



ALABAMA REGISTER OF LANDMARKS & HERITAGE NOMINATION FORM

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1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic Name: Wyatt School
and/or Common Name: Wyatt School @ Alabama Mining Museum

2. LOCATION

Street & Number: 120 East Street
City: Dora
State: Alabama County: Walker Zip: 35062
Is the property located within the city limits? Yes No
Latitude: 33.731521 (33° 43' N) Longitude: -87.089789 (87° 5' W)
Township: 15S Range: 5W Section: 17 USGS Quad Map: Dora quadrant

3. CLASSIFICATION

Category: Building(s) District Structure Site Object
Ownership: Public Private Both
Status: Occupied Unoccupied Work in progress
~~Public Acquisition:~~ In process Being considered
Accessible: No Yes: restricted Yes: unrestricted

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

Name: Alabama Mining Museum
Address: 120 East Street
City: Dora State: AL Zip: 35062
Telephone: (205) 648-2442
Email: steveninnwal@gmail.com (Board Member Steve Thomas)

5. FLOOR PLAN & SITE PLAN

Attach sketched floor plan. If the property includes more than one building, submit a site plan showing the locations, dates of construction, and uses of the buildings.

See attached "#5 Floor/Site Plan" pages.

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6. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION See Instructions for more information.

Construction date:	Dec 1926 - 1927	Source:	Fisk University
Alteration date:	2012 (most recent)	Source:	Richard Love Lady
Architect/Builder:	G+H Construction Co. (Roofer)	Contractor:	G+H Construction Co.
Physical condition: (Excellent, Good, Fair, Poor, Ruinous)	good	Remaining historic fabric: (High, Medium, Low)	High
No. of stories:	one		
Historic use of property:	African American elementary school in mining town		
Current use of property:	Educational tool at AL Mining Museum; youth education		
Architectural style category:	Rosenwald School	Architectural style sub-category:	Community School
Basic typology:	one-teacher type	Basic shape:	Rectangular
Basic floor plan:	Nashville Plan	Historic Construction material(s):	Salvaged lumber
Current exterior wall material(s):	wood-frame	Roof finish material(s):	metal
Main roof configuration:	side gable	Foundation material:	Brick piers
Porch type:	Stoop, door and transom covered by door hood.		
Window type and materials:	Double hung; wood		
Describe alterations:	See "Alterations" attachment		
Number and type of all outbuildings: (if significant, fill out separate survey form)	See "outbuildings" and HABS drawing attachments		
Exterior Architectural Description:	One story, wood frame, rectangular, low pitched gable roof. Original transomed door w/hood cover. 2nd door w/out transom or cover. 2 sets wooden steps. East facing wall has 5 connected double hung windows; north end has 2 double hung windows. Foundation is 16 brick piers in three rows. see more in "Exterior Architectural Description" attachment		
Description of Setting:	See "Description of Setting" attachment, which includes "original" and "present day" setting descriptions		

7. SIGNIFICANCE

Criteria (check all that apply and explain below). See Instructions for more information.

Criterion A: Associated with historical events and activities relating to the property that are important to the history of the community, state, or nation.

Criterion B: Person or group with whom the property is associated is important to the history of the community, state, or nation.

Criterion C: Type, period, or method of construction represents architectural features that are significant in the development of the community, state, or nation.

Criterion D: Property has yielded or may be likely to yield, information important in Alabama's history or prehistory (archaeological component).

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (check all that apply and explain below)

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning | <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

For each area of significance checked above, explain why this property is important. Use additional sheets as necessary.

See "statement of Significance" attachments

8. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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Use attached sheets as necessary

See attached "References"

9. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreage of nominated property: Wyatt School occupies 1/2 acre (±) of the AL mining museum's 10 acre property.

Attach a map showing the location of the property.

Attached are maps of both previous and present locations.

10. Person Applying for Historic Register Designation

Name: Lane Reno

(work) Address: 800 West 7th Street

City: Jasper State: AL Zip: 35501

Telephone: (205) 275-1911 (cell) ; (205) 302-0001 (work)

Email: stillsbylane@gmail.com (personal) ; walkernonprofits@gmail.com

11. PHOTOGRAPHS: Disc included in package.

Images are essential to the review process. They can be 4x6 color prints or digital images on a CD/DVD. All photographs will become the property of the AHC and will not be returned.

Also included is one hard copy print from previous location.

12. REMINDER:

Along with this completed application, include attachments for Items 5, 9 and 11 and send them to:

Alabama Historical Commission
Attn: Lee Anne
468 S. Perry Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0900

HISTORY SOUTH

HOME ABOUT CHARLOTTE FOOD MUSIC ARCHITECTURE/PLANNING ROSENWALD SCHOOLS LINKS CONTACT



ROSENWALD SCHOOL PLANS

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Tuskegee Plans

Tuskegee Institute prepared plans for the earliest Rosenwald buildings, published in a 1915 pamphlet THE NEGRO RURAL SCHOOL AND ITS RELATION TO THE COMMUNITY. Professors R.R. Taylor, Director of the Department of Mechanical Industries, and W.A. Hazel, of the Division of Architecture, created designs for a 1 teacher school, two variations on a 5 teacher school, plus an industrial building, a privy (outdoor toilet), and two residences for teachers.

Nashville Plans

In 1920, control of the schoolbuilding program shifted to the new Rosenwald Foundation office in Nashville, where director S.L. Smith drew up a fresh set of designs. These first appeared in book form in 1924 as COMMUNITY SCHOOL PLANS (shown on this website) and remained in print with revised editions into the 1940s. Smith made careful use of natural light, providing separate designs for buildings that faced east-west and buildings that faced north-south. Schools ranged in size from 1 to 7 teachers, and there were also plans for privies, industrial buildings, and teachers cottages.

One Teacher Plans

- [Tuskegee Plan](#)
- [Nashville Plan: East or West Facing](#)
- [Nashville Plan: North or South Facing](#)

Two Teacher Plans

- [Nashville Plan: East or West Facing](#)
- [Nashville Plan: North or South Facing A](#)
- [Nashville Plan: North or South Facing B](#)

Three Teacher Plans

- [Nashville Plan: East or West Facing](#)
- [Nashville Plan: North or South Facing](#)

Four Teacher Plans

- [Nashville Plan: East or West Facing](#)
- [Nashville Plan: North or South Facing](#)
- [Nashville Plan: East or West+Auditorium](#)

Five Teacher Plans

- [Tuskegee Plan](#)
- [Nashville Plan: East or West Facing](#)
- [Nashville Plan: North or South Facing](#)

Six Teacher Plans

- [Nashville Plan: East or West Facing](#)
- [Nashville Plan: North or South Facing](#)
- [Nashville Plan: East or West+Auditorium](#)

Seven Teacher Plans

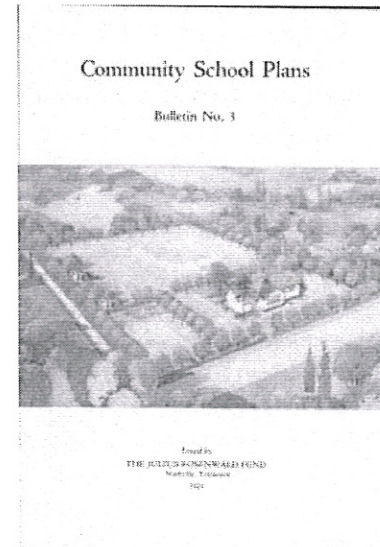
- [Nashville Plan: East or West Facing](#)
- [Nashville Plan: North or South Facing](#)

Other Buildings

- [Tuskegee Plan: Five Room Teacher Home](#)
- [Tuskegee Plan: Three Room Teacher Home](#)
- [Nashville Plan: 2 Bdrm Teacher House](#)
- [Nashville Plan: 3 Bdrm Teacher House](#)
- [Tuskegee Plan: Industrial Bld.](#)
- [Tuskegee Plan: Privy](#)
- [Nashville Plan: Privy](#)

Community School Plans, Bulletin No.3
Issued by THE JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND
Nashville, Tennessee, 1924

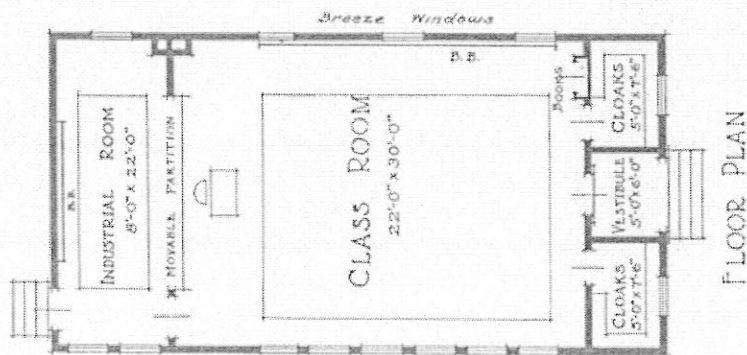
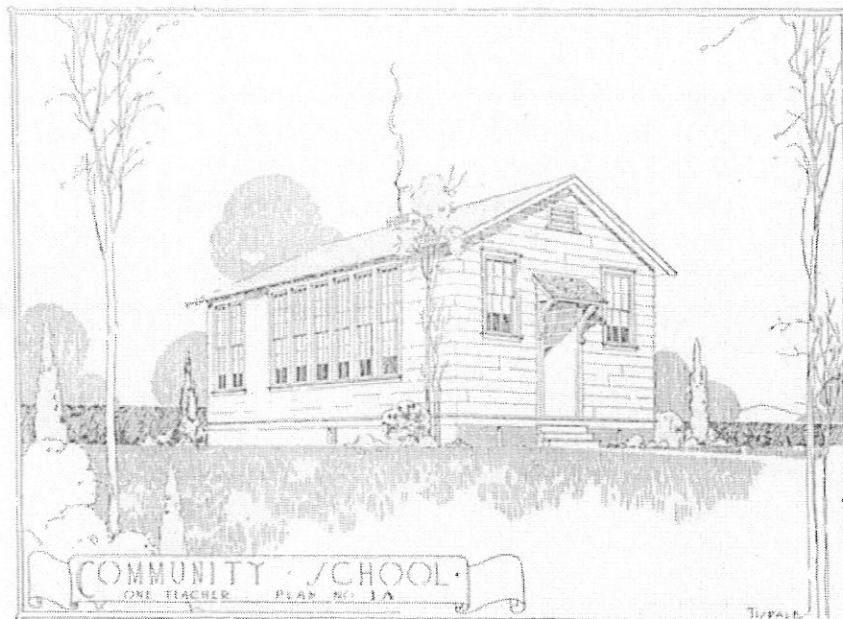
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COMMUNITY SCHOOL PLANS

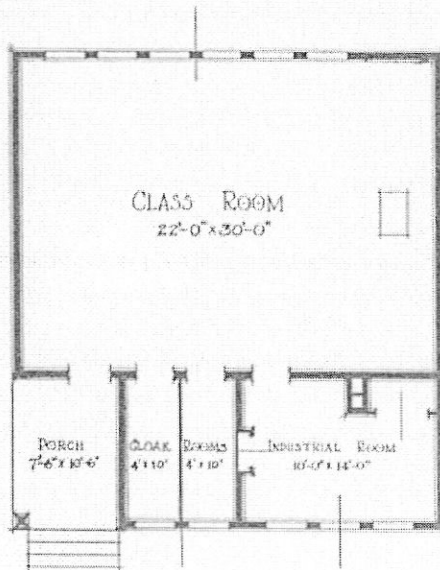


ONE-TEACHER
COMMUNITY SCHOOL PLAN NO 1-A
TO FACE NORTH OR SOUTH ONLY

-4-

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COMMUNITY SCHOOL PLANS



FLOOR PLAN

COMMUNITY SCHOOL PLAN NO. 1
TO FACE EAST OR WEST ONLY

Alterations

1965: After the school closed, a new roof was put on, new paint was applied, and a new floor was placed over the original floor surface. Work was done by then-owners, *The Walker County 6 Point Association*, which included John Parker (Parker, J.L., July 2013).

1970s: Second exterior door was cut and second set of steps added; work performed by John Parker (Parker, J.L., July 2013).

1990: Building was moved from its original Morgan Road location to its present AL Mining Museum location. Move was done by Guthrie House Moving of Nauvoo, AL. Diagonal brace was put on the end of the building to secure it before the move, and the brace still remains (Lovelady, R., July 2013).

Roof had to be removed in order to relocate the building (Groves, B., April 2014).

After moving, a new shingled roof was applied, and the chimney was repaired. The ceiling was repaired with matching tongue in groove material from a local school. The original wooden set of steps was replaced, and the foundation support piers were put into place. This work, as well as the aforementioned brace application, was performed by Ray Roberts, a carpenter who worked for the Mining Museum (Lovelady, R., April 2014).

2012: New green metal roof was placed by G & H Construction Company (Lovelady, R., April 2014).

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Outbuildings

1. Building being nominated is the *Wyatt School*, which is an "outbuilding", or annex of the Alabama Mining Museum.
2. The Alabama Mining Museum is the main building on the museum campus.
3. The Oakman Depot is also on the campus for visitor tours. It is the original train depot that was relocated from Oakman, AL over 23 years ago (Groves, B., 2013).
4. Early 1900s Post Office building from Kellerman, AL is on campus, and has been for 21 years (Groves, B., 2014).
5. Brick church building with two levels is on campus, and is currently used only for storage (Groves, B., 2013).
6. An AL Central Railroad locomotive engine, a Frisco caboose, and a B'ham Southern ore car in between them, are on campus, also. They are situated between the Mining Museum and the Depot; the Wyatt School faces the RR display.

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Exterior Architectural Description

The Wyatt School is a one-story wood frame building, rectangular shaped, with a low pitched side-gabled roof. Decorative triangular braces mark the center and edges of the front and rear roof overhangs. The exterior of the building is covered by 4" horizontal clapboard, and it is painted white.

Doorways: A transom is located above the original entrance. Both the door and transom are covered by a shed roof on triangular brackets. There is a small set of steps to this door.

The second door with steps has neither a transom nor a door hood.

Windows: The current east-facing wall includes five connected, double-hung windows. The west wall contains a single small window situated high up in the wall. The current north end wall (outside the cloakroom) has two double-hung windows.

Foundation: Sixteen brick piers set in three rows.

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Description of Setting

Original setting: This one room school house was built as a venue for the education of African American elementary-aged children in the Wyatt, Yerewood, and Burnwell mining communities (Lovelady, R., July 2013) of Walker County, AL. Until its construction in 1926-27, there had been no area school for black children, since blacks and whites were not allowed to attend the same schools.

Wyatt School was situated on a five acre site adjacent to the Dawson School, which was the already existing elementary school for white children (Henderson, B., January 2014).

The Wyatt School building was accessed by a footpath off of a gravel road (now paved and called Morgan Road). There was a well in front of the school, and there were two stalled toilets at the rear of the school (Parker, J., July 2013).

Present Day Setting: The present-day setting reflects the school's original coal mine and railroad-oriented setting. The Wyatt School serves the Alabama Mining Museum as an essential part of its education tour format, particularly as geared toward school-age children.

The Wyatt/Burnwell community revolved around the Burnwell and Yerewood coal mines, as well as around the Southern and Frisco Railroads. (HABS, 1994).

The school building is now part of a history tour that includes re-creations of the following: A commissary, a mining company home, a mining company doctor's office, a time/pay office, and much more. These re-creations employ actual, authentic artifacts and properties.

Since the school had to be re-located in order to preserve it, it is situated in an ideal location to educate children and future generations. The children learn not only about this area's rich coal industry past, but about pre-civil rights; about early education, and how it was not readily and equally available to all.

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Statement of Significance

Architectural

The Wyatt School's architectural design is an example of a one teacher-type Nashville Plan school, based on the *Community School Plans Bulletin No. 3* (HistorySouth.org, 2014). Wyatt plans were approved plans, and therefore received Rosenwald funding in 1926 to get the building started (Fisk, 2014). "Not all Rosenwald schools followed the Tuskegee or community school plans. To qualify for funding, the Rosenwald program only required an 'approved plan'." (National Trust for Historic Preservation, 2013).

Community Planning

Although Wyatt School was originally started with Rosenwald Fund monies, those funds were matched/added to by the community, mostly African Americans (Fisk, 2014). Since Dawson Elementary, a school for white children, already existed by provision of the Board of Education, the community recognized the need for a school for the area's African American children (HABS, 1994). With Rosenwald's original \$400, the local African American community's contribution of \$950, and the "public" (meaning "not Negroes") expanding it \$450 more, the school was built for \$1800.00 (Fisk, 2014). The community came together and donated salvaged materials as well as labor and time to raise the school house (HABS, 1994). All the Rosenwald Schools were raised with the same community collaboration (Sears Archives, 2014), and according to Rosenwald Fund, they were "...not merely a series of schoolhouses, but ...a community enterprise in cooperation between citizens and officials, white and colored." (HistorySouth.org, 2014).

Industry and Education

Wyatt, Burnwell and Yerewood Alabama were all coal mining industry communities, and they were also heavily tied into the railroad industry (HABS, 1994). These communities had blacks and whites who were totally dependent on the mining industry, and in turn, a state's growth was dependent upon the laborers working those mines. The Wyatt area's mining families' needed local elementary school houses within walking distance of the mining camps. Dawson was for whites, and after Rosenwald funding, Wyatt was built at Dawson's "back door" for the African American children.

Politics and Government

"Separate but equal" doctrine was the US Constitution's basis for segregation, and the policy was also applied to the public schools (National Archives, 2014).

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Social History and Education

"Separate but equal" policy swelled with inequalities; the absence of schools for African American children was a glaring example in the smaller, poor mining towns. Politics were THE reason African American children were left behind in education. Thankfully, ex-slave turned Tuskegee Institute leader Booker T. Washington partnered with philanthropist Julius Rosenwald to form the Rosenwald Foundation (HistorySouth.org, 2014). If those two men had not come together to collaborate, who knows how much more African American children in the South would have had to struggle for an education and personal livelihood?

The Wyatt School, within the Alabama Mining Museum setting, is a history lesson for today's children and adults. The school represents and exists because of the struggles that faced African Americans in the poor south; the barriers to education as well as to most everything else. The school building is something tangible that today's educators use to teach our youth about Alabama's social and industrial history.

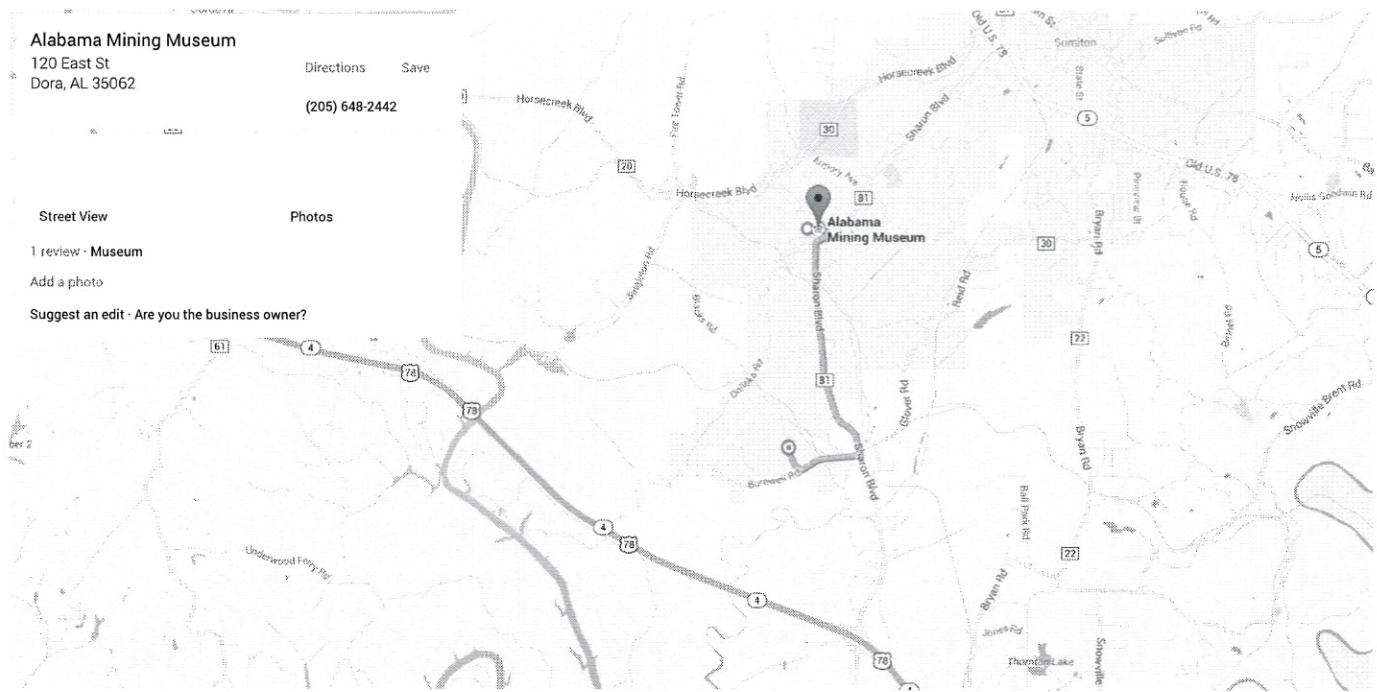
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References

- Fisk University, Rosenwald Database, Nashville, TN, 14 March 2014.
- Interview, Bonnie Groves, Director Alabama Mining Museum 1991-present, interview by author. Dora, AL, 16 April 2013.
- Interview, Bonnie Groves, Director Alabama Mining Museum 1991-present, interview by author. Jasper, AL, 3 April 2014.
- Historic American Buildings Survey, HABS No. AL-978-B *Alabama Mining Museum, Wyatt School*. Washington, DC. Fall 1994. p. 8. <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/pnp/habshaer/al/al1100/al1129/data>
- HistorySouth.org, *Community School Plans Bulletin No. 3*, Charlotte, NC, 25 February 2014, www.historysouth.org/ischools/CommunitySchoolPlans.pdf
- HistorySouth.org, *Rosenwald School History*, Charlotte, NC, 25 February 2014, <http://www.historysouth.org/schoolhistory.html>
- Interview, Billy Ray Henderson, resident of former Dawson School property; site adjacent to former Wyatt School location, phone interview by author. Jasper, AL, 3 January 2014.
- Interview, Richard Lovelady, Board Member Alabama Mining Museum 1984-present, interview by author. Dora, AL, 10 July 2013.
- Interview, Richard Lovelady, Board Member Alabama Mining Museum 1984-present, phone interview by author. Jasper, AL, 2 April 2014.
- Interview, John Lewis Parker, former student at Wyatt School; Spokesman Walker County 6 Point Association 1965-present; resident on property adjacent to former Wyatt School location, interview by author. Quinton, AL, 10 July 2013.
- National Archives, College Park, MD, 5 April 2014, <http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/brown-v-board/timeline.html>
- National Trust for Historic Preservation, *Preserving Rosenwald Schools* by Mary S. Hoffschwelle, Washington, DC, December 2013, <http://www.preservationnation.org/travel-and-sites/sites/southern-region/rosenwald-schools/history.html#Community>
- Sears Archives, *What is the Julius Rosenwald Foundation?* Hoffman Estates, IL, 25 February 2014, <http://searsarchives.com/people/questions/rosenwaldfoundation.htm>

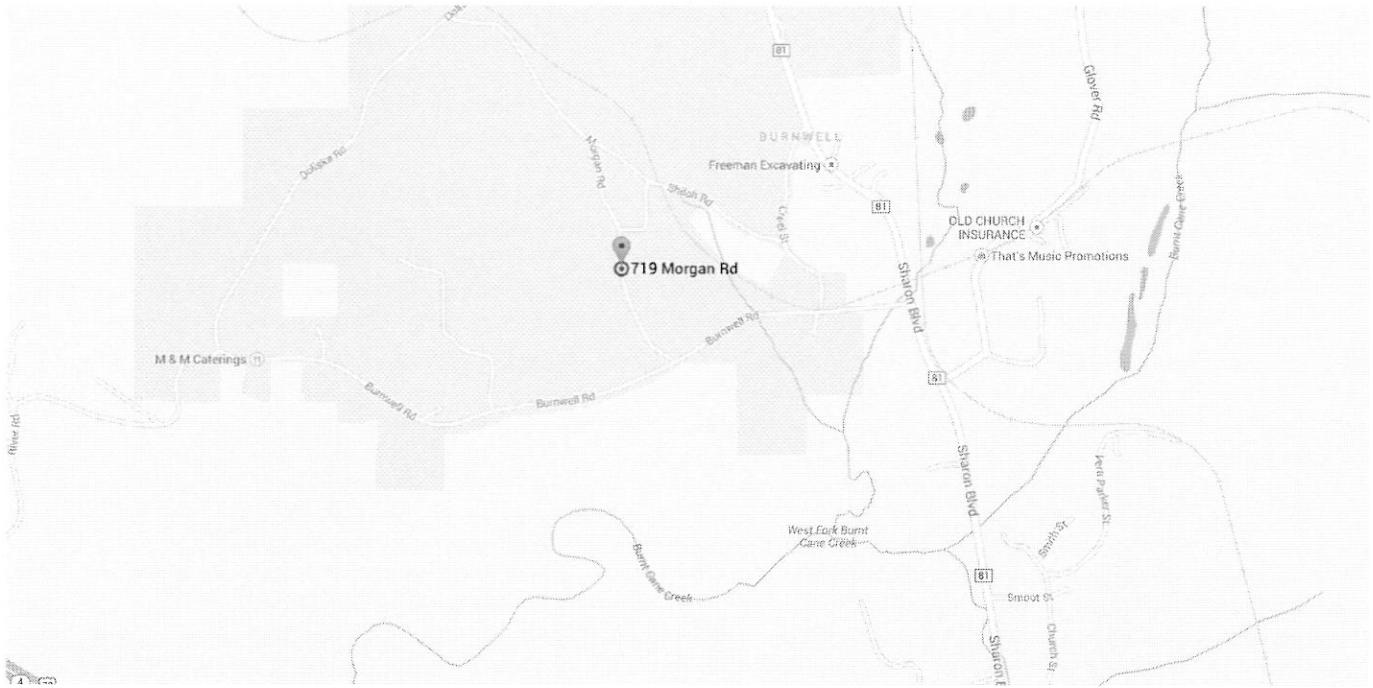
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#9 Geo Data Maps



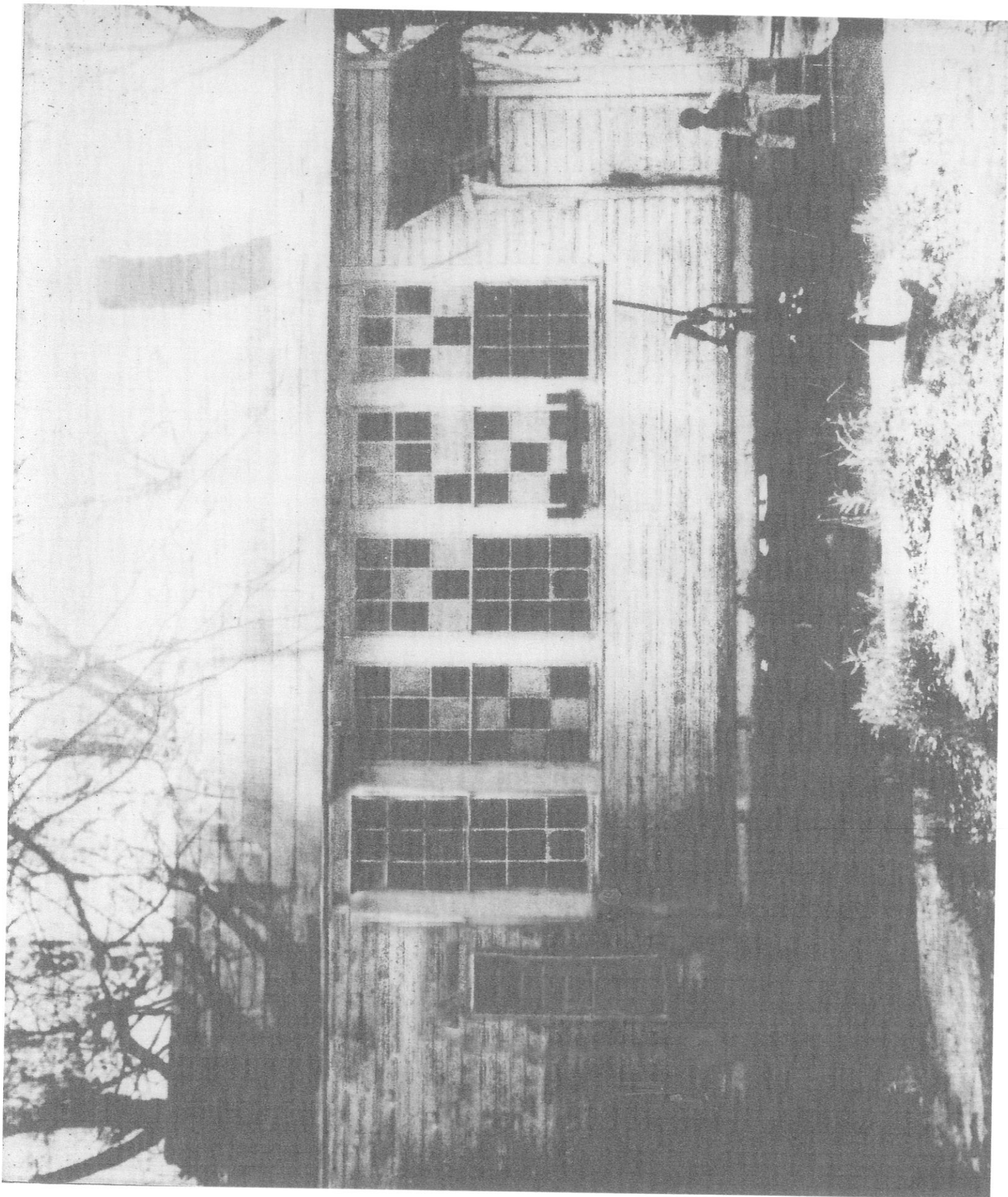
The Wyatt School is now situated at 120 East St, Dora, AL 35062, which is the Alabama Mining Museum campus.

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The Wyatt school was situated in the 719-733 vicinity on Morgan Road, Quinton, AL 35130

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