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Ala. Historical Commission

Alabama Register Property Information

1. Name

ST. JAMES C.M.E. CHURCH

historic

and/or common

2. Location

street & number

city, town Midway _____ vicinity of

state Alabama _____ county Bullock

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 St. James C. M. E. Church

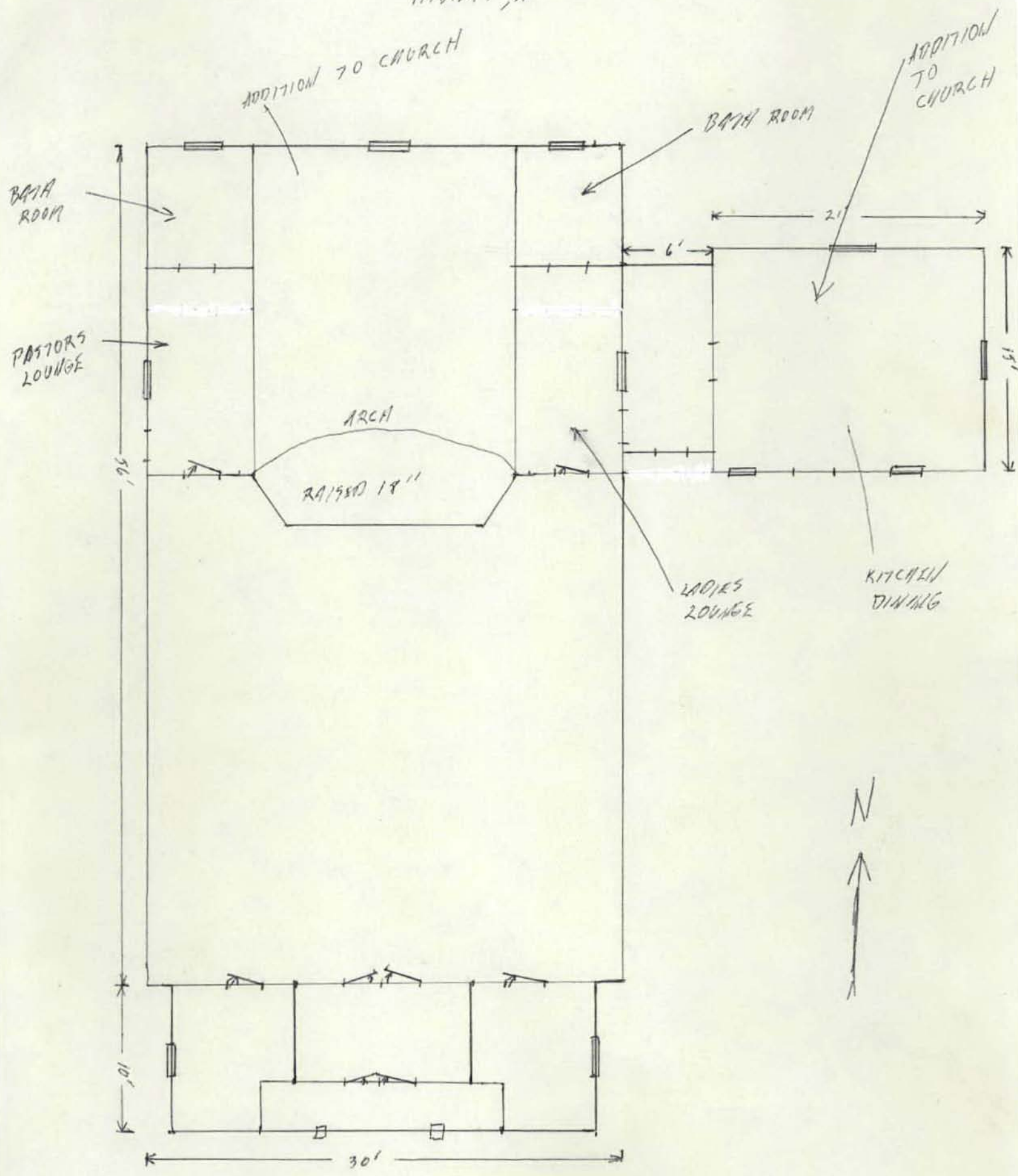
street & number P. O. Box 43

city, town Midway, _____ vicinity of state AL 36053

5. Please use space below to sketch floor plan/site plan.

SEE ATTACHED SHEET

ST JAMES CME CHURCH MIDWAY, AL



6. 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

1. Number of stories: One
2. Foundation: Brick pillars, concrete blocks added later.
3. Interior Framing or Structure system: Wood frame
4. Exterior wall material and pattern: Original wood weather boarding painted.
5. Exterior wall treatment: painted.
6. Porches: Front entrance portico.
7. Number of bays: None
8. Roof type and covering: Gable roof with original steeple church bell enclosed in a cupola and covered with roll roofing material and tin.
9. Roof trim: Plain
10. Chimneys: None
11. Doors: Main Entrance: Double entrance doors, with 5 panels on each door.
Other entrances: 1 leading from pastor's lounge.
2 leading from main auditorium.
1 leading from ladies lounge to kitchen/dining area
1 leading from kitchen to outside
12. Windows: Center portion of building 4 windows (double hung two over two).
Back of choir stand, 1 large window with 2 panes.
One window in each bathroom with 2 panes.
Four windows in the kitchen/dining area with 2 panes each.
Two small windows in each of the interior entrance doors with 1 pane each.
13. Interior Features:
Mantels: None
Interior door and window trim: Nothing special.
Stairways: None
Wall and ceiling finish: Wood which has been sheetrocked.
Flooring: Wood which has been carpeted in the main sanctuary and concert which has been covered with linoleum in the kitchen.

14. Notable hardware or mechanical systems: NONE

15. Alterations and additions:

Bathrooms, pastor's and ladies lounges, expansion of choir stand and the kitchen dining area were added to the original structure as well as enclosure of the main entrance.

16. General setting: Rural wooded setting.

17. Outbuildings: None

7. 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input 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 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

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

SEE ATTACHMENT

8. Major Bibliographical References

Old record book Q page 588 Bullock County Courthouse
(see attachment)

9. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .6

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

Verbal boundary description and justification

Old deed information attached.

10. Form Prepared By

name/title Mrs. Fannye W. Whitfield, member of St. James C.M.E. Church

organization Dean Spratlan, member of Bullock County Historical Society date 10/30/91

street & number 0. Box 43 telephone 205-529-3512

city or town Midway state Alabama 36053

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

12. Please return ALABAMA REGISTER form to:

ALABAMA REGISTER COORDINATOR
ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION
725 MONROE STREET
MONTGOMERY ALABAMA 36130

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

St. James Christain Methodist Episcopal church was founded by the late Reverend Jack McMillian, a slave from Charleston, South Carolina who was owned by Daniel McMillan, a slave master in Midway, Alabama.

He was an obedient slave, hard worker and gentle with children. The master's children were crazy about him and took upon themselves, secretly, taught him to read and write from the Blue Back Webster Speller. When freedom was declared, Jack McMillian was an educated man in those days and taught his children to do likewise.

He worship and took Holy communion at the Midway Methodist church, located at that time in Austin's Grove. It has been stated that it was at the white Midway Methodist Church where Jack McMillian was introduced to the C.M.E. Church of America (The C.M.E Church was also the first national black organization established by former slaves) and formed St. James C.M.E. Church, first under a bush harbor, later buying land on December 5, 1882 and building.

St. James C.M.E. Church was built probably sometime in 1883 by ex-slaves and children of ex-slaves organizing a church of their own. After many years, it was damage by a storm and was rebuilt in 1896 according to the church corner stone. Reverend Jack McMillian was born December 15, 1833 and died on January 23, 1902 according to natations in the family Bible.

As descendants of former slaves, our church has been left to it heirs forever and as heirs, we will continue to grow from a deeply rooted love for Christianity. Our church is the only one here in Midway (C.M.E.) built by former slaves and is certainly a historic landmark in our community. Help us keep the dream alive by placing it on the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage.

Our future plans for preservation consist of:

- Aluminum siding
- Interior painting of walls
- Glass stained windows given in the Remembrance and honor of pioneers in our church.

AS RECORDED IN DEED BOOK Q, PAGE 588

Know all men by these presents, that for an in consideration of the sum of thirty five dollars paid to me by the trustees of C.M.E. Church in America, the receipt hereby acknowledge, I do grant bargain sell and convey to said trustee of C.M.E. Church the following described real estate to wit one piece of land lying near Midway Depot said lot to contain fifty-five yards by fifty-five yards bounded as follows, on North by H.L. King's land on South by road leading from Midway Depot to Clayton Road, on East by A. Stewart's land and on West by J.F. Comer Mill lot and J. F. Taylor's stable. To have and to hold the said trustee of said church their heirs and assigns fore ever name of trustees:

Jackson (Jack) McMellon, Edward Pruit, D. S. McMellon, J.A. Faulk, D. A. Davis, Marcus Pruitt, and Jeff Calloway

Signed December 16, 1882, W.F. Provost Witnep

H. Lamar King, Cephie King, Jackson McMellon

Filed in this office on the 11th day of June and duly recorded and examined by J. T. Norman, Judge of Probate.