

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Hopewell School

Other name/site number: Hopewell Rosenwald School

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic and Architectural Resources Associated with the Rosenwald School Building Program

2. Location

Street & number: 690 State Hwy 21 West

City or town: Cedar Creek

State: Texas

County: Bastrop

Not for publication: N/A

Vicinity: ☐

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 at the following levels of significance: ☐ national ☐ statewide ☒ local

Applicable National Register Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
Signature of certifying official / Title

State Historic Preservation Officer

4/20/15
Date

Texas Historical Commission

State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register
☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
☐ removed from the National Register
☐ other, explain: _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Hopewell School, Cedar Creek, Bastrop County, Texas

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Private
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public - Federal

Category of Property

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	District
<input type="checkbox"/>	Site
<input type="checkbox"/>	Structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	Object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	Buildings
0	0	Sites
0	0	Structures
0	0	Objects
1	0	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: None

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions: EDUCATION/school

Current Functions: SOCIAL: meeting hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification: Late 19th and early 20th Century American Movements: Craftsman

Principal Exterior Materials: WOOD

Narrative Description (see continuation sheets 6 through 7)

Hopewell School, Cedar Creek, Bastrop County, Texas

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
<input type="checkbox"/>	B	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
<input type="checkbox"/>	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.
<input type="checkbox"/>	D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations: N/A

Areas of Significance: EDUCATION, ETHNIC HERITAGE/African American

Period of Significance: 1921-1959

Significant Dates: 1921

Significant Person (only if criterion b is marked): NA

Cultural Affiliation (only if criterion d is marked): NA

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (see continuation sheets 8 through 12)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography (see continuation sheet 13)

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 (*Texas Historical Commission, Austin*)
- ☐ Other state agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☒ Other -- Specify Repository: *Texas State Library and Archive Commission*

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): NA

Hopewell School, Cedar Creek, Bastrop County, Texas

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: Approximately 2.4 acres

Coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (use decimal degree format)

Datum if other than WGS84: NA

1. Latitude: 30.097900 Longitude: 97.461114

Verbal Boundary Description: The nominated building is on a rectangular parcel of approximately 2.5 acres, including the entirety of a lot owned by the Hopewell Community Center (legal description "A7 Barker, Martha, Acres 2.0000" and parcel number R68997) and the eastern 0.4 acres of the adjacent lot to the southwest owned by Hopewell Primitive Baptist Church (legal description "A7 Barker, Martha, Acres 2.5000" and parcel number R68996). The southwest boundary is drawn in the center of the parking lot.

Boundary Justification: The nomination includes the property historically associated with the building, including the primary lot upon which the building sits, and a small portion of the adjacent lot, the boundary of which runs close to the southwest side of the building.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title: Karen Riles (with assistance from National Register Coordinator Gregory Smith)
Organization: Hopewell/ Rosenwald Restoration Project
Street & number: 305 Lynch St.
City or Town: Smithville State: Texas Zip Code: 78957
Email: ourstory226@yahoo.com
Telephone: 512.360.4447
Date: November 2014

Additional Documentation

Maps (see continuation sheet 14 through 16)

Additional items (see continuation sheets 17 and 18)

Photographs (see continuation sheets 19 through 31)

Hopewell School, Cedar Creek, Bastrop County, Texas

Photographs

Hopewell School
Cedar Creek, Bastrop County, TX
Photographed by Gregory Smith, April 2015 (except as noted)

Photo 1
Southwest Oblique of Hopewell School at right
Hopewell Primitive Baptist Church at left (on adjacent
lot; not included in nomination)
Camera facing northeast

Photo 2
South Elevation
Camera facing north

Photo 3
West elevation
Camera facing east

Photo 4
East Elevation
Camera facing west

Photo 5
North elevation
Camera facing south

Photo 6
Classroom entrance, from rear of Industrial Room
Camera facing south

Photo 7
Classroom, looking towards rear of building
Camera facing north

Photo 8
Classroom, from industrial room partition
Camera facing south

Photo 9
Industrial room, showing floor seam at the addition
Camera facing north
Photographed by David Porter, June 2014

Photo 10
Classroom window (west side)
Camera facing northwest

Photo 11
East side interior wall with chalk boards
Camera facing southeast

Photo 12
West cloak room interior
Camera facing southwest
Photographed by David Porter, June 2014

Photo 13
Wood stove in classroom
Camera facing northeast

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Hopewell School, Cedar Creek, Bastrop County, Texas

Narrative Description

The 1921-22 Hopewell School is on State Highway 21 West in Cedar Creek, in west-central Bastrop County, Texas. It is situated on a hill in a rural setting approximately 100 feet east of Hopewell Primitive Baptist Church. The building is a one-teacher type Rosenwald school constructed using Community School Plan No. 1-A. The one-story, framed building features minimal, Craftsman-inspired details including front-facing gabled roof, with exposed rafter tails and knee braces. Each elevation displays a different window pattern corresponding to an interior function. The south elevation displays a bank of six large 9/9 windows in the front section and two additional 9/9 windows in rear section. The south elevation (front) has two 6/6 windows on each side of the entryway. The east elevation has a bank of three characteristic "breeze windows" and a single 9/9 window on the rear section. The building is linear in design with short concrete pier supports. A chimney is located on the east elevation. The interior of the school has four rooms including, two cloak rooms, a large classroom and a smaller industrial room separated by a movable partition. Modifications include the expansion of the rear elevation, which falls within the period of significance. The relatively unaltered exterior retains a high degree of integrity of location, setting, feeling association, design, materials and workmanship.

Hopewell School is located on State Highway 21 West in the small rural community of Cedar Creek in Bastrop County. The school remains in its original location on a hill next to Hopewell Primitive Baptist Church. The school building stands on the original land donated by members of the community in 1919.

Rosenwald schools were constructed using standardized plans that typically can be identified by the number of classrooms, which corresponded to the number of teachers. Plans ranged from one-teacher to twelve-teacher types.¹ Hopewell School is a one-teacher school, built using Community School Plan 1-A. This plan features a "classroom," an "industrial room," and two "cloak rooms." A movable partition divided the two spaces (no longer in place but remains in building) and was opened to accommodate community meetings or special school functions. Community School Plans specified how the building should be oriented on the property, maximizing light and ventilation. Plan 1-A specifies that the building should be oriented either north or south. Hopewell faces south making it consistent with those specifications.

Interior

Community School Plan 1-A also specified room dimensions for each space: Cloak rooms (5' x 7' 6"), classroom (22' x 30'), and industrial room (8' x 22')². However, the dimensions of the school's four interior spaces vary slightly from the original plan specifications: Cloak rooms (7' x 5' 2" and 7'9" x 5' 6"), classroom (22' 2" x 30'), and industrial room (22' 2" x 11' 2"). It's not known exactly when the industrial room was extended by an additional three feet (adding 66 square feet in area), but interviews with former students reveal that the addition was part of the school when they attended in the early 1940s.³ Access to the industrial room, when the moveable partition was closed, was through a door on the west side of the classroom. That door still remains. Along the east and north walls are the original blackboards. Openings for the chimney flue are visible on the east side of the two rooms. The floors feature the original unpainted tongue-and-groove wood planks, and the walls are comprised of horizontal wood siding and ceilings are constructed with beadboard planks.

¹ *Historic and Architectural Resources Associated with the Rosenwald School Building Program.*

² *Community School One Teacher Plan No. 1-A.*

³ *Interviews by author with former Hopewell School attendees, Cedar Creek, 2013.*

Hopewell School, Cedar Creek, Bastrop County, Texas

Exterior

The exterior of the school features painted white clapboard/weatherboard siding, and a front-facing gabled roof with exposed rafter tails. The roof is corrugated sheet metal that has rusted over the decades with the exception of the section over the industrial room. This section of the dilapidated roof was replaced in recent years to stop further rain damage to the school's interior. The wood beam foundation stands on eleven concrete piers with no skirting, which allows air to easily circulate underneath the building.

The front (south) elevation features a front-facing gabled roof with an attic vent. A shed roof with knee braces covers the vestibule. Two 6/6 paned glass windows are set on each side (original plans shows only one window per side) of the vestibule and provide light to the cloak rooms on the inside. Three wooden steps lead to the vestibule and front door that provides access to the main classroom. These steps replaced the original wooden ones that had rotted. The rear (north) elevation features minimal fenestration. Like the front, the rear elevation has an attic vent in the gable. There is an original wooden rear exit door. The original shed roof with knee braces covering the exit steps has been removed and the original steps are no longer extant.

The western elevation features a row of six tall 9/9 sash windows serving the classroom, and two sets of paired 9/9 wooden sash windows that serve the industrial room and its addition. The classroom windows on the east side are limited to three single-pane windows set high on the wall above the chalkboards. The industrial room has a single 9/9 sash window on the east side. A brick interior chimney extends through the roof slope on the east side near the rear of the building where the rooms were divided.

During the historic period the landscape on the original acreage reflected the practical needs of the teachers and the curriculum. Students were trained in agricultural techniques in the garden that was planted on the east side of the school. The south elevation once featured a rose garden of red roses with enough space between rows for the boys to remove the weeds. Among the roses were pecan trees. There is a volleyball court on the east side of the schoolhouse dating to 2013.

Today, the school grounds are void of plantings or trees. The trees were removed in 2013 during a property clean-up. On the west side (church side), a variety of trees delineate the property boundaries including pecan, post oak, cedar, and mesquite. Currently trees on the south portion (church front) of the property are being removed to make room for a modern digital sign.

Alterations to the building over the years have been fairly minor. A historic photograph from the Julius Rosenwald Fund Archives (see page 18) reveals minimal change to the building's footprint or fenestration. Unused for many years, it is currently in need of repairs. A once-leaky roof has resulted in damage to the ceiling and floor in the industrial room, and many of the windows have been broken out due to recent vandalism, which allows for further water damage. Despite repair and maintenance issues and minor alterations, the defining features of the building are unchanged. The schoolhouse retains its original siding, doors, and roof line. The extra three feet addition to the rear portion of the building have not obscured the basic design according features of Community School Plan 1-A, and the setting is intact. Therefore the schoolhouse retains a high degree of integrity of location, association, design, materials, and craftsmanship.

Hopewell School, Cedar Creek, Bastrop County, Texas

Statement of Significance

The Hopewell School in Cedar Creek, Bastrop County, Texas was constructed in 1921-22 with funds from the Rosenwald Rural School Building Program, established in 1917 for the educational advancement of African American children in the South.⁴ The building is a physical reminder of the philanthropic program and the self-help philosophy that Rosenwald advocated. Associated with the period of racial segregation in Bastrop County public schools, the building is one of two extant properties (St. Mary's School is the other property) directly associated with the Rosenwald Rural School Building Program in Bastrop County, and represents an era when legally mandated separate – but rarely equal – accommodations for African American students were the norm throughout the southern United States. The building is an excellent example of a Rosenwald school modeled on Community School Plan 1-A, and is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, in the areas of Education and Ethnic Heritage/Black, at the local level of significance, under the Texas Multiple Property Submission “Historic and Architectural Resources Associated with the Rosenwald Rural School Building Program,” approved by the National Park Service in 1998.

Named for a tributary of the Colorado River, Cedar Creek is an unincorporated community located about 11 miles west of Bastrop in Bastrop County, Texas, around the intersection of Texas State Highway 21 and Farm to Market Road 535. Addison Litton settled this area in 1832 on a league of land situated on both sides of the creek. He and his wife Mary were soon joined by other settlers. The next two decades saw the establishment of a post office, and several churches.⁵

The Hopewell School was built on land that once belonged to the estate of former slaves Martin and Sophia McDonald. Martin McDonald was born in 1848 near Winchester, Tennessee to slave parents Henry and Mariah McDonald. He was one of several children born to his parents. In 1850, two-year-old Martin and his parents were sold to John Moncure who moved them across country by wagon train to Bastrop, Texas. The arduous trek took several months, during which time they ran into bad weather, sickness, and wagon break downs. Once they reached the Moncure property in Bastrop County, Martin and his parents were assigned living quarters and jobs. Over time Martin worked hard and learned from his many responsibilities on the plantation. Eventually he became responsible for the care of the beasts of burden: horses, oxen and mule teams. It was also one of his jobs to ride the donkey at the grist mill to grind the corn into meal for his and other slave families living in the quarters. As he matured, he herded sheep and even was trusted to transport cotton to market in San Antonio, Texas.

It was Martin's desire to someday be free and possess land of his own so that he might also have financial freedom.⁶ His wish was realized after the announcement of the emancipation of slaves reached Texas on June 19, 1865 at Galveston⁷. Word of freedom eventually spread throughout the state and he came to know that he was a free man. After freedom, Martin met Sophia Veal on what was the former Young plantation near Bastrop, Texas. They courted for a time and were married on 28 December 1874. She was 16 and he was 26.⁸ Once they were married, Martin and Sophia established their home in a log cabin in the emerging Hopewell community near Cedar Creek in Bastrop County. The couple was among the first citizens to settle the area and acquire land.

⁴ *Historic and Architectural Resources Associated with the Rosenwald School Building Program.*

⁵ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cedar_Creek,_Texas.

⁶ Thaddeus A. McDonald, “Ex-Slaves Martin and Sofia McDonald Legacy: From Human Property to Human Achievement” (paper presented at the Annual State Convention of the Black Texas Historical Society, July 17, 1992, Austin, TX.)

⁷ <http://www.tshaonline.org>

⁸ McDonald, “Ex-Slaves.”

Hopewell School, Cedar Creek, Bastrop County, Texas

Land ownership was important to Martin and Sophia. On January 1, 1876, the couple purchased 83 acres of land from Mr. Moncure.⁹ The first years on their property involved clearing the land of trees and scrub before they could plant crops. With the help of neighbors, that first year they cleared eight acres by hand. Their primary crops included cotton, corn, hay, and vegetables. Over time their farming operation grew to include livestock and the production of dairy products. Martin's philosophy for living was to earn something at every opportunity. The McDonalds soon earned the reputation of being "thrifty and thrivy." Martin's children recalled one of his sayings, "Earn some money at every chance you get; if you can't make a dollar, make fifty cents; and if you can't make fifty cents, make a quarter." Several times a year he and his family loaded their wagon with wood, eggs, butter, meat and vegetables to sell to customers in Austin, which provided income for the family throughout the year. Martin and Sophia became strong believers of economic independence and self-reliance and promoted this belief among other freedmen in Bastrop County. They encouraged other freedmen to give up sharecropping on plantations in favor of land ownership. And they also advocated for a better life through education. Many heeded McDonald's example and purchased land in the Hopewell community, adding to its growth and development. Over the years, Martin and Sophia continued to add to their land holdings that by 1906 they had 1,100 acres.

The McDonald family grew to include fourteen children, only eight of which lived to adulthood. They taught their children honesty, thrift, uprightness, patience, and perseverance, and instilled in them the importance of the best-possible level of education. All the children attended public and normal schools and several became teachers in the Bastrop County public schools. Religion figured prominently in the McDonald's lives, and early on they became associated with the Hopewell Primitive Baptist Church. Martin McDonald passed away April 3, 1912 at his residence in Cedar Creek, and was buried in the Mt. Olive Cemetery near Bastrop. Sophia passed away on January 17, 1935 and is also buried at Mt. Olive Cemetery. On January 29, 1919 one and one-half acres of land were deeded from the McDonald estate for a church and a school to serve the Hopewell community.¹⁰ The school was constructed in 1921 and Hopewell Primitive Baptist Church at its current location beside the school, in 1950. Both buildings remain today.

The Julius Rosenwald Fund¹¹

Julius Rosenwald was born in Springfield, Illinois in 1862. He began his business career at the age of seventeen as an apprentice in his uncles' clothing firm, and five years later set himself up as clothing merchant in partnership with his brother. Rosenwald joined the firm of Sears, Roebuck and Company in 1897, becoming president of the company in 1909, from which he retired in 1924. Influenced by the biography of William H. Baldwin, Jr. (a northern white man who had devoted himself to promoting African American education in the South) and the autobiography of Booker T. Washington, he established the Rosenwald School Building Program in 1913. The program funded the construction of schools that were to serve as models of rural school design, the first of which was built in 1913 near Tuskegee, Alabama, at a total cost of \$942.50, of which Rosenwald donated \$300.

As the demand for these schools grew, Rosenwald consolidated his financial contributions and formed the Julius Rosenwald Fund in 1917. Although African Americans contributed a larger portion of the total cost of construction, equipment, and grounds, the buildings became universally known as "Rosenwald Schools." Schools built in the early years of the fund did not follow standardized plans and were constructed with inferior materials and workmanship. These buildings soon fell into disrepair thus making it necessary to conduct a thorough condition

⁹ McDonald, "Ex-Slaves."

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Adapted from Karen Riles, *Historical and Architectural Resources Associated with the Rosenwald School Building Program*, Multiple Property Documentation Form, (Texas Historical Commission), 1998.

Hopewell School, Cedar Creek, Bastrop County, Texas

assessment of the schools in 1919. Following the publication of 1920 report by Fletcher B. Dresslar, an authority on schoolhouse construction, the fund was reorganized and Dressler's recommendations regarding optimal school design led to the use of standardized plans for future Rosenwald Schools. A total of 527 Rosenwald Schools were built in Texas.

Hopewell School, 1921-1959

In 1921, Hopewell was one of two schools constructed for African American students in Bastrop County. It is located approximately eleven miles southwest of Bastrop in Cedar Creek. The one-teacher school house stands beside its namesake Hopewell Primitive Baptist Church. It is one of five Rosenwald schools built in Bastrop County and one of two that remain (St. Mary's School, a Two-Teacher Rosenwald, built using Community Plan #20 in the St. Mary community just five miles south of Hopewell).¹²

On January 29, 1919, heirs to the Martin McDonald estate deeded 1.5 acres of land to establish a church and school in the Hopewell community.¹³ The next year the first Rosenwald schools in Texas were completed.¹⁴ The Fund required communities that desired one of these schools to donate, typically two acres, land and other necessities for the construction of these schools.¹⁵ In addition to the requisite two acres on which to build the school, the Fund asked community members to give of their time, skills and financial resources. And they did. According to the Fund's records, Blacks also gave money in the form of personal donations, and as part of the tax-paying public. Archival records for the Hopewell community break down as follows:

Negroes	\$50
Public	\$1,150
<u>Rosenwald</u>	<u>\$500</u>
	\$1,700 ¹⁶

Hopewell School opened during the 1921-22 school year with Artelia McDonald Brown, daughter of Martin and Sophia Martin, as the first teacher.¹⁷ Hopewell was classified as an elementary school for its first twelve (12) years as an educational facility. During the 1933-34 school year it was reclassified as a one-year high school and then a two-year in 1941.¹⁸

According to descriptions from past Hopewell students, their desks faced the teacher's and the partition behind the teacher's desk was kept closed to create another classroom. The desks were positioned in each classroom to allow students optimum lighting for when writing and insured that shadows would be cast to the right of a right-handed

¹²http://rosenwald.fisk.edu/?module=search.details&set_v=aWQ9NzA=&school_build_type=1&school_county=Bastrop&school_state=TX&button=Search&o=0

¹³ McDonald, "Ex-slaves."

¹⁴ Rosenwald School survey files, History Programs Division, Texas Historical Commission.

¹⁵ State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Twenty-second Biennial Report, *Report of the Special Supervisor of Colored Schools*, Austin, TX: 1920-22. p.139

¹⁶http://rosenwald.fisk.edu/?module=search.details&set_v=aWQ9NzA=&school_build_type=1&school_county=Bastrop&school_state=TX&button=Search&o=0

¹⁷ Sophia Williams (Hopewell School student 1941-?), Interview with Karen D. Riles, Personal interview, Cedar Creek, TX, October 14, 2013.

¹⁸ Bastrop County Board of Trustees Minutes. 1921-1959.

Hopewell School, Cedar Creek, Bastrop County, Texas

student. Wood burning stoves were placed in the corners of the east wall to heat the main classroom and the smaller industrial space. The smaller classroom was also used to store books and other school-related material.¹⁹

Former student C. L. Jones recalls that the smaller classroom, during his stint at the school, was used as a kitchen by ladies from the community. These ladies volunteered to prepare meals for those children who didn't bring their lunch from home. Jones attended Hopewell in the mid-1940s and remembers his teacher Mr. W.A. Deshay (the last teacher to teach at Hopewell). Jones recalled that Professor Deshay had planted twelve rows of red roses with rows that extended from the front of the schoolhouse to the entrance of the school grounds near Highway 21. During recess he and other boy students helped prune and plow between the rows, aerating the soil around the rose bushes as needed. At recess boys and girls played on the same playgrounds. Students had the options of playing baseball, marbles, or basketball on one of the three courts that once stood where Hopewell Primitive Baptist Church stands today.

Hopewell, like other black schools in rural Bastrop County during the age of segregation, was under-funded and rarely received new materials. Instead, they received the discarded textbooks, equipment, and furniture from the white schools. Teachers often had to use their own money to purchase needed supplies for their students. Black teachers were paid less than their white counterparts making it necessary to work extra jobs. Mrs. Otha Deshay, a former educator in the rural schools, remembers how teachers often had to work extra jobs during the summer months to augment their personal salaries so that they could buy their home necessities.²⁰

Although standards for classification of elementary schools in Texas required that three or more teachers be employed at a school of seven grades Mr. Jones recalled that at times there was only one teacher who taught all grades and that teacher often allowed older students to help teach the younger ones.²¹ At other times there were two adult teachers who instructed the students. When he attended in the mid-1940s, there were less than 20 children enrolled at Hopewell.

Elois Jones Baker, who attended Hopewell with her siblings in 1944, remembers two teachers taught at the school, Professor W. A. Deshay and Artelia McDonald Brown. When it was time for her to enter high school her parents sent her to Bastrop, even though Hopewell had been classified a high school that went up to the tenth grade since 1941.²² The end of the spring semester was the most important time of the school year for Hopewell. Teacher(s) prepared for weeks leading up to the evening of the "school closing." On that night, each student recited from memory speeches their teacher had selected for them. Parents, family and friends came to show their support. It was a night of food, fun, and community pride.²³

Educational reforms of the late 1940s marked the beginning of the end for Hopewell and the two other schools that made up District 31. The Gilmer-Aikins Laws of 1947, which in part, sought to create more efficient school districts, caused the closing of hundreds of rural schools in Texas and the consolidation of others with independent

¹⁹ C.L. Jones, (Hopewell School student 1940-46). Interview with Karen D. Riles. Personal interview. Cedar Creek, TX. October 14, 2013.

²⁰ Otha Deshay, Interview with Karen D. Riles, Phone interview, Austin, TX, March 21, 2014.

²¹ State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Twenty-second Biennial Report, *Report of the Special Supervisor of Colored Schools*, Austin, TX: 1920-22. P. 54.

²² Elois Jones Baker (Hopewell School student 1944), Interview with Karen D. Riles, Phone interview. Austin, TX, March 13, 2014; Bastrop County Board of Trustees Minutes. 1921-1959.

²³ Deshay, Interview.

Hopewell School, Cedar Creek, Bastrop County, Texas

school districts.²⁴ Schools in Bastrop County began to close and merge with larger facilities while others became “dormant.”

Hopewell served the local population through the late 1950s, and saw the end of the age of legally-mandated racial segregation in public schools. On May 17, 1954, the U.S. Supreme Court handed down a decision in the case of *Brown v. the Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas* that in effect declared that racially separate educational facilities are inherently unequal and violate the 14th Amendment of the constitution. The Bastrop rural schools didn't integrate but instead closed and students were sent to school in Bastrop.²⁵ By the beginning of the 1959 school year the campuses in District 31 were being referred to as ‘dormant’ and on August 26 of that same year the Cedar Creek Common School District was officially adjoined to the Bastrop Independent School District.²⁶

Rosenwald Schools represent an important chapter in Texas history, reflecting the initiative of African-American communities which sought educational opportunities for their children during the Jim Crow Era, when all public schools in Texas were segregated by law. With financial assistance from the Julius Rosenwald Fund, these communities built modern school facilities, many of which continued to operate as schools into the 1960s. Most Rosenwald buildings were built of wood following standardized plans, and many were demolished after they ceased serving as schools, while a few were converted to churches or community centers. Some communities built teacherages (teacher's homes) and related buildings with Rosenwald assistance.

Less than 40 extant Rosenwald schools have been identified out of the 527 originally built in Texas, and many others are known to have been demolished or drastically altered. The Hopewell School is an excellent example of the 1-teacher type school promoted by the Rosenwald program through the 1924 publication “Community School Plans,” and retains its original configuration and characteristics of the type including the gable roof with exposed rafter ends, wood siding, and large multi-pane windows. The Hopewell School is nominated for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under the multiple property submission *Historic and Architectural Resources Associated with the Rosenwald School Building Program* (NR 1999), under Criterion A in the area of Education and Ethnic Heritage/Black at the local level of significance.

²⁴ Bastrop County Board of Trustees Minutes. August 26, 1959.

²⁵ Deshay, Interview.

²⁶ Bastrop County Board of Trustees Minutes. February 1959 and August 26, 1959.

Hopewell School, Cedar Creek, Bastrop County, Texas

Bibliography

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Hopewell School, Cedar Creek, Bastrop County, Texas

Bastrop County, Texas



Bastrop Central Appraisal District Map, with white line indicating approximate nomination boundary.
Source: <http://www.bastropcad.org> (accessed December 11, 2014).



December 10, 2014

- ☐ Parcels
- ☐ Abstracts

Disclaimer: This product is for informational purposes only and has not been prepared for or be suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. It does not represent an on-the-ground survey and represents only the approximate relative location of boundaries.

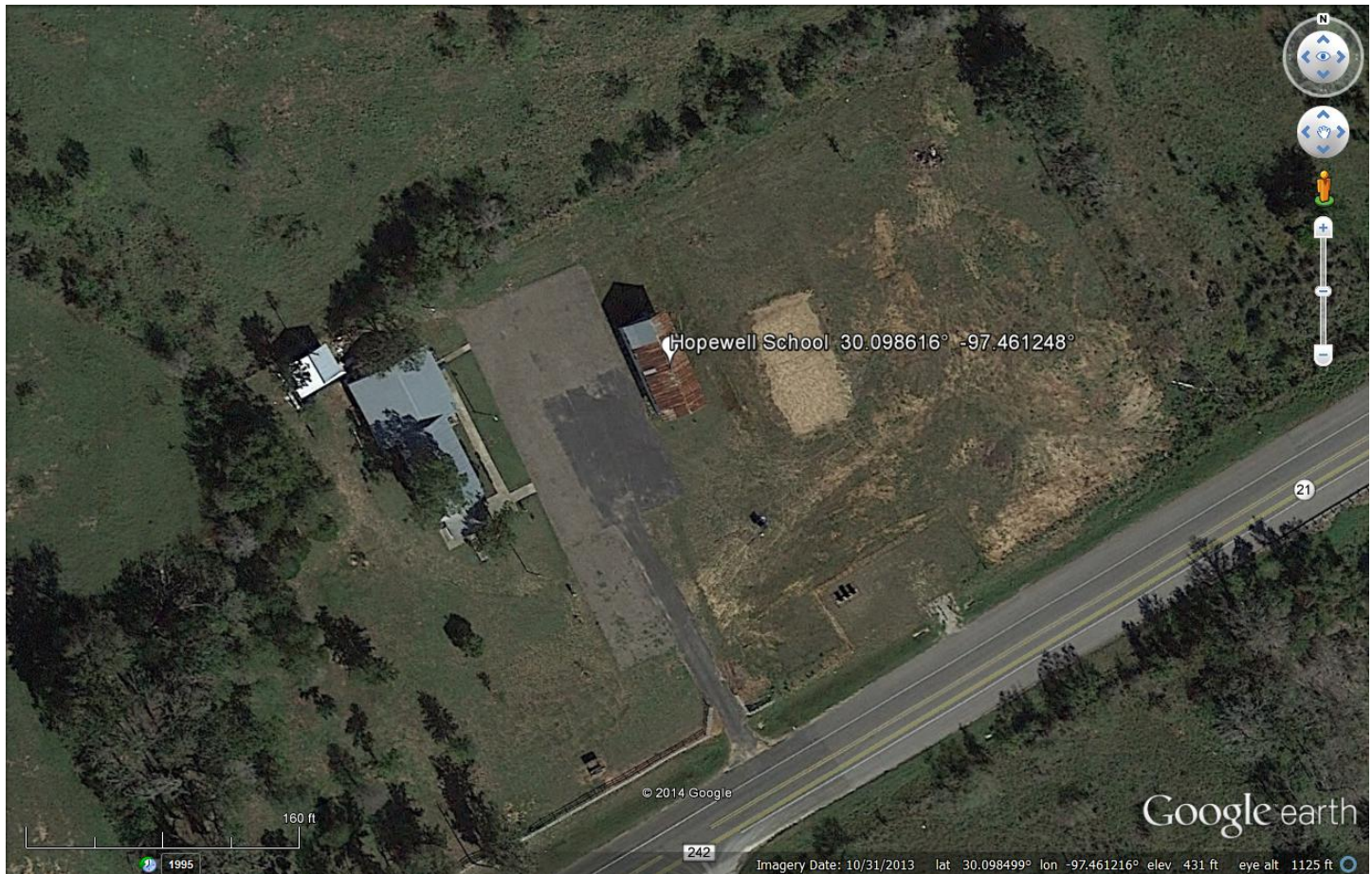
1:1,161
0 0.0125 0.025 0.05 mi
0 0.02 0.04 0.08 km

Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, i-cubed, Earthstar
Geographics, CNES-Airbus D.S., USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping,
Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community

Bastrop County Appraisal District & BIS Consulting - www.bisconsultants.com
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Hopewell School, Cedar Creek, Bastrop County, Texas

Google Earth map (*accessed December 10, 2014*).



Latitude: 30.097900 Longitude: 97.461114

Verbal Boundary Description: The nominated building is on a rectangular parcel of approximately 2.5 acres, including the entirety of a lot owned by the Hopewell Community Center (legal description “A7 Barker, Martha, Acres 2.0000” and parcel number R68997) and the eastern 0.4 acres of the adjacent lot to the southwest owned by Hopewell Primitive Baptist Church (legal description “A7 Barker, Martha, Acres 2.5000” and parcel number R68996). The southwest boundary is drawn in the center of the parking lot.

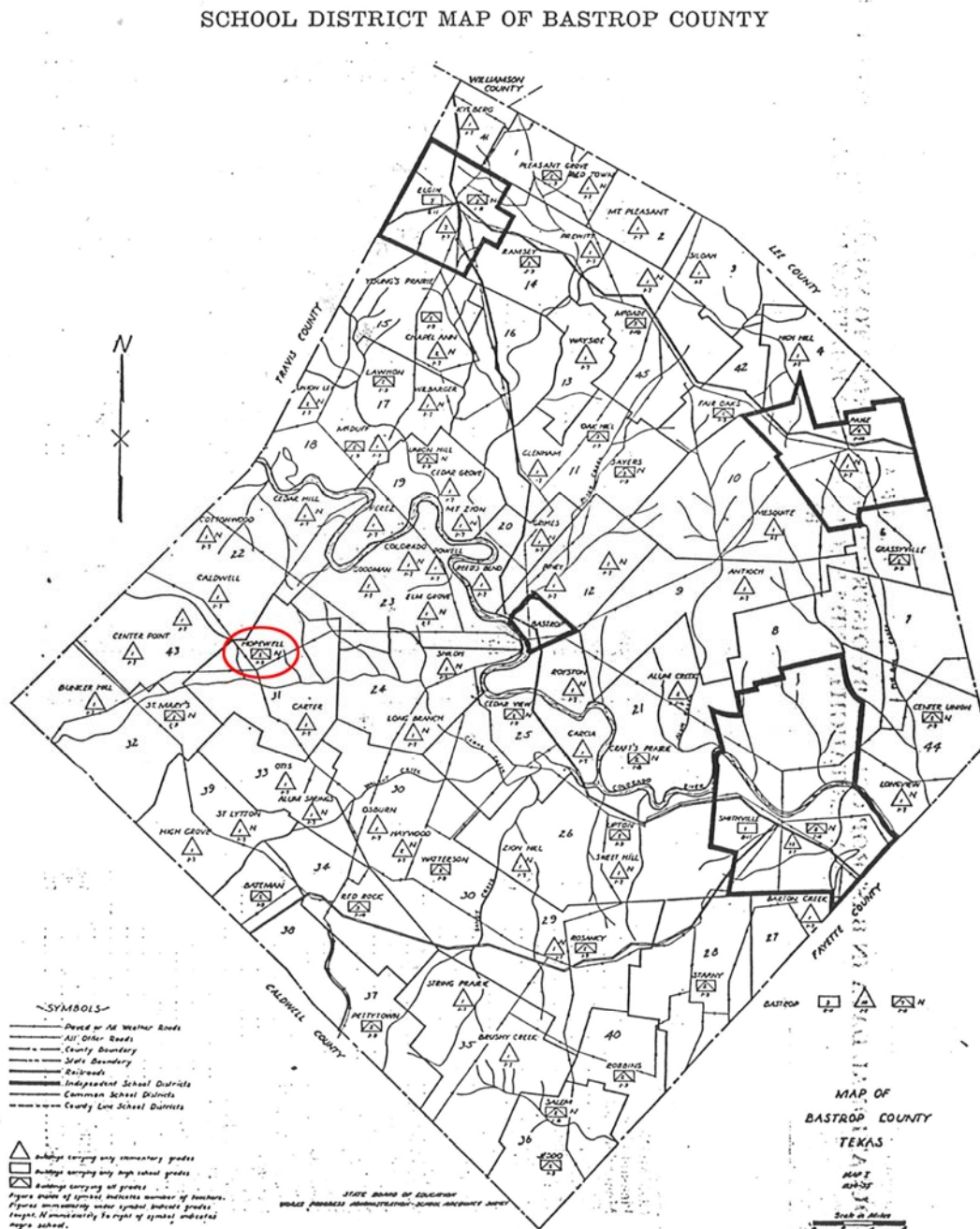
Boundary Justification: The nomination includes the property historically associated with the building, including the primary lot upon which the building sits, and a small portion of the adjacent lot, the boundary of which runs close to the southwest side of the building.

Hopewell School, Cedar Creek, Bastrop County, Texas

1937 Bastrop County School District Map

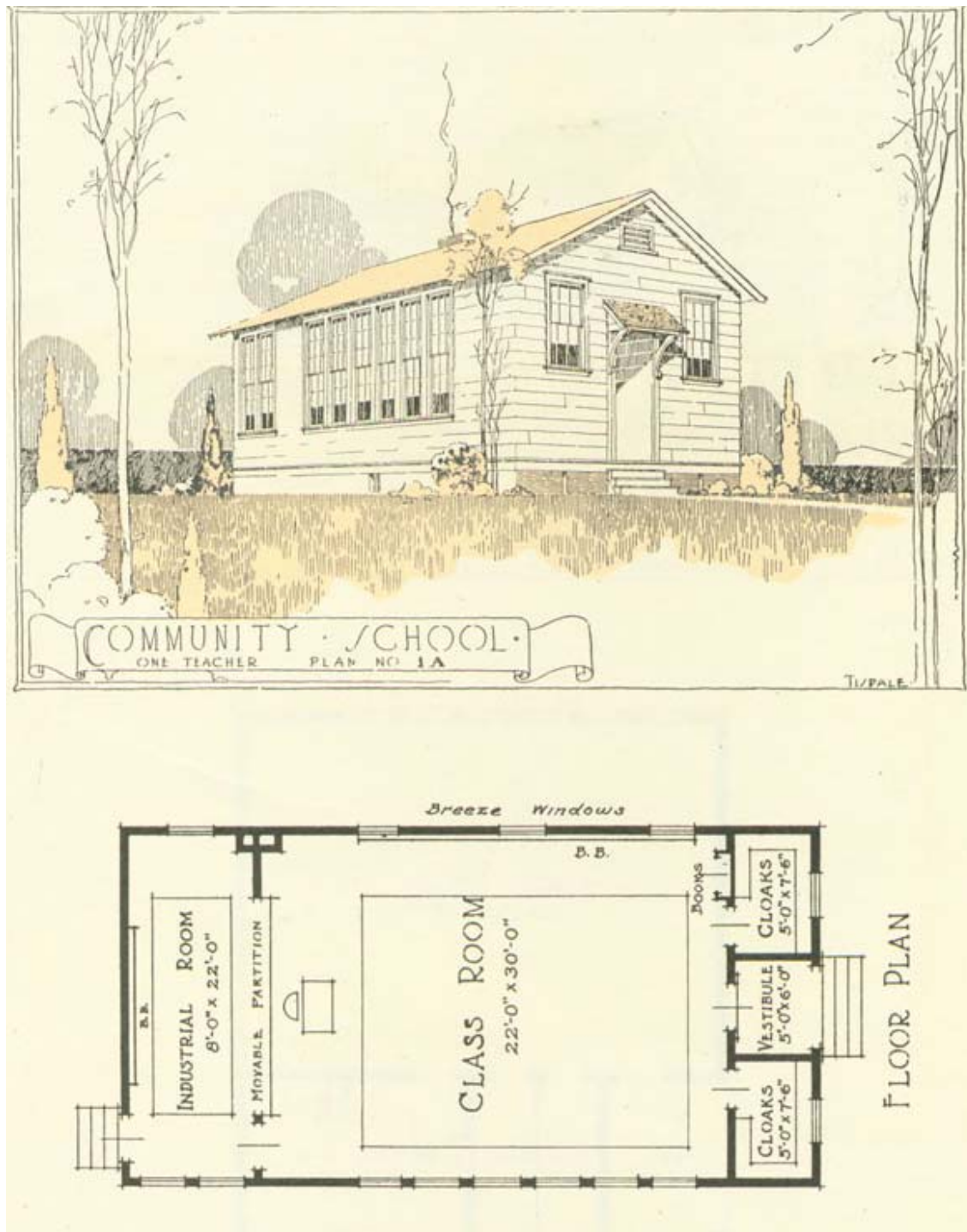
The Hopewell School is west-center, indicated by an oval.

Source: *Report of the Results of the Texas Statewide School Adequacy Survey* (Austin), 1937.



Hopewell School, Cedar Creek, Bastrop County, Texas

Rosenwald Community School Plan 1-A, one room school house.



Hopewell School, Cedar Creek, Bastrop County, Texas

Hopewell School, c.1922

Source: Julius Rosenwald Fund Archives 1917-1948, Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee.



Hopewell School, Cedar Creek, Bastrop County, Texas

Hopewell School
Cedar Creek, Bastrop County, TX
Photographed by Gregory Smith, April 2015

Photo 1
Southwest Oblique of Hopewell School at right
Hopewell Primitive Baptist Church at left (on adjacent lot; not included in nomination)



Hopewell School, Cedar Creek, Bastrop County, Texas

Photo 2
South Elevation



Hopewell School, Cedar Creek, Bastrop County, Texas

Photo 3
West elevation



Hopewell School, Cedar Creek, Bastrop County, Texas

Photo 4
East Elevation



Hopewell School, Cedar Creek, Bastrop County, Texas

Photo 5
North elevation



Hopewell School, Cedar Creek, Bastrop County, Texas

Photo 6
Classroom entrance, from rear of Industrial Room



Hopewell School, Cedar Creek, Bastrop County, Texas

Photo 7

Classroom, looking towards industrial room at rear of building



Hopewell School, Cedar Creek, Bastrop County, Texas

Photo 8
Classroom, from industrial room partition



Hopewell School, Cedar Creek, Bastrop County, Texas

Photo 9

Industrial room, showing floor seam at the addition

Photographed by David Porter, June 2014



Hopewell School, Cedar Creek, Bastrop County, Texas

Photo 10
Classroom windows (west side)



Hopewell School, Cedar Creek, Bastrop County, Texas

Photo 11
East side wall with chalk boards



Hopewell School, Cedar Creek, Bastrop County, Texas

Photo 12

West cloak room interior

Photographed by David Porter, June 2014



Hopewell School, Cedar Creek, Bastrop County, Texas

Photo 13
Wood stove in classroom



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