

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Historic Preservation Division

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Morgan-Ille Cottage Listed in National Register

ATLANTA (August 13, 2008) – The Morgan-Ille Cottage, located on 2nd Avenue, Tybee Island, Chatham County, was listed in the National Register on July 24, 2008. The property owner sponsored the nomination and a consultant prepared the nomination materials.

The Morgan-Ille Cottage is a small, frame beach cottage built on Fort Screven at the north end of Tybee Island in circa 1930. When built, it served as housing for non-commissioned officers. After World War II, Fort Screven was deactivated and much of its land and many of its buildings were sold. Between 1946 and 1948, Thomas McCarroll purchased the house and moved it to 2nd Avenue, where he remodeled it for resale as a single-family beach cottage. In 1948, John B. Morgan purchased the house as his primary residence. Four years later, he sold the house to Edward E. and Norma W. Ille. The Illes, who lived in Augusta, purchased the house to use as a summer beach house. The Morgan-Ille Cottage remains in the Ille family.

The Morgan-Ille Cottage is significant in the area of architecture as an excellent example of the small, frame cottages built by middle-class families on Tybee Island in the 1930s and 1940s. Its full-width front porch and small living room and bedrooms are typical of vacation homes in which a premium was placed on outdoor living.

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The Morgan-Ille Cottage is significant in the areas of community planning and development and entertainment/recreation because it represents the first period of intensive resort development on Tybee Island. In the first decades of the 20th century, Tybee Island, also known as Savannah Beach, developed as a coastal resort for residents of nearby Savannah. The opening of the Tybee Road in 1923, a causeway that linked the island with Savannah, fueled the demand for oceanfront property. Many lots were subdivided to accommodate the construction of seasonal beach houses.

The cottage includes a full-width front porch that was added in the 1940s. Two rear additions provide more living space. Much of the interior plan and many of the window and door surrounds remain intact. Many non-historic interior and exterior wall coverings that had been added in the 1970s have been removed. The rehabilitation of the Morgan-Ille Cottage was approved by the Historic Preservation Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources for the state preferential property tax assessment program in 2006.

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.

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