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www.thc.state.tx.us thc@thc.state.tx.us

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Our Mission

To protect and preserve the state's historic and prehistoric resources for the use, education, enjoyment and economic benefit of present and future generations.

County Historical Commission TIPS & TOOLS



The Bee CHC has partnered with the Lott Canada Alumni and Coastal Bend College to pursue markers and designations for the Lott Canada School in Beeville, a Rosenwald school built in the 1930s. It is currently used as a school for continuing education and provides a museum space dedicated to the history of the Lott Canada School.

County Historical Commissions (CHC) are charged with developing and maintaining an inventory of surveyed properties in cooperation with the Texas Historical Commission (THC). As we enter the new year, we ask that CHCs prioritize updating their inventories to provide accurate location and condition information.

The THC is particularly interested in CHC assistance to update the statewide thematic inventory for Rosenwald schools. In the early 20th century, many public rural schools for African American children were dilapidated with few amenities. This drew the attention of Julius Rosenwald, the president of Sears, Roebuck and Co., who developed the Julius Rosenwald Fund. Active from 1912 through 1932, the Rosenwald Rural School Building Program provided almost 5,000 new schools in 15 states, including more than 500 in East Texas.

One of preservation's leading threats is the loss of our historic schools, even more so to African

American schools. Rosenwald schools carry a rich history in their association with community development and for their progressive plans that were designed to create a healthy learning environment.

CHCs can help celebrate the real places that tell the real stories of these important historic resources. Please check the inventory of Rosenwald schools currently on file with the THC and let us know which schools still exist in your county and the current condition of the properties.

More information about Rosenwald schools can be found on the THC website (www.thc.state.tx.us) or from the agency's National Register Coordinator Greg Smith. We also suggest referencing the multiple property National Register listing for Historic and Architectural Resources associated with the Rosenwald Rural School Building Program, or the National Trust for Historic Preservation publication *Preserving Rosenwald Schools*.