

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Historic Preservation Division

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

William and Ann Copeland, Jr., House Listed in National Register

ATLANTA (December 30, 2008) –The William and Ann Copeland, Jr., House, located in the vicinity of the small town of Shiloh, Harris County, was listed in the National Register on December 4, 2008. The property owner sponsored the nomination and a local historian prepared the nomination materials.

William Copeland, Jr. built the house around 1856. Copeland was a prominent cotton planter who owned or leased as many as 74 slaves in 1860. The William and Ann Copeland, Jr., House is significant in the area of architecture on the state level of significance as a good and rare intact example of a mid-19th-century Plantation Plain-type house with elements of the Greek Revival style. As documented in *Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in their Landscaped Settings*, the Plantation Plain was one of the earliest house types in Georgia and was almost strictly a rural phenomenon. Most of the few surviving examples were built between about 1820 and 1850 in the Piedmont and Coastal Plain regions of the state. Only two historic Plantation Plain-type houses are known to exist in Harris County (Copeland House and the James Whitehead House located in Pine Mountain Valley).

The Copeland house has retained its essential form, massing, and floor plan since construction. It has a two-story block at the front, with a central hallway, and a one-story pair of rooms at the rear. The interior retains its historic heart pine floors and hand-planed walls and ceilings. The exterior has several Greek Revival-style elements including its symmetrical façade, six square Doric columns, and doorway with a transom light and dual sidelights. During the 1880s, a rear ell was added to the house to make room for a dining room and kitchen. In the 1970s, the one-story, shed-roofed porch, built during the 1870s as part of the rear ell addition, was enclosed. Despite these changes, the house's historic integrity remains high.

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.