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Randolph-Lucas House to move Friday night

by Staff Reports

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Buckhead Heritage Society President Wright Mitchell stands in front of the historic Randolph-Lucas House.

The historic Randolph-Lucas House will be relocated south from 2500 Peachtree Road in Buckhead south to 78 Peachtree Circle in Ansley Park Friday, the Buckhead Heritage Society announced Thursday in a news release. The society is a nonprofit dedicated to identifying, preserving and promoting Buckhead's historic resources.

The house will be transported on Peachtree Road from its intersection at Lindbergh Drive beginning at about midnight Friday. It is anticipated the house will reach 1301 Peachtree St., a vacant lot

owned by One Museum Square, by Saturday at 6 a.m. A temporary road has been built across this vacant lot, which is located across Peachtree Street from the Woodruff Arts Center in Midtown, to the Peachtree Circle lot, which will be the permanent home of the Randolph-Lucas House.

The house has been partially disassembled for its relocation. Since July, Complete Demolition Services has been preparing the house for the move, including removing the brick façade and the slate roof. The brick veneer will be cleaned and reinstalled after the wood-frame house is set on its new foundation. The slate shingles have also been salvaged for reuse. The exterior windows, doors and dormers have been removed, carefully labeled and will be reinstalled at the new location. The house will be split above the first floor and the roof will be hinged and lowered so that the house can be transported in two separate pieces. The maximum height of each section of the house will be 19 feet. Steel beams and wooden bracing have been installed to stabilize the sections during the relocation.

Low-hanging utility lines and traffic signals will be temporarily relocated during the relocation. Utility crews from Georgia Power, Comcast, AT&T and the Wright-Brown Electric Co., a city of Atlanta Department of Public Works-approved contractor, will accompany the house along its route, move any obstructions as the house approaches and put back the lines and signals as soon as the house moves past the conflict. Police escorts will also accompany the house and temporarily reroute traffic at affected intersections.

Since February, Christopher Jones and Roger Smith, founders of NewTown Partners, have been working with the society, the 2500 Peachtree Condominium Association, the city and other partners to coordinate the logistics of moving the structure, which is a locally designated historic building in the city of Atlanta. Jones and Smith will use the house as their primary residence once it is relocated to Ansley Park.

Regarding the relocation, society President Wright Mitchell said, "The relocation of the Randolph-Lucas House to Ansley Park is the culmination of many months of hard work by Christopher Jones and Roger Smith of NewTown Partners, the 2500 Peachtree Condominium Association, the city of Atlanta and [the] Buckhead Heritage Society. This project sets an example, not only in the city of Atlanta but nationally as well, regarding how creative minds and committed individuals can come together to solve even the most difficult historic preservation problems."

This project was financed by Buckhead-based Georgia Commerce Bank.

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NewTown Partners is an Atlanta-based economic development consulting firm focusing on distressed historic resources.

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