

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

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

1. Name

historic The Lawrenceville School

and/or common

2. Location

street & number

not for publication

city, town Lawrenceville

vicinity of

state New Jersey

code

county

Mercer

code

3. Classification

Category

district
 building(s)
 structure
 site
 object

Ownership

public
 private
 both
Public Acquisition
 in process
 being considered

Status

occupied
 unoccupied
 work in progress
Accessible
 yes: restricted
 yes: unrestricted
 no

Present Use

agriculture
 commercial
 educational
 entertainment
 government
 industrial
 military
 museum
 park
 private residence
 religious
 scientific
 transportation
 other:

4. Owner of Property

name The Lawrenceville School

street & number Main Street

city, town Lawrenceville

vicinity of

state New Jersey 08648

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Mercer County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Trenton

state New Jersey

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title National Register of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1972

federal state county local

depository for survey records National Park Service - 1100 "L" Street, NW

city, town Washington

state DC

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The school campus at Lawrenceville effectively blends into and enhances the town that surrounds it. The entire village was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1972. The school was originally established in 1810 but its most important period of growth was in the 1880's when building and landscape were planned by the Boston architects, Peabody and Stearns and Frederick Law Olmsted, the landscape architect. The school was designed on the English system of classrooms, residences, and dormitories placed around a central green area.

This plan has not been significantly changed over the years, (the Olmsted firm planned the landscape from the 1880's until 1925), and it remains today as one of Olmsted's masterpieces: The landscape architect worked closely with the architects on the siting and exposure of the building and insisted on progressive sanitary systems and promoted athletic activities. He considered each structure as "a public building in a park; a north front and a south front."¹

The earliest school buildings at Lawrenceville School have been altered but there remain some details of the Federal style at Hamill House #1 (1814), and Haskell House #3 (1834). Dr. Samuel Hamill was headmaster from 1837 until 1879.

Thus began Lawrenceville's major development in 1879 when the John C. Green estate bought the school from Hamill. In 1884-1885 the central buildings of the school were designed and built by Peabody and Stearns.

Memorial Hall #31: Neo-Romanesque in style, Memorial Hall is considered to be the best of George Peabody's academic designs for school buildings. Bold, clear, and massive in the manner of H. H. Richardson, the hall is a central rectangular mass terminating in square projecting pavilions on either end with an imposing stair and entry porch. The roof, unbroken by dormers, is steeply pitched. The richness of materials and the high quality of the decorative details are complete with grotesques on the capitals of the columns and beneath the windows.

The Chapel #25: Built in 1895, the plan is a Latin cross. The elevation is that of a simple country church with a massive tower to the right of the door. There is a small entrance projection with a wheel or rose window above. The stone is rough ashlar; the roof is covered with slate shingles. The interior walls are thin buff colored brick and the roof beams are connected with decorated tie-bars. The interior is lighted by the five Tiffany windows.

Footnotes

1. The Lawrentian. Alumni magazine. Vol. 36, No. 5, May 1972. pp. 2-5.

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 type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1870-86 **Builder/Architect** Peabody and Stearns
 Frederick Law Olmsted

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Lawrenceville School retains its integrity of original site and structures from the 1880's design as almost no other private school in the United States. Peabody and Stearns of Boston, Architects, planned the structures and Frederick Law Olmsted was responsible for the landscape. This school has pioneered in progressive education and is recognized as one of the finest private institutions in this country. This complex is a rare surviving example of the successful collaboration of architects and landscape planners who worked together to change the quality of life then common at educational establishments.

Founded in 1810 by the Reverend Isaac Brown, who was the seventh minister of Maidenhead (Lawrenceville), the school became the beneficiary of the John C. Green Estate in 1879 of over \$1,000,000. Green was a member of the school's first class and made a fortune in the China trade. The trustees hired Dr. James MacKenzie in 1883 and sent him abroad to study English schools. He returned to Lawrenceville to propose the small-unit housing plan for the first time in America. This was the most ambitious and successful of the schools designed by Peabody and Stearns. This architectural firm was responsible for some 20 school buildings between 1870 and 1886. There are buildings by this firm at Phillips Exeter, Groton, and Deerfield. The success of the Lawrenceville plan was undoubtedly due to the collaboration with the landscape firm of Frederick Law Olmsted. The school was centered around a circle green with twelve new buildings, including a classroom and study hall, dormitories, a chapel, and a gymnasium. In addition, residences with teacher's living quarters were constructed in the new "Queen Anne" style (Cleve, Dickinson, Griswold and Woodhull Houses). Others erected later were Kennedy (1889), Upper (1892), the Chapel (1895) and additions were made to some houses in 1897 as enrollment had increased from 112 in 1883 to 300 in 1894. The masterpiece of the group of buildings is Memorial Hall (1884) which closely resembles the work of Henry Hobson Richardson but deserves to be admired on its own merit as a strong centerpiece in this beautiful complex.

Olmsted's contribution was equally grand. He intended that the 371 varieties of plantings be a botanical library and laboratory and this endeavor also exists to this day. The plan was "natural," or romantic, in its asymmetrical layout and, although many of the older trees have died, new ones were put in where the old ones stood. The landscape student can see the Olmsted plan clearly and therefore there is great respect at this institution for the old campus itself. There is an endowed fund to maintain the quality of setting and open space in demonstrating Olmsted's belief that man must cooperate sympathetically with nature.

The new campus, designed by Delano and Aldrich, is post-1920 and does not intrude on the older buildings. It is not included in the boundary of this study.

9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 17.74 acres

Quadrangle name Princeton

Quadrangle scale 1:25,000

UTM References

A

1	8	5	2	3	1	1	0	4	4	6	0	5	7	5
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

1	8	5	2	3	1	1	0	4	4	6	0	2	4	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

1	8	5	2	2	7	3	5	4	4	6	0	2	4	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

1	8	5	2	2	7	3	5	4	4	6	0	5	7	5
Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

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

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carolyn Pitts

organization National Park Service

date July 1985

street & number 1100 "L" Street, NW

telephone (202) 343-8172

city or town Washington

state DC 20013-7127

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title date

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet

Item number

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Cleve #9, Griswold #8, Dickinson #6, and Woodhull #7 are all Peabody and Stearns residence houses, designed to accommodate a small number of students plus a school-master and his family. Progressive educational theory dictated that a home-like atmosphere was better for an adolescent boy and made him a better student.

All four houses are Queen Anne in style, a picturesque asymmetrical piling up of architectural detail that seemed romantic in aspect—usually shingled, with stone details. A fifth house, the Kennedy House #2 of 1889, was made out of an assemblage of parts used in the other four -- an experiment in thrift.

Olmsted also drew up designs for landscaping. Accompanying the original plan (November, 1886) is a keyed list of trees to be planted -- 371 in all, a magnificent assortment including 14 varieties of magnolia, 9 varieties of linden, 17 varieties of maple, 14 of hawthorn, 17 of plum, 13 of pear, 5 of locust, 28 of oak, 11 of ash, 12 of elm, 10 of birch, 13 of poplar, 20 of spruce, 23 of pine, 12 of fir, 14 of juniper, plus larches, hemlocks, cypresses, beeches, hickories, plane trees, catalpas, citruses, chestnuts, and alders --most of them 20, 30, and 40 feet in height. The great majority of them still stand, though some, of course, have been claimed by storm, blight, new buildings, etc.²

Later building has taken place, mostly designed by Delano and Aldrich, architects of New York. Kinnan #4 and Kennedy #2 Halls are small outbuildings from the 1880's expansion. The Upper School was constructed in 1892 and the Dining Hall was added in the back in 1897. Foundation House #34 and its small addition, the Music House #33 were built for the Head Master at the end of the 19th century and are in the same Queen Anne style. There is a 1920's gateway of brick with marble trim. The flagpole dates from the same time.

2. Ibid.

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Continuation sheet

Item number 9 and 10

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9. Bibliography

Lawrentian. Alumni Magazine. Vol. 2, No. 5, February 1938; Vol. 36, No. 5.
May 1972.

Mills, W. J. Historic Houses of New Jersey. J. P. Lippincott, Philadelphia, 1902.

10. Verbal Boundary

Beginning at a point in the northeasterly line of New Jersey State Highway No. 27 (US Route 206) (66 feet in width), Lawrence Township, Mercer County, New Jersey, said beginning point being 2142.99 feet measured in a north and easterly direction along the said northeasterly line of New Jersey State Highway No. 27 from the easterly line of Franklin Road and running, thence

(1) along the said northeasterly line of New Jersey State Highway No. 27 North 42° 02' 30" East 539.35 feet to a point, thence

(2) still along the said northeasterly line of New Jersey State Highway No. 27 North 44° 03' 30" East 326.85 feet to a point, thence through the lands of The Lawrenceville School the following six courses:

(3) South 70° 56' 30" East 350.0 feet to a point, thence

(4) South 30° 56' 30" East 410.0 feet to a point, thence

(5) South 9° 3' 30" West 250.0 feet to a point, thence

(6) South 42° 3' 30" West 380.0 feet to a point, thence

(7) South 88° 3' 30" West 590.0 feet to a point, thence

(8) North 33° 0' 24" West 454.55 feet to the point and place of beginning.

Containing 17.74 acres.

According to a description by Frank L. Quinby, PE & LS #11087, Princeton Junction, New Jersey and in accord with the accompanying copy of a map signed by Quinby, dated October 15, 1984, entitled "Historic Site Plan for Lawrenceville School, Lawrence, Township, Mercer County, New Jersey."

The boundary encloses the original school buildings and Olmsted's landscape design.

N.J. STATE

HIGHWAY

(U.S. HIGHWAY ROUTE 206) NUMBER 27

R: 5,696.65'

146.65'

N 42° 02' 30" E

539.35' N 44° 03' 30" E

326.85'

N 44° 25' 30" E 229.33'

2142.94' TO FRANKLIN ROAD

FRANKLIN QUINBY PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER & LAND SURVEYOR 11087

PRINCETON JCT. ENGINEERING CO.
 PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS & LAND SURVEYORS
 P.O. BOX 223 NORTH POST RD.
 PRINCETON JUNCTION, NEW JERSEY 08550
 (609) 799 1963

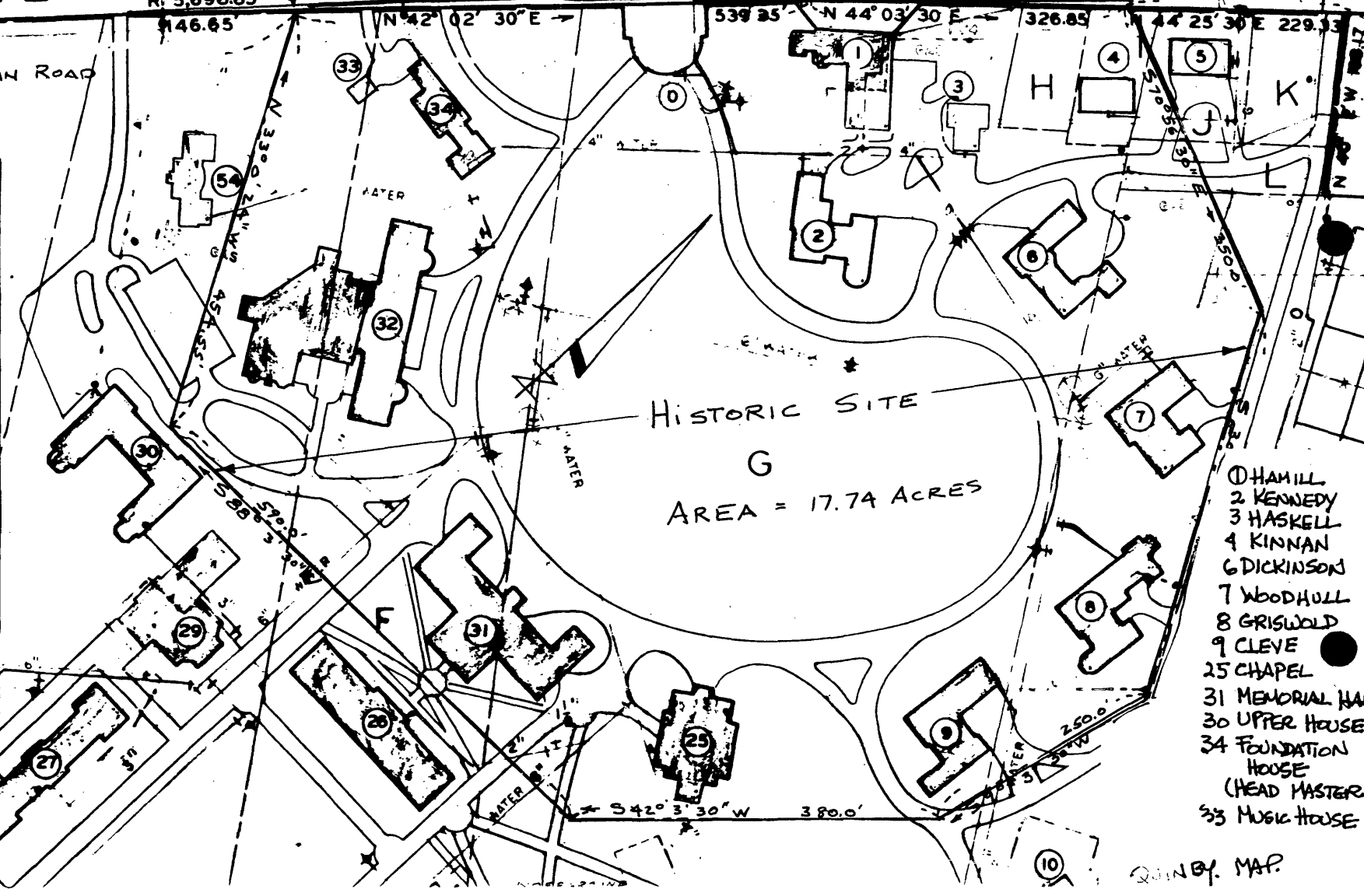
THE LAWRENCEVILLE SCHOOL
 FOR THE LAWRENCEVILLE SCHOOL
 LAWRENCE TWP. MERCER CO., N.J.

HISTORIC SITE PLAN

SHEET 26 SECTION 44 LOT 12

DATE	10-15-84
SCALE	1" = 100'
BY	FR
CHKD	FR
DATE	10-15-84
NO. 11887	PL 15
NO. 18473	PL 15
NO. 21223	PL 15
NO. 24827	PL 15

REMARKS: QUINBY MAP



- ① HAMIL
- 2 KENNEDY
- 3 HASKELL
- 4 KINNAN
- 6 DICKINSON
- 7 WOODHULL
- 8 GRISWOLD
- 9 CLEVE
- 25 CHAPEL
- 31 MEMORIAL HALL
- 30 UPPER HOUSE
- 34 FOUNDATION HOUSE (HEAD MASTER)
- 33 MUSIC HOUSE

QUINBY MAP