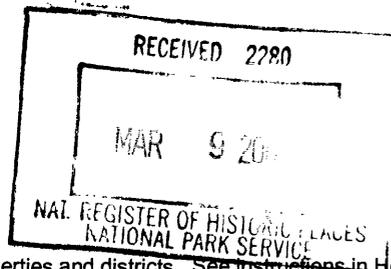


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



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 any 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 Gray Court-Owings School  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 9210 S.C. Highway 14 not for publication \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Gray Court vicinity \_\_\_\_\_  
state South Carolina code SC county Laurens code 059 zip code 29645

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_ nationally \_\_\_ statewide X locally. ( \_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Mary W. Edmonds 3/5/04  
Signature of certifying official Date

Mary W. Edmonds, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, S.C. Dept. of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.  
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 commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
I, hereby certify that this 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):	_____	_____

Gray Court-Owings School  
Name of Property

Laurens County, South Carolina  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
4	2	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
4	2	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)

Category: Education

Subcategory: School

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Category: Education

Subcategory: School

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)  
Colonial Revival

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation	<u>Brick</u>
walls	<u>Brick</u>
roof	<u>Metal</u>
other	<u>Wood</u>

**Narrative Description**  
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Gray Court-Owings School  
Name of Property

Laurens County, South Carolina  
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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.
[X] 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.)

- a owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
b removed from its original location.
c a birthplace or a 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

1914-1950

Significant Dates

1914
1928

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

(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:

- x State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other
Name of repository:
S.C. Dept. of Archives & History

Gray Court-Owings School  
Name of Property

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** Approximately 7.2 acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing
1 <u>17 397114 3831310</u>	3 <u>17 397002 3831157</u>	5 <u>17 397011 3831318</u>
2 <u>17 397131 3831225</u>	4 <u>17 396931 3831255</u>	

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

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 Dianne Culbertson, President  
 organization Gray Court-Owings Historical Society date 15 May 2003  
 street & number 944 S.C. Highway 92 telephone (864) 876-2667  
 city or town Gray Court state S.C. zip code 29645

**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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name Laurens County School District # 55  
 street & number 9210 S.C. Highway 14 telephone (864) 876-2171  
 city or town Gray Court state S.C. zip code 29645

**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 the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5

Gray Court-Owings School  
Name of Property  
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Gray Court-Owings School, on S.C. Highway 14 in the northern Laurens County town of Gray Court, is a two-story central brick building constructed in 1914 with a flanking one-story brick-veneered high school building to the north and one-story brick-veneered auditorium to the south, both built in 1928. When the flanking buildings, designed in the Colonial Revival style with Tuscan order porticos, were added in 1928, a two-story portico of the Tuscan order was added to the entrance of the 1914 building. The 1914 building, currently housing the third and fourth grades, features a classical arrangement with basement level below a water table and two upper floors under a complex hipped roof clad with standing seam metal. Originally designed in the Renaissance Revival style with baroque massing, the building assumed a Classical or Colonial Revival appearance in 1928 when a shallow monumental tetrastyle [four columns] portico was placed within the central recessed pavilion.

The building is accessed by a monumental stair with flanking wide cast stone-capped cheek walls. Its central entrance is modified but set within a historic segmental arched bay. Except for those on the basement level, all windows, arranged in narrow pairs within the portico, in triple arrangement to either side of the portico, and quadruple arrangement on the side elevations, were replaced by 1950 with architectural glass block and a small lower operable sash.

The one-story high school pavilion to the north has a central entrance with double-leaf door, sidelights, corner lights, transom and pediment within a tetrastyle portico of the Tuscan order. A truncated hipped roof, clad with standing seam metal and pierced on either side elevation with a pedimented dormer, shelters the building. Windows, with one-over-one sash with transoms, are arranged in triple formation to either side of the porticoed entrance, and in multiple groupings on either side elevation.

To the south of the main building is the one-story auditorium pavilion, the façade of which differs only slightly in that it has a double entrance with multi-light transoms and a tetrastyle portico with a slightly different intercolumniation. The building has a truncated hipped roof clad with standing seam metal. The side elevations differ in that they feature full-height arched window openings with keystones, sixteen-over-sixteen light, double-hung sash and multi-light compass-headed transoms. At least one of these windows has been modified with an additional double-leaf entrance.

In the 1930s a one-story frame potato house with a single-leaf entrance on the gable end, high, shuttered windows along the side elevations, and a roof with knee brackets and multiple roof ventilators was built to help Laurens County farmers preserve their crops. This building contributes to the historic and architectural character of the property.

Two noncontributing resources are within the nominated boundaries: a ca. 1955 aluminum gymnasium building with a brick-veneered front portion, and a 2002 multi-purpose one-story brick-veneered building containing classrooms, library, and cafeteria.

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Section number 8 Page 6

Gray Court-Owings School  
Name of Property  
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The Gray Court-Owings School, built in 1914 and expanded in 1928, is significant under Criterion C as an excellent and largely intact example of Colonial Revival style school architecture from early twentieth century upstate South Carolina. It is also significant for its association with the growth and development of education in northern Laurens County in the first half of the twentieth century.

Gray Court-Owings School was founded in 1902 on this site; the first school building was a small frame structure. The school included the first through the ninth grades until 1921, when it added the tenth grade. In 1914 the current two-story brick building was constructed in the Renaissance Revival style. In 1928 a two-story monumental Tuscan order portico was added to the 1914 building. That same year a high school building was built on the site just north of the 1914 central block; it included the eleventh grade and added the twelfth grade in 1949. The auditorium just south of the 1914 school was constructed at the same time. It was probably about 1949 that changes were made to the windows in the main building; however, they are alterations that do not significantly impact the complex's overall architectural and historic character.

The potato house was built during the 1930s in an effort to assist Laurens County farmers during the agricultural depression that preceded and continued during the Great Depression. Professor S.C. Gambrell, who came to the Gray Court-Owings School in 1918, remained there for forty-four years, until 1962. Gambrell taught several classes, including agriculture and animal husbandry, and also served as superintendent of the school; his work included taking Gray Court-Owings students into rural Laurens County to plant muscadine and other grape vines, pecan, peach, and apple trees, and to undertake other work for county farmers.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *Laurensville Herald* (Laurens, S.C.), 18 April 1914; *Echo* (Gray Court-Owings High School Yearbook), 1949; Gray Court-Owings School cornerstones; Dianne Culbertson, interview with Ed Gray and Wilma Power, Gray Court, S.C., 2001; Ray Stoddard, "The Role of Agriculture on the Lives of Gray Court-Owings School Students," unpublished manuscript, 2001; Gray Court-Owings Historical Society, *Gray Court and Owings, S.C.* (Gray Court: n.p., 2002).

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

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Gray Court-Owings School  
Name of Property  
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**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary of the nominated property is shown as the black line marked Gray Court-Owings School on the accompanying Laurens County Tax Map #190, drawn at a scale of 1" = 330'.

**Boundary Justification**

The nominated property include four buildings that contribute to the historic and architectural character of the Gray Court-Owings School and two modern buildings that do not contribute to the historic and architectural character of the school.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
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**Continuation Sheet**

Section number Photographs Page 8 Gray Court-Owings School  
Name of Property  
Laurens County, South Carolina  
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The following information is the same for each of the photographs:

Name of Property: Gray Court-Owings School  
Location of Property: 9210 S.C. Highway 14, Gray Court  
Laurens County, S.C.  
Name of Photographer: Dianne Culbertson  
Date of Photographs: 2 March 2003  
Location of Original Negatives: S.C. Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.

1. School complex, view from the south
2. School complex, view from the north
3. 1928 classroom and office building
4. 1914 main building
5. 1914 main building
6. 1928 auditorium
7. 1928 auditorium, right elevation
8. 1930s potato house
9. 1955 gymnasium (Noncontributing)
10. 2002 classroom, library, and cafeteria (Noncontributing)