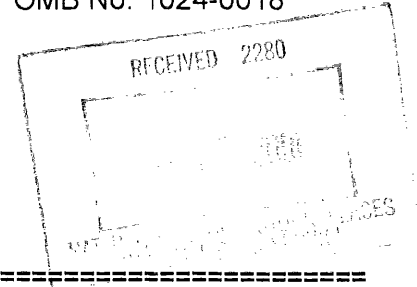


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM



1. Name of Property

historic name Mount Sinai School

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 1820 County Road 57 not for publication N/A  
city or town Prattville vicinity N/A  
state Alabama code AL county Autauga code 001 zip code 36067

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets      does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant      nationally      statewide X locally. (     See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 8/31/01  
Signature of certifying official 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

[Signature] 11/29/01  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

[ ] other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

USDI/NPS Registration Form

Property Name Mt. Sinai School

County and State Autauga County, Alabama

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

- private
- public-local
- public-state
- public-Federal

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

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing

1

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

1

Noncontributing

\_\_\_\_\_ buildings

\_\_\_\_\_ sites

\_\_\_\_\_ structures

\_\_\_\_\_ objects

\_\_\_\_\_ Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

The Julius Rosenwald School Building Fund and Associated Structures (1913-1937)

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: VACANT Sub: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

\_\_\_\_\_

OTHER: No style

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

roof Asphalt

walls Wood

other \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition on continuation sheet/s.)

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)

- X 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.
X 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.) N/A

- 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 African-American
Architecture

Period of Significance c. 1919-1937 c. 1950

Significant Dates 1919 1935

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Hazel, W.A. (Architect)

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain 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) N/A

- 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:

- X State Historic Preservation Office
Other state agency
Federal agency
Local government
X University
Other
Name of repository
Fisk University

=====  
**10. Geographical Data**  
=====

Acreage of Property 5

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

Zone Easting Northing      Zone Easting Northing  
1 16 542700 3601320      3 \_\_\_\_\_  
2 \_\_\_\_\_                      4 \_\_\_\_\_  
    See continuation sheet.

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 Patrick McIntyre and Trina Binkley, AHC Reviewer  
organization Alabama Historical Commission date January 30, 2001  
Street & number 468 South Perry Street telephone (334) 242-3184  
city or town Montgomery state Alabama zip code 36130-0900

=====  
**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 Mount Sinai Community Center, Inc.  
street & number c/o Mack Houser, 2032 County Road 63 telephone (334) 365-5817  
city or town Prattville state AL zip code 36067

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 1

Name of Property: Mount Sinai School  
County and State: Autauga County, Alabama

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**SECTION VII: DESCRIPTION**

Dedicated in October of 1919, the Mount Sinai School is a one-story, "two-teacher" Rosenwald school building. Mt. Sinai was constructed according to the plans of W.A. Hazel ( Floorplan No. 20,) as found in *The Rural Negro School Building and Its Relation to the Community*, published in 1913 by Tuskegee Institute. It is located in a rural area approximately eight miles north of Prattville in the Mount Sinai community, on five acres of land adjacent to the circa 1949 Mount Sinai Baptist Church.

As Hazels's plan dictates, the building is aligned to face east and west as to take advantage of natural light. The one story, frame T-shaped building was originally comprised by two 24' x 32' classrooms with the 12' x 24' industrial arts room extending to the west. The industrial arts room was extended out by 14 feet in 1935, and in 1950 a third classroom (also measuring 24' x 32') was added to the north side of the building. The school is constructed on a brick piers, with later concrete block infill used to enclose the foundation. Exterior walls are of weatherboard, while the gabled roof featuring exposed rafter ends is clad with asphalt shingles. The east (main) facade has five bays, with the centered forward-projecting gabled industrial room being the dominant feature. The industrial room is flanked by two single leaf entrances to either side covered by shed roofs and supported by paired, Craftsman-style brackets. Although this room has recent 12/6 aluminum replacement windows, the remainder of the windows throughout the school are double hung wooden 6:6 sashes arranged in banks in five. The windows on the 1950 addition are of a slightly smaller proportion than those of the original building.

Hazels' original interior plan of two main classrooms separated by a partition remains intact, as do the cloakrooms, although the north cloakroom was partially infilled by the construction of two interior bathrooms in the 1980s. The industrial arts room, accessed from both classrooms, has its original storage closet along the east wall. The floors, walls, and ceilings throughout the building (including those in the additions) are tongue and groove pine, although some sheetrock has been installed in the west room and a portion of the south room. Multi-paneled wooden doors are found throughout the interior. Many of the original desks and two pot-bellied stoves remain as well.

Although Mount Sinai has had two additions and some interior alterations, the building maintains a high degree of integrity, including its original design and plan, location, workmanship, materials, and sense of place (feeling and association).

**Archaeological Component**

Although no formal archaeological study has been conducted, the potential for subsurface material remains is high. This material has the potential to yield significant information in regard to the themes identified in the historic contexts, in particular, the themes of education, ethnic heritage-African American, social and cultural history, and architecture.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 2

Name of Property: Mount Sinai School  
County and State: Autauga County, Alabama

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**SECTION VIII: STATEMENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE**

**Criterion A- Education, Ethnic Heritage-African American**

The Mount Sinai School is significant as a school building that was funded by the Julius Rosenwald School Building Fund program. In operation from 1913 until 1937, the Rosenwald Fund assisted with the construction of some 5,358 educational buildings for African Americans in 15 southern States. The Rosenwald School Building Fund represents a benchmark in the history of black education, representing the most important philanthropic force that came to aid of African Americans during the first half of the twentieth century. As a result of the Rosenwald Fund's initiatives, more black children went to school longer and with better trained teachers in better constructed and equipped schools. The school-building effort awakened the public school authorities and the general public to the need for more adequate educational provisions for African Americans. Surviving Rosenwald School buildings, including the Mount Sinai School, are the last remaining vestiges of one of the most important educational construction projects ever undertaken in the United States. They also reflect African Americans' pursuit of learning and their struggle for educational opportunities in the segregated South.

**Criterion C- Architecture**

The Mount Sinai School is significant as a building constructed according to the designs of W.A. Hazel of the Department of Architecture at Tuskegee Institute. The plan utilized was *Floorplan 20, a the Two Teacher Community School* found in Booker T. Washington's *The Rural Negro School Fund and its Relation to the Community*. The Julius Rosenwald School Building Fund was one of the most important and ambitious school building projects ever undertaken in the United States. Booker T. Washington and Julius Rosenwald were determined to provide up to date educational facilities for African Americans. These school buildings often incorporated industrial rooms, libraries, cloak rooms, heating stoves, and folding doors between rooms so that facilities could be used as community centers. So revolutionary were these mass produced, standardized designs, that education officials soon began building white schools according to these plans a swell. In 1928, one in five rural schools for blacks was a Rosenwald School. By the 1930s, these modern buildings had replaced thousands of old shanty school houses. These educational structures set the standard, not only in regard to school house architecture, but in the construction, architecture, and maintenance of other structures in rural and nearby areas. While the school has had some alterations (addition of a north classroom, addition of bathrooms, and the extension of the industrial room), Mount Sinai is still easily recognizable as a Rosenwald plan and retains its original rural setting. Key design characteristics -- room arrangement, materials, window configuration, speciality rooms such as the cloakroom -- tell an important story about progressive views on modern school design. With the exception of an accessory building (the home economics cottage) at the former Autauga County Training School at Autaugaville, Mount Sinai is the last extant example of an original six Rosenwald Schools constructed in Autauga County.

**Historical Summary**

The Mount Sinai School was constructed in 1919 utilizing funds provided by the Julius Rosenwald School Building Fund program in combination with public and private monies. According to the records in the Rosenwald School Building Fund papers at Fisk University, the school cost \$1325.00 to build. The Rosenwald Fund provided \$500, while the state contributed \$300.00. African Americans raised the remaining \$525.00. The school traces its origins to circa 1891, when a one teacher program was instituted in the nearby Mount Sinai church. According to local tradition, a one room frame building was eventually constructed in another location and utilized by students until it was destroyed in a storm, after which time the classes moved back into the church. When the new Mount Sinai building opened in 1919, the teaching staff increased to three. In 1949 a fourth teacher was added, and the following year the Parent-Teachers Association raised \$500.00 to match county funds to complete the construction of the north classroom. With the school consolidation of the late 1960s, Mount Sinai was shut down in 1967 when the students were transferred to the Autauga County Training School at Autaugaville. That same year the Mount Sinai Community Association purchased the building for \$800.00. Incorporated in 1973, the Mount Sinai Community Center continues to maintain ownership of the building.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9/10/Photos Page 3

Name of Property: Mount Sinai School  
County and State: Autauga County, Alabama

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**Section IX. BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Anonymous. *A Brief History of Autauga County (Negro) Schools During the Past One Hundred Years*. Prattville. 1956

Rosenwald, Julius F. Papers. Nashville, Tennessee: Special Collections, Fisk University.

Washington, Booker T. and Clinton Calloway. *The Rural Negro School and It's Relation to the Community*. Tuskegee, Alabama: Extension Department, Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute. 1915.

**SECTION X. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundaries include the original five acres of land surrounding the school and are described as follows: Beginning at the North East Corner of the S.W. 1/4 of S.E. 1/4 of Section 10 Township 18 Range 15, thence running West 220 yards, thence South 112 yards, thence East 220 yards, thence North 112 yards to the point of beginning containing in all 5 acres of land.

**Boundary Justification**

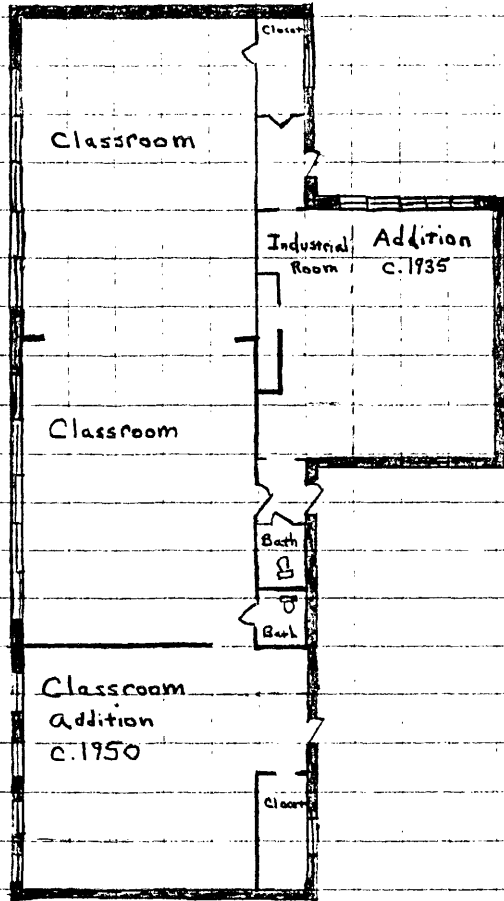
The nominated boundaries contain the original five acres donated for the school adjacent to the Mount Sinai Baptist Church. This includes the extant historic property, school building, and playing fields associated with the Mount Sinai Rosenwald School.

**PHOTOGRAPHS**

Mt. Sinai Rosenwald School. Autauga County, Alabama  
Patrick McIntyre, photographer; January 26, 2001  
negatives: AHC

1. Front facade and west elevation; facing north.
2. Full view of front facade and west elevation; facing east.
3. View of south elevation; facing north.
4. West and north elevations; facing southeast.
5. View of south and east facades and picnic shed; facing northwest.
6. View of north facade; facing south.
7. Detail of porch support brackets on southwest portion of facade ; facing northeast.
8. Cornerstone on southwest corner of west facade; facing east.
9. View from south classroom looking into north (original) classroom; facing north.
10. North (original) classroom, view of north and west walls; facing northwest.
11. Industrial training room; facing east.
12. North classroom addition, facing northeast.
13. North utility closet on west facade; facing northwest.

MOUNT SINAI CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL  
AUTAUGA COUNTY, AL

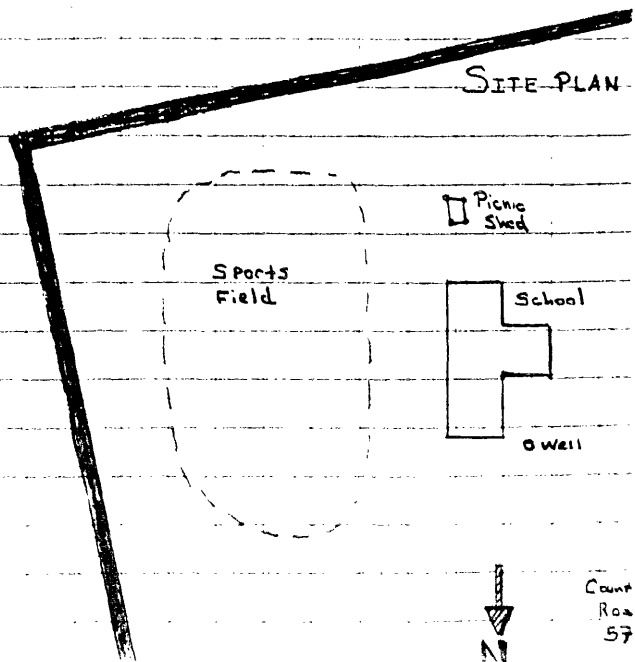


Not to Scale



EPM

SITE PLAN



Count  
Road  
57