

Whew!

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

563381

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name Porter, James and Olive, Houseother names/site number Porterdale; Porterfield

2. Location

street & number 231 Tucker Road

N/A

not for publication

city or town Macon

N/A

vicinity

state Georgiacode GAcounty Bibbcode 021zip code 31210

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide X local

Dr. David C. Crass

11 DEC. 2018

Signature of certifying official/Title: Dr. David C. Crass/Historic Preservation Division Director/Deputy SHPO Date

Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

✓ entered in the National Register

 determined eligible for the National Register

 determined not eligible for the National Register

 removed from the National Register

 other (explain:)

Brandon

Signature of the Keeper

1/31/19

Date of Action

Porter, James and Olive, House
Name of Property

Bibb County, Georgia
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER: French Eclectic

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: BRICK

walls: BRICK

roof: TERRA COTTA

other:

Porter, James and Olive, House
Name of Property

Bibb County, Georgia
County and State

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The James and Olive Porter House is a southeast-facing, one-story house on Tucker Road, at the southeastern edge of Wesleyan College's campus and about five miles northwest of downtown Macon. Built in 1928 as part of a larger country estate, the house has an asymmetrical, nearly V-shaped footprint, consisting of two rectangular wings converging at a corner tower with a conical roof. There are two main entrances on the façade – one within the tower, which accesses the owner's quarters (the rectangular wing extending to the west), and one under a covered porch on the northeastern end of the façade, which accesses the caretaker or tenant's quarters (the larger rectangular wing extending to the northeast). The house is clad in a whitewashed brick-veneer and has a complex, terracotta tile roof with a front-facing gable projection creating the covered porch. This gable, which is clad in wood siding, contains ten bird roosts in its peak and is supported by four square columns with decorative pegs and bracing. The rear elevation has a similarly projecting gable, a covered walk supported by columns with pegs and bracing, and an open terrace accessed from the owner's quarters. A side entrance to the tenant's quarters is accentuated by half timbering, more decorative pegs, and diamond-patterned screening. Throughout the house there are single and paired three-light casement windows. Decorative brickwork is found encircling the top of the tower and in the basket-weave pattern in portions of the exterior walls and flooring. Three large chimneys with multiple clay chimney pots dot the roofline. On the interior, the tenant's quarters is a fairly routine layout consisting of a living room, dining room, kitchen, two bedrooms, and a bathroom with simple finishes and mantels, wood floors, and a built-in china cabinet. In contrast, the owner's quarters is a dramatic space with soaring vaulted ceilings and exposed timber beams, arched built-in cabinetry and doorways, and a large stone fireplace in the living room. This room doubled as the Porter's bedroom, with a hideaway bed folded into one of the closets along the western wall. The owner's quarters also include the round tower room with flagstone flooring, a kitchenette, a bathroom, and a dressing room.

Moved to its current location in 2013 following encroachment on its formerly rural setting by a local church, the house was originally located on 27.5-acres south of downtown Macon. In addition to the house, the property historically contained secondary buildings, structures, and gardens, none of which were intact prior to the move. In 2017, the house was rehabilitated, and despite its change in location and loss of supporting resources, it retains a high degree of architectural integrity.

Narrative Description

The James and Oliver Porter House is a 1928 one-story French Eclectic-style house with whitewashed brick-veneered exterior walls, a distinctive terracotta tile roof, and an asymmetrical nearly V-shaped plan with two rectangular wings converging at a corner tower. The round tower with conical roof, half-timbering, varied hipped roof massing, casement windows, and arched entrance are all indicative of the French Eclectic style.

The V-shaped footprint of the house creates two wings. One wing was designed for the original owners, James and Olive Porter, and one wing for a caretaker or tenant. The owner's quarters are to the west (see photograph 1), and the tenant's quarters are to the northeast. The tower, where the two wings converge, contains an arched door (see photographs 6, 24), which is the main entrance into the owner's quarters. Details on the tower include the conical roof, decorative brickwork at the roofline, and casement windows.

Moving counter clockwise around the exterior, there is a projecting gable that creates a porch and marks the entrance to the tenant's quarters (see photograph 2, 7). The gable, which is clad in wood siding, contains ten

Porter, James and Olive, House
Name of Property

Bibb County, Georgia
County and State

bird roosts in its peak and is supported by four square columns with decorative pegs and bracing. There is diamond-pane screening on the windows (see photograph 23) and half-timbering at the side entrance. The rear gable also has bird roosts, similar to those found on the front gable (see photograph 3). The house has three chimneys, each with one to three chimney pots. On the rear (northwest) elevation (see photograph 3, 4), a covered walk (see photographs 38, 39) connects the tenant's quarters with the owner's quarters on the right. This covered walk is supported by the same squared columns with decorative pegs and bracing as the front projecting gable, and features a stuccoed wall. To the far west is the owner's quarters' private porch (see photograph 4), again supported by columns with the same detailing as other parts of the house.

Interior division of the two spaces is easily seen on the floor plan. The owner's quarters are on the west and the tenant's quarters are to the north and northeast, with no interior connection between the two wings. The tenant's quarters is the larger portion of the house, and is accessed through the covered porch at the northern end of the facade (see photograph 2). This porch opens into the tenant's living room. The entrance is a Dutch door (see photograph 8), with the top and bottom portions opening separately or together. This room's original mantel is extant (see photograph 9), with a brick surround and hearth and simple wood details. A door to the southwest accesses the first of two bedrooms within the tenant's quarters (see photograph 8). In 1978, the church that owned the house at the time made alterations to accommodate office use, including removal of the fireplaces in the two tenant's quarters' bedrooms, but retained the hearths (see photographs 10, 11, 12, 13, 14). Originally, closets on either side of the chimney made these two separate rooms. The closets were removed, connecting the two rooms internally.

A narrow hall (see photograph 15) along the rear of the house connects the bedrooms, a bathroom (see photograph 16), and the living room. The bathroom's odd shape is due to its placement in the crook of the V-shape of the floor plan. The dining room is located to the rear of the living room, and can be accessed by the living room or the rear exterior covered walk. The dining room retains an original built-in china cabinet (see photograph 17) and a fireplace with an original mantel (see photograph 17, 18). The kitchen is located on the northeast end of the tenant's quarters, and is accessed by both the dining room and the living room, as well as a side exterior entrance. The kitchen (see photographs 20, 21, 22) was updated during a recent rehabilitation, but doors, windows, and floors remain, as does access to the side entry area with its diamond-pane screening (see photograph 23). Walls and ceilings throughout the tenant's quarters are plaster or replacement sheetrock, floors are narrow-board heart pine, and overall detailing is simple and fairly utilitarian.

The smaller owner's quarters are to the west and are quite high-style when compared to the tenant's quarters. The main entrance is within the tower (see photographs 6, 24), and leads into the round tower room (see photographs 26, 27). The entrance, like the tenant's quarters, has a Dutch door (see photograph 24). However, this door is arched, which is typical of the French Eclectic style. The tower room has a flagstone floor and two windows on either side of the door (see photographs 25, 26, 27). A rectangular door (see photograph 25) to the north in the tower room leads to the owner's quarters' dressing room and bathroom, which has built-in cabinetry and original white tile finishes (see photographs 28, 29, 30). The owner's quarters living room, used as a meeting room, is accessed through an arched doorway (see photograph 26) from the tower room. The former living room is a large space with vaulted ceilings, exposed trusses, and oak floors (see photographs 31, 32, 33). A large stone fireplace with a rugged mantel is on the north wall, as well as a set of French doors leading into a modest kitchenette (see photographs 34, 35), which was updated during the recent rehabilitation. An arched, built-in cabinet mirrors the arched doorway into the living room (see photograph 33), which functioned as the owner's sleeping area, as well as their dining and entertaining space. Tucked behind double doors on the west end of the room is a hideaway bed (see photograph 32). These built-ins were constructed of wormy cypress, and the hardware is elaborate, with long tapering hinges with round decorative ends. A door at the west end of the room leads to the owner's quarters' porch (see photograph 36), while the set of French doors on the west end of the north wall leads to the rear terrace (see photograph 37). Walls and ceilings throughout the owner's quarters are plaster or replacement sheetrock and the floors are oak.

Porter, James and Olive, House
Name of Property

Bibb County, Georgia
County and State

The setting for the James and Olive Porter House has changed from its original rural landscape. At its previous original location south of downtown, the house's setting was compromised by encroachment of modern church buildings, several residential structures, and suburban strip shopping centers located across Houston Road. Its setting and association with the site had been completely lost before the house was moved in 2013. When the house was moved, a new solid masonry with wood sill foundation was constructed at the new site. While the current location is not rural farmland, the house is slightly set back from the road and not immediately adjacent to other buildings. In addition to the main house, the original estate included several outbuildings and a miniature farm situated on over 27 acres. The Porters grew a variety of fruits and vegetables on the property, and were well known for their roses. The outbuildings included a garage, an arched gateway, poultry houses and runs, a windmill, a pool and bathhouse, and a barn, as well as gardens, fields and livestock enclosures. Over time, the property was subdivided, and of the original outbuildings, only a barn remains extant at the original location, although it has been significantly altered.

The long rectangular portion of the facade originally faced Houston Road. After the move, this same elevation now faces Tucker Road, maintaining the structure's relationship to the nearest roadway. In its previous location, buildings had been built between the house and Houston Road, obstructing the viewshed to and from the house. At the current Tucker Road location, the façade is no longer obstructed. Although the James and Olive Porter House is not in its original setting, it is now in a more compatible setting on the corner of Wesleyan College's campus. Today, the house sits on the edge of the campus on a suburban street and is surrounded by pine trees.

Few changes have been made to the James and Olive Porter House over the years. When the house was moved in 2013, a non-historic bathroom addition was removed, and the covered walk which had been enclosed, was opened. Despite being moved, the James and Olive Porter House has had relatively few changes, and retains a high level of integrity in design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

Porter, James and Olive, House
Name of Property

Bibb County, Georgia
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☒ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1928

Significant Dates

1928 – Date of Construction

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

W. Elliott Dunwody, Jr.

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance for the James and Olive Porter House is 1928, the date of construction.

Porter, James and Olive, House
Name of Property

Bibb County, Georgia
County and State

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

The James and Olive Porter House was removed from its original location, therefore it must meet Criteria Consideration B: Moved Properties. The house meets Criteria Consideration B, as it is significant under Criterion C for architecture, and retains sufficient historic features to convey its architectural values. It retains integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. The house was moved in 2013 to avoid demolition.

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The James and Olive Porter House is significant at the local level of significance under National Register Criterion C in the area of architecture for its association with the prolific Macon architect, W. Elliot Dunwody, Jr. Despite a substantial catalog of designs employing the various popular styles of the time, this house appears to be Dunwody's sole documented example of a French-style estate. In addition to being an anomaly in Dunwody's design portfolio, the house is also a good example of the French Eclectic style, as defined in McAlester's *A Field Guide to American Houses*. The round tower with conical roof, half-timbering, varied hipped roof massing, casement windows, and arched entrance are all indicative of the style.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The following narrative is taken from the January 18, 2017 "James and Olive Porter House" Historic Property Information Form that was prepared by Kim Campbell, Historic Macon Foundation, and edited by Christy Atkins, Historic Preservation Division. It is on file at the Historic Preservation Division, Department of Natural Resources, Stockbridge, Georgia.

During the summer of 1927, philanthropists James and Olive Porter vacationed in Normandy, France. The couple drove throughout the countryside, marveling at the chateaus, grand estates, and cottages. They determined if ever given the opportunity, they would build their own French-inspired house closer to home. Later that same year, the chance arose and the pair consulted with prolific Macon architect, W. Elliott Dunwody, Jr. to design a chateau-inspired "Normandy peasant cottage" on the outskirts of Macon, Georgia.

W. Elliot Dunwody, Jr., a Macon native and graduate of the Georgia Institute of Technology, designed many residential, commercial, and institutional buildings in the region and across Georgia. He began his career in 1914 as a draftsman for Dennis and Dennis, Georgia's oldest architectural firm, also located in Macon. Dunwody next formed the firm of Nisbet, Brown and Dunwody in 1915. After serving in World War I, Dunwody partnered with William F. Oliphant in the firm of Dunwody and Oliphant, which lasted almost a decade. In 1929, Dunwody set up his own firm, which became the current firm Dunwody/Beeland, Architects, Inc., still operating in Macon. Dunwody was recognized as a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects, an honor reserved for those members with exceptional work and contributions to architecture and society.

Dunwody's designs spanned a variety of styles, particularly his residential designs. Many of the houses he designed in Macon are located in National Register-listed historic districts. Some examples of his work include Colonial Revival: The President's House (1920) at Mercer University, 3155 Ingleside Avenue (1942) and 430 Pine Vista Drive (1949) within the Ingleside Historic District, the Mrs. Claire J. Walker House (1922) on Vineville Avenue, the Comer House at 2590 Vineville Avenue (1923, reportedly Dunwody's favorite design), the P.T. Anderson House on Oakcliff Road (1922) within the Shirley Hills Historic District; Art Deco: the Edwards Bobo Murray House (1926) on Stanislaus Circle within the Vineville Historic District; Tudor Revival: the Rudolph W. Jones House (1929) also on Stanislaus Circle within the Vineville Historic District; Italian Renaissance Revival: 460 Pine Vista (1934) within the Ingleside Historic District; Hollywood Regency: the Mrs.

Porter, James and Olive, House
Name of Property

Bibb County, Georgia
County and State

Ralph T. Birdsey House (1937) on Ingleside Avenue; Classical Revival: the Charles Newton House (1938) on Twin Pines Drive; Mediterranean Revival: the Walter Dannenberg House (1923) on Vineville Avenue; Medieval English: the Randolph Jaques House (1929) and the Mrs. M.F. Cole House (1933) on Nottingham Drive both within the Shirley Hills Historic District; Ranch: 1302 Waverland Drive (1949) also within the Shirley Hills Historic District; English Vernacular Revival: 969 Nottingham Drive (1937) in the Shirley Hills Historic District; English Regency: the Jennings T. Adams House (1928) at 2038 Vineville Avenue, the John Sancken House (1936) on Jackson Springs Road. Many other examples of Dunwody's work were more a blending of style elements, rather than a singular, defined style.¹

The James and Olive Porter House is a result of owners with a very specific vision collaborating with an architect, to create a unique architectural treasure. The house is a direct outcome of the Porter's trip to France, as Mr. Porter stated when interviewed in 1928.² During the 1920s and 1930s, Dunwody designed a number of houses with a variety of different details. However, the only other known house he worked on during that period with similar details to the James and Olive Porter House was his own. The whitewashed brick walls, turret front entry, and solid interior shutters on Dunwody's house, located on Rivoli Road in Macon, were noted to all "hint of Normandy" by historian Jim Barfield.³ The James and Olive Porter House's form and details reflect the chateaus and farmhouses the Porters saw while on their trip. Although he designed many buildings throughout Macon and the surrounding area, this building is a unique example in Dunwody's body of work.

The James and Olive Porter House is also significant as a good example of the French Eclectic style, as defined in McAlester's *A Field Guide to American Houses*. The house is an example of the towered subtype, which is clearly identifiable by the round tower with a conical roof containing the main entrance to the interior quarters. Half-timbering is very common in this subtype, and the style is similar to farmhouses seen in the Normandy region of France. The French Eclectic style is uncommon in Georgia, and was typically constructed in suburbs in the 1920s and 1930s. McAlester notes that with many Americans having served in France during World War I, the style was introduced following soldiers' exposure during the war, and was typically constructed in the years shortly after the war. The round tower with conical roof, half-timbering, varied hipped roof massing, casement windows, and arched entrance seen in the James and Olive Porter House make it a good example of the French Eclectic style.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

The following historic context is taken from the January 18, 2017 "James and Olive Porter House" Historic Property Information Form that was prepared by Kim Campbell, Historic Macon Foundation, and edited by Christy Atkins, Historic Preservation Division. It is on file at the Historic Preservation Division, Department of Natural Resources, Stockbridge, Georgia.

James Hyde Porter (1873-1949) was born into the textile business and through these endeavors, he acquired his wealth. His father started a textile mill in Porterdale, later purchased by the Bibb Manufacturing Company, which was established in Macon and expanded to become one of the state's largest employers. James became the vice-president of the Bibb Manufacturing Company in later years. James married Olive Swann (1876-1939) in 1902, and they lived in a large house located at 562 College Street in Macon. Olive was also born into the textile industry, as her father helped establish the Covington Cotton Mills in Covington, Georgia.⁴

¹ Barfield, James E. *Architectural Works of W. Elliott Dunwody, Jr., FAIA*. Wesleyan College Press, Macon, Georgia, 2008.

² A bit of Normandy near Macon. *The Macon Telegraph and News*. July 22, 1928.

³ Barfield, *Architectural Works*.

⁴ Mrs. James H. Porter obituary. 1939, August 4. *The Macon Telegraph and News*.

Porter, James and Olive, House
Name of Property

Bibb County, Georgia
County and State

In the summer of 1927, the Porters went on a trip to France, specifically Normandy. The Porters drove around the countryside during their trip, and James decided he would build a French-inspired house if he ever had the chance. The chance came later that same year, and James consulted with W. Elliot Dunwody, Jr., a local Macon architect, to design the unique residence that paid tribute to the Porter's trip. The Porters purchased a 27.5-acre tract from J.D. Whitehead on July 19, 1927. Referenced as a "cottage," the chateau-inspired house is called the "Farm House" on Dunwody's architectural plans. Dunwody also designed several other elements of the country estate including a swimming pool, pool house, formal garden, garage, greenhouse, experimental fields, and bird coops that are no longer extant. James referred to the property as "Porterdale," and the Porters thought of the house as their own "Normandy peasant cottage."⁵ "Porterfield" was also used interchangeably as a name of the property and the house, perhaps in an attempt to differentiate it from the town of Porterdale where James was born, which is near present-day Covington, Georgia. James' connection to his hometown remained strong, and in 1938, he gave \$160,000 for the construction of a memorial auditorium there in honor of his father and town namesake, Oliver S. Porter.⁶

The Porters were active in the Macon community and gave generously throughout their lifetimes to many religious, educational, and philanthropic causes; however, their gifts to education stand out among their contemporaries. James Porter served on the Board of Trustees for Wesleyan College, and during the Great Depression, the College has given him credit for "keeping the institution afloat," not only with his personal fortune, but also by encouraging other businesses to give during that difficult time. Wesleyan's liberal arts departments were just getting settled on their newly completed campus when the Great Depression began. Although almost all colleges and universities suffered during this time, Wesleyan was particularly hard struck by the Depression because the bond funds they had sold to complete the new campus became due. James Porter led a group of trustees to secure funds for all of Wesleyan's debt, and he gave two gifts totaling \$150,000 to Wesleyan to help it purchase their way out of this debt.⁷

The Porters supported numerous students at various institutions with scholarships, but their bond to Wesleyan College was always unique. After the construction of the house, they invited Wesleyan students to an annual spring barbeque at the property. After Olive died, James continued to give generously. In 1940 alone, he gave \$150,000 to Mercer University for the construction of a female dormitory and an additional \$100,000 to Wesleyan to finish the construction of their then new campus on Forsyth Road, which is where the institution is located today,⁸ and interestingly where the James and Olive Porter House was eventually moved.

By the time James Porter was asked to serve on Wesleyan College's Board of Trustees (he served as a trustee from 1926 until his death in 1949), he was also the vice-president of the Bibb Manufacturing Company. James was an active member of the Mulberry Street United Methodist Church in downtown Macon, and served on its Building and Grounds Committee. Olive was also an active community member, having served at the local and state level for the Daughters of the American Revolution, Colonial Dames of America, and the Bibb County Garden Club.⁹ Although James gave to many institutions around Macon and even Middle Georgia, he made special gifts to Wesleyan. After Olive Porter's death, he approached Mr. Charles Townsend, who had been Mrs. Porter's interior designer, to create a special collection to donate to Wesleyan College. Named the Olive Swann Porter Collections, the furniture and artwork had to meet three conditions. First, the collection had to come from all over the world. Second, the collection had to represent as wide a range of human history as possible. And third, everything had to be in keeping with Mrs. Porter's taste. This

⁵ Kilpatrick, Helen. "A Bit of Normandy Near Macon." *The Macon Telegraph and News*, July 22, 1928.

⁶ "Porter Building To Be Presented Formally Today." *The Macon Telegraph and News*, November 25, 1938.

⁷ Akers, Ibid.

⁸ "Porter Gives Mercer \$150,000 Building." *The Macon Telegraph and News*, March 31, 1940.

⁹ Mrs. James H. Porter obituary. *The Macon Telegraph and News*. August 4, 1939.

Porter, James and Olive, House
Name of Property

Bibb County, Georgia
County and State

collection was meant to bring beauty and education to the students of Wesleyan.¹⁰ The donation of this collection is one of the many examples that led the 1949 issue of the Wesleyan alumni magazine to run a front-page obituary for James Hyde Porter calling him “Wesleyan’s most generous benefactor.”

In addition to the main house, the original estate included several outbuildings and a miniature farm situated on over 27 acres. The Porters grew a variety of fruits and vegetables on the property, but they were best known for their roses. Their formal rose gardens were said to be the envy of rosarians nationwide, and the Porters even hosted a tour for the first annual meeting of the Georgia Rose Society on May 1, 1934.¹¹

The Porters used the tower room and smaller rectangular portion of the house as their weekend home from its completion in 1928 until Olive’s death in 1939. Afterwards, James sold the in-town house on College Street and moved to this house full time from 1939 until his death in 1949.¹² J.H. Meadows, the Porter’s caretaker/gardener, and his family, used the tenant’s quarters from 1928 until approximately the time of Mr. Porter’s death in 1949.

James Porter’s will, dated June 15, 1949, created a trust to look after all of his real estate holdings upon his death. That trust could do what it saw fit with the property, with the exception of “Porterfield,” which had to be sold, not leased. In 1951, Arthur Lewis and the First National Bank and Trust Company in Macon, functioning as executors of the will, sold the property to Mrs. Kate M. Gillen. She borrowed against the property several times between acquiring it and defaulting in November 1954, apparently without ever having lived there. The property was sold on November 2, 1954 to First Baptist Church of Christ of Macon for \$2,710. After 1954, the property was used as a combination of church offices, Sunday school rooms, lodgings for ministers, and a meeting space. On November 24, 1959, the property passed from the First Baptist Church of Christ of Macon to the Porterfield Baptist Church.

In 2008, a storm moved through south Bibb County, and a tree limb fell through the roof of the house. In 2012, the Porterfield Baptist Church Board of Trustees voted to demolish the house, determining it too expensive to repair and maintain. Wesleyan College, the James Hyde Porter Charitable (Testamentary) Trust, and Historic Macon Foundation brokered a deal to save the house by offering to move it off the church’s campus. This deal was then finalized by the Church’s Board of Trustees on April 30, 2013. On November 17, 2013, the house was moved approximately 12.1 miles from its original location off Houston Road in south Bibb County to its current location off Tucker Road on the edge of Wesleyan College’s campus. The house was moved in two sections after the roof was removed and placed on a new foundation that was constructed using the original Dunwoody foundation plans. After the house was moved in 2013, a full rehabilitation was completed in 2017. The house is now used as meeting and event space, as well as housing a collection of items from the Porter’s estate.

¹⁰ The Olive Swann Porter College brochure. Box 1, Folder C, Trustees files, Wesleyan College Archives, Macon, Georgia.

¹¹ “Meet Scheduled by Rose Society,” *Macon Telegraph and News*, April 29, 1934.

¹² “Meet Scheduled by Rose Society.” *The Macon Telegraph and News*, April 29, 1934.

Porter, James and Olive, House
Name of Property

Bibb County, Georgia
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Archival Sources

Annual Report, Wesleyan Magazine. 2013. Wesleyan College Archives, Macon, Georgia.

"James Hyde Porter Dies." *The Wesleyan Alumnae*. Vol. XXV, Ed. Eunice Thompson. August 1949. Wesleyan College Archives, Macon, Georgia.

A New Day for Historic Wesleyan. (House M.E. Church South: Nashville), 1929. Box Quillian W.F., President files, Wesleyan College Archives, Macon, Georgia.

Wm.F. Quillian to J.A. Flourney, letter, 14 July 1922. Folder Letter to Mr. J.A. Flourney, Box Quillian W.F., President Files, Wesleyan College Archives, Macon, Georgia.

"The Trustees of Wesleyan College." Bulletin of Wesleyan College, Vol. 24 Iss. 8, December 1944. Box 1, Folder C, Trustees files, Wesleyan College Archives, Macon, Georgia.

The Olive Swann Porter College brochure. Box 1, Folder C, Trustees files, Wesleyan College Archives, Macon, Georgia.

"A Birthday Service Honoring James Hyde Porter," January 24, 1948. Box 1, Folder C, Wesleyan College Archives, Macon, Georgia.

Newspaper Articles

"A Bit of Normandy Near Macon: James Porter Recreates Norman Peasant Farm For His Country Place – Rare Rose Plants Bear Beautiful Flowers – Barn and Poultry Yard Are Designed to Match Main Cottage – Swimming Pool Constructed." *The Macon Telegraph and News*, July 22, 1928.

"An Outstanding Benefactor." *The Macon Telegraph and News*, March 25, 1938.

"Horticulture Experts to Address Convention." *The Macon Telegraph and News*, March 24, 1935.

"Meet Scheduled by Rose Society." *The Macon Telegraph and News*, April 29, 1934.

"Porter Building To Be Presented Formally Today." *The Macon Telegraph and News*, November 25, 1938.

"Porter Gives Mercer \$150,000 Building." *The Macon Telegraph and News*, March 31, 1940.

"Porter Services to be Tomorrow." *The Macon Telegraph and News*, August 4, 1939.

"Porter Tribute Paid by Pastor." *The Macon Telegraph and News*, August 6, 1939.

"Porterfield Memorial Hall." *The Macon Telegraph and News*, November 25, 1938.

Other Sources

Barfield, James E. *Architectural Works of W. Elliott Dunwoody, Jr., FAIA*. Wesleyan College Press: Macon, 2008.

Bird, Michael. Interview by Kim Campbell and Lauren Mauldin. On-site Interview. Porterfield Baptist Church property, Bibb County, Georgia, November 18, 2015.

Campbell, Kim. "James and Olive Porter House." *Historic Property Information Form*, January 18, 2017. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Stockbridge, Georgia.

Porter, James and Olive, House
Name of Property

Bibb County, Georgia
County and State

Ingleside Historic District, *National Register of Historic Places Nomination*, March 16, 2016.

Last Will and Testament of James Hyde Porter as witnessed 18 September 1948, and amended 2 April 1949. Sent from the Porter Trust at SunTrust Bank.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. Alfred A. Knopf: New York, 1986.

Shirley Hills Historic District (Boundary Increase and Additional Documentation), *National Register of Historic Places Nomination*, April 16, 2014.

Wesleyan College. "Historic Porter House to be moved to Wesleyan campus." Press release, May 2013.
<http://www.wesleyancollege.edu/news/porterhouse.cfm>

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

☒ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
☐ previously listed in the National Register
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

☒ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than 1 acre
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 32.872196

Longitude: -83.713547

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary is identified by a heavy black line on the attached parcel map, which is drawn to scale.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary is the footprint of the James and Olive Porter House, since it has been moved from its original location.

Porter, James and Olive, House
Name of Property

Bibb County, Georgia
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Christy Atkins, National Register Historian

organization Historic Preservation Division, GA Dept. of Natural Resources date December, 2018

street & number 2610 Highway 155, SW telephone (770) 389-7844

city or town Stockbridge state GA zip code 30281

e-mail Christy.atkins@dnr.ga.gov

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: James and Olive Porter House

City or Vicinity: Macon

County: Bibb

State: Georgia

Photographer: Kim Campbell, Historic Macon Foundation

Date Photographed: February 6, 2017

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 1 of 39. | Façade; photographer facing northwest |
| 2 of 39. | Oblique; photographer facing west |
| 3 of 39. | Rear elevation; photographer facing southeast |
| 4 of 39. | South end of rear elevation; photographer facing east |
| 5 of 39. | South elevation; photographer facing north |
| 6 of 39. | Tower oblique; photographer facing north |
| 7 of 39. | Tenant's Porch; photographer facing southwest |
| 8 of 39. | Living Room (Tenant); photographer facing south |
| 9 of 39. | Living Room (Tenant); photographer facing north |
| 10 of 39. | Bedroom 1 (Tenant); photographer facing south |
| 11 of 39. | Bedroom 1 (Tenant); photographer facing east |
| 12 of 39. | Bedroom 2 (Tenant); photographer facing north |
| 13 of 39. | Bedroom 2 (Tenant); photographer facing northeast |

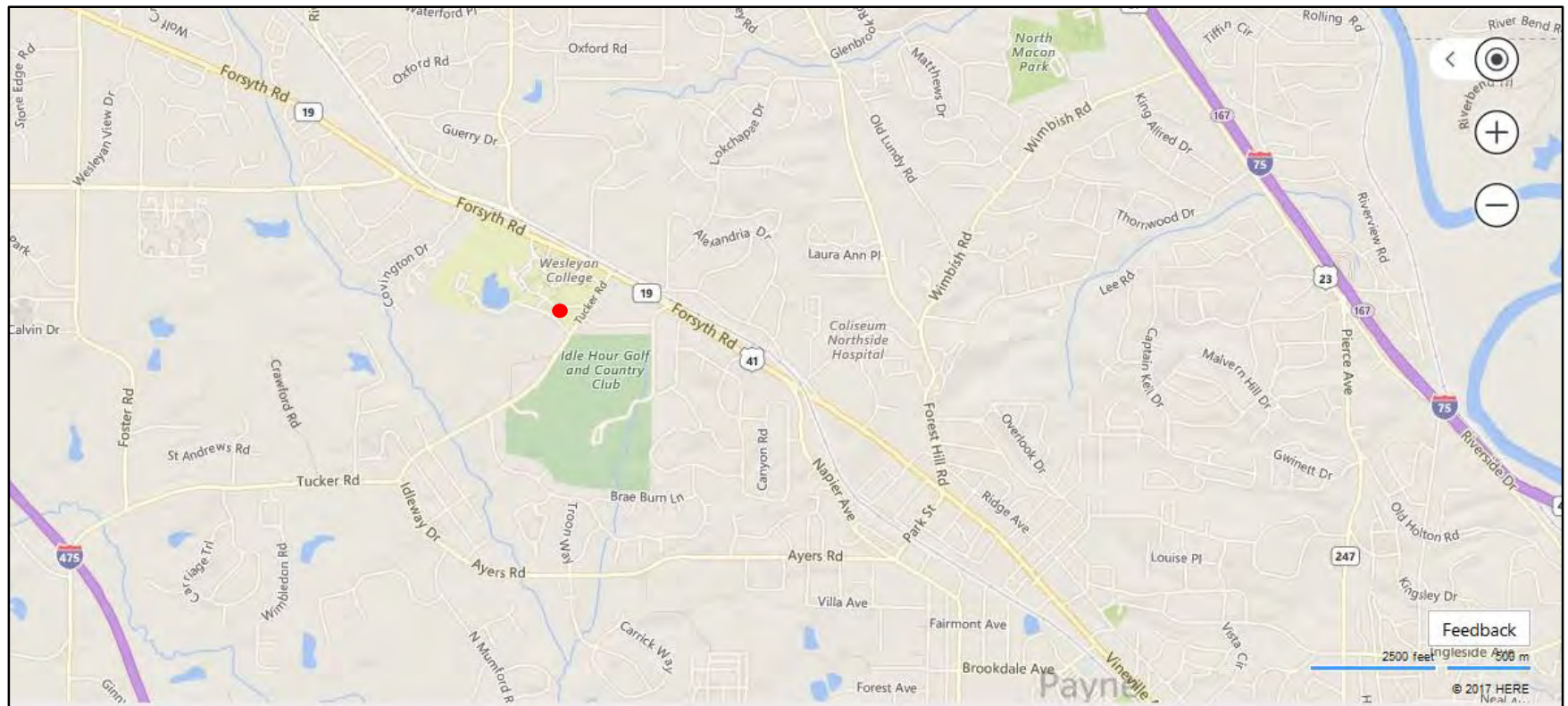
Porter, James and Olive, House

Name of Property

Bibb County, Georgia

County and State

- 14 of 39. Bedroom 2 (Tenant); photographer facing south
- 15 of 39. Hall (Tenant); photographer facing northeast
- 16 of 39. Bath (Tenant); photographer facing south
- 17 of 39. Dining Room (Tenant); photographer facing east
- 18 of 39. Dining Room (Tenant); photographer facing south
- 19 of 39. Dining Room (Tenant); photographer facing west
- 20 of 39. Kitchen (Tenant); photographer facing east
- 21 of 39. Kitchen (Tenant); photographer facing north
- 22 of 39. Kitchen (Tenant); photographer facing south
- 23 of 39. Side Entry (Tenant); photographer facing east
- 24 of 39. Tower Entrance; photographer facing north
- 25 of 39. Tower Room (Owner); photographer facing northeast
- 26 of 39. Tower Room (Owner); photographer facing northwest
- 27 of 39. Tower Room (Owner); photographer facing southwest
- 28 of 39. Dressing Room (Owner); photographer facing west
- 29 of 39. Bath (Owner); photographer facing north
- 30 of 39. Bath (Owner); photographer facing south
- 31 of 39. Living Room (Owner); photographer facing northwest
- 32 of 39. Living Room (Owner); photographer facing southwest
- 33 of 39. Living Room (Owner); photographer facing northeast
- 34 of 39. Kitchenette (Owner); photographer facing northwest
- 35 of 39. Kitchenette (Owner); photographer facing northeast
- 36 of 39. Owner's Porch; photographer facing north
- 37 of 39. Terrace; photographer facing east
- 38 of 39. Covered Walk; photographer facing northeast
- 39 of 39. Covered Walk; photographer facing southwest

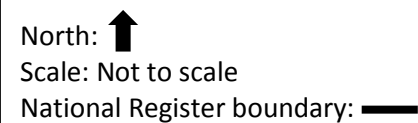


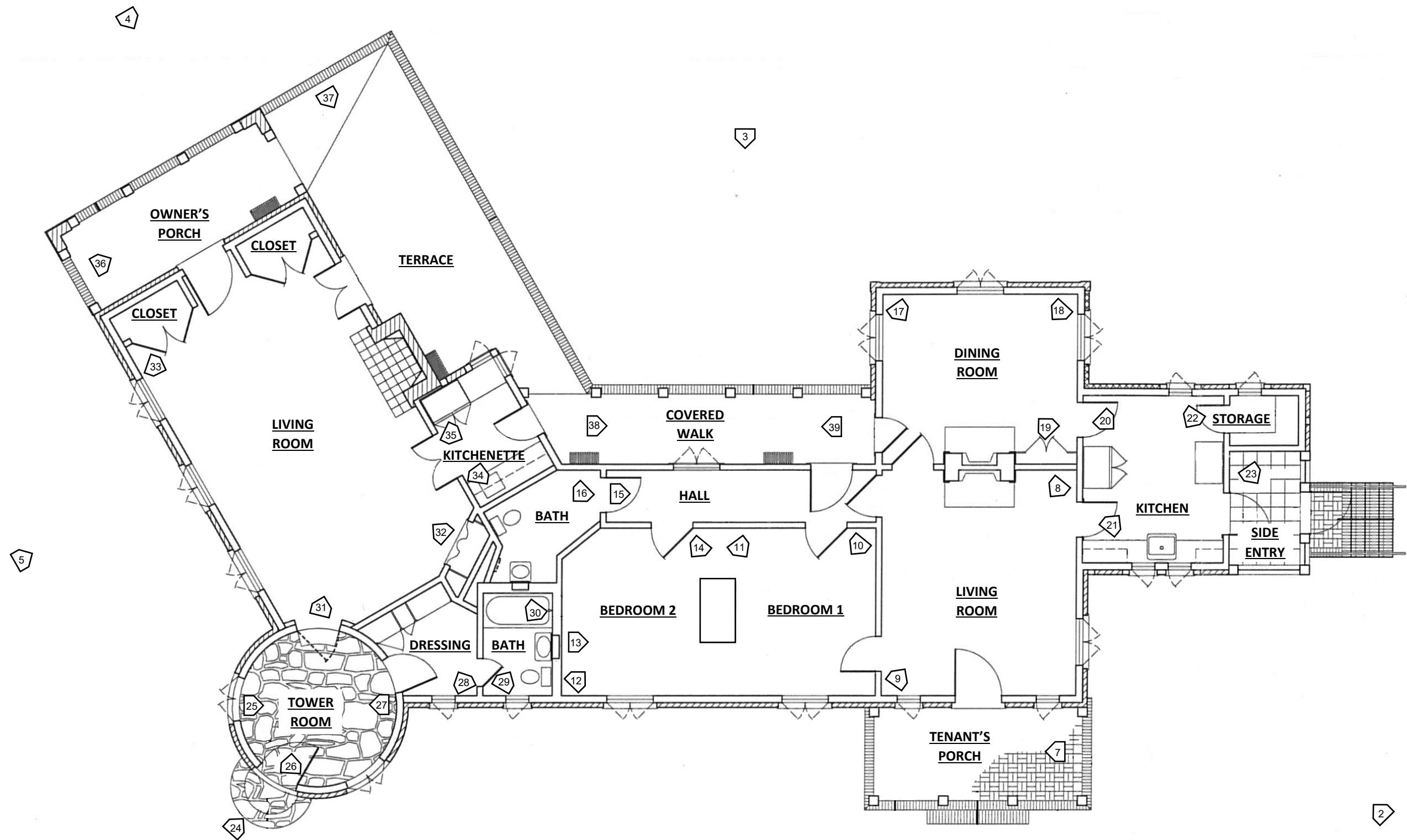
Porter, James and Olive, House

231 Tucker Road
Macon, Bibb County



North: ↑

Lat, Long: 32.872196, -83.713547





Porter, James and Olive, House
 Macon, Bibb County, Georgia
 First Floor Plan

North: 
 Photograph #/Direction of View: 
 Scale: Not to Scale

Plan drawn by: Dunwody/Beeland Architects, Inc., 11/11/2015
 Adapted by Historic Preservation Division, October, 2018















































































UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Porter, James and Olive, House

Multiple Name:

State & County: GEORGIA, Bibb

Date Received:
12/17/2018

Date of Pending List:

Date of 16th Day:

Date of 45th Day:

Date of Weekly List:

1/31/2019

Reference number: SG100003381

Nominator: SHPO

Reason For Review:

☐ Appeal

☒ SHPO Request

☐ Waiver

☐ Resubmission

☒ Other

☒ PDIL

☐ Landscape

☐ National

☐ Mobile Resource

☐ TCP

☐ CLG

☐ Text/Data Issue

☐ Photo

☐ Map/Boundary

☐ Period

☐ Less than 50 years

☒ Accept

☐ Return

☐ Reject

1/31/2019

Date

Abstract/Summary
Comments:

Recommendation/
Criteria

Reviewer Lisa Deline

Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2239

Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION

MARK WILLIAMS
COMMISSIONER

DR. DAVID CRASS
DIVISION DIRECTOR

December 12, 2018

Paul Loether
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1849 C St, NW, Mail Stop 7228
Washington, D.C. 20240



Dear Mr. Loether:

The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for **Porter, James and Olive, House in Bibb County, Georgia** to the National Register of Historic Places.

- ☒ Disk of National Register of Historic Places nomination form and maps as a pdf
- ☒ Disk with digital photo images
- ☒ Physical signature page
- ☐ Original USGS topographic map(s)
- ☐ Sketch map(s)/attachment(s)
- ☐ Correspondence
- ☐ Other:

COMMENTS:

- ☒ Please ensure that this nomination is reviewed
- ☒ This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67
- ☐ The enclosed owner objection(s) do ☐ do not ☐ constitute a majority of property owners.
- ☐ Special considerations:

Sincerely,

Olivia Head
National Register Specialist