



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fort Mill, S.C., February 11, 2020 — The South Carolina Department of Archives and History (SCDAH) has recognized George Fish School as a significant part of South Carolina history by awarding it an Official South Carolina Historical Marker. The designation honors George Fish School, a Rosenwald School, as an important and educational part of local history.

“Fort Mill School District (FMSD) is proud and honored to cosponsor the George Fish School Historical Marker project. The George Fish School story contains a rich history in the greater Fort Mill community and played an important part in the educational charge of the district during school segregation. Later, the school served as a junior high/middle school for all district students until it was closed and replaced as FMSD added schools to address additional student growth. The school served as the center of the Paradise neighborhood in educational, athletic, and social activities and was the pulse of the black community during that time. More importantly, the impact of the school’s role in developing and preparing generations of students for the future is impossible to measure,” said Dr. Chuck Epps, Superintendent of the Fort Mill School District.

A dedication program will be held on Monday, March 30, 2020 at 10 am at the Fort Mill School District Building, 2233 Deerfield Drive, Fort Mill, SC 29715, followed by the official unveiling at 12 noon at the site of the George Fish School Historical Marker, 401 Steele Street, Fort Mill, SC 29715.

Speakers for the 10 am program include Professor M. Washington-Cabiness Abuwi, MA., M.Ed., Senior great-grandson of Booker T. Washington and Author, *Booker T. Washington For A New America: Are We There Yet?*; Mr. Scott Bell, Great-great nephew of George Fish; and Ms. Stephanie Deutsch, Author, *You Need a Schoolhouse: Booker T. Washington, Julius Rosenwald, and the Building of Schools for the Segregated South*.

“The George Fish School Historical Marker proudly stands on the site, where our school once stood during the era of segregation. This historical marker will ensure that the history of George Fish School, Julius Rosenwald, Booker T. Washington, and our great teachers, staff and students will be accessible to all,” said John L. Sanders III, President of the George Fish School Alumni Monument Committee, 2006-2007.

“It is a precious treasure for the George Fish Historical Marker to be erected on the grounds, where this life changing institution once stood. George Fish School was a vital component of this community by providing one of life’s most important resources, quality education. For many of the students, the education and encouragement obtained from this school were key foundational elements for their success. The legacy of this school is noted on this marker and flourishes in the lives of the George Fish Alumni as they continue telling this remarkable part of history to family, friends and the community,” said Dr. David R. Ward, Jr., Chairman of the Fort Mill History Museum.

The Fort Mill School District and the Fort Mill History Museum, cosponsors, welcome the public to share in and witness this exciting historic event. The press is invited. For more information, contact the Fort Mill History Museum at 803.802.3646 or email: info@fmhm.org.