

Rosenwald Schools in Georgia

Multiple Property Documentation Form approved

ATLANTA (September 9, 2009) – The Historic Preservation Division (HPD) of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources is pleased to announce that the historic context *Rosenwald Schools in Georgia, 1912-1937* was approved by the National Register of Historic Places on August 17, 2009. The context will facilitate the nomination of Georgia's extant Rosenwald schools to the National Register by property owners, historical societies, and community groups.

Rosenwald Schools in Georgia, 1912-1937 is the result of several years of research by Jeanne Cyriaque, African American Programs Coordinator at HPD and is part of a larger initiative to identify, document, and preserve the remaining Rosenwald schools in the state. The context also provides a detailed factual account of the Rosenwald Fund's specific impact in Georgia and places its significance within the broader framework of black education in the state.

Between 1915 and 1937, the Julius Rosenwald Fund provided funding and plans for the construction of 259 schools throughout the state. To date, approximately four dozen of the Georgia schools have been identified. The fund had a significant impact upon the advancement of African American education in the state of Georgia, and was a welcome relief for the state's African American population that had long endured the hardships and injustices imposed by the South's segregated public education system. In addition to assisting with the construction of new school buildings, the fund also advocated extending the school term for black students, increasing compensation received by black educators, subsidizing transportation for black students, and supporting the development of libraries.

Rosenwald-funded schools varied in size from small one-teacher schools to large 11-teacher facilities that offered instruction from first grade through high school. In the fund's early years, wood-frame, one-story, one- and two-teacher schools were the most common. In later years, larger schools constructed of brick were built with greater frequency, though always in much smaller numbers than the wood-framed rural schools. Rosenwald schools were built according to standardized plans that were produced by the Rosenwald Fund. The fund required a two-acre campus that often included teachers' homes, industrial vocational buildings, privies, and athletic fields in addition to the school.

To learn more about Rosenwald schools in Georgia, the Rosenwald school initiative, the National Register of Historic Places, and how you can help preserve Georgia's historic resources, please visit our website at www.gashpo.org. If you have more information about a Rosenwald school in your community, please contact Jeanne Cyriaque at 404-656-4768.

The Historic Preservation Division (HPD) of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources serves as Georgia's state historic preservation office. Their mission is to promote the preservation and use of historic places for a better Georgia. HPD's programs include archaeology protection and education, environmental review, grants, historic resource surveys, tax incentives, the National Register of Historic Places, community planning and technical assistance.

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The mission of the Department of Natural Resources is to sustain, enhance, protect and conserve Georgia's natural, historic and cultural resources for present and future generations, while recognizing the importance of promoting the development of commerce and industry that utilize sound environmental practices.

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