

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Historic Preservation Division

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Boyd and Sallie Gilleland House Listed in National Register

ATLANTA (May 20, 2009) –The Boyd and Sallie Gilleland House, located at 3 Shepard’s Lane, Dawsonville, Dawson County, was listed in the National Register on May 6, 2009. The property owners sponsored the nomination and prepared the nomination materials.

The Boyd and Sallie Gilleland House was built in 1929-1930 for Boyd Gilleland (1891-1960), his wife Sallie Orr Gilleland (1893-1977), and their five children. Boyd Gilleland worked at various jobs over the years including carpentry, farming, gold mining, and working in a sawmill. He was also one of the founders of Dawson County Bank. During Prohibition, Gilleland made moonshine in a secret attic room in his house. The location of the house next to Georgia Highway 9, a highway that goes straight to Atlanta and turns into Peachtree Street, enabled easy transportation and commerce of his moonshine to customers and clubs in Atlanta. The success of the moonshine enterprise allowed Boyd Gilleland to later develop several businesses for his children including a service station, hardware store, and Amicalola Lodge. Also in his later years, Boyd served as a tax commissioner for Dawson County. After his death in 1960, his wife continued to live in the house until her death in 1977. The current owners purchased the house in 1983.

The Boyd and Sallie Gilleland House is significant in the area of commerce for its direct association with the production of moonshine in north Georgia during Prohibition. Moonshine production was a popular enterprise in north Georgia counties during Prohibition and into the 1940s. Georgia outlawed the manufacture and consumption of alcohol in 1907 before the Volstead Act of 1920. From Dawson County, millions of gallons of illicit whiskey were transported into Atlanta, often in specially designed “tanker cars” outfitted with secret compartments to evade federal revenueurs. The north Georgia tradition of running moonshine and

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outrunning revenueurs in fast, powerful cars grew into the popular sport of stock car racing (NASCAR) and many of NASCAR's legendary drivers grew up in Dawson and other north Georgia counties.

The Boyd and Sallie Gilleland House is significant in the area of architecture as a good and intact example of an early 20th-century Craftsman bungalow. According to *Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in Their Landscaped Settings*, Craftsman-style bungalows were very popular throughout the state and were built from the 1910s through the 1930s. The house retains its bungalow floor plan and exterior and interior character-defining features. The house is a one-and-one-half-story, frame, Craftsman bungalow with a full-width porch, which extends into a porte-cochere. The porch has a large projecting front-gable roof, a tripartite window, and is supported by brick piers. Craftsman-style details on the exterior of the house include wide, overhanging eaves, knee brackets, exposed rafters, and Craftsman-style windows. The interior of the house retains its original open floor plan, wood floors and ceilings, wood window and door surrounds, and wood-paneled doors. The half-story has two rooms with closets. There is a secret passageway from one of the closets into a hidden room, that has no windows or doors, where Boyd Gilleland had a moonshine still. A removable wall panel leads into the attic space, reputedly as an escape door. The chimney used in the kitchen was also used for ventilation from the hidden room to aid in masking the odor from the still. Local legend says the moonshine recipe was removed from the wall of the room when the house was sold out of the family. The house was recently rehabilitated for use as a special events facility called Peach Brandy Cottage.

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.