

added 5/19/99

ALABAMA REGISTER OF LANDMARKS AND HERITAGE

Nomination Form

RECEIVED

FEB 25 1999

1. Name

historic Rosinton School (located in the Rosinton Community ^{by Historical}
and/or common

2. Location 4.4 miles East of State Hwy 59 on Baldwin County Road 64 (S9, T5, R4E)
street & number 2021 County Road 64

city, town Robertsdale ---vicinity of Robertsdale/Loxley
state AL county Baldwin zip 36567

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name State of Alabama Phone number
street & number
city, town Montgomery ---vicinity of zip

5. Floor plan & site plan. Use space below to sketch floor plan and site plan or attach additional sheet.

See Attached

6. Description (See attached instructions for specific guidelines.)

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.

See attached

ROSINTON SCHOOL
2021 County Road 64
Robertsdale, Baldwin County 36567

AR 5/19/99

Owner:
Nolan P. Cooper & Carole E. Cooper
Cooper Real Estate
23771 State Highway 59
Robertsdale, AL 36567

Submitted by:
Rosellen Coggin, Secretary
Rosinton Community Association
26735 Ard Road
Robertsdale, AL 36567
334-960-1391 (h)
334-943-9222 (w)

cc: Dr. Albert Thomas, Superintendent
Baldwin County Board of Education
175 Courthouse Square
Bay Minette, AL 36507
334-937-0308

SUMMARY:

The Rosinton School is a one-story frame rural school house dating from 1919. It is situated on ten acres in the Baldwin County community of Rosinton, facing south on Baldwin County Highway 64, approximately 4 miles east of Loxley. Originally constructed in a three-room cross-gabled T plan with central pavilion, additions in 1923 and 1941 resulted in the present side-E form featuring three prominent front-facing pavilions. Craftsman period influences appear in the exposed eaves, bracketed gable ends, and porch trim. Other notable architectural elements include the wide banks of 9/9 double hung sash windows, arranged in groupings of four on the center front gable, two on the flanking gables, and five on the side elevations. These reflected prevailing early 20th century educational theories, whereby learning conditions were believed to be maximized through optimal natural lighting.

Local histories record that the school was constructed during a period of consolidation of public schools and was the earliest in Baldwin County to utilize state funding under the "State Aid Plan." One-room schools at Antioch and Wilcox and, four years later, at Holinger and Styx River were combined to form the Rosinton School. Other community improvements associated with construction of the new building were the bridging of Mill Creek and the opening of a new road leading to the school. Funding for the building was provided by a \$1700 loan to the Baldwin County Board of Education and a \$650 contribution from the State Board of Education. Early enrollment figures were reported at 140 pupils and two teachers in a grade one-through-eight curriculum. By 1921, classes were offered through the tenth grade with the addition of a third teacher in the room designated as a library. Later, with additional physical facilities, two more teachers were added. When a consolidated county high school was constructed in Robertsdale in 1925, Rosinton returned to a first-through-eighth grade curriculum. (Gulledge and Kennedy histories).

Today Rosinton serves as a grade K-6 elementary school. The building remains very close to its original condition, maintaining a high degree of architectural integrity. Original elements include exterior weatherboard siding, Craftsman decorative features, 9/9 wood sash windows,

exterior doors featuring 9 upper lites/3 horizontal wood panels, interior wall and ceiling materials (probably tongue and groove), and simple interior trim (cornice, picture mold, door & window surrounds). The wood floor is covered with linoleum tile but is probably recoverable. Original chalk boards are lost. One of the original classrooms and the library are now used as a cafeteria and kitchen, and a detached auditorium was added to the campus in 1949. Additional classrooms and trailers were also added in recent years. The school is scheduled to complete its final year of operation with the end of the 1998-99 school year, and the transfer of the property from the State Board of Education to a private developer has already been finalized for July, 1999.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The Rosinton School is eligible for listing on the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage under Criteria A and C, in the areas of education and architecture. As a result of a consolidation program and possibly Baldwin County's first school to utilize the "State Aid Plan," it depicts the success of progressive ideology in public education. Attempts to educate a wide segment of society resulted in the consolidation of one-room rural schools and the construction of spacious, modern facilities. Architecturally, the building reflects both the influences of the popular early-20th century Craftsman style and the prevailing educational theories whereby the quality of physical facilities were considered a determining factor in the quality of education. The school maintains a high degree of architectural and historic integrity and remains as an increasingly rare architectural type. At the present time, ownership is in transition, and the building is currently threatened by modern development.

7. Significance (See attached instructions for specific guidelines.)

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"/> 1600-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1919

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph).

See attached

8. Major Bibliographical References

Interviews:

Ellison, Irma (92 year old resident of Rosinton)
Ellison, F.B. (67 year old resident of Rosinton)
Ryan, Jeannene
Gulledge, Irene, handwritten history
Baldwin Register, July 13, 1998, Saving the Schoolhouse
Gulf Coast Newspapers, August 19, 1998, Last Waltz for Rosinton

9. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 10 acres, more or less

Quadrangle name South 1/2 of the Southeast 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 and North 1/2 of the Southeast 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 of S9, T5S, R4E of Baldwin County

Enclose map showing location of property. (city or county map, state highway department map, or USGS map)

See attached

10. Form Prepared By

name/title Rosellen Coggin, Secretary
organization Rosinton Community Association date 2/23/99
street & number 26735 Ard Road telephone 334-960-1391
city or town Robertsdale state AL zip 36567

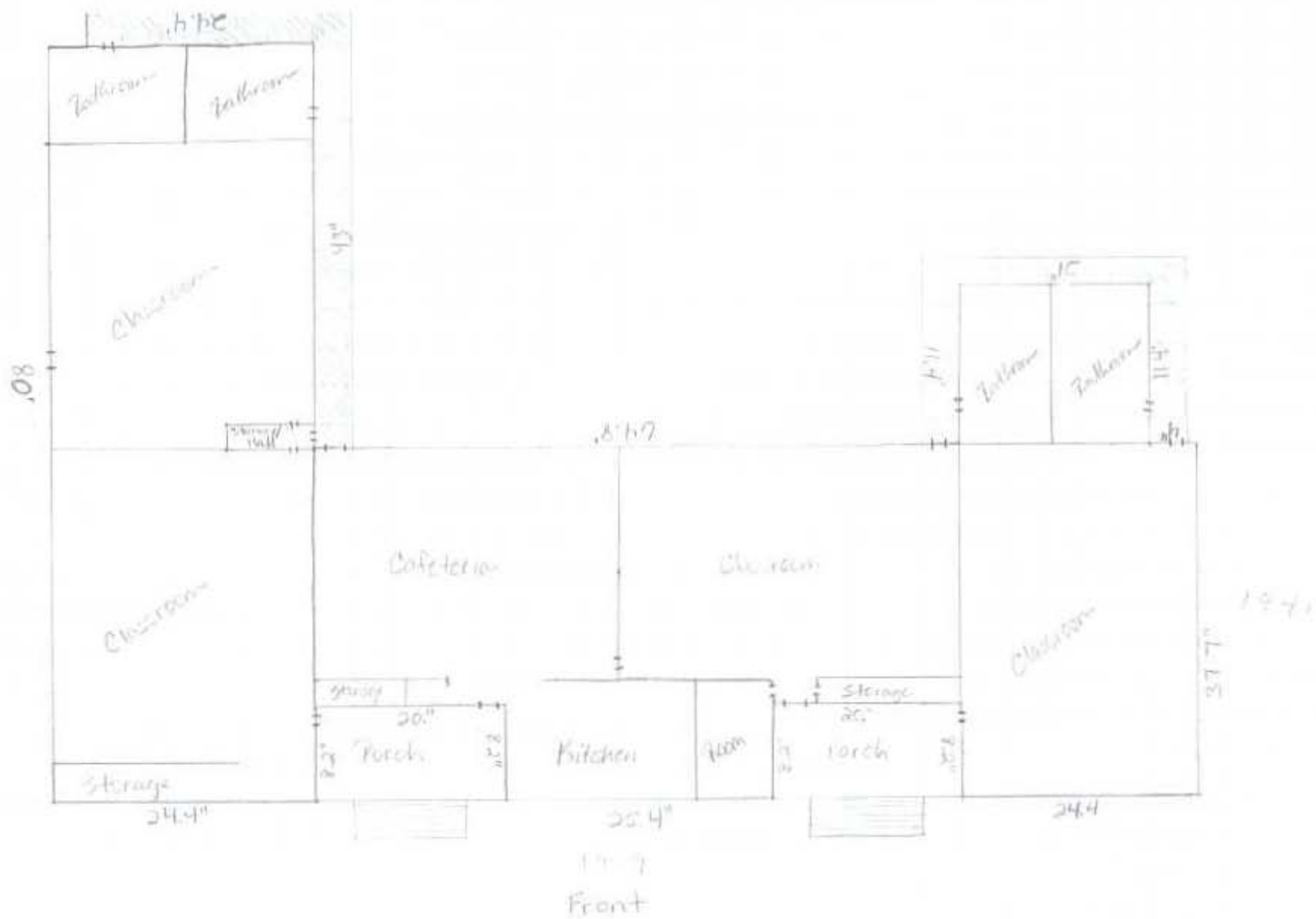
334-943-7222 (w)

11. Please submit color slides of the property with this form.

Color slides are essential to the review process.

12. Please return ALABAMA REGISTER form and documentation to:

Alabama Register Coordinator
Alabama Historical Commission
468 South Perry Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0900



Rosinton School is a one story frame building. The original building consisted of two school rooms and a library. It was the first school in Baldwin County to be built on the "State Aid Plan". Our school faces south and sits on 10 acres, more or less, of property. The building is still currently used as an active school house and has been kept remarkably well.

The foundation rest on brick piers. The height varies from 3 feet, 4 inches on the front Southwest corner to 10 inches on the back Northwest corner to about 1 foot in an inner back corner to 1 foot, 5 inches on the Southeast corner.

The interior framing is wood frame. The exterior wall material is 5 ½ inch lap siding. It is the original boarding. There are three gables facing south that depict the original center section and then the additions that were added later. In 1923, the two classrooms were added on the West side and in 1941 the addition of one more classroom was added the East side. The porches and are situated between the original gable and the side gables and are set in to connect the buildings. A snap shot is enclosed to show the roof shape and is presently covered with 3 tab shingles. It previously had a tin roof. There is one chimney which is located in the middle gable and looks to be the center of the original building.

Either door on either side of the middle gable has been used as a "main entrance". The door to the right of the middle bay was at one time considered the "main entrance" because the school office was just to the left as soon as one entered the building. The door today to the left of the middle bay is used because it enters directly into the cafeteria. The offices are no longer located in the main building. There are four doors to enter from the front side of the building. They are the original doors. They have nine panes of glass at the top and three panels horizontal on the bottom half. All are single doors with simple wood trim.

There are eight single windows across the front that measure 8' 7 ½ " x 40", with 9 panes in each top and bottom sash. The trim around all windows is simple wood. The rooms facing west have two sets of five single windows with the same measurements.. The windows facing north have two sets of five with the same measurement. The room facing east also has the five single windows with the same measurement as the others. There are smaller windows at the back of the porches that measure 7" x 28" that are single windows, double hung with 4 panes per top and bottom sash. There is one more set of windows that measure 8' 7 ½" x 40 ½" a double hung, double set with 9 panes per top and bottom sash.

The interior features 12' 5" ceilings. It has shoe molding around top. Drop down 1 ½ foot for the picture frame molding and the lap siding is also continued on the interior with 4" wide boards. Simple wood trim around the doors and windows from the inside. The flooring is tile. It looks like the base of the original light fixtures are used with "naked bulbs" but were no globes covering the bulbs.

The property is dotted with large pine and oak trees. A few dogwood and smaller trees here and there. The building is landscaped with shrubs along the front and sides.

Rosinton School

No other single factor has contributed more toward the integration and expansion of Rosinton Community than the consolidation of its schools.

Prior to 1919 the children of this community attended four separate one-teacher schools. On May 7, 1919 the County Board of Education secured a loan of \$1,700⁰⁰ from the Baldwin County Bank, to which sum the State of Alabama added \$650⁰⁰, for the purpose of building a consolidated school at Rosinton. This building, two classrooms and a library was the first in the county to be built on the State Aid Plan. The original consolidation united the schools of Centock and Rosinton in 1919-1920 with Miss Lillian Hodyson as principal and Miss Margaret McGrew as assistant. This consolidation was attended and made possible by opening up a new road past the new school and entailed bridging Mill Creek which banks

the school property on the west. This new road gave ready access to the school and marked the beginning of wider community intercourse.

The original enrollment of one-hundred-forty pupils ^{was} ~~were~~ permitted to continue their studies through the tenth grade in 1921 by the addition of a third teacher who used the smaller room originally intended for manual training. The teachers at Rosinton that year were Mr. Howard Roper, principal, Mrs. Lillian Kennedy and Miss Annie Killingsworth assistants. Mrs. Kennedy served Rosinton continuously from this appointment until illness so serious that it resulted in her death compelled her to lay down her books and her plans for "her children" in the spring of 1953.

The initial success of the consolidation and public acceptance of the idea brought the schools of Hollinger and Styx River together with Rosinton in 1923 when two more

classrooms were built onto the school and a fourth teacher added to the faculty. This daily transfer of children from the latter school districts necessitated a common mode of travel therefore bus service was instituted in Rosinton. In 1925 a movement for further consolidation led to the building of a Senior High School at Rosintdale and bus transportation was furnished for all pupils above the eighth grade.

Parental interest in school matters led naturally to periodic meetings of adults in the school building where matters of common interest were discussed and divergent opinions resolved. These meetings, becoming more frequent with the years have crystallized into organizations which have been a potent factor in developing among the people of Rosinton a civic and social consciousness. In 1926 the first P.T.A. was organized with Mrs. A. Underberg as the first president. The school has always had an active

P. T. O. since that time. The Farmers Club and Helping Hand Club are two outstanding organizations and most recently the Rosinton Players may be noted as directly associated with the school, its activities, and the interests aroused there.

In 1941 a new room was added and a fifth teacher required to take care of the enrollment which by then had reached one-hundred-twenty students. About this time Mr. Lundberg was secured to teach music in the school and a piano was bought for the school.

In 1941 a water system was installed and in 1948 modern rest-rooms were built.

A number of lunch plans were tried over a period of years. In 1938-39 Mr. and Mrs. Norman Dawson sold sandwiches and drinks in a small building of their own which they brought to the campus. Then mothers of the community took turns preparing meals at the school. This did not work too well and Mrs.

Lott took over the management with mothers taking turns helping. Finally Mrs. Lott assumed full responsibility and, for a while served lunches on a screened back porch of her home next door to the school. In 1946 the school began its lunch program with Federal Government reimbursement. Subsequent improvement in the school lunchroom facilities and program have been continuous.

For years the urgent need for an auditorium was the subject for conversation whenever school-minded patrons met. At the beginning of the school year 1948-49 construction of a \$3500⁰⁰ brick auditorium was commenced. About one year later it was completed and on November 3, 1949 special dedicatory services were held. Now within its walls, fellowship, hard work and much fine entertainment are shared by student, faculty, patrons and friends.

Many recent improvements have been made in the school and much

equipment added. Perhaps the most notable and helpful is the large electric schedule clock which helps so much to keep the school functioning in an orderly efficient manner.

Principals who have served Rosinton school are Miss Lillian Hodgson, Howard Koper, Lillian Kennedy, H. E. Johnson, M. C. Marchman, J. C. Sharp, B. F. Harper, W. C. McEwan, George Barnhill, George A. Strong, Comar Stewart, Gerald F. Robinson, H. W. Fairmont, David Petty and David Smith. Each in his own way has served and left an imprint on the school and in the community. For every good, with tangible and intangible we are grateful to these and the many who taught with them.

Remembering when they studied in its classrooms and played on its campus, patrons of Rosinton school experience a sense of patriotic pride and love for their alma mater; nevertheless, they are reminded that their children have for time school

the same building, and they hope
for the experience of "The Chambered
Nautilus".

Jean Bullidge

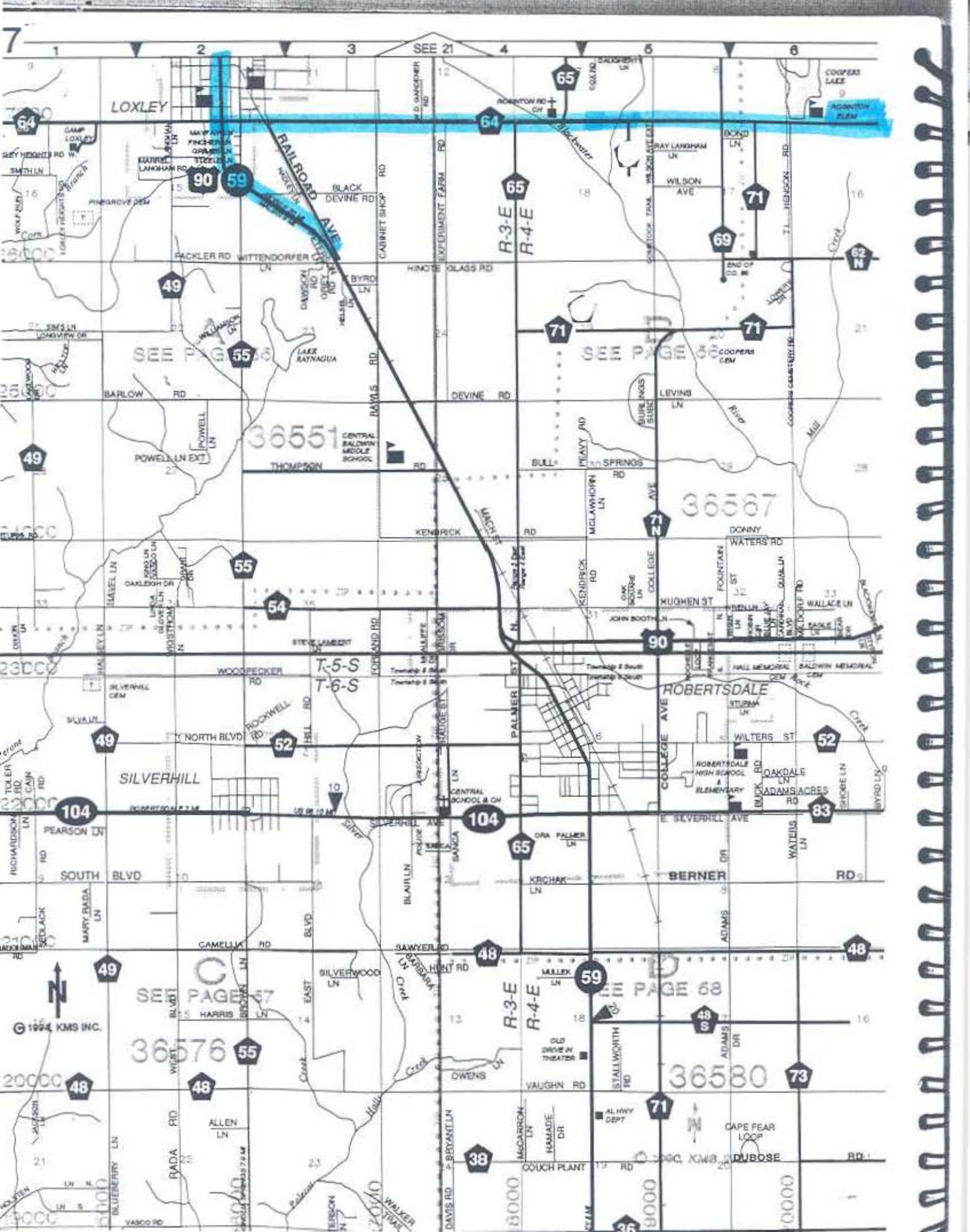
Statement of Significance

Dating from the beginning of construction in 1919 and ready for students in 1920, Rosinton School united two communities which was just the beginning for this growing community. To those of us who have been reared in this special place called Rosinton and attended Rosinton School, there is a pride that is not found as often as one might think. As we expressed this in our "Purpose" for organizing our non profit association, we will also state to you...

*The initial purpose of the corporation is to preserve the original structure of the **Rosinton School** building as a historical site and developing a facility that not only preserves the history of community, but which is a visual reminder of our rich heritage for future generations. Also, to establish an entity to preserve the values and help the community keep in touch with its root as we progress into the 21st Century and maintain a visual reminder which shall represent a standard of living for the citizens of the Rosinton Community.*

We do not have the name of the actual builder or architect, but we do know it was constructed by the Baldwin County Board of Education and the State of Alabama contributed \$650.00. It has been under the ownership of the State of Alabama and will change hands to private ownership July 1, 1999. A copy of the deed is attached.

By Quitclaim Deed, our school was given over in a "land swap" by our then Governor Fob James, and State Superintendent of Education, Ed Richardson in a deal with a local resident before any one quite knew what was going on. Our school was "sold out" from underneath us. Because of its historical value and because it is on its original site, we feel it should be preserved. Now, whether it will be possible for the school to remain "on site" will be the difficult part. If it has to be moved, so be it, just as long as it is not destroyed. Please help. If at all possible we would like to keep it intact and on site. If nothing can be done towards that regard, it would be a tremendous honor to at least have it marked as a Historical Site by the State of Alabama. We are looking for information, advice, options, recommendations, anything that can be offered as a solution. **Please Help!**



SEE 21

LOXLEY

COOPERS LAKE
ROBERTSON BLVD

RAILROAD AVE
WILSON AVE

R-3-E
R-4-E

36551

36567

T-5-S
T-6-S

ROBERTSDALE

SILVERHILL

104

SEE PAGE 57

SEE PAGE 58

36576

36580

© 1994, KMS INC.

© 1994, KMS INC.

CAPE FEAR LOOP

DUBOSE



ROSINTON SCHOOL

