

Rural Churches of Baldwin County

(Thematic Nomination)

Owner: Town of Loxley
P. O. Box 57
Loxley, Al. 36551

Historic Name: St. Patrick's Catholic Church

Common Name: Loxley Public Library

Location: East side Highway 90, Loxley

Verbal Boundary Description:

Begin at the southeast corner of the intersection of Highway 90 and Loxley Avenue. Thence proceed east 135 feet to a point, thence south 100 feet to a point, thence west 135 feet to Highway 90, thence north 100 feet to the point of beginning.

Acreage: .31 UTM: 16/427/840/3387/510

Date of Construction: 1924 Architect/Builder: Unknown

Statement of Significance

Criterion C-Architecture:

St. Patrick's Catholic Church-Loxley Public Library is significant as one of three ornamental concrete block churches in Baldwin County. It is also significant for its size, scale and distinct stylistic use of vague medieval references; rare elements in rural Loxley.

Integrity:

St. Patrick's Catholic Church-Loxley Public Library retains its integrity of location, materials and design. Exterior changes are limited to metal awnings over the front door and side entrances in the apse. The interior has been turned over to use as a library. Thus, pews, altar and pulpit have been removed. A tile ceiling is present, carpet runs down the center of the room and the apse and front walls are paneled. Paneled wainscoting runs around the rest of the room. Original windows and doors remain.

Description:

St. Patrick's Catholic Church-Loxley Public Library faces north on the east side of Highway 90 in the town of Loxley. Loxley Avenue runs east-west in front of the building and magnolia trees crowd it on the east side. There is a business on the south side and Highway 90 crowds the building's west side. The building itself is a one-story, 1x6 bay, gable roof (tin) front, ornamental concrete block structure with a two-story square tower with hip roof centered on the facade. The entrance, in the tower, consists of double wood doors with lights, a stained glass

transom and metal awnings. The second story of the tower has louvered rectangular vents with lancet windows a little lower. The corners of the tower and building have beveled concrete block quoins. Windows (2/2 lancet) have beveled, smooth concrete block surrounds and stone sills. Three stepped buttresses on each side of the building delineate the bays. There is an apse at the rear with a gable roof, slightly smaller in scale than the main roof. On the east side of the apse is a pair of entrances and a single 1/1 lancet window. Both rear gables have tar paper shingles. The tower has a boxed cornice while rafters are exposed along the main roofline. The rear elevation has a large, multi-light window.

Historical Summary:

Loxley grew as a small market town on a spur of the L&N railroad during the early 1900s. Much of the population was composed of immigrants who had come south from the mid-west. The Catholics among Loxley's inhabitants held mass in various members' homes until a permanent church was erected in 1926. The small concrete block sanctuary served area Catholics until a larger church was built at Robertsdale in the 1970s. The Town of Loxley acquired the building and presently employs it as a library.

Contributing Building 1

