

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Historic Preservation Division

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Harris-Murrow-Trowell House Listed in National Register

ATLANTA (May 6, 2009) –The Harris-Murrow-Trowell House, located on Old Louisville Road in Oliver, Screven County, was listed in the National Register on March 30, 2009. The property owners sponsored the nomination and a consultant prepared the nomination materials.

The village of Oliver was established in 1885, when S.B. Lufburrow and Dr. William Lufburrow subdivided family lands located near the railroad, into building lots for sale. Three years later, John T. Harris built a small house on one of these lots. He sold it the following year to Julia Murrow. An increase in the sale price of the property indicates that the house was built sometime between when Harris purchased the property in 1888 and when he sold it in 1889. Julia Murrow, a widow, lived in the house until her death in 1918. After a series of owners, Ivey Trowell purchased the house in 1927 for use as rental property. Trowell also bought two other homes on Old Louisville Road, including one at 314 Old Louisville Road for her personal use. The attached side-gable house likely came from somewhere on the property which she owned.

The Harris-Murrow-Trowell House is significant in the area of architecture as a good example of an 1888-1889 Gabled Wing Cottage type house. According to *Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in Their Landscaped Settings*, Gabled Wing Cottages were built throughout Georgia between 1875 and 1915 on farms and in Georgia's towns and cities. The Gabled Wing Cottage is either T-or L-shaped and usually has a gabled roof. Other than the rear addition, the house retains its historic exterior and interior finishes and materials and has changed little since its construction.

The Harris-Murrow-Trowell House, built circa 1888-1889, is a balloon-frame, T-shaped building with a Gabled Wing Cottage floor plan. The house features a moderately pitched standing seam gable roof with boxed eaves and gable end return, brick ridgeline chimney,

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clapboard exterior, six-over-six wood windows, brick pier foundation, and partial width hip porch. The porch, which features square, vernacular Doric columns and a simple, vernacular balustrade, appears to be either a historic replacement or the remnant of an original wraparound porch. Evidence that the windows in the façade gable end were once floor-length, double-hung windows supports this theory. The main entrance to the house features a door surround with three-light sidelights and square vernacular Doric pilasters flanking a heavy paneled door. The interior of the house retains much original material including beadboard walls and ceilings, baseboards, crown molding, paneled wood doors, and wood door and window surrounds. An addition in the form of a small, wood side-gable building was attached to the back of the house sometime in the first half of the 20th century. This portion of the house, with original beadboard walls and ceilings, may have been a tenant house.

The property owner took advantage of the state property tax incentives for rehabilitation of historic properties, and received certification as part of the State Property Tax Abatement program on May 22, 2008.

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.

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