

## SUMMARY OF PROPOSED NATIONAL REGISTER/GEORGIA REGISTER NOMINATION

1. Name: Curry-Miller-Byrd Cottage

2. Location: 16 Izlar Avenue, Tybee Island, Chatham County, Georgia

3a. Description: The Curry-Miller-Byrd Cottage is a one-story, south-facing cottage located on Izlar Avenue, just east of Butler Avenue, Tybee Island's main north-to-south thoroughfare. The cottage sits in the heart of the coastal resort area, one block south of the commercial endeavors on Tybrisa Street and a half block west of the Atlantic Ocean. Built in 1932, it is covered in original wood lap siding and has a hipped roof, deep wraparound porch, and exposed rafter tails. Concrete piers support the wood-framed building, which has a central entrance flanked by pairs of original two-over-two windows. On the façade, the porch railing features balusters in a decorative Union-Jack pattern, while railings on the east and west elevations have simple vertical balusters. Portions of the wraparound porch at the northwest and northeast corners were enclosed c.1946 and c.1960, respectively, to create extra living space, including additional bedrooms and bathrooms. The original boarding-house floor plan is largely intact, with only minimal alterations. Historically, common spaces, including a large living room, dining room, and kitchen, were on the west side of the cottage, while private bedrooms were on the east. A solid, beadboard wall ran the length of the house and rooms were accessed from the wraparound porch via exterior doors. Along the east elevation, five-paneled doors access the former boarding house bedrooms. The cottage also retains substantial interior materials, such as original beadboard walls and ceilings; simple wooden baseboards, door frames, and window surrounds; and paneled interior doors. During a recent rehabilitation project, several new openings were created to provide interior connections between rooms, including two simple openings in the once-solid center wall to connect the front two rooms, now used as a living room and kitchen. The property also contains a c.1994 hipped-roof woodshed with double doors and a swimming pool, which was installed during the recent rehabilitation.

3b. Period of Significance: 1932-1970

3c. Acreage: Less than one acre

3d. Boundary Explanation: The boundary of the nominated property comprises the current legal boundary of the property.

4a. National Register Criterion: A

4b. National Register Areas of Significance: Entertainment/Recreation

4c. Statement of Significance: The Curry-Miller-Byrd Cottage is significant at the local level under Criterion A in the area of entertainment/recreation as a good and rare, intact example of a small-scale boarding house on Tybee Island. In the early 1870s, Tybee Island, also known as Savannah Beach, developed as a coastal resort for residents of nearby Savannah. As the popularity of the island grew and people flocked to the resort from across the southeast, new hotels, bathhouses, dancing pavilions, summer cottages, and boarding houses were constructed. In the 1910s, a boarding house district, centered on Izlar Avenue, developed to meet the increased demand of visitors and featured an assortment of boarding houses and rental cottages that were available for rent by the week, month, or season. These establishments offered an inexpensive and more casual alternative to the island's higher-end hotels. The Curry family operated one of these early boarding houses as the two-story Curry Inn and advertised "cool and clean" rooms for rent. Then in 1931, a catastrophic fire destroyed much of the area, including the Curry Inn. After the fire, the Curry's rebuilt on the site incorporating new fire-resistant building measures, such as fireproof concrete foundation piers, slow-burning timber, and a metal roof into their new one-story cottage. The purpose-built cottage re-established the boarding house use along the corridor and continued to provide a more affordable alternative for the island's middle-income visitors. Throughout the historic period, the cottage helped support the island's tourism and vacation industry with modestly priced accommodations within walking distance of the ocean and the hub of Tybee's leisure activities. Today, it survives as the single-most intact boarding-house cottage along Izlar Avenue. Its overall form, hipped roof, and wraparound porch were common to cottages in the coastal-resort setting; however, this building was designed as a boarding house featuring exterior doors from all public and private rooms leading to the large wraparound porch, which essentially served as the cottage's main corridor.

4d. Suggested Level of Significance: The property is being nominated at the local level of significance as a representative example of a small-scale boarding house on Tybee Island.

4e. National Register Status: The Curry-Miller-Byrd Cottage received final certification from the Georgia DNR Historic Preservation Division for the state property tax abatement and state tax credit programs on October 11, 2019.

5. Sponsor: The nomination is sponsored by the property owner, and nomination materials were prepared by Sarah Ward of Ward Architecture + Preservation.