

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered 10-28-83

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

1. Name

historic Demopolis Public School

and/or common Demopolis Junior High School

2. Location

street & number 601 South Main

N/A not for publication

city, town Demopolis N/A vicinity of

state Alabama code 01 county Marengo code 091

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name City of Demopolis

street & number P. O. Box 580

city, town Demopolis N/A vicinity of state Alabama

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Marengo County Courthouse

street & number N/A

city, town Linden state Alabama

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Alabama Inventory has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1970-present  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Alabama Historical Commission

city, town Montgomery state Alabama

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<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**

The Demopolis Public School is a two-story building with a full basement. The foundation is red brick, visible on the south corner. The frame is brick. The exterior wall material is the original brick with engaged columns supporting an entablature and pediment at the centered front entrance. Concrete steps flanked by brick pylons lead to the double doors which contain three panels each. There is a six-pane transom above the doors with a matching twelve pane (six above, six below) window above the transom. Heavy denticulated cornices envelope the entire structure. The roof is concealed by a brick parapet. The flat roof is metal coated with red lead. The main entrance is on the west side in the center of the building. There are entrances on the north and south sides (single doors) and an exit from the stage on the north side. There is a door on the east side leading to the second floor. This is the only major change that has been made to the exterior of the building. There are eight sets of windows across the front in groups of four (four sets on the first floor and four sets on the second floor) with six over six panes. This same pattern is followed on the east side, across the back of the building. There are four windows together over the front entrance, already described. Four groups of four windows (two over two panes) are visible from the basement on the front and one single on the north and four singles on the south side.

The interior windows are surrounded with plain wooden trim. The doors are paneled wood, with one panel of plain glass. The building contains two stairwells, one on the north and one on the south side, leading from the basement to the second floor and are open. Each contains three sets of steps. The banisters are plain with wooden square balusters. An unusual feature is the narrow risers on the steps to the first floor. It is thought that this was added by the architect to accommodate the children in the primary grades whose classrooms were housed on the first floor.

The walls are plaster. Some sheetrock has been used in the basement. Most of the plaster is the original. The flooring is pine and the original is predominate throughout the building except in a few rooms where tile has been placed over the wood. The enclosed balcony has carpet. Radiators heat the rooms from a basement furnace.

Most of the building remains unaltered. The balcony over the auditorium was enclosed and converted to a library in 1971. The wall was built out of sheetrock and the tiered floor was covered with plywood and carpet. These changes were done with no damage to the existing structure and can be converted back to the original balcony with a minimum effort.

The building is located on Main Street, on the corner of Pettus Street, in a residential district. It is easily accessible to the business district.

# 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 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"/> 1900-1999	<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** 1913-1914 **Builder/Architect** Frank Lockwood; Art; Clancy & Neely, Builder

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

**ARCHITECTURE:** The Demopolis Public School is a good example of the public schools built in neighborhoods and small towns throughout Alabama in the early 20th century. Characteristic features include the wide center-hall plan and Beaux Arts form, the classical architectural details, and the setting on a large, half-block lot in a residential neighborhood. The building is organized by a wide center hall running its length and terminating in secondary entrances and stairs at each end. The main entrance, several feet above grade, intersects the hall axis at its center. Beyond is a rear wing housing a two-story auditorium with a fairly sophisticated inclined floor and proscenium stage. The two-and-a-half story building has a restrained, symmetrical Beaux Arts form, with the impressive classical portico and stepped parapet as the central features and slightly projecting pavillions at both ends. Windows are large to maximize light and ventilation in the classrooms. Classical architectural details--an imposing entrance with columns, full entablature, and pediment and a denticulated cornice--express the importance and institutional nature of the building. Brick paneling around the pavillion windows and on the solid walls at the ends and rear adds subtle interest and articulation. The school was designed by a leading Alabama architect of the period, Frank Lockwood, who had trained in the New York office of George B. Post. Lockwood designed many other educational facilities in the state, including at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa and Huntingdon College in Montgomery. Lockwood was the architect for the wings of the Alabama State Capitol, the Montgomery Post Office, numerous churches and houses.

**EDUCATION:** The Demopolis Public School was the first school in Demopolis build specifically for public education and until 1937, when the high school was built, it was the only public school for white residents of Demopolis. In 1937 it became a grammar school, and in the 1970s, after the city successfully established an integrated educational system, it became the city's only junior high school. It continued in active use until it was closed in 1981.

Demopolis Public School is located on a site that has been used for educational purposes since 1889. The original structure, built in 1889 for the Marengo Military Academy, was destroyed by fire in 1913. At that time the trustees of the academy deeded the property to the city and donated the insurance money collected on the burned building for the erection of a new public school.

\* \* \* \* \*

**HISTORY:** The corner of Main and Pettus Street has been significant to the history of education in Demopolis since 1889 when the Marengo Military Academy was erected on this site. The Academy disbanded in 1902 and the first public school was organized and occupied the building which remained in the Academy trustees' hands. The last headmaster of the Academy, Captain J. B. McLeod, became the first Superintendent of the City's public school. On February 27, 1913, this frame building was completely destroyed by fire. he trustees of the Marengo Military Academy deeded the Academy property to the City of Demopolis, with the understanding that a new public school would be erected.

K-1000A  
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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HISTORY (cont.)

The new building was designed by Alabama architect Frank Lockwood in 1913 and was erected in 1913-1914. The contractors were J. T. Clancy of Thomaston, Alabama, and W. M. Neely of Uniontown, Alabama. Their low bid of \$21,976 did not include the heating system, estimated to cost an additional \$2,000.

Mr. Lockwood's subdued Beaux Arts style was typical of many turn of the century schools. It seems to be a simplified version of Morgan Hall, designed earlier for the University of Alabama by Mr. Lockwood. Both have an inverted "T" floor with the center rear wing housing an auditorium with an inclined floor, balcony, and stage with proscenium arch. The exterior, which remains virtually unchanged except for the addition of fire escapes from the second floor, is enveloped with a heavy denticulated cornice. The impressive front entrance in the center of the building is framed by engaged columns supporting an entablature and pediment. The flat roof is concealed behind a brick parapet.

Frank Lockwood was born in Trenton, New Jersey in 1865. He graduated from Princeton and took a post-graduate course in architecture at Pratt Institute. As a member of the firm of George B. Post of New York, he came to Anniston, Alabama, to prepare plans for an Episcopal Church. In 1895, he came to Montgomery to design the Standard Club and remained to design practically every type building in his 41 years residence. Some of his finest include the Post Office, wings to the State Capitol, Graystone Hotel, Cloverdale School, numerous buildings at Huntingdon College and many residences. At the University of Alabama, his works include Smith Hall, Morgan Hall, Tutwiler Hall. The many churches he designed include Trinity Presbyterian, Montgomery; and Episcopal Churches at Dothan, Troy, Talladega, and Auburn. Other buildings include the Baptist Hospital at Selma, the Baptist orphanage at Troy, and buildings at Troy, Florence, Livingston, Marion Institute, Judson College, and Auburn.

From its opening in 1914 to its closing in June, 1981, the Demopolis Public School has been a center of learning for the town of Demopolis. Until 1937 it was the only public school in the white community. Since that time until its closing, it has served as a grammar school, and with the coming of intergration in 1970 to the public schools, the only Junior High in the City.

The numerous graduates, former students and faculty, and concerned citizens, viewing the building as a community resource, formed a friends association know as S.O.S. to "save our old school building". Many ideas for the reuse of the building have been suggested, foremost being the restoration of the auditorium, a much needed facility in Demopolis. Other ideas include a library, Chamber of Commerce Office, auxiliary classrooms for kindergarten or upper level grades, adult education classrooms, scout troops, as well as other civic clubs and youth groups. The ideas are legion and challenging. The projected growth for the town enhances the value of the property to the City.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation has awarded the City of Demopolis a consultant grant in the amount of \$2,000 to match local funds to hire architectural and financial

HR-5-100A  
(11/78)

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HISTORY (cont.)

consultants to prepare a feasibility study for the reuse of the building.

At the time of its closing, the City announced that it was selling the building to a private contractor who planned to convert the building into apartments. There was such a public outcry against this move that the Mayor and Council Members agreed to hold off and see what could be done.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 2.07

Quadrangle name Demopolis

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A Latitude 32° 30' 38"  
Zone Easting Northing

B Longitude 87° 50' 18"  
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

### Verbal boundary description and justification

See attached map

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

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ellen Mertins Alice Bowsher  
Rebecca G. Culpepper (Demopolis Historic Preservation;) Kidd, Plosser & Sprague

organization Alabama Historical Commission date September 23, 1983

street & number 725 Monroe Street telephone (205) 832-6621

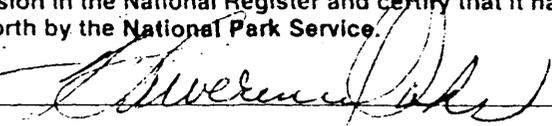
city or town Montgomery state Alabama

# 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 State Historic Preservation Officer date September 23, 1983

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

FORM 100A  
(11/78)

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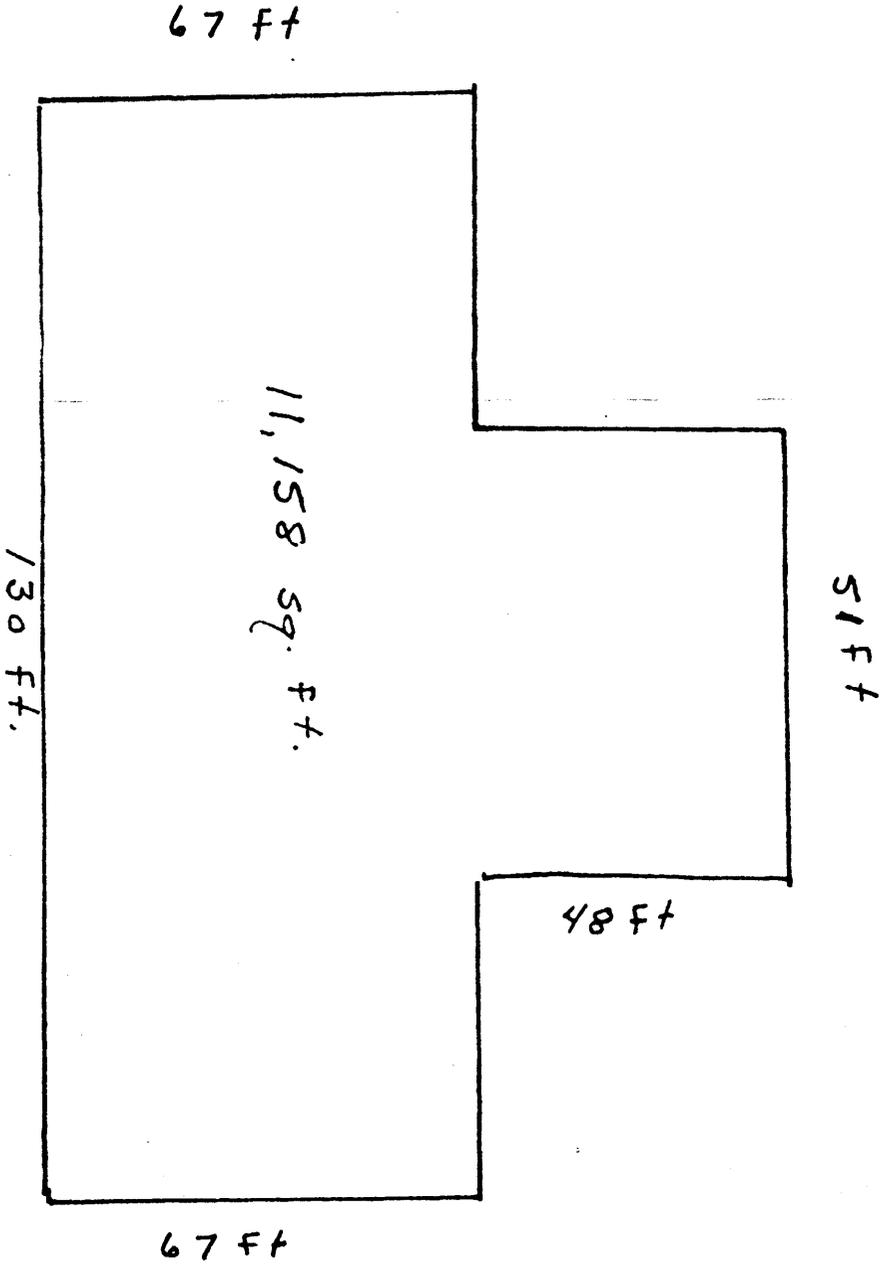
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Allen, Mayor Hugh L.; correspondence with National Trust for Historic Preservation;  
Mayor's office; Demopolis, Alabama.  
Demopolis School Records; Supt. of Education Office; W. Jackson; Demopolis, Alabama  
Marengo County Court House; Linden, Alabama; Deed book P.R. p. 500 (see Back)  
Marks, Henry S., Who Was Who In Alabama, Huntsville, Alabama; Strode Publishers, 1972.

Interviews:

Smith, Dr. Winston; Demopolis, Alabama  
Turner, Gwyn C.; Demopolis, Alabama  
Ulmer, Saunders; Demopolis, Alabama

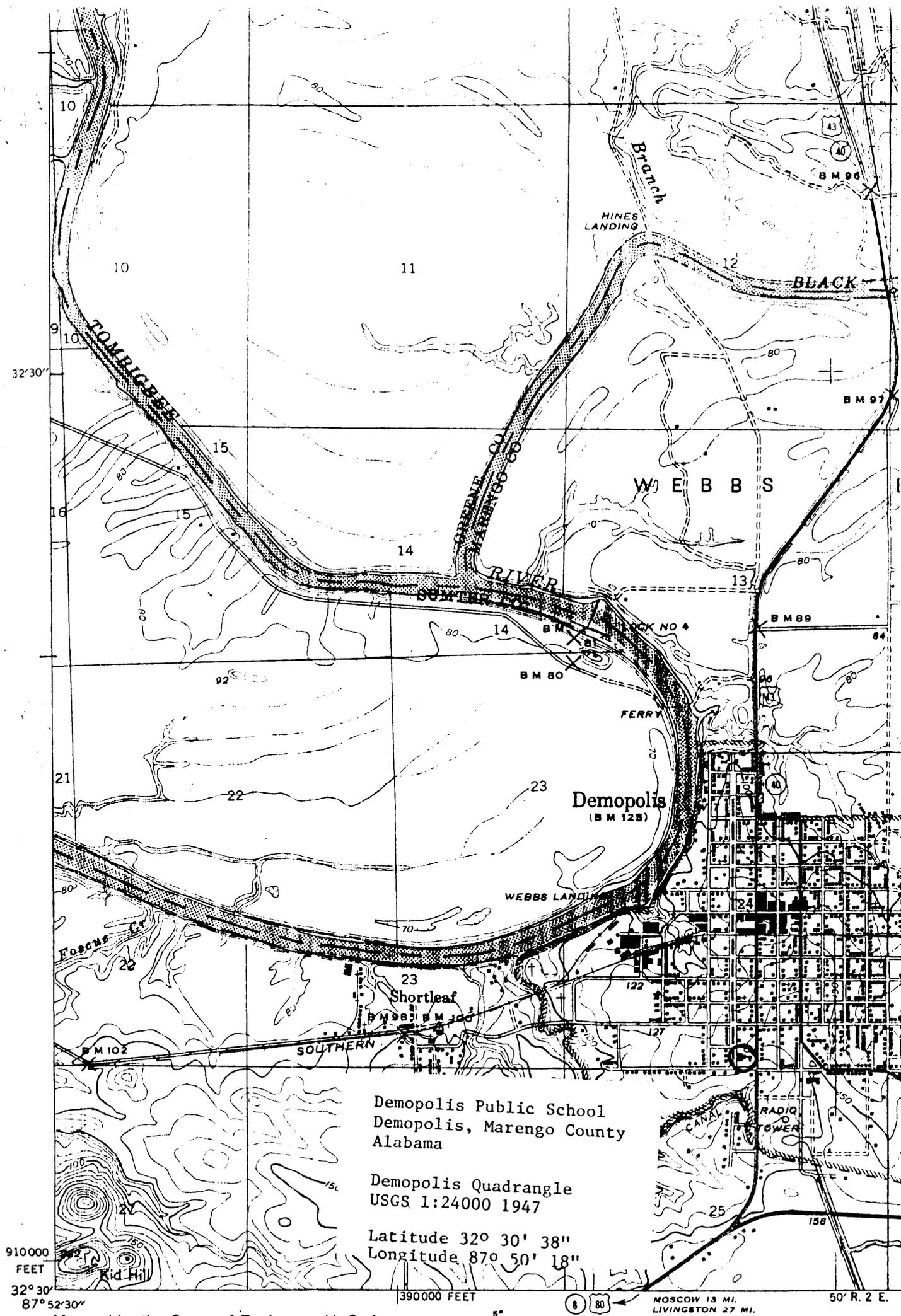
Walnut Avenue



Demopolis Public School; So. Main Avenue

Petkus Street





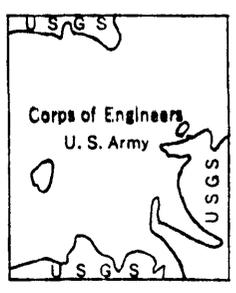
Mapped by the Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army,  
 and the Geological Survey  
 1936-1937 and 1946

ROAD CLASSIFICATION 1947		
Dependable hard-surface heavy-duty road	Dry weather roads	U. S. Route (15)
Secondary hard-surface all weather road	Loose-surface graded	State Route (28)
	Unsurfaced, graded	
	Dirt road	

More than two lanes indicated along road with tick at point of change



APPROXIMATE MEAN DECLINATION, 1946



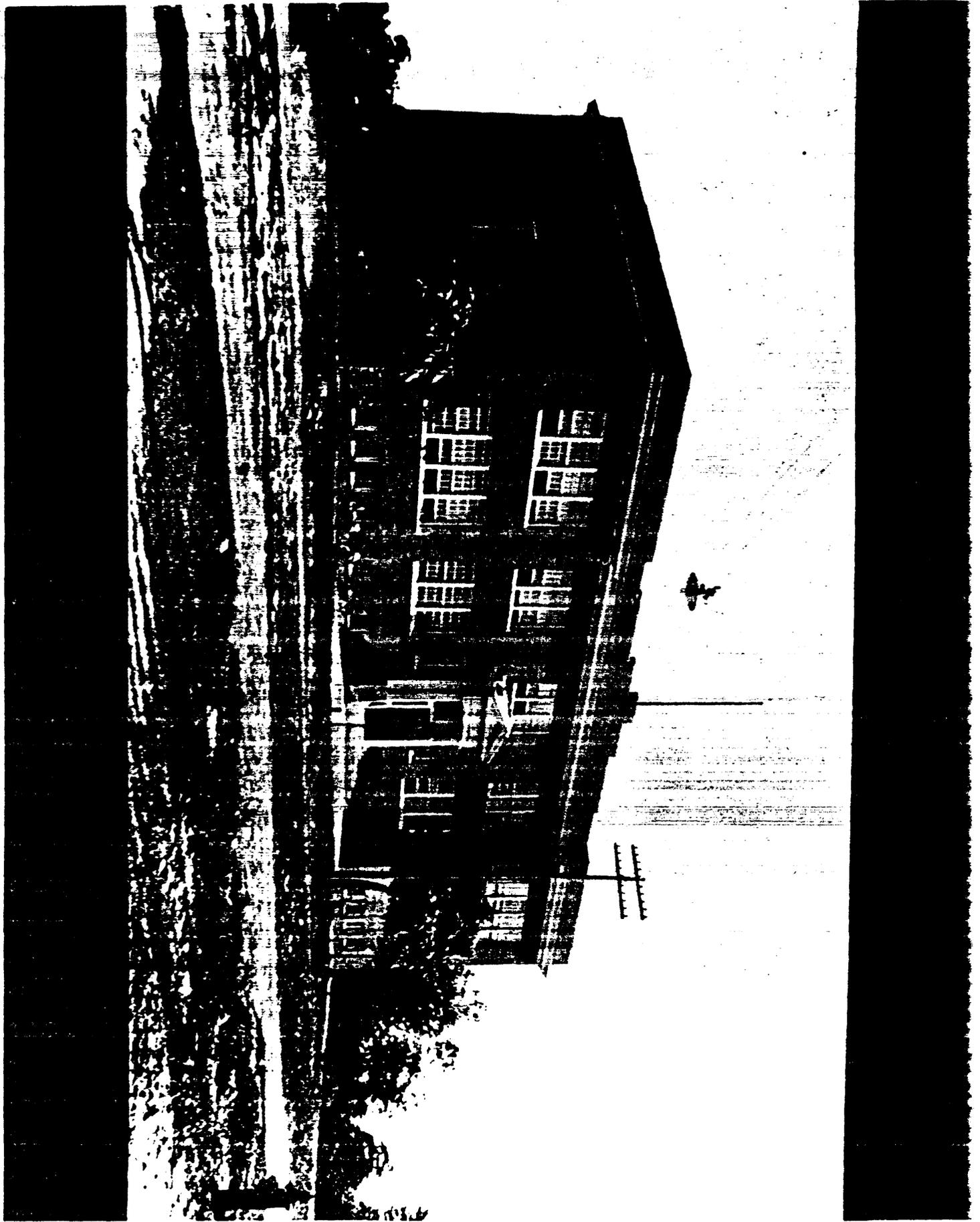
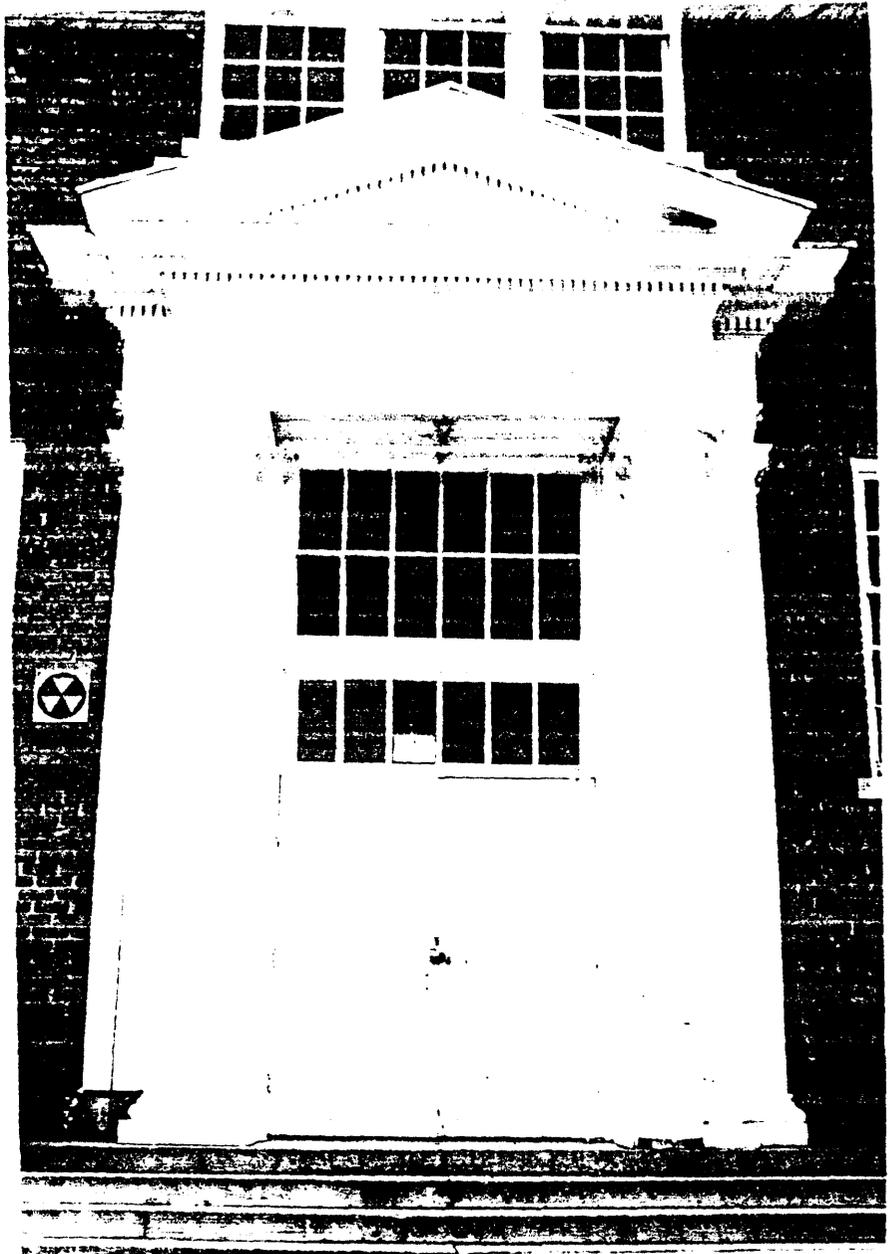


Photo of Demopolis School, made prior to  
time fire escapes were added (1940's)  
(original photo: Mrs. Ben George)



Demopolis Public School

Main entrance to building, center  
of west side.

Fleming Studio  
Demopolis, Al



Demopolis Public School

An example of the windows found on  
the front and rear of the building.

Fleming Studio  
Demopolis, Al

Demopolis Public School

east side of building, showing the rear  
of building and south side with fire  
escape

Fleming Studio  
Demopolis, Al.

Demopolis Public School  
West side view of front of building  
also north side showing fire escape

9/82

Fleming Studio  
1808 Olive Ave.  
Demopolis, Al 36732

