

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Historic Preservation Division

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

The Kidd-Robertson House Listed in National Register

Good example of an 1840s Greek Revival-style Georgian cottage

ATLANTA (February 6, 2009) –The Kidd-Robertson House, located in Troup County, was listed in the National Register on December 30, 2008. The property owner sponsored the nomination and a consultant prepared the nomination materials.

George Kidd (1796-1871), a prosperous farmer and large landowner in Troup County constructed the Kidd-Robertson House circa 1843. The 1840 U.S. Census indicates that George Kidd, his wife Elizabeth Todd Kidd, their eight children, Elizabeth's brother John Todd and 20 slaves lived on the property. By 1860, George Kidd owned 1,700 acres of land and 42 slaves. In addition to his farmland, he owned the Kidd Cotton Gin Factory and a grocery and mercantile business. After his death in 1871, his daughter, America Kidd Robertson, inherited the house. The house was sold out of the family in 1911.

The Kidd-Robertson House is significant in the area of architecture as a good example of a 1840s Greek Revival-style Georgian cottage. According to *Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in Their Landscaped Settings*, the Greek Revival style was the first statewide architectural style in Georgia and was used from the 1840s to the 1860s. The Kidd-Robertson House retains its character-defining Greek Revival-style features including Doric brick columns supporting a pedimented portico, symmetrical façade, and classical door surround.

Located in a rural area due east of LaGrange, the Kidd-Robertson House is a one-and-a-half-story, frame, Georgian cottage. The Georgian cottage is the most popular and long-lived house type in

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Georgia. The floor plan is characterized by a central hallway with two rooms on either side. The house has a side-gable roof, brick pier foundation with concrete block infill, and weatherboard siding. The Greek Revival-style character-defining features of the house are the one-story pedimented portico with an entablature supported by brick Doric columns, a wide cornice, symmetrical front façade, flushboard siding on the central bay, and wood entrance doors with a transom and sidelights. The interior of the house retains the original wood floors, ceilings, doors, door and window surrounds, decorative moldings, and mantels. Changes to the house are a sunroom addition to the east elevation circa 1940 and two alterations to the rear elevation completed sometime after 1968. There are two noncontributing outbuildings on the property: a barn that was recently reconstructed from old materials and a former washhouse that was altered.

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.

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Photo available from Helen Talley-McRae (helen.talley-mcrae@dnr.state.ga.us). Caption information:

The Kidd-Robertson House in Troup County is good example of an 1840s Greek Revival-style Georgian cottage. (Credit: Photo courtesy GA Department of Natural Resources/Historic Preservation Division.)