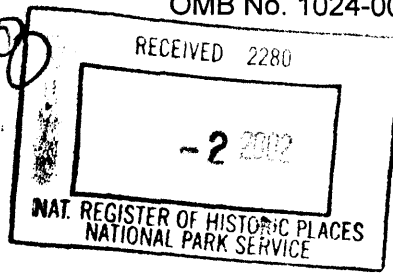
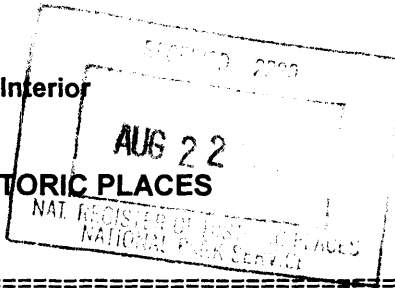


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**



**1. Name of Property**

historic name: Kate Duncan Smith Daughters of the American Revolution School

other names/site number: KDS DAR School Campus

**2. Location**

street & number: 6077 Main Street not for publication: N/A  
city or town: Grant vicinity: N/A  
state: Alabama code: AL county: Marshall code: 095 zip code: 35747

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this \_\_\_\_\_ nomination \_\_\_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_\_\_ nationally X statewide \_\_\_\_\_ locally. ( \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature]  
Signature of certifying official

27 March 2002  
Date

Alabama Historical Commission (State Historic Preservation Office)  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_\_\_ meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.  
( \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

- I hereby certify that this property is:
- entered in the National Register  
     See continuation sheet.
  - determined eligible for the National Register  
     See continuation sheet.
  - determined not eligible for the National Register
  - removed from the National Register
  - other (explain):

Signature of the Keeper [Signature] Date of Action 10/2/02

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action



Property Name: Kate Duncan Smith DAR School

County and State: Marshall County, Alabama

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- X A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
X C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or a grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property.
X G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION
SOCIAL HISTORY
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance: 1922-1957

Significant Dates 1924

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder ALFRED, A.M. WRIGHT, A.C. & KENNAMER, A.N.
CAMPBELL, L.W. COPELAND, F.H.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
previously listed in the National Register
previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

- [ ] State Historic Preservation Office
[ ] Other state agency
[ ] Federal agency
[ ] Local government
[ ] University
[x] Other
Name of repository
KDS Administration Office: NSDAR Headquarters

Property Name: Kate Duncan Smith Daughters of the American Revolution School

County and State: Marshall County, Alabama

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**10. Geographical Data**  
=====

**Acreage of Property** Approximately 15 Acres

**UTM References** (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	16	<u>568440</u>	<u>3821660</u>	4	16	<u>568510 3821040</u>
2	16	<u>568710</u>	<u>3821460</u>	5	16	<u>568390 3821600</u>
3	16	<u>568580</u>	<u>3821040</u>			

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

=====  
**11. Form Prepared By**  
=====

name/title: Leslie Tucker, Local Policy Analyst ; Christy Anderson, AHC Reviewer; Trina Brinkley, AHC Reviewer

organization: National Trust for Historic Preservation date: November 19, 2001

street & number: 1785 Massachusetts Avenue, NW telephone: 202-588-6234

city or town: Washington state D.C. zip code 20036

=====  
**Additional Documentation**  
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Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

=====  
**Property Owner**  
=====

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Mrs. Charles Horton, Chairman, Kate Duncan Smith DAR School Board of Trustees

street & number 2718 Treyburne Lane telephone 256-728-4236

city or town Hampton Cove state AL zip code 35763

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 1 Name of Property: Kate Duncan Smith DAR School  
County and State: Marshall County, Alabama

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**7. NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION**

Kate Duncan Smith Daughters of the American Revolution School is located on Gunter Mountain in northeast Alabama, approximately 35 miles southeast of Huntsville and twelve miles north of Guntersville. Situated in the northern most section of Marshall County, the mountain is bordered by the Tennessee River to the east and south, and by the Paint Rock River, a tributary of the Tennessee, to the northwest. Relatively flat, the top of Gunter Mountain forms a 20-mile plateau, ranging from five to seven miles wide, at approximately 1200 feet above sea level. The mountain drops steeply from the plateau to the valleys and coves below.

The natural beauty of Gunter Mountain has always played a vital role in the campus of KDS. Built with the view of Kenamer's Cove as its focal point, the old campus was designed to emphasize the natural beauty of the mountain. The native vegetation and view into the cove were critical factors in the DAR's decision to locate the school on the mountain. Although much of the vegetation has been lost, the view from old campus continues to be an integral part of the beauty of the KDS campus.

The KDS campus today occupies approximately 240 acres on the crest of Gunter Mountain. The original old campus, situated on approximately 100 acres, is located in the northeast corner of campus, fronting Main Street (Marshall County Road 5) to the east and the west. The two major additions to the campus, 92 acres in 1938 and 30 acres in 1953 continue to be used by the school. Portions of the original campus on the east side of Main Street were sold to private individuals in the 1960s and 1970s. The old campus includes twelve buildings constructed between 1924 and 1957 as well as a 1937 water tower, now used as a bell tower. The majority of structures are constructed in fieldstone, cut sandstone or pine logs. The area to be considered for listing on the National Register consists of 15 acres of the original 100 acres. This area contains the original campus buildings and remains intact.

The first school building (Louise Jacobs Building) was constructed in 1924 to the west of County Road 5, facing northeast toward the view into the cove below. Several additions were made to the Jacobs Building, the last occurring in 1941 (see attached diagram). The second building was added to campus in 1934. Originally used as a vocational building, the Harriet K. Privett Library sits to the northwest of the Jacobs Building, also facing County Road 5, and is constructed in fieldstone and cement. In 1935 the Ann Rogers Minor Home Economics Practice Cottage was built to house the home-economics teacher and to provide a laboratory for the female students. In that same year, a log-cabin was constructed to house the school's library, currently known as the Pennsylvania Log Administration Building. The Minor Cottage and Pennsylvania Log Building continued the development of the old campus north along County Road 5. Two years later, in 1937, a recreational facility known as Becker Hall was erected on campus. Built in vertical pine log construction, Becker Hall is one of the most imposing, and certainly one of the most significant of the buildings on old campus. The water tower, built in the same year, is also one of the focal points of the campus; retired from its original use to house a bell tower in the late 1960s. In 1938, ninety-two acres southwest of the campus were purchased for use as a model farm, which was expanded by an additional thirty acres in 1953.

The architecture of old campus contains many elements of the Craftsman style. The buildings are constructed in native materials of fieldstone, pine lumber and sandstone. The buildings complement the natural beauty and setting of the mountain, reflective of the Arts and Crafts Movement, which emphasized a return to simplicity and natural forms. As the movement dictated, the architecture of KDS is seen as an extension of the natural environment, not a separate entity. The same native materials used in construction of the structures are used throughout the entire campus in the sidewalks, bleachers and entrance pillars. Plaques honoring KDS donors and construction dates dot the entire campus.

Of the significant buildings on campus, five houses and the farm structures have been removed. All other buildings remain in their original locations. The original buildings of the old campus have lost little historic fabric. A few buildings have incurred minor alterations including additions and the replacement of doors and windows. The Louise Jacobs Building had several major additions in its first seventeen years. The last addition, which was constructed in cut sandstone instead of the fieldstone used in the first three phases, created a formal façade consisting of three parapet wall bays facing southwest. In 1948, a wood

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frame addition was added to the rear of Becker Hall for use as a thrift store and faculty apartment. The most substantial alteration, however, can be found in asbestos siding added to the exterior of Becker Hall in the 1950s. Restoration of Becker Hall is currently underway; a small portion of the siding has been removed to assess the condition of the pine logs. Complete removal of the siding will begin as funding becomes available. The Pouch Lunchroom has had two additions; the first used sandstone and almost doubled its size after the structure was damaged by fire in 1963. The second addition was a small area on the back of the building in 1986 to accommodate a walk-in cooler. This addition used a simulated stone. The three non-contributing structures within the boundaries of the nomination are the Primary Building, Munson Cottage, and Cuff Cottage. Although the Primary Building was constructed in 1949, it has been severely altered throughout the years and does not contribute to the integrity of the campus. Likewise, Munson Cottage was constructed in 1937 but was severely altered and does not contribute to the integrity of the campus. Cuff Cottage was constructed in 1960, after the period of significance, and does not merit inclusion. Most of the original sandstone sidewalks (approximately 75%) remain on campus and are in relatively good condition. The other original stone landscape details such as columns, stone bleachers, and the original flagpole base remain in fair shape. Much of the original 1940s tree canopy from old campus remains on campus today. The views from old campus of surrounding hills remain as they were in the first years of the school.

In the 1960s the dairy farm was removed from KDS and, in the years that followed, new classroom buildings and recreational fields would fill its void. All the campus buildings constructed in the 1960s were modern in design, materials and placement. The 1970s saw the construction of a new route up Gunter Mountain. A large winding section of the old road--which most of the old campus faced--was bypassed on the northeast slope of the mountain and the section of the road in front of the Jacobs Building, Privett Library and Pennsylvania Log Cabin was realigned. The highway realignment placed the road further west, destroying the school's front entrance and fieldstone entrance pillars. These changes shifted the orientation of the school to the southwest. Today, old campus provides a spectacular view of the school from the road leading up the mountain (County Road 5), but is most accessible on foot. The main driveway into today's campus leads visitors to the rear of old campus.

While no archaeological survey has been undertaken on the KDS campus, the potential for finding artifacts relating to the history of the site prior to establishment of the campus, and materials relating to the early school is moderate. Given the location of the school on the crest of the mountain, yielding a 180-degree view of the coves below, the area was most likely actively used by Native-Americans. Artifacts such as arrow-heads and stone tools have been found all over Gunter Mountain. Much of the present-day campus was used for agricultural purposes prior to the founding of the school and remnants of this activity should also be present. When the school was built, much of the land was allowed to return to forest and then subsequently cleared as the school grew. Minor or temporary structures such as outhouses and pump houses were constructed and removed as part of this growth. There could be evidence of the location of such structures below the surface of campus today.

**INVENTORY:**

1. **Louise Jacobs Building** (1924-1941) faces northeast. The original school building. This one-story building was originally built as a four-room unit divided into three bays with a cross-gabled roof and parapet walls. The main entrance is located on the northeast façade in the center bay. Several additions were made to the Jacobs Building, the last occurring in 1941 (see attached diagram). The additions extended the plan to the southwest; the final addition mirroring the front façade with three bays with parapet walls facing the southwest (diagram attached). The original building had a tin roof with overhanging eaves and exposed rafters and featured nine over nine and four over four sash windows with true divided lights. Originally, the main entrance had paneled wood double-doors, partially glazed with six fixed glass panes and a transom light of sixteen fixed glass panes. The replacement windows are aluminum clad, six over six sash and the main doors have been replaced with aluminum glass doors. Similarly, the exposed rafters were covered when a new roof of composition shingles was added. A fifteen-foot stone plaque, bearing the name Kate Duncan Smith Daughters of the American Revolution School adorns the center bay of the front façade. The name of the school is flanked on either side by the DAR insignia. In 1978 the building was named in honor of DAR Louise Jacobs, a long-time supporter of KDS. The Jacobs Building continues to be used as classrooms today. **CONTRIBUTING BUILDING**

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2. **Guntersville Civitan Flagpole** (1924). The original flagpole, erected in 1924, still stands in the center of old campus. Constructed with a fieldstone base, the flagpole was presented by the Guntersville Civitan Club on the first Dedication Day at KDS on October 1, 1924. The flagpole stands approximately 30 feet tall. The site chosen for the flagpole marks the spot where Mrs. Kate Duncan Smith marked the site of the school with the heel of her shoe in 1922. **CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURE**
3. **Harriett K. Privett Library** (1934) faces northeast. This one-story cross-gabled structure is constructed of fieldstone and cement. The main entrance is located on the northeast façade. The original windows were nine over nine sash with true divided lights. The original entrance had a wood paneled door, partially glazed with fixed panes. The replacement windows and doors are aluminum clad: the windows six over six sash and the doors glass. **CONTRIBUTING BUILDING**
4. **Primary Building** (1949) faces southwest. This one-story hipped roof structure is constructed of cut sandstone in a rectangular plan. A series of additions and renovations have severely altered the appearance of the original building. **NONCONTRIBUTING BUILDING**
5. **Ann Rogers Minor Home Economics Practice Cottage** (1935) faces northeast. This one-story side-gabled structure has a cut stone foundation and wood weatherboard siding. The original windows throughout the building are one over one double hung sash. The house has two stone slope fireplaces. The porch roof is an extended secondary roof with exposed rafters and overhanging eaves, supported by wood supports. **CONTRIBUTING BUILDING**
6. **Pennsylvania Bell Tower** (1937). The first structure on campus constructed in cut sandstone, this tower was originally constructed as a water tower to supply the school. A more modern water system was installed at the school in the 1950s. A carillon was added to the tower in 1973. The carillon consists of bells, chimes, interval clock. Interior stairs provide access to the top of the tower. There is a flat tar roof on the tower. **CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURE**
7. **Pennsylvania Log Administration Building** (1935) faces northeast. This one-story structure is built in log-cabin construction with a sandstone foundation. The roof is a cross gable. The building is a front-facing U plan with the main entrance located in the center recessed bay of the northeast façade. Two stone fireplaces flank the eave walls on the southeast and northwest elevations. **CONTRIBUTING BUILDING**
8. **Helen Pouch Classroom Building** (1946) faces northwest. This one-story building is constructed in cut sandstone. The building features a front-gabled roof flanked by a parallel hipped roof, both with exposed rafters and overhanging eaves. Stone segmental relieving arches adorn the original six over six sash, true divided light windows. The front porch features three arched openings. The main entrance on the porch faces northwest. **CONTRIBUTING BUILDING**
9. **Becker Hall** (1937) faces east. This two-story structure is built in vertical pine log construction with a stone foundation and a deck roof. The exterior wall consists of half timbers which are and off-set and nailed to alternating half timbers on the interior wall. Over 700 half timbers and 700 whole timbers were used in the construction of Becker Hall. The whole timbers were used for the interior construction. The structural members are exposed on the interior. Pine is used for every component of the interior, including the floor, walls, ceiling, and built-in bleachers. The porch on the front façade is constructed in stone with six columns supporting a separate flat roof. The main entrance is on the northeast façade. The windows on the first floor are 8 over 8 double hung sash, true divided lights; the second floor, 6 over 6. The side elevations each have three shed dormers with fixed panes, 6 lights. The exterior was covered in asbestos shingles in the 1950s. Plans to remove the siding are underway. A section of the asbestos siding has been removed to assess the condition of the pine. A complete removal of the siding will commence as funding becomes available. Pine logs also served as the original porch supports. They were covered in stone at an unknown date. **CONTRIBUTING BUILDING**

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- 10. Nan Roberts Lane Chapel** (1957) faces west. This one-story structure is constructed in cut sandstone. The front-gabled roof features a cupola with domical roof and steeple at the front entrance. The structure is built in a T-shape plan with 12 over 12 sash, true divided light windows on the front façade and 24 over 24 true divided light fixed windows on the side elevations. The Greek-Revival style portico features square pilasters and columns and wood paneled double doors. Although this building was constructed in 1957, it contributes significantly to the integrity and historic fabric of the district. It is one of the last structures on old campus constructed in the native sandstone which was used on many of the original structures at KDS. The building also complements the natural setting, reflective of old campus. The construction of this building completes over 30 years of additions to the campus in the original method of construction. The use and purpose of this building add tremendously to its significance and role in the historic fabric of the district. The Daughters of the American Revolution raised funds to construct this chapel on campus so that the children of Gunter Mountain would have a place of worship. **CONTRIBUTING BUILDING**
- 11. Michigan Craft Center** (1955) faces west. This one-story structure is built of cut sandstone. It has a cross-gabled roof and a front-facing T plan. The main entrance features a small portico with a gabled roof supported by square columns and paneled double doors. A small round window sits directly above the gabled roof of the porch. The windows throughout the building are fixed casement with stone sills. Like the Lane Chapel listed above, this building would technically be excluded from listing on the National Register because of its date of construction, 1955. It is, however, an integral part of the historic fabric of KDS. Also constructed of the native sandstone which is used on the majority of original structures on campus, this building complements the surrounding campus and references one of the main themes of the original KDS campus, a celebration of the natural beauty of Gunter Mountain. **CONTRIBUTING BUILDING**
- 12. Munson Cottage** (1937) faces east. This one-story structure is built of sandstone and cedar wood siding. It has a side-gabled roof and one stone slope fireplaces and one interior stone fireplace. Two porches with stone supports flank either side of the front façade. Munson Cottage was the first faculty cottage. It has undergone several additions over the years. **NONCONTRIBUTING BUILDING**
- 13. Rexer Memorial Cottage** (1954) faces east. This one-story side-gabled roof structure is covered in asbestos shingle siding. It is unclear whether or not the original structure was built with wood weatherboard and covered at a later date. The full front porch is covered with an extended secondary roof and supported by wood columns and railing. The windows are 6 over 6 sash, true divided lights. Although the building was constructed after 1952, and therefore does not meet the technical requirements for listing, it is significant to the campus in that it represents one of the few remaining cottages built to house KDS faculty. Until 1968, all teachers at KDS were required to live on campus. When this rule was eliminated, and the need for faculty housing sharply declined, many of the original faculty cottages were destroyed. This housing is an integral part of the history of KDS and Rexer Cottage is an excellent representation of this component. It is built in the same style as the Minor Practice Cottage (1935). **CONTRIBUTING BUILDING**
- 14. Cuff Cottage** (1960) faces east. This one-story duplex structure is built with a concrete foundation and asbestos siding. The cottage marks a break in design and materials on campus, and therefore has no architectural significance related to the district and does not contribute to the district. **NONCONTRIBUTING BUILDING**
- 15. Schlosser Cottage** (1940) faces east. This one-story side-gabled structure is built with cut sandstone, wood weatherboard and asbestos shingle siding. There are two parallel wings on the south side of the building with side-gabled roofs. The front porch is covered by an extended secondary roof and supported by wood columns. The windows are four over four and six over six sash with true divided lights. There is a stone slope fireplace on the north side of the building. **CONTRIBUTING BUILDING**

**Note: Building names reflect major DAR donations, either for initial construction or major interior improvements.**



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**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

**CRITERION A: EDUCATION**

Kate Duncan Smith Daughters of the American Revolution School (KDS) is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the area of education. It is a unique example of a privately-owned, nationally-supported public school created for poor rural children in the Appalachian foothills of north Alabama during the early-20<sup>th</sup>-century. KDS is one of only two schools in the United States owned and operated by the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR). Tamassee, the second DAR School, is located in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains in South Carolina.

The NSDAR has been dedicated to the education of children in remote mountain areas since 1903. Until the founding of Tamassee in 1919 and KDS in 1924, however, its involvement consisted of financial contributions to existing institutions. Tamassee and KDS were the first educational experiments of their kind by the DAR. The DAR realized a unique opportunity in founding these institutions. Not only could they bring educational opportunities to isolated communities, but they could shape and direct the curriculum to reflect the mission of the DAR. The original curriculum of both schools focused on citizenship and patriotism. This focus remains at both schools today. And while the NSDAR has continued to offer financial assistance to various schools throughout the years, including Berry College in Georgia, Crossnore School in North Carolina and Hindman Settlement School in Kentucky, it has never owned, or been involved in the operation, of any other schools.

Unlike, KDS, which is a day school for grades K-12, Tamassee is strictly an elementary school (K-5) which also provides a home for many of the students. Like KDS, Tamassee was founded by the state chapter of the DAR, but was later adopted by the National Society of the DAR.

Because the site selected for the KDS School was a rural agrarian community, the DAR wanted to prepare students at KDS to live and work as farmers, encouraging the Jeffersonian idea of rural farming as the ideal American way of life. The school was designed to educate and prepare children to function in their existing environment. Tamassee's educational program differed from KDS in that its primary function was a home and school for orphaned or neglected children.

KDS brought educational opportunities to an isolated mountain people and provided a patriotic curriculum dedicated to achievement and service to community and country, reflecting the national mission of the DAR. Over the past 76 years, KDS has been a major force in the educational development of the local population. The overwhelming success of this unique educational experiment of the DAR has not only resulted in the educational advancement of an entire region of rural Appalachia, but it has impacted the community culturally, economically and socially as well. Although the KDS campus has grown enormously over the years, the original "old campus" remains intact and is still an integral part of the school today. The school has remained open to all the children of the Gunter Mountain region since its inception in 1924.

**CRITERION A: SOCIAL HISTORY**

Kate Duncan Smith Daughters of the American Revolution School is also eligible for listing under Criterion A in the area of social history. Its presence on Gunter Mountain has transformed an isolated rural farming community into a thriving successful town. KDS began to transform and influence the residents of Gunter Mountain almost immediately. The campus farm allowed students to learn modern farming techniques, which they passed on to their parents. By 1940, the Marshall County Farm Agent reported that the farmers of Gunter Mountain were making more progress than any other section of the county. The influence of the DAR even extended to the health of the local population. The Health Program at KDS provided much-needed medical care and health instruction. Ignorance, superstitions and a lack of professional services had resulted in widespread illness and disease throughout the area. Malnutrition was also common. The Health Program instituted a registered nurse who provided students and residents with immunizations, exams and health education. This program is still a vital part of the school today. KDS continues to provide health services for underprivileged students, including glasses and dental work.

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The DAR envisioned more than improved healthcare and advanced education for the people of Gunter Mountain, however. They felt a duty to do all they could to enrich the spiritual life of the community as well. DAR funded both art and music programs at KDS and, in 1957, the Alabama DAR built a non-denominational chapel on campus to be used as a place of worship for the entire community.

The appeal of KDS extends beyond Gunter Mountain. The reputation of KDS attracts a constant influx of new residents to the mountain each year. Since its inception in 1924, it has been the anchor of the community, creating a sense of place and forever binding the people of Gunter Mountain together. KDS has been the driving force in the educational, social, cultural and spiritual development of the citizens of the mountain, shaping the identity and history of this small community in the foothills of the Appalachians.

**CRITERION C: ARCHITECTURE**

Kate Duncan Smith Daughters of the American Revolution School is further eligible under Criterion C in the area of architecture as a derivative example of the rustic architectural style of the early-twentieth century, for the role of the mountain residents in the physical erection of the school and in the unique campus setting. Indigenous fieldstones and lumber constitute the primary building materials for the school. The original schools buildings, constructed in the early 1920s, were built of local fieldstone. In 1935, the first log building (Pennsylvania Log Administration Building) was constructed on campus to house a library. Two years later, one of the most imposing structures on campus, Becker Hall, was built in compatible log construction. Unlike the library, however, which was built in the same fashion as early log-cabin construction, Becker Hall is constructed quite differently. Over 700 whole logs and 700 half logs were used for this unique method of construction in which vertical half-timbers used for the exterior of the building were off-set and nailed to alternating half timbers used for the interior walls. This type of log construction is certainly rare, if not an anomaly.

While the residents of Gunter Mountain could not contribute financially to KDS, locals gave generously of their time and labor, transporting building materials, cutting and stripping lumber and gathering fieldstones by hand. Many assisted in the actual construction of the first building (Louise Jacobs Building) and in 1935, the entire community organized a "house-raising" to build the library (Pennsylvania Log Administration Building). The school is also unique in its design. Although it is not a boarding school, the campus is reminiscent of a college, incorporating residential units for teachers and a chapel. Similar to the far-reaching educational impacts of the school, the original campus also led to the birth of a local vernacular style which has influenced architecture throughout the community.

**CRITERION EXCEPTION G:**

Four of the buildings contained within the boundaries of the district nomination were constructed after 1952 and, therefore, do not meet the standard of National Register criteria. Three of those buildings, however, Nan Roberts Lane Chapel (1957), the Michigan Craft Center (1955), and Rexer Memorial Cottage (1954), do contribute to the integrity and historic fabric of the district. All should be considered as contributing buildings to the district nomination. Nan Roberts Lane Chapel is one of the last structures on old campus constructed in the native sandstone used on many of the original structures at KDS. The building also complements the natural setting, reflective of old campus. The construction of this building completes over 30 years of additions to the campus in the original method of construction. The use and purpose of this building add tremendously to its significance and role in the historic fabric of the district. The Daughters of the American Revolution raised funds to construct this chapel on campus so that the children of Gunter Mountain would have a place of worship. Similarly, the Michigan Craft Center is an integral part of the historic fabric of KDS. Also constructed of the native sandstone used on the majority of original structures on campus, this building complements the surrounding campus and references one of the main themes of the original KDS campus, a celebration of the natural beauty of Gunter Mountain. Rexer Memorial Cottage represents one of the last remaining faculty cottages on campus. Until 1968, all teachers at KDS were required to live on campus. When this rule was eliminated, and the need for faculty housing sharply declined, many of the original faculty cottages were destroyed. This housing is an integral part of the history of KDS.

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County and State: Marshall County, Alabama

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**HISTORICAL SUMMARY**

In 1876, while many U.S. citizens were celebrating the centennial of the Declaration of Independence and a renewed interest in the founding of America, thousands of immigrants were coming to the country with little or no knowledge of the Revolution. This spurred the formation of several organizations dedicated to recognizing and preserving elements of the Revolutionary War and educating immigrants on America's struggle for independence. One such organization was the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR). Founded on October 11, 1890, NSDAR adopted three objectives at its inception, which still guide the organization today:

**a. Historical**

To perpetuate the memory and spirit of the men and women who achieved American Independence: by the acquisition and protection of historical spots and erection of monuments; by the encouragement of historical research in relation to the American Revolution and the publication of its results; by the preservation of documents and relics; and of the records of the individual service of the Revolutionary soldiers and patriots; and by the promotion of celebrations of all patriotic anniversaries.

**b. Educational**

To carry out the injunction of Washington in his farewell address to the American people 'to promote, as an object of primary importance, institutions for the general diffusion of knowledge,' thus developing an enlightened public opinion, and affording to young and old such advantages as shall develop in them the largest capacity for performing the duties of American Citizens.

**c. Patriotic**

To cherish, maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom, to foster true patriotism and love of country, and to aid in securing for mankind all the blessings of liberty (Edmonds 30-31).

The Alabama Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution was organized in 1894 under the guidance of the state's first regent, Mrs. James Bruce Munson. In 1897, Mrs. J. Morgan Smith (Kate Duncan Smith) was elected Alabama's second state regent. As early as 1899, under the guidance of Mrs. Smith, the Alabama Chapter of the DAR identified education as one of their chapter's missions. The Civil War had left Alabama's state government with little resources for education and there was a great need for schools throughout the state (Edmonds 23-26). The DAR wished to build a school in a mountainous section of the state, isolated from educational opportunity and means of development. In addition, the Alabama DAR believed a patriotic curriculum should be incorporated into the school system. In 1906, the Alabama DAR passed a resolution which stated, "...the honor and welfare of our country demand the children shall be trained in the practice of pure and noble citizenship...[which are] not provided for in the present curriculum of the schools...[and measures should be adopted] to ensure greater Patriotic Education." In 1910, then-state regent Mrs. A.P. McClellan submitted a report that recommended "...a fund be raised by volunteer offerings of the Daughters of the American Revolution to purchase an available location for founding of a school for the mountain children of Alabama". This report would eventually lead to the establishment of a school on Gunter Mountain (Edmonds 47).

When the Superintendent of Education in Marshall County, Alabama learned of the plans for a school, he forwarded the information to the postmaster in Grant, the only post office on Gunter Mountain, and asked that the postmaster inquire about local interest in the school. At this time, there were a few small schools on the mountain, but they were quite rudimentary. Local mail carrier, Jasper Morrow, who taught at one of the schools, spread the word and rallied local support for the school. Soon after, a DAR representative from the neighboring town of Guntersville visited the mountain. Struck by the enthusiasm of the community and the beauty of the mountain, she returned to Guntersville and began to lobby the DAR to locate the school on Gunter Mountain.

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The DAR selection committee agreed to visit the mountain in May of 1922. Led by a man on horseback carrying the American flag, as many as 1,500 residents greeted the committee upon their arrival, forming a parade behind the automobiles until they reached a stage decorated with native flowers. After a presentation of singing and emotional prayers, residents met with the committee and conducted a tour of the mountain (Whitaker 35).

On October 23, 1922, Marshall County received notification from the Selection Committee that the Kate Duncan Smith DAR School would indeed be located on Gunter Mountain (Edmonds 66-67). The committee noted "...the great desire and enthusiasm of the people and their willingness to make enormous sacrifices to secure the school; a highly intelligent native population, many of whom were descendants of Revolutionary ancestors; and the beauty of the site of the edge of Gunter Mountain..." among their reasons for selecting the area. The Alabama DAR selected the site on Gunter Mountain because of its isolation in the Appalachian foothills of north Alabama. This remote setting had stifled the educational growth of the region, a principle concern of the DAR. And while the mountain residents were thankful for the educational opportunity the new school would provide for their children, it would be years before the magnitude of its impact would be realized.

Construction of the KDS school on Gunter Mountain began in October of 1923 as a project of the Alabama DAR. The original KDS school consisted of a four-room unit (Louise Jacobs Building). The building was designed to allow for additions and was constructed of local fieldstone, lumber and cement. The mountain residents donated land and building materials for the school. Several residents--many of whom had little to give-- even made financial contributions, exemplifying the unselfish, generous spirit of the community. As noted in the Marshall County Probate Office, two brothers donated 100 acres to the DAR for the construction of the school:

...in consideration of the sum of one dollar, and for the further consideration of the love they bore their children, their neighbor's children, the cause of education, and the further love of their Country, granted, bargained and sold the land, one hundred and four tenths acres to the Alabama Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, the 27<sup>th</sup> day of April, A.D., 1923...(Edmonds 71).

Those unable to give land or money were generous with their time and labor. Locals cleared roads and gathered fieldstone, which would be used as the primary building material. The Alabama DAR recognized the efforts of the residents in the first edition of the KDS School Bulletin:

This school was made possible by the hearty co-operation of the men and women on the mountains; the farmers left their crops and plows, leaving women to run the farms, while they hauled and dug, day after day, that their children might enjoy the opportunities of education which they themselves lacked (Edmonds 74).

This collaboration would continue for many years as the school grew to accommodate an ever-increasing student body. Enrollment at KDS was around 100 during its first year in 1924. By 1929, it had reached over 300 and almost 500 by 1934. The DAR were quick to raise the necessary funds for expansion, and local residents remained devoted to the school by gathering materials and providing labor. When plans were approved to build a library in 1935, the community rallied to build the structure within a matter of days in an old-fashioned "house-raising." Residents cut and hauled logs, stripped the bark and built a three-room library in pioneer construction (Troup 49). The last major collaboration between the DAR and local residents occurred in 1937. DAR chapters from all over the country raised funds for a recreation hall. When the KDS Board of Trustees decided to use log construction, in keeping with the style of the neighboring library, residents organized once again and gathered over a thousand logs from the mountain for the building.

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The DAR wanted to prepare students to live and work as farmers, encouraging the Jeffersonian idea of rural farming as the ideal American way of life. The school was designed to educate and prepare children to function in their existing environment. The DAR felt that cities were already too crowded and provided for a poor quality of life. In the earliest years of the school, with advice from the Department of Interior's Office of Education, the KDS curriculum was shaped to prepare students for life NPS on the farm--not at the university.

It was the DAR's wish that the entire community benefit from the school. Adult education classes on farming practices and health care were offered and residents were encouraged to use the school's facilities. Positive results were evident by 1940, when the Marshall County Farm Agent's report indicated that the farmers of Gunter Mountain were making more progress than any other section of the county. The Health Program at KDS also provided much-needed medical care and health instruction to the residents of the mountain. Ignorance, superstitions and a lack of professional services had resulted in widespread illness and disease throughout the area. Malnutrition was also common. The Health Program instituted a registered nurse who provided students and residents with immunizations, exams and health education. This program is still a vital part of the school today. KDS continues to provide health services for underprivileged students, including glasses and dental work. In 1935 the Connecticut DAR built a home economics practice cottage. Female students lived in the cottage for extended periods of time, under the supervision a teacher, to learn the basics of cooking, cleaning and maintaining a house. This program is still available to students who take home economics courses. In addition, DAR contributed to community projects, donating lumber to a local church to construct a meeting hall and helping to bring telephone service to the mountain. On a personal level, DAR provided clothing and Christmas gifts for the school children. A thrift store was established on campus, providing low-cost items to the community, donated by DAR from across the country. And while economics have improved greatly on Gunter Mountain, due in large part to KDS, the DAR continue to provide aid to students and families in need today.

The National Society of DAR (NSDAR) began contributing to KDS as early as 1926 and by 1928 the NSDAR incorporated KDS as its own entity, creating a national project. The NSDAR had been dedicated to the education of children in remote mountain areas since 1903. Until the founding of Tamasee in 1919 and KDS in 1924, however, its involvement consisted of financial contributions to existing institutions. Tamasee and KDS were the first educational experiments of their kind by the DAR. The DAR realized a unique opportunity in founding these institutions. Not only could they bring educational opportunities to isolated communities, but they could shape and direct the curriculum to reflect the mission of the DAR. The NSDAR has continued to offer financial assistance to various schools throughout the years, including Berry College in Georgia, Crossnore School in North Carolina and Hindman Settlement School in Kentucky, it has never owned, or been involved in the operation, of any other schools (Whitaker 72).

DAR from all fifty states, the District of Columbia, France, England and Mexico have contributed to KDS over the years. In 1937, the Pennsylvania DAR assumed complete responsibility of the log library. The Connecticut & Ohio DAR state chapters built Munson Cottage as a home for the principal and Julia HeaumeTeacherage (which has since been destroyed), respectively, in 1936. By 1938, KDS had been given substantial contributions from individual DAR members and state societies and chapters throughout the United States, becoming one of the most important projects of the schools program of the NSDAR. It has retained that status to this day. Since its inception, the school has held a Dedication Day each October to honor the supporters of KDS. NSDAR members from around the country travel to Gunter Mountain to visit the school and community. And each year, since the first year the school arrived on Gunter Mountain, the residents of the mountain have prepared a home-made basket lunch for the DAR. Each Dedication Day serves as a reminder of the importance of KDS to the community and allows the residents to offer their gratitude to the DAR.

The DAR and Marshall County have enjoyed a long-lasting partnership in support of KDS over the years. As early as 1922, in anticipation of a visit from the DAR to Gunter Mountain, the county school board approved a proposal to pay teachers at the school the same rate as other county schools and to contribute \$2,000 toward a building, if Gunter Mountain was selected. In 1927, the county board of education appropriated \$4,050 for KDS and decided that teachers would receive their salaries from state funds. In 1952, a contract between the DAR and the County was signed that stipulated the roles of each entity. It was agreed that the DAR would construct, maintain and furnish all buildings on campus, manage the policy and business

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administration of the school, and conduct the selection process of the school administrator, all teachers and principals. The County agreed to be responsible for teacher's salaries, student transportation and utility costs. This agreement is basically the same today, although the county does provide some funding for building construction. In addition, the State of Alabama has made two significant contributions to KDS over the years. The first appropriation, in the amount of \$50,000, was given to KDS in 1928; the second in 1969 for \$150,000.

Today, KDS is a well-respected educational institution. Residents from all over northeast Alabama have relocated to Gunter Mountain to send their children to KDS. The school has grown from a four-room building for 43 students into a campus housing 38 buildings and serving a student body of over 1,000. Similarly, the educational focus has matured from its original intent of preparing the children of the mountain for life on the farm. Today, approximately 70-75% of KDS graduates go on to college. The mission of the DAR remains constant, however. A patriotic education, emphasizing duty and service to community and country has been an enduring theme throughout the history of the school. The appreciation and loyalty this education has inspired is evident in the number of alumni who return to the mountain each year to make it their home (Mannon).

KDS has far exceeded the dreams of the DAR and Gunter Mountain residents who worked so hard to make it a reality. On its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the president of a nearby college described the schools' impact on Gunter Mountain:

...It has brought light to those in darkness; created beauty where there was drabness; established cultural standards in places culturally barren; routed ignorance and superstition and enthroned truth and tolerance (Whitaker 17).

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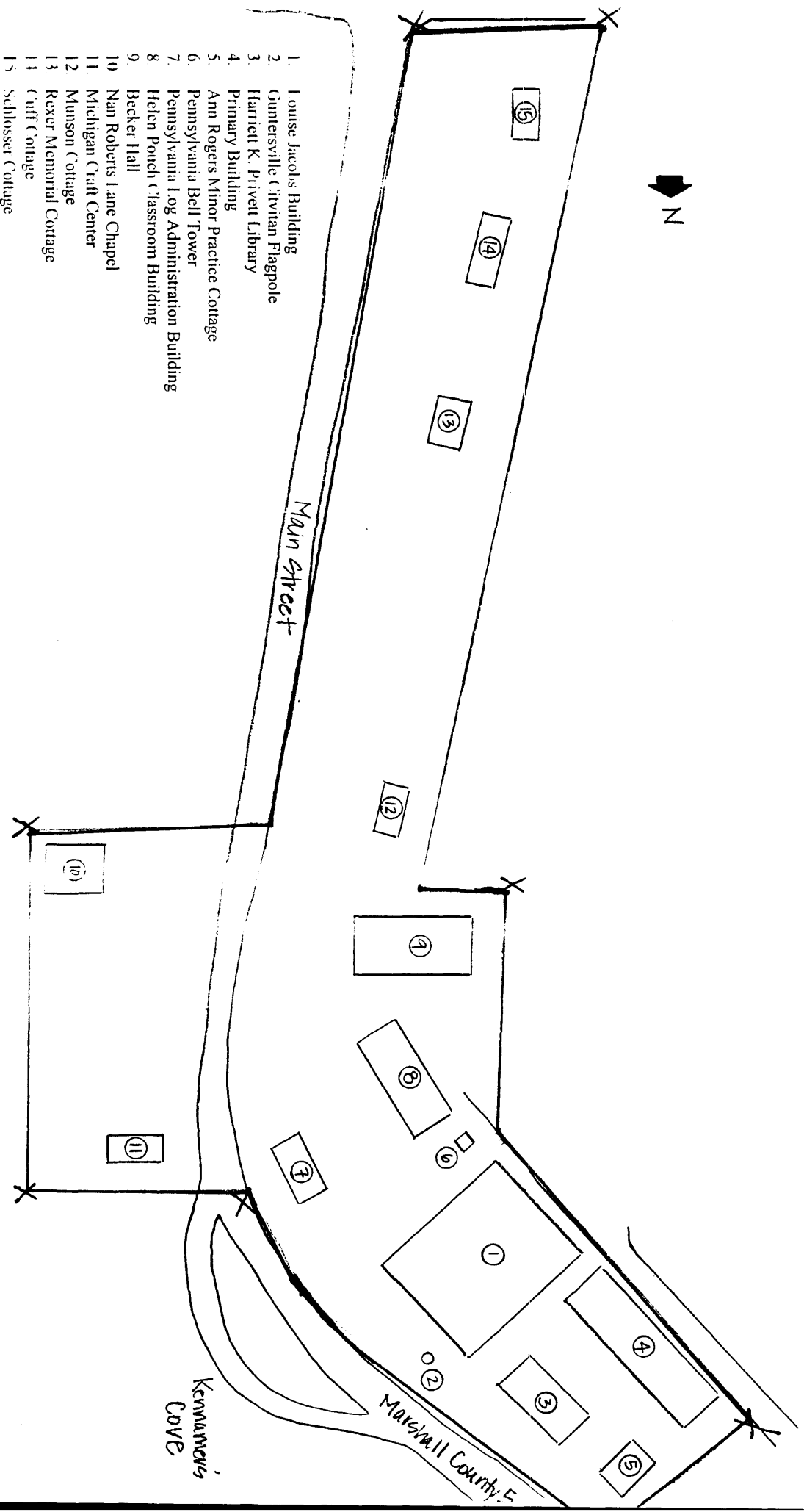
**Boundary Description**

The structures included within the district lie on either side of a 2000' stretch of Main Street, also known as Marshall County Road 5 on the north side of Grant. The western boundary falls directly behind the resources on the west side of Main Street, and from Becker Hall north to Minor Practice Cottage, the boundary runs along a parking lot curb. The northeast and eastern boundary runs along the west side of Main Street, with the exception of crossing Main Street to include the two resources that lie east of Main Street, with an eastern boundary behind these resources approximately 500' in length. First Street West makes up the short southern boundary, approximately 250'.

**Boundary Justification**

The district includes all buildings that make up the historic core of the school, all of which demonstrate compatibility of design and materials. The remaining acreage associated with the school has experienced a great deal of change. The agricultural fields and buildings once located on the campus have given way to new construction and recreation fields. The land immediately adjacent to the historic core of buildings, which was once open space, is now filled with structures built largely between 1960 and 1994, and is excluded from the district. The land adjacent to Lane Chapel and the Michigan Craft Center is wooded and the terrain drops steeply. Much of this land has been sold by the school and is in the hands of other owners.

# Kate Duncan Smith Daughters of the American Revolution School Site Map



1. Louise Jacobs Building
2. Juntersville (Ivian Flagpole
3. Harriet K. Privett Library
4. Primary Building
5. Ann Rogers Minor Practice Cottage
6. Pennsylvania Bell Tower
7. Pennsylvania Log Administration Building
8. Helen Pouch Classroom Building
9. Becker Hall
10. Nan Roberts Lane Chapel
11. Michigan Craft Center
12. Munson Cottage
13. Rexer Memorial Cottage
14. Huff Cottage
15. Schlosser Cottage

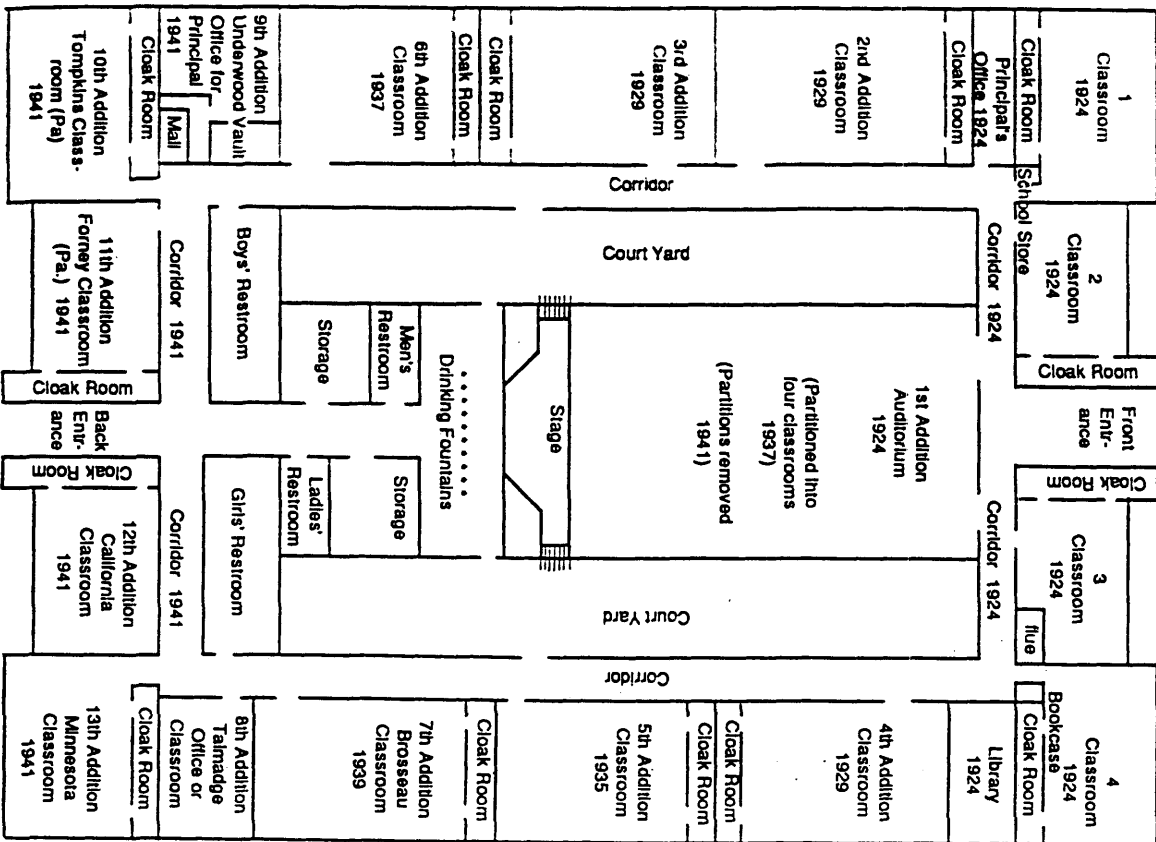


Kate Duncan Smith Daughters of the American Revolution School

Troup (142-143)

DIAGRAM OF ORIGINAL STRUCTURE OF MAIN BUILDING

Renamed Louise Willson Jacobs Building, May 21, 1978



Year	Acres	Explanation
1923	100.4	Purchased by citizens of the community from Wiley and John Ayers then donated to the Alabama Society, DAR
1938	92.0	Purchased from Wiley Ayers for farm
1939	13.5	Purchased from J. L. Battles - 2 ml. NE of school for location of Spring
1946	.69	Purchased house and lots 3,4,5 & 6 from D. Hodges (Rexer Cottage for janitor) (Lots 50' x 150')
1952	30.0	Purchased from W. W. Ayers adjoining school farm
1954	.31	Purchased lots 3 & 4 block A., Platt Book 1, page 124
1958	.31	Purchased lots 1 & 2 from Porter & Theda Kirkland
1961	1.0	Purchased 1 acre from H. L. Ayers
1961	.50	Purchased 1/2 acre from W. W. Ayers
1966	-3.2	Sold 3.2 acres to Dr. Olon C. Tucker
1966	.86	Purchased 3 houses + 2 lots (Burks, Summers #1 & #2, Cottages)
1969	-1.944	Sold to State of Alabama for highway right-of-way
1970	.24	Purchased from Della Troup Ledbetter lot 50' x 210', Deed book 390, page 637
1971	.62	Purchased church building and property, lots 5,6,7&8, Block A, Platt I, pg. 124
1973	3.82	Sold to John P. Tyson
1980	1.2	Purchased from Ollie and Katherine Burroughs (Sophie's house and property)
	232.67	

LAND DONATED, PURCHASED OR SOLD