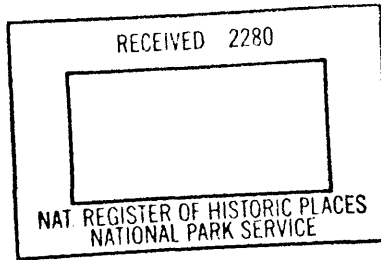


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Cairo Rosenwald School  
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Zieglers Fort Road N/A  not for publication  
city or town Cairo N/A  vicinity  
state Tennessee code TN county Sumner code 165 zip code 37066

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 for 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.)

Herbert L. Hays 10/4/96  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission  
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 certifying official/Title Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the 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 11.15.96  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action  
**Entered in the National Register**

Cairo Rosenwald School  
Name of Property

Sumner County, TN  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in count)

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

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

Contributing

Noncontributing

1		buildings
		sites
	1	structures
		objects
1	1	Total

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

**Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: school

SOCIAL: meeting hall

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL: meeting hall

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Rosenwald School Plan

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE

walls weatherboard

roof METAL

other WOOD, CONCRETE

**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** N/A

(Mark "x" in all boxes that apply.)

Property is:

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

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

ETHNIC HERITAGE: African American  
ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

1922 - 1946

**Significant Dates**

1922 - 1923

**Significant Person**

(complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Rosenwald, Julius, Fund

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(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:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

Cairo Rosenwald School  
Name of Property

Sumner County, TN  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreege of Property** 3.7 acres

**UTM References**

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

Hunters Point, TN 313SE

1 16 557090 4024230  
Zone Easting Northing  
2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing  
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 Velma Brinkley  
organization N/A date April 1996  
street & number 590 Carolyn Lane telephone 615-452-6515  
city or town Gallatin state TN zip code 37066

**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 SHPO or FPO.)

name Cairo Improvement Club Trustees (Mrs. Verdell Wilks)  
street & number 2210 Cairo Road telephone 615-452-6515  
city or town Gallatin state TN zip code 37066

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Cairo Rosenwald School  
Sumner County, TN

## NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Cairo Rosenwald School is located on historic Zieglers Fort Road in the unincorporated community of Cairo (population 151) in Sumner County, Tennessee. The property consists of 3.7 acres of land, according to the deed, and is flanked on the north by the Swaney family cemetery and to the immediate south by an empty lot. The west side is bordered by Cairo Community Club property and the east runs parallel to Zieglers Fort Road. A twenty foot graveled drive defines the entrance to the school.

The architectural plan for the Cairo School follows the standardized Rosenwald School Design for a one teacher school. The school is a one story frame building with a metal gable roof, double-hung nine-over-nine and six-over-six wood sash windows, and a continuous stone foundation. The school has weatherboard siding. On the south, or front, facade is a rectangular, louvered gable end vent. The main facade of the school consists of a central entrance with a simple shed roof canopy supported by knee braces over the door. A modern storm door is used to enclose the recessed entryway that leads to a five panel wood door. At either side of the entrance are paired six-over-six light windows of which the upper sash has been covered with plywood. In 1995 the building was made handicap accessible through the addition of a ramp which replaced the original stoop stairs.

On the west elevation are two sets of three nine-over-nine windows that have also had the top sashes covered with plywood. At the northeast are paired original nine-over-nine windows that remain unaltered. The north elevation consists of a single five panel door on the westernmost end. The door is covered with a modern aluminum storm door and has four concrete steps leading to it. A cellar entrance is also located on this elevation. The entrance is covered with tin. On the west elevation are has three small square windows, all of which have been enclosed with plywood. An original single six-over-six double-hung sash is located on the northern most end of this elevation. While the original windows do not remain behind the enclosures, they have been retained in the cloak closet of the school and are in excellent condition and will be put back into place as funds allow.

The school consists of a single room with a platform built across the north end of the room. The platform area is separated from the classroom by folding, five panel wood doors that could be used to shut off the platform area from the classroom. One of the doors has been removed, but is in storage in the cloak room. The removed door is in excellent condition and can be put back into place. Located on the platform is refrigerator, stove, original sink and two small original drinking fountains. This area was used to teach home economics and to prepare lunches. The remainder of the interior remains unaltered except for paint color on the wall and vinyl floor covering the original hardwood floors. On the east wall is a painted over chalk board. A simple chair rail surrounds the room on flush board walls. At the rear of the classroom are two cloak rooms flanking the center entrance. The cloak rooms have five panel wood doors. The cloak rooms retain the original green paint color. Located prominently over the entry door is a 16 inch by 20 inch black and white photograph of Julius Rosenwald.

The school has never had indoor restrooms. The only plumbing in the building is located on the platform area to serve the sinks and water fountains. The installation of running water occurred in 1951 with the construction of a pump house located approximately forty feet behind the school. The small concrete block structure is five feet by seven feet and housed a cast iron pump which still remains. The 365 feet deep well produced an abundant supply of crystal sulfur water for many years according to J. H. Brinkley,

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

# **National Register of Historic Places**

## **Continuation Sheet**

Section number   7   Page   2  

Cairo Rosenwald School  
Sumner County, TN

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former principal of the school. The pump house has lost its roof and door and no longer retains structural integrity and is considered to be non-contributing, due to both the date and condition. Prior to the construction of the pump house students had to carry buckets of water from the Mr. Charles Robb's home across the road from the school. Outhouses originally stood on the property, but were destroyed by fire several years ago.

The school no longer has a heating system. The original heating for the school came from a pot bellied stove which has since been removed although the interior chimney remains. The school building was wired for electricity in the 1940s and retains that service today.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

Cairo Rosenwald School  
Sumner County, TN

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## NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built from 1922 to 1923, the Cairo Rosenwald School, Sumner County, Tennessee is a locally significant property eligible for the National Register of Historic places under criterion A for its role in education and social history of the African American community. It is also eligible under criterion C as a good example of an intact standard plan school built with the Julius Rosenwald Fund. It is one of only two Rosenwald Schools remaining in Sumner County.

The school was built to provide elementary education for African-American children in grades one through eight. The school remained in use from 1923 until May 1959 when the consolidation movement mandated its closure.<sup>1</sup> Since its construction the school building has always provided elementary education for children and served as a community gathering site for the African-American families in Cairo.

The end of Reconstruction brought little improvement in the economic and social status of freed Blacks in the South. Earlier gains in the political arena were rapidly disappearing due to all-out efforts of Southern Whites to eradicate the African Americans. African-American schools were opposed by many, but enjoyed a greater tolerance than other agencies established in order to improve themselves. After the Civil War improvised African-American schools benefited substantially from wealthy philanthropists like Julius Rosenwald, Anna T. Jeanes and John F. Slater.

As early as 1912, Julius Rosenwald had begun to show an interest in improving education for Negroes by accepting a seat on the board of trustees at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. Soon thereafter, Rosenwald directed his attention toward the construction of school buildings for African Americans in the rural South. "Between 1913 and 1932 the Rosenwald Fund aided in the construction of more than five thousand Negro school buildings in fifteen Southern states."<sup>2</sup> The Cairo Rosenwald School is a lasting monument to perhaps the most massive building program ever undertaken by a private citizen on behalf of rural Southern Negro children.

Since closing its doors as an education institution in 1959 due to consolidation of school, this building has remain in use. Cairo school continues to function as an important social center for the Cairo Community. The building retains its overall integrity, with minimal alterations that do not detract from the architectural and social significance of school or its surroundings.

The Cairo Rosenwald School came into being with the support of the Julius Rosenwald Fund in 1922. The Julius Rosenwald Fund required that the African-American community have a vested interest in the school by providing a portion of the funds required to build the school. The Cairo African-American community provided \$700, matched by \$700 from the Tennessee public school fund and \$500 from the Julius Rosenwald Fund. The Cairo school served as an important gathering place for the African-American

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<sup>1</sup> J. H. Brinkley, Cairo School Principal, 1944 - 1959.

<sup>2</sup> John Hope Franklin, From Slavery to Freedom: a History of Negro Americans.

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

# **National Register of Historic Places**

## **Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 4

Cairo Rosenwald School  
Sumner County, TN

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community as well as the primary education for African-American children. The school retains a high degree of integrity of its original plan and still serves as an important gathering place for the community.



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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number   9   Page   5  

Cairo Rosenwald School  
Sumner County, TN

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**MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES**

Unpublished Manuscripts

Tennessee Department of Transportation, survey, 1995.

Books

Franklin, John Hope. From Slavery to Freedom: A History of Negro Americans. New York: Alfred A. Knoph.

Interviews

Brinkley, J. Hutch. Interviewed by Velma H. Brinkley, July 19, 1995.

Brinkley, J. Hutch. Interviewed by Velma H. Brinkley, July 24, 1995.

Brinkley, J. Hutch. Interviewed by Velma H. Brinkley, July 28, 1995.

Brinkley, J. Hutch. Interviewed by Hosa Robb, July 19, 1995.

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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 6

Cairo Rosenwald School  
Sumner County, TN

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**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundaries for Cairo Rosenwald School surround a 3.7 acre parcel on which the school is located the boundaries are surrounded at the north by property lines approximately six meters (20') from the building, on the west by property lines approximately eight meters (25') from the building, on the east by Zieglers Fort Road which is located approximately sixty-one meters (200') east of the building, and by a property line on the south located approximately 122 meters (400') from the building.

The tax map for this property has the scale of 1" = 400'. This scale map is prepared by the Tennessee Board of Equalization for rural areas. In the past, the Tennessee Historical Commission has used this scale map for nominations and has found that the 1" = 400' adequately meets our office needs. The Tennessee Historical Commission does not have the facilities to prepare maps to the scale preferred by the National Park Service.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundaries include all the land historically and presently associated with the school.

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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number photos Page 7

Cairo Rosenwald School  
Sumner County, TN

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Cairo Rosenwald School  
Zieglers Fort Road  
Cairo, Sumner County, Tennessee  
Photographs By: Elizabeth A. Straw  
Negatives: Tennessee Historical Commission  
April 1996

South elevation, looking north  
1 of 16

South elevation, looking north  
2 of 16

South elevation and west facade, looking northeast  
3 of 16

West facade, looking east  
4 of 16

East facade, looking west  
5 of 16

North facade, looking southeast  
6 of 16

Interior, looking south  
7 of 16

Interior detail, closet  
8 of 16

Interior, looking southwest  
9 of 16

Interior, looking northwest  
10 of 16

Interior, looking north  
11 of 16

Interior detail, Home Economics Department of on stage  
12 of 16

Interior detail, Home Economics Department on stage  
13 of 16

Interior detail, water fountain on stage  
14 of 16

Interior, looking southwest

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

# **National Register of Historic Places**

## **Continuation Sheet**

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Cairo Rosenwald School  
Sumner County, TN

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Pump House  
16 of 16

