

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Queenstown Rosenwald School

other names Sunnyside School; AA-1000

2. Location

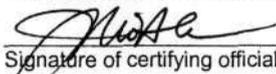
street & number 430 Queenstown Road not for publication

city or town Severn vicinity

state Maryland code MD county Anne Arundel code 003 zip code 21144

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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 nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments).



Signature of certifying official/Title

10-21-09

Date

Maryland Historical Trust (MDSHPO)

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.

See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register.

See continuation sheet.

Determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Queenstown Rosenwald School (AA-1000)
Name of Property

Anne Arundel County, Maryland
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
	1	structures
		objects
1	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

*Rosenwald Schools in Anne Arundel County,
Maryland, (1921-1932.*

**number of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register**

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/school

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE/business
SOCIAL/civic

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER/Rosenwald School Plan

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete
walls Wood
roof Asphalt
other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

Queenstown Rosenwald School (AA-1000)
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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history.
- B** Property associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- 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.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

N/A

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

Area of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Architecture
- Community Planning and Development
- Education
- Ethnic Heritage—Black
- Social History

Period of Significance

1932-1955

Significant Dates

1932; 1955

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Variation on Julius Rosenwald Fund Plan #20

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)

Previous documentation on files (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
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Queenstown Rosenwald School (AA-1000)
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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.5 acres Relay, MD quad

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	1 8	3 5 7 2 2 7	4 3 3 4 1 0 7	3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2				4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sherri M. Marsh with Joni Jones
Organization Anne Arundel County, Maryland date 6/04; revised 10/09
street & number Office of Environmental & Cultural Resources, 2664 Riva Rd telephone 410-222-7441
city or town Annapolis state Maryland zip code 21401

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO)

name Anne Arundel County Board of Education
street & number 2644 Riva Road telephone 410-222-5000
city or town Annapolis state Maryland zip code 21401

Paperwork Reduction Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or to 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. 470 et. seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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AA-1000
Queenstown Rosenwald School
Name of Property

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Section 7 Page 1

Description Summary:

The newly restored Queenstown Rosenwald School is located in a low-density residential community in central Anne Arundel County, Maryland. It is a simple, one-story, gable-roofed, frame building. Tall banks of 9/9 windows characterize the building in a manner identifying it as a Rosenwald School. This school, like all Rosenwald Schools, was built according to a plan provided or approved by the Julius Rosenwald Fund. The Queenstown Rosenwald School is an adaptation of Rosenwald Fund Floor Plan No. 20: Two Teacher Community School.

General Description:

Built in 1932, the Queenstown Rosenwald School is located in central Anne Arundel County in the non-incorporated, predominately African-American community of the same name. The area, formerly typified by small farms, is now largely residential. The school building stands on the east side of Queenstown Road, on a wide grassy lot, facing west/southwest. It is set back from the road approximately 100' feet. Several large trees shade a front parking area and horseshoe-shaped driveway.

The Queenstown School, in typical Rosenwald School fashion, is a relatively plain building. It is a one-story frame building with exterior walls sheathed with German siding. The gable roof is covered with composition shingles and displays minimal overhang. Cornice treatment consists of a plain verge board. Concrete blocks supplement the original concrete pier foundation. Foundation height varies in accordance with the lot's slope. The front wall rests on supports nearing 3 feet in height, while the rear wall stands slightly above grade.

In 1955 the school's gable-front, T-shaped plan, expanded with the construction of a 25' x 25' flat roof addition at the northwest corner. The addition features a tall brick stove chimney. Two chimneys, shown in historic photographs, were removed from the 1932 building at the time of the expansion. The addition provided space for indoor toilets and an oil-burning furnace.

Large bays of 9/9 sash windows characterize the building. The front projecting gable block features one bay containing four windows of this type. The rear wall originally contained two bays of five identical windows. Curiously, only 3 of the 5 windows were restored. The remaining frames survive in situ, behind plywood. The rear wall also contains a pair of substantially smaller 6/6 windows. These are centered between the two larger bays. These are not believed to be original and are also entombed behind plywood. Three individual 6/6 windows are found in the west and south walls of the 1950s addition.

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The building features two entrances. The principal entrance is situated on the south wall of the front block, near the intersection with the rear, lateral block. A shed-roofed porch hood protects the door, which is a modern replacement designed after historic photographs. This entrance is handicapped accessible and approached by a long ramp. The second entry is located in the north wall of the 1955 addition. It is reached by a small flight of concrete steps. The door is identical to the main entrance. These doorways open into either end of a 6'-wide corridor.

The building's interior is in excellent condition. The 2000 restoration revealed significant amounts of historic fabric entombed behind later material. Original window and door surrounds, chair rail, and wainscot survive in Classroom #2, the Community Room, and the hallway. The Community Room and Classroom #2 also retain their chalkboards. Unfortunately, except for a small amount of wainscot, very little historic trim survives in Classroom #1. Most of the 1932 wood flooring remains in place beneath modern carpet and vinyl, installed due to comply with childcare code requirements. Missing elements, such as classroom doors, were replaced with modern components, based on historic photographs.

With respect to plan, the building is divided into 3 principal rooms (2 classrooms and a community room), two bathrooms, and a furnace room. All rooms are accessed via a center hall. A cloakroom, located between Classrooms #1 and #2 was later converted into a small office and library, and later a faculty restroom. Except for a chase for plumbing and a support column, partitions are now removed and the former cloakroom's space incorporated into Classroom #2. This alteration makes Classroom #2 approximately 10' longer than Classroom #1. A wood stove, situated along the rear (east) wall, originally heated each of the classrooms. The Community Room, located in the front projection, measures 18' x 24'. This space remained unheated until the 1950s.

In 2000 the Queenstown Rosenwald School was restored in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and in consultation with the Maryland Historical Trust. The building, owned by the Anne Arundel County Board of Education, is under long-term lease to the Severn Improvement Association, which uses the building a daycare facility and a community center.

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Note: This individual nomination follows a Multiple Property Documentation form titled *Rosenwald Schools in Anne Arundel County, Maryland, (1921-1932)*. Please refer to that document for a detailed exploration of the history and significance of the Julius Rosenwald Fund School Building program and information on African-American education in Anne Arundel County prior to desegregation.

Summary Statement of Significance:

The Queenstown School meets Registration Requirements specified in the Multiple Property Documentation form titled *Rosenwald Schools in Anne Arundel County, Maryland, (1921-1932)*.

Built in 1932, the Queenstown Rosenwald School is significant as an example of a Rosenwald School, and as such is affiliated with what is considered the most important advance in African-American education in the southern states prior to desegregation. These schools were constructed with financial and technical assistance provided by the Julius Rosenwald Fund; a private foundation named for the Chicago entrepreneur who directed the booming growth of Sears, Roebuck & Company in the early 20th century. Between 1917 and 1932 the Julius Rosenwald Fund assisted in the construction of 5,357 schools for African-American in the rural south. These Schools were built according to plans provided or approved by the Julius Rosenwald Fund. Plans were cost-efficient and easy to construct, yet remarkably emphasized health and safety concerns and embodied the latest ideas in educational building design. Two-hundred-and-ninety-two Rosenwald Schools were built in Maryland, 24 of which were erected in Anne Arundel County. Queenstown is one of 10 Rosenwald Schools surviving in Anne Arundel County (1). In 2000 it was restored in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.

The Period of Significance, 1932-1955, begins with the date of the school's construction and ends with its closure and consolidation.

Resource History and Historic Context:

Julius Rosenwald Fund

The Queenstown Rosenwald School is architecturally and socially significant as example of a Rosenwald School. As such, it is associated with one of the most pivotal advances in Black education prior to school desegregation. . The importance of the Julius Rosenwald Fund's school building program to African-American education cannot be overstated.

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The construction of more than 5,000 elementary schools in rural areas of 17 southern states enabled tens of thousands of African American children previously educationally disenfranchised or underserved to acquire a basic education in a state-of-the-art facility (2).

Queenstown, like all Rosenwald Schools, was built with both financial and technical assistance provided by the Julius Rosenwald Fund. This private foundation was created by and named for the Chicago entrepreneur and philanthropist who directed the booming growth of Sears, Roebuck & Company in the early 20th century. While Rosenwald generously supported a wide variety of charities, Rosenwald showed particular concern for African American causes (3).

Biographers state that Julius Rosenwald's interest in African-American causes in general and education in particular derived from his admiration and subsequent affiliation with Black educator and Tuskegee Institute founder, Booker T. Washington. The two men first met in 1911 and in 1912 Rosenwald became a trustee and financial supporter of the Tuskegee institute. In 1917 Rosenwald inaugurated his personal campaign to improve the quality and increase the availability of educational opportunities for African-Americans in the rural South. The Julius Rosenwald Fund was created in that year (4).

Between 1917 and 1932 the Julius Rosenwald Fund's school building program assisted in the construction of 5,357 schools for African American students in 17 southern states (5). The Queenstown School is one of 10 Rosenwald Schools surviving in Anne Arundel County. In 2000 it was restored in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.

History of Queenstown

From 1932 to 1955 the Queenstown Rosenwald School provided elementary education to the children of this the unincorporated, largely African-American community. This once rural, now residential, neighborhood is named for Ed and Charity Queen. In 1880 the Queens moved from White Marsh, near Bowie, Maryland to the area then known as Snowdentown. In little more than a generation, Queen's descendents and relatives became the region's dominant family and the small farming community assumed the name of Queenstown (6). The geographically distinct area remains known by this name though legally it is part of the town of Severn.

Prior to 1919 Queenstown lacked a school. Furnace Branch, approximately a 3.5-mile distance, was the closest school open to African American children. Oral and written history indicates many Queenstown children traveled this distance on foot (7). In 1919 the Anne Arundel County Board of education provided funds for instruction at Queenstown. The first school operated in a

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small building adjacent to and owned by the Metropolitan Church. A Mrs. Knight was the first teacher and paid \$40.00 per month. Mrs. Margaret Burrell French succeeded Mrs. Knight in 1923 (8).

The demand for education grew with the community. A second teacher, Mrs. Helen Browne, was hired in 1928. This only addressed half of the problem as the old school building was beyond its carrying capacity. In 1931, to address this situation Anne Arundel County Board of Education approved \$1,500 to expand the building (9). The planned expansion did not take place.

Starting in 1928 the Julius Rosenwald Fund, which up to that date had assisted the County in the construction of 21 one- or two-room Black schools, increasingly rejected funding requests for small schools, in favor of supporting larger consolidated buildings. For reasons that remain unclear, Anne Arundel County pursued the construction of white consolidated schools, but made no serious efforts to consolidate Black schools until the 1940s. In 1931, however, the Rosenwald Fund briefly reversed its policy and increased funding for small schools. Anne Arundel County took advantage of this, applied and received approval from the Rosenwald Fund for assistance buildings two new schools. In 1932 new schools were built at Furnace Branch and Queenstown. These were the last two Rosenwald Schools constructed in Anne Arundel County (9).

Queenstown Rosenwald School History

The new Queenstown School was constructed on a 1.5-acre lot provided by Oscar "Dickie" Gaither for the new school. This donation satisfied the Rosenwald Fund stipulation that the African-American community contribute to the cost of the school's construction. The Gaither's were an important local family. Oscar Gaither's parents were instrumental in the organization, design and construction of the local church (10).

The new 3-room school was finished in 1932 and provided instruction for grades 1-7 (11). The Queenstown School features a plan unique among Anne Arundel County Rosenwald Schools. It features three rooms-- two rooms and a community room-- instead of the typical 2-room configuration. The Queenstown School represents a variation of Rosenwald Fund plan *Two Teacher Community School: Plan 20*. Clear differences exist between the published Rosenwald Fund plan and the Queenstown School. This deviation is not uncommon in Anne Arundel County. In fact most Anne Arundel County Rosenwald Schools were built with according to a design known as the "Fox Plan" after Anne Arundel County Superintendent, George Fox. The Fox Plan was developed in consultation with and approved by the Julius Rosenwald Fund, but was not published in the Fund's *Community School Plans* (12).

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Interviews with former students and teachers indicate that only two rooms were used for instruction. Classroom #1, located at the building's northwest corner served as the primary school, while Classroom #2, located tangent to the first room, was occupied by grades 5-7. Wood-burning stoves provided heat. Parents and teachers donated the firewood. In the 1930s and 40s students paid "fire dues" to purchase wood and pay for janitorial services. The front (west) room received relatively little use. This originally unheated space is designated on Rosenwald Fund plans as Community Room, and oral history indicates it was used in this capacity as well as for the detention of "bad children" (13).

In 1954 the U.S. Supreme Court ruled against racial segregation and the educational policy of "Separate but Equal." Queenstown Elementary School closed in 1955, but not due to the ramifications of court-ordered desegregation. Despite, or arguably, in spite of the Supreme Court ruling, schools in Anne Arundel County were not thoroughly desegregated until 1966 (14). Many Black schools, however, were consolidated. Student populations of Queenstown, Severn and Harmans elementary schools were consolidated into a new 5-room facility in Harmans. The Queenstown Elementary School was renamed Sunnyside School and used as a special education facility. At this time the building was expanded in order to provide space for indoor toilets and a furnace room.

In 1973 Anne Arundel County Board of Education planned to sell the Queenstown School to a developer who intended to construct apartments. The community vociferously objected to losing this important and much beloved community symbol. The Board of Education relented and leased the property to the Severn Improvement Association. This local, activist organization operated the building as a community center. The area's Masonic Lodge used the building for their meetings and events.

In the 1990s the Severn Improvement Association spearheaded an effort to secure financing to restore the school. Arundel Community Development Services provided most of the project's funding. Restoration was completed in 2001. The building now serves as a daycare facility and community center.

Summary

Queenstown Rosenwald School is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. With respect to Criterion A, it is associated with the important theme of African American education prior to desegregation. Furthermore, the school's construction also represented an important event in the development of this rural African American community.

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Under Criterion C, the building achieves architectural significance as a restored and intact example of a Rosenwald School. It embodies the distinctive features associated with this building type. For more than 70 years the Queenstown Rosenwald School has played an important educational and civic role in the life of the Queenstown residents. It continues to serve as a stabilizing force and as a symbol of a cohesive community.

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Queenstown Rosenwald School
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Major Bibliographical References:

- 1) Julius Rosenwald Fund Archives: 1917-1948. Box 339. Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee.
- 2) Embree, Edwin R., Investment in People, The Story of the Julius Rosenwald Fund, Harper & Brothers Publishers, New York (1949).
- 3) Ibid.
- 4) Ibid.
- 5) Ibid.
- 6) *Discovering Our School Community 1951-53*. Unpublished research conducted by elementary school students and compiled by the Anne Arundel Retired Teachers Association. On file Anne Arundel County Public Library, West Street, Annapolis, Maryland.
- 7) Ibid.
- 8) Anne Arundel County Board of Education, Minutes of the Building Commission 1931, Maryland State Archives.
- 9) Julius Rosenwald Fund Archives :1917-1948. Box 339. Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee.
- 10) *A Century of Memories.*, 2000 Directory of the Metropolitan United Methodist Church.
- 11) Personal Communication with Mrs. Sylvia Garrison, May 17, 2004. Mrs. Garrison is a former Queenstown School student as well as the daughter of Oscar Gaither, who donated the land for the school.
- 12) Julius Rosenswald Fund Archives: 1917-1948. Box 339.
- 13) Personal Communication with Mrs. Sylvia Garrison.
- 14) Brown, Philip., A Century of Separate But Equal: Education in Anne Arundel County, Vantage Press, New York (1988).

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Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description:

The nominated property, 1.5 acres, is identified as Parcel 581 on Anne Arundel County Tax Map 15, and described among the Land Records of Anne Arundel County in Liber 2694, folio 302.

Boundary Justification:

The nominated property represents the single lot historically associated with the resource.



FURNACE BRANCH 1.4 MI.
 MARLEY 1.8 MI.
 4335
 4334
 1.5 MI. TO MD. 2
 4333
 4332000 N.

AA-1000
 QUEENSTOWN
 ROSENWALD
 SCHOOL
 ANNE ARUNDEL
 COUNTY, MD
 18-357227-
 4334107

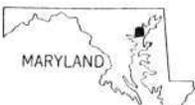
40' 356 357 INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA—1984 39°07'30"
 MILLERSVILLE 4.9 MI. 3590000 E. 76°37'30"
 11 MI. TO U.S. 50

MILE

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty		Light-duty	
Medium-duty		Unimproved dirt	
	Interstate Route		U.S. Route
	State Route		

(ROUND BAY)
5662 11 SE



RELAY, MD.