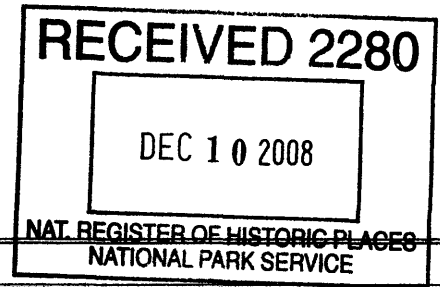


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

1332



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

1. Name of Property

historic name Tankersley Rosenwald School
other names/site number Tankersley Elementary School

2. Location

street & number 10 miles S of Montgomery on US 31 to Pettus Rd. to School Spur Rd. on W side
city or town Hope Hull vicinity Pintlala
state Alabama code AL county Montgomery code 101 zip code 36043

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Lizbeth Hankman
Signature of certifying official/Title

December 5, 2008
Date

Alabama Historical Commission (State Historic Preservation Office)
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other (explain): _____

Edson H. Beall 1-22-09

for
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u> </u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
The Rosenwald School Building Fund and Associated Buildings (1913-1937) MPS

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register:
N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: EDUCATION Sub: School

<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: VACANT/NOT IN USE Sub:

<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: Brick

roof: Asphalt

walls: Wood: Weatherboard

other: Wood

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION
ETHNIC HERITAGE: Black
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance c. 1922-1958

Significant Dates _____

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) _____

Cultural Affiliation _____

Architect/Builder Smith, Samuel L.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

- Previous documentation on file (NPS):
- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
 - previously listed in the National Register
 - previously determined eligible by the National Register
 - designated a National Historic Landmark
 - recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
 - recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

- Primary Location of Additional Data:
- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: Fisk University

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 3.15

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>16</u>	<u>561100</u>	<u>3554870</u>	4	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	5	_____	_____
3	_____	_____	_____	6	_____	_____

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Yusuf Mustafa (consultant), Dorothy Walker (AHC) & Susan Enzweiler (AHC National Register Coordinator)

organization Montgomery County Farmer's Service & Welfare Association date 9/17/08

street & number 1082 Highway 94 telephone (334) 284-2883

city or town Ramer state Alabama zip code 36069

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets**Maps**

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Montgomery County Farmer's Service & Welfare Association, c/o Mr. Addre Bryant

street & number 2930 Milton Road telephone (334) 263-9846

city or town Montgomery state Alabama zip code 36110

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Name of Property: Tankersley Rosenwald School
County and State: Montgomery, Alabama

#7 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Tankersley Rosenwald School is an excellent articulation of the type of small, rural schools constructed by the Rosenwald Building Fund as described in "The Rosenwald School Building Fund and Associated Buildings (1913-1937) MPS". Even more specifically, the Tankersley School represents one of the Subtype #3 schools which were designed by Samuel L. Smith. Based on Floor Plan No. 20, the school has some original, but minor, design modifications which will be described below. This floor plan was for a "Two Teacher Community School" but Tankersley Rosenwald School is listed as a three teacher school in the Rosenwald MPS.

Built around 1922, the Tankersley Rosenwald School is a one-story, T-shaped building that is clad in weatherboard and rests on a foundation of red brick piers approximately 18" above ground. The foundation was partially stabilized and the building's exterior was repainted white in 2007. The roof, which includes a front gable set perpendicular to the main roof ridge, was pierced by three plain interior chimneys of red brick. Today, only one chimney remains visible from the outside. A new asphalt shingle roof replaced the earlier standing sheet metal roof in 1997. However, the wide, overhanging eaves retain their exposed rafter ends and brackets. Tankersley Rosenwald School was constructed with Bungalow/Craftsman stylistic elements typical of the Rosenwald pattern with an east-west exposure to take advantage of natural light. The building remains in fair condition with a fairly high degree of architectural integrity.

The five bay wide front façade faces east. It is dominated by a shallow, gabled wing featuring a bank of four 9/9 double hung sash windows and, in its gable peak, a square, louvered attic vent. Flanking this central wing are small stoops with wide steps delimited by brick walls with concrete coping. Each stoop is shaded by a shed roof with exposed rafter ends and brackets. In each stoop area are wooden doors with each door displaying six panes of glass above two horizontal panels. The end bays each consist of a paired 9/9 DHS window. All windows are boarded up to discourage vandalism.

The western or rear elevation is four bays wide. Each middle bay is comprised of a bank of five 9/9 DHS windows. Each end bay consists of a single-leaf, five-paneled, wooden door below a shed roof with exposed rafter ends and brackets. The steps to these entries are missing.

The north and south (side) elevations each have an asymmetrically placed window and a square, louvered attic vent in the gable peak.

As in Floor Plan No. 20, Tankersley Rosenwald School has two classrooms divided by a partition in the main part of the building and an industrial room in the front gabled wing. Wooden, paneled folding doors comprise the partition and when these are folded back the two rooms can be used as an assembly or chapel.

The front vestibules in the Tankersley Rosenwald School access not only the main classrooms but also the industrial room whereas in Floor Plan No. 20 they only allow entry into the main classrooms. Access to the other rooms is only from these classrooms. Other modifications to the plan are on the west elevation. The original design calls for a bank of six windows in each classroom. At Tankersley, however, the western wall in each room is defined by a bank of five windows and a door to the outside. These

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 2

Name of Property: Tankersley Rosenwald School
County and State: Montgomery, Alabama

minor changes, however, do not greatly detract from the overall integrity of Floor Plan No. 20 as illustrated by the Tankersley Rosenwald School.

On the interior, the walls and the ceilings are clad in beaded board. The height of the ceiling is about 14' above the level of the wooden plank floor. Simple moldings surround the doors and windows. Above some of the doors are six-light transoms. The blackboards with their original moldings are still in place. The industrial arts room has its original storage closet along the east wall. An open stage remains in the south classroom and a blackboard, piano, and organ remain in the north one. Storage cabinets and storage/cloak rooms are retained in poor condition.

The Tankersley Rosenwald School is located in a rural area approximately 10 miles south of Montgomery down Highway 31 in Hope Hull, Alabama, 3 miles south of the Pintlala community, off Pettus Road on School Spur Road. It is situated on 3.15 acres of land adjacent to the First Baptist Church. The site originally contained 15 acres; ten were in timber and the school and playground took up five acres with the building. The two sanitary privies, two water pumps, basketball court and baseball diamond, pecan grove, and a garden, which were included in the original plan, were cleared or torn down after the school closed in 1967.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMPONENT

No formal archaeological study has been conducted. However, there is great possibility that subsurface material exists. This material has the potential to yield significant information in regard to the themes identified in the historic contexts. This includes themes of education, ethnic heritage- African American, social, and cultural history, and architecture.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 3 Name of Property: Tankersley Rosenwald School
County and State: Montgomery, Alabama

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE

The period of significance extends from c. 1922 to 1958. The first date is the construction date for the building. It was used as a segregated elementary school for black children until 1967 when it was closed due to integration. The year 1958 was chosen as the end of the period of significance because it denotes the fifty-year cut-off date.

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: CRITERION A: EDUCATION & ETHNIC HERITAGE: BLACK

The Tankersley Rosenwald School is a statewide significant illustration of the struggle of African-Americans for a quality education in racially segregated, rural Alabama in the early twentieth century. During this time, poverty and racism inhibited black children from receiving a good education in a safe and well-built facility. Of the almost 400 Rosenwald Schools built in Alabama between 1913 and 1932, thirteen were located in Montgomery County. Tankersley School and Cecil School are the only two still extant. It is not known how many such schools remain across the State.

As described in the "The Rosenwald School Building Fund and Associated Buildings (1913-1937) MPS", Booker T. Washington of Tuskegee Institute asked Julius Rosenwald, a northern philanthropist, to assist in funding the construction of rural elementary schools for black children. Rosenwald agreed, believing such funding would encourage state and local public education agencies to fulfill their responsibilities for educating black youth and that blacks and whites together would support the construction of a school as a community enterprise.

The funding for the construction of Tankersley Rosenwald School is representative of how Rosenwald's beliefs played out in Alabama. Total construction costs in the amount of \$5,300 were borne by local blacks who contributed \$1,500, the "public" which added \$2,800 and the Rosenwald School Building fund which kicked in \$1,000. This pattern of contributions occurred across the State. The Rosenwald fund always contributed to the construction costs. Blacks did also, except in very rare instances. Public agencies generally contributed, but could not be counted on always to do so. Whites frequently added nothing to the building fund.

Nevertheless, the Rosenwald Fund stimulated increases in public as well as private funds to support black education. As a result of Rosenwald's initiatives, more black children went to school longer in better constructed and equipped schools. In addition to their academic subjects, the girls learned home economics and the boys acquired farming skills. The schools also served as community centers, providing a place for social events and continuing education opportunities for local adults. This resulted in higher standards for architecture, sanitation, and maintenance in rural areas. Finally, the schools promoted a sense of community among rural black people and enabled them to preserve their ethnic cultural values.

The Tankersley Rosenwald School still exemplifies this commitment to industrial education and community service in its design. This is reflected by the fact that its current owner, the Montgomery County Farmer's Service and Welfare Association, plans to rehabilitate the building for use as a community center in Hope Hull.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 4 Name of Property: Tankersley Rosenwald School
County and State: Montgomery, Alabama

CRITERION C: ARCHITECTURE

The Tankersley Rosenwald School has statewide significance as an excellent articulation of the type of small, rural schools constructed by the Rosenwald Building Fund and described in "The Rosenwald School Building Fund and Associated Buildings (1913-1937) MPS". More specifically, the Tankersley School represents one of the Subtype #3 schools and is based on Floor Plan No. 20.

The Tankersley Rosenwald School is a product of the Rosenwald School Building Program's great expansion in the 1920s. Initially begun in the early twentieth century by Booker T. Washington of Tuskegee Institute with the financial backing of Julius Rosenwald, the program evolved and grew during this decade. By 1930, the Rosenwald School Building Program was operating in fifteen southern states and had constructed over 4,700 rural schools. Alabama had 382 such schools by 1932, including the Tankersley School which was built c. 1922.

Samuel L. Smith was appointed administrator of the Julius Rosenwald Fund with an office in Nashville, Tennessee in 1920. He created and distributed floor plans for rural educational facilities that embodied the most modern and innovative concepts in school design. These plans had a tremendous impact on rural school architecture. Smith's production of stock blueprints, which contained the contractor's specifications, recommendations on site selection, painting, and landscaping enabled rural Southern communities to build quality facilities without architect's fees. These mass produced standardized designs were later used by education officials building white schools as well.

They called for an east/west orientation for maximum natural lighting, industrial and cloak rooms, tall double hung sash windows, window shades, sanitary privies, heating stoves, and had specific recommendations regarding interior paint schemes, seating arrangements, and blackboard placement. An integral part of the school design was the incorporation of an industrial room where girls learned domestic skills and boys learned farming techniques. Smith also included an auditorium or connecting rooms with movable partitions to serve as an all purpose community room.

The Tankersley Rosenwald School retains many of these design features including its east-west orientation, its original room arrangement with the partition of paneled doors, its banks of tall windows and even its blackboards. Its exterior still displays its minimal Bungalow/Craftsman design elements in its weatherboard siding, paneled doors and its wide, overhanging eaves with exposed rafter ends. Its standing sheet metal roof was replaced with an asphalt shingle roof in 1997. Its foundation was stabilized and the building's exterior was painted white in 2007.

The Tankersley Rosenwald School maintains a high degree of integrity in terms of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 5 Name of Property: Tankersley Rosenwald School
County and State: Montgomery, Alabama

HISTORICAL SUMMARY

Jacob W. Williams, the first principal of the school, came to this community in 1917. During the first five years, a Negro community trustees board was organized and the old Pythian Masonic Hall was used as a school building. However, the Hall became too congested as there was not enough room. Later, local citizens worked diligently with education officials to raise funds to purchase the first 5 acres from Dr. William Tankersley who was a member of the Montgomery County Board of Education at the time.

However, due to World War I, the school board was not allowing any new schools to be built. After the close of the war, the school board required 15 acres for this community to build a school. Local citizens were successful in getting ten acres that adjoined the original acreage. Of the fifteen acres, ten were in timber with the school and playground on the remaining 5 acres. Thus, the citizens became successful in accommodating an elementary school for boys and girls in grades one through six. The school became the center of the community. Talent shows and church and recreational activities were held at the Tankersley Rosenwald School. A community library was established here. Substantial achievements were made by the students as many later attended and graduated from colleges to become outstanding teachers and professionals in all walks of life.

Due to integration, the school was closed in 1967. The school and grounds were purchased by the current owner in 1994.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 6 Name of Property: Tankersley Rosenwald School
County and State: Montgomery, Alabama

Major Bibliographical References

1. Bond, Horace Mann. Negro Education in Alabama: A Study in Cotton and Steel. Tuscaloosa: The University of Alabama Press, 1994.
2. Cahaba Trace Commission. "Rallying for Rosenwald School Buildings, The Negro Rural Schools of Alabama 1913-1932". Brierfield, Alabama, 1997.
3. Howard, Barbara. Secretary: Montgomery County Farmers Service and Welfare Association, Inc. "Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees", Montgomery, Alabama, 10 January 1996.
4. Johnson, Ardicue (received from). "An Appreciation Program: Tankersley Elementary School 1922-1967, Celebration of Forty-Five Years of Service". Tankersley Elementary School, Hope Hull, Alabama, 26 May 1967.
5. Johnson, Ardicue, Tankersley Elementary School, Class of 1947, Conversations and Photographs, Hope Hull, Alabama. 20 October 2002.
6. Mansel, Jeff. "The Rosenwald School Building Fund and Associated Buildings (1913-1937) MPS." Alabama Historical Commission.
7. Smith, Samuel. "Community School Plans." Nashville, TN: The Southern Office, 1924, reprint 1927.
8. Williams, Jacob W. (First Principal of Tankersley Rosenwald School). "History of the Tankersley Rosenwald School". Recopied by Mrs. Essie C. William, Principal, Tankersley Rosenwald School. May 1961.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 10 Page 7 Name of Property: Tankersley Rosenwald School
County and State: Montgomery, Alabama

10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description:

Legal Description Parcel 1

“Begin at an iron pin being the Southeast Corner of the Northeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of the Southeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 33, Township 14 North, Range 17 East, Montgomery County, Alabama and Being the Point of Beginning; Thence run South 00 deg. 10 min. 07 sec. East for a distance of 207.15 feet to an iron pin; Thence South 89 deg. 41 min. 40 sec. West for a distance of 661.29 feet to an iron pin; Thence North 00 deg. 17 min. 30 sec. West for a distance of 207.15 feet to an iron pin; Thence North 89 deg. 41 min. 40 sec. East for a distance of 661.73 feet to the Point of Beginning. . . . containing 3.15 acres, more or less.”

Boundary Justification:

These are the current boundaries of the property.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section photos Page 8 Name of Property: Tankersley Rosenwald School
County and State: Montgomery County, Alabama

PHOTOGRAPHS FOR TANKERSLEY ROSENWALD SCHOOL

1. Tankersley Rosenwald School
2. Montgomery County, Alabama
3. Dorothy Walker
4. February 2008
5. TIFF Files

The above information is common to all the photographs

6. Front façade, camera facing west
7. AL_MontgomeryCounty_TankersleySchool1.tif

6. Front and side (south) elevations, camera facing northwest
7. AL_MontgomeryCounty_TankersleySchool2.tif

6. Rear and side (north)elevations, camera facing southeast
7. AL_MontgomeryCounty_TankersleySchool3.tif

6. Classroom, camera facing northeast
7. AL_MontgomeryCounty_TankersleySchool4.tif

6. Classroom, camera facing southeast
7. AL_MontgomeryCounty_TankersleySchool5.tif

6. Partition between the 2 classrooms, camera facing north
7. AL_MontgomeryCounty_TankersleySchool6.tif