

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  
 School Board of Philadelphia  
 21st Street & the Parkway  
 Philadelphia, Pa. 19107

9. tax parcel number/other number

10. U.T.M. 

1	8	4	8	5	7	8	0
Zone				Easting			
one acre							
4 4 3 0 4 4 0				northing			

  
 usgs sheet: *6C04200A*

11. status (other surveys, lists etc.)

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

13. date(s) (how determined)  
 1897-1898  
 14. period  
 1897-1898

15. style, design or folk type  
 Gothic

19. original use School  
 20. present use Vacant

16. architect or engineer  
 J.W. Anshutz

17. contractor or builder  
 S. Gourley Jr.

18. primary building mat./construc.  
 Wood/ Granite  
 & Brick

21. condition Good  
 22. integrity Excel.

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 \_\_\_\_\_  
 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 \_\_\_\_\_

1. County PHILADELPHIA  
 2. municipality PHILADELPHIA  
 3. street address or specific location SE Seymour and Knox Streets  
 4. survey route  
 5. present name FITLER SCHOOL  
 6. other name (historic name if any) N/A

## Fitler School

### Physical Description

Constructed of random coursed wissahickon schist, the Fitler School rises three and one half stories, with a stone foundation. basement of stone. The overall appearance of this building is castle like with an impressive projecting battlemented tower and three, projecting gable pediments punctuating the main body of the building. The fenestration pattern features double hung four over four sash with transoms in a variety of sizes and shapes including arched and square heads. Stone lintels corresponding in shape to the window sash support the openings. The main entrance has a Gothic arched openings with a stone lintel. A stone belt course adorns the first and second floors. A projecting, molded cornice rests above the third floor. The flanking gable end walls have stylized Palladian sash, while the middle gable has a small single window. The end tower rises to a decorative battlemented conclusion. Crowning the flat sections of wall, on the other portions of the building is a molded wood cornice with decorative bracketing.

### Statement of Significance

Built in 1897~~78~~, the Fitler School represents a new period of school construction begun in response to the Compulsory Education Act of 1895. Unlike previous School Board building activity, which consisted primarily of replacement or enlargement of existing schools, the post-1895 period saw the construction of school buildings in new areas of the City in compliance with the new national requirement. In short, this Compulsory Education Act required districts to provide free schooling for all children between the ages of 8 and 16. National economic depression, as well as the Board's need to determine appropriate school locations, delayed new construction for two years. The Fitler School was among the first built when construction finally began.

Architecturally, the Fitler School represents a move toward change in design features, selected by the School Board. Previously dominated by brick construction school design now began to reflect the larger architectural climate which increasingly favored granite and limestone. Designed by Joseph Anshutz, the Fitler School demonstrates this prolific architect's adaptability and talents in a variety of materials.

The floor plan at each level featured a single-loaded corridor with flanking stairs and five separate class rooms on each floor.

Thus the Fitler School is significant as being designed by the important school architect Joseph Anschutz late in his career when he turned from earlier brownstone and brick construction to stone construction.

area of significance: architecture

verbal boundary description

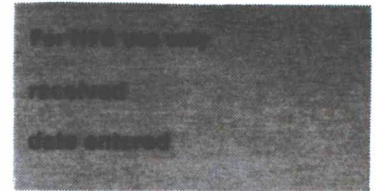
The nominated property consists of Philadelphia County lot 1230513 which contains the school and its contiguous grounds.

EVALUATION

EVALUATOR(S)

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Philadelphia Public Schools Thematic Resources  
State Philadelphia County, PENNSYLVANIA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- |         |  |                                     |            |                        |
|---------|--|-------------------------------------|------------|------------------------|
| 11.     | Dunbar, Paul Lawrence, School          | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | Melona Byers 12/4/86   |
|         |  |                                     | Attest     | _____                  |
| 12.     | Dunlap, Thomas, School                 | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | Melona Byers 12/4/86   |
|         |  |                                     | Attest     | _____                  |
| 13.     | Farragut, David, School                | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | Melona Byers 12/4/86   |
|         |  |                                     | Attest     | _____                  |
| 14.     | Fayette School                         | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | Melona Byers 12/4/86   |
|         |  |                                     | Attest     | _____                  |
| -15.    | Federal Street School                  | Substantive Review                  | for Keeper | Patrick Anders 12/1/86 |
|         |  |                                     | Attest     | _____                  |
| 16.     | Fitler School                          | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | Melona Byers 12/4/86   |
|         |  |                                     | Attest     | _____                  |
| 17.     | Fleischer, Helen, Vocational<br>School | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | Melona Byers 12/4/86   |
|         |  |                                     | Attest     | _____                  |
| -50 18. | Fulton, Robert, School                 | Substantive Review                  | for Keeper | Patrick Anders 12/4/86 |
|         |  |                                     | Attest     | _____                  |
| 19.     | Furness, Horace, Junior<br>High School | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | Patrick Anders 12/1/86 |
|         |  |                                     | Attest     | _____                  |
| 20.     | Germantown Grammar School              | Substantive Review                  | for Keeper | Patrick Anders 12/1/86 |
|         |  |                                     | Attest     | _____                  |

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Fitler School (Philadelphia Public Schools TR)  
Philadelphia County  
PENNSYLVANIA

Working No. OCT 20 1986  
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/2/88  
Date Due: 11/20/86 - 12/4/86  
Action:  ACCEPT 12-4-86  
 RETURN  
 REJECT  
Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Entered in the  
National Register

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria \_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_  
Discipline \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: \_\_\_\_\_ technical corrections cited below  
\_\_\_\_\_ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection





Philadelphia Public Schools  
Elwin H.

Fitler School

Philadelphia County

PD: 1985

PC: Elizabeth R. Mintz

NL: 301 Cherry Street

Philadelphia, Pa.

PV: Front Elevation

Please refer to the map in the  
Multiple Property Cover Sheet  
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000730