

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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.



## 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Walthall County Training School

Other names/site number: Ginntown Rosenwald School

Name of related multiple property listing:

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

## 2. Location

Street & number: 181 Ginntown Rd.

City or town: Tylertown State: MS County: Walthall

Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

    national     X statewide     X local  
Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A     B     X C     D

<u>Katie Dlant</u>	<u>3-27-17</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title: <u>SHPO</u>	Date
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

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**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register  
 determined eligible for the National Register  
 determined not eligible for the National Register  
 removed from the National Register  
 other (explain:)

James Gabbert  
Signature of the Keeper  
For

6-5-2017

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

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>          </u>	buildings
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	sites
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	structures
<u>1</u>	<u>          </u>	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>          </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register NA

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION: school

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL: meeting hall

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

NO STYLE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: \_\_\_\_\_

Siding: Clapboard

Foundation: Brick piers

Roof: Asphalt shingles

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

### Summary Paragraph

The former Walthall County Training School, more commonly known as Ginntown School, stands just west of Antioch M.B. Church on Ginntown Road, in the rural Ginntown community of Walthall County, southeast of the county seat of Tylertown. At its height in the 1930s through the 1950s, the campus included a lunchroom building (1946), vocational building (c.1941), elementary building (c.1950), and two 1930 teachers' houses. All that now remains is the Rosenwald-funded administration building, built in 1920 to the designs of the standard 4-classroom Rosenwald Plan #400. Later additions were removed in a 2008-2009 renovation after Hurricane Katrina damaged the building in 2005, and the building has high integrity to its original construction.

### Narrative Description

The former Walthall County Training School stands just west of Antioch M.B. Church on Ginntown Road, in the rural Ginntown community southeast of Tylertown, the county seat of

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Walthall County. Walthall County is located in south-central Mississippi, just north of the Louisiana state line, and its topography is rolling, with pine forests and a sandy-red clay soil.

One building remains from the school campus, which encompassed at its height seven other major buildings, all wood-frame: a girls and a boys dormitory, a lunchroom (1946), vocational building (c.1941), elementary building (c.1950) and two teacher's houses built in 1930. In addition, there were secondary buildings such as a pump house, a commodity house where food for the lunchroom was stored, a tool house, and three separate outdoor toilets (one for the male agricultural teacher, who was usually also the principal; a double-seater for the boys; and another double seater for the female teachers and girls).<sup>1</sup>

The Walthall County Training School faces south-southeast onto Ginntown Road. It is a one-story, wood-frame, building, clad in clapboard with corner posts and roughly rectangular in mass. The school was built to standardized plan #400 (Exhibit 1) by the Julius Rosenwald Fund, which was designed to face east or west.<sup>2</sup> As is typical for this plan, two entrances project from the east and west ends, both set back from the plane of the façade and leading into small vestibules; the western entrance projection is located under a stepped gable, while the eastern entrance is under the main roof, with a lower pent roof sheltering the door. The clipped-gable roof of raised-seam metal features triangular knee braces in the gable ends, and the rafters are exposed in the open eaves. The foundation is composed of brick piers, with salvaged metal sections painted to match the rest of the building filling in the space between the piers.

Windows are 9/9 wood double-hung sash installed c.2009; these match the original windows and replaced smaller aluminum sash windows that had been installed probably in the late 1960s. Reflecting the four classrooms inside, two groups of five windows are arranged equidistant on the south façade, and two identical groups are on the rear (N) elevation, while two small 6/6 windows are on the east elevation, lighting the vestibule inside. Exterior doors are 5-panel wood doors (c.2009 replacements that match doors seen in historic photos) with original 3-light transoms. Although there is no documentation about the original paint color, the building was painted a dark brown in the 2009-2010 restoration, in keeping with suggestions in Rosenwald literature for a "nut brown trimmed in white or cream."<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> All of these buildings except the dormitories were documented with photos in the State Department of Education's valuable "Survey of Walthall County Public Schools, 1955." This survey was one part of a statewide survey of all public school campuses mandated by the Legislature in its Equalization Act of 1953. The photos for the survey are housed at MDAH as RG 50, Series 1513 and have been digitized and are online at [http://www.mdah.ms.gov/arrec/digital\\_archives/series/schoolphotographs/browse/1513+-+School+Photograph+Scrapbooks/Mississippi/Walthall/](http://www.mdah.ms.gov/arrec/digital_archives/series/schoolphotographs/browse/1513+-+School+Photograph+Scrapbooks/Mississippi/Walthall/).

<sup>2</sup> Plan #400 was later renamed Community School Plan 45 in the 1928 revised edition of *Community School Plans*. It is unusual for a Rosenwald school to not be built strictly to the compass points, since the large window groups were designed to capture east and west sunlight.

<sup>3</sup> See for instance, *Community School Plans, Bulletin No. 3* (Nashville, TN: Julius Rosenwald Fund, 1924), p. 29: "General Directions for Painting Community Schools."

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The interior retains a high degree of integrity, with original wood floors and tongue-and-groove wood walls and ceilings. The original building, matching Plan #400, has four classrooms, with entrance vestibules on either end. The two front rooms originally were separated by folding doors that could be opened to create auditorium. These folding doors are no longer in place, leaving the cased opening and two wood posts between the two former classroom spaces. The partition wall between the two rear classrooms had been moved sometimes in the 1960s or later, and in the 2009-2010 restoration project, this later wall was removed and the studs for a wall in the original location were erected, but this wall has not been completed.

Three additional classrooms were added, one on the west end by the Rosenwald Fund in 1922, and two on the east end probably c.1950; these were removed as part of an MDAH Katrina Grant project (2009-2010) that included metal roof replacement and window replacement after the building suffered damage from Hurricane Katrina's high winds and downed pine trees.

On the east side of the school building sits a concrete water fountain area made by the WCTS Industrial Arts Class of 1942. A cylindrical fountain about four feet high with a catch basin stands in the center of a large round concrete slab 8'6" in diameter with the words "CLASS of 1942" inscribed on both the cylinder and the slab.

On the far east side of Antioch M.B. Church stands the one-story, wood-frame former girls dormitory, built in 1940 and now used as the fellowship hall for the church. Because of its distance from the school building and because most of its exterior materials have been replaced and its interior was changed in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, this building is not within the boundaries of this nomination.

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## 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 grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ETHNIC HERITAGE: BLACK

EDUCATION

ARCHITECTURE

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1920-1959

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Walthall County Training School is locally significant in the areas of Education and Ethnic Heritage: Black as the segregated high school for African American students, grades 1-12, not only for the Ginntown community but also for the larger African American community in Walthall County from the 1920s through 1959. The school building is significant at the statewide level in the area of Architecture as an example of a standardized Rosenwald Fund design.



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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Narrative History

The rural community southeast of Tylertown now known as Gintown was founded by the extended Ginn family. The white Ginn family had been early settlers in what was then Pike County, Mississippi, moving from the Carolinas in the 1830s and 1840s with their slaves. After Emancipation, these freed slaves took the last name Ginn, and began buying small plots of farmland near the area where they had formerly been enslaved. Education was very important to the Ginns, as it was in most freedman communities, and they soon began holding school on Hubert Ginn's farm in a log shed used as a goat shelter during inclement weather, according to Mr. Q.R. Dillon, who lived most of his life in the community.<sup>4</sup>

Probably by the 1890s, the community had built a two-room school building, and it was named Gintown. This school, which offered grades 1 through 8 was located about one mile east of the current site.<sup>5</sup>

In the late 1910s, Professor Charles Smith organized the community to participate in the Rosenwald Fund's grant program to build new African American schools. In 1920, he received a grant of \$1,400 towards the construction of a four-teacher school on property that school trustees bought for \$300 from Houston Dillon. The total cost of the one-story, wood frame building was \$6,995 dollars, of which the local black community contributed \$5,445, including the acquisition of the land, while local white residents contributed \$800. Although this was always a public school, no public money was spent on the construction of the school building, according to Rosenwald Fund records.<sup>6</sup> A new Antioch M.B. Church was also built on the property during this same period.<sup>7</sup>

Philanthropic efforts also helped equip the school. A memo dated September 6, 1922, from Rural School Supervisor Bura Hilbun, of the State Department of Education, to Jackson Davis, General Field Agent for the General Education Board, includes a statement for equipment at twelve county training schools in Mississippi. Included in the list was Walthall County Training School, which requested \$250 for Home Science equipment. The same memo mentions that the Walthall

<sup>4</sup> Interview at Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, Gintown Rd, July 17, 2012. p.1.

<sup>5</sup> "Walthall County Training School: A History," 16<sup>th</sup> program, Walthall County Training School Reunion & Antioch M.B. Church Homecoming, November 4, 2012, p.6

<sup>6</sup> "Ginn Town School," Fisk University Rosenwald Fund Card File Database: <http://rosenwald.fisk.edu/?module=search.details&set v=aWQ9MjIQNw==&school county=walthall&school state=MS&button=Search&o=0>

<sup>7</sup> "Walthall County Training School: A History," WCTS Reunion, p. 6.

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County Training School had spent \$5,000 in the last twelve months improving its school plant, indicating that the school building was probably completed in late 1921 or early 1922.<sup>8</sup>

Upon completion and with proper equipment, the new school was named Walthall County Training School, one of only 12 county training schools in Mississippi in the 1920-21 school year.<sup>9</sup> Apparently only one year into its operation, the school's enrollment had already grown enough to need an additional classroom. The Rosenwald Fund, which traditionally maintained ties to schools it had already funded, donated \$200 to the construction, while black community members donated \$450 for the \$650 project.<sup>10</sup> This classroom was added onto the west end, so that the west entrance led directly into the new classroom. Unfortunately, this Rosenwald classroom was removed during the 2009-2010 Katrina-grant project.

There are no known historic photographs of the boys and girls dormitories that stood at the school from the early 1920s until the 1950s. A report by the General Education Board, "Boarding at County Training Schools, 1924-25," indicates that of the 24 county training schools then operating in Mississippi, 8 had dormitories, with a total of 348 boarders and 445 "Out Boarders" who typically stayed in private homes in the community to attend schools without dormitories.<sup>11</sup> According to Mr. Q.R. Dillon, who graduated from WCTS and was later principal and a Jeanes Supervisor, the two dormitories were often crowded, with students sleeping in the hallways and even doubling up in beds. He estimated about 30 boys were in the dormitory when he was in school in the 1930s. A dorm mother, called a "matron," usually a single home economics teacher, lived in the girls dormitory, and if the principal (who was always male) did not have a family, he would live in the boys dormitory. Dormitory students were given daily and weekly chores. Boys gathered firewood and lit the fires in the morning, while girls made breakfast for all dormitory students. The dormitories closed when school buses began to transport black students in 1948 and at least one of the buildings was converted to apartments for teachers.<sup>12</sup> The girls dormitory, a one-story, hipped-roof frame building that was rebuilt after a fire in 1940, still stands and is used as a fellowship hall for Antioch church. Because it is on the opposite side of the church from the school building, and because it has been altered with replacement siding, windows, and doors and changed on the interior, the former girls dormitory is not included in the boundary of this nomination.

Also on the campus was a wood-frame, three-room teacher's house for the principal, built with Rosenwald Fund assistance in 1923 or 1924. According to Rosenwald records, the house cost \$2,050, of which the local black community donated \$950, whites privately donated \$200, and the Rosenwald Fund contributed \$900. A second wood-frame, six-room teacher's house was

<sup>8</sup> *The General Education Board Archives: Series I: Appropriations; Subseries I: The Early Southern Program*. Miss 69; Supervisor of Rural Schools-Negro (1914-1952). MDAH Microfilm Roll 39974, Frame 0528.

<sup>9</sup> Favrot, *A Study of County Training Schools for Negroes in the South*. 66 (Table II).

<sup>10</sup> "Ginn Town School," Fisk University Rosenwald Fund Card File Database.

<sup>11</sup> *General Education Board Archives*, MDAH Microfilm Roll 39974, Frame 0554.

<sup>12</sup> Interview at Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, Ginntown Rd, July 17, 2012. p.7, 15-16, 18.

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built by the 1940s for the vocational teacher.<sup>13</sup> Teachers' homes such as this were typically wood-frame bungalows of four or five rooms, and were reserved for the principal and his family or the vocational teacher. Many rural schools, both black and white, took pains to offer at least one teacher's home, as an incentive for principals to move to often remote areas. The houses had the added benefit of ensuring that someone was always watching over the school grounds, and school officials also encouraged principals to use their homes as models of gardening and home maintenance in the community.<sup>14</sup>

Rounding out the campus by the 1950s was a vocational agriculture building built in 1941, described in a department of education survey as consisting "of two rooms used for shop and home economics," a one-story wood-frame elementary building for grades 1-4 (c.1950), and a wood-frame lunchroom built in 1946.<sup>15</sup>

By the time the State Department of Education survey of Walthall County Schools was completed in 1955, Walthall County had three other high schools for black students. In the 1954-55 school year, WCTS was the smallest of the black high schools in the county, with an Average Daily Attendance in Grades 1-12 of 237 students, compared to 356 at Magee's Creek, 544 at Hope H.S., and 354 at Friendship H.S. That year, Walthall County Training School had nine teachers and ran three busses.<sup>16</sup>

Walthall County Training School closed in 1959, amid a consolidation of all black schools in Walthall County to a new 1-12 campus on the outskirts of Tylertown called J.J. Gullede High School (now Tylertown High School, 204 High School Dr.). The campus remained vacant until it was reopened as a Head Street in 1966.<sup>17</sup> Over the next decades, only the main building was in use and other buildings began to deteriorate and be demolished. The Head Start center closed in 1989, and the building became only occasionally used by Antioch M.B. Church and alumni reunion groups.

On August 29, 2005, the winds of Hurricane Katrina tore off panels of the tin roof of the Rosenwald building, and community members and alumni led by former principal Q.R. Dillon, applied for a grant from the Mississippi Department of Archives and History's Hurricane Relief Grant for Historic Preservation.

Ethnic Heritage: Black and Education

Walthall County Training School was the first, and for over a decade the only, high school available to black students in Walthall County. The school operated only to eleventh grade from 1920 to 1938, and students desiring to obtain a high school diploma had to travel to Magnolia in

<sup>13</sup> "Survey, Walthall County Public Schools, 1955," p. 25. RG 50, Series 1653: School Building Surveys from the Act of 1953. Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Miss.

<sup>14</sup> Jennifer V.O. Baughn, "A Modern School Plant: Rural Consolidated Schools in Mississippi, 1910-1955," *Buildings & Landscapes: Journal of the Vernacular Architecture Forum* 19, No. 1 (Spring 2012): 62.

<sup>15</sup> "Survey, Walthall County Public Schools, 1955." p.25.

<sup>16</sup> "Survey, Walthall County Public Schools, 1955." p.10.

<sup>17</sup> Q.R. Dillon, "Interview at Antioch Missionary Baptist Church," p. 16.

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Pike County to finish twelfth grade. Twelfth grade was finally added in 1939 under Principal J.E. Magee.<sup>18</sup> Other black schools in Walthall County only offered grades 1-8, and African American students who did not live in or near the Ginntown community and who desired a high school education could stay in dormitories (non-extant) on the WCTS campus. Busses were added for African American schools in the late 1940s, leading to the decline of the boarding student population since many of them now traveled daily to school on a bus.<sup>19</sup>

In addition to classes in English, math, history, and science, most high school students at WCTS attended vocational classes, typically each afternoon: boys learned agricultural basics and carpentry in shop, while girls learned cooking and home hygiene in home economics classes. These classes typically took place in the separate home ec and shop building (1941, non-extant), located behind and to the northeast of the main classroom building.

Pioneered by the Slater Fund and later encouraged by the General Education Board and the Rosenwald Fund, county training schools combined industrial education and teacher training into a single curriculum. In her introduction to Edward Redcay's *County Training Schools and Public Secondary Education for Negroes in the South* (1935), educator Mabel Carney noted that county training schools were forerunners of the black high school. Redcay's study argued that county training schools made the idea of African American higher education palatable to white educational leaders in the South because of their initial focus on teacher training and vocational courses such as carpentry, agriculture, and home economics.<sup>20</sup>

A Slater Fund bulletin published in 1923 listed the Slater Fund's original goals for county training schools:

1. To supply for the county a central school offering work in advance of that offered in the common rural schools.
2. To lay emphasis on thorough work in all common school studies.
3. To give industrial training, laying particular emphasis upon subjects pertaining to home and farm.
4. To prepare boys and girls to make a good living and lead a useful life by knowing how to care for the home, to utilize the land, to make home gardens, to raise their own meat, poultry products, milk products, etc.
5. To prepare young men and young women to become rural and elementary school teachers by enabling them to meet the legal requirements of the states, by giving them a close

<sup>18</sup> *Accredited High Schools and Colleges, 1939-40*. Jackson, MS: State Superintendent of Education. MDAH RG 50, 201.5:AH1939. Q.R. Dillon stated in the interview at Antioch Missionary Baptist Church that the fourth year of high school was added in 1929, but he must have misspoken because the school was listed in Department of Education records as approved for only three years until 1939 when it was approved for all four years.

<sup>19</sup> Interview at Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, Ginntown Rd, July 17, 2012. pp. 7, 15, 20.

<sup>20</sup> Edward E. Redcay. *County Training Schools and Public Secondary Education for Negroes in the South* (Washington, DC: John F. Slater Fund, 1935), vii.

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acquaintance and sympathy with rural activities, and by supplying such elementary training as will help them to secure the best results in this work.<sup>21</sup>

Public rural white high schools, financed through special school districts with bonding authority, had become commonplace in Mississippi by the 1920s, leading to higher numbers of high school graduates in rural white communities. However, as late as 1935, Redcay reported that in Mississippi, only 5.2% of 15 to 19 year old African Americans were enrolled in public secondary schools such as Walthall County Training School.<sup>22</sup> In the 1938 school year, only 32 four-year public high schools for African Americans were "approved by the State Department of Education" (WCTS was among this group), and only 15 of those were "fully accredited," according to the report *Mississippi's Negro Rural Schools*.<sup>23</sup> In addition, these county training schools, although public schools, lacked bonding authority and typically needed private funding to build new buildings, buy books for libraries, and pay specialized teachers such as the vocational teacher.

#### Architecture

Walthall County Training is one of a few surviving Rosenwald schools in Mississippi.<sup>24</sup> Grants from the Julius Rosenwald Fund program comprised the only philanthropic effort in the early 20th century to concentrate on improving the physical environment of black students in the South. Between 1912 and 1932, when it closed, the Fund contributed to over 5,300 school buildings for African Americans in the 15 Southern states, with its largest number coming in the decade of the 1920s. Behind North Carolina, Mississippi had the second-highest number of Rosenwald schools, totaling 557 plus 58 teachers' houses and 18 vocational buildings.

The Rosenwald Fund required the schools it funded to be built to standardized plans that it provided. These school designs introduced groundbreaking standards for rural and small-town

<sup>21</sup> Slater Fund Occasional Papers, No. 18 (1917), quoted in Leo Mortimer Favrot, *A Study of County Training Schools for Negroes in the South* (Charlottesville, VA: Trustees of the John F. Slater Fund, 1923), 10. Favrot was serving as State Agent of Rural Schools for Negroes in Louisiana, a position the Slater Fund maintained within each state department of education in the South. Favrot would later become the State Agent for the General Education Board, overseeing the Board's grants to all Southern states.

<sup>22</sup> Redcay, *County Training Schools*, 86.

<sup>23</sup> P.H. Eason and J.A. Travis, *Mississippi's Negro Rural Schools: Suggestions for Their Improvement*, Bulletin No. 96 (Jackson, MS: State Superintendent of Education, 1939), 15. According to the annual lists published by the State Department of Education, only large urban black schools and a few junior colleges reached the level of "full accreditation" for their high schools in this period, and no rural black schools attained this certification. "Approved schools" were defined as "recognized by the State Department of Education as doing an acceptable grade of work, but not yet meeting all requirements for accreditation." *Accredited High Schools and Colleges, 1939-40*. State Superintendent of Education. MDAH RG 50, 201.5:AH1939.

<sup>24</sup> A survey of historic public schools undertaken by MDAH between 1999 and 2004 indicates that the survival rate of Rosenwald schools is quite low in Mississippi. Only 19 surviving structures have been documented out of the 633 that the Rosenwald Fund helped build.

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school architecture, especially in the South for both races. These seemingly simple designs, developed by the Rosenwald Fund in consultation with educator Fletcher B. Dresslar beginning in 1919, incorporated new standards for natural lighting and ventilation and revolutionized rural school design. Employing easily available materials and straightforward construction methods that even amateur carpenters from the community could undertake, the school buildings provided to rural students for the first time good ventilation, high-quality light for reading and writing, standardized classroom sizes, closets, auditoriums and stages.

Constructed in 1920, Walthall County Training School was built with only minor modifications using standard plan #400 (Exhibit 1), which had first been published in *Community School Plans* in the 1924 revision.<sup>25</sup> One major change to the plan was that Plan #400 is designed to face east or west, so that the ganged windows would bring the morning or afternoon sun into each classroom and make the most of natural light in buildings that usually lacked electricity. At Ginntown, the building faces south, meaning that its windows face south and north, which does not meet typical Rosenwald standards. The main exterior change to the standard plan was that the western entrance vestibule did not extend all the way to the rear and excluded a cloak room..

#### Comparables

Walthall County Training School is one of fewer than 20 surviving Rosenwald schools in Mississippi, and the closest extant Rosenwald school is the six-classroom concrete-block Rosenwald building at Prentiss Institute in Jefferson Davis County, roughly 50 miles northeast. WTSC is the only surviving county training school classroom building to survive in the state (a handful of vocational buildings and teachers' houses are extant at former county training school campuses). Further, it is the only intact Rosenwald Community School Plan #400 known to survive (the former Panther Burn Rosenwald School, a Plan #400, still stands on Highway 61 in Sharkey County, but it has been heavily altered on the exterior and interior and is now used as a church). With only about 15 school buildings matching this plan, plan #400 was not as popular in the state as the larger four-classroom Plan #4-A, an H-shaped building with a full auditorium at its center which had over 30 Rosenwald schools built to match and a much larger number of white schools built to a very similar State Department of Education plan.

Mt. Moriah is a four-classroom African American school located only a few miles to the southeast of Walthall County Training School, and it compares favorably in integrity and significance. In fact, its grammar school students transferred to WCTS for their high school education, so the two buildings together tell a complete story of African American education in Walthall County from the 1930s through the 1950s. A one-story, concrete-block building, Mt. Moriah was constructed in 1931 to a State Department of Education standardized plan and went through a similar transition to a Head Start Center after it was closed in 1959. Mt. Moriah is also being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

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<sup>25</sup> The plan known as #3-C first appeared in the 1924 edition of *Community School Plans* as Plan # 3-B. Julius Rosenwald Fund, *Community School Plans* (revised 1928), Nashville, TN: Julius Rosenwald Fund, September, 1928.

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Formerly white rural school campuses in Walthall County, notably Salem, Dexter, and Lexie, still partially survive and some are still open as schools, but their buildings are typically of masonry construction and date to the 1930s, 1940s, and later. All of these typify the super-consolidation period after the 1920s, when small consolidated schools were themselves consolidated into larger, more central campuses. In contrast, Walthall County Training School represents the early period of rural school consolidation and development..

Walthall County Training School  
Name of Property

Walthall County, MS  
County and State

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

*Accredited High Schools and Colleges, 1939-40.* Jackson, MS: State Superintendent of Education, MDAH RG 50, 201.5:AH1939.

Baughn, Jennifer V.O. "A Modern School Plant: Rural Consolidated Schools in Mississippi, 1910-1955," *Buildings & Landscapes: Journal of the Vernacular Architecture Forum* 19, no. 1 (Spring 2012): 43-72.

Dillon, Q.R., Mary Dillon Antoine, Harvey Carson, Ora Carson Bullock, Osborne Holmes Jr. Interview by Jennifer Baughn, Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, Ginntown Rd, Tylertown, MS, July 17, 2012. Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Miss.

Easom, P.H., and J.A. Travis. *Mississippi's Negro Rural Schools: Suggestions for Their Improvement.* Bulletin No. 96. Jackson, MS: State Superintendent of Education, 1939.

Favrot, Leo Mortimer. *A Study of County Training Schools for Negroes in the South.* Charlottesville, VA: Trustees of the John F. Slater Fund, 1923.

The General Education Board Archives: Series I: Appropriations; Subseries I: The Early Southern Program. Miss 69: Supervisor of Rural Schools—Negro (1914-1952). MDAH Microfilm Roll 39974.

Julius Rosenwald Fund, *Community School Plans, Bulletin No. 3.* Nashville, TN: Julius Rosenwald Fund, 1924.

Julius Rosenwald Fund, *Community School Plans (revised 1928).* Nashville, TN: Julius Rosenwald Fund, September, 1928.

Redcay, Edward E. *County Training Schools and Public Secondary Education for Negroes in the South.* Washington, DC: John F. Slater Fund, 1935.

Rosenwald Database, Fisk University, accessed 1-19-2017.

[http://rosenwald.fisk.edu/?module=search.details&set\\_v=AWQ9MjI0Nw==&school\\_county=walthall&school\\_state=MS&button=Search&o=0](http://rosenwald.fisk.edu/?module=search.details&set_v=AWQ9MjI0Nw==&school_county=walthall&school_state=MS&button=Search&o=0)

"Survey, Walthall County Public Schools, 1955." RG 50, Series 1653: School Building Surveys from the Act of 1953. Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Miss.



Walthall County Training School  
Name of Property

Walthall County, MS  
County and State

“Walthall County Training School: A History,” 16th program, Walthall County Training School Reunion & Antioch M.B. Church Homecoming, November 4, 2012.

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** 147-TYL-5028

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreeage of Property** Roughly one acre

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 31.070278                      Longitude: -90.146111

See Continuation Sheet.

**Or**

**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

Walthall County Training School  
Name of Property

Walthall County, MS  
County and State

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

- |          |           |           |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The nominated property includes the building commonly known as the Walthall County Training School or Ginntown School and the concrete sidewalks and concrete water fountain on the east side of the building. The rectangular boundary extends from the rear of the school building to the pavement of Ginntown Road, encompassing the front lawn. The property is included in the rural parcel described in the Walthall County, Mississippi land records as:

Beginning at Southeast corner of Northwest Quarter of Northeast Quarter of Section 12, Township 1 North, Range 10 East and run West 334.5 feet, Thence North to North Half of said Northwest Quarter of Northeast Quarter, then East 334.5 feet to Northeast corner of said South Half of Northwest Quarter of Northeast Quarter, Thence South to place of beginning.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nominated property includes the Walthall County Training School building and its immediate environs while excluding the Antioch Missionary Baptist Church and the fellowship hall (formerly the WCTS girls dormitory) which are not included in the nomination but are located on the same land parcel.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Jennifer Baughn, Chief Architectural Historian  
organization: Mississippi Department of Archives and History  
street & number: P.O. Box 571  
city or town: Jackson state: MS zip code: 39205-0571  
e-mail jbaughn@mdah.ms.gov  
telephone: 601-576-6956  
date: January 19, 2017

Walthall County Training School  
Name of Property

Walthall County, MS  
County and State

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### **Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Walthall County Training School  
Name of Property

Walthall County, MS  
County and State

### Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### Photo Log

Name of Property: Walthall County Training School  
City or Vicinity: Tylertown vicinity  
County: Walthall County  
State: Mississippi  
Photographer: Jennifer Baughn, MDAH Chief Architectural Historian  
Date Photographed: February 3, 2017

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 9. S façade and E elevation, view to WNW
- 2 of 9. S façade and W elevation, view to NE
- 3 of 9. E and N (rear) elevations, with water fountain to far left, view to SW
- 4 of 9. Concrete water fountain created by the Class of 1942, view to E, with Antioch Baptist Church in background.
- 5 of 9. Double classroom/auditorium in the front (S) half of the school, view to former stage (W) end.
- 6 of 9. SW classroom/auditorium, view to former stage (W)
- 7 of 9. Double classroom/auditorium, view from former stage to E
- 8 of 9. NE classroom/Industrial room, view to N (rear entrance)
- 9 of 9. Classrooms on N side of school, originally two classrooms, with ghost of original wall evident in ceiling and studs for new wall inserted beyond. View to W.

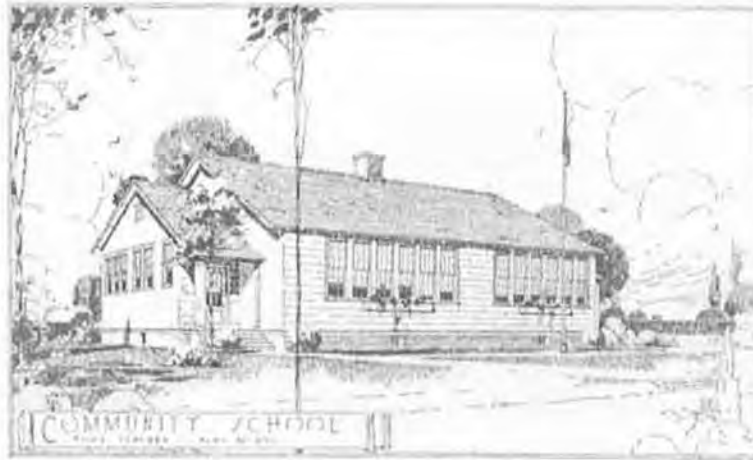
**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Walthall County Training School  
Name of Property

Walthall County, MS  
County and State

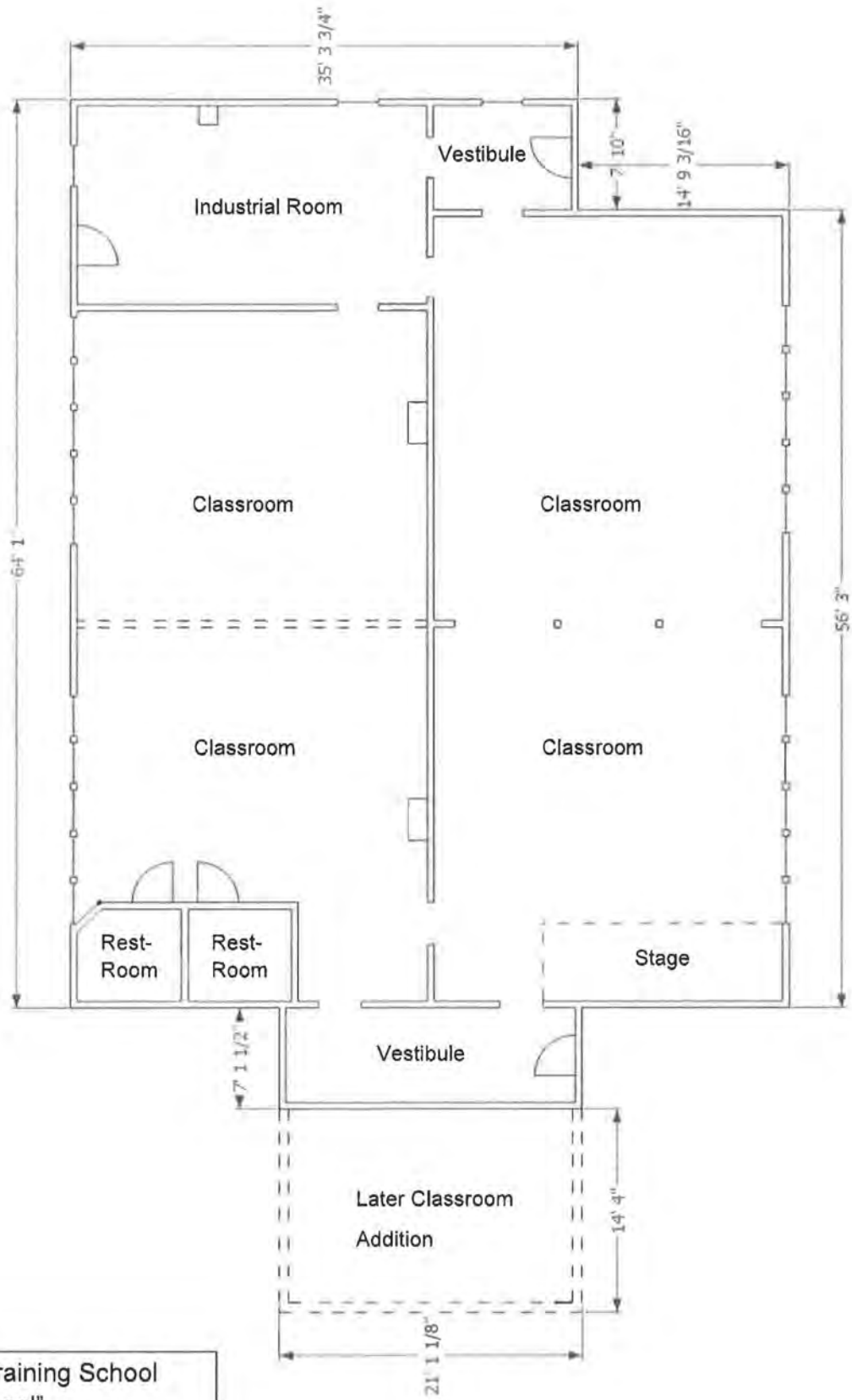
COMMUNITY SCHOOL PLANS



FLOOR PLAN NO 400  
FOUR TEACHER COMMUNITY SCHOOL  
TO FACE EAST OR WEST ONLY

-11-

Exhibit 1: Community School Plan No. 400 (1924 ed.).  
Courtesy <http://www.historysouth.org/schoolplans/>



Walthall Co. Training School  
 "Ginntown School"  
 Tylertown vic., Walthall Co. MS

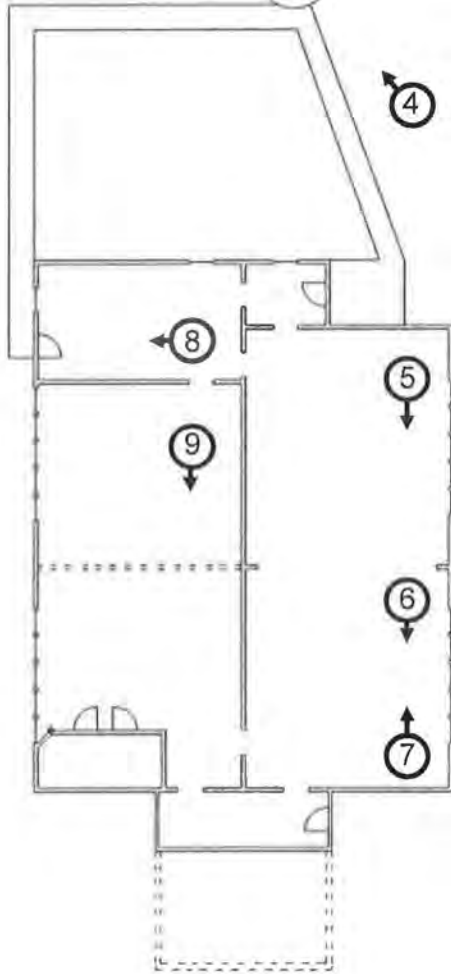
**N**  
 ↑

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 Non-extant Feature

Vocational Building Foundation



Drinking Fountain



Walthall Co. Training School  
"Gintown School"  
Tylertown vic., Walthall Co. MS

N  
←



Photo Number  
and Direction

Gintown Road →

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

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

Walthall County Training School

Name of Property

Walthall County, Mississippi

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 10 Page 1













CLASS  
OF  
1992



WALTHALL COUNTY TRAINING SCHOOL  
 GINTOWN  
 SCHOOL REUNION  
 NOV. 3 - 4, 2013  
 INFORMATION CONTACT  
 876-2401      876-3819  
 876-5361      876-5847  
 876-2197      876-2309  
 Est. 1920

Walthall County Training School  
 Ginntown, Va.  
 Mission Statement  
 The mission of Walthall County Training School is to provide an excellent educational environment for all students and to ensure that every student achieves his or her potential. We are committed to providing a safe, secure, and supportive learning environment for all students.

Walthall County  
 Reunion  
 2011  
 Spring School

Walthall County  
 Reunion  
 2011  
 Spring School

Rev. Jewel Grant  
 This is your Life





ALTHALL COUNTY TRAINING SCHOOL  
GINTOWN  
SCHOOL REUNION



EXIT





ALMA DEL CAFE  
DEBUTIN  
ESTADO  
3 58 2015

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Walthall County Training School

Multiple Name:

State & County: MISSISSIPPI, Walthall

Date Received: 4/21/2017      Date of Pending List:      Date of 16th Day:      Date of 45th Day: 6/5/2017      Date of Weekly List:

Reference number: SG100001032

Nominator: State

Reason For Review:

Accept       Return       Reject      6/5/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: Great example of a Rosenwald school, a rare commodity in Mississippi. Excellent integrity

Recommendation/ Criteria      Accept / A & C

Reviewer Jim Gabbert

Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2275

Date \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION:      see attached comments : No      see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
Jim Woodrick, director  
PO Box 571, Jackson, MS 39205-0571  
601-576-6940 • Fax 601-576-6955  
mdah.state.ms.us

April 17, 2017

Mr. Paul Loether  
Program Director, National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
Mail Stop 7228  
1849 C St, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240



Dear Mr. Loether:

We are pleased to enclose the nomination form and supporting documents to nominate the following properties to the National Register of Historic Places:

Walthall County Training School, Tylertown vicinity, Walthall County

The property was approved for nomination by the Mississippi National Register Review Board at its meeting on March 16, 2017.

We trust you will find the enclosed materials in order and will let us hear from you at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katie Blount".

Katie Blount  
State Historic Preservation Officer

By: William M. Gatlin

National Register Coordinator