

# Georgia Department of Natural Resources

## Historic Preservation Division

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

### **R. M. Jones General Store Listed in National Register**

ATLANTA (February 23, 2009) –The R.M. Jones General Store, located in the LaGrange vicinity, Troup County, was listed in the National Register on February 11, 2009. The property owners supported the nomination and a consultant prepared the nomination materials.

The R.M. Jones General Store was constructed circa 1903 on the property of Christopher Columbus Jones, Sr., in an area of Troup County called Jones Crossroads. C.C. Jones's youngest son, Robert Monroe Jones, ran the store until the late 1910s when the decline in farming and population forced a sale of the store to a wealthy neighboring landowner. In 1919 the store was leased to the Avery family, who then purchased the building in 1935. Curtis and Lois Avery ran the store until the 1960s; their daughter reopened the store in 1985 as an antiques store.

The R.M. Jones General Store has local significance in commerce because it is an excellent example of an early 20<sup>th</sup>-century general store. The general store was a vital part of rural Georgia life and served as a place to purchase a variety of goods from clothing, shoes, and dry goods to fertilizers, plows, and Model T car parts.

The R.M. Jones General Store is also significant in the area of architecture as an excellent and intact example of an early 20<sup>th</sup>-century general store constructed from local fieldstone. The store retains its historic character-defining features including the storefront, the interior open space, office, and wood walls, floors, ceiling, and original shelving.

The store is located at the intersection of State Route 18 and State Route 219 in southern Troup County, approximately 12 miles due south of the county seat of LaGrange. The area where it is located is still rural and agricultural in character. The one-story, rectangular building is constructed of local fieldstone. The front and rear facades have stepped parapets. The front

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*R. M. Jones General Store listed in the National Register, page 2*

façade has a raised porch with a fieldstone foundation and a metal shed roof supported by wood posts. The rear façade has a central exterior fieldstone chimney. On the west side of the building is an attached wood addition. The store retains its original wood, double entrance doors with transom above, six-over-six sash windows, and steel threshold stamped with “R.M. Jones.” The interior of the building is one large open space. The walls are lined with original shelving, display cases, and counter. The store retains its wood floor and ceiling and plaster walls. There is a fireplace at the rear of the store as well as a teller’s cage, which was used as a post office.

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](http://www.gashpo.org).

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Photo available from Helen Talley-McRae ([helen.talley-mcrae@dnr.state.ga.us](mailto:helen.talley-mcrae@dnr.state.ga.us)). Caption information: *Constructed circa 1903, the R.M. Jones General Store in Troup County is an excellent and intact example of an early 20<sup>th</sup>-century general store constructed from local fieldstone.* (Credit: Photo courtesy GA Department of Natural Resources/Historic Preservation Division.)