

# Georgia Department of Natural Resources

## Historic Preservation Division

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

### **Harris-Ramsey-Norris House Listed in National Register**

*Circa 1870 central hallway cottage is one of the earliest houses in Quitman, Georgia.*

ATLANTA (September 23, 2008) –The Harris-Ramsey-Norris House, located on West Lafayette Street just outside the western boundary of the National Register-listed Quitman Historic District in the City of Quitman in Brooks County, was listed in the National Register on September 5, 2008. The property owner sponsored the nomination and prepared the nomination materials.

The house was built around 1870 for Richard Harris, a brick mason, who had purchased two city lots in 1866. In 1874 the house and accompanying lot were sold to Maria R. Ramsey and in 1881 the house was sold to Jasper and Mary Susan Norris. Jasper Norris died in 1886. Mary Norris continued to live in the house and raise their four children until her death in 1921. The Norris' daughter Francis (Nattie) Norris, lived in the house her entire life, never marrying. After Nattie's death in 1969, her nephew, James William Norris, inherited the house. The house was largely unoccupied from 1965 to 1980 while James Norris lived in Atlanta. He retired to Quitman in 1980 and lived in the house until his death in 2004.

The Harris-Ramsey-Norris House is significant in the area of architecture as an excellent and intact example of a circa 1870 central hallway cottage with rear ell. The house is one of the earliest in Quitman and among the oldest central hallway cottages in Brooks County.

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The Harris-Ramsey-Norris House is a one-story, frame, central hallway cottage with a rear ell. The house features subdued Greek Revival details such as a front portico with a steep pediment supported by four square posts and an entablature, a side-gable roof with gable returns, and a central door with transom and sidelights. The house retains its weatherboard exterior, six-over-six sash windows, brick piers, and interior brick chimneys. The rear porch was enclosed circa 1940 for a sunroom and bathroom. The interior of the house retains its original wood floors, walls, ceilings, window and door surrounds, four-paneled doors, moldings and baseboards. There is a historic wood dog pen under the house, and a historic garage/shed on the property.

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](http://www.gashpo.org).

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