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## **Springhill School Nomination for Local History Advocacy Award**

We are proud to nominate Springhill School in Perry, Georgia for this award. Springhill first opened 110 years ago in 1905 as a one-room schoolhouse. The building has been preserved and is still in use today for educational purposes.

According to the *1915 Educational Survey of Houston County, Georgia*, the school was originally built three miles north of Perry. It was valued at \$700 in 1915 with annual maintenance costs of \$400. The school had one teacher, Miss Laura Talton, who taught six different grades to 28 students. Sometime after 1915, it became a two-room school house when a partition was added. The building was used as a school until 1925 when it closed with the opening of Perry Consolidated Schools, now home to our Houston County Board of Education central office. Several years after Springhill closed, it was sold to a former student to serve as the family home. In 1980 it found new purpose when sold to the Rehoboth Baptist Association to become the first home of the newly constituted Rehoboth Baptist Church. In 2008 when no longer needed, Springhill was given to the Perry Historical Society.

In September 2008, Ellie Loudermilk, a Perry High School educator at the time, proposed that the Board of Education relocate Springhill. On July 29, 2009, Springhill was relocated to the site of the legendary 1926 Perry Panther gym on Beckham Circle. The Perry Area Historical Society, Board of Education and many community sponsors made this possible. View [photos of the move](#) to our central office site.

The Board of Education and Perry Area Historical Society held a program to announce the opening of Springhill School on March 6, 2014. Attendees learned about the four-and-a-half year community effort to move the school. Major supporters that contributed at least \$1,000 were: Parrish Construction, JMA Architects, Perry Area Historical Society, Flint Energies, Georgia Power, Cherokee Brick, Myers Construction, Balvaunuca Club, Dr. and Mrs. William Jerles, Perry High Class of 1955 and Bill and Ellie Loudermilk. Gold sponsors included: the Sogadera Club, Kiwanis, Beltista Club, Akikta Club, Leadership Perry 2010, Laura Anderson, Randall and Terre Walker, Paul Bulloch and Matthew Arthur. Many others also volunteered their time and energy to include Board employees. Others contributed furnishings such as a slate board from a one-room school in Ohio; vintage desks; 42 chairs for seating; and a wood stove from a one-room school in Warm Springs.

Today the building is used for fieldtrips, Student of the Quarter award ceremonies, class reunions of area schools, musical performances and storytelling. Springhill is managed by the Perry Historical Society.