

## Dogan High School (2016)

**Marker #: 18412**

**Marker Text:**

The first public school for African Americans in Fairfield was established in 1926. Located on what was known as "The Flat" on a small one-acre plot adjacent to the First Baptist Church, the school was named Fairfield Colored School. Over time, enrollment increased, requiring additional classrooms. The sanctuary of the First Baptist Church was used as a classroom for a time. In 1934, community members, including Billie Lorenzo McIlveen, Willie Solomon and Bill Nolan, successfully petitioned the school board to relocate the school to this site, retaining the same faculty and nine-grade system. Shortly after, in keeping with Texas college requirements, Fairfield began to offer courses to meet entrance criteria that led to the establishment of the Colored High School. Also at this time, Principal Mae V. Donahue suggested changing the name of the school to Dogan High School, in honor of Wiley College President, Dr. Matthew Dogan, Sr.

Dogan's Wildcat Athletic Program consisted of baseball, track and basketball for boys, and softball, track and basketball for girls. The Dogan Wildcat boys' team was runner-up in the state basketball tournament in 1953, 1957, 1959 and 1963. Mr. Randolph Titus, Principal of Dogan High School from 1936-1968, instilled pride in education in his students despite social and educational obstacles. Mr. Titus' success may be measured by the success of his students. Dogan alumni went on to be notable educators, dentists, doctors, lawyers, ministers, veterans, public officials and more. Academic programs at Dogan High School proved among the best in the area and enrollment increased. Dogan fully integrated in 1968. The campus continues to serve as a location for many organizations and community events focusing on education and social service. (2016)

**Directions:** From Hwy 84 in Fairfield, turn south onto S. Bateman St., the marker is located on the east side between Dogan and Johnson streets at the current location of the Freestone County Alternative Education Program.

**Address:** 920 S Bateman Rd Fairfield, TX 75840

**GPS:** N 31° 42.754 W 096° 09.757

