

Museum on Main Street, Smithsonian Institution  
Stories: Yes | Student Digital Storytelling Project  
The Galesville Rosenwald School, Maryland

**Speaker 1:** The school was built in 1929, as a one room school and..

**Speaker 2:** [0:16] I enjoyed the school more about being the community. So in that it for the school cause I learned more about it. Since I were coming back and be a member of that community. then I was in school.

**Speaker 3:** [0:30] . . . because there was a lot of entertainment going on here. Where we didn't have other places to go, you know, to do this.

**Speaker 4:** [0:40] We can help somebody else that might need help, to become

**Speaker 5:** [0:46] And I thank God for that.

**Speaker 6:** [0:51] I had Ms. Merrit Gray.

**Speaker 7:** [0:53] Who would in the wintertime, Would make soup. For lunch, for the kids. On the potbelly stoves, so you know!

**Speaker 8:** [1:05] Ms. Samson was her name. But she was subdued most time. Novine Holt. She was a teacher. I had, let's see, Light. Our teachers that went, Brown was her name. I had Ms. Brown It was exciting. She was able to have somewhere to go right here in the village where we could walk Everybody didn't have a car. And we just enjoyed each other, whatever it was held here. You know, we used to have a dance here, have a little band and...

**Speaker 9:** [1:45] We had a two-room school. So you had first, second and third and then you have fourth, fifth and sixth.

**Multiple speakers:** [1:50] That view could be right there. It was one in this one. and one on the other side and that one stove kept the whole building alive.

**Speaker 10:** [2:00] A way to appreciate the way life is now because I mean we had outhouses, we had a coal stove, we had to bring our lunch. There was no electricity, so..

**Speaker 11:** [2:12] We only had two rooms.

**Speaker 12:** [2:19] You made a little scrapbook or something to identify the different leaves from the trees the maple tree or oak tree or whatever type of leaf that.

**Multiple speakers:** [2:27] Read and write and arithmetic.

**Speaker 13:** [2:30] I remember us having a little garden here on the grounds, here at the school grounds. And we'd plant flowers and I think there might've been some vegetables there also, but I do remember having a little flag garden and what else. Oh, actually it had a tremendous impact on my life because our forefathers implanted in us, minds that education was very important and with that in mind, we came to learn and was an experience that I will always remember because I had very, very, very special individuals, teachers.

**Speaker 14:** [3:21] Am glad that I went to this school because I can see where I was and where I've come from.

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**Speaker 15:** [3:33] Then, this was the only school for black kids in this area. Before that time, they were taught in like either private homes or churches. And the Julius Rosenwald Foundation, Julius Rosenwald was the owner of Sears and Roebuck and he contributed to about 23 schools in Aleraldo County, and there's 10 surviving. And most of those are community centers. So we were able to get funding to do a renovation and basically open it as a community center.

**Speaker 16:** [4:13] A hundred years. Like it is now. Never dreamed that this would ever be, but I'm glad this was something, it's still for us. Still ramped to see what become of it.