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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: NOVEMBER 17, 2015

(Release #2015/16 – 105)

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Board of Education & Perry Area Historical Society presented Georgia Local History Advocacy Award for Springhill School



HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – The Houston County Board of Education and Perry Area Historical Society were presented a 2015 Award for Local History Advocacy for Springhill School. The award was given during the 13th annual Georgia Historical Records Advisory Council (GHRAC) Archives Awards Ceremony on Oct. 28, 2015. Presented by Board of Regents University System Chancellor Henry M. Huckaby and GHRAC Chair P. Toby Graham, this award recognized the organizations' leadership in relocating and preserving the historic 110-year old

Springhill School.

Springhill first opened 110 years ago in 1905 as a one-room schoolhouse. The building has been preserved and is still used for fieldtrips, Student of the Quarter award ceremonies, class reunions of area schools, musical performances, lectures and storytelling. Springhill is managed by the Perry Area Historical Society.

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

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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 Area Historical Society and 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.



Accepting on behalf of their organizations were Beth McLaughlin, Houston County Board of Education Director of Community & School Affairs, and Ellie Loudermilk, Perry Area Historical Society President. They were two of the honorees who attended a reception and awards program at the Georgia Archives in Morrow, Ga. Pictured (from left) are Georgia Archives Director Christopher Davidson, Chancellor Huckaby, McLaughlin and Loudermilk.

Other honorees included: Keri Leigh Merritt, Susie Dorminy, the Atlanta History Center,

Sandra Deal, Jennifer Dickey, Catherine M. Lewis, Charlotte Thomas Marshall, Charles H. Wilson, III, Senator Valencia Seay, Senator John Wilkinson, Georgia Disability History Alliance, Association of County Commissioners of Georgia, Tony V. Parrott, Mary Quinn, Hugh Golson, Alice Daily, Mary Nowell, Charles Bullock, Scott Buchanan, Ronald Gaddie, Maurice C. Daniels, Joseph A. Fry, Christopher J. Manganiello, Bryan-Lang Historical Archives and College of Coastal Georgia, Daniel W. Massey, Richard Pearce-Moses and Virginia H. Smith.



GHRAC established the Archives Awards Program in 2003 to recognize outstanding efforts in archives and records programs in Georgia. GHRAC works to promote the educational use of Georgia's documentary heritage and to support efforts to improve the condition of records statewide. The Board is charged with advising the Chancellor and the Georgia Archives on records and

policy issues.

For more information about the GEHAC, please visit www.GeorgiaArchives.org and click on Partners, then click on Georgia Historical Records Advisory Council (GHRAC). For more information and photos of Springhill School, please visit the Board of Education's [Springhill webpage](#).

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Please note: A brochure is also attached. One may view photos from when we moved the school to our central office site at:

<http://www.shutterfly.com/lightbox/view.sfly?fid=3eb566298db5255bbcf7207a7b1fe91>