

Contextual Marker

*Willow Hill Center Marker Committee's
Revised proposal to Bulloch County Commissioners,
June 22, 2020*

In 1909, this monument was erected at the Bulloch County Courthouse to glorify and honor the 'lost cause' of the Confederacy and the Confederate soldiers of Bulloch County who fought for it. It was privately funded by the Statesboro Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. Located in a prominent public space, its presence bolstered white supremacy and faulty history, suggesting that the cause for the Civil War rested on southern honor, inequitable taxation, and states' rights rhetoric—instead of its real catalyst—African-American slavery. This monument and similar ones also were created to intimidate African-Americans and limit their full participation in the social and political life of their communities. It fostered a culture of segregation by implying that public spaces and public memory belonged to Whites. Since State law prohibited local governments from removing Confederate statues and monuments, Bulloch County contextualized this monument in 2020. Bulloch County officials and citizens believe that public history can be of service when it challenges us to broaden our sense of boundaries and includes community discussions of the victories and shortcomings of our shared histories.