

# Georgia Department of Natural Resources

## Historic Preservation Division

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

## **Bartow Historic District Listed in National Register**

ATLANTA (February 9, 2009) –The Bartow Historic District, located in Jefferson County, was listed in the National Register on January 13, 2009. The city sponsored the nomination and a consultant prepared the nomination materials.

The town of Bartow incorporated in 1887 after growing from a rail stop along the Central of Georgia Railroad line in 1839 to a small town. During Reconstruction, Bartow's economy prospered with the railroad and an agricultural-based economy. Bartow reached the height of its population during the 1910s and early 1920s with 500 residents. After that time, the Great Depression, boll weevil, and decline of cotton took a toll on the community. Population and employment declined and few resources in Bartow were constructed after 1950.

The Bartow Historic District is significant in architecture, commerce, industry, community planning and development, and African American heritage. Bartow is a good example of a crossroads town with railroad and retains excellent examples of historic residential, commercial, industrial, and community landmark buildings representing the common architectural types and styles found throughout Georgia in the late 19<sup>th</sup> through the mid-20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Its historic central business district represents the typical stores and businesses found in a small rural community in Georgia. Its excellent and intact collection of historic agricultural-related industrial buildings associated with the cotton gin, fertilizer, and blue lupine industry also contribute to its significance.

Bartow is located in the southwest corner of Jefferson County, approximately nine miles south of the county seat, Louisville. The Bartow Historic District encompasses historic residential, commercial, industrial, and community landmark resources associated with the development of the town. Historic resources in the district are located along Church Street and Wadley Road with the downtown commercial area located along Railroad Avenue and the rail line. Architectural styles include Queen Anne, Folk Victorian, Craftsman, and Colonial Revival. House types include Queen Anne cottage, New South cottage, Georgian cottage, Georgian house, gabled wing cottage, bungalow, and central hall. A

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neighborhood of African American houses is located on the south side of downtown along the railroad line. Stores that historically served the African American residents are along Back Street. Commercial buildings are also located along Railroad Avenue and Back Street. A rare, large, wood, livery barn remains in the downtown. There are two historic gas stations and a substantial complex of agricultural-related buildings and structures is located along the rail line including a cotton gin, several warehouses, a pump house, a water tower, and processing buildings. Historic community landmark buildings include the circa 1859 brick railroad depot, the circa 1881 temple-front Bartow United Methodist Church, the 1926 Gothic Revival-style Bartow Baptist Church, and the 1946 Bartow High School (now a community center). The historic Bartow City Cemetery is also within the district.

The National Register is the federal government's official list of historic buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts worthy of preservation. According to Richard Cloues, deputy state historic preservation officer, listing in the National Register recognizes a property's significance and ensures that the property will be taken into account in the planning of federally funded or licensed projects. In addition, owners of National Register properties may be eligible for rehabilitation tax incentives.

The Historic Preservation Division (HPD) of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources serves as Georgia's state historic preservation office. Their mission is to promote the preservation and use of historic places for a better Georgia. HPD's programs include archaeology protection and education, environmental review, grants, historic resource surveys, tax incentives, the National Register of Historic Places, community planning and technical assistance. For more information, call 404-656-2840 or visit their Web site at [www.gashpo.org](http://www.gashpo.org).

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*Photo available from Helen Talley-McRae (helen.talley-mcrae@dnr.state.ga.us). Caption information: Bartow retains excellent examples of buildings found throughout Georgia in the late 19<sup>th</sup> through the mid-20<sup>th</sup> centuries. (Credit: Photo courtesy GA Department of Natural Resources/Historic Preservation Division.)*