

# Georgia Department of Natural Resources

## Historic Preservation Division

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

### **Solomon and Penelopy Pace House Listed in National Register**

ATLANTA (June 5, 2009) –The Solomon and Penelopy Pace House, located at 3057 Paces Mill Road in the Vinings community of Cobb County, was listed in the National Register on May 20, 2009. The Vinings Historic Preservation Society sponsored the nomination and students in the Georgia State University Heritage Preservation program prepared the nomination materials.

Solomon Pace's father, Hardy, operated a ferry across the Chattahoochee River near his large land holdings in Vinings. Hardy Pace, pioneer settler in Cobb County, had operated the ferry since the 1830s, after the last land lottery in 1832 opened this part of Georgia to white settlers. The ferry and the family home were destroyed during the Civil War. According to deed records, Solomon Pace built his house sometime between 1867 and 1874 on the same spot where the family home had been, with only the granite steps from the Hardy Pace home remaining. Pace built a Central Hallway Cottage, which he enlarged around 1883 into a Gabled Wing Cottage in the Folk Victorian style. After his daughter's death in 1907, the property went through a series of owners before Ruth Carter Vanneman, the great-granddaughter of Solomon Pace, purchased the property in 1952. Upon her death in 1992, the property went to the Vinings Historic Preservation Society.

The house is significant in transportation for its direct association with Solomon Pace who operated an important ferry for transportation across the Chattahoochee River. Before the building of bridges, ferries (or flatboats as they were called) provided the best means of transporting goods and people across rivers. In 1894, Pace reopened Pace's Ferry in partnership with his cousin, Hardy Isaiah Randall. The ferry transported passengers, rig and cattle across the Chattahoochee River for free as part of an agreement with Fulton County. While there were other ferries in Cobb County, Pace's was the only one in Vinings. It therefore contributed

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*Solomon and Penelopy Pace House listed in the National Register, page 2*

significantly to the growth of Vinings and the surrounding area. The ferry was operational until 1903 when it was replaced by an iron bridge. The house is the only known extant property associated with Solomon Pace, ferry operator, large landowner, and farmer in Cobb County.

The Solomon and Penelopy Pace House is a four-room, wood-frame, Folk Victorian Gabled Wing Cottage. The house retains its character defining features and is significant in architecture as a good example of a Gabled Wing Cottage. The 1883 addition relocated the front entrance to face Pace's Mill Road. The two wood-paneled entry doors, located on this elevation were added at this time. The historic entrance, with granite stairs from a previous house, is located on the west elevation. A wraparound porch extends along both of these elevations of the house. The porch has tongue-and-groove wood flooring, split wood posts, jigsaw trim and exposed rafter ends. An addition in the 1950s brought the cottage to its current four-room plan. The interior layout remains intact from the 1883 renovation/addition. The interior retains its heart pine floors, wood-paneled doors, baseboards, crown molding, mantels, and window and door moldings.

The property also contains several buildings that are newly constructed or were moved onto their present site to assist with the property's current use as an events facility. These resources, including the pavilion, activities building, large deck, and well house are noncontributing to the property.

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: Solomon Pace built his house sometime between 1867 and 1874 on the same spot where the circa 1830s Hardy Pace home had stood. Solomon Pace operated an important ferry for transportation across the Chattahoochee River. (Credit: Photo courtesy GA Department of Natural Resources/Historic Preservation Division.)*