

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received AUG 2 1984  
date entered AUG 30 1984

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

**1. Name**

historic Troy High School  
and/or common Troy Community Complex

**2. Location**

street & number 436 Elm Street NA not for publication  
city, town Troy NA vicinity of congressional district 2  
state Alabama code 01 county Pike code 109

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: civic, cultural & community center

**4. Owner of Property**

name City of Troy  
street & number Troy City Hall, 301 Railroad Avenue  
city, town Troy NA vicinity of state Alabama

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Tax Assessor  
street & number Courthouse  
city, town Troy 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

Designed by Frank Lockwood, a prominent Alabama architect of the period, Troy High School is a three-story building with an above-ground basement. The foundation of the building is concrete and brick. There are seven bays in the main block with advanced end pavilions. The exterior walls are reddish brown brick with mortar that has been tinted slightly with red pigment. The brickwork is running bond with a raised brick diaperwork pattern in each end pavilion. The basement level is articulated by two bands of limestone belt courses; one band is at sill level and the other band is immediately above the window openings. The roof, which is concealed by a parapet wall, is slightly pitched and composed of tar and gravel. The original stone coping has been replaced, due to deterioration, by duranodic aluminum.

The main entrance is located in the center of the front elevation facing Elm Street and is accented by ornamental limestone quoining. This entrance area is approximately 15 feet wide and extends the full height of the building. The limestone section is crowned by a cartouche motif situated immediately above a set of triple windows. The center window repeats the pattern of the other windows on the front elevation, having six-over-six lights with two double-hung sash windows on the side. The entrance, a pair of double doors with two sets of transoms immediately above, is flanked by a pair of engaged Tuscan order columns which support a pedimented entablature. There are no side porches, except a small arched brick breezeway which connects the main building to the gymnasium. Other entrances include two side entrances leading directly to the corridors; one on the west side leading directly to the auditorium and ground floor; and one on the east side leading to the gymnasium (obviously a later addition). Each floor has a large corridor extending the length of the building.

There are eight sets of windows across the front of the building grouped in sets of twos (four sets on the first floor and four sets on the second floor) with six-over-six lights in each. On the immediate left and right of the frontispiece are single sash-type windows, six-over-six lights on the first floor and double-hung sash windows on the second floor. On the west side of the building the dominant window groupings are treated in ranges of fives and on the east side, the arched windows which light the auditorium are dominant. Four groups of windows are visible from the ground-floor level on the front which are treated in ranges of twos on the lower level of the advanced end pavilions and threes on either side of the main entrance.

The interior windows are surrounded with plain wood trim except a few that have been replaced with bronze-colored aluminum windows, treated to match the original ones which have been removed due to deterioration. While the treatments vary, the earliest ones are glazed; the trims, however, are basically consistent. The building contains three stairways, one at each end of the building and one at the main entrance which opens on to the immediate landing of the entrance stair from the ground level. All stairs have wood handrails and balusters.

The ceiling and wall materials are painted plaster. Several rooms and hallways are trimmed with wood wainscoting and the ceiling in some areas is composed of 1" x 6" matched boarding. Ceiling cornice work is evident only in the auditorium, which is located in the central wing. All flooring is wood except the ground level which has a concrete slab floor and the immediate landing of the entrance stair which has parquet tiles.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

Most of the exterior of the building remains unaltered, although some rather extensive first floor interior alterations were made in 1977 to accommodate the building's present use as a community complex. An annex building, constructed in the 1950s, is on the grounds and situated to the west of the school building.

Troy High School is situated atop a prominent hill in a residential area facing south, and is only a quarter of a mile from the Court Square. It houses the local Chamber of Commerce and offers the only public meeting rooms and small auditorium near the center of town.

# 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 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**    1917-1919                      **Builder/Architect** Thomas Purvis, Builder; Frank Lockwood, Architect

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

Criterion A - Education

Troy High School is significant for its associations with the development of secondary education in Troy, Alabama. It was the first school built specifically for secondary education in the city and served as the only high school facility for white students until 1960. Designed by Frank Lockwood, a prominent Montgomery architect, and constructed during the turbulent World War I years, Troy High School is distinguished as one of only three school buildings (others in Sheffield and Opelika) in the state constructed during this period. The building represents a priority investment of community resources at a time when the war conditions retarded the ambitions of many small Alabama communities to construct school buildings.

\*           \*           \*           \*           \*           \*           \*           \*           \*

Frank Lockwood was born in Trenton, New Jersey in 1865. He was a graduate of Princeton and took a post-graduate course in architecture at the Pratt Institute. Lockwood trained in the New York office of George Post. While a member of the Post firm, Lockwood came to Anniston, Alabama to prepare plans for an Episcopal Church. In 1895, Lockwood came to Montgomery to design the Standard Club and remained for 41 years. During his residence in Alabama, Lockwood designed many educational facilities including buildings on the campuses of the University of Alabama, Auburn University, Judson and Huntingdon Colleges. In addition to a local post office, houses, hospitals and churches, Lockwood served as architect for the wings of the Alabama State Capitol (NRHP 12/19/60) and the Demopolis Public School (NRHP 10/12/83).

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 2.72

Quadrangle name Troy

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

1	6	5	9	7	9	4	0	3	5	1	9	4	6	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

### Verbal boundary description and justification

See red line on attached plat plan.

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

state NA code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Shirley D. Qualls, Historic Resource Coordinator

organization Alabama Historical Commission

date March, 1984

street & number 725 Monroe Street

telephone 205 261-3184

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 July 26, 1984

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the National Register

date

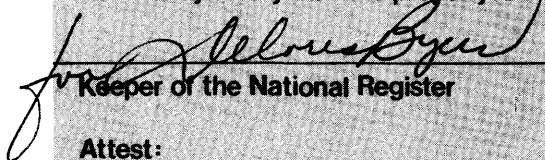
8/30/84

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



## Historical Summary Troy High School

Constructed during the World War I years, the Troy High School was the first school building erected in the city of Troy specifically for secondary education. Sources reveal that "the war and its attendant conditions...had a tendency to retard the erecting of city school buildings in Alabama." There were only three cities in the state that constructed any new buildings during the war period; they were Sheffield, Opelika and Troy. The construction of Troy High School highlights the culmination of an important statewide development in the establishment and growth of secondary education. Beginning in 1908 with an act that provided for the establishment of high schools in the state, and ending with the 1919 standardized plan for school organization, the construction of this building imparts the ambitions of this small community to build and maintain a strong educational system.

In 1887, with the establishment of the Troy Normal School (Troy State University), the city of Troy was granted a city school system, completely independent of the Pike County School System. The city, by local taxation, was to support a graded school "on the most approved modern plan" containing all grades from the lowest primary to the high school. This "Model School" was to serve also as a practice teaching facility for the Normal School's student teachers. The Normal School controlled and coordinated supervision of the practice teaching and provided the high school instruction, while the City Board of Education had control of the grades in which the teaching was done. This arrangement was short-lived, and in 1890, by mutual agreement, the elementary and grammar school grades were divorced from the Normal School and placed under the total control of the city. The Normal School, however, retained control of the high school department which consisted of the seventh and eighth grades.

It was not uncommon for normal schools to conduct sub-collegiate and preparatory departments in Alabama. In fact, many normal and agricultural schools accepted students under a very lax system of entrance requirements in hope of securing large enrollments. The state did not support any educational institutions between the common school and collegiate level. The division of education known as secondary education in most progressive states was almost non-existent in Alabama.

Prominent educators and educational groups agitated for changes in the Alabama school system. They insisted that the normal schools should retreat from high school level studies and concentrate on the training of teachers. In 1908, the first specific legislative provision for general education was enacted. The act, which was designed to "provide for the establishment of high schools in this state and to make appropriation for said schools" initiated a period of notable educational reform and progress. As a result, the Alabama Association of Colleges began to elevate collegiate standards and secure uniform college admission and graduation requirements. The Alabama High Schools Association then standardized the high school courses of study. These two organizations along with the efforts of the State Department of Education and the High School Commission were able to successfully separate the realms of secondary and collegiate education by 1909. Although the normal schools suffered a temporary decline in enrollment, the school movement was greatly stimulated. Secondary education gained recognition as a large and distinct field in the tripartite division of education in Alabama. All high schools that did not conduct a full four-year (8th and 11th grade) program immediately undertook thorough overhauling and expansion in order to prepare their students for unconditional admission to college.

The Troy City Board's first high school curriculum was developed, one grade at a time, between 1914 and 1917 beginning with the eighth grade. Lacking adequate facilities to house a high school, the city school officials began plans in 1916 to construct a fully equipped high school building. The proposed bond of \$50,000 for the school's construction was issued April, 1917. The existing school's (the old City School Building on Cherry Street) congestion condition made a new building an absolute necessity, according to the Troy Messenger. The Council planned to erect a building to accommodate the rapid growth of Troy for the next several years. The building was to be "modern in every respect, protecting the health and comforts of the children, and built to expedite school work."

Architectural plans were submitted and turned down several times as World War I took its toll on the small community. There were rapid price increases and a great shortage of materials and labor. Finally, the plans of Frank Lockwood of Montgomery were accepted and the building services of Thomas Purvis of Selma were contracted. The plan was to build the school in units so that it could be easily added to without much expense when the occasion arose." The 1919 Department of Interior, Bureau of Education Report, made special mention of the struggle to construct school buildings in Alabama stating that "very few cities have erected any new school buildings during the past two years"; only Sheffield, Troy and Opelika "have or are completing new buildings."

It took three years and \$10,000 above the proposed \$50,000 to complete the building for occupancy. This excluded, however, the completion of the ground floor and the total furnishings. Consequently, the final cost "soared to \$95,000." A June 4, 1919 article in the Troy Messenger stated that the splendid red brick and Bedford stone building... stands out of the crest of a gently rising slope." In the same article, the author outlined "certain distinctive principles of construction employed" which included the exclusion of a basement to save the cost of excavating; large decorative panels on the front elevation to prevent undesirable cross lights, wedges of shadows or eyestrain, affording the building the more desirable east-west natural light; steamheating; and finally, some special features which included a steel locker system, an electric clock system, six drinking fountains and an auditorium with 500 opera chairs.

The building was the only high school facility for whites in Troy until the 1959-60 school year when the city system received its first allocation from the estate of former Gov. Charles Henderson. Henderson left his entire estate in trust for a period of twenty years, its revenue to go to the schools of Pike County for the construction of school buildings. When Henderson High was completed, the Troy High School building became a Junior High School facility and later, an Adult Education Center.

In 1977, the building was restored for use as a Community Complex, housing the Chamber of Commerce and the only small auditorium and meeting rooms near the center of town.

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

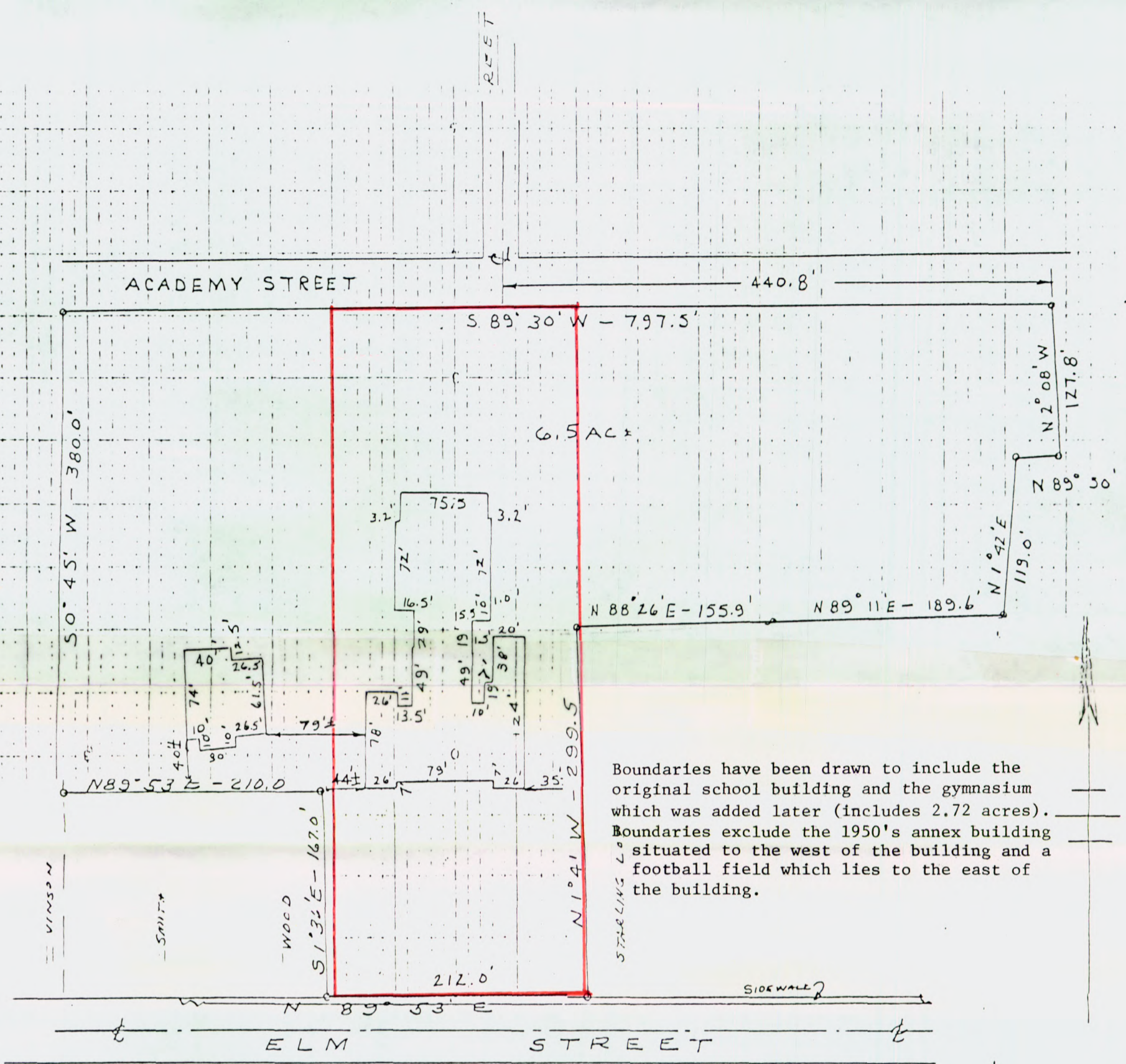
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

- Farmer, Margaret Pace. One Hundred Fifty Years in Pike County, AL, 1821-1971. Anniston, AL: Higginbotham, Inc., 1973. (pp. 203-230)
- Hyatt, Oscar W. The Development of Secondary Education in Alabama Prior to 1920. Nashville, Tennessee: George Peabody College for Teachers, 1933. (pp. 102-119; 122-140; 155-160)
- Kilgrow, Adelaide and Eugene M. Thomas, III. History of Education in Alabama. Alabama State Department of Education and The Southern Regional Education Board/U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare. Bulletin 1975, No. 7. (pp. 25-53)
- McLure, John R. "On the Beginnings of the Troy High School" in Papers of the Pike County Historical Society. Vol. I, No. 8, April 1, 1959.
- Shackelford, Edward M. The First Fifty Years of the State Teachers College at Troy, Alabama, 1887-1937. (pp. 29-31; 183-200; 123-127)
- Troy Messenger. (1887; 1914; 1917; 1919; 1959)
- U. S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Education. An Educational Study of Alabama. Bulletin 41. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1919.





Boundaries have been drawn to include the original school building and the gymnasium which was added later (includes 2.72 acres). Boundaries exclude the 1950's annex building situated to the west of the building and a football field which lies to the east of the building.

STATE OF ALABAMA  
COUNTY OF PIKE

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

I, James E. Ray, a Registered Engineer-Surveyor of Troy, Alabama, hereby certify the above plat to be an accurate record of a survey made by me of the following described property, to-wit:

A lot or tract of land lying on the south side of Academy Street and on the north side of Elm Street in the City of Troy, Pike County, Alabama, being more particularly described as follows: Commencing at a point on the south side of said Academy Street (20 feet from centerline), said point being 440.8 feet Easterly along the south side of said Academy Street from the point of intersection of the south side of said Academy Street and the centerline of Lake Street; running thence South 89° 30' West 797.5 feet along the south side of said Academy Street to the east side of Harrison Avenue; thence South 0° 45' West 380.0 feet along the east side of said Harrison Avenue; thence North 89° 53' East 210.0 feet; thence South 1° 36' East 167.0 feet to the north side of said Elm Street; thence North 89° 53' East 212.0 feet along the north side of said Elm Street; thence North 1° 41' West 299.5 feet; thence North 88° 26' East 155.9 feet; thence North 89° 11' East 189.6 feet; thence North 1° 42' East 119.0 feet; thence North 89° 30' East 40.8 feet; thence North 2° 08' West 127.8 feet to the point of beginning, containing 6.5 acres, more or less.

According to my survey this the 13th day of September, 1976.

Scale: 1" = 100'

*James E. Ray*  
Reg. No. 1570