              | Shannock Valley Elementary School     |
| 3                                       | Butler        | Butler Area            | Butler Junior High School             |
| 4                                       | Butler        | Butler Area            | Butler Area Senior High School        |
| 5                                       | Fayette       | Uniontown Area         | Uniontown Area Senior High School     |
| 6                                       | Fayette       | Uniontown Area         | Menallen School                       |
| 7                                       | Somerset      | Somerset Area          | Sipesville Elementary School          |
| 8                                       | Washington    | Ringgold               | Donora Elementary Center              |
| 9                                       | Washington    | Ringgold               | Finley Middle School                  |
| 10                                      | Westmoreland  | Hempfield Area         | West Point Elementary School          |
| 11                                      | Armstrong     | Armstrong              | Kittanning Area Middle School         |
| 12                                      | Armstrong     | Armstrong              | Kittanning Township Elementary School |
| 13                                      | Butler        | Butler Area            | McQuiston Elementary School           |
| 14                                      | Fayette       | Uniontown Area         | Franklin School                       |
| 15                                      | Westmoreland  | Hempfield Area         | West Hempfield Elementary School      |

APPENDIX C

FINAL LIST OF SCHOOLS—MARCH 2007

**Pennsylvania Schools Survey  
Final List of Schools  
March 2007**

C: Consolidated; N: Neighborhood

| <b>Great Valley and Piedmont Region</b> |            |                   |                                    |      |             |         |
|---|------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|------|-------------|---------|
|   | County     | School District   | School Name                        | Type | CRGIS Key # | Year    |
| 1                                       | Bucks      | Central Bucks     | Tamanend Middle School             | C    | 150001      | 1959    |
| 2                                       | Cumberland | Carlisle Area     | Crestview Elementary School        | C    | 150002      | 1954    |
| 3                                       | Delaware   | Upper Darby       | Garrettford Elementary School      | N    | 150003      | 1941    |
| 4                                       | Delaware   | Upper Darby       | Drexel Hill Middle School          | C    | 150004      | 1957    |
| 5                                       | Franklin   | Chambersburg Area | Marion Elementary School           | N    | 150005      | ca.1908 |
| 6                                       | Montgomery | North Penn        | North Wales Elementary School      | N    | 150008      | 1927    |
| 7                                       | Montgomery | North Penn        | Pennfield Middle School            | C    | 150009      | 1964    |
| 8                                       | Bucks      | Central Bucks     | Lenape Middle School               | C    | 150018      | 1957    |
| 9                                       | Delaware   | Upper Darby       | Stonehurst Hills Elementary School | N    | 150007      | 1926    |
| 10                                      | Franklin   | Chambersburg Area | Sharpe Elementary School           | N    | 150006      | 1908    |
| 11                                      | Montgomery | North Penn        | Inglewood Elementary School        | C    | 150010      | 1963    |

| <b>Allegheny Plateau Region</b> |         |                 |                                    |      |             |      |
|---------------------------------|---------|-----------------|------------------------------------|------|-------------|------|
|                                 | County  | School District | School Name                        | Type | CRGIS Key # | Year |
| 1                               | Forest  | Forest Area     | East Forest School                 | N    | 150013      | 1949 |
| 2                               | Tioga   | Southern Tioga  | Liberty Elementary School          | C    | 150014      | 1961 |
| 3                               | Venango | Titusville Area | Pleasantville Elementary School    | N    | 150015      | 1940 |
| 4                               | Tioga   | Southern Tioga  | Warren L. Miller Elementary School | C    | 150017      | 1965 |

| <b>Ridge and Valley Region</b> |          |                          |  |      |             |         |
|--------------------------------|----------|--------------------------|--|------|-------------|---------|
|                                | County   | School District          | School Name                            | Type | CRGIS Key # | Year    |
| 1                              | Centre   | Philipsburg-Osceola Area | Philipsburg-Osceola Junior High School | N    | 150011      | ca.1937 |
| 2                              | Centre   | Philipsburg-Osceola Area | Philipsburg-Osceola Area High School   | C    | 150016      | 1955    |
| 3                              | Bedford  | Everett Area             | Chaneyville-Cove Elementary School     | C    | 150021      | 1953    |
| 4                              | Blair    | Altoona Area             | Baker Elementary School                | N    | 150022      | 1912    |
| 5                              | Blair    | Altoona Area             | Logan Elementary School                | C    | 150023      | 1960    |
| 6                              | Montour  | Danville Area            | Liberty-Valley Elementary School       | C    | 150024      | 1966    |
| 7                              | Blair    | Altoona Area             | D.S. Keith Junior High School          | N    | 150025      | 1930    |
| 8                              | Blair    | Altoona Area             | Penn-Lincoln Elementary School         | N    | 150026      | 1962    |
| 9                              | Lycoming | Williamsport Area        | Thaddeus Stevens Elementary School     | N    | 150027      | 1927    |

| <b>Anthracite and Poconos Region</b> |            |                  |  |      |             |      |
|--------------------------------------|------------|------------------|--|------|-------------|------|
|                                      | County     | School District  | School Name                              | Type | CRGIS Key # | Year |
| 1                                    | Carbon     | Palmerton Area   | S.S. Palmer Elementary School            | N    | 150031      | 1924 |
| 2                                    | Carbon     | Palmerton Area   | Palmerton Area High School               | C    | 150032      | 1964 |
| 3                                    | Lackawanna | Abington Heights | Abington Heights High School             | C    | 150033      | 1966 |
| 4                                    | Luzerne    | Hanover Area     | Lee Park Elementary School               | N    | 150034      | 1903 |
| 5                                    | Monroe     | Stroudsburg Area | Arlington Heights Elementary School      | C    | 150035      | 1957 |
| 6                                    | Schuylkill | Blue Mountain    | Blue Mountain Cressona Elementary School | N    | 150036      | 1929 |
| 7                                    | Carbon     | Palmerton Area   | Towamensing Elementary School            | C    | 150037      | 1955 |
| 8                                    | Monroe     | Stroudsburg Area | B.F. Morey Elementary School             | N    | 150038      | 1925 |

| <b>Southwestern Pennsylvania Region</b> |            |                 |                                       |      |             |      |
|---|------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|------|-------------|------|
|   | County     | School District | School Name                           | Type | CRGIS Key # | Year |
| 1                                       | Armstrong  | Armstrong       | Ford City High School                 | N    | 150040      | 1907 |
| 2                                       | Armstrong  | Armstrong       | Shannock Valley Elementary School     | C    | 150041      | 1965 |
| 3                                       | Butler     | Butler Area     | Butler Junior High School             | N    | 150042      | 1917 |
| 4                                       | Washington | Ringgold        | Donora Elementary Center              | N    | 150043      | 1930 |
| 5                                       | Armstrong  | Armstrong       | Kittanning Area Middle School         | N    | 150044      | 1919 |
| 6                                       | Armstrong  | Armstrong       | Kittanning Township Elementary School | C    | 150045      | 1955 |
| 7                                       | Butler     | Butler Area     | McQuiston Elementary School           | N    | 150020      | 1930 |

## APPENDIX D

LIST OF RECOMMENDED SCHOOLS FOR  
PREPARATION OF PHRS FORMS—MARCH 2007

**Pennsylvania Schools Survey**  
**List of Recommended Schools for Preparation of PHRS Forms**  
**March 2007**

C: Consolidated; N: Neighborhood

|   | School Name                            | CRGIS Key # | Type | Time Period            | Architectural Style | Region                    |
|---|--|-------------|------|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 | Thaddeus Stevens Elementary School     | 150027      | N    | 1900-1930; 1927        | Collegiate Gothic   | Ridge and Valley          |
| 2 | Butler Junior High School              | 150042      | N    | 1900-1930; 1917        | Classical Revival   | Southwestern Pennsylvania |
| 3 | Garrettford Elementary School          | 150003      | N    | 1939-1948; 1941        | Classical Revival   | Great Valley and Piedmont |
| 4 | Palmerton Area High School             | 150032      | C    | 1949-1969; 1964        | No Style            | Anthracite and Poconos    |
| 5 | Philipsburg-Osceola Junior High School | 150011      | N    | 1931-1938;<br>ca. 1937 | Art Deco            | Ridge and Valley          |

