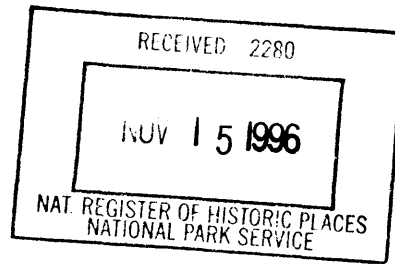


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to 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 Dry Mills School

other names/site number District #3 School

2. Location

street & number 1 Game Farm Road N/A not for publication

city or town Dry Mills vicinity

state Maine 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.)

Edward S. Thibault 11/8/96
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Maine Historic Preservation Commission
State of Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the property is:
- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 - determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 - determined not eligible for the National Register.
 - removed from the National Register.
 - other, (explain:) _____

Edson H. Beall 12.13.96
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

**Entered in the
National Register**

Dry Mills School
Name of Property

Cumberland, Maine
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- 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	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Education/School

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation and Culture/Museum

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)

Architecture

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:

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

DRY MILLS SCHOOL

CUMBERLAND, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 2

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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetDRY MILLS SCHOOLCUMBERLAND, MAINESection number 8 Page 2

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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetDRY MILLS SCHOOLCUMBERLAND, MAINESection number 8 Page 3

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

Coolidge, A.J., and Mansfield, J.B. *A History and Description of New England*. Volume I.
Boston: Austin J. Coolidge. 1859.

First Report of the Board of Education of the State of Maine. 1847. Augusta, Maine: William T.
Johnson. 1847.

Hill, George T. *History, Records, and Recollections of Gray, Maine*. Volume I. Privately Published.
1978.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

DRY MILLS SCHOOL

CUMBERLAND, MAINE

Section number 10 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.

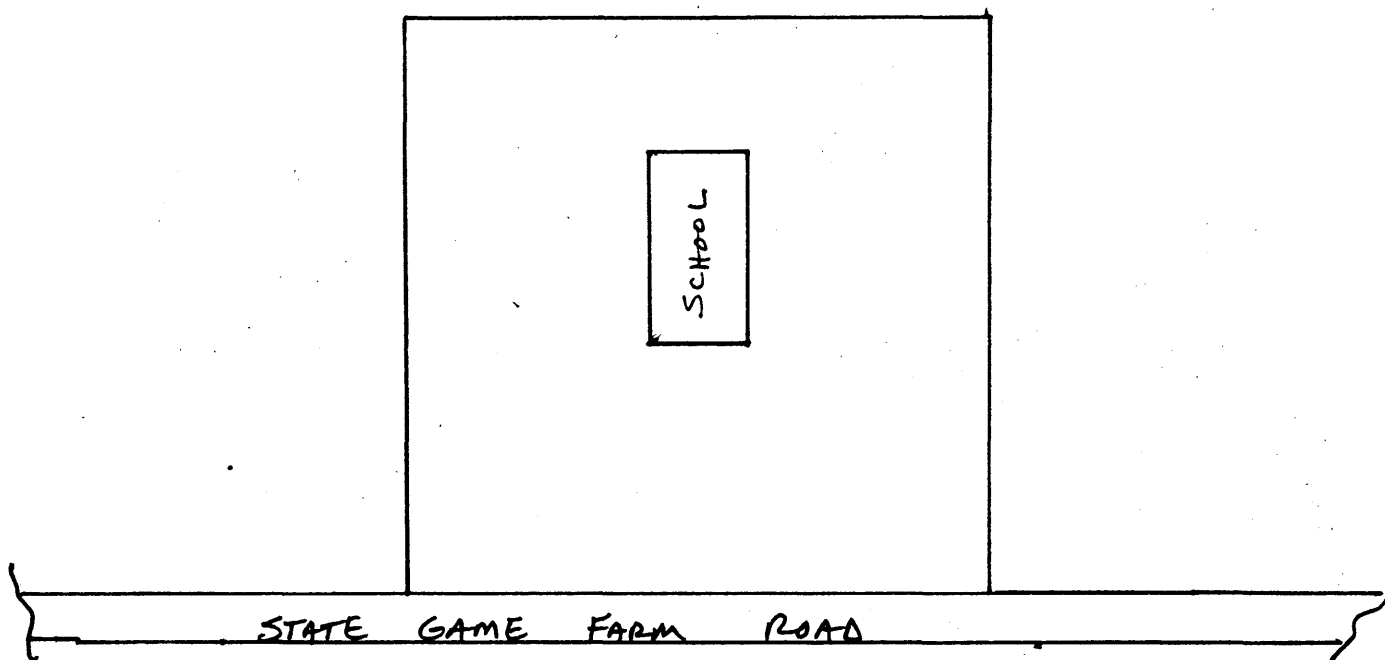
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

DRY MILLS SCHOOL

CUMBERLAND, MAINE

Section number 10 Page 3



DRY MILLS SCHOOL
Dry Mills vic., Cumberland County, Maine

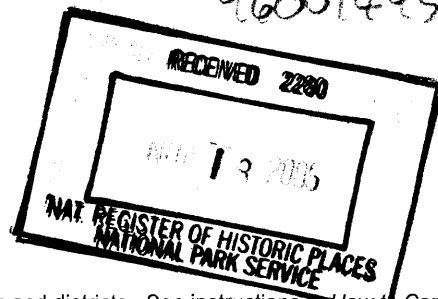


Scale: 1" = 50'



United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places
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1. Name of Property

historic name Dry Mills School (Additional Documentation)

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Maine Wildlife Park Road N/A not for publication

city or town Gray N/A vicinity

state Maine 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] 11/14/05
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Maine Historic Preservation Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

[Signature] Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain):

Edson Beall 12/29/05
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Additional Documentation Accepted

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

DRY MILLS SCHOOL (ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION)

CUMBERLAND COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 2 Page 2

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.