

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Historic Preservation Division

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Aaron and Margaret Parker, Jr. House Listed in National Register

ATLANTA (May 29, 2009) –The Aaron and Margaret Parker, Jr. House, located at 4835 Flat Bridge Road, S.W., Stockbridge vicinity, Rockdale County, was listed in the National Register on May 6, 2009. The property owners, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, sponsored the nomination and prepared the nomination materials.

The Parker House is significant in the area of exploration and settlement because it represents early white settlement along the western edge of the Georgia frontier in the 1820s and 1830s. In 1822, Aaron Parker, Jr. and his wife Margaret, moved from Clarke County to land between Panola Mountain and the South River in present-day Rockdale County. Parker, a veteran of the War of 1812, purchased three land lots between 1822 and 1830. He built his house about 1830 as the centerpiece of a large plantation that by 1850 included over 2,700 acres and was worked by 15 slaves. After his death in 1881, the property was divided among his 13 children with daughter Francis A. Rowan receiving the house. The house passed to seven more owners between 1909 and 1991, when the property was developed as the Southernness Golf Club. In 2004, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources purchased the Southernness tract, to include it in the Panola Mountain State Conservation Park.

The Aaron and Margaret Parker, Jr. House is significant in the area of architecture because it is an excellent example of a plantation plain-type house, an early Georgia house type built in rural Piedmont and Coastal Plain areas primarily from the 1820s to the 1850s. The house is a one- and one-half-story house built circa 1830 on the east side of Panola Mountain. It is among the oldest houses in Rockdale County. It is a wood-frame dwelling raised on a stone pier foundation, clad in weatherboard, and covered with a sheet-metal roof. The main (south) façade is sheathed in flush boards and includes two center entrances, as does the rear facade. Both

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facades include full-width front porches, although an enclosed travelers' room shortens the porch across the main façade. Exterior chimneys are located on each end wall. The interior hall-parlor plan comprises two unequal size rooms, each with front and rear entrances. The winder stair to the second floor is located in the smaller east room, but entered from the west room. The second floor is also divided into two rooms. The overall form of the house remains intact. The house, which is surrounded by a historic stone wall, stands as an "island" amid the sea of asphalt parking laid by the golf club. The property is now part of the Panola Mountain State Conservation Park.

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.