

Rosenwald Schools in North Carolina
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CSV Documentation

0. NCG id: To be assigned by Ryan.
1. skos:preflabel: School name, as can best be determined. Typically the local toponym but may also be a funding name from the Fisk database. Aliases were put into alt_name column except for cases where the Fisk file included a parenthetical. Original value was “Site name” in NCHPO. All non-school identifiers, post-closure names and comment tags like (Gone) have been removed.
2. skos:note: Structured description to contain the following info, with optional information in parentheses: *[BudgetYear] [Building Description] Rosenwald [Type]. [Location], [Township], [County] county. (Notes). (No longer standing.)* Old descriptions were semi-structured but messy, we used Open Refine to pull structured information from other columns to create this description.
3. alt_name: Aliases for skos:preflabel. Example: Rosenwald Fund name versus local toponym.
4. gone: A boolean column that determines if a structure is no longer standing. Originally denoted in site name, moved to its own column and to description.
5. ncv:county: The county the school is located within, represented by its NCG ID.
6. ncv:township: The township the school is located within. Townships are mostly vestigial in North Carolina (read more [here](#)), but serve as a way to identify locations outside of municipal boundaries that is more precise than just noting the county. Pulled directly from NCHPO database.
7. ncv:location: Addresses/road directions to structures, pulled from NCHPO. Original dataset had truncated locations past a certain amount of characters, we were able to recover the full locations by comparing to the NCHPO’s [list of surveyed Rosenwald schools](#). Abbreviations like N. for North and St. for Street were expanded to full for clarity.
8. ncv:budgetyear: The funding approval year, either from Fisk files or the research of Hanchett (1988) in the NC archives that recovered information on the Tuskegee stewardship era, as noted in this [National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form](#).
9. ncv:rosenwaldtype: The amount of teachers working at the school, roughly indicative of its student population.
10. rdf:type: The kind of building in which the school was housed. Most often a school building, but occasionally a repurposed building such as a shop or residence.

11. ID1: A blank node used to link to the NCHPO's own database, including unique identifiers (designated with `ncv:id_code`), link to subject file (`ncv:id_url`), and photo (`ncv:id_photo`). Identifies the source as NCHPO with `ncv:id_source`.
12. ID2: A blank node used to link to the Fisk University Rosenwald Fund Card File Database with link to subject file (`ncv:id_url`). Identifies the source as Fisk University with `ncv:id_source`.
13. ncv:source: Designates that the source for the majority of these rows is the NCHPO database. Intended to be merged with however else different projects are citing the source of their data.
14. ncv:wikidata
As of April 2022, there are 26 NC Rosenwald schools with Wikidata ids, taken from the [Wikipedia page](#) on Rosenwald schools in North Carolina. (Note: Only the 24 schools on the National Register Historic Places (NRHP) are on the multi-state Wikipedia list)
15. needsreview: On Ryan's suggestion we added this column to flag entries from NCHPO which were found to have conflicting and/or missing information which could not be reconciled given our timeframe and sources available online. These might be resolved with archival and local research. See attached appendix for details.
16. contributor: A few entries from NCHPO were very incomplete and needed significant updating, in which case ORCID is provided for accountability.

Turtle Examples

```

@prefix ncg: <http://n2t.net/ark:/39333/ncg/> .
@prefix nct: <http://n2t.net/ark:/39333/ncg/type#> .
@prefix ncv: <http://n2t.net/ark:/39333/ncg/vocab#> .
@prefix skos: <http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#> .
@prefix geojson: <https://purl.org/geojson/vocab#> .
@prefix wd: <http://www.wikidata.org/entity/> .
@prefix nchpo: <https://files.nc.gov/ncdcr/nr/> .
@prefix nchpo_image: <https://images.archives.ncdcr.gov/> .
@prefix orcid: <http://orcid.org/> .

```

```

ncg:place12345 skos:prefLabel "Ware Creek School";
               skos:note "1920-1921 frame Rosenwald school. SR 1103 - Maul's Point Road,
Blounts Creek vicinity, Chocowinity, Beaufort County.";
               ncv:county ncg:NCG00891;
               ncv:township "Chocowinty";
               ncv:location "SR 1103 - Maul's Point Road, Blounts Creek vicinity";
               ncv:budgetyear "1920-1921";
               ncv:rosenwaldtype "Three-teacher";

```

```

a nct:School;
geojson:coordinates
  ("-76.94" "35.42");
ncv:identifier [
  ncv:id_code "BF0215";
  ncv:id_source "NCHPO Database";
  ncv:id_url nchpo:BF0215.pdf;
  ncv:id_photo nchpo_image:BF0215.jpg;
];
ncv:identifier [
  ncv:id_source "Fisk University Rosenwald Fund Card File Database";
  ncv:id_url
"http://rosenwald.fisk.edu/?module=search.details&set_v=aWQ9MjM2MA==&school_c
ounty=Beaufort&school_state=NC&button=Search&o=0"
];
ncv:source "North Carolina Historic Preservation Office";
ncv:wikidata wd:Q18159135.

```

```

ncg:place12345 skos:prefLabel "Washington County Training School";
skos:note "1929-1930 12-room brick Rosenwald school. Also $120 funds for H.S.
Library. Renamed Fourth Street School after integration. 501 East 4th Street, Plymouth,
Washington County. Funded as Plymouth School in Fisk files. Ruinous.";
ncv:alt_name "Plymouth School";
ncv:county ncg:NCG15917;
ncv:township "Plymouth";
ncv:location "501 East 4th Street";
ncv:budgetyear "1929-1930";
ncv:rosenwaldtype "Twelve-teacher";
a nct:School;
geojson:coordinates
  ("-76.74" "35.87");
ncv:identifier [
  ncv:id_code "WH0056";
  ncv:id_source "NCHPO Database";
];
ncv:identifier [
  ncv:id_source "Fisk University Rosenwald Fund Card File Database";
  ncv:id_url
"http://rosenwald.fisk.edu/index.php?module=search.details&set_v=aWQ9MzA5OQ==&
school_historic_name=Plymouth&school_state=NC&button=Search&o=0"

```

];
ncv:source "North Carolina Historic Preservation Office";
ncv:contributor orcid:0000-0001-8856-1694.

Research & Sources

We started with a general search for sources on the history of Rosenwald Schools in North Carolina and found a few possible collections. Shir investigated the layout of the [NCHPO ArcGIS Story Map](#) and we got in touch with the North Carolina Historic Preservation Office and Fisk University to see if we could download a set of school records more directly from them. Fisk no longer has access to the admin version of their database so obtaining a full NC batch was not possible. We did not have time to manually search and input over 800 records so we focused on the Story Map resource.

After some initial false starts with NCHPO, Shir manually copied batches of records from ArcGIS which produced our set of around 300 records. NCHPO also pointed us to their public database file but had no documentation to explain their arrangement or divisions of files. Ryan Shaw took a look at these and ran queries to flag discrepancies of extra and missing records between the database subsets. From this color coded list we were able to deduce some of the record curation patterns and work on cleaning up the data set for inclusion in the NC Gazetteer.

In order to adequately represent the quantity and locations of the Rosenwald schools in North Carolina, we consulted the [dataset](#) compiled by Fisk University. To verify the accuracy of the contents, we compared this dataset to the NCSHPO's [National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form](#).

There was a third school list at HistorySouth but we found the dates for earlier schools were not well documented and many appeared to have been defaulted to 1920–21 (ie: the change over to the independent Rosenwald Building Fund from the Tuskegee stewardship of 1915-1920.) The NRHP form above became our preferred document, especially for the week that the Fisk database was completely down in the middle of April 2022.

Some local research sources that also helped with filling in blanks found in the NCHPO set included:

- [Durham County's Rosenwald Schools and the Jeans Teachers](#)
- [Open Durham](#): node Rosenwald
- [NC Rosenwald Schools on National Register List 2020.pdf](#)
- [Currituck County Historic Properties Inventory](#)
- [Remembering the Rosenwalds in Robeson County](#)
- The Brevard Rosenwald School: An Historical Case Study - Betty Jamerson Reed

Future Work

Research and documentation on the Rosenwald schools is ongoing and could use more volunteers. It is reasonable to expect that more information will come available or need to be updated in the future in the gazetteer. We propose opportunities for work in the following areas:

1. Our dataset from the NCHPO database contains 309 entries, the majority of which are named and identified Rosenwald Fund schools. We updated and filled in omissions on a number of entries but this dataset could still be worked on, and may still have errors. In particular:

- “Needs Review” - These entries had conflicting or confusing data which could neither be confirmed nor revised with online resources. Would suggest requesting the original files submitted to NCHPO and checking other archival sources, especially any histories at the county or local level.
- Names & Aliases - About a dozen schools in this set have not been connected to their funding names in the Fisk files. It is also possible some could be schools built using the free Rosenwald Community Plans but funded through other sources. (Two entries have already been identified as such.) This subset is included in the Needs Review appendix.
- Townships - A few are still missing from entries. This is an administrative jurisdiction based on geography which is tricky to determine.
- Fisk URLs - Fisk university is planning to relaunch their Rosenwald Fund Card File database due to admin problems with the existing site but that timeline is very uncertain. Links to this database will need to be updated at some point in the future.

2. About 800 schools, teacherages and industrial shops were built in North Carolina with assistance from the Rosenwald Fund / School Building Program between 1915-1932. This leaves about 500 structures which could be added to the gazetteer in the future. The two most complete lists we found to check against are:

- 819 entries : [Fisk University Rosenwald Fund Cardfile Database](#)
- 823 : (794 schools, 18 teacherages and 11 shops) in [NC04.pdf](#) list on the 2015 National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form filed by NCSHPO

The Fisk database does not allow batch downloading and can be unstable due to its age but it is a primary source with details not always included in lists. Note: Schools handled by Tuskegee and the Catch Up Budget (C.U.B.) before 1921 typically have a budget year of “Other” in this source. We used the NC04.pdf to fill in these dates.

The NC04.pdf is based in part on Fisk with Hanchett (1988)’s research with files from 1930 in the NC Archives along with other documents submitted to NCHPO. It is a useful and detailed history for the state available online. There are also books, including Hanchett’s, and other community histories in libraries around the state.

Finally, an admittedly tedious research option would be to start doing a county-by-county “census” against these lists to see if schools can be identified and located, either historically or today. A number of NC county maps are available online that might enable geolocation based on

known structures, but labels aren't always included on these for rural areas and will require some detective work across sources. Some counties are already better documented than others, usually due to local historians, preservation groups and institutions pulling together archival resources, newspaper articles and interviews that are not at the state archives. A local educator that came up frequently was Claudia Stack, who appears to be doing ongoing research herself.

3. Few photographs (or other documentary materials) are linked to the school records. We found three NC photograph collections online. The majority appear to be building documentation photos of good quality, but there is the question of permalinks due to how the state archives and NCHPO have shared them to date. Perhaps bringing things together could even be an internship project for a SILS student?

- North Carolina Digital Collections from State Archives: [Search Rosenwald + photograph](#)
- [Rosenwald Flickr album State Archives, Raleigh](#)
- [Directory tree](#) of some images from NCDCCR / NCHPO survey and register files.

Fisk has some photos on the card file pages but it is not possible to link to them and many look very similar to the state photos. County libraries, historical societies and local researchers also have resources but more investigation would be needed.

4. New information might reveal new areas for work. The status of the few remaining 90-100 year old schools is still changing as a result of storms, accidents and urban development but also conservation efforts by locals. Many of the smallest schools were closed in the 1950s and sold off to churches and individuals as school boards consolidated students to larger but still segregated schools. Many of the remaining schools closed after integration c.1970 or were abandoned over the next three decades. Some were turned into community centers and school offices and have been renovated and renamed multiple times. In other areas, roads and new schools still carry the names once held by Rosenwald schools. There is still a lot of information to recover and it is scattered.

Finally, while the Rosenwald School Building Fund was shut down after Julius Rosenwald's death in 1932, Rosenwald funds lasted until 1948. During and after his lifetime, money went to a variety of projects in public health, education, religious organizations and grants to artists. The Fisk card files only cover the School Building Fund. I (Kimmi) cannot say whether any further school funding came to NC after 1932 but the wider history of the Rosenwald fund is not as well documented online and may be an interesting area to investigate for NC history. Papers from Julius Rosenwald appear to be at both the University of Chicago and Fisk University. In addition, Duke University has a Booker T. Washington collection, who worked with Rosenwald and Tuskegee before his death in 1915. Finally, our state archives have a large collection of correspondence by the local school agents in NC and other early materials.

5. Rosenwald schools were not the only schools built by and for African American communities. Other important educational initiatives like the Freedmen schools, the Jeans Teachers Fund and

dozens of communities worked for better schools, materials and opportunities. This is all a part of NC history and research in these areas would complement the Rosenwald set we are adding to the gazetteer.

Acknowledgements

Shir Bach- I extracted the dataset from the [NCHPO Story Map](#) and got in touch with the NCHPO and Fisk University to see if we could download the data more directly. I went through and expanded the locations column where it had been truncated, and created new columns for linking to the NCHPO and Fisk University datasets. I used Open Refine to clean the location data, and to combine all of the structured information from other columns into a new description. I also used Open Refine to add a boolean column for structures that were no longer standing, remove that information from the site name, and add it into the new descriptions. I generated the Turtle examples with help from Kimmi, and all three of us worked collaboratively on this report and on the class presentation.

Langston Luck- I conducted research on the history of Rosenwald schools to help streamline the acquisition of relevant sources of data. Within the database, I used regular expressions within OpenRefine to omit redundant data between columns. To further consolidate the data and bolster the descriptions, I used regular expressions to add data from other rows to the description, which assisted Shir in establishing the new description. Additionally, I scanned the database for incomplete columns, and discussed with the team regarding which columns were too insufficient to use.

Kimmi Kresica - I took on the discrepancy list from Ryan's queries of the NCHPO database to try to explain the differences and find any missing entries. I visually matched up the "extra" and "missing" records and started tagging them with my findings as I double checked names against lists and some internet searches. Many "discrepancies" were resolved easily as typos and database name alterations but this process also revealed a number of other inconsistencies within and across entries, most likely due to the variety of documents NCHPO has received over decades. I brought up questions and we made decisions as a group on how to clean up the whole dataset and fill in gaps as time allowed.

As I was already checking on names, I split out the aliases and removed or relocated noisy text like site names that were not from the school's operational period and combinations with non-school structures. I also helped fill in some missing values and descriptions with documents I came across while looking for names. This ranged from simple edits, like adding Wikidata ids, Fisk urls, or townships for Durham schools based on the Durham Public Library's Rosenwald page, to more in depth updates, such as tracking down the new location and writing a new entry for Coinjock school or filling in the scant description for the Brevard School. A few

entries still have questions I could not resolve and I have documented those in the “Needs Review” appendix for future data detectives.