

SPRING HOPE SCHOOL (NS-952)
Southwest corner of junction of
South Pine Street and West School Street,
Spring Hope

The Rosenwald Fund allocated \$1,500 for the Spring Hope School during its 1922-23 budget year, to supplement \$1,000 raised by the local black community and \$14,500 in public monies. According to two typescript accounts of the school's history, however, the original school was not dedicated until 1926 (Anonymous n.d.; Anonymous 1984). The building was originally a six-teacher community school that likely closely conformed to the Fund's Floor Plan No. 6-A (Plate 194). A teacherage, discussed separately below, was erected about the same time as the school. In 1931 the school burned, just as it was set to receive its high school accreditation. The Division of Negro Education asked the Rosenwald Fund for money to purchase sufficient equipment to let the accreditation proceed. The Fund replied that they hoped to provide support for a "new eight-room building of the revised type" (JRFA, Box 341, Folder 5: request letter of March 4, 1931, and response letters of March 21, 1931, and March 25, 1931).

The new building, which was erected with Rosenwald Fund support, was an eight-teacher type (Plates 195-210) (Figure 24). However, instead of following Plan No. 6-A, it utilized its old H-shaped footprint, with two additional classroom tacked on to the end of the western leg of the H. Subsequently two more classrooms, demarcated by an elevated firewall, were added to the other leg of the H, evening out the plan. This unusual design, which may have been drawn to re-use the original building's foundation and footprint, is confirmed in photographs of the school taken about 1936 as part of a Rosenwald Fund-supported project in Nash to maintain and beautify the county's schools and grounds

In the 1930s a frame building for agricultural classes and a tin-covered gymnasium, both gone, were added to the campus. In 1941, to relieve overcrowding, the county erected a large, one-story, brick-veneered high school building to the east, which still fronts on Pine Street. At that time, the school was renamed Spaulding High School, for Charles Clinton Spaulding.²¹ Additional brick-veneered buildings, including a six-classroom building, a four-classroom building, an auditorium, and a gymnasium—all of which are extant—were added in the 1950s (Anonymous n.d.; Anonymous 1984).

The campus and school buildings, with the exception of the teacherage, remain in the hands of the Nash County Board of Education, although they are no longer part of the public school system. The board uses the Rosenwald school for storage. The 1941 high school building anchors the campus' current function as the Spaulding Family Resource Center.

A comparison of the exterior of the school with the c.1936 photographs of it confirms that it is unusually intact. It retains its wire-cut brick veneer and a seam-metal roof. Its north-facing front elevation has projecting blank walls holding classrooms and, set back on the hyphen between the legs of the H, two entries and three pairs of flanking 6/6 sash windows. Above this sash are three pairs of recessed, fixed, three-light clerestory windows that help light the central auditorium. Five banks of 9/9

²¹ Charles Clinton Spaulding (1874-1952) founded the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance, headquartered in Durham, in 1898. By the time of his death in 1952, the company was the largest black-owned business in the country (*New York Times*, August 2, 1952; *Encyclopedia Britannica* on-line entry for Charles Clinton Spaulding).

sash windows punctuate the building's east side elevation, denoting the placement of the five classrooms on that leg of the H. At the west side elevation are, from the front, a bank of 9/9 windows, a bank of smaller 6/4 windows at the industrial room, and another bank of 9/9 sash. A firewall rises behind this portion of the leg of the H, where the building initially terminated. Behind it are two additional classrooms with banks of 9/9 sash. Banks of windows open into the courtyard at the rear (south) of the hyphen. (All of the banks of windows, but for those in the industrial room, have lost one original window, probably to no-longer-extant air-conditioning units.) The classrooms along the long rear legs of the H open onto shaded porticoes, called cloisters in Rosenwald Fund drawings, and the courtyard.

Although no earlier photographs of the building's interior were located, it also appears to be largely intact. Its moveable partition walls have been opened and acoustic tiles hang from its ceilings, but it retains plaster walls, beaded-board wainscoting, cross-panel doors with three-light transoms, and early blackboards.

The Spring Hope School clearly retains its integrity of setting, materials, and design and is believed to be individually eligible for National Register listing. In all likelihood, the entire campus, along with the teacherage, is Register-eligible as a historic district. However, that assumption is not fleshed out here, as a study of the entire campus is beyond the scope of this project.

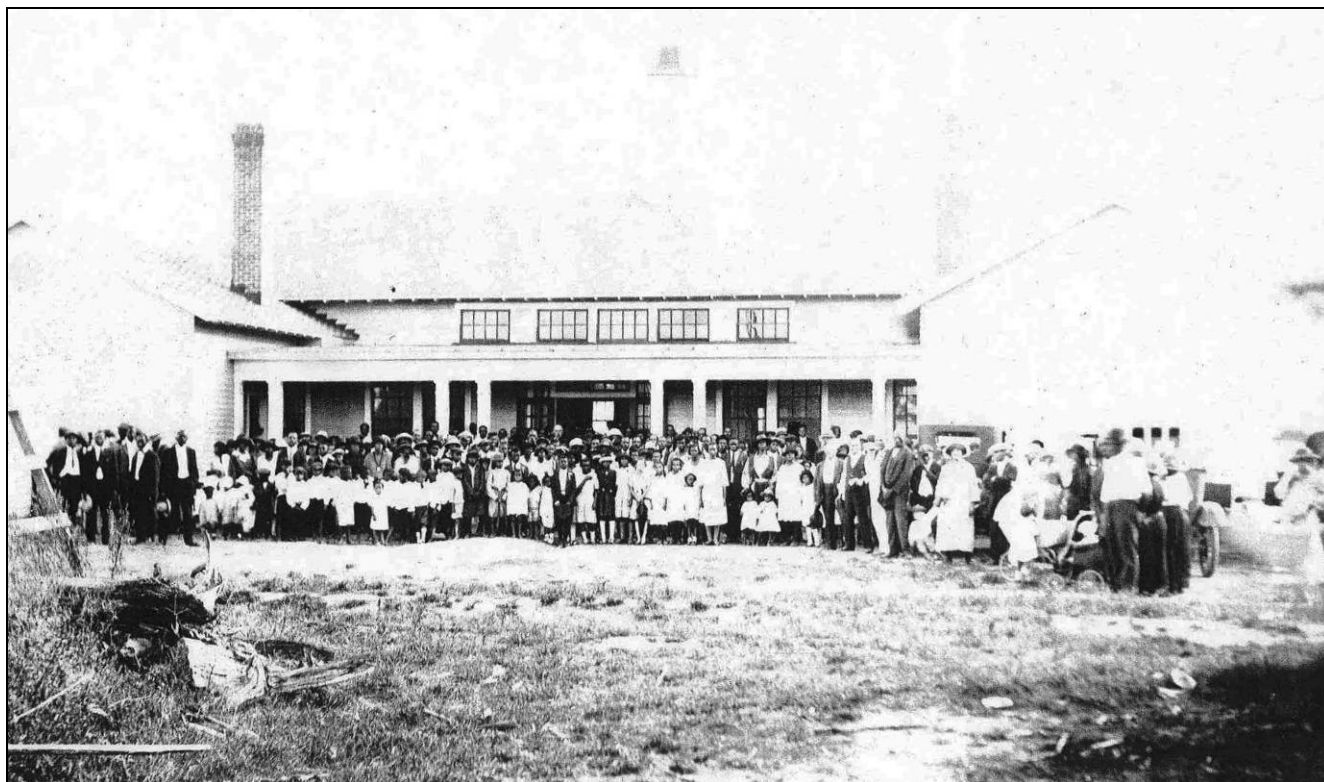


Plate 194. Original weatherboarded frame Spring Hope School, c.1920s (source: Julius Rosenwald Fund Archives, Fisk University)



Plate 195. Spring Hope School: east side and north front elevations

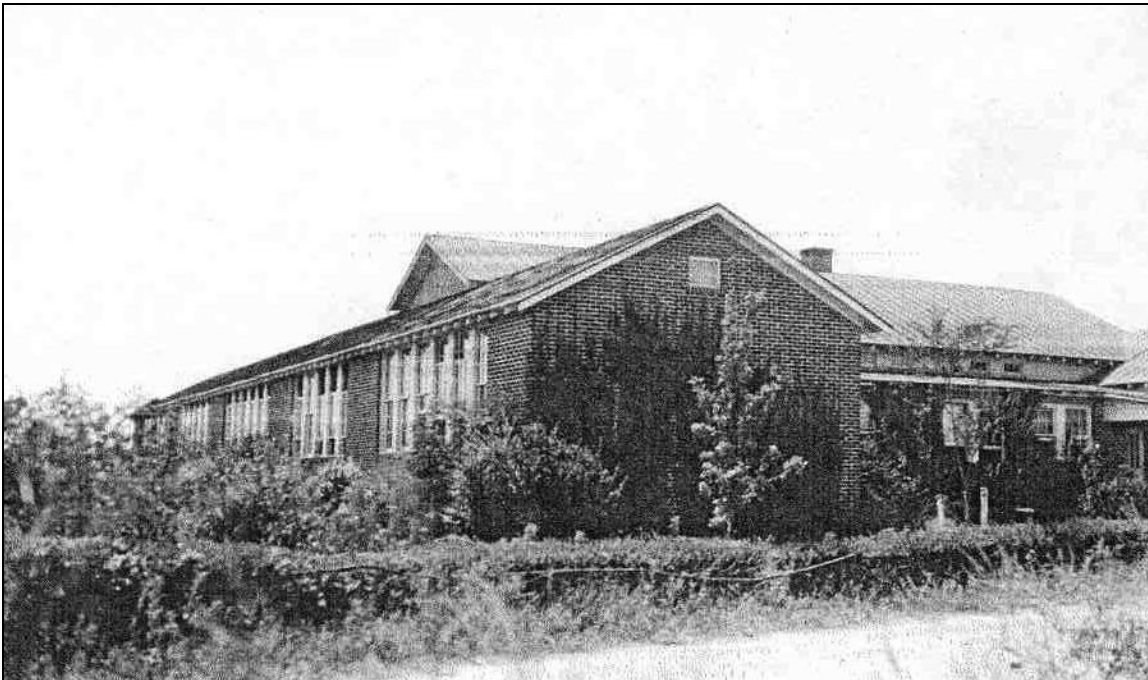


Plate 196. Spring Hope School: east side and north front elevations, c.1936 (source: Julius Rosenwald Fund Archives, Fisk University)



Plate 197. Spring Hope School: west side and south rear elevations with additional classrooms at center behind elevated firewall



Plate 198. Spring Hope School: west side and south rear elevations, c.1936 (source: Julius Rosenwald Fund Archives, Fisk University)



Plate 199. Spring Hope School: north front elevation



Plate 200. Spring Hope School: edge of north front and east side elevations; note shorter windows of industrial room and firewall raised between initial end of school and later addition



Plate 201. Spring Hope School: courtyard at rear (south) of school

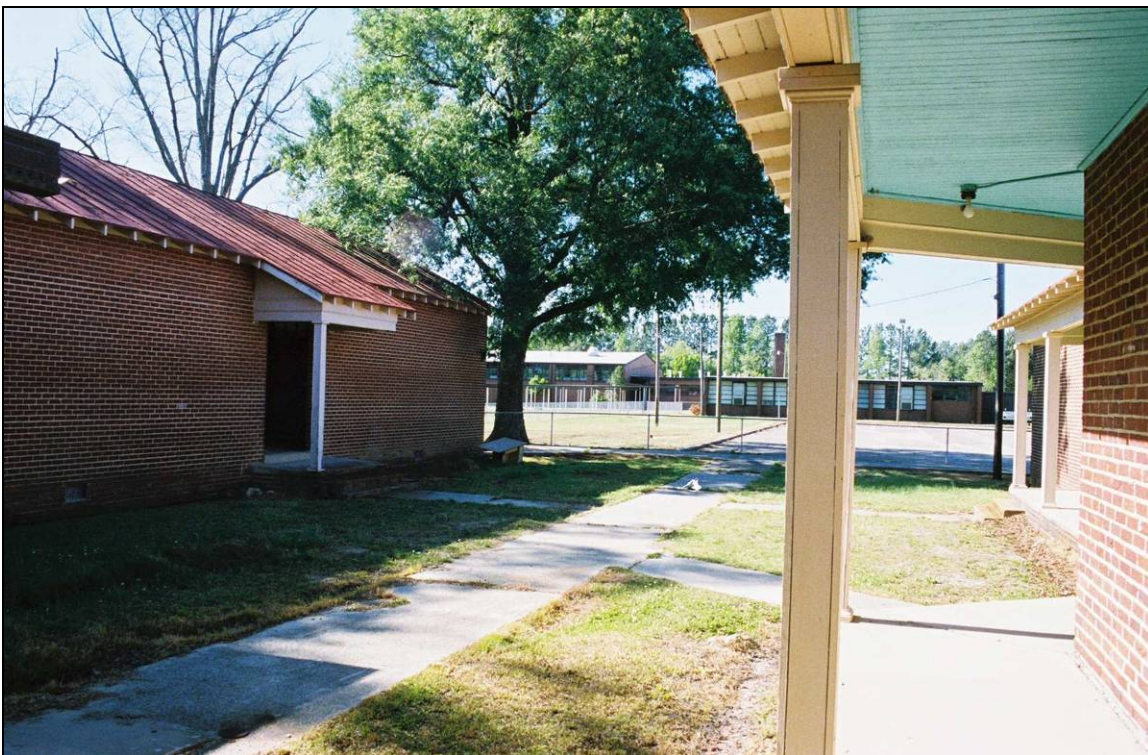


Plate 202. Spring Hope School: view south from interior of courtyard toward later campus buildings



Plate 203. Spring Hope School: east side and south rear elevations



Plate 204. Spring Hope School: early or original Murdock fountains behind south rear of school



Plate 205. Spring Hope School: view from hyphen to east central classroom



Plate 206. Spring Hope School: view through removed partitions from east central classroom to hyphen



Plate 207. Spring Hope School: view from hyphen through removed partition to industrial room



Plate 208. Spring Hope School: west central classroom; note original doors, transoms, and replaced blackboard



Plate 209. Spring Hope School: looking northwest from Pine Street at campus with 1950s building at right, Rosenwald building at center between trees, and 1941 high school building at left



Plate 210. Spring Hope School: looking southwest from Pine Street at campus with 1941 high school building at right and 1950s buildings at center and left

SPRING HOPE TEACHERAGE (NS-952)

**North side of School Street,
0.05 miles west of Poplar Street,
Spring Hope**

The Spring Hope Teacherage is contemporaneous with the original Spring Hope School that was dedicated on the other side of School Street in 1926 (Anonymous n.d.; Anonymous 1984). As did the school, the teacherage required about four years of local fundraising before it could be erected. The Rosenwald Fund allocated \$900.00 for it as part of its 1922-23 budget and the county ultimately contributed \$1,100 in public funds toward it. However, the lion's share of the cost--\$3,000—was provided by the local black community.

In 1974 graduates of the Spring Hope School organized the C.C. Spaulding Alumni Association. The association, which maintains the teacherage, acquired title to the property in 1995. In 1998 it submitted an application to have the teacherage listed on the North Carolina Study List of potentially National Register-eligible resources. In 1999 the State Historic Preservation Office placed the teacherage on the Study List.²²

The teacherage does not follow any published Fund plan. Rather, it utilizes a two-story, foursquare plan and Craftsman-style details common to its period of construction (Plates 211-222) (Figure 25). It is a frame weatherboarded building on a brick foundation. Its full-façade, south-facing, Craftsman-style porch has three squat brick piers and compressed battered columns, and a hip roof with wide overhanging eaves. Its principal roof has a similar hip and eaves. In the porch's shadow are three bays: a door and window at the right (east) and a paired window at the left. As are most of its windows, these are 6/1 double-hung sash. The east side elevation has two paired windows at its first story and single windows above. The west side elevation is similar, but has only one paired window. The two-bay rear elevation is extended, at the northwest, by a one-story, shed-roofed ell with 4/4 sash, which may be a later addition. The teacherage's plan reflects its use as the home of multiple unrelated residents. Side-by-side parlors span the front of the first floor. Behind them are a third parlor or dining room and a kitchen and bathroom. A second small bathroom occupies the ell. The stairway to the second floor rises through the middle of the house. It opens on a small central hallway that provides access to the four upstairs bedrooms. The interior retains its plaster walls, brick first-floor mantels, stair newels and balusters, and five-cross-panel doors.

As only one teacherage was included in this study, it was not possible to develop particular registration requirements for the type. The Spring Hope Teacherage, however, is believed to be clearly eligible for National Register for its historical association with the Rosenwald Fund program and for its architecture. It is little altered and stands on its original site, with the same orientation to the Spring Hope School that continues to stand across the street. It therefore is believed to retain its eligibility of setting, materials, and design. As noted at the discussion of the Spring Hope School, it may be part of a historic district that includes the entire campus.

²² In a letter of February 11, 1999, to the Nash County Board of Education, the preservation office informed the trustees that it had placed the teacherage on the Study List. The letter noted the presence of the 1931 and 1941 school buildings across the street and recommended that, if a National Register nomination was ever prepared, all of the buildings be considered together.

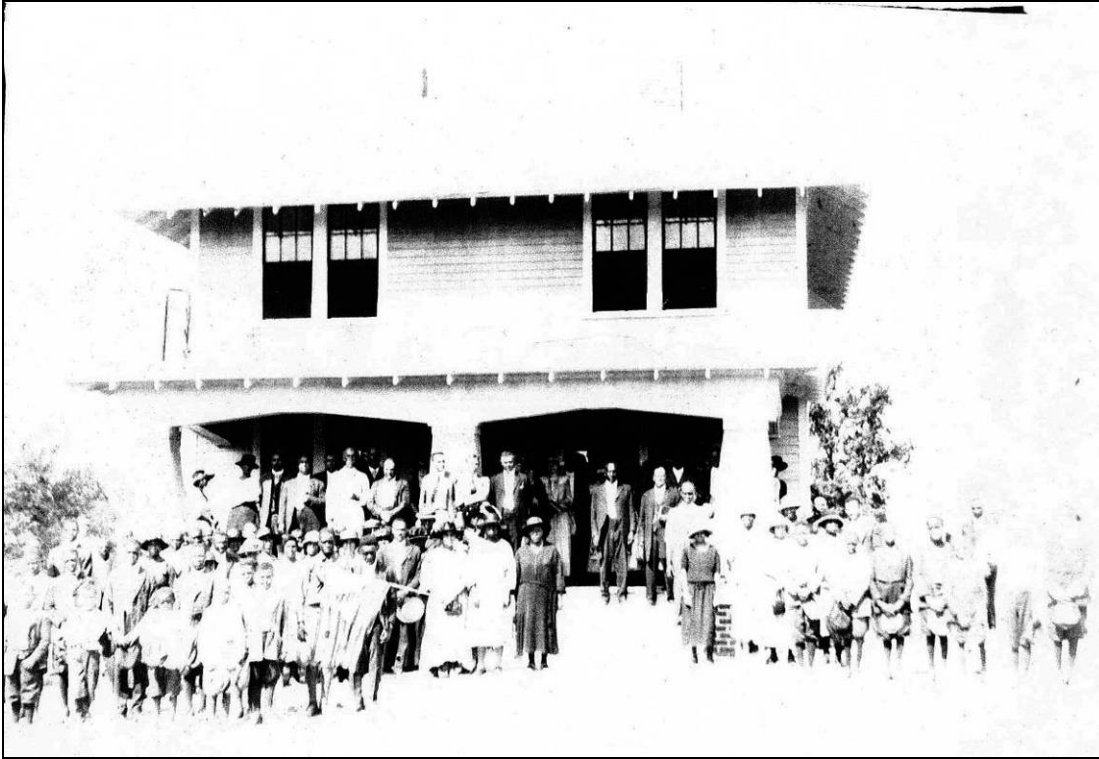


Plate 211. Spring Hope Teacherage: south front elevation, c.1920s (source: Julius Rosenwald Fund Archives, Fisk University)



Plate 212. Spring Hope Teacherage: south front elevation



Plate 213. Spring Hope Teacherage: west side and south front elevations



Plate 214. Spring Hope Teacherage: north rear and west side elevations



Plate 215. Spring Hope Teacherage: east side and north rear elevations



Plate 216. Spring Hope Teacherage: south front and east side elevations



Plate 217. Spring Hope Teacherage: view southeast from front door across School Street to Spring Hope School



Plate 218. Spring Hope Teacherage: kitchen at northwest corner of first floor



Plate 219. Spring Hope Teacherage: first floor front parlors from entry; door in far parlor leads to kitchen



Plate 220. Spring Hope Teacherage: right-hand first floor front parlor with stair at left and entry to rear parlor or dining room at center



Plate 221. Spring Hope Teacherage: second floor hallway with entries to bedrooms; note intact cross-panel doors, surrounds, and stair newel and balusters

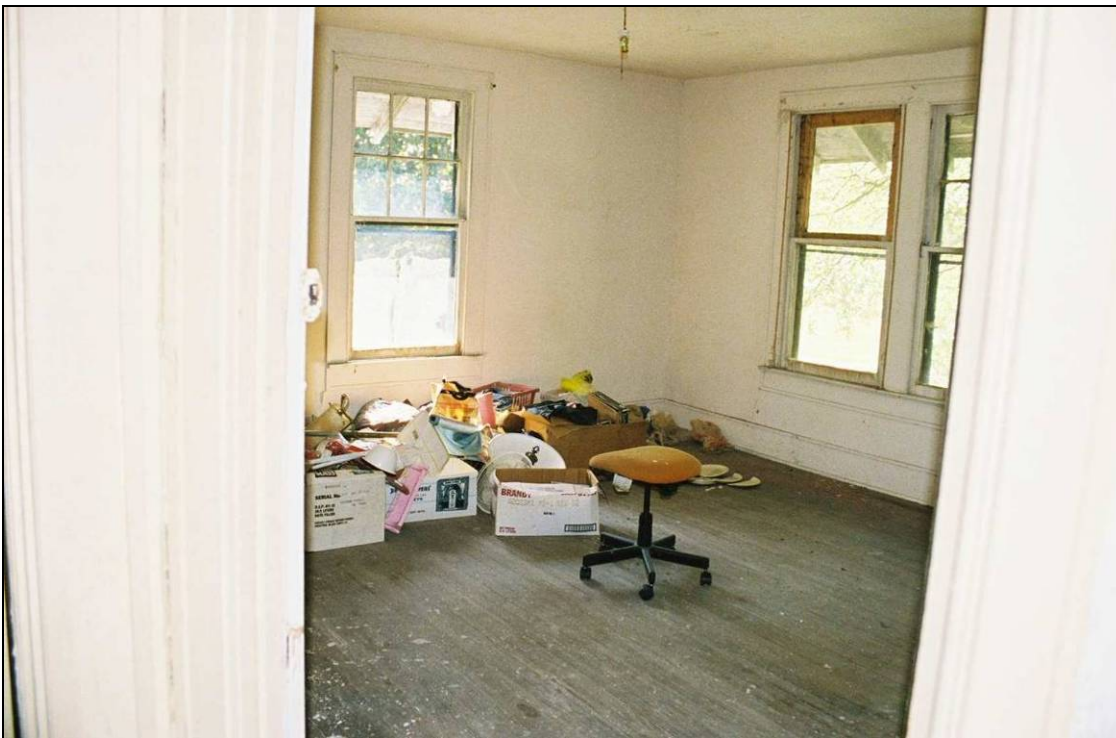


Plate 222. Spring Hope Teacherage: northwest upstairs bedroom

