

# Georgia Department of Natural Resources

## Historic Preservation Division

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

### **Dutton-Waller Raised Tybee Cottage Listed in National Register**

ATLANTA (August 12, 2008) – The Dutton-Waller Raised Tybee Cottage, located on 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Tybee Island, Chatham County, was listed in the National Register on July 24, 2008. The property owner sponsored the nomination and a consultant prepared the nomination materials.

The Dutton-Waller Raised Tybee Cottage was built circa 1938 as a speculative venture for Savannah lawyer Edward Dutton, who later served as mayor of Tybee Island in the 1950s. Dutton sold the cottage to real estate investor and developer Blanche S. Waller in 1940. Waller was the wife of William Penn Waller, owner and operator of Waller Lumber and Supply Company of Savannah. The Wallers, who purchased dozens of investment properties throughout Chatham County, sold the cottage between 1943 and 1947. James J. and Mary Frances O’Neill of Savannah purchased it for a summer residence. The Dutton-Waller cottage has continued to be used as both a summer cottage and a year-round residence.

The Dutton-Waller Raised Tybee Cottage is significant in the area of architecture as an excellent example of a raised Tybee cottage, a house type that developed as a standard beach house design for middle-class families on Tybee Island between circa 1925 and 1949. The main living quarters are raised a full story to protect against high water and to provide ocean breezes

*Dutton-Waller Raised Tybee Cottage listed in the National Register, page 2*

and views to the ocean. The lower level accommodates automobiles, boat storage, and sometimes servant quarters.

The cottage is also significant in the areas of community planning and development and entertainment/recreation because it represents the first period of intensive resort development on Tybee Island. In the first decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Tybee Island, also known as Savannah Beach, developed as a coastal resort for residents of nearby Savannah. The opening of the Tybee Road in 1923, a causeway that linked the island with Savannah, fueled the demand for oceanfront property. Many lots were subdivided to accommodate the construction of seasonal beach houses.

This two-story, wood-frame cottage has changed little since its construction in circa 1938 and retains a high level of historic integrity. The main living space is located on the second floor, which includes screened porches on two sides. The informal bungalow plan is organized around the living room, dining room, and kitchen along the north half of the house and two bedrooms with a shared bathroom along the south side. The first floor includes an automobile stall set between a grid of wood posts and servant quarters located against the rear wall.

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 income producing National Register properties may be eligible for rehabilitation tax incentives.

For more information on the National Register and other preservation programs, contact the Historic Preservation Division of the Department of Natural Resources at 404-656-2840 or visit our Web site at [www.gashpo.org](http://www.gashpo.org).

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