



Julius Rosenwald and Rosenwald Schools Special Resource Study

Virtual Public Meeting

Project website:
parkplanning.nps.gov/Rosenwald




Bay Springs School. Photo credit: Andrew Feiler, from the book *A Better Life for Their Children: Julius Rosenwald, Booker T. Washington, and the 4,978 Schools that Changed America*.)

July 7, 2022

Project website: parkplanning.nps.gov/Rosenwald



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A comment period for this project closes Jun 30, 2022: 0 Days, 11 Hours, 16 Min.

Julius Rosenwald and Rosenwald Schools Special Resource Study

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The National Park Service (NPS) is pleased to announce the launch of a special resource study of sites associated with the life and legacy of American businessman and philanthropist Julius Rosenwald. As directed by Congress in the Julius Rosenwald and the Rosenwald School Act of 2020 (Public Law 116-336), the study will focus on sites associated with Julius Rosenwald in the following locations:


- Sears Administration Building at Homan Square in Chicago, Illinois.
- Rosenwald Court Apartments in Chicago, Illinois.
- Museum of Science & Industry in Chicago, Illinois.
- Rosenwald House (formerly the Lyon Home) at the Lincoln Home National Historic Site in Springfield, Illinois.
- Cairo Rosenwald School, a one-teacher school in Sumner County, Tennessee.
- Shady Grove School, a one-teacher school in Louisa County, Virginia.
- Noble Hill School, a two-teacher school in Bartow County, Georgia.
- Ridgeley School, a two-teacher school in Prince George's County, Maryland.
- Bay Springs School, a two-teacher school in Forrest County, Mississippi.
- Russell School, a two-teacher school in Durham County, North Carolina.
- Shiloh Rosenwald School, a three-teacher school in Macon County, Alabama.
- San Domingo School, a four-teacher school in Wicomico County, Maryland.
- Elmore County Training School, a seven-teacher school in Elmore County, Alabama.
- Dunbar Junior High, Senior High and Junior College in Little Rock, Arkansas.

The four sites in Illinois are associated with Rosenwald's life and philanthropy. The remaining ten sites are Rosenwald school sites in eight states.

The National Park Service will evaluate the properties listed above, individually and collectively, using congressionally established criteria for national significance, suitability, feasibility, and need for direct NPS management. Based on the analysis, the National Park Service will determine whether each site meets the criteria for inclusion in the national park system and will prepare the study for the Secretary of the Interior. (If a study site does not meet all four criteria, the study process usually concludes.) The study findings and any

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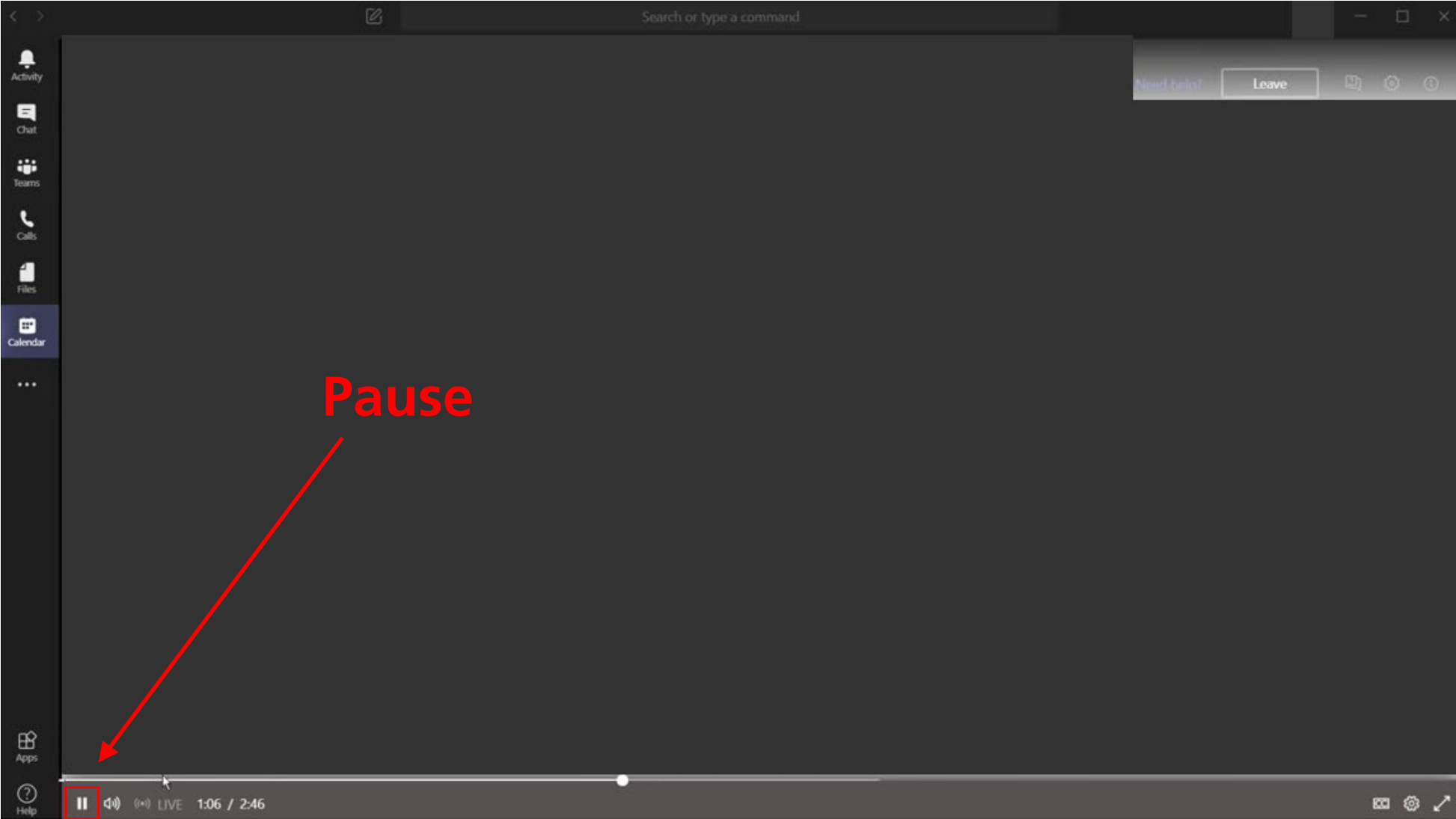
Select a document to review or comment:

-  [Public Law 116-336](#)
-  [Julius Rosenwald and Rosenwald Schools Special Resource Study Newsletter](#)

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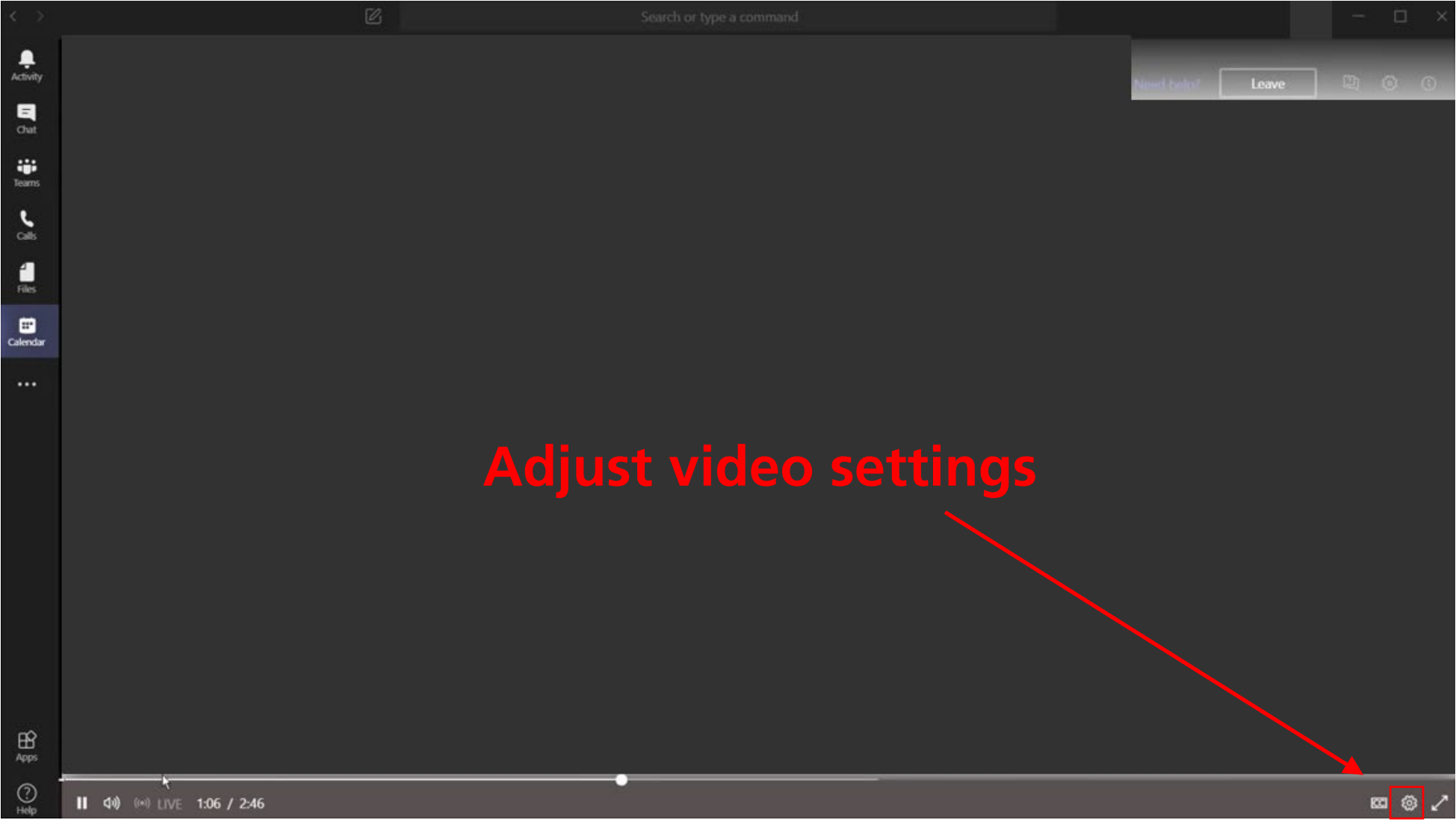
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Julius Rosenwald and Rosenwald Schools Special Resource Study

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Bay Springs School. Photo credit: Andrew Feiler, from the book *A Better Life for Their Children: Julius Rosenwald, Booker T. Washington, and the 4,978 Schools that Changed America.*)

July 7, 2022



Introduction

Project website:
parkplanning.nps.gov/Rosenwald



Units of the National Park System



Goals of the Meeting



Shiloh Rosenwald School, 2019 (EHT Traceries, 2021)

- **Introduce** the special resource study
 - *Why is the National Park Service conducting this study?*
- **Explain** the study process and answer questions
 - *What resources are part of the study area? Which Rosenwald Schools are named in the study legislation?*
 - *What are the criteria for evaluation?*
 - *What is the study timeline?*
- **Invite** you to share feedback
 - *How can I provide input?*



What is a Special Resource Study?



J. Rosenwald (Library Of Congress)

Special Resource Studies

- Provide Congress with critical information about the resource qualities in a study area and their eligibility to be designated as a unit of the national park system or other special designation
- Evaluate the area based on established Special Resource Study criteria; and
- Are prepared for the Secretary of the Interior, who will submit the study, along with any recommendations, to Congress for consideration.

This study itself does not establish new national park units.

- Only **Congress** through legislated action or the **President** through the use of the Antiquities Act has the authority to establish a new unit of the national park system.



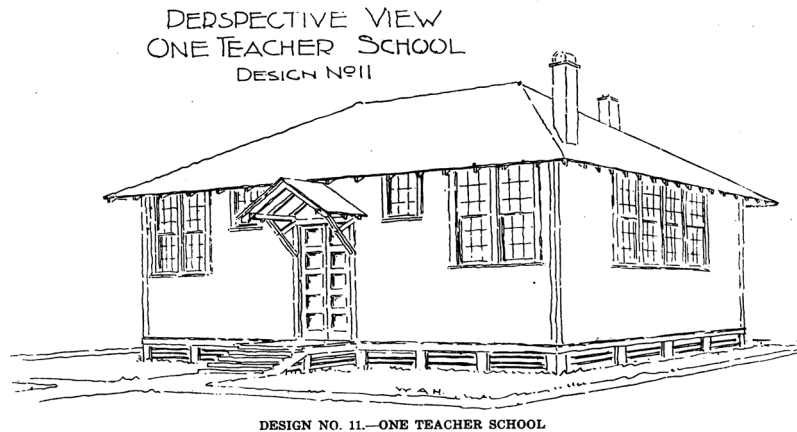
Julius Rosenwald, undated : Board of Trustees Portraits, University of Chicago : Photographic Archive : The University of Chicago (uchicago.edu)

Study Background

- In January 2021, Congress passed **Public Law 116-336**, which directed the Secretary of the Interior to **conduct a special resource study of “the sites associated with the life and legacy of the noted American philanthropist and business executive Julius Rosenwald, with special focus on the Rosenwald Schools.”**
- The legislation names 14 individual sites for “special emphasis” in the study:
 - Four (4) Illinois sites associated with Julius Rosenwald and his philanthropy
 - Ten (10) schools funded as part of the Rosenwald School program
- Although the legislation focuses on these 14 sites, other sites may be considered.
- The Department of the Interior charged the National Park Service (NPS) with the preparation of this special resource study.



Julius Rosenwald and Booker T. Washington, undated photo (African American Intellectual Historical Society)



One teacher school- Design No. 11. from "The Negro Rural School and Its Relation to the Community" Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, 1915.

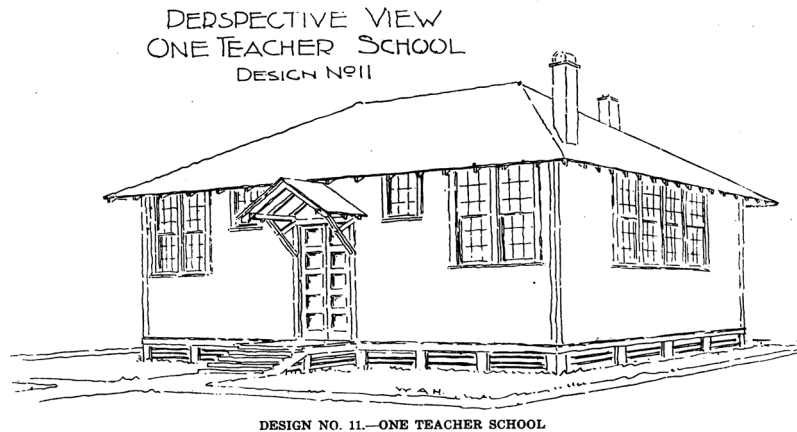
Study Background

Rosenwald Schools Building Program

- **1912:** Program began through a partnership between Booker T. Washington, principal of Tuskegee Institute, and Julius Rosenwald.
 - The partnership ended with Washington's death in 1915.
- **1912-1920:** "Tuskegee Phase" of the program.
- First school plans developed by Robert R. Taylor.
 - First six schools built in 1913 and 1914.
 - In 1915 Tuskegee architects publish a set of initial school prototypes.
- **1920-1932:** "Nashville Phase" of the program.
 - In 1920 the program came under the direction of the Julius Rosenwald Fund and was administered out of the Fund's Nashville office.
 - New school plans published in 1921 in *Community School Plans*, which saw several revisions and new editions.



Julius Rosenwald and Booker T. Washington, undated photo (African American Intellectual Historical Society)



One teacher school- Design No. 11. from "The Negro Rural School and Its Relation to the Community" Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, 1915.

Study Background

Rosenwald Schools Building Program

- **1929:** Stock market crash and the start of the Great Depression. The Fund's leadership gradually eliminated the school building program.
- **1932:** Death of Julius Rosenwald in January. Program ends in April.
- **Legacy of the Rosenwald School Program**
 - Over 5,000 schools and related buildings constructed in rural areas of 15 Southern states
 - More than 663,000 pupils, accounting for 1/3 of African American students in public schools in the South



Study Area

Rosenwald Schools Named in Study Legislation



San Domingo School, 2018 (EHT Traceries, 2021)



Cairo Rosenwald School, c. 1923 (EHT Traceries, 2021)

- **San Domingo School – Wicomico County, MD**
 - Four-teacher school constructed in 1919
 - Building type: Nonstandard
- **Shiloh Rosenwald School – Macon County, AL**
 - Three-teacher school constructed 1921-1922
 - Building type: Rosenwald Plan 20
- **Cairo Rosenwald School – Sumner County, TN**
 - One-teacher school constructed 1922-1923
 - Building type: Plan 1-A
- **Noble Hill School – Bartow County, GA**
 - Two-teacher school constructed 1922-1923
 - Building type: Rosenwald Plan 2-C
- **Elmore County Training School – Elmore County, AL**
 - Seven-teacher school constructed 1924
 - Building type: Nonstandard



Ridgeley School, 2019 (EHT Traceries, 2021)



Dunbar Junior High School, 2018 (EHT Traceries, 2021)

Study Area

Rosenwald Schools Named in Study Legislation



- **Shady Grove School – Louisa County, VA**
 - One-teacher school constructed 1924-1925
 - Building type: Rosenwald Plan 1
- **Bay Springs School – Forest County, MS**
 - Two-teacher school constructed 1926
 - Building type: Rosenwald Plan 20
- **Ridgeley School – Prince George's County, MD**
 - Two-teacher school constructed 1927
 - Building type: Nonstandard
- **Russell School – Durham County, NC**
 - Two-teacher school constructed 1927
 - Building type: Rosenwald Plan 2-C
- **Dunbar Junior High School, Senior High School, and Junior College – Little Rock, AR**
 - Constructed 1929 as African American high school and designed by architectural firm that also designed Central High School
 - Important role in Civil Rights Movement as the school of Little Rock Nine before desegregation



Study Criteria



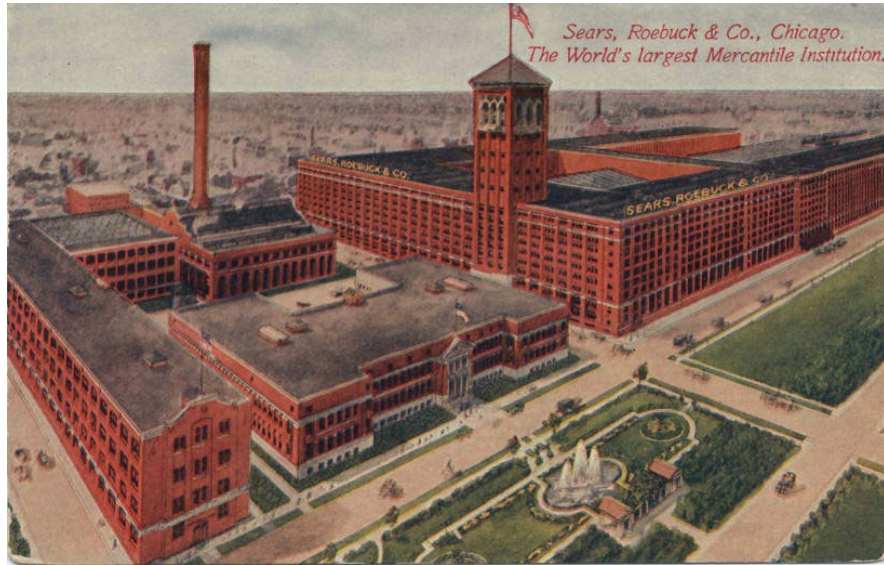
Russell School. Photo: Andrew Feiler, from the book *A Better Life for Their Children: Julius Rosenwald, Booker T. Washington, and the 4,978 Schools that Changed America*.

Congressional legislation and NPS policy require using the following criteria to evaluate the study site. A study site or area must meet all four criteria:

- Must contain **nationally significant resources**;
- Must be **suitable**;
- Must be **feasible** as a potential unit of the NPS system; and
- Must require **direct management by the NPS**



Criterion 1 - National Significance



Sears, Roebuck & Company Complex, "Sears, Roebuck & Co, Chicago, The World's largest Mercantile Institution" - Curt Teich Postcard Archives Digital Collection (Newberry Library) - CARLI Digital Collections (illinois.edu)

- Contains **nationally significant natural and/or cultural resources**
- For cultural resources, **National Historic Landmark criteria** are applied to determine whether a site is nationally significant



Criterion 2 - Suitability



Booker T. Washington National Historic Site

- Represents a natural or cultural resource that is **not already adequately represented** in the national park system

or

- Is **not comparably represented and protected** for public enjoyment by another land-managing entity



Criterion 3 - Feasibility



"Aerial photo of the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago" by marcoverch is licensed under CC BY 2.0. <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/?ref=openverse>.

- **Sufficient size and appropriate configuration** to ensure long-term protection of the resource and visitor enjoyment

- Capable of **efficient administration** by the National Park Service at a **reasonable cost**

Other important **feasibility factors** include:

- Landownership
- Acquisition costs
- Life cycle maintenance costs
- Access
- Threats to the resource
- Staff or development requirements



Criterion 4 – Need for NPS Management



National Park Service Badge and Patch – US National Park Service

Requires direct National Park Service management that is clearly superior to other management approaches



Study Process



The Boyhood Home of Julius Rosenwald wayside is located on the north side of 8th street at Lincoln Home National Historic Site in Springfield, Illinois. *NPS Photo*

- Linear process
- If one of the four criteria is not met, the study generally ends.
- Findings and recommendations will be submitted to Congress
- Only **Congress** or the **President** has the authority to designate a new unit of the National Park System



Estimated Study Timeline

| Projected Time Frame | Task |
|--|--|
| Spring 2022 | Data Gathering |
| Summer 2022 | Public Outreach |
| Through Summer 2023 | Analysis of the four (4) study criteria and preparation of the study |
| Fall 2023 | NPS Agency Review of Study Findings |
| Winter 2023 | Revise Study Based on NPS Agency Review |
| Early 2024* | Finalize study findings and submit for transmittal to Congress |
| * Study will be made publicly available after congressional submission. There is no specific timeline for the presentation to Congress | |



We Want Your Feedback

1. How would you feel about any of the sites listed in the study legislation potentially becoming a national park unit that would focus on the life and legacy of Julius Rosenwald and the Rosenwald Schools?
2. Are there other nationally significant sites associated with Julius Rosenwald's life and legacy that the study should consider as part of a potential national park unit? Why?
3. What is your vision for the sites associated with Julius Rosenwald and the Rosenwald Schools? What types of experiences and activities would you like to see there?
4. Do you have any other comments, concerns, and suggestions for this study?



Ways to Submit Feedback



San Domingo School. Photo: Andrew Feiler, from the book *A Better Life for Their Children: Julius Rosenwald, Booker T. Washington, and the 4,978 Schools that Changed America*.

1 - Enter your comments directly on the project website:
parkplanning.nps.gov/Rosenwald

Click the “Open for Comment” link to respond.

2 – Email comments or questions to:

- Rosenwaldstudy@nps.gov

Open comment period is July 1-July 31, 2022

Using the project website: parkplanning.nps.gov/Rosenwald





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Julius Rosenwald and Rosenwald Schools Special Resource Study

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A comment period for this project closes **Jun 30, 2022**:
0 Days, **11** Hours, **22** Min.

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Documents Open For Comment

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The following Documents are currently open for comment.

Select a document to review and comment:

-  [Julius Rosenwald and Rosenwald Schools Special Resource Study Newsletter](#)

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Comment period closes **Jun 30, 2022**
at 11:59 PM Mountain Time in
0 Days, 11 Hours, 20 Min.

[Comment Now »](#)

**Denver Service Center » Julius Rosenwald and Rosenwald Schools Special Resource Study »
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Julius Rosenwald and Rosenwald Schools Special Resource Study Newsletter

This newsletter describes the Julius Rosenwald and Rosenwald Schools Special Resource Study, the study process, and four questions for public feedback. Click the "Comment Now" button below to enter your feedback.

Your thoughts and ideas are important to us. Thank you for your interest and participation!

[Comment Now »](#) **Comment Period:** 06/30/2022 - 06/30/2022
Comment period closes **Jun 30, 2022** at 11:59 PM Mountain Time in:
0 Days, 11 Hours, 20 Min.

Topic Questions:


1. How would you feel about any of the sites listed above potentially becoming a national park unit that would focus on the life and legacy of Julius Rosenwald and the Rosenwald Schools?
2. Are there other nationally significant sites associated with Julius Rosenwald's life and legacy that the study should consider as a potential national park unit? Why?
3. What is your vision for the sites associated with Julius Rosenwald and the Rosenwald Schools? What types of experiences and activities would you like to see there?
4. Do you have any other comments, concerns, and suggestions for this study?

Document Content:

[Rosenwald_SRS_Newsletter-508.pdf](#) (2.5 MB, PDF file)

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Submit Comments

We welcome your comments on this document: [Julius Rosenwald and Rosenwald Schools Special Resource Study Newsletter](#)

*Comment period closes **Jun 30, 2022** at 11:59 PM Mountain Time in:*
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Before including your address, telephone number, electronic mail address, or other personally identifiable information in your comments, you should be aware that your entire comment (including your personally identifiable information) may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us to withhold your personally identifiable information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

| Comment Form | | bold* indicates required fields |
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| First Name: | <input type="text"/> | Middle Initial: <input type="text"/> |
| Last Name: | <input type="text"/> | |
| Organization: | <input type="text"/> | |
| Address 1: | <input type="text"/> | |
| Address 2: | <input type="text"/> | |
| E-mail: | <input type="text"/> | |

Topic Questions - Please address these questions in addition to your comments.

Topic Questions:

Question 1:
How would you feel about any of the sites listed above potentially becoming a national park unit that would focus on the life and legacy of Julius Rosenwald and the Rosenwald Schools?





To learn more and follow the study process, visit the project website:

parkplanning.nps.gov/Rosenwald

Thank you for your interest in this study!

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