



# Gwinnett County Government Communications Division NEWS RELEASE

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## DONATION TO HELP COUNTY RELOCATE HISTORIC HOUSE

(Lawrenceville, Ga., May 15, 2012) – Gwinnett commissioners Tuesday accepted ownership of the historic Chesser-Williams House and a donation of \$25,000 to help move and preserve it. The house and money came from the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center Foundation. SPLOST sales tax funds will cover the rest of a \$319,130 house-moving contract with low bidder Peachtree Construction Services, Inc.

The Chesser-Williams House is one of the oldest surviving homes in Gwinnett County, built in the mid-1800s. Folk art paintings inside and out are likely the work of an itinerant German artist who painted in exchange for room and board as he traveled from North Carolina to Texas in the late 1800s. The Chesser-Williams House is one of seven surviving buildings where his rare paintings are intact.

Jerald and Sue Williams donated the house to the Foundation, which agreed to relocate it to the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center campus for education and historic interpretation purposes. “My family feels it’s very important that this house be preserved for future generations to enjoy and learn about Gwinnett’s rich heritage,” said Jerald Williams. The Foundation has paid more than \$76,000 for research, historic documentation and preparations for the move.

Contractors will move the house in three sections from its current location on Highway 124/Braselton Highway in northeastern Gwinnett. They will reassemble it on the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center campus near the Mall of Georgia as part of an educational exhibit on early farm life in Gwinnett County. The work will take about nine months.

For more information, visit [www.gwinnettehcc.org](http://www.gwinnettehcc.org) or call the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center at (770) 904-3500.

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**Note:** Photos of the house are available on Flickr by clicking on the links below.

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