

# Georgia Department of Natural Resources

## Historic Preservation Division

Chris Clark, Commissioner

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

### **Brick Store Listed in National Register**

ATLANTA (May 8, 2009) –The Brick Store, located on U.S. Highway 278 at Social Circle Road in Social Circle, Newton County was listed in the National Register on April 9, 2009. The property owners, the Newton County Historical Society, sponsored the nomination and prepared the nomination materials.

Constructed in 1821 by Solomon Graves, the Brick Store was the center of a community known as Winton (later the Brick Store community) where it served as a general store and stagecoach stop. White settlement had begun in the area about three years earlier. The state of Georgia created Newton County from parts of Henry, Jasper, and Walton counties on December 24, 1821. While the Brick Store provided the community with an invaluable source for merchandise, it also served as a post office from 1851-1906 and as a general store until 1935. Since its closure, the building has maintained its status as an important community landmark for Newton County residents. Today, the Newton County Historical Society uses the building to hold meetings and events.

The Brick Store is listed at the state level of significance in the area of exploration/settlement because it housed an antebellum-era mercantile that was located along a series of historic roads used by migrants who settled portions of west Georgia and the Deep South. The store was located along a stagecoach route that ran from Charleston, South Carolina, to New Orleans, Louisiana, and another road that connected Ruckersville, South Carolina, to Milledgeville, Georgia—the state capital from 1804 to 1868. During the antebellum period, tens of thousands of settlers traveled this route, while making their way toward west Georgia, Alabama, and beyond.

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The Brick Store is also significant at the local level in the areas of commerce and social history because the building housed a general goods store that operated during a period of great change in the nature of the rural mercantile business. Roadside stores, such as the Brick Store, made significant contributions to the settling of the Deep South. A store's principal purpose was as a place of commerce for travelers to purchase needed items, ranging from foodstuffs to cookware. The Brick Store also served as a place of rest for weary travelers. Settlers socialized with merchants and clerks as well as other travelers. Stores were an important point of exchange for ideas as travelers swapped stories about their destination.

The Brick Store is also significant at the state level in the area of architecture because the building is an exceptional and rare example of an antebellum store. The store has maintained its essential form, floor plan, and brick walls. After it closed in 1935, the building fell into a state of disrepair. In 1973, the building underwent a significant renovation that included the replacement of its roof, plaster walls, flooring, windows, doors, shutters, and front and rear stoops. During the 1980s, an interior plank wall was added around the second floor and the replacement front and rear stoops were removed.

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).