

PH0023264

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Georgia	
COUNTY: McDuffie	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70.12.13.0053	DATE 12/29/70

1. NAME

COMMON:
The Old Rock House

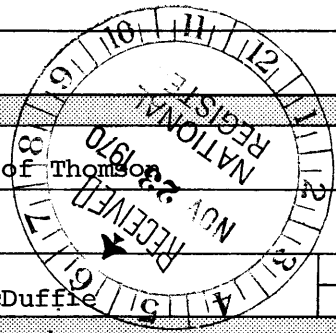
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Old Rock House Road, about three miles N.W. of Thomson

CITY OR TOWN: (Stephens-Hunter Road)
Thomson

STATE: Georgia CODE: 13 COUNTY: McDuffie CODE: 189



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments <u>will become Quaker Museum</u>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Wrightsborough Quaker Community Foundation, Inc.

STREET AND NUMBER:
Route 3, Box 220

CITY OR TOWN: Thomson STATE: Georgia CODE: 13

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
McDuffie County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Main Street

CITY OR TOWN: Thomson STATE: Georgia CODE: 13

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
None

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Georgia

COUNTY: McDuffie

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)				
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins
	(Check One)			(Check One)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site

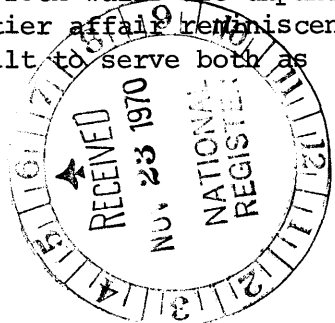
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

A fieldstone fortress-of-a-house surrounded by a chain-link fence is the most impressive vestige of the once thriving but now dead Quaker community of Wrightsboro. The house was abandoned in 1950 but in 1966 was bought by a Foundation formed to investigate and publicize this little-known late 18th Century Georgia community. When the Foundation acquired the house, vandals had damaged its interior woodwork, its windows and seemingly indestructible rock walls and chimneys but despite years of neglect and use, enough survived to tell about the unsettled period after the Revolution when Thomas Ansley and his family shared in the life of old Wrightsboro. The Quaker Foundation is slowly and carefully restoring the missing pieces and in time "Rock House," as described below, will be a three-dimensional document of a Quaker community which flourished in Georgia before and after the American Revolution.

EXTERIOR: Twenty-four-inch-thick field stone walls covered with cement scored to resemble blocks of sandstone rise two full stories to form a pitched roof giving a full attic story under the gable. Enclosed in both gable ends are chimneys and out of each end at the angle of the roof a low chimney stack rises. At the rear eave line is an original box cornice with a simple late 18th Century profile. The original cornice on the front facade was obliterated by the addition of a shed porch. Across the front at the main floor level, reading left to right, are window, paired doorways, paired windows. At the basement story level are two small windows on either side of an entrance. At the rear are seven openings: the basement level repeats the pattern of the front; the main floor level, left to right, shows two windows, one doorway, one window. Each gable end has four widely separated windows on the main floor and two at the attic. The Quaker Foundation has covered all windows with solid wooden shutters, and the roof with tin.

INTERIOR: The first story is a seven-foot high unpartitioned basement with one fireplace. The second or main floor consists of five rooms with three fireplaces one of which is in a corner. One enters this story through either of two doorways. Each door enters a different room; the left is 14'x16' and the right 16'x 16'. Each of these rooms has a large fireplace. On the left the fireplace opening is 42'x 46', and 27" deep. On the right the opening is 79"x 50" and 36" deep. Beams across each fireplace opening are 14"x 14". The partitions separating these rooms are wide pine boards laid horizontally. Across the back of the house are three small rooms, the smallest of these, in the right hand corner, is locally called the "birthing room"; it has an angled fireplace connected with the flue of the chimney in the right hand front room. The middle room has a doorway leading outside and one window. One reaches the attic story by way of stairs on the fireplace wall of the right hand room. It contains two rooms (the partition is a replacement). Four windows, two in each gable, light these rooms. Throughout, the rock walls are unpanelled. All in all it is a rough-hewn, fortress-like, frontier affair reminiscent of 17th Century New England's "garrison" houses built to serve both as residences and as fortifications.

restoration record



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

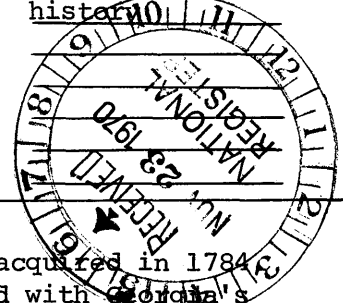
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) c. 1784 and recent restoration

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | <u>architecture</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | <u>history</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built by Thomas Ansley (1737-1809) on lands he acquired in 1784, "Rock House" is the only surviving structure associated with Georgia's small Quaker community of Wrightsborough, a colony which flourished in the late 18th Century about seven miles northwest of present day Thomson. Possibly unique in another aspect also, the house is the only known stone residence from a period in Georgia when brick and wood were the most common building materials.

Thomas Ansley's origins may have influenced him to build a house of stone. He was born and was married in Freehold, New Jersey, an area where such construction was not uncommon. Sometime after he married Rebecca Cox in 1760, he moved to North Carolina and in 1768 migrated to Georgia with a group of 40 Quaker families heading for a 12,000 acre reserve of land on the frontier of a colony known for religious tolerance. (Eventually he and Rebecca would have a family of eight children, six sons and two daughters.)

On July 3, 1770, when 1000 acres of the reserve were set aside to make the town of Wrightsboro, Thomas Ansley received town lot number 28, a one-acre lot. Nothing is known about his house in town. We assume one existed since he did not acquire the acreage upon which "Rock House" lies until after the Revolution. During the war, Ansley served as a forager and drover for the Army, and worked also as a teamster, but did not bear arms. After the war, from 1783 to 1785 he received grants totalling nearly 2400 acres. "Rock House" was built on part of this land sometime during those years. It was south of Wrightsboro town limits (about three miles northwest of present day Thomson) but within Wrightsboro Township, a political unit encompassing all of present McDuffie County, and parts of Warren and Columbia.

When Ansley died in 1809, he left the estate of a well-to-do farmer. It contained eight slaves with the average value of \$400 each, four houses, 21 head of cattle, some pigs, geese, sheep, etc. He left wagons, plows, tools, grain, beef and household articles including \$13 worth of books.

In June 1773, the naturalist William Bartram visited the village of Wrightsboro, later he wrote:

Wrightsburge is a late but thriving Settlement, on a branch of Little River which runs into Savana River[;] the inhabitants are for the most part emigrants from the North Colonies, under the conduct of Joseph Mattox, Esq. Who obtain'd a grant of these Lands

(cont.)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Baker, Mrs. F.F., Pamphlets and information on file at GHC.
 Candler, Allen D., The Colonial Records of Georgia. (Atlanta: Franklin Printing & Publishing Co., 1904), Vol. X.
 Hitz, Alex M., "The Wrightsborough Quaker Town and Township in Georgia," The Bulletin of Friends Historical Association. Vol 46, No. 1, (Spring 1957).
 Knight, Lucian L., Georgia's Landmarks, Memorials and Legends. (Atlanta: Byrd Printing Co., 1913).
 McCommons, Mrs. W.C. and Stovall, Miss Clara, History of McDuffie County.
 Mitchell, William R., Jr., Personal Inspection, 1966.
 Williams, Vinnie, "Life and Death of a Quaker Town," The Atlanta Journal and Constitution Magazine, September, 19, 1965.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		33 ° 29 ' 30 "	82 ° 24 ' 20 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		INCORRECT GEO COORDS - CD		
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

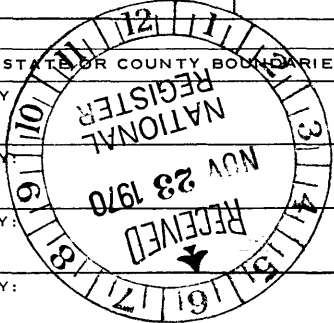
APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1 acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

NO UTM
CX

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
William R. Mitchell, Jr., Director, Georgia Historic Sites Survey

ORGANIZATION: Georgia Historical Commission DATE: August 20, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER:
116 Mitchell Street, S.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Atlanta STATE: Georgia CODE: 13

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

<p>As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u>Mary G. Jewett</u></p> <p>Title <u>State Liaison Officer</u></p> <p>Date <u>November 18, 1970</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>Ernest A. Crunally</u> Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>DEC 29 1970</p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u>William J. Montegh</u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>DEC 23 1970</p> <p>Date _____</p>
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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Georgia	
COUNTY	
McDuffie	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
70.12.13.0053	12/29/70

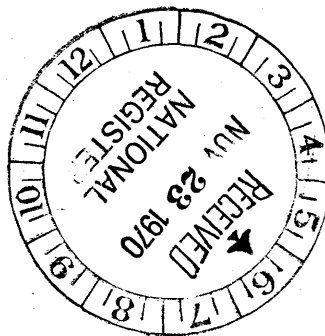
(Number all entries)

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

with a privilege of settling with such People as he should approve of And he being a Quaker by profession, most of his followers are of that Society. It is called Wrightsborough in honor to the Governor, Sr. James Wright, who granted Mr. Mattox the privilege of a Burrow in his little Colony; The Town is already laid out & about 20 houses built; several Traders in it & goods are sold as cheap here as at Augusta, Sugar Rum, Salt, and dry Goods, etc.

Except for Wrightsboro Cemetery, Thomas Ansley's "Rock House" is the last vestige of that community. Wrightsboro Quaker Preservation Foundation, Inc., has been formed to preserve that remnant, and to keep alive the memory and spirit of the area's Quaker cultural heritage, a time when Georgia was an expanding frontier and at the same time the most philanthropic and liberal of the thirteen colonies.

The house was occupied until 1950; afterwards vandals began wrecking the interior woodwork, windows, and even the rock walls. Since acquiring the house and acre of land in 1964, the Foundation has fenced the property, shuttered the window openings, repaired the rock work, and replaced interior partitions with lumber from another old house. A cedar shake roof is the next project. Approximately \$2000.00 has been spent and much free time and effort given. (The Foundation is indeed a society of friends of the 18th Century Georgia Quakers.)



JOHNNY & MARY J. McNEILL

N 43°50'W 207.1

AREA = 1.0 ACRE

JOHNNY & MARY J. McNEILL

S 46°10'W 171.4

149.4

157.1

157.1

N 46°10'E 235.4

JOHNNY & MARY J. McNEILL

ROAD PIN

MAIL

S 10°00'E

80°30'

60°17'

MAIL

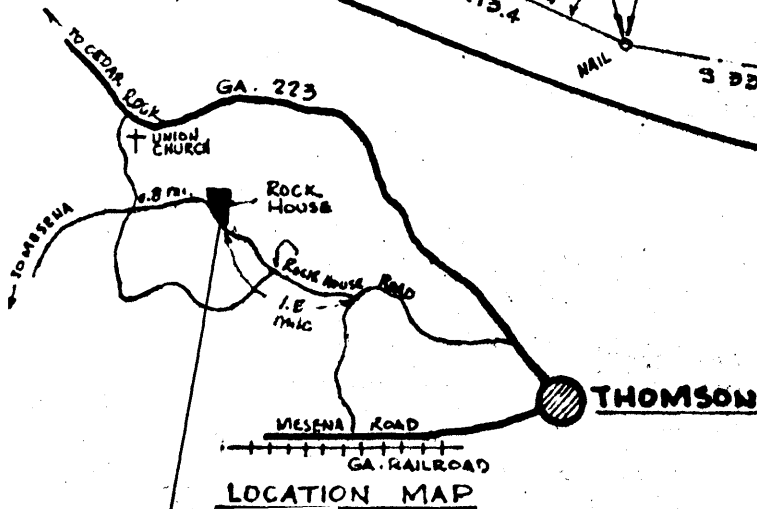
S 83°50'E

105'

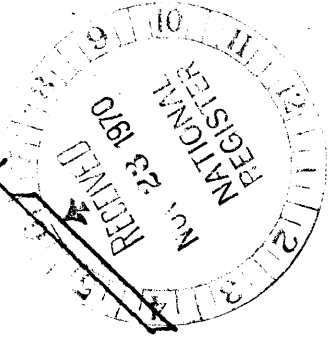
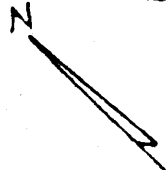
MAIL

1.5 MILE TO HAYES LANE ROAD

N 43°50'W
Rock House ROAD



OLD ROCK HOUSE



NORTH LATITUDE 33° 29' 30"
WEST LONGITUDE 82° 24' 20"

PLAT OF PROPERTY

FOR

WRIGHTSBORO QUAKER PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

134 TH G.M.D.

MCDUFFIE COUNTY

GEORGIA

SCALE: 1" = 50'

FEB. 11, 1966

Russell P. Howard

RUSSELL P. HOWARD
SURVEYOR, MCDUFFIE CO.
THOMSON, GEORGIA