

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

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

82

## 1. Name

historic Coffee High School (Appleby School)

and/or common Appleby School

## 2. Location

street & number 319 Hermitage Drive \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Florence \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district 5th

state Alabama code 01 county Lauderdale code 077

## 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 checked="" 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
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name Florence City Board of Education

street & number 541 Riverview Drive

city, town Florence \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state Alabama

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Lauderdale County Courthouse

street & number Court Street

city, town Florence \_\_\_\_\_ 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

**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved      date \_\_\_\_\_

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

Appleby School is a two story building with a basement. The auditorium has a brick foundation with a two foot crawl space. It is vented by a 3 foot x 4 foot grilled opening centered under auditorium windows. East, north, and west wings have concrete slab on grade foundation. Interior framing is stud walls with rough plaster finish. Exterior walls are of solid masonry construction of burnt brick with scratched surface, stretcher bond with white limestone trim. Flush with exterior wall are three Italiante arches flanked by pilasters, the whole capped by limestone entablatures. There is a recessed and arcaded central front porch. There are three bays on the east and west elevations; each bay contains six pairs of double hung 24 lite windows. The auditorium roof is gabled with slate covering; boxed cornice with returns on gable and entrance, with mutules and dentils. There is composition roofing over east, north, and west wings. Main entrance doors face south and include three double leaf wooden doors under a recessed porch. A second side entrance also faces south on the rear most tier of the structure. This entrance is a double leaf wooden door with a fanlight. The south wall includes three mullion-type windows above the central porch, each with a limestone lintel, keystone, and shoulders. South wall also has a long 1/1 window on each side of the porch with the same lintels, keystones, and shoulders as above. There are various double and triple segmented windows on the east, north, and west walls with lintels, keystones, and shoulders matching those on the south wall. Interior doors are heavy wooden, four paneled doors with a glass transome over each. Interior window treatment is indistinctive. Stairways, located at the rear of the east and west wings, are poured concrete treads and landings supported by a prefabricated steel structural system. Walls and ceilings are finished with 3/4 inch lath and rough plaster over wood frame construction. Floors are of wood frame construction with 3/4 inch subfloor and 3/4 inch hardwood finish floor. Door knobs are ceramic enameled pressed metal. The blackboards are genuine slate originally used in Patton School which opened in 1891. Distinctive ceiling fans cool the auditorium. The building is heated by steam radiators. The original coal fed boiler has been converted to gas.

# 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/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1916-1917      **Builder/Architect** Richard G. Deacon, Chattanooga, TN

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

The F. T. Appleby Junior High School (originally Coffee High School) is significant as the first secondary education building in Florence and as a reflection of the growing movement toward providing higher education in Alabama during the first two decades of the 20th century. Prior to the construction of the High School, the Florence school system included four elementary schools. The construction of the school aslo corresponds with the enormous growth in population experienced in Florence from 1917-1920.

\* \* \* \* \*

Construction of the school began in 1916 on land donated to the city by Mrs. Camilla M. Coffee and was completed in 1917. The building cost \$95,000 and the mayor was severely criticized for spending so much money and building such a large building. The school was used as Coffee High until 1951 when a new building was constructed. At that time, the building was converted into a Junior High School and renamed Appleby School in honor of F. T. Appleby, Superintendent of the Florence school system from 1917-1932.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Garrett, Jill Knight. A History of Lauderdale County, Alabama. Columbia, TN, The River Counties Publications, 1964.

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

# 10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property 2.70 acres

Quadrangle name Florence

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 

1	6	4	3	8	2	0	0	3	8	5	1	7	5	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 yellow line on attached survey. Includes school and front yard.

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

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ellen Mertins, National Register Coordinator/Steve Dinges & Stephanie Stevens

organization Alabama Historical Commission date June, 1981

street & number 725 Monroe Street telephone 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Wesley B. Howard Jr.

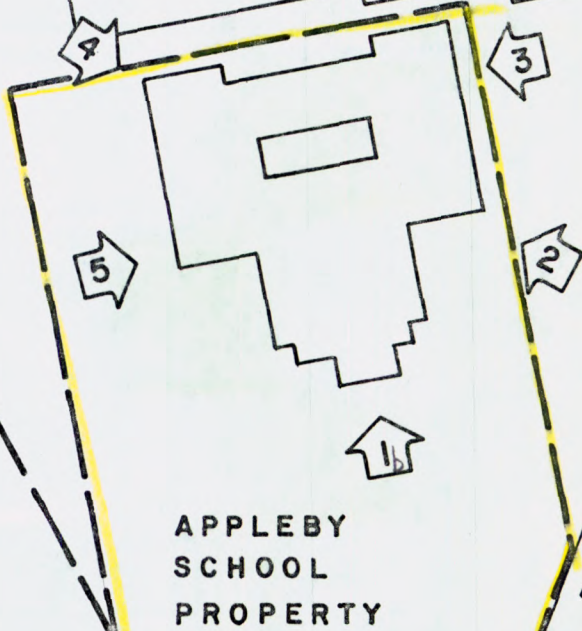
title SHPO Alabama date 10/26/81

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>Alonzo Byers</u>	date <u>2/4/82</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

APPLEBY SCHOOL  
HISTORIC DISTRICT



SCALE: 1" = 100'



WOOD AVENUE  
HISTORIC DISTRICT

APPLEBY SCHOOL  
PROPERTY

WOOD

AVENUE

DRIVE

WALNUT ST.

IRVINE

AVENUE

HERMITAGE

FEB 4 1982

WALNUT STREET  
HISTORIC DISTRICT

RECEIVED

JAN 5 - 1982

NATIONAL REGISTER

WEST, NORTH, EAST CLASSROOM WINGS

OPEN COURT

AUDITORIUM

FLAT COMPOSITION ROOF

SLATE ROOF

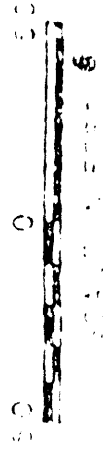
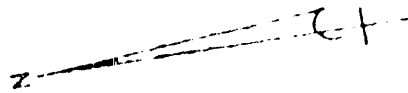
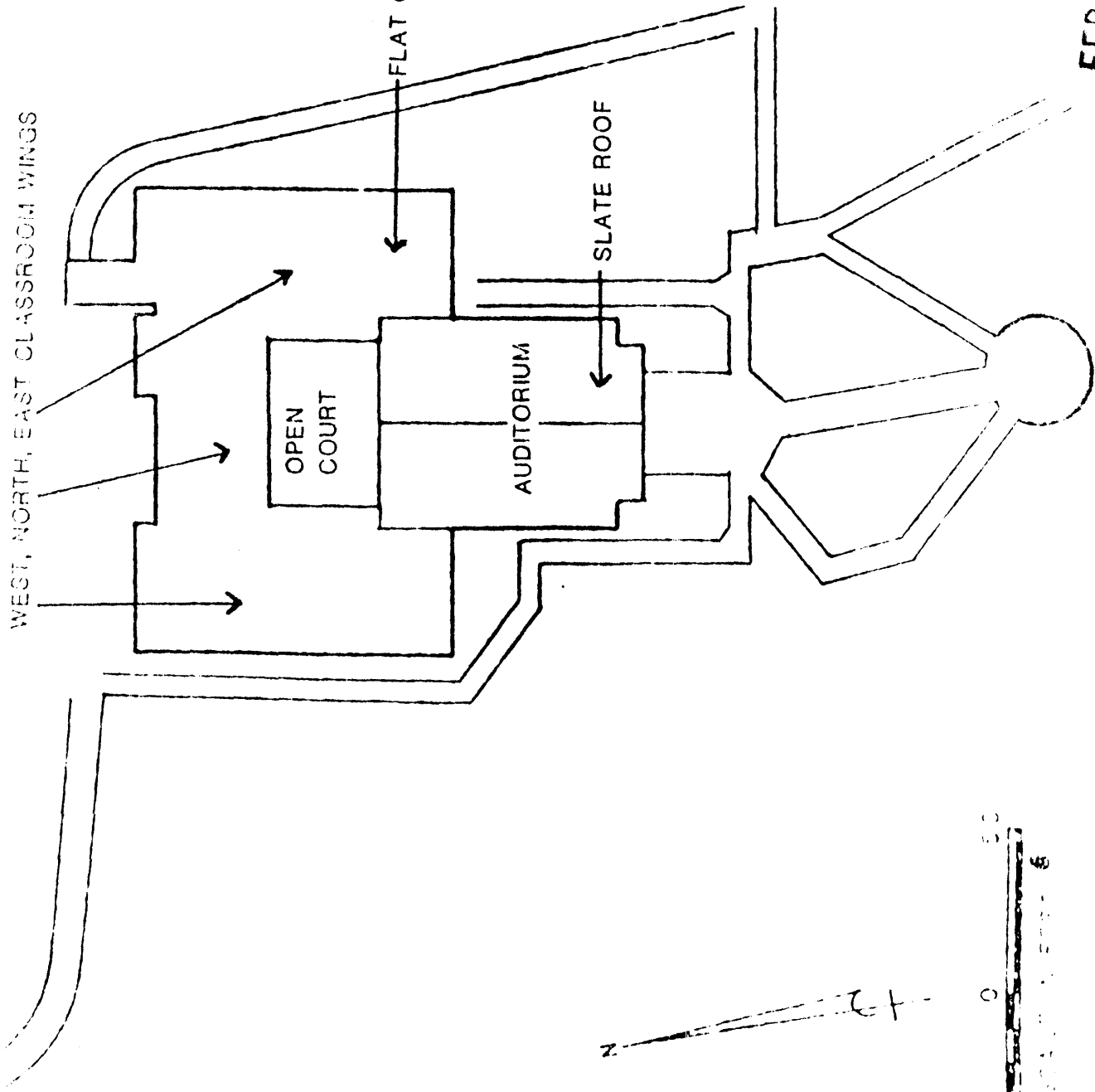
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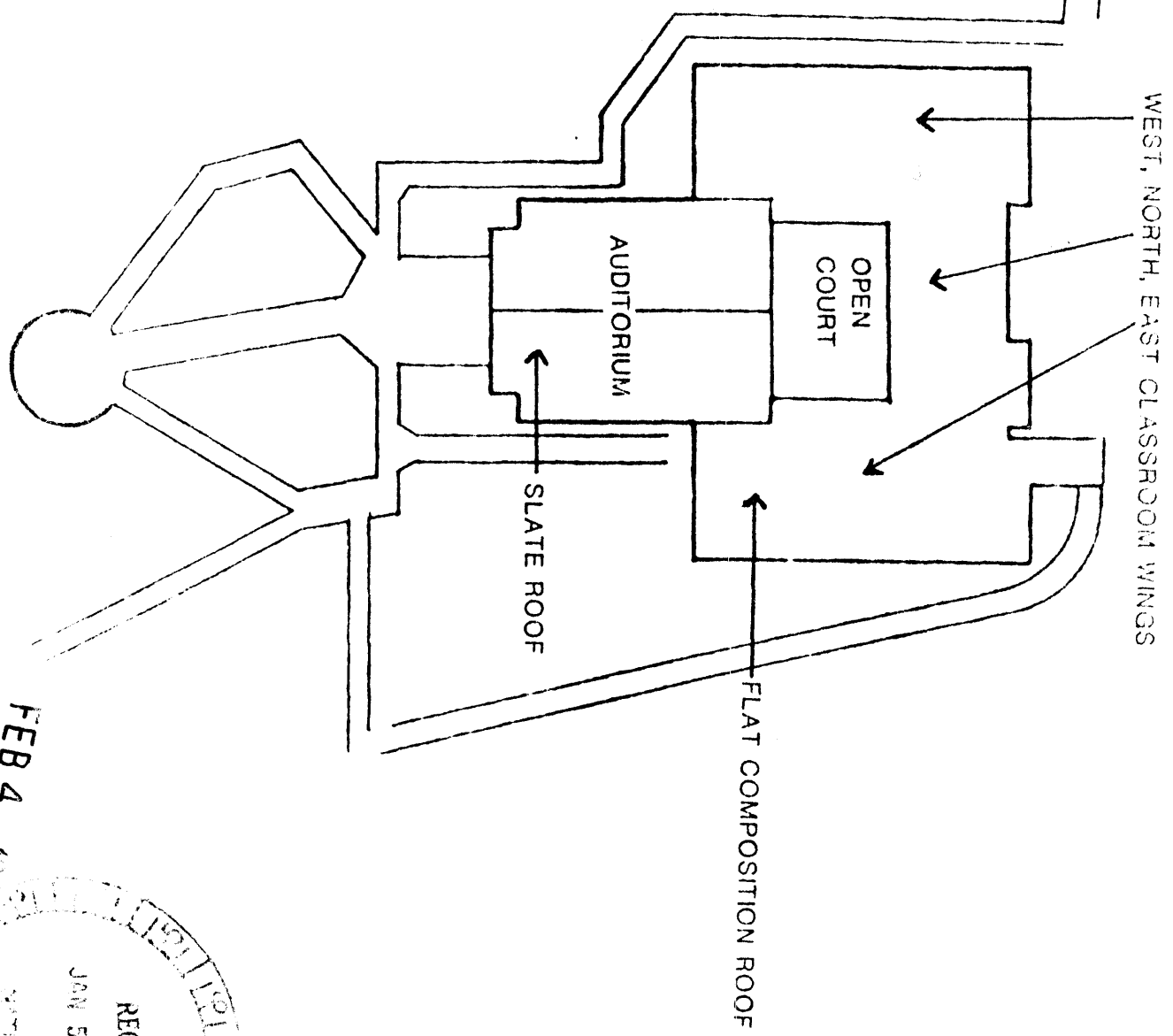
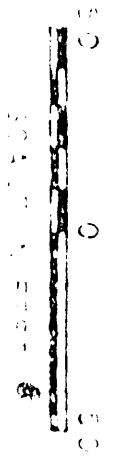
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APPLEBY SCHOOL Florence, Alabama





APPLEBY SCHOOL Florence, Alabama

FEB 4

1962

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