



## HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Marc Elrich  
*County Executive*

Sandra I. Heiler  
*Chairman*

Date: August 15, 2019

### MEMORANDUM

TO: Jamie Kuhns  
M-NCPPC Montgomery Parks

FROM: Dan Bruechert  
Historic Preservation Section  
Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission

SUBJECT: Historic Area Work Permit Norbeck Rosenwald School – Interpretive Signage

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The Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) has reviewed the attached application for a Historic Area Work Permit (HAWP). This application was **Approved** at the August 14, 2019 Historic Preservation Commission meeting.

The HPC staff has reviewed and stamped the attached construction drawings.

THE BUILDING PERMIT FOR THIS PROJECT SHALL BE ISSUED CONDITIONAL UPON ADHERENCE TO THE ABOVE APPROVED HAWP CONDITIONS AND MAY REQUIRE APPROVAL BY DPS OR ANOTHER LOCAL OFFICE BEFORE WORK CAN BEGIN.

Applicant: M-NCPPC Montgomery Parks  
Address: 4101 Muncaster Mill Rd., Rockville

This HAWP approval is subject to the general condition that the applicant will obtain all other applicable Montgomery County or local government agency permits. After the issuance of these permits, the applicant must contact this Historic Preservation Office if any changes to the approved plan are made. Once work is complete the applicant will contact Dan Bruechert at 301.563.3408 or [dan.bruechert@montgomeryplanning.org](mailto:dan.bruechert@montgomeryplanning.org) to schedule a follow-up site visit.



# Norbeck Rosenwald School

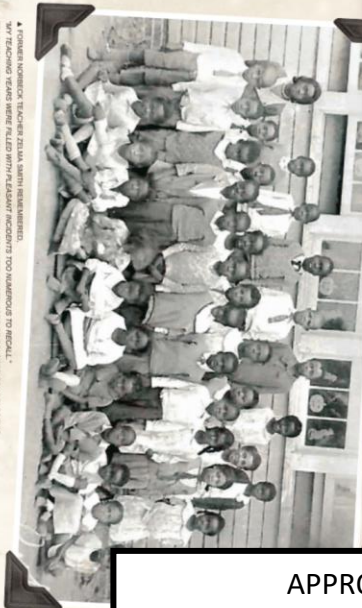
County-funded elementary education for African American children did not exist until 1872. Until then, small black enclaves, like Mount Pleasant, pulled community resources to establish schools. A significant boost in financial assistance came in 1917 with the establishment of the Julius Rosenwald Fund. Between 1920 and 1929, fifteen Rosenwald Schools were built in Montgomery County – collectively covered by African American residents contributing \$7300 to match the \$8200 donated by Jewish philanthropist and Sears founder Julius Rosenwald (1862-1932). The remaining \$61,360 came from tax revenue. Nine schools, including Norbeck, were constructed between 1927-1928. This two-teacher, two-room, one-story structure cost \$5300 to build.



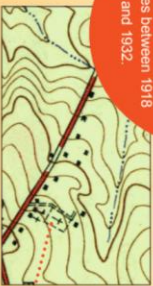
Classroom instruction included the basics – reading, writing, and arithmetic, and followed the Tuskegee model established by educator Booker T. Washington (1856-1915). The emphasis was on self-help and gender-specific vocational training. Conditions inside were not always ideal for learning as former pupil Mabel D. Jackson recalled, "There were no inside facilities, water, or central heat. We had free books but never any new ones. These books were dirty, ragged, marked in, and often had pages missing." These inequities only increased as the school entered the Great Depression. During World War II, Norbeck had 85 students from 1st to 7th grades. Norbeck closed in 1951, three years before the 1954 Supreme Court ruling *Brown v. Board of Education* overturned school segregation. In 1957, M-NCPCC developed plans to convert the school into a recreational center, a function that continues today.

A former Norbeck teacher recalls seeing the building in 1927. The teacher was especially fond of A. D. Collins from 1917 to 1924, and his replacement, Edward L. Tucker, who served last year in 1928. (County file 100-1)

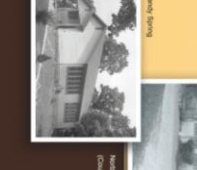
The original two-room school, construction had one room set aside for classroom instruction, while the other room served as a coat closet and storage for winter coats. The building was built with red brick and a wooden chimney.



Norbeck was one of over 6,000 Rosenwald Schools built in the American South, and one of 158 schoolhouses established in twenty of Maryland's counties between 1918 and 1932.



This site had a long history with a farm and both the cemetery and the church located on the site.



Aerial view of the school building in 1927.

View of the school building in 1928.

View of the school building in 1929.

View of the school building in 1930.

View of the school building in 1931.

View of the school building in 1932.

View of the school building in 1933.

View of the school building in 1934.

APPROVED  
Montgomery County  
Historic Preservation Commission

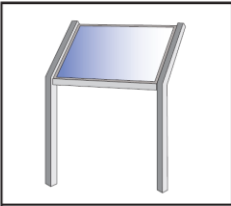
*Sandra L. Heiler*

REVIEWED

By Dan.Bruechert at 2:01 pm, Aug 15, 2019

Funding generously provided by:  
Jewish American Society for Historic Preservation  
[www.jewish-american-society-for-historic-preservation.org](http://www.jewish-american-society-for-historic-preservation.org)

THE INSTITUTIONS AT THE HEAD OF THE ROBERT FLEISHER COMMENTARY AS SEEN IN 1973. (County, U.S. Department of Education)



**QTY. 16**

**Cantilevered  
Exhibit Base**

**F-CL-36X24**

**JOB # 35896**

MD - National Capital  
Park & Planning

**Frame Size:** 36.5"w x 24.5"h

**Trim Size:** 35.875"w x 24.875"h

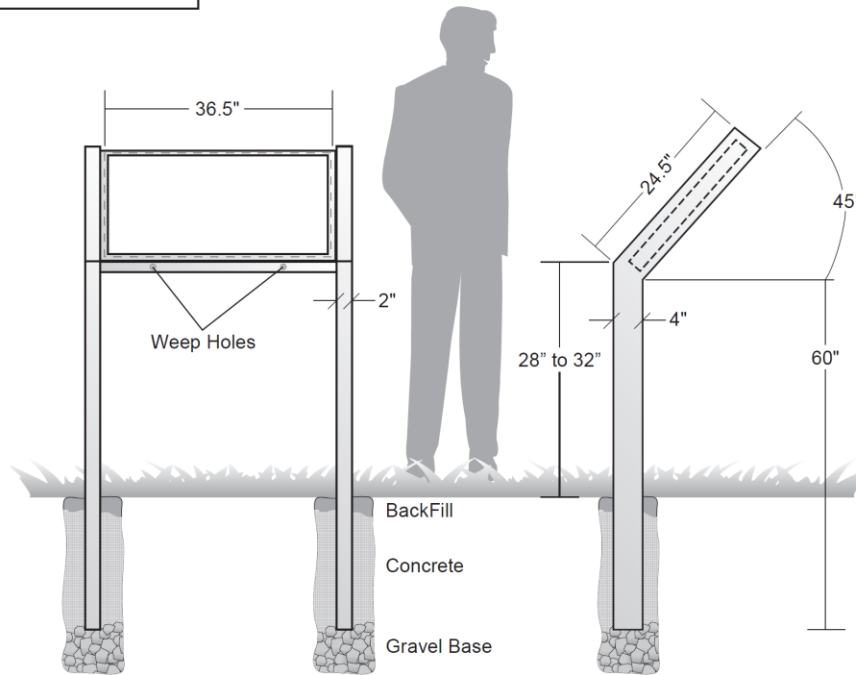
**Visual Area:** 35"w x 23"h

**Frame Color:** ??

**Finish:** Satin

**Date:** 10/02/2009

**Drawn By:** MLS



Customer Approval

Date



345 Oak Road  
Gibsonia, PA 15044  
Phone: 724-265-4900  
1-800-544-8428  
Fax: 724-265-4300  
www.panniergraphics.com

- Post holes should be dug below the frost line depth
- Pannier recommends post height from ground to bottom of frame to be 28" - 32"

**APPROVED**

Montgomery County

Historic Preservation Commission

*Sandra L. Heiler*

**REVIEWED**

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