National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property

historic name ________ Dry Mills School

other names/site number District #3 School

2. Location

street & number ________ 1 Game Farm Road

city or town ________ Dry Mills

county Cumberland

state ________ Maine ________ code ME ________ code 005 ________ zip code 04039

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official>Title

Maine Historic Preservation Commission
State of Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

☐ entered in the National Register.

☐ determined eligible for the National Register.

☐ removed from the National Register.

☐ other, (explain) ________

Signature of the Keeper of the National Register: Date of Action

Entered in the National Register

2-13-96
**Dry Mills School**

*Name of Property*

Cumberland, Maine

*County and State*

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### 5. Classification

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- [ ] private
- [X] public-local
- [ ] public-State
- [ ] public-Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box)

- [ ] building(s)
- [ ] district
- [ ] site
- [ ] structure
- [ ] object

---

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- Contributing buildings
- Noncontributing buildings

---

**Name of related multiple property listing**

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

*N/A*

---

### 6. Function or Use

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Education/School

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Recreation and Culture/Museum

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### 7. Description

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Greek Revival

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

- **foundation**: Concrete/Stone-Granite
- **walls**: Wood/Weatherboard
- **roof**: Asphalt
- **other**

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)
8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:
- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Architecture</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Period of Significance
1857

Significant Dates
1857

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):
- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # ________________
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # ________________

Primary location of additional data:
- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:
Dry Mills School  
Name of Property

Cumberland, Maine  
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property  Less Than 1

UTM References  
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1  
2  

3  
4  

Northing

Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description  
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification  
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title  Kirk F. Mohney, Architectural Historian
organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission  date  October, 1996
street & number 55 Capitol Street, 65 State House Sta.  telephone 207/287-2132

Additional Documentation
Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets
Maps  
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property’s location.
A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs  
Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items  
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner  
(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name__________________________

street & number__________________________ telephone__________________________

city or town__________________________ state__________________________ zip code__________________________

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.
The Dry Mills School is a one-story, frame, Greek Revival style building which stands on a granite block foundation and has a gable front roof. It is sheathed entirely in weatherboards. The school occupies a site off the State Game Farm Road that is approximately 1.5 miles away from its original location along Route 26. Relocation took place in 1990 when the school was threatened with demolition on the former site.

Facing south, the building’s front elevation features a single centrally located six-panel door that is surmounted by a projecting hood. A second opening in the gable peak is concealed by a door comprised of vertically placed tongue and groove boards. A flag pole is mounted above this door. Paneled corner pilasters of medium width rise to a frieze board and short gable end returns that in turn meet the raking cornice. An interior stove flue punctuates the roof at the north end.

Both the east and west side elevations contain four symmetrically placed six-over-six double hung sash windows. The frieze/cornice continues along the sidewalls where it meets pilasters at the northeast and northwest corners. In contrast to the primary and secondary elevations, the rear elevation lacks architectural ornamentation, and has no door or window openings.

In plan, the building has a vestibule at the south end to one side of which is an open room that is said to have served as the storeroom for firewood, and on the other side is a “recitation room”. A horizontal board partition separates these spaces from the main classroom which occupies the balance of the interior. The classroom side of the partition contains four slate chalkboards that are located above horizontal board wainscot (which extends around the room). A stove and long stove pipe are located at the north end wall of the classroom.
Constructed about 1857 and used in its original capacity for 102 years, the Dry Mills School is a well maintained example of a mid nineteenth century rural one-room schoolhouse. The one-story, gable roofed frame building exhibits modest Greek Revival style detailing. It is the last example of a one-room school in the Town of Gray that has not been significantly modified for other purposes. Threatened by its proximity to Route 26, the former school was moved to its present location in 1990 where it was subsequently rehabilitated by the Dry Mills School Committee. The building is eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for its architectural significance. Criteria Consideration B applies to this property because it has been moved.

First settled by Anglo-Americans during the second quarter of the eighteenth century, the Town of Gray was incorporated on June 19, 1778. By the taking of the census in 1850, the town’s population stood at 1,788 persons, a figure that was to decrease over the next three decades, rebound in 1880, and then rapidly decline thereafter. In the 1858 History and Description of New England, farming was listed as the principal business in the town, and there were two factories, two sawmills, and a new steam mill.

Gray’s educational history follows the pattern repeated throughout rural Maine. According to early records the town’s first two school districts were formed about 1780, although the first schoolhouse was not erected until 1793. A year later, the town was divided into four school districts, a process that was repeated as the need arose until there were a total of twelve districts, each of which had its own building. The Dry Mills School was located in District No. 3. In addition to the several district schools, which typically provided instruction at the primary and grammar levels, the Town of Gray appropriated funds for high school education beginning in the early 1800s. Although it is not clear where classes were originally held, after the construction of a two-story brick schoolhouse in 1843 in Gray village, the high school was held in the upper level of this building. In 1876, wealthy local resident Henry Pennell announced that he would give the town a new high school facility which, upon its completion in 1886, was named Pennell Institute (NR 7/12/82).

School consolidation beginning in the early twentieth century doomed Gray’s one-room schoolhouses to functional obsolescence, and the Dry Mills School was finally closed in 1959. During the 1970s the interior of the building was renovated for use as a preschool. By the late 1980s interest grew in preserving the school as a museum. This plan included the relocation of the building in 1990 to a more protected site than its original one along heavily traveled Route 26. Restoration of the school has been recently completed.
The one-room schoolhouse was a familiar object in the rural landscape of nineteenth and early twentieth century Maine. This was the result of a traditional educational system in which towns subdivided themselves into school districts, each of which contained a schoolhouse to serve its particular locale. Although the district school system became a target for nineteenth century school reformers, its widescale use resulted in the erection of a vast number and variety of buildings; a figure which at the turn-of-the-century totaled more than 4,000. Twentieth century school consolidation efforts have taken a dramatic toll on the number of these buildings which survive. In 1960, for example, it was reported that only 226 schools in Maine were being held in one-room buildings, a figure which has since dropped to a mere handful (Report of the State Board of Education). In Gray, the Dry Mills School is the sole remaining example of the building type that has not been converted into a residence or other use.

Typically constructed of wood with gable roofs, Maine’s one-room school buildings were usually given only modest architectural adornments with the result that the schoolhouse of 1900 may have looked very much like one that is several decades older. There appears to have been a common formula for the design of these buildings which embodied widely disseminated ideas about minimum space requirements, proper ventilation and heating, site orientation, and window placement. As early as the mid nineteenth century reformers were suggesting that two entrances were desirable as a way to prevent “much confusion and rudeness” and to promote “orderly habits” (1847 Board of Education Report). This feature was not, however, universally used on Maine schools, as is evident in the Dry Mills School. The provision of proper lighting was also central to the issues of schoolhouse design, and by the early twentieth century a common solution to this problem was to incorporate a bank of windows along one side elevation. This modification was made to many earlier buildings, but was not carried out on the Dry Mills School.
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

DRY MILLS SCHOOL

CUMBERLAND, MAINE

Section number 9   Page 2


Verbal Boundary Description

The subject property occupies a portion of the Town of Gray tax map 16, lot 3. See map.

Boundary Justification

The boundary embraces the one-half acre lot onto which the school was moved in 1990.
Dry Mills School
Dry Mills vic., Cumberland County, Maine

Scale: 1" = 50'
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions. Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name __________________________________________________________
other names/site number ________________________________________________

2. Location

street & number ___________________________ N/A not for publication
city or town ___________________________ N/A vicinity
state ___________________________ code ME county Cumberland code 005 zip code 04039

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide & locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature of certifying official/Title]

State or Federal agency and bureau

[Date]

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature of certifying official/Title]

State or Federal agency and bureau

[Date]

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

□ entered in the National Register.
□ determined eligible for the National Register.
□ determined not eligible for the National Register.
□ removed from the National Register.
□ other, (explain):

[Signature of the Keeper]

[Date of Action]

[Additional Documentation Accepted]

[Additional Documentation Attached]

[Name: Edna Beall]
[Date: 12/29/05]
10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title CHRISTI A. MITCHELL, ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN
organization MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION date 28 September 2005
street & number 55 CAPITOL STREET, STATION 65 telephone (207) 287-2132
city or town AUGUSTA state ME zip code 04333 -0065

Additional Documentation
Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets
Maps
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property’s location.
A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.
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The following additional information updates and corrects the original nomination for the Dry Mills School, Cumberland County, Maine, submitted to the National Register of Historic Places in 1996, and listed on December 13, 1996 (96001495).

SECTION 2: LOCATION

Street and Number: Please change this from ‘1 Game Farm Road’ to ‘Maine Wildlife Park Road’.

City or Town: Please change this from ‘Dry Mills’ to ‘Gray’. Please also uncheck the box marked vicinity.

Each of these changes have been made on the attached cover sheet for the nomination.