

RECEIVED

FEB 15 1996



Alabama Register Property Information

Ala. Historical Commission

Added 3-13-96

1. Name

historic Midway School

and/or common Midway School

2. Location

street & number 2907 East Mill Road (N/S Clay Co. Road No. 4)

city, town Hollins _____ vicinity of

state Alabama _____ county Clay

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 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: community center

4. Owner of Property

name Trustees of Midway Home Demonstration Club

street & number c/o Karen Marable 112 11th Ave. S. Secretary/Treasurer

city, town Alexander City _____ vicinity of _____ state Alabama 35010

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

See Attached Sketch and Diagram

6. 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

One room frame school house. A single story frame building with an open foundation. Exterior and interior made of wood frame. See attached pictures.

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 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 checked="" 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 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"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates October 1917 **Builder/Architect** J.W. House, J.C. Barnett, & D.T. LeCroy

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

See attached statement regarding the history and significance of Midway School House. The trustees and local community wish to preserve the structure by replacing the roof, painting the exterior and interior walls, and repairing broken windows and flooring. The goal is to restore the building without changing its floor plan or altering its 1917 characteristics.

8. Major Bibliographical References

Records from Clay County Courthouse
Records from the School Facilities Section, State of Alabama Board
of Education

9. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 2 acres

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

Verbal boundary description and justification

10. Form Prepared By

name/title Howard Gillum

organization _____

date 1-29-96

street & number 203 Hillside Dr.

telephone (205) 249-8889

city or town Sylacauga

state Alabama

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

12. Please return ALABAMA REGISTER form to:

ALABAMA REGISTER COORDINATOR
ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION
468 SOUTH PERRY STREET
MONTGOMERY ALABAMA 36130-0900

STATEMENT REGARDING THE MIDWAY SCHOOL HOUSE

Brief History:

According to the best knowledge of older residents, the first organized school in the community of Midway was a log school house located on the property of W.E. House, South of the road, almost directly across the road from the present residence of Mrs. J.A. House. This old log school house was destroyed by fire in the year 1879 or 1880.

Another school house was constructed on the site of the present building in about 1880. It was a community project owned and operated by members of the community. There was no State or County participation in the operation of the school or maintenance of the building. It should be noted here that a regular Sunday School was organized and conducted for several years prior to 1917. This building was destroyed by a Tornado in February of 1917.

The present Midway School building was constructed in 1917-1918. In order for the community to receive any State or county aid in the operation of the school, it was necessary for the building to be located on a parcel of land of a minimum of two acres. The two acres of land on which the present building is located was donated to the State by J.W. House and S.B. Gillum about 1917. J.W. House gave one acre on the West side of the half section line and S.B. Gillum gave one acre on the East side of the half section line in Section 11, Township 22, Range 5, Clay County, Alabama.

Operation of the Midway School House:

The Midway School property was purchased from the State of Alabama by the Trustees of the Midway Home Demonstration Club on July 30, 1941. At that time the trustees were C.T. Gillum, J.A. House and Mrs. S.J. Carter. At the time of purchase, the building was in very poor condition. A new roof was installed almost immediately after the property was purchased. This improvement was made possible by donation of labor and funds by members of the community. Funds were obtained through a personal loan made by L.A. House in the amount of \$330.00. These monies were used to purchase roof decking, shingles, etc in order to repair the roof and make other repairs. These monies were repaid to L.A. House from contributions by members of the community over a period of about three years. This information was personally confirmed by L.A. House on November 20, 1970. In addition to putting on a new roof, new steps were installed and other necessary repairs were made. All the labor was donated by members of the community with a large part of the labor being performed by C.T. Gillum and L.A. House.

During the years since 1941, the building has been well maintained, it has been painted outside and inside as needed and other improvements have been made. In August of 1955 the roof was badly damaged by a hail storm and required about \$257.00 to repair. A piano was purchased and several church pews were donated by the Sycamore Methodist Church. During

the year of 1965, the windows were removed and repaired. That is, some of the window lights which had been broken were replaced and all the window lights were reglazed. The labor to accomplish this work was donated by W.J. Neighbors, A.R. Mestre and J.O. House. The building was wired and electricity was connected during the year of 1969.

Donations are received regularly to take care of necessary building maintenance and to pay insurance, power bills, etc. Plans are being made at the present time to replace the outside doors and door casings.

One of the Trustees, J.A. House, died in September 1951. In 1962, the remaining two Trustees, C.T. Gillum and Mrs. S.J. Carter appointed J.O. House to replace the deceased as Trustee.

The activities of the Midway Home Demonstration Club has been carried on and is being continued as the Midway Community Club.

The Midway Community Club is active with the following officers:

- Mr. L.A. House - - - - - President
- Rev. Floyd Neighbors - - - - - Vice President
- Miss Velma Carter - - - - - Secretary and Treasurer

The Insurance on the building is made to the Midway Club House. The power bill is made to the Midway Club House, c/o Miss Velma Carter, Secretary and Treasurer.

The Trustees, Mrs. S.J. Carter and J.O. House, appointed A.R. Mestre as Trustee to replace the deceased C.T. Gillum in November of 1970.

Signed: Mrs S.J. Carter 5/10/71
Mrs. S.J. Carter Date

J.O. House 5-10-71
J.O. House Date

A.R. Mestre 5-10-71
A.R. Mestre Date

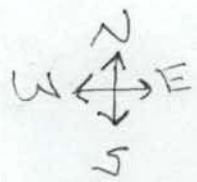
Witnessed:

William P. Roberts 5/11/71
Date

 5/11/71
Date

SIGNED BEFORE ME

[Signature]
NOTARY PUBLIC STATE-OF-LAUISIANA



140

420'-0"

$\frac{3}{4}$

105'-0"

WELL

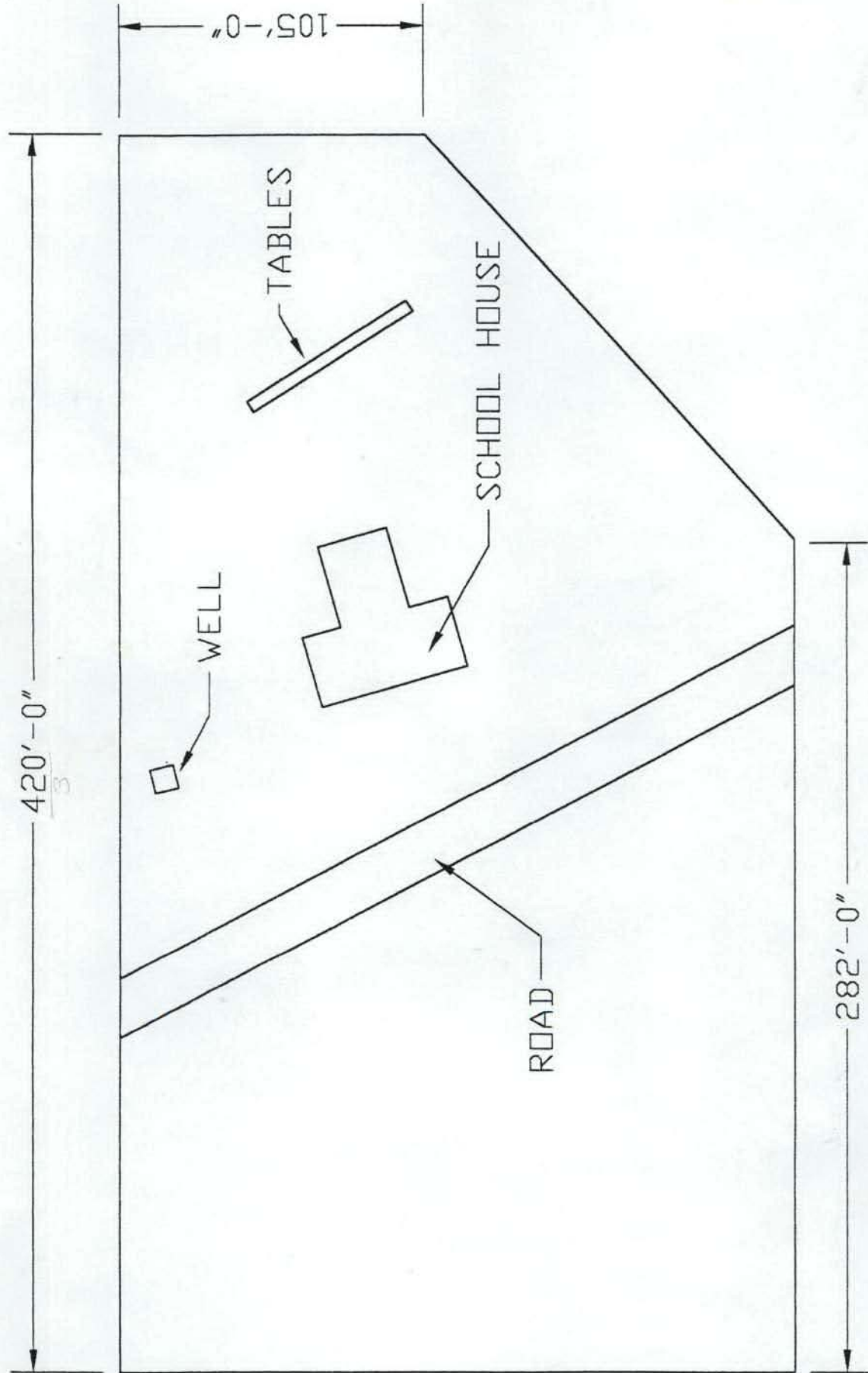
TABLES

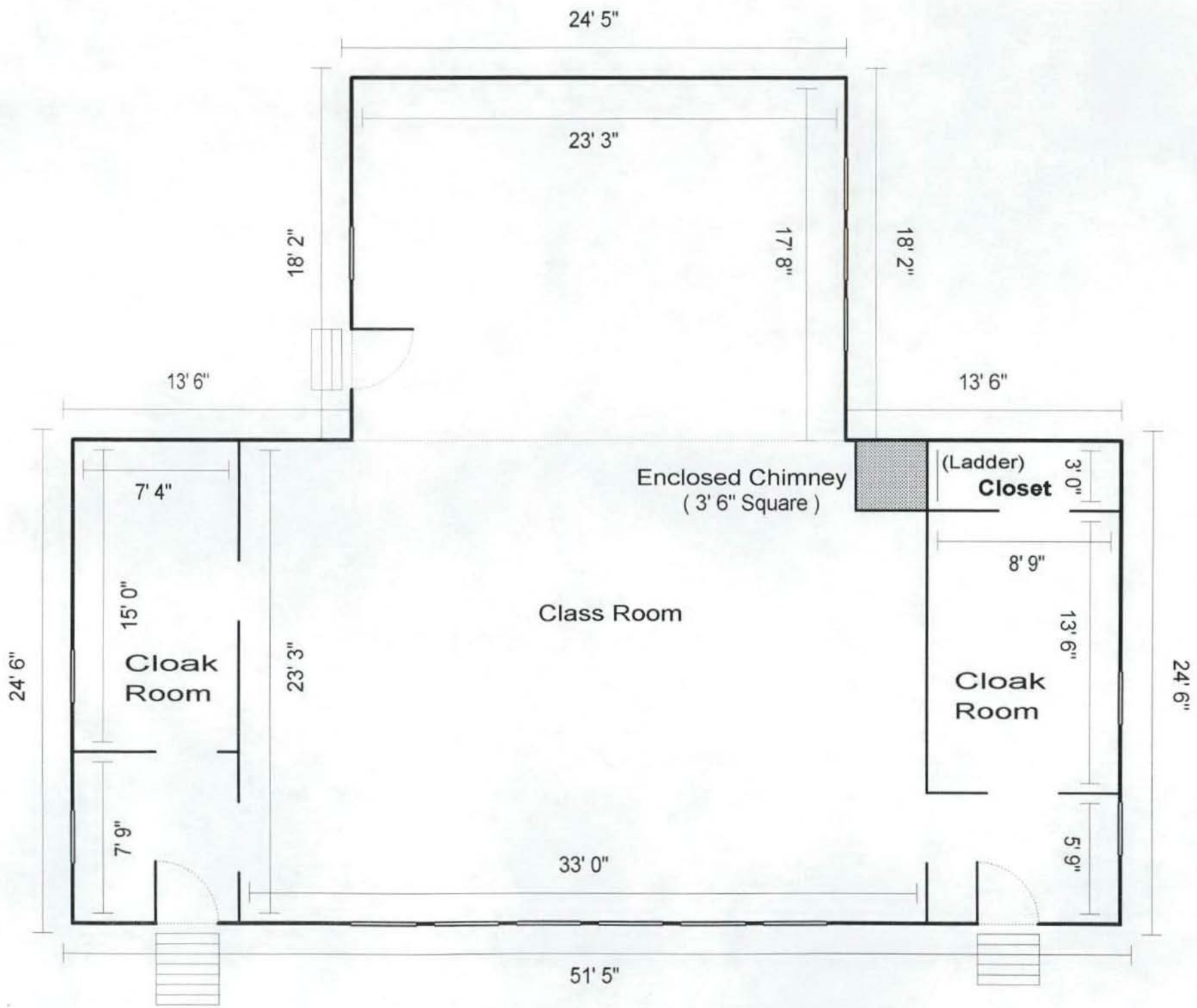
SCHOOL HOUSE

ROAD

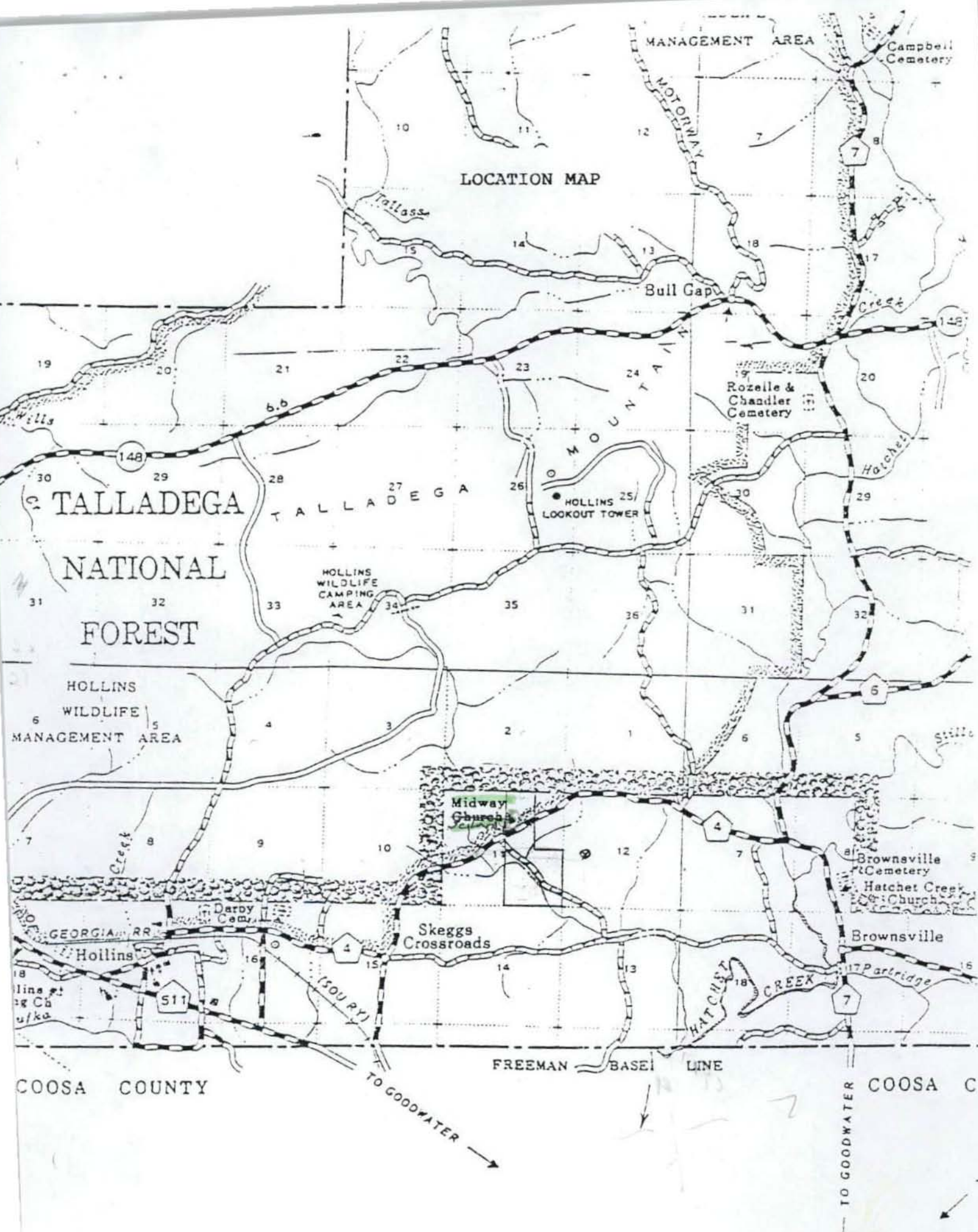
282'-0"

231'-0"





LOCATION MAP



MANAGEMENT AREA

Campbell Cemetery

10

11

12

7

LOCATION MAP

Talladega

Bull Gap

Creek

19

20

21

22

23

24

18

7

148

Rozelle & Chandler Cemetery

20

TALLADEGA

TALLADEGA

HOLLINS WILDLIFE LOOKOUT TOWER

29

NATIONAL FOREST

31

32

33

34

35

36

31

32

HOLLINS WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

6

5

4

3

2

1

6

5

Midway Church

Brownsville Cemetery

Hatchet Creek Church

GEORGIA RR

Darby Cemetery

Skeggs Crossroads

Brownsville

lines at g Ch u/ka

511

(SOUPRY)

15

14

13

12

16

HATCHET CREEK

Partridge

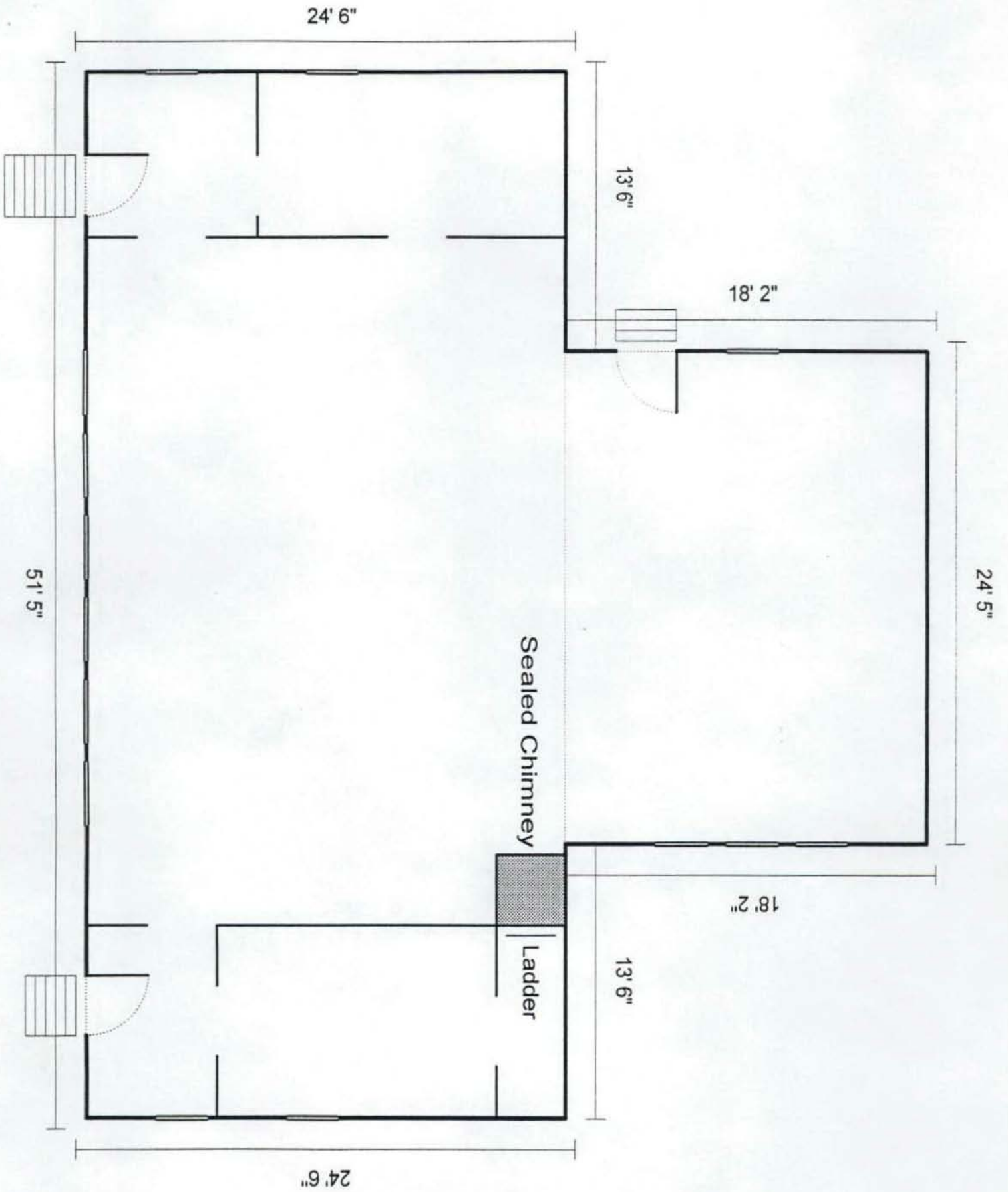
COOSA COUNTY

FREEMAN BASE LINE

COOSA C

TO GOODWATER

TO GOODWATER



MIDWAY SCHOOL
2907 East Mill Road
Hollins, Clay County, AL

SUMMARY

The Midway School is a one-story, frame, hipped roof structure which faces south on two acres of land in the rural Clay County community of Midway. Dating from 1917, it was one of the early school buildings constructed with State funds. The T-shaped plan features a large central classroom, flanked by small symmetrical entrance halls on the front and girls' and boys' cloak rooms at the rear. A smaller room extends to the rear of the central classroom, forming the leg of the "T" and providing a location for a stage. The plan has been documented as plan 2-C as furnished by the State Superintendent of Education.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The structure is eligible for listing on the Alabama Register under Criteria A and C, education and architecture. It reflects the trend in public education during the early twentieth century, whereby states assumed the responsibility of educating the populace. In Midway, this may be seen by the use of a specific state-furnished structural plan, state funding to match local efforts, and a state-supported teacher for the school. Architecturally, the structure depicts a building type common to this period, but rarely surviving to the present. That its structural condition and general setting have been maintained very close to their original appearance further enhances its eligibility for listing on the state register.

HISTORICAL SUMMARY

The Midway community derives its name from its location as a midway point between the communities of Hollins and Brownsville (approximately 4 miles in each direction). During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Midway experienced a period of prominence for its region, at one time boasting of a population of around 100.

Local residents believe the earliest school building to have been a log structure located almost directly across the road from the present structure which was destroyed by fire and replaced by a new building around 1900 or 1910. This was located on the present site and resulted from a community effort which received no state or county aid. It was also used as a church by an itinerant Methodist preacher, as well as for regular Sunday school meetings by the congregation. This structure is documented in a deed dated September 3, 1910, which transferred one acre of property from J. W. House to the State of Alabama. It was this structure which was destroyed by a tornado on February 23, 1917, as documented in a list of items necessary to rebuild the school submitted by J. W. House to the State of Alabama (Oct 27, 1917).

The present structure dates from late 1917 and was constructed to replace the school which was destroyed by the 1917 tornado. State funding was secured by complying with a requirement that the school lot be at least two acres. To meet this requirement, S. B. Gillum transferred an acre of property to the State on October 17, 1917, which joined the lot previously donated. Documents requesting state funding show that the state furnished 1/3 of the building cost (\$450.00), with 2/3 being furnished by the community (\$900.00). Documents from 1920 reveal the same ratio applied to purchasing equipment (desks) for the school (\$100 local funding and \$50 state funding).

When the school reopened in 1918, it offered six grades of education to approximately 25 pupils. During the 1930's, it was replaced with a newer structure in the nearby Hollins community when schools from those two areas were consolidated. For many years after the 1930's, the Midway school stood vacant and suffered increased deterioration. Finally, in 1941, it was purchased by the Midway Home Demonstration Club. Residents of the community donated labor and funds to repair and maintain the structure. This group has provided a valuable service to the community by maintaining the structure for use by various civic and religious groups.

DESCRIPTION

Today the structure remains very close to its original condition. A center gabled bell tower adorns the facade, and the original bell remains intact, though the tower has been enclosed. Major roof repairs were made in 1941 and again in 1955. New steps were built in 1941. In 1965, the windows were reglazed and some deteriorated sashes were replaced. Electricity was added in 1969. On the interior, the two wood burning stoves located at the northeast corner of the large classroom and folding wooden doors between the two classroom areas have been removed (date unknown). The vertical flush board interior wall covering, original flooring, and single-leaf five-vertical-panel doors all remain. Original desks have been stored in the attic. An original well is still located on the west side of the property. The road running in front of the school has been moved slightly closer to the structure.

Plans are underway for a transfer of the property from the Home Demonstration Club, which is now inactive, to a local historic group currently being formed.