

**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 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. 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 Hopewell Rosenwald School  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Location**

street & number adjacent to 253 Hopewell Church Road (S.C. Sec. Rd. 33-12) not for publication  
city or town Clarks Hill vicinity   
state South Carolina code SC county McCormick code 065 zip code 29821

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.)

Signature of certifying official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Elizabeth M. Johnson, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, S.C. Dept. of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.  
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**

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

Hopewell Rosenwald School  
Name of Property

McCormick County, South Carolina  
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**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**

(Do not include previously listed resources)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</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 Program in South Carolina, 1917-1932

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register  
0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Category: Education Subcategory: School

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Category: Social Subcategory: Meeting Hall

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Craftsman

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation: Brick  
Walls: Wood/Weatherboard  
Roof: Metal (Shingle)  
Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

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

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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 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**

1927-1954

**Significant Dates**

1927

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

**Architect/Builder**

Dressler, Fletcher B. (Julius Rosenwald Fund)  
Smith, Samuel L. (Julius Rosenwald Fund)

**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:  
McCormick County Historical Society;  
McCormick County Library

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreege of Property** Less than 1 acre

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing
1 <u>17</u> <u>395650</u> <u>3719250</u>	3 <u>17</u>
2 <u>17</u> _____	4 <u>17</u>

\_\_\_ 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 J. Haley Grant  
 organization Public History Program, University of South Carolina date 22 April 2010  
 street & number Gambrell Hall, University of South Carolina telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
 city or town Columbia state SC zip code 29208

**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 Hopewell Rosenwald School c/o Hopewell Baptist Church  
 street & number 253 Hopewell Church Road [Mail to P.O. Box 2043, Evans, GA 30809]  
 city or town Evans state GA zip code 30809

**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. 470 et seq.). **Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Hopewell Rosenwald School

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Hopewell Rosenwald School is located on S.C. Secondary Road 33-112, or Hopewell Church Road, 1.1 miles from S.C. Highway 28, in the rural Woodlawn community near Clarks Hill, McCormick County, S.C. The school occupies the north corner of a four-acre parcel owned by Hopewell Baptist Church. Hopewell School is on the west side of the property near the western tree line and adjacent to Hopewell Church Road. A small cemetery sits between the church and school. The overall site is surrounded by dense woods of several acres that are owned by the South Carolina Department of Wildlife and Marine Resources.

The school is a small, square one-story frame building with an northeast/southwest orientation; its layout is in keeping with the Julius Rosenwald Building Fund's One Teacher Community School Plan No. 1. As such, it meets the Registration Requirements as established in the Multiple Property Submission "The Rosenwald School Building Program in South Carolina, 1917-1932," approved by the National Park Service in 2008.

The floor plans contain a large classroom that usually measured twenty-two by thirty feet. Two small and narrow rooms were located near the door. These rooms typically measured four by ten feet. A slightly larger industrial room was also common in the One Teacher Community School plans.

Hopewell Rosenwald School sits atop a vented solid brick foundation, and its simple gabled roof, with gables side-facing, is clad with pressed metal shingles. Vertical rectangular louvered vents are placed at the center of each gable. Wood rafter tails are exposed under the east/west facing roofline. A single brick chimney stack rises on the southeastern section of the roof. White horizontal wooden shiplap, or German siding, encases the exterior of the school. North/south facing sides contain no ornament other than the aforementioned center-placed vents in the gables.

The windows are southeast/northwest in position. Originally, the front windows were three sets of nine-over-nine lights and six smaller nine-over-nine lights. The northwest facing windows are the same as the larger nine-over-nines. The windows are covered with plywood, but the facings are still evident on the exterior, and the intact sash can be viewed on the interior. There are no windows located on the northeast and southwest sides of the building.

Entrance to the one-room school house is gained by the recessed porch located on the northeastern corner (front right). A single squared, floor to ceiling post is positioned on the outer corner of porch to support its roof. The porch is twice the width of the door. The front door contains five raised horizontal panels and faces east. Steps are located on the northeast side near the porch post. A simple wood railing, added later, is situated beside these steps and is attached to the porch post.

The adjacent Hopewell Baptist Church is active and maintains the school. Adequate upkeep and repairs have been made, none of which have altered the overall integrity of the building. Tended low shrubs are found at the base of the front and north sides of the school. An HVAC unit, surrounded by a small chain link fence, is located at the south side of the building.

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The Hopewell Rosenwald School is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for Education and African American Ethnic Heritage, and under Criterion C for Architecture. This school, built under the Rosenwald School Building Program, greatly impacted the education of rural McCormick County's African American students from 1927 to 1954. The school is also architecturally significant in that it represents the "one teacher community plan" developed by the Rosenwald School Building Program and described in the Multiple Property Submission "The Rosenwald School Building Program in South Carolina, 1917-1932."

Hopewell Rosenwald School is a One Teacher Community Plan embodying the distinctive architectural characteristics that fall under the guidelines set out by the Julius Rosenwald School Building Program from 1913 to 1932. It was built in 1926, along with one other Rosenwald school in McCormick County, at a cost of \$400.00 per school.<sup>1</sup> One of the purposes of the Rosenwald Fund and Building Program was to provide adequate educational facilities that not only encouraged students in their learning, but gave them a clean and safe environment in which to do so.

**McCormick County Education and the Impact of the Rosenwald Program**

McCormick County was created in 1916. Before 1916, the land area that would become McCormick County was in Edgefield, Abbeville, and Greenwood Counties. The area was settled in the early eighteenth century, and from the beginning, education was very important to those who lived there. The John de la Howe School and Willington Academy were two well-respected area schools that taught many wealthy area planters' sons.<sup>2</sup> Educational opportunities for African Americans were non-existent at that time, and these academies and others in the area were for whites only. The region continued to grow, and after the Civil War, the African Americans' need for quality education grew.

In 1917, according to a report from the State Superintendent of Education, McCormick County had twenty-seven school districts. Within these boundaries were twenty-five schools for the county's white children; fourteen of those were one teacher, and only two had more than three teachers. There were forty-seven one teacher black schools.<sup>3</sup> The white schools were schoolhouses in relatively good repair, but the African-American schools were anything from a farmhouse to a church building.<sup>4</sup> According to Nancy Lindroth, a local McCormick historian, most of McCormick's early African American schools were positioned near churches and were "small structures of one or two rooms."<sup>5</sup> Most efforts at giving black children a chance at going to school

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<sup>1</sup> Arthur Latimer Bradley, "Public Education in McCormick County, 1916-1941," Master's thesis, University of South Carolina, 1941, p. 75.

<sup>2</sup> Nancy Lindroth, "History of Education in McCormick County," McCormick County School District, <http://www.mccormick.k12.sc.us/History.html> [accessed September 26, 2008].

<sup>3</sup> Bradley, p. 6.

<sup>4</sup> Bradley, p. 7.

<sup>5</sup> Lindroth, "History of Education in McCormick County."

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came in the form of donations from their own community or an outside fund, which was alluded to in the 1917 report of the State Agent for Negro Schools. The State Superintendent of Education was described as “glad to cooperate with private philanthropic agencies” in regards to developing more industrial education for African American students in South Carolina.<sup>6</sup>

Though South Carolina enrollment in 1916 for rural or “country” black students was considerably more than for white, the numbers were reversed for black “town” students.<sup>7</sup> The State Agent for Negro Schools reported in 1917 that progress for the overall public school system in South Carolina, for both black and white students, “has been steady, but slow.”<sup>8</sup> Arthur Bradley, in his study on the history of education in McCormick County from 1916 to 1941, states that “the county had few deeds to Negro School property.”<sup>9</sup> In 1927, a consolidation of three of the twenty-seven school districts created the Washington Consolidated District, of which Hopewell Rosenwald School was a part.

At that time McCormick County was experiencing a decline in student enrollment. A 1928 *McCormick Messenger* article entitled “Figures Reveal School Decrease” highlighted a serious problem impacting the early years of McCormick County education and the state of South Carolina. The enrollment of African American students was down 10,000 from the previous year’s enrollment of 155,523 students. The article goes on to say,

Two factors are given the responsibility for this decrease; the migration of the negro to other sections, especially in communities which have poor school facilities, and the fact that a number of parents were unable to buy clothing and books for the children to attend school.

White students’ attendance was down as well, but only by 1,684 pupils out of the previous year’s 248,562 students.<sup>10</sup> The enrollment issue may have caused state wide concerns as shown in a 1927 letter from the State High School Supervisor to the Superintendent of Education, James H. Hope. Mr. J. Daniel, Supervisor, wrote that he was “especially anxious to give the negro schools this year a rating and to keep a more accurate check than has heretofore been made.”<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> J.H. Brannon, “Report of the State Agent for Negro Schools,” 1917, in *Annual Report of the State Superintendent of Education of the State of South Carolina* (Columbia: Gonzales and Bryan, State Printers, 1918).

<sup>7</sup> Brannon, 1917 Report. The 1916-1917 school year showed an enrollment of 163,125 black rural students compared to 112,443 rural white students. Also note 49,703 black town students compared to 82,669 white town students. As such, more rural black students attended than rural white, but more white town students attended than black town students.

<sup>8</sup> Brannon, 1917 Report.

<sup>9</sup> Bradley, p. 37.

<sup>10</sup> “Figures Reveal School Decrease,” *McCormick Messenger* (McCormick, S.C.), January 26, 1928.

<sup>11</sup> J. Daniel, State High School Supervisor, to James H. Hope, Superintendent of Education, October 13, 1927, High School Accreditation Applications, 1908-1941, South Carolina Department of Education Records, South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C., repository hereafter referred to as SCDAH.

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**Criterion A: African American Ethnic Heritage and the Hopewell Rosenwald School**

The Rosenwald Fund and consequently the Rosenwald School Building Program came about as a result of the need for proper educational facilities in the southeastern region of the United States. Out of the total \$3894.11 philanthropic contributions to McCormick County from 1917-1918 to 1927-1928, \$800.00 came from the Rosenwald Fund.<sup>12</sup> Four hundred dollars of that money went to the building of Hopewell Rosenwald School in 1926. Before the Rosenwald school was built, a poorer, older school occupied the site. Called the Hopewell School, named for the adjacent Hopewell Baptist Church, it provided elementary students from the southern part of the county a shelter from the elements as they went about their school work. According to a former student, Georgia Collier Scott, that was all it provided them. The building was cold in the winter and retained none of the cool air when the temperature outside began to warm. Mrs. Scott provided the following description of the school: “[It] was not sealed, wooden benches served as seats for the students, and a wood burning stove furnished heat for the room. Three ten-inch boards nailed together and painted black, served as the blackboard.”<sup>13</sup>

The County Supervisor of Negro Schools informed McCormick County residents of the Rosenwald Fund and trustees of the Hopewell School applied. Hopewell Rosenwald School was built for the 1926-1927 school year. Parents donated mahogany desks, and the school was made comfortable by a wood burning stove.<sup>14</sup> Mrs. Scott wrote that for the “first time during our elementary school days, we were warm and comfortable in school. We were in a learning atmosphere and were able to receive a good elementary education.” Mrs. Scott was her high school valedictorian, gained her undergraduate degree from Benedict College, and her graduate degree from South Carolina State College [now University]. Now retired, she taught school in Edgefield and McCormick Counties for thirty six years and attributes her success to the education afforded her at Hopewell Rosenwald School. She says, “All that I am and ever hope to be I owe it to Hopewell,” and that her “educational foundation... was built at Hopewell Rosenwald School.”<sup>15</sup>

In the 1933-1934 school year, Alma Collier taught all grades one through seven and was paid \$37.50 a month at \$187.50 a year. Emma Ryans and Marie Southward were also teachers at Hopewell Rosenwald. In 1933, school opened on November 20 and ran for five months. A local organization, the Spring Grove Association, formed from several area churches, provided funds to extend the school year an extra month.<sup>16</sup> The 1932-1933 school

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<sup>12</sup> Preston Cleveland Goforth, “Financial Aid to Negro Education in South Carolina Received from Outside Sources from 1917-1918 to 1927-1928 Inclusive.” [1931].

<sup>13</sup> Georgia Collier Scott, “Hopewell School of Early Years,” unpublished MS. Mrs. Scott is a fount of information about Hopewell School and Hopewell Rosenwald School. She has been instrumental in having the school renovated and Hopewell Rosenwald School is now used as a meeting hall for Hopewell Baptist Church and other organizations.

<sup>14</sup> Scott, “Hopewell School of Early Years.”

<sup>15</sup> Scott, “Hopewell School of Early Years.”

<sup>16</sup> Georgia Collier Scott, Interview by author, Clarks Hill vicinity, McCormick County, S.C., July 16, 2009. The local churches named to me are all Baptist: Hopewell, Spring Grove, Bethany, Laurel Grove, Hosannah, Cary Hill, Poplar Spring, Bethlehem, Hammond Grove, Second Providence, North Augusta, and Old Macedonia.

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term enrollment had been thirty seven children with an average attendance of twenty nine students.<sup>17</sup> Some of McCormick County's African American schools taught the seventh grade level, but even as of 1941, there were no Negro high schools in McCormick County.<sup>18</sup> In the county as many as sixty black pupils took high school subjects at this time.<sup>19</sup> A normal school term from 1916 to 1941 was around eighty eight days. School expenditures averaged only around \$89.70 a year.<sup>20</sup>

By 1954, Hopewell Rosenwald's enrollment dropped to only nine students as many of the African American families left the area for better opportunities. Hopewell would be used as a school for the last time in 1954. The school was then left for the benefit and use of the community.<sup>21</sup> Because South Carolina's white students and schools were afforded more, African American schools, especially in rural counties such as McCormick, were extremely important in the education they provided, the safe environment they gave, and the belief that if students studied and did their best, they could better their future and community. The history of Hopewell Rosenwald School shows its impact on McCormick County's educational and black heritage landscape for just such provisions and aspirations. In 1919, McCormick County students such as Hattie Briscoe, age six; Henry Norman, age seven; and Georgia Collier, age six, went to school in a completely inadequate environment.<sup>22</sup> Just under a decade later, those children would be allowed a clean and safe school house, where worrying about keeping warm would not interfere with their education.

**Criterion C: Architectural Significance of the Hopewell Rosenwald School**

Hopewell was designed under the Rosenwald plans created by Fletcher B. Dresslar and Samuel L. Smith, both architects with the Rosenwald Building Program. Called the Community School Plans, most of the designed schools were Mission or Colonial Revival in style with limited decoration.<sup>23</sup> Hopewell Rosenwald School conforms to the Community School Plan No. 1. These schools were only to face east or west. Hopewell faces east and takes full advantage of morning light. Though it appears from the exterior to be a one room school house, inside are two smaller rooms and one large room. The larger space was reserved as the class room.

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<sup>17</sup> McCormick County State Aid Applications, 1933-1956, South Carolina Department of Education Records, SCDAH.

<sup>18</sup> Bradley, p. 33.

<sup>19</sup> Bradley, p. 36.

<sup>20</sup> Bradley, p. 37.

<sup>21</sup> Georgia Collier Scott, interview by author, July 16, 2009.

<sup>22</sup> McCormick County Census of School Children, 1919, South Carolina Department of Education Records, SCDAH.

<sup>23</sup> Lindsay C.M. Weathers, "The Rosenwald School Building Program in South Carolina, 1917-1932," Multiple Property Documentation Form, National Register of Historic Places, 2008.

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In 1930, the Rosenwald Fund ended aid for one teacher plans in order to encourage the construction of larger schools.<sup>24</sup> McCormick County had only two Rosenwald Schools constructed. The Gilbert Rosenwald School, or the Green Olive School, was located in the northern part of the county and has since burned.<sup>25</sup> Hopewell is now the only Rosenwald School remaining in McCormick County.

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<sup>24</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>25</sup> Lindroth, "History of Education in McCormick County."

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**Major Bibliographical References**

**Primary**

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McCormick County, Census of School Children, 1919. South Carolina Department of Education Records, South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.

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Scott, Georgia Collier. "Hopewell School of Early Years." Unpublished MS.

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**Secondary**

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Weathers, Lindsay C.M. "The Rosenwald School Building Program in South Carolina, 1917-1932." Multiple Property Documentation Form, National Register of Historic Places, 2008.

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary of the nominated property is shown as the heavy black line marked "Hopewell Rosenwald School" on the accompanying portion of a McCormick County Tax Map, Parcel 250-00-00-001, drawn at a scale of 1" = 201'.

**Boundary Justification**

The nominated property is restricted to the historic Hopewell Rosenwald School and its immediate setting, and excludes the adjacent Hopewell Baptist Church.

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The following information is the same for each of the photographs:

Name of Property: Hopewell Rosenwald School  
Location of Property: Adjacent to 253 Hopewell Church Road, Clarks Hill vicinity  
McCormick County, South Carolina

Name of Photographer: J. Haley Grant  
Date of Photographs: Photos 1-4: October 2008  
Photos 5-9: July 2009

Location of Original  
Digital Images: S.C. Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.

1. Façade and North elevation, facing southwest
2. North elevation, facing south
3. West view and North elevation, facing southeast
4. South elevation and Façade, facing northwest
5. Interior north wall, facing northwest
6. Interior south wall, facing southwest
7. View to interior east façade, small kitchen, facing southeast
8. Interior southeast corner, facing southeast, detail of original chimney feature
9. Interior west wall, facing northwest
10. Interior detail of door and transoms, eastern interior
11. Interior of classroom, facing southwest