

Eureka Club-Farr's Point Listed in National Register

Atlanta (July 23, 2009) – Eureka Club-Farr's Point, located on Wilmington Island in Chatham County, was listed in the National Register on July 8, 2009. The property owner sponsored the nomination and prepared the nomination materials.

In 1891, the Eureka Club was built at the southernmost tip of Wilmington Island by a group of Savannah residents as a small, private vacation club. The three-room house overlooked the marshes of the Wilmington and Halfmoon rivers. In 1921, the property was purchased by William Farr, a Savannah lawyer and land developer. Marion Heath, purchased Farr's Point, as it was known, in 1937. Heath rented Farr's Point to vacationers. In 1945, Inez Womble Rogers purchased the house and used it as her primary residence. Maridon, as it was called after 1945, has remained in the Rogers family.

The Eureka Club-Farr's Point is significant in the area of entertainment/recreation because it represents the first period of resort development on Wilmington Island, when residents of Savannah built houses and clubs as seasonal resorts. After World War II, it became more common for houses on Wilmington Island to be used as year-round residences.

The Eureka Club-Farr's Point is significant in the area of architecture as an excellent example of a coastal resort cottage for middle- and upper-middle-class residents of Savannah. Like the raised Tybee cottages that were built from circa 1925 to 1949, Eureka Club-Farr's Point is raised on piers to protect against high water and to provide breezes. The screened porches that wrap around three sides of the house offer views of the marsh. The L-shaped house was built with two principal rooms and a kitchen ell. Before 1945, three rooms were added across the back and east sides. The frame house is raised on cedar posts with screened porches across the south and west sides. The walls are clad with aluminum siding and the gable roof is covered in corrugated sheet metal. Historic interior finishes include beaded-board walls and ceilings, doors and windows and their surrounds, marble sinks, and built-in closets. The property also includes a small frame pump house and an elevated water tank, both built before 1941. The cylindrical water tank is composed of riveted sheet metal and set high on a steel-framed platform. Two docks, one constructed of oyster shell and the other wood, reach from the house south across the marsh to the Halfmoon River.

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.

The mission of the Department of Natural Resources is to sustain, enhance, protect and conserve Georgia's natural, historic and cultural resources for present and future generations, while recognizing the importance of promoting the development of commerce and industry that utilize sound environmental practices.

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Contact: Helen Talley-McRae, 404-651-5268 and helen.talley-mcrae@dnr.state.ga.us