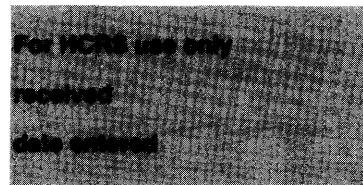


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections



1. Name

historic Pennell Institute

and/or common Pennell School

2. Location

street & number Lewiston Road N/A not for publication

city, town Gray, N/A vicinity of congressional district First

state Maine code 023 county Cumberland code 007

3. Classification

Category <input type="checkbox"/> district <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) <input type="checkbox"/> structure <input type="checkbox"/> site <input type="checkbox"/> object	Ownership <input type="checkbox"/> public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private <input type="checkbox"/> both Public Acquisition <input type="checkbox"/> in process <input type="checkbox"/> being considered <u>N/A</u>	Status <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress Accessible <input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> no	Present Use <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> museum <input type="checkbox"/> park <input type="checkbox"/> private residence <input type="checkbox"/> religious <input type="checkbox"/> scientific <input type="checkbox"/> transportation <input type="checkbox"/> other:
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4. Owner of Property

name School Administrative District #15

street & number Superintendent's Office, Dry Mills Road

city, town Gray, ___ vicinity of state Maine 04039

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Cumberland County Registry of Deeds

street & number

city, town Portland, state Maine

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

N/A title has this property been determined eligible? N/A yes ___ no

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" 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

The main building of the Pennel Institute of Gray, Maine, begun in 1876, is an impressive example of the Italianate style in a institutional context.

The building is brick construction with granite trim with facade tower, gable roof, central brick chimney at rear, two stories, and granite footings. The facade, which faces northwest, is dominated by a central projecting tower, square in section. Fenestration is varied, with a single 2/2 window in the first story, a pair of arched windows in the second, and a single arched 2/2 in the third, below a pediment with cornice returns. Arched recesses in the brick, rising through the second story, add dimension to the face of the tower. The words "PENNEL INSTITUTE" are carved into a granite plaque between the second and third stories. The tower rises above the building's roof above the third story, and features a clock face with Roman numerals on each of the four sides. Above this is a belfry with arched apertures on each side, covered by a truncated pyramidal roof with cresting.

To either side of the tower, the rest of the facade features entrances covered by ornate cast-iron porticoes and, in the second story, a 2/2 window. Here as elsewhere the windows are fitted with bracketed granite lintels and sills.

The sides of the building are five bays long, each bay lying within a two-story arched recess. Fenestration in both stories is 2/2. The rear of the building is four bays wide with equivalent fenestration and brick recesses. A low one story modern brick addition of 1962 is attached to the rear and forms wings to either side. It is not considered a part of this nomination.

The Laboratory Building, 20 meters southwest of the main building, constructed in 1899, is a late and distinctive example of the Italianate style. The architect (unknown) clearly intended it to reflect elements of the main building.

The 2-story building is of brick construction with granite trim, slate-covered hipped roof (with iron cresting), and 2/2 fenestration. The facade, which faces northwest, is three bays wide with a central entrance. This entrance consists of double doors beneath a semi-circular arched fan-light. As on the sides of the building, the cornice features an ornate geometric pattern in raised brick. Each bay is contained in a recessed two-story panel. Above the facade's second story is a central gabled dormer containing a small, arched window. The sides of the building are four bays long. In both the facade and sides of the building there are ground-level windows capped by low arches.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1876-1886, 1899 **Builder/Architect** Henry Goff(main building)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The main building of the Pennell Institute is one of the most high style Italianate academy buildings in Maine. Constructed between 1876 and 1886, the beautifully conceived building demonstrates the pride that the people of Gray took in their educational system and their dedication to the future of their young people. It also serves as a monument to the man who funded it, Henry Pennell, Gray's wealthiest resident who, never having received much formal education, nevertheless knew the value of it for children of the modern era.

Beginning in the early nineteenth century Gray appropriated funds for a high school of sorts. The location of this school seems to have changed as often as the teaching staff which was usually comprised of college students trying to earn money for their education. By 1870 Gray High School was located in the Town Hall and had a permanent principal, George T. Smith. The popularity of this man led to increased enrollment at the school and increased agitation for the creation of a permanent building and full-time teaching staff.

The result of this vocal concern was the announcement by Henry Pennell that he would give the town a high school. Construction was begun promptly in 1876, but little building was done after the foundation was laid. Between 1881 and 1884 some work was done on the Institute, but it was not until Pennell's death that any significant amount was accomplished. In his will, Henry Pennell left the Town of Gray the school building, the lot on which it stood, a trust fund of \$25,000 for the school's general expenses, and a special fund of \$5,000 for the library and for laboratory equipment and supplies. The will also named a board of four trustees who, with the town's selectmen, were to run the school.

Pennell Institute was finally completed in 1886 and school opened that fall. Enrollment was 122 and, after grading of the students was accomplished, thing ran quite smoothly. In 1889 the first graduating class received their diplomas; of the six graduates, three went on to college and three became successful teachers.

In February of 1887, the Maine Legislature passed "An Act Authorizing the Town of Gray to Accept Pennell Institute." Gray received \$250 per year from the State and the Town raised an equal amount to run the secondary school. Students from Gray attended free of charge, but out of town tuition students also enjoyed Pennell Institute's facilities. In 1962 a modern wing was added and Pennell Institute became Pennell School, an elementary level public school.

The Laboratory Building which, with the main building, forms the turn-of-the-century campus of the Pennell Institute, was constructed in 1899 with funds provided by the State Department of Education. Its erection reflects the development of an increased scientific curriculum by the end of the 19th century. Its separation from the main building was also a precaution taken in case of what was feared might result from mishandled chemicals.

No longer used by the school, this structure now houses the local newspaper office.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Manuscript information on file at Maine Historic Preservation Commission.
Lewiston Evening Journal, February 10, 1875; June 25, 1877.
Portland Daily Press, June 22, 1877.
Catalogue of Penneil Institute 1896; 1937-38.
History, Records, and Recollections of Gray, Maine, George T. Hill, 1978.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1

Quadrangle name Gray

Quadrangle scale 1:34,000

UMT References

A

1	9	3	9	3	3	1	0	4	8	6	0	0	4	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

Assessor's Map U5, Lots 1 and 1A

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
<i>N/A</i>			

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Frank A. Beard, Hist./Robert L. Bradley, Arch. Hist./Bette A. Smith, Assistant

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date January, 1982

street & number 55 Capitol Street telephone 207/289-2133

city or town Augusta, state Maine 04333

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Carole S. Shattuck*

title S.H.P.O. date June 21, 1982

For NCRS use only
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

[Signature]
Keeper of the National Register

date 1/1/82