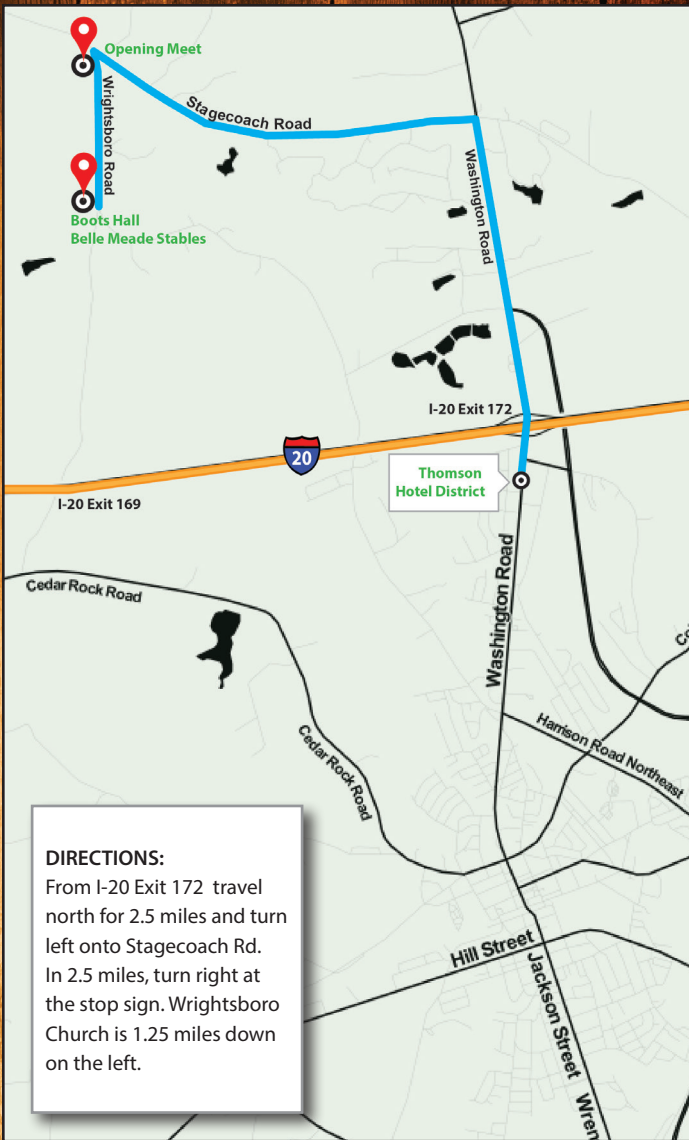


Wrightsboro

CHURCH & HISTORIC DISTRICT



Thomson
McDUFFIE CO GEORGIA

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McDuffie County's roots go back to the 1768 settlement of Wrightsboro, the southernmost point of Quaker migration in North America. The families who would found Wrightsboro came from the North Carolina Yearly Meeting groups. A schism in the Meeting, possibly over slavery, caused a group of Friends to leave North Carolina and relocate to Georgia. Colonial Governor James Wright promised them 12,000 acres of land, on which they built homes, gristmills, and a meetinghouse.

Wrightsboro Church was built in 1810 by the selling of public subscriptions and land. The Georgia General Assembly granted the commissioners of the town of Wrightsboro permission to sell three 50 acre lots and use proceeds of up to \$500 to build a house of worship for all Christian Denominations to hold services. In 1877 the public church was deeded to the Methodist Church. The Methodists asserted that they used the church most often, and that the

property would be best served if ownership was transferred to them. The community agreed



and handed the church and two acres over to the Methodist Church South. By 1964, the Methodists had disbanded after being active for over 125 years. Ownership reverted back to the public as McDuffie county became caretaker.

Ancestors of prominent Georgia families are buried at Wrightsboro Methodist, including the ancestors of Asa G. Candler – founder of the Coca-Cola company and mayor of Atlanta from 1916 to 1919. An early Quaker burial ground is about a mile east of this church on a hill overlooking a small creek. Only rough field stones mark the graves. While the town of Wrightsboro is no longer an active community, the immediate area houses some of the most interesting historic structures and stories in the state.

