

# Georgia Department of Natural Resources

## Historic Preservation Division

Chris Clark, Commissioner

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

### **James E. and Bertha Hooten House Listed in National Register**

ATLANTA (June 5, 2009) –The James E. and Bertha Hooten House, located on Atlanta Street in McDonough, Henry County, was listed in the National Register on May 20, 2009. The property owners sponsored the nomination and prepared the nomination materials.

James Ernest Hooten (1885-1950) and his wife Bertha acquired the property in 1911 from builder J. W. Stroud, and were the first to occupy the home. Known as Jamie to his friends, Hooten was a prominent civic leader in McDonough. Among many other contributions, he served on city council and was mayor in 1932 and 1934. The house remained in the Hooten family until 1963.

The Hooten House is significant in the area of architecture as a good intact example of a Georgian Cottage, as defined in *Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in Their Landscaped Settings*. This house type was named for its floor plan, consisting of a central hallway with two rooms on each side. A large number of Georgian Cottages were built between 1850 and 1890, but they were also constructed well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Most surviving examples are found in the Piedmont region of the state. The original plan of the Hooten House is intact. A fifth room added to the rear (the original kitchen) created a small ell. Around 1928 a rear porch was enclosed to add more rooms to the side of the ell. It was a commodious home for a young family, but it also had a conservative unpretentious design. The house has a deep porch with square columns and a steep hipped roof with front-gabled extensions on each side. The foundation is brick piers that have been filled in with additional brick. There are two interior brick chimneys that each service two fireplaces. The interior has 12-foot-high beadboard ceilings and plaster walls. The house retains most of its significant materials and workmanship, such as siding, windows, walls, ceilings, and mantels.

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The Hooten House is located approximately two blocks north of the Henry County Courthouse in an area of McDonough that is experiencing some transition from residential to commercial uses. It sits on a major artery that was once the main thoroughfare between Atlanta and Florida.

The present day owners did an extensive rehabilitation to the 2,150 square foot building, transforming it from a residence to law offices in 2007. The project was approved for state tax incentives by the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources and federal tax incentives by the National Park Service. The rehab effort consisted of stabilizing and leveling the entire house, including the back and front porches; repairing and painting the exterior including the trim and pillars; repairing and refinishing the interior walls, doors, ceilings and floors; including saving the original windows. All new plumbing, electrical and HVAC systems were installed.

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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*Photo available from Helen Talley-McRae (helen.talley-mcrae@dnr.state.ga.us). Caption information: The present day owners did an extensive rehabilitation, transforming the residence into law offices, and received a state property tax abatement from the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources in 2007. (Credit: Photo courtesy GA Department of Natural Resources/Historic Preservation Division.)*