



# ALABAMA REGISTER OF LANDMARKS & HERITAGE NOMINATION FORM

## 1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic Name: Bromley School

and/or Common Name: James E. Cook Memorial Presbyterian Chapel

## 2. LOCATION

Street & Number: 36147 Highway 225

City: Bay Minette (Rural Community of Bromley)

State: Alabama

County: Baldwin

Zip: 36507

Is the property located within the city limits?  Yes  No

Township: 3S

Range: 2E

Section: 29

USGS Quad Map: 156116

## 3. CLASSIFICATION

Category:  Building(s)  District  Structure  Site  Object

Ownership:  Public  Private  Both

Status:  Occupied  Unoccupied  Work in progress

Public Acquisition:  In process  Being considered

Accessible:  No  Yes: restricted  Yes: unrestricted

## 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

Name: James E. Cook Memorial Chapel, Inc.

Telephone: 251-580-3424

Street & Number: 7460A River Road

City: Bay Minette

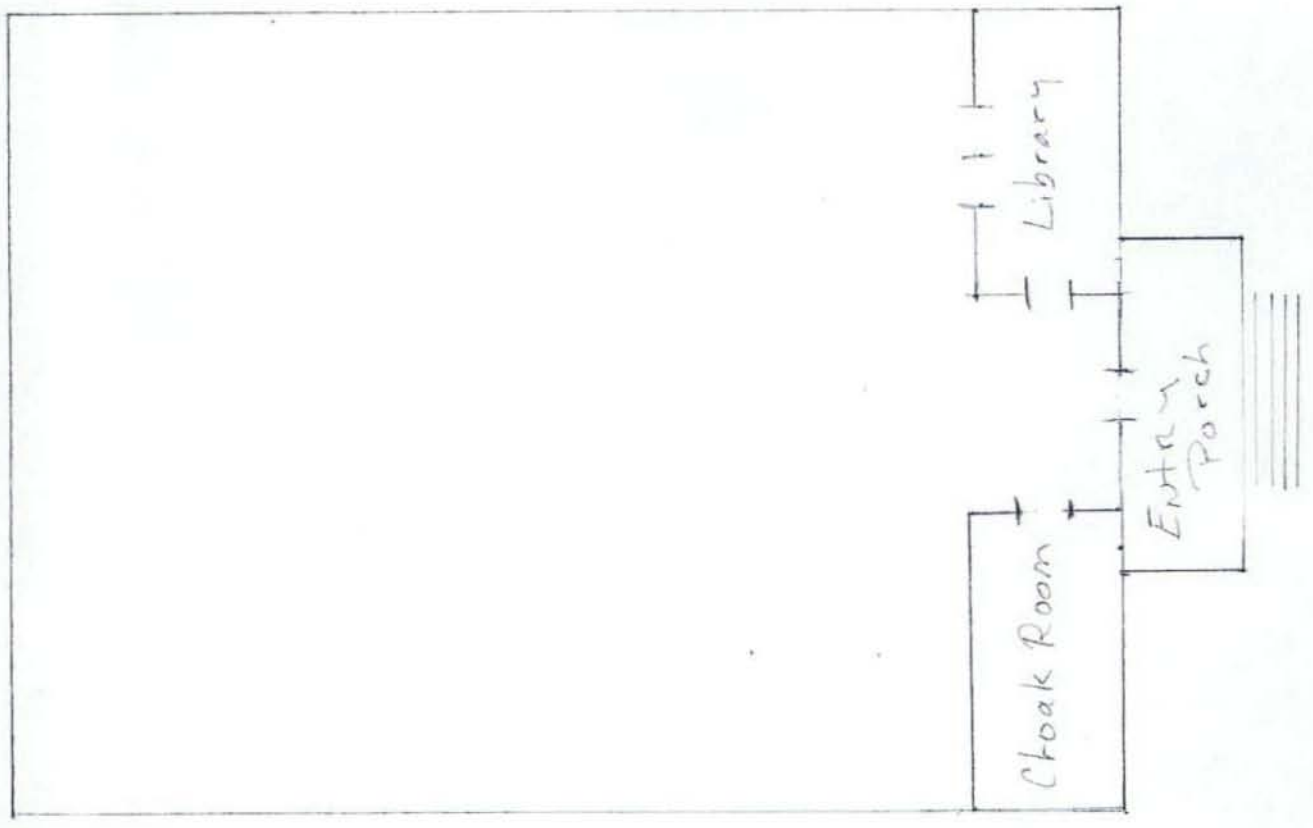
State: AL Zip: 36507

Email: nderwin@bellsouth.net

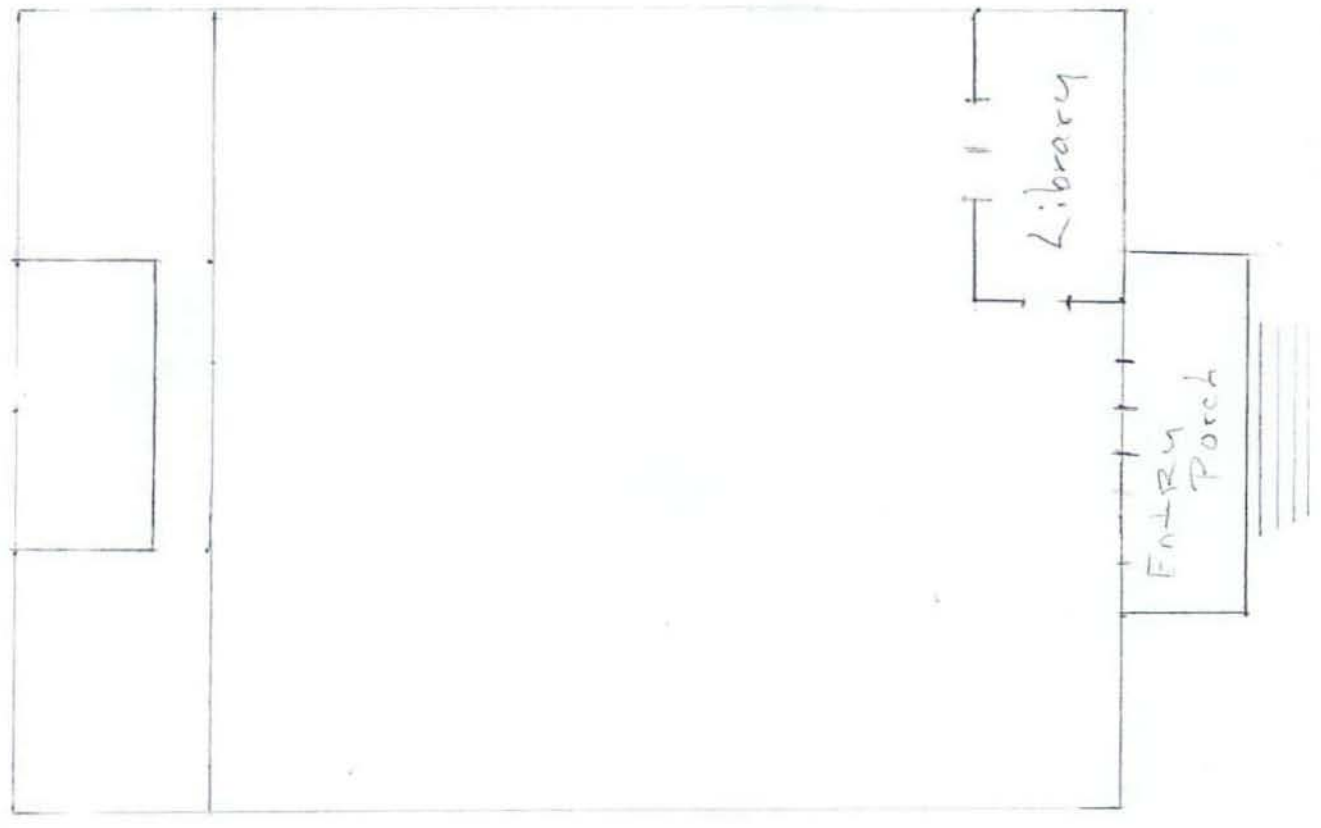
## 5. FLOOR PLAN & SITE PLAN

*Attach sketched floor plan. If the property includes more than one building, submit a site plan showing the locations, dates of construction, and uses of the buildings.*

School 1920



Church 1940



## 6. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION See Instructions for more information.

Construction date:	1920	Source:	James A. Rider, Builder
Alteration date:	circa 1940	Source:	
Architect/Builder:	Bromley community led by James A. Rider	Contractor:	
Physical condition: (Excellent, Good, Fair, Poor, Ruinous)	Good	Remaining historic fabric: (High, Medium, Low)	Medium
No. of stories:	one		
Historic use of property:	Education, religion		
Current use of property:	Religion		
Architectural style category:	No style	Architectural style sub-category:	
Basic typology:	Raised, wood frame	Basic shape:	Rectangle
Basic floor plan:	Single Room	Historic Construction material(s):	Wood
Current exterior wall material(s)	Wood	Roof finish material(s):	Metal
Main roof configuration:	Metal Hip	Foundation material:	raised wood on brick piers
Porch type:	Small entry porch		
Window type and materials:	Single hung, glass panes, wood frame		
Describe alterations:	Interior: Double doors to accommodate caskets for funerals. Hip roof changed to gabled, 4 windows added to north side, bathroom added to outside rear. Platforms added for pulpit. Shutters added to two front windows on inside.		
Number and type of all outbuildings: (if significant, fill out separate survey form)	None		
Exterior Architectural Description:	Wood frame rectangle raised on brick piers, lap siding, metal gabled roof, small entry porch with metal covering.		
Description of Setting:	Two acres of flat, level land cleared with exception to large, old Live Oak trees and occasional large pines. Small cemetery area established in 1967 on northwest side of property. The East side front entry driveway comes off of State Highway 225. A short portion of the old Bromley Road bed separates the Cook Chapel property from Highway 225.		

## 7. SIGNIFICANCE

Criteria (check all that apply and explain below). See Instructions for more information.

**Criterion A:** Associated with historical events and activities relating to the property that are important to the history of the community, state, or nation.

**Criterion B:** Person or group with whom the property is associated is important to the history of the community, state, or nation.

**Criterion C:** Type, period, or method of construction represents architectural features that are significant in the development of the community, state, or nation.

**Criterion D:** Property has yielded or may be likely to yield, information important in Alabama's history or prehistory (archaeological component).

### AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (check all that apply and explain below)

- |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning     | <input type="checkbox"/> industry               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic    | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation           | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education   | <input type="checkbox"/> law                    | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> architecture           | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> social history      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> art                    | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> military               | <input type="checkbox"/> theater             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> commerce               | <input type="checkbox"/> funerary art           | <input type="checkbox"/> music                  | <input type="checkbox"/> other: _____        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> communications         | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian           | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government    |  |

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

For each area of significance checked above, explain why this property is important. Use additional sheets as necessary.

**Education:** The first school in Bromley was taught by Mrs. Laura D'Olive Durant in her home. She became blind in the early 1900's and was no longer able to teach. From that time until 1921, children in Bromley had no opportunity to attend school. In 1920 my grandparents James Alfred Rider and Julia Hurley Rider had children ages 11, 9, and 6 years who had never been to school. There were others in the community with children in the same situation so, building a school became a community project. James Alfred Rider, who was a Scott-Irish farmer, carpenter, and timber man procured the lumber and led the community in the construction of the school. Mr. Shelby C. Folmar donated two acres of land. The State of Alabama never owned the land but did supply the teachers from 1921-1934. Mrs. Bessie L. Smith taught 1921-1925. Miss Lillian Charleston taught in 1926. I've been unable to locate any information identifying teachers from 1926-1934. In 1935, the State built a school in the Cross Roads community but provided no transportation for the Bromley students to get there. Three years later a Bromley resident, Mr. Hiram France bought a van (referred to as "The Cracker Box") and transported the Bromley children to the Cross Roads school until the State provided busses (date unknown).

**Religion:** The Bromley School always served as a place of worship. From 1921 until 1937, worship services were led by "Circuit Preachers" of various denominations on Sunday afternoon. In 1937, the Reverend James E. Cook who served the Bay Minette Presbyterian Church, voluntarily came to the Bromley School and led services on Sunday afternoon on the first and third Sunday of each month at 3:00 PM. He was dearly loved and from thence came the James E. Cook Memorial Chapel. On January 9, 1943 Mr Folmar deeded the property to the church. Services are now conducted at 3:00 PM on the second and fourth Sunday of each month by a minister who is retained by Cook Chapel Incorporated.

## 8. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

*Use attached sheets as necessary*

## 9. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreage of nominated property: Two Acres

*Attach a map showing the location of the property.*

## 10. Person Applying for Historic Register Designation

Name: Nancy Durant Erwin

Address: 7460A River Road

City: Bay Minette

State: AL

Zip: 36507

Telephone: 251-580-3424

Email: nderwin@bellsouth.net

## 11. PHOTOGRAPHS:

Images are essential to the review process. They can be 4x6 color prints or digital images on a CD/DVD. All photographs will become the property of the AHC and will not be returned.

## 12. REMINDER:

Along with this completed application, include attachments for Items 5, 9 and 11 and send them to:

Alabama Historical Commission  
Attn: Lee Anne  
468 S. Perry Street  
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0900

## Bromley (Primary Coordinates: 30.7388, -87.8675)

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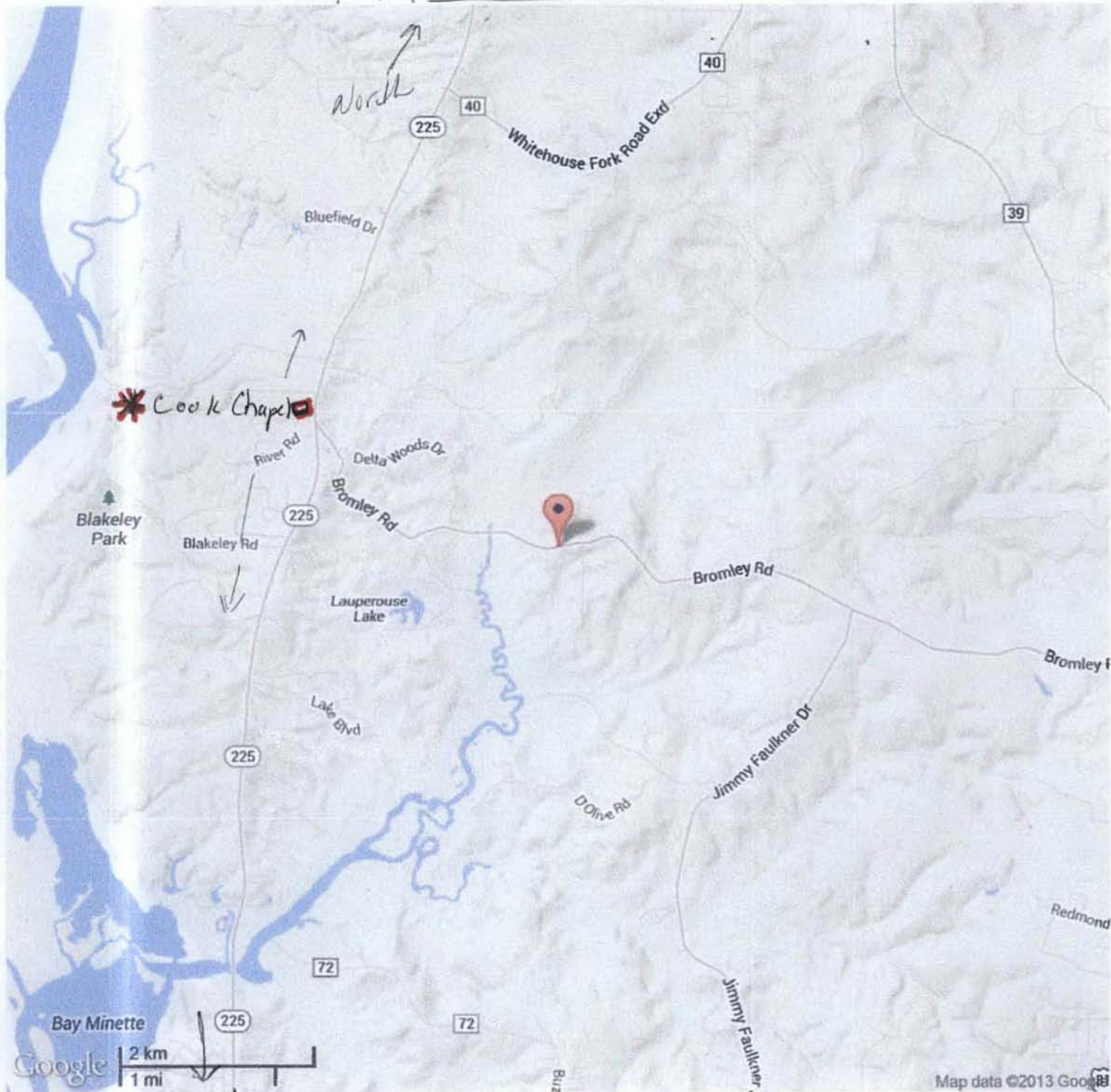
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AdChoices

### [Bromley Directory](#) | [Bromley Community Profile](#)

15 miles I 65



South Hwy 31 Spanish fort 5.5 miles

## Bromley School/ Cook Chapel Church

### Pictures Guide

1. Bromley School 1926.
2. Cook Memorial Presbyterian Church today.
3. Close-up of Plaque and wood lap siding.
4. Chapel and Cemetery on NW side of property.
5. South side of building. Church faces East.
6. North side of building. School had only one window, four added to church circa 1940.
7. South side from rear, five windows are original to school.
8. Close-up of addition to rear for storage and restrooms. The original rear wall of building intact. Addition does not open from inside of church.
9. Inside of church from front doors. Note light fixtures.
10. "Angel Lamp" chandelier manufactured between 1888 and 1920, originally had three oil wicks. It was converted when power became available to the community.
11. After school became a church in 1937, platforms were added (circa 1940). Original pine floor and platforms.
12. Doors to library.
13. Library doors open, book case with glass doors.
14. Original floor, baseboard, and beadboard walls.

15. Front doors. Double doors added , circa 1940, to accommodate caskets.
16. North side windows.
17. South side window showing old hand pump and oak tree shading picnic table.
18. Old school hand pump installed 1920. Each student had own cup hanging in a holly tree near-by.
19. Cemetery on northwest side of property opened in July 1967. James Alfred Rider, school builder, was first body interred there.
20. Very old live oak on west border of property.