Southern Office

National Trust for Historic Preservation
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Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, Florida,
Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina,
Tennessee, Kentucky, USVI, Puerto Rico
(Southern Field Office – Washington, DC, Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland)
National Trust Regional Offices

- Offer technical assistance through consultations and field visits
- Financial assistance through small grants to jump start local efforts (Preservation Fund)
- Convene educational programs
- Provide leadership on national and regional issues
Increasing interest in Rosenwald school preservation and the demand for assistance from local preservation groups led the National Trust to form a special initiative to help activists preserve Rosenwald Schools.
In 1912, Booker T. Washington of Tuskegee Institute approached Julius Rosenwald with the idea to pilot a rural school building program for African American communities.
Tuskegee Plans

- Tuskegee developed standardized plans for rural schools
- Large windows were necessary for adequate natural lighting
- Hipped and clipped gable roofs were trademarks of Tuskegee plans
- Plans were described by the # of teachers instead of # of rooms
School Plans

- State-of-the-art school plans were published that became models for rural schools across the South.
- New plans incorporated some Tuskegee elements while relying on current research for rural school design.
- Gable roofs and one-story structures were some differentiating factors from Tuskegee plans.
- Banks of windows along one side of the building was a hallmark of Rosenwald plans.
By the end of the program in 1932, 4977 new schools, 163 shop buildings and 217 teachers homes had been constructed for African American students using seed grants from the Julius Rosenwald Foundation.
Changing times and needs led many school districts to abandon, sell or destroy older school buildings. Many reverted to the communities in which they were located.
11 Most Endangered Historic Places 2002
Noble Hill-Wheeler Memorial Center, GA
The Rosenwald Schools Initiative

Goals

• Build awareness locally, regionally, nationally
• Link activists with resources
• Build the Rosenwald school preservation network
• Provide funding and resources for identification and preservation
How we do it…

- Present at local, state and national conferences
- Work with press and publications to raise awareness
- Granted over $70,000 in Preservation Fund planning grants to Rosenwald schools
- Granted $70,000 in Alice Rosenwald Flexible Fund grants to Rosenwald school projects since 2005
- Built a network of over 2000 activists
- Received SC Humanities Council grant for small traveling exhibit and brochure
• Preservation Fund planning grants are available for professional services, organizational development, developing educational materials and conferences
• Must be matched 1:1
• Awards in amounts from $500 to $5000
• October 1, February 1, June 1 deadlines
- Published and distributed Preserving Rosenwald Schools booklet
- Launched www.rosenwaldschools.com website
Rosenwald Schools Initiative

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Make a Difference
Become a Member

School Plans
This architectural drawing of a three teacher school plan is one of many designs used for Rosenwald schools across the Southern states. → Learn More

News and Announcements
Rosenwald Schools

- Rosenwald Schools Initiative
- History
- School Buildings
- Find a School
- Resources
- Contact Us

Find a School

The most comprehensive listing of Rosenwald Schools can be found in the Rosenwald Fund records located at Fisk University. Part of these records, a collection of card files, contain over 5,000 photographs accompanied by statistical information about Rosenwald Schools. Each entry varies, but may include:

- Historic and current name of the school
- Location (state and county)
- Year of Rosenwald Fund grant
- Number of teachers
- Grant application number
- Total cost
- Amount contributed by Negroes, whites, the public, and the Rosenwald Fund
- Photographs of the school, an earlier structure replaced by a new school, shops, teacher's home, people
- Descriptive notes

These school cards have been digitized by Fisk University's Franklin Library and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. A searchable database is available through Fisk University's website. While this is the most complete list of Rosenwald Schools, it is not exhaustive.
2008-2009

• 32 grants to Rosenwald school projects in amounts up to $50,000 for brick and mortar restoration and rehabilitation work totaling $1,500,000
Great Branch Teacher’s Home, Orangeburg Co., SC
National Trust Web Resources

www.rosenwaldschools.com
www.preservationnation.org
www.preservationnation.org/issues/historic-schools/
National Preservation Conference

Nashville, TN

Creating the Future in Harmony with our Pasts

October 13-17, 2009

www.preservationnation.org/resources/trainingnpc/

Diversity scholarships available—apply online by June
Columbia Rosenwald School, W. Columbia, TX