

## **Georgia Department of Natural Resources**

### **Historic Preservation Division**

Noel Holcomb, Commissioner

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

### **Hubert Bond Owens House Listed in National Register**

*Owens directed UGA's landscape architecture program from its inception in 1928 until 1973.*

ATLANTA (June 10, 2008) – The Hubert Bond Owens House, located on West Rutherford Street in Athens, Clarke County, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on May 14, 2008. A consultant prepared the nomination materials. The property owner sponsored the nomination.

Hubert Bond Owens (1905-1989) established and developed the first professional landscape architecture program in the South. His success in this endeavor at the University of Georgia in Athens led to the program becoming one of the leading landscape architecture programs in the United States. He directed the program from its inception in 1928 until his retirement in 1973. In addition to directing and teaching in the program, Owens served on national and international landscape architecture committees, provided guidance to garden clubs throughout the country, and maintained a private design practice.

Owens' contributions to the landscape architecture profession in Georgia, the South and the United States are significant to this property since it was here that he lived for nearly 50 years, during the most productive years of his professional life. Since Owens designed and maintained the gardens, they contribute to the significance of this property in the area of

landscape architecture. Owens' skillful selection of plant materials, his use of spatial arrangements, the juxtaposition of cleared areas bordered with plantings, and the interspersions of hardscapes show his masterful adeptness at landscape design. As a result of Owens' contributions to the field of landscape architecture, the Hubert Bond Owens House was listed at the national level of significance in landscape architecture.

Designed by Edwin Jerome Wade, the two-story, Colonial Revival-style Hubert Bond Owens House was constructed in 1941, and Owens designed the gardens shortly thereafter. Owens collaborated with Wade on other residential projects in Athens and Augusta, Georgia. The house is significant in architecture at the state level of significance as a good example of the Colonial Revival style. The brick house includes its original form and workmanship details, including mantels and a front entrance salvaged from an earlier house. The symmetrical balancing of windows and central door, in addition to the highly accentuated front entrance with fanlight and sidelights, are characteristic features of the style.

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 income producing National Register properties may be eligible for rehabilitation tax incentives.

For more information on the National Register and other preservation programs, contact the Historic Preservation Division of the Department of Natural Resources at 404-656-2840 or visit our Web site at [www.gashpo.org](http://www.gashpo.org).

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