ALABAMA REGISTER OF LANDMARKS AND HERITAGE
Nomination Form

1. Name
historic Mt. Sinai School / Mt. Sinai Community Center
and/or common

2. Location
street & number 1820 County Road 57
city, town Prattville ---vicinity of
state Alabama county Autauga zip 36067

3. Classification
Category Ownership Status Present Use
___district X public _occupied _agriculture _museum
___building(s) _private X unoccupied _commercial _park
___structure both _work in progress _educational _private residence
___site Public Acquisition Accessible _government _religious
___object _in process _yes: restricted _entertainment _scientific
___being considered _yes: unrestricted _industrial _transportation
___no _no _military _other:

4. Owner of Property
name Mt. Sinai Community Center Phone number 334-365-5817
street & number 1820 County Road 57
city, town Prattville, Alabama ---vicinity of zip 36067

5. Floor plan & site plan. Use space below to sketch floor plan and site plan or attach additional sheet.

FLOOR PLAN
1949-1949

CLASS 2
32' 24'

INDUSTRIAL ROOM
18' 12'

CLASS 1
32' 18'

12' 6'

18' 24'

6'
6. Description (See attached instructions for specific guidelines.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Check one</th>
<th>Check one</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>excellent</td>
<td>deteriorated</td>
<td>original site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>good</td>
<td>ruins</td>
<td>date moved</td>
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<tr>
<td>fair</td>
<td>unexposed</td>
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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance.

The Mount Sinai School began approximately 81 years ago in a church with one teacher and about 100 students. The school was financed by the families. This school was moved from the Mt. Sinai Baptist Church to a one room frame building located between Mt. Sinai Church and Booth Station, Alabama. It remained in this building until it was blown down at which time it was moved back to the church. It was rebuilt at its present site, and in 1919 a Rosenwald School was built on the site and the teaching staff was increased to three teachers.

In 1949 a fourth teacher was added. Since there were only three rooms to the school the fourth teacher taught in the church located nearby. In 1950, five hundred ($500.00) was raised by Parent Teachers Association to be matched with county funds for the purpose of building another room to the school.

Dating from 1919, the Mount Sinai School is a one-story white wood frame building. It was constructed under the Rosenwald School program as the Mount Sinai School.

The buildings T-shape foundations consist of brick pillows approximately two and a half feet from the ground. The interior framing consist of tongue and groove lumber nailed to two by four studs. The interior consist of boards nailed together.

The exterior of the building is made of boards over lapping each other. The original walls are still apart of the building as it stands.

This building has twenty two windows and three entrance doors. The roof of this building is V-shape and the present covering consist of ½ inch decking covered with black shingles. This building had two chimneys, but were discontinued when the roof was replaced. The main entrance doors are located on front of the building facing the highway.

The building faces west toward the highway. The door used the most to enter is located on the south room. There are two doors located on the north side of the room that extends out toward the highway. These doors are 36 inches in width with double panels. There are seven windows on the front of the building. The windows are double hung and there are 6 panes in each sash. The windows are trimmed in aluminum. The windows on the back consist of double sash with 6 panes. There are fifteen windows on the back. The windows are faced with 1 inch by six-inch boards.
Two of the rooms have their original tongue and groove lumber on the walls. Two rooms have been covered with sheet rock.

The floor material consist of tongue groove lumber. The original floor is still there. The building did not have light fixtures in the beginning. Later it was wired for electric lights. The heating consist four cast iron heaters. There are two that still remain in the building.

There have been some alteration to the building. In the 1940's another room was added to the original Rosenwald structure. Later the building was under penned with blocks in between the original pillows. Two restrooms were installed. Two rooms have been covered with sheet rock. The roof has been changed from tin to shingles.

The general setting to the Mount Sinai School is as follows. The building is located about 8 miles north of Prattville, Alabama in Autauga County. It is located next to the Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist Church. It faces west toward County Road 57. There is a housing development north of the building. There are no out buildings to be included in the nomination.
The Mount Sinai School began approximately 81 years in a church with one teacher and about 100 students. The school was financed by the families. This school was moved from the Mt. Sinai Baptist Church to a one room frame building located between Mt. Sinai Church and Booth Station, Alabama. It remained in this building until it was blown down at which it was moved back to the church. It was rebuilt at its present site, and in 1919 a Rosenwald School was built and the teaching staff was increased to three.

In 1949 a fourth teacher was added, since there were only three rooms to the school the fourth teacher taught in the church located near by.

This information came from a committee of Autauga County Teachers with Mrs. Mary E. Bracy as a special contributor. We feel that a building to this historic importance of African Americans should be maintained for posterity. Since it is the only one out of the six Rosenwald schools still standing in Autauga County. We believe it could serve as a history lesson for students in Alabama.
8. Major Bibliographical References

See Brochures ATTACHED

9. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property: Five Acres

Quadrangle name _________

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

See map (ATTACHED)

10. Form Prepared By

name/title: Mack M. Hooser, /Zenobia Marshall
organization: Mount Sinai Community Center
street & number: 1820 County Road 57

city or town: Prattville, state: Ala, zip: 36067

date: 1/2/91, telephone: 334-366-5817

11. Please submit color slides of the property with this form.

Color slides are essential to the review process.

12. Please return ALABAMA REGISTER form and documentation to:

Alabama Register Coordinator
Alabama Historical Commission
468 South Perry Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0900
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number E  Page 66

Rosenwald Schools (cont'd)

Two Teacher Community School
To face North or South Only

Class Room
22'4" x 13'0"-

Class Room
15'6" x 13'0"

Floor Plan No 2-C

Two Teacher Community School
To face East or West Only

Class Room
20'4" x 13'6"

Class Room
15'6" x 13'0"

Floor Plan No 2-D

Two Teacher Community School
To face North or South Only

Class Room
22'4" x 13'0"

Class Room
15'6" x 13'0"
**ALABAMA SURVEY FORM**

**IDENTIFICATION**
- Structure Number: 721
- Photograph Number: Roll 52 Negative 132, Roll 108 Negative 24
- County Name: Autauga
- Historic Name: Mt. Sinai Consolidated School
- Common Name:  

**LOCATION**
- Street Number: County Road 57
- Street Name:  
- Town/Nearest Community: Mt. Sinai
- Proximity to Town:
  - Unknown
  - N/A
  - Within Town limits
  - Within 1 mile
- Quadrangle Sheet: Old Kingston
- Tax Map Number:  

**CATEGORY/USE/CONDITION**
- TYPE: Building
- USE: Original School

**DESCRIPTION - EXTERIOR**

**STYLE DEVELOPMENT**
- STYLE GROUP:  

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION**
- COMMON RESIDENTIAL FORM:
- NON RESIDENTIAL FORM:

**CONDITION:**
- Unknown
- N/A
- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Deteriorated
- Ruin
- Other:  

**THREATS:**
- Unknown
- N/A
- Abandonment
- Development-Public
- Development-private
- Other:  

**ROOF**
- MAIN ROOF CONFIGURATION:  

**DESCRIPTION - PROPERTY**

**SETTING**
- Unknown
- Rural, undisturbed
- Rural, built up
- Small town, less than 12,500
- Urban, over 12,500
- Other:  

**OUTBUILDINGS/SUPPORT:**
(Select up to 6)  

**PORCH**
- PRINCIPAL PORCH HEIGHT:
- PRINCIPAL PORCH WIDTH:
- PRINCIPAL PORCH ROOF CONFIGURATION:

**CONSTRUCTION:** Frame

**EXTERIOR WALL MATERIAL**
- ORIGINAL:  

**REPLACEMENT:**
- Unknown
- N/A
TOTAL NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTING OUTBUILDINGS: 0

LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

- Unknown
- N/A

YARD SETTING

- Casual/unplanned
- Designed plantings/planting beds
- Designed drives/walks
- Designed fencing/walls

- Formal/geometric
- Informal/picturesque
- Terracing/contouring/retaining walls

STREETSCAPES

- Artwork/commemorative monument
- Fountain
- Median
- Ornamental paving

- Planters
- Street furniture
- Street trees/landscaping
- Town square/courthouse square

RURAL LANDSCAPE

- Drainage/irrigation
- Fence/hedgerows
- Field systems
- Pasture

- Pecan/other groves/orchards
- Terracing/contouring

FOREST/WOODS

- Natural
- Planted

- Other:

GENERAL PROPERTY DESCRIPTION:


HISTORICAL INFORMATION

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1919

MAJOR ALTERATIONS

1. Remade west side c.1940

NOTES: 12:6 (replaced), brick piers w/concrete black infill, side at front addition, Rosenwald School

SIGNIFICANCE

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

- Unknown
- N/A
- State
- National
- Local

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE:

- Architecture, Education, Ethnic Heritage

EVALUATION

SURVEYOR'S NAME:


OFFICE EVALUATOR:

DATE:

NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY

- Insufficient Information
- Individual-Field determined
- Individual-NR Listed
- District-Field determined
- District-NR Listed

OWNERSHIP

OWNERSHIP GROUP

- Unknown
- N/A
- Public-State
- Public-Federal
- Public-Unknown
- Public-Local
- Other:

OWNER'S NAME/ADDRESS

First Name

Last Name

Street Address

City

State

Zip Code
MOUNT SINAI SCHOOL
1820 County Road 57
Prattville, Autauga County 36067

OWNER:
Mt. Sinai Community Center
1820 County Road 57
Prattville, AL 36067
334-365-5817

CONTACT:
Mack Houser/Zenobia Marshall
Mt. Sinai Community Center
1820 County Road 57
Prattville, AL 36067
334-365-5817

SUMMARY:
Constructed in 1919 as a 3-room structure, the Mount Sinai School remains as the only extant Rosenwald School in Autauga. (A portion of the Home Economics building at the Autauga Training School in Autaugaville also remains). It faces west and is situated on 5 acres of rural land, approximately 8 miles north of Prattville, adjacent to the Mount Sinai Missionary Baptist Church, a c.1949 molded concrete block structure. The original school building featured a T-plan, with two large (24' x 32') classrooms forming the top of the “T” and a small (12' x 24') industrial arts room forming the leg and the west front facade. Two exterior doors provided access into the two classrooms, on the west facade of the SW and NW corners of the intersecting “T”. Interior doors provide access to the industrial arts room from each classroom, and a wide opening joins the two large rooms. In the late 1940s, a third classroom of equal size was added on the north end and the front wall of the industrial arts room was extended fourteen feet to the west providing an additional classroom (28' x 24'). This arrangement remains to the present, having accommodated one teacher in each of the four classrooms.

Materials are largely intact, though damage through neglect has occurred since the closing of the school in 1967. A foundation of brick piers has been enclosed with concrete block. Original weatherboard siding is in good condition, and a new asphalt shingle roof replaced the earlier tin. The roof is a cross-gable configuration and features exposed eaves of the early-twentieth-century Craftsman period. Small shed-roof door hoods cover the original entrances and are supported by Craftsman-influenced brackets. Windows are grouped in banks of five double hung sashes, spanning the east facade of the three large classrooms and the south facade of the industrial arts room. Original wood sashes in the industrial arts room have been replaced with 12/6 aluminum frame sashes, but other deteriorated 6/6 double hung wood sashes remain in the two original rooms. Fenestration on the north addition was carried out in the five-sash arrangement but in a disproportionately small size. Doors are in fairly good condition and feature various arrangements of wood panels.

On the interior, tongue-and-groove boards cover the floor, walls, and ceiling, except where sheetrock has been installed (west room and portions of south room). In the characteristically sparse treatment of African American schools, decorative features are void. An open stage remains in the south classroom, and a blackboard, piano, and organ remain in the north addition. Numerous desks and pews also remain, as do three pot-bellied stoves used to heat the building. Storage cabinets and storage/cloak rooms are retained, and two baths and electrical wiring were added (date unknown).
The Mount Sinai School dates from an earlier institution, organized around 1891 with one teacher in the Mount Sinai church. Local historians believe as many as 100 children attended this school. A one-room frame building was constructed in the vicinity, but when it succumbed to a storm, classes returned to the church. In 1919, through the funding of the Rosenwald program, the existing building was constructed on a five-acre site adjacent to the church. Local school history documents that a fourth teacher was added in 1949, and the north classroom was added the following year, with $500 funded by the PTA and matching funds furnished by the county. The Brown Town School was consolidated into Mount Sinai in 1954. School historians record that the mission of the faculty was to teach citizenship, yielding skills and attitudes to prepare each student for “civic, social, and personal adjustments.” Enrollment in 1956 included 118 students and four teachers. Improvements for the year included painting of the exterior, purchase of two sets of encyclopedia, leveling of the playground, and completion of a well. [Autauga County (Negro) Schools].

Rosenwald Fund records indicated that the school was constructed as a Type II building (two-teacher) dating from Budget Year 1 (this is probably dated from the year the program moved to Nashville). “A copy of the plan, Floor Plan No. 20, Two Teacher Community School, “ indicated that the building was to face either east or west, subscribing to the prevailing progressive educational theories of providing optimal natural lighting. Records indicate that the school was constructed at a cost of $1325, with $525 provided by the local Negro population, $0 from the white population, and $300 from public funds, and $500 from Rosenwald funds. (Rosenwald Schools National Register Nomination).

The Mount Sinai School operated until the late 1960s, when school consolidation and desegregation led to its closing. In 1967, Mount Sinai students were transferred to the Autauga County Training School in Autaugaville. Following the school’s closing, the Mount Sinai Community Association purchased the building and 5 acres for $800 in 1967 (deed). A few years later, in 1973, the group incorporated as the Mount Sinai Community Center, Inc. (incorporation documentation). They have worked to maintain the building, installing rest rooms in the 1980s, underpinning and enclosing the foundation around 1990, adding a new roof around 1991, and dry wall in portions of the classrooms around 1995. Local community functions have been held in the building periodically over the years. The local non-profit group is seeking assistance in restoring the building to its historic integrity and has already consulted Montgomery architect Robert Clark (?), a Tuskegee University graduate, to conduct a renovation feasibility study. They are seeking recognition through the Alabama Register to bring about public support for their preservation efforts.
MOUNT SINAI SCHOOL, Autauga County
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The Mount Sinai School is eligible for listing on the Alabama Register under Criterion A in the areas of education and African American ethnic heritage and under Criterion C in the area of architecture. As the last remaining of six Rosenwald schools in Autauga County (except for a portion of the Home Economics building at Autauga County Training School), it depicts a rare example of the type and style of school facility provided for African Americans during the early twentieth century and embodies the application of the progressive educational philosophy of philanthropist Julius Rosenwald. 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 from the historic period and a few recent reversible modifications such as the installation of aluminum windows and dry wall.