

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PRELIMINARY SITE INFORMATION QUESTIONNAIRE**

**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

This questionnaire is intended only to provide preliminary information about the property to the Bureau of Historic Preservation.

**Name and Location of Property**

Jay High School Auditorium  
4949 Alabama Street  
Jay, FL 32565

**Name and Address of Owner(s)**

Santa Rosa School Board  
5086 Canal Street  
Milton, FL 32570

**County:** Santa Rosa

I support ☐ oppose ☐ this effort to list or seek a determination of eligibility for listing my property in the National Register of Historic Places (optional).

Has it ever been moved? No ☒ Yes ☐ (year)

**Date of Construction or Significant Associations**

May 1935

**Owner's Signature & Date**

Telephone: 983-5000

**Type of Property:**

- ☐ Archaeological or Historic Site  
☐ Residential Building  
☒ Public Building  
☐ Commercial Building  
☐ Other (Describe)

**Original Use:**

school auditorium

**Present Use:**

school auditorium

**Physical Description** (Indicate basic design and construction, and general condition at present time.)

(See attached)

**Why is the property significant?**

(See attached)

**Enclosures:**

- ☒ Current Photos (original, required)  
☒ Historic Photos (if available, photocopy acceptable)  
☒ Location Map (required)  
☒ Proof of Ownership (Property Appraiser record or notarized letter, required)

**Name and Address of Person Submitting**

Bobby Boutwell  
Jay Historical Society  
3946 Hwy. 4  
Jay, FL 32565

Telephone (Daytime)

850-390-3793

Email jayhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

Date: 11-22-17

Signature: Bobby Boutwell

**STAFF ONLY**

Appears to be: Eligible, FNP \_\_\_\_\_ / Ineligible \_\_\_\_\_, due to \_\_\_\_\_ / Insufficient Info \_\_\_\_\_ Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_  
date sent Initial/date

# SCHOOL BOARD PROPOSAL

FROM: JAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

RE: PURSUING TITLE OF HISTORICAL SITE FOR JAY SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

## PROPOSAL:

**We, the members of the Jay Historical Society, supported by the Jay High School Student Government Association, Jay High School Drama Program, and Members of the Town of Jay, are requesting the signature of the Santa Rosa County School Board to give permission to pursue the title of a National Historical Site for the Jay School Auditorium.**

### Physical Description of Auditorium

The Jay High School Auditorium was built in 1935 by FERA with New Deal monies. This building has had several renovations throughout its 86 years including a complete renovation in September of 1974 and a more recent renovation of carpet, and audience seat replacement during the last 15 years.

The JHS Auditorium is in excellent condition as it is still very much in use today by Jay High, Jay Elementary, Escambia Rural Electric Co-op and the community of Jay.

### Why is the property significant?

The Jay High School Auditorium is one-of-a-kind in Santa Rosa County. There is only one other school in the county with an auditorium and it was built in more recent years. Most schools are now constructed with a café-torium, consisting of a small stage in the corner of a lunchroom. Jay High School is proud to have ownership of a very impressive auditorium that has maintained integrity, honor, and usage for 86 years and counting.

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As you can see, the Jay High School Auditorium is in excellent condition and working order. It is the very heart of the town of Jay and within its walls we can see our past, present, and future as we continue to share its wonders with our children and grandchildren. With your help and the title of an historical site, we hope to continue to preserve and protect our precious piece of U.S. history.

### Why label it an Historical Site?

- If awarded the title of historical site, grants could be applied for further improvement and restoration, **resulting in funding that the school board would not have to provide.**
- A label of historical site would not protect the auditorium in itself from future demolition but would allow further grants to be applied for to possibly preserve the building for historical value and usage.
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The auditorium is used regularly by Jay High School and its neighboring school, Jay Elementary. Jay High School uses the auditorium for drama productions, Veteran's Day community assemblies with guest speakers from our armed forces, various Homecoming events including a community-wide Lion's Roar event where the Homecoming Queen is announced, the marching band and cheerleaders perform, and each grade level as well as school clubs perform skits to promote school spirit. Jay High School also uses the auditorium for all awards programs for the students as well as guest speakers and performances. Jay Elementary utilizes the auditorium weekly with music class performances and practices, awards programs, assemblies, guest speakers, and events.

The community of Jay uses the auditorium for the Escambia River Electric Co-op annual meetings, beauty pageants, a visit from the Pensacola Ballet, and more. It is a treasured item for not only the town of Jay, but the entire county of Santa Rosa County. **Being purchased with New Deal money, it is also a treasure to the United States of America as a piece of our history being honored and loved.**

As you can see, the Jay High School Auditorium is in excellent condition and working order. It is the very heart of the town of Jay and within its walls we can see our past, present, and future as we continue to share its wonders with our children and grandchildren. With your help and the title of an historical site, we hope to continue to preserve and protect our precious piece of U.S. history.

### **Why label it an Historical Site?**

- If awarded the title of historical site, grants could be applied for further improvement and restoration, **resulting in funding that the school board would not have to provide.**
- A label of historical site would not protect the auditorium in itself from future demolition but would allow further grants to be applied for to possibly preserve the building for historical value and usage.
- This historical building has withstood the test of time for our parents, children, and now grandchildren. It should be awarded the title of Historical Site for the further usage by future generations.

# SCHOOL BOARD PROPOSAL

**FROM: JAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**RE: PURSUING TITLE OF HISTORICAL SITE FOR JAY SCHOOL AUDITORIUM**

## **PROPOSAL:**

**We, the members of the Jay Historical Society, supported by the Jay High School Student Government Association, Jay High School Drama Program, and Members of the Town of Jay, are requesting the signature of the Santa Rosa County School Board to give permission to pursue the title of a National Historical Site for the Jay School Auditorium.**

### **Physical Description of Auditorium**

The Jay High School Auditorium was built in 1935 by FERA with New Deal monies. This building has had several renovations throughout its 86 years including a complete renovation in September of 1974 and a more recent renovation of carpet, and audience seat replacement during the last 15 years.

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