



***History of Fairview Colored School
Prepared by Joyce Perdue-Smith***

Very little is known about the first Cave Spring Colored School, except that it was associated with the Cosmopolitan United Methodist Church. The schoolhouse was located near the Georgia School for the Deaf campus. It is believed by alumni and the community that the principal of the school was Frederick M. Gordon, who also served as the principal of the Georgia School for the Deaf.

The Edification of Education- 1924 to 1968

In 1924, the Board of Trustees noted the completion of a new school, Fairview Colored School on Padlock Mountain, which cost \$3600. Over a period of thirty years, with assistance from the local community, active PTA, and various philanthropic groups including the Julius Rosenwald fund, the campus grew to include four buildings. These buildings were necessary as other local community schools closed and consolidated into the Fairview campus. Those local schools which consolidated included Central School in Chubbtown, Flat Rock School, Six Mile Bethel School, Livingston School, and Morton Bend School.

Fairview offered classes through 11th grade. Augmenting the basic curriculum, the school offered home economics, agriculture through the Future Farmer's of America, participated in a recreational basketball program, and competed in the district Fine Arts Program. The PTA annually competed and placed 1st in the booth competitions at the Floyd County Fair. In 1950, the Main High Colored School in Rome, Georgia opened and the high school aged students were bussed to Rome. Fairview then became an elementary school.

After the landmark Brown vs Board of Education decision advocating "separate but equal schools," Gov. Herman Talmadge built new schools for Blacks, known as Equalization Schools. In 1954 a new school building was built on Mill Street. Fairview School was renamed E. S. Brown School, after distinguished principal, Professor Edward S. Brown. The original Fairview campus and buildings were sold to Mr. Henry Chubb, a local Black general contractor and land baron.

E. S. Brown School continued to provide a quality education to the children of the area. After Federal desegregation laws were enforced in the mid 1960's, the decision to close the school was approved. The last school term for E.S Brown was the 1967-68 school year. Students and teachers were then re-assigned to other County schools.

From 1924 to 1968, over sixty teachers and staff members taught at the school and six principals (James B. Atwater, William D. Slaughter, Edward Simuel Brown, Otis Charles Boddie, Eugene Perdue, Sr., and Mildred Davis) served the students of the area. After 1968, the E.S. Brown School building was used as a community center and was eventually demolished.