



GEORGIA SCENIC BYWAYS PROGRAM

DATA SHEET

Please submit two copies of the completed application, each with a map indicating the route of the proposed byway, to ATTN: State Scenic Byways Coordinator GDOT Office of Planning, 600 W. Peachtree Street NW, Atlanta, Georgia 30308.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Sponsoring Agency, Organization or Individual

Douglas County Board of Commissioners

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PROPOSED BYWAY INFORMATION

Name of proposed byway

South Douglas Scenic Byway

Route Section(s)

Section	Description
Hwy 92 & 166	3.6 miles between the intersection of Hwy 92, 166 and 154 and the roundabout at Hwy 92 & 166
Hwy 166	15.4 miles between the roundabout at Hwy 92 & 166 and the county line

Approximate length (in miles) of the entire proposed byway

19 miles

INTRINSIC QUALITIES

The byway can be designated under one or more of the six “intrinsic qualities” defined by the Federal Highway Administration. Please indicate which of these qualities are most applicable for the proposed byway designation:

✓ **Scenic Quality** is the heightened visual experience derived from the view of natural and manmade elements of the visual environment of the scenic byway corridor. The characteristics of the landscape are strikingly distinct and offer a pleasing and most memorable visual experience. All elements of the landscape—landform, water, vegetation, and manmade development—contribute to the quality of the corridor’s visual environment. Everything present is in harmony and shares in the intrinsic qualities.

✓ **Natural Quality** applies to those features of the visual environment that are in a relatively undisturbed state. These features predate the arrival of human populations and may include geological formations, fossils, landform, water bodies, vegetation, and wildlife. There may be evidence of human activity, but the natural features reveal minimal disturbances.

✓ **Historic Quality** encompasses legacies of the past that are distinctly associated with physical elements of the landscape, whether natural or manmade, that are of such historic significance that they educate the viewer and stir an appreciation for the past. The historic elements reflect the actions of people and may include buildings, settlement patterns, and other examples of human activity. Historic features can be inventoried, mapped, and interpreted. They possess integrity of location, design, setting, material, workmanship, feeling and association.

✓ **Cultural Quality** is evidence and expression of the customs or traditions of a distinct group of people. Cultural features include, but are not limited to crafts, music, dance, rituals, festivals, speech, food, special events, vernacular architecture, etc., and are currently practiced. The cultural qualities of the corridor could highlight one or more significant communities and/or ethnic traditions.

✓ **Archaeological Quality** involves those characteristics of the scenic byway corridor that are physical evidence of historic or prehistoric human life or activity that are visible and capable of being inventoried and interpreted. The scenic byway corridor’s archeological interest, as identified through ruins, artifacts, structural remains and other physical evidence, has significance that educates the viewer and stirs an appreciation for the past.

✓ **Recreational Quality** involves outdoor recreational activities directly associated with and dependent upon the natural and cultural elements of the corridor’s landscape. The recreational activities provide opportunities for active and passive recreational experiences. They include, but are not limited to, downhill skiing, rafting, boating, fishing, and hiking. Driving the road itself may qualify as a pleasurable recreational experience. The recreational activities may be seasonal, but the quality and importance of the recreational activities as seasonal operations must be well recognized.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Using the intrinsic qualities identified on the previous page, please explain how the proposed byway is significant and why it should be added to the Georgia Scenic Byway System. *Additional pages may be attached if necessary. Please do not exceed five pages.*

State Route 166 is a major east west corridor through Douglas County, GA. Before Interstate 20 was constructed in the 1960s, Highway 166 and Highway 78 were the primary east/ west corridors through the county. At certain points in the past, Highway 166 was targeted for significant investment and improvement, including a plan to make a portion part of the proposed Interstate 420. Those ideas went largely unrealized. As a result, Highway 166 has emerged in the 21st century relatively free from encroaching development. The route through Douglas County is primarily comprised of wooded and rural viewsheds.

The lack of development has also allowed for the retention of history. A number of archaeological, cultural and historic resources remain largely undisturbed in proximity to the corridor. It's nexus with many north/ south roadways provide ready access to some of the earliest developed areas in Douglas County. To understand this context, it is important to start with the history of Campbell County.

Historic Quality

Campbell County, Georgia included portions of what are modern day Fulton and Douglas County. It existed between 1828 and 1931, with the portion that is now Douglas County breaking away in 1870. The county seat of Campbellton was located on the Chattahoochee River. At one time, **Campbellton** was a prosperous county seat of 1,000+ residents. Once bypassed by the Atlanta & West Point Railroad in favor of Fairburn, Campbellton failed to thrive and the county seat eventually moved to Fairburn.

Present day Campbellton still retains a **Methodist Church** and a **Baptist Church**, several **cemeteries**, a **Masonic Lodge**, and a National Register listed historic house, the **John Beavers House**. A basic grid pattern of streets centered on the old **Courthouse Square** is also visible. These structures are located on the Fulton County side of the Chattahoochee River. However, it is only a short drive along Highway 166 to encounter a number of other historic sites that trace their history back to the early days of Campbell County. And the proposed South Douglas Scenic Byway runs in proximity to the designated South Fulton Scenic Byway in proximity to historic Campbellton

Beulah Grove Lodge #372. The Beulah Grove Lodge #372 is a National Register listed site in proximity to the Pleasant Grove Church and cemetery. Per the National Register listing, this site served as the Masonic Lodge and as Pleasant Grove School for African American students. The building was constructed around 1910 with the Lodge on the second floor and the school on the first floor. The Order of Eastern Star also use the lodge. School activities were conducted here through the 1930s and lodge activities were conducted through the 1950s.

Bullard- Henley-Sprayberry House. This Greek-Revival inspired house with Folk Victorian adornment is located on the portion of Highway 166 that runs concurrent with Highway 92, Highway 154 and Highway 70. It was first constructed c. 1835 with subsequent additions. It has been owned by multiple generations of the same family. A small family cemetery is located on the property. But at least two of the early residents – Thomas Bullard and his wife – are buried in the cemetery at the Campbellton Baptist Church.

Smith's Ferry and House. The house is in the Greek Revival style constructed of brick. It is located at the site of the former Smith's Ferry, also known as the point where General McCook crossed the Chattahoochee River during the Civil War in 1864. Smith's Ferry was an alternate location to Campbellton, where Smith realized he would be unable to cross.

Highway 166 crosses through three other smaller communities. **McWhorter**, **Fairplay** and **Punkintown** all had a presence in this area at one time. Small community centers are still located in McWhorter (at the intersection of Highway 166 and SR 5) and Fairplay (at the intersection of Highway 166 and Post Road). Punkintown, was once a contender for the County Seat of Campbell County before the designation ultimately settled on Campbellton. Little remains of this settlement other than the Jones House at the intersection of Highway 70 and Rivertown Road in Fulton County.

Several other significant historic sites are located just off of Highway 166. Chapel Hill was once a contender for the County Seat of Douglas County before the designation ultimately settled on Douglasville. The **Chapel Hill Courthouse** is an early voting location that was recently restored by the Douglas County Board of Commissioners. A second early voting location was the **Middle Courthouse** located on Post Road approximately 5 miles north of the intersection with Highway 166.

Churches and cemeteries are an important part of the Highway 166 landscape. **Basket Creek Cemetery** is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is located south of Highway 166 on Capps Ferry Road. Basket Creek Cemetery maintains the tradition of mounding graves as a form of remembrance. This practice was associated with African American cemeteries, but it has fallen out of practice over the years. The continuation of this tradition at Basket Creek Cemetery is significant not only for Historical Value, but also for Cultural Value.

Other historic cemeteries in the area include:

- The **Allen Cemetery** is located on private property on Highway 166 near Chapel Hill Road. It has graves dating to 1851, and possibly earlier.
- The **Anawaga Cemetery** is a site of Native American burials located on the site of a public utility. The site was excavated in the 1970s and one set of human remains was identified and removed to the University of Georgia. It is unknown whether other remains are located on the site.
- **Boyd's Slave Cemetery** is located along Highway 166/154 adjacent to a residential subdivision. A sign marks it's location. There is little physical evidence of the cemetery left, but its location has been identified in public records.
- The **Chapman Family Cemetery** is located on private property off of Capps Ferry Road.
- The **Douglas Chapel Church of God Cemetery** is located on Highway 166 in conjunction with the church of the same name. The church was established in 1940 and the cemetery was established in 1952.
- The **Friendship Baptist Church Cemetery** is located on Highway 166 in conjunction with the church of the same name. The church was established in 1875, and the earliest inscribed marker is dated 1891.
- The **Giles Cemetery** is located adjacent to the Dog River Reservoir. Graves date from 1881 to 1902.
- The **Griffith Cemetery** is located on Big A Road just north of Highway 166.
- The **Henley-Bullard Cemetery** is located on the property of the Bullard-Henley Sprayberry House on Highway 92/166.
- The **Huff Cemetery** is a marker for a lone burial from the Civil War. It is placed adjacent to the Henley-Bullard Cemetery, but the actual location of the burial is unknown. Private William Huff was the single fatality in a skirmish between Union and Confederate troops in the area of Campbellton. Pvt. Huff died while in the care of the family at the Bullard-Henley-Sprayberry House and was buried in the garden in 1864. This was confirmed by the National Archives and the U.S. Military History Institute.
- The **McKoy Cemetery** and **McKoy Slave Cemetery** are located on Highway 166.
- The **Oak Grove Cemetery** is located on Highway 166 on the former site of Union Grove Christian Church. The Church moved to the intersection of Highway 166 and Post Road.

- The **Smith-Collins Cemetery** is a family cemetery located near Highway 166 and Smith Ferry Road. It includes graves dating from 1880.

Douglas County supports a Cemetery Preservation Commission to advocate for the preservation of historic cemeteries in the County.

Archaeological Quality

Highway 166 roughly parallels the Chattahoochee River. The settlement of the Native Americans of the Mississippian period is well documented in this area. A later tribe of the Anneewakkee Indians have left a lasting legends imprinted on the narrative history of this area. Published accounts of excavations are documented at the Georgia Archaeological Site Files. These will be consulted to determine the appropriate level of information to publish on the significant archaeological sites in the area.

A detail of an excavation of an Anneewakkee Creek Mound in Douglas County in 1972 was published in Bulletin #18 of the Southeastern Archaeological Conference in 1975 and is available online.

Cultural Quality

Douglas County has a long history of supporting agrarian land uses. Because of the limited infrastructure in the area, Highway 166 has been able to retain a largely undeveloped, rural residential character. Many residents have enjoyed hobby farms and keeping livestock for the personal use and enjoyment of their family. More recently, commercially scaled agricultural operations have chosen to locate on or near the Highway 166 corridor. These include the **Glover Family Farm, Rodgers Greens and Roots Farm, Will Winn Farm, and the King of Crops Farm**. The site of the former Patterson Dairy has transitioned from dairy farming to sod farm. But many of the former dairy structures are still extant and serve as landmarks to the counties agrarian history.

Basket Creek Cemetery is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is located south of Highway

166 on Capps Ferry Road. Basket Creek Cemetery maintains the tradition of mounding graves as a form of remembrance. This practice was once commonly associated with African American cemeteries, but it has fallen out of practice over the years. The continuation of this tradition at Basket Creek Cemetery is significant not only for Cultural Value, but also for Historical Value.

Natural Quality

Highway 166 runs roughly parallel to the Chattahoochee River. This area has been one of the primary east-west corridors in Douglas County for many years. Travelling along the road, there is access to many scenic drives that offer a glimpse of the natural terrain as the topography slopes off toward the River.

Recreational Quality

A variety of recreational uses are located on and in proximity to Highway 166 through Douglas County.

- **Boundary Waters Park** is a 492 acre park that includes baseball fields, soccer fields, and a football field to support countywide recreational league activities. There is also a playground, a fishing pond, 12 miles of multi-trails and a disc golf course. It is the beginning of the **Chattahoochee Hill Country Regional Greenway Trail**, which will eventually connect Boundary Waters Park to Sweetwater Creek State Park.
- **Punkintown Park** in a recent acquisition for the county's park system. Eighty acres of land was donated to Douglas County that was formerly a portion of a residential subdivision. The first phase is under development and will include an outdoor classroom, hiking trails, camping facilities, special events venues, and access to Bear Creek for swimming.
- The **Dog River Reservoir Park** offers fishing, a boat dock, johnboat rental, pavilions, picnic tables, grill and a gazebo. It is located on the Dog River Reservoir, which is the drinking water source for Douglas County.
- **Fairplay Park** is located in the center of historic Fairplay, and provides youth ball fields as a part of the countywide recreational league activities.

- The former **Bear Creek Golf Course** was recently acquired by the Southern Conservation Trust. With a Resolution of Support from Douglas County, Southern Conservation Trust plans to redevelop the golf course as a nature preserve with walking trails and amenities.
- **Foxhall Resort** is a destination in southwest Douglas County that offers sporting clays, guided ATV riding trail, fishing, archery, hunting, swimming, tennis, kayaking and canoeing, golf driving range, and hiking. Residential units and vacation lodging are both available at the resort.
- **St. Andrews Golf and Country Club** is a private golf club that is open to the public.

Scenic Quality

The area along Highway 166 is generally a wooded area for much of its length. The most densely wooded areas extend between the area that is SR 92/166 in proximity to Campbellton toward the intersection of Highway 166 and SR 5 in the community of McWhorter. Forested areas are broken up by views of pasture, rural homesites and other scenic vistas. This stretch crosses the county's major drinking water reservoir at Dog River. With the exception of a few project entrance monuments for residential subdivisions, the area is comprised mostly of agricultural and rural residential uses.

The stretch of Highway 92 & 166 between Highway 92 & 154 and the roundabout has experienced greater suburban development over the years. Schools, churches and neighborhoods are prominent along the corridor where separated by stretches of wooded, undeveloped land.

Between the intersection of Highway 166 and SR 5 and the county line, a greater population density occurs in the crossroad communities of McWhorter and Fairplay. Through this stretch of highway, there are more institutional uses, such as schools and churches, and limited commercial activity mostly in the form of convenience stations and services. There are still long stretches of forested and pastured vistas.