

ALABAMA REGISTER OF LANDMARKS AND HERITAGE NOMINATION FORM

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY - DATE ADDED: _____

1. NAME

Historic: The C.E. Hanna School
and/or Common: Calhoun County Training

2. LOCATION

Street & Number: 715 Martin Luther King Dr
City, Town: Hobson ---Vicinity of: _____
State: ALA County: Calhoun Zip: 36201

3. CLASSIFICATION

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Private	<input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Park
<input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> Site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious
<input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> In process	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> Being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

Name: Town of Hobson City Telephone: () - _____
Street & Number: 600 Martin Luther King Dr
City or Town: Hobson State: ALA Zip: 36201
Email Address: _____

5. FLOOR PLAN & SITE PLAN

(Attach sketched floor plan and/or site plan)

6. DESCRIPTION

(See attached instructions for specific guidelines on completing the description.)

CONDITION

- Excellent Deteriorated
 Good Ruins
 Fair Unexposed

CHECK ONE

- Unaltered
 Altered

CHECK ONE

- Original Site
 Moved Date Moved

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

After this destroy the original Lincoln Street school. Proposal for a new
 Building came from the north through the Rosenwald Initiative, a
 Program begun in 1917 by Sears Roebuck's President Julius Rosenwald
 to build schools for black Americans Across the South.
 to match Rosenwald's offer of \$2,900 Hanna raised \$2,500 for the school
 in increments of \$5 top \$5. His public Appeal petitioned "each man
 and woman, boy or girl, for one days earning of each month."
 Local organization like the madsen and the women's Clubs, Church and
 Baseball team all contributed. The name Calhoun County Training school
 the new Rosenwald structure went up in 1923 on Park Avenue
 now Martin Luther King Jr. Drive. With many of its teachers overseas
 fighting world war II Hobson City, Alabama watched its school burn in 1942
 But the hold school did not Burn Down some of the Rosenwald Building
 from the floor was left standing the following mornig classes were held
 in New Hope Baptist Church's Basement and there the continued
 for the rest of the year until the school reopened in 1943
 Although greatly Modified Hobson City's Rosenwald school
 still was holding class in 2006. this school is to Hobson City
 what Tuskegee institute is to Tuskegee (the school is 65 years
 old Age.) Don't now the acres (Don't now the foundation measurement)

7. SIGNIFICANCE

(See attached instructions for specific guidelines on completing the significance.)

PERIOD

- Prehistoric
- 1400-1499
- 1500-1599
- 1600-1699
- 1700-1799
- 1800-1899
- 1900-

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE-CHECK AND EXPLAIN BELOW

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> law | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input type="checkbox"/> social history |
| <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> funerary art | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | |

SPECIFIC DATES: _____

BUILDER/ARCHITECT: _____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Calhoun County Training School is eligible for listing on the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage under Criterion A (Education, ethnic history - African American) and Criterion C. (Education.) Calhoun County Training School was the only high school for Black people from Heflin, Bynum, Chatchee, White Plains sent their children. The school gained Recognition from the state and county for its teaching of Manual Trades: Bricklaying, Carpentry, Sewing, Bicycle Mechanics; those were Black trades; the people knew them from the experience of slavery and the school passed them on.

8. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

9. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreage of nominated property: _____

Quadrangle name: _____

Enclose map showing location of property. (city or county map, state highway department map, or USGS map)

If the property includes more than one building, submit a small sketch map showing the locations and relationships of the buildings.

10. FORM PREPARED BY

Name/title: <u>Tony Ball (HR) and Vice president Victoria ALLEN</u>	Date: <u>January 14 2008</u>
Organization: <u>Concern Citizens of Hobson City</u>	Telephone: <u>(256) 835-0617</u>
Street & Number: <u>719 Armstrong St</u>	State: <u>AL</u> Zip: <u>36703-</u>
City or Town: <u>Hobson</u>	
Email Address: _____	

11. PLEASE SUBMIT COLOR IMAGES OF THE PROPERTY WITH THIS FORM:

Images are essential to the review process. They can be 4x6 color prints or digital images on a CD. Please see the "Instructions for Completing an AR Form" for more details on images or contact the AHC at 334.230.2687.

12. PLEASE RETURN NOMINATION FORM AND DOCUMENTATION TO:

ALABAMA REGISTER COORDINATOR
ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION
468 SOUTH PERRY STREET
MONTGOMERY, AL 36130-0900

C. E. Hanna School (Calhoun County Training School)
715 Martin Luther King Drive
Hobson City, Calhoun County 36201

Owner:

Town of Hobson City
600 Martin Luther King Drive
Hobson City, AL 35201

Contact:

Mr. Tony Ball and Ms. Victoria Allen
Concerned Citizens of Hobson City
719 Armstrong Street
Hobson City, AL 35201
256-835-0617

SUMMARY:

The Calhoun County Training School is eligible for listing to the Alabama Register under criterion A (education and ethnic heritage-African American) as the only high school for blacks in Calhoun County prior to integration. Students came from communities across the county to attend the school from Choccolocco, Anniston, Oxford, etc. The historic building faces south toward Martin Luther King Drive which is the main artery through town. It is located on a city block in the center of the town in a dense residential area just one block from the old City Hall building and is considered to be the most substantial landmark in the town.

It is an educational complex comprised of an original U-shaped main building, to which a gymnasium and several additions have been attached. Although the complex has undergone a few functional and physical alterations, it maintains a significant degree of architectural integrity. The overall original U-shaped form and floor plan are still readable and much of the original interior remains. It maintains a large amount of its historic integrity with location, setting, and association largely intact and design, materials, and workmanship only partially compromised by additions and a few reversible modifications. Alterations to the original portion include the lowering of ceilings and filling in window openings and replacing exterior doors, as well as the attachment of some addition to the rear and side of the building. It continued to serve as a school serving first through twelfth grade facility until 1972 when area schools were integrated. When a historic survey was done in 1972, the school had an enrollment of 400 students. All of the middle school and high school blacks were sent to Oxford High School and this school became an elementary school (1-6) for both black and white students from Oxford. It remained as an elementary school until 2006 when the new elementary school was built in Hobson City right on the Oxford city line.

Entrance into the complex is gained by ascending from the street or parking lot up a concrete walkway and into a recessed porch. A fixed 21 pane transom surmounts the double metal replacement entrance doors. The original interior floor plan featured a U shape, with a T-shaped hallway extending through the center of the building and along the rear of the front classrooms and offices. Rear wings extended outward to the north, forming the U. Additional hallways extended along the innermost sides of the rear wings, accentuating the U and surrounding a grassy lawn courtyard. Later rear additions filled connected both wings filling in the U. Even later additions, two gabled one-story and two flat roof one story, extend east from the

northernmost rear of the wing in the original U creating another courtyard. Additional detached facilities were added to the complex in order to meet changing educational needs. Additional classrooms, cafeteria and a gymnasium, with a stage, dressing rooms and rest rooms, were attached to the east of the main building.

The south elevation includes a brick wall extending the depth of the front and three window groupings on either side of the entrance reflect the location of offices and classrooms. Two of these are part of the original U-shaped plan and are joined by interior folding doors, featuring six horizontal panels, creating a small auditorium. Similarly, the south elevation consists of a brick wall extending the depth of the front (southeast) classroom followed by single and paired replacement sashes providing illumination for the office wing.

The interior of the original building features exposed concrete block walls. In the original auditorium space, currently accessible by double doors located in original "T" of the hall opposite the main entrance, the wall area features tongue and groove wood boards and plaster. All ceilings in the original building have been lowered and ceilings in later addition feature metal truss beams. Floors are poured concrete and some have tile covering. Original window openings have been maintained, but have been filled in with plywood probably when the school was sold to the City of Oxford in 1987 who upgraded it with central heat and air. Interior spatial arrangements have been maintained for the most part, and original materials are largely intact but mostly covered with new materials. Interior doors are in fairly good condition and feature various arrangements of wood panels. Original interior transoms have also survived. In the characteristically sparse treatment of African American schools, decorative features are void. Blackboards remain throughout. Storage cabinets and storage/cloak rooms are retained

A metal building housing various activities was added to the rear of the building in later years.

When the present school opened in 1943, Hobson City was a thriving town which had several stores, a city hall and a population of around 1000 people. Today many of the stores and the original City Hall has been abandoned. The population has decreased to below 1000 and the town is on the brink of bankruptcy. As the economy declined, some residents began to commute and move to the nearby cities of Anniston, Oxford, Lincoln, and Talladega.

City officials, school alumnus and community groups are interested in helping to restore the building as a community educational facility, to generate interest in the history of the school and the community. They have organized an effort to preserve the school for community use, as the building has long served the community for far more than just an educational facility. A portion of the school complex is being maintained by the City of Hobson City for use as a City Hall and to house other city services.

In 1905, Professor C. F. Hanna organized the first school, known as Hobson City and Oxford Academy, with about seventy pupils. For a school term of five months, the one teacher was paid \$25 per month, or \$125 per year. At the present time, 1947, this school has a student body of 470 students, grades from first through twelfth, and a faculty of twelve teachers, which is paid collectively a monthly salary of \$1,717 or a yearly salary of \$13,736. Professor C. F. Hanna is principal. Teachers are J.A. Dunn, B.M. Booker, Ethel Caldwell, Clarissa Henderson, Gladys Merritt, Orlan Hanna, Julia J. Harris, Mourine Avery, Annie L. Jemison, and Minnie M. Wilson.

After a fire destroyed the original school on Lincoln Street, a proposal for a new building came from the north through the Rosenwald initiative, a program begun in 1917 by Sears and Roebuck's President, Julius Rosenwald to build schools for black Americans across the south. To match Rosenwald's offer of \$2,900, Hanna raised \$2,500 for the school in increments of \$5 to \$25. His public appeal petitioned "each man and woman, boy or girl for one day's earnings of each month." Local organization like the Masons and the Woman's Clubs, church and baseball team all contributed. The name Calhoun County Training School, the new Rosenwald structure went up in 1923 on Park Avenue now Martin Luther King Drive. With many of its teachers overseas fighting in World War II, Hobson City again watched its school burn in 1942. But the whole school did not burn down. Some of the Rosenwald building from the floor was left standing. The following classes were held in New Hope Baptist Church basement and continued there for the rest of the year until the school reopened in 1943.

The new building was constructed by G. A. Paul, a local contractor. The school has had five principals- C.E. Hanna, Melvin Wright, George Bell, C.M. Mitchell, James A. Dunn.

One of the outstanding features for which the school has received recognition from the state and county is its handicraft and manual training projects. Citizens of this community take pride in sending their children to the Hobson City County Training School, which turns out a goodly number of graduates each year. Quite a number of these students from the Hobson City Training School are found studying at many colleges and institutions of higher learning in this country.

The school gained recognition from the state and county for its teaching of manual trades: Brick laying, carpentry, sewing, and mechanics.

According the 2000 Census data reports, Hobson City has an estimated population of 878 persons and is located in the northern section of central Alabama in Calhoun County. It is adjacent to Oxford and Anniston, Alabama, cities with estimated respective populations of 14,592 and 24,276 persons. It is approximately sixty-seven miles due north of Birmingham, Alabama, a much larger city with an estimated population of 242,820 persons.¹

Although residents have direct access to the major roads in and around Hobson City, its physical location between Oxford, Alabama and the surrounding hills keeps it isolated.

The existing school building which houses the Mayor's office is centrally located and has sufficient capacity to accommodate space for related program uses which would include child and youth development centers with classrooms for arts and, vocational training classes, and a business incubator.

Outstanding alumni include:

James "Pappy" Dunn

In the fall of 1939, Calhoun County Training School principal C. E. Hanna hired Dunn to teach science and coach all sports. Except for military service during World War II, Dunn remained at the Hobson City School as a teacher, coach and administrator for 47 years until his retirement at the close of the 1985-86 school year. Dunn coached girls and boys basketball and enjoyed success with both. Before the Alabama Interscholastic Athletic Association began its state tournament for girls in 1949, Dunn's Calhoun County Training girl's teams won more than thirty consecutive games. Dunn coached the Calhoun County Training girls to District tournament championships in 1952 and 1954 and a second place District finish in 1955. The 1954 team was runner-up in the AIAA North Section tournament — the Association's statewide round of eight. Dunn's 1959-60 boys basketball team won the Northeast District tournament. His Tigers finished second in the District tournament in 1950, 1956 and 1958. In 1949 and 1950 Dunn coached his boy's teams to first place finishes in the Camp Hill Invitational. In 1952 and 1954 Calhoun County Training won the Cobb Avenue Invitational. The Tigers won the 1960 Maroon and Gold Classic hosted by Carver of Gadsden after finishing second in that tournament in 1957. Dunn coached Calhoun County Training football teams were equally successful. Although records are incomplete, Dunn's teams won approximately one hundred games. In 1968, Dunn became principal at Calhoun County Training, a position he held until he retired. The Gymnasium at the school is named for Dunn. Inducted in Calhoun County Sports Hall of Fame

Willie Smith

Smith graduated from Calhoun County Training School in 1957. He played baseball professionally in the Negro Leagues before signing a contract with the Detroit Tigers in 1960. He also played for the California Angels, the Cleveland Indians in 1967 and part of 1968 before he was traded to the Chicago Cubs. Smith finished his major league career with Cincinnati in 1971. Among his home runs was the first to reach the upper deck in Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium, 52 feet above the playing field. Inducted in Calhoun County Sports Hall of Fame

Surgeon General David Satcher, M.D., Ph.D.

His life saved by a black doctor in Anniston, Dr. Jackson, Satcher, who grew up in Hobson City and attended Calhoun County Training School, became America's first Black male surgeon general who grew up in Hobson City. Hand-picked by President Clinton, Dr. Satcher, who holds the rank of four-star admiral, is the country's surgeon general and the first Black male Assistant Secretary for Health for the U.S. Department of Health and

Human Services. In his former role as director of the Atlanta-based Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and as administrator of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Dr. Satcher and his team labored to change the face of the agency and improve health operations throughout the country. He appointed new CDC director's during his tenure, two women and the first minority ever. On his watch, immunization increased nationwide from about 55 percent to almost 80 percent for all children, but particularly among African Americans and other minorities in urban and rural areas. During the same period, the Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program spread from 18 states to all 50 states, and included five territories and 15 American Indian tribes and related organizations.

Dr. Barbara Boyd, Alabama Representative

Taught at Calhoun

C.E. Hanna School wears the name of a rich history

By Amanda M. DeWald

Anniston Star Staff Writer

07-30-2006

The school known in recent years as C.E. Hanna Elementary was once the only Calhoun County school where black students could learn industrial trades.

The black vote was stirring local elections in the late 1890s, when Oxford redrew its city limits and chopped out Mooree Quarters. **The nation's first black municipality was incorporated in 1899, when the displaced residents formed Hobson City.**

Education soon became a priority for the new town's leadership. Twenty miles to the northeast, in White Plains, Professor C. Edgar Hanna ran an elementary school. The city sent a committee there to recruit him to help them found a new school.

Like the subjects in most turn-of-the-century photographs, C.E. Hanna is not smiling in his portrait. For Almeta Jackson - now 81 and still of Hobson City - Principal Hanna impressed other images into her mind as a young student at his school.

"He lived second house up from us on Washington Street," she remembers. "He always had some change rattling in his pocket, and when he talked to you, you had to look at him.

"Some people, when they're talking, they really know how to look at you."

Built in 1905, the school was on Lincoln Street. The Hobson City and Oxford Academy had one teacher, paid \$25 a month.

"People from Heflin, Bynum, Ohatchee, White Plains sent their children to that school to board at the county's only high school for blacks," says William Hutchings, current principal of what is now C.E. Hanna Elementary School.

Calhoun County Commissioner James "Pappy" Dunn recalls that Hobson City's mayor, who lived across the street from the school, boarded three or four students in his own home on an average week.

After fire destroyed the original Lincoln Street School, a proposal for a new building came from the North through the Rosenwald Initiative, a program begun in 1917 by Sears Roebuck's President Julius Rosenwald to build schools for black Americans across the South.

To match Rosenwald's offer of \$2,900, Hanna raised \$2,500 for the school in increments of \$5 to \$25. His public appeal petitioned "each man and woman, boy or girl, for one day's earning of each month."

Local organizations like the Masons and the women's clubs, churches and the baseball team all contributed. The Town of Hobson City was the biggest investor, donating \$75. Private citizens gave shingles, nails, lumber, lime, or glass.

Named Calhoun County Training School, the new structure went up in 1923 on Park Avenue, now Martin Luther King Jr. Drive.

Today many Rosenwald schools are gone, but campaigns to preserve the historic structures are under way in Mississippi, Alabama, North Carolina and Arkansas. Although greatly modified, Hobson City's Rosenwald School still was holding classes in 2006.

"Hanna believed in industrial education," Dunn says. In a small shop on the school's grounds, Hanna taught boys the trades - when he wasn't being principal.

The school gained recognition from the state and county for its teaching of manual trades: bricklaying, carpentry, sewing and bicycle mechanics.

"Those were black trades," Hutchings says. "People knew them from the experience of slavery, and the school passed them on."

A devoutly religious man, Hanna also was the Sunday school superintendent at New Hope Baptist Church.

Hutchings, then a young boy at New Hope, recalls, "He used to love 'What a Friend We Have in Jesus,' and he used to yell 'Sing, children, sing!' and, boy, we'd be getting' down."

Hanna believed in discipline, but rather than demanding, he commanded respect. According to Dunn, who taught at the school for more than 25 years, the students felt Hanna's support and responded with deference.

Hanna believed in the development of the whole child. Although the school had no gymnasium or no lunchroom, he did a lot with the little he had. He made sure the community pulled together at events like Fall Festival, and he gave Dunn the mandate to build a football team.

"I went to Fort McClellan and talked to the captain of their team," Dunn remembers. "Next day, the captain came down to the school in a GI truck loaded down with uniforms."

Although the biggest of Dunn's boys was a good 50 pounds too skinny for the uniform of any well-built Army sergeant, they wrapped those uniforms twice around and made do. Down at the 10th Street shoe shop, the shoemaker improvised cleats.

Coach Dunn gave the boys his own football with which to play - although he never told them it was the same ball he had been given in his senior year, when he was Alabama State's captain and his team defeated rival Tuskegee.

That was in 1936, the same year Professor Hanna had come to Montgomery in person to bring James Dunn back as a math and science teacher for his school.

More than 30 years after the first classes had been held on "The Hill" at the original Lincoln Street site, black students still traveled from distant towns to attend the Calhoun County Training School.

"Our students from Wellington and Branchville never did see the daylight in the winter," recalls Dunn, now 88, as he sits behind his desk in the County Administration Building. "They started the journey before daybreak and would not leave the school before dark."

With many of its teachers overseas fighting World War II, Hobson City again watched its school burn in 1942.

Principal Hanna's students did not miss a day of school.

The following morning, classes were held in New Hope Baptist Church's basement, and there they continued for the rest of the year until the school reopened in 1943.

"Always carry an umbrella," Hanna used to say. "Be prepared at all times."

Hanna died in 1960, before desegregation and before he became the school's namesake. When CCTS desegregated under federal court mandate in 1972, it was paired with the schools in Oxford.

It was changed to an elementary school serving grades K-3. Oxford's white students in those grades were bused to Hobson City. Hobson City's older elementary and secondary students were bused to Oxford.

Oxford City Schools bought CCTS from the Calhoun County school system in 1987. William Hutchings had been principal for only one year.

That's when a lot of big changes took place, according to Hobson City's current mayor, Ralph Woods. Central air and heat were installed. The school was given Hanna's name.

This August, a new C.E. Hanna Elementary School opens behind Oxford Middle School. The old building will house Hobson City's municipal offices, the council chamber and courtroom. Some organizations, like World Changers, have been housed in the old school temporarily. Much of the remaining space is available, and Woods hopes to fill some community needs with businesses willing to take a chance on Hobson City.

"Right now, we have to go outside for everything," he said. "Whether we want milk and eggs, a place to grab a hamburger, or a doctor, we have to leave Hobson City."

Woods said one major reason businesses have not moved to Hobson City is lack of available space. The old C.E. Hanna building presents a new type of opportunity - a chance to revitalize the town.

"The building is a part of the community," says Katie Ruth Pyles, wife of former Mayor Robert Pyles.

Mrs. Pyles is the secretary of the Calhoun County Training School reunion, which brings together CCTS students dating to 1923, when it broke ground to create early generations of educated black Americans.

Over the years, the school has graduated many who went on to success in their fields, including Dr. David Satcher, the U.S. Surgeon General under President Clinton.

"My father was to (the school) what Booker T. Washington was to Tuskegee," says Hanna's son, Edgar. "This school is to Hobson City what Tuskegee Institute is to Tuskegee."

Oxford has honored that sentiment, and although the new elementary school sits directly behind Oxford Middle School, the site is in Hobson City. The \$7.2 million school is a far cry from the wooden structure built with the \$2,500 Hanna raised to match Rosenwald's offer.

Principal Hutchings has high hopes the facility can serve the children of Oxford and Hobson City in ways that the old building couldn't. He will retire next year, ushering in more change.

"I promised the parents and the teachers - I said 'I'm gonna take you to the Promised Land,' and I did," Hutchings says. "Now it's time to turn me loose."

SOURCES:

