

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received APR 2 1985

date entered MAY 2 1985

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic DeVaughn-Lewis House

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 510 South Dooly Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Montezuma

N/A vicinity of

state Georgia

code 013

county Macon

code 193

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. William D. Bolton

street & number 510 South Dooly Street

city, town Montezuma

N/A vicinity of

state Georgia 31063

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Macon County Courthouse

city, town Oglethorpe

state Georgia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

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## 7. Description

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**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved      date \_\_\_\_\_

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The DeVaughn-Lewis House is a large, two-story, wood-framed Neoclassical style house. The exterior walls are weatherboarded and the house sits on brick piers with brick infill. The house features Neoclassical details including a two-story pedimented portico with four Corinthian columns, a fanlight window, corbeled chimneys, and modillioned eaves. The house has a central hall with the main rooms of the first floor more or less symmetrically arranged on each side. The second floor contains four bedrooms and baths. The hallway has paneled wainscoting; the dining room has pressed metal wainscoting. There are sliding doors and Corinthian columns in the hall and transoms over bedroom doors. Neoclassical mantels are found throughout the house.

The house sits on a rise and shows evidence of formal landscaping with a variety of plantings. Surviving outbuildings include a brick garage and a brick storage shed/greenhouse. The house sits in a residential area of town with the majority of houses being of more recent construction.

Changes to the property include the 1920s addition of upstairs baths in space taken from the central hall, a partially rebuilt roof, and the loss of both corners of the front porch between the portico and the side porches and porte cochere. The railings have also been removed from atop the porte cochere and the side porches on both sides of the house.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** c. 1906 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The DeVaughn-Lewis House is significant in both architecture and commerce. The house is significant in architecture as a fine representation of the Neoclassical movement of the turn of the century. Elements of that style include the overall massing and arrangement of the house, its massive portico, corbeled chimneys, and four-over-four room with central hall plan. The design and detailing of the house suggest the involvement of a trained, although yet unknown, architect who probably came from one of Georgia's largest cities to design this house. The house is significant in commerce for the role in Montezuma of its owner/builder James E. DeVaughn (1840–1908), who for over 40 years was in the general merchandise business, amassing a fortune in money and land during the process. He built this house toward the end of his long, successful life and it reflected his wealth and community standing. The house was owned from 1913 to 1935 by Minor Lewis and his family, a banker and leading financier who with his brother owned banks in Macon and in Montezuma. Minor Lewis was also active in obtaining a Carnegie Library for Montezuma. These areas of significance support the property's eligibility under National Register criteria B and C.

### Historical Narrative

The DeVaughn-Lewis House rests on property that was owned by the builder of the house, Captain James Elijah DeVaughn, for many years before the house was built. Captain DeVaughn was born in 1840 near Jonesboro, later Clayton County, Georgia, just south of what became Atlanta. He served in the Civil War, rising to be captain of his company, but spending the latter part of the war as a prisoner. After the war, he moved to Montezuma and became a merchant. In 1867 he married his first wife, Sarah V. McLendon, who died in 1882. On January 3, 1884, he married a second time to Miss Mary Elizabeth Porter, a school teacher from Griffin, Georgia. According to family tradition, it was on the occasion of this second marriage that a new house was built. That house, built during the height of the Victorian period, would have reflected Victorian styles of architecture, probably with Queen Anne or Eastlake details. It would not have been the house that is the subject of this nomination with its turn-of-the-century qualities. In 1866, Captain DeVaughn first operated a general store in which he sold hardware, coffins, farm equipment and supplies. He was a baptist and a democrat and served on the City Council and the Board of Education. Eventually, he accumulated large amounts of real estate and was said to be "one of the large land owners of the southern part of the state." He was an incorporator of the Montezuma Steamboat Company in 1887, the Montezuma and Flint River Steamboat Company in 1889, and the Montezuma Baptist Church in 1883. He was also active, and an officer of the local camp of the United Confederate Veterans. Captain DeVaughn was also a cotton farmer who had bought the hill upon which this house was eventually built early in his career in Montezuma.

(Continued)

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Campbell, Susan and Mary Ann Bolton. "DeVaughn-Lewis House..." Historic Property Information Form and supplemental data, January 31, 1983, and later. On file at the Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, GA. Macon County, Georgia Tax Digests for 1895-1913 located in Georgia Department of Archives.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 2.02 acres

Quadrangle name Montezuma, Georgia

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UTM References

A 

1	6	7	7	9	5	6	10	3	15	7	16	6	19	10
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property is all that the current owner owns at this location and all that remains associated with the house. It is marked on the enclosed plat.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Historian

organization Historic Preservation Section Georgia Department of Natural Resources

date 3/6/85

street & number 270 Washington Street, SW

telephone 404/656-2840

city or town Atlanta

state Georgia 30334

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Elizabeth A. Lyon  
Elizabeth A. Lyon

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

date 3/14/85

### For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Sharon Byers  
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the National Register

date 5/2/85

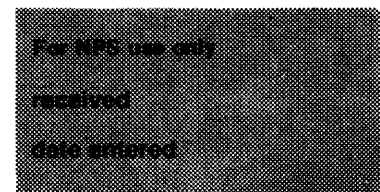
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Significance

Item number 8

Page 2

8. Significance

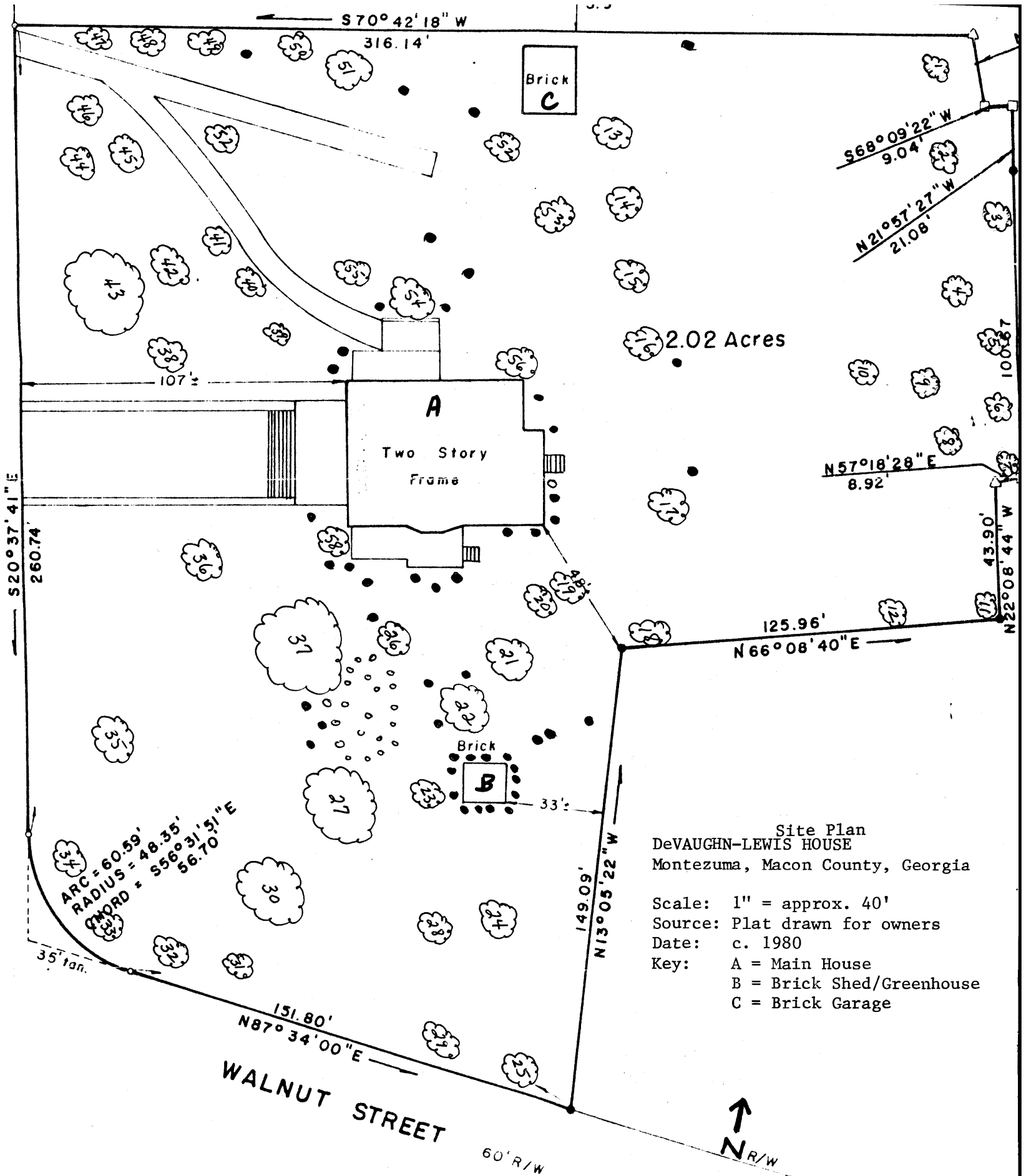
Historical Narrative

This house was apparently built late in the life of Captain DeVaughn, after his children by his first wife had grown, and after he had been married to his second wife for twenty years. It is not known why he built at this time, but judging from similar homes built by the "wealthiest man in town" in other cities, it is not too hard to comprehend the impression the Captain wanted to make on his neighbors. In most communities one finds large, turn-of-the-century, Neoclassical styled houses built by those individuals who were on the top of the social and economic ladders of their day. Such was the case for this house and this family. When surveying the Macon County Tax Digests for the period 1895-1913, during the period when the house's architectural style, Neoclassical, went from its infancy to its height, one finds a rise in the value of Captain DeVaughn's "city property." Prior to 1905 his city property was valued between \$12,000 and \$15,000. In 1905 it went to \$25,700 and in 1906 to \$30,750 where it remained until after DeVaughn's death in 1908. In 1912, when the widow owned only the house and lot, it was valued at only \$5,000, just as it had been in the estate inventory. This also corresponded to the jump in value between 1905 and 1906. Interestingly enough, the value of the household furnishings did not rise at all from 1901 until 1907 when it rose from \$400 to \$450 and then in 1908 to \$600.

At Captain DeVaughn's death, July 13, 1908, his estate was said to be the most valuable one up to that time in the county. It was valued in its total appraisal at over \$500,000 with over \$250,000 in real estate, consisting of over 13,000 acres, in Georgia and several other southern states. He left the house and lot to his widow who owned it and lived there until her death, April 8, 1913. The house was then sold by the estate on December 2, 1913, for \$7,000 to W. Minor Lewis.

William Minor Lewis (1874- ) was a member of a family who had lived in various parts of south Georgia before his father opened a mercantile business in Montezuma in 1869. After his father died in 1879, William Minor (who had been named for his father's partner) lived with his mother in Hawkinsville until they both moved to Montezuma in 1893. He moved to Macon in 1903 where he established a bank for which he served as president until 1907, when he returned to Montezuma. There he worked in banking with his older brother, Elijah B. Lewis, who was president of both the Lewis Banking Company and the First National Bank. Elijah also served as a state senator and a U.S. Congressman from 1897-1909. W. Minor Lewis' major civic achievement was negotiating with Andrew Carnegie for a Carnegie Library to be built in Montezuma.

After Mr. Lewis' death, his widow, Christine Patrick Lewis, married Charles E. Baldwin. She sold the house in 1935 to Augustus C. Richardson (1891-1964) a farmer, -wholesale distributor for Gulf Oil, mayor and state senator. He transferred ownership to his wife, Claude Davis Richardson (1890-1978) in 1952. She was a well-known musician and composer. After her death, her children sold it in 1979. In 1980 it was purchased by the present owners.



Site Plan  
 DeVAUGHN-LEWIS HOUSE  
 Montezuma, Macon County, Georgia  
 Scale: 1" = approx. 40'  
 Source: Plat drawn for owners  
 Date: c. 1980  
 Key:  
 A = Main House  
 B = Brick Shed/Greenhouse  
 C = Brick Garage

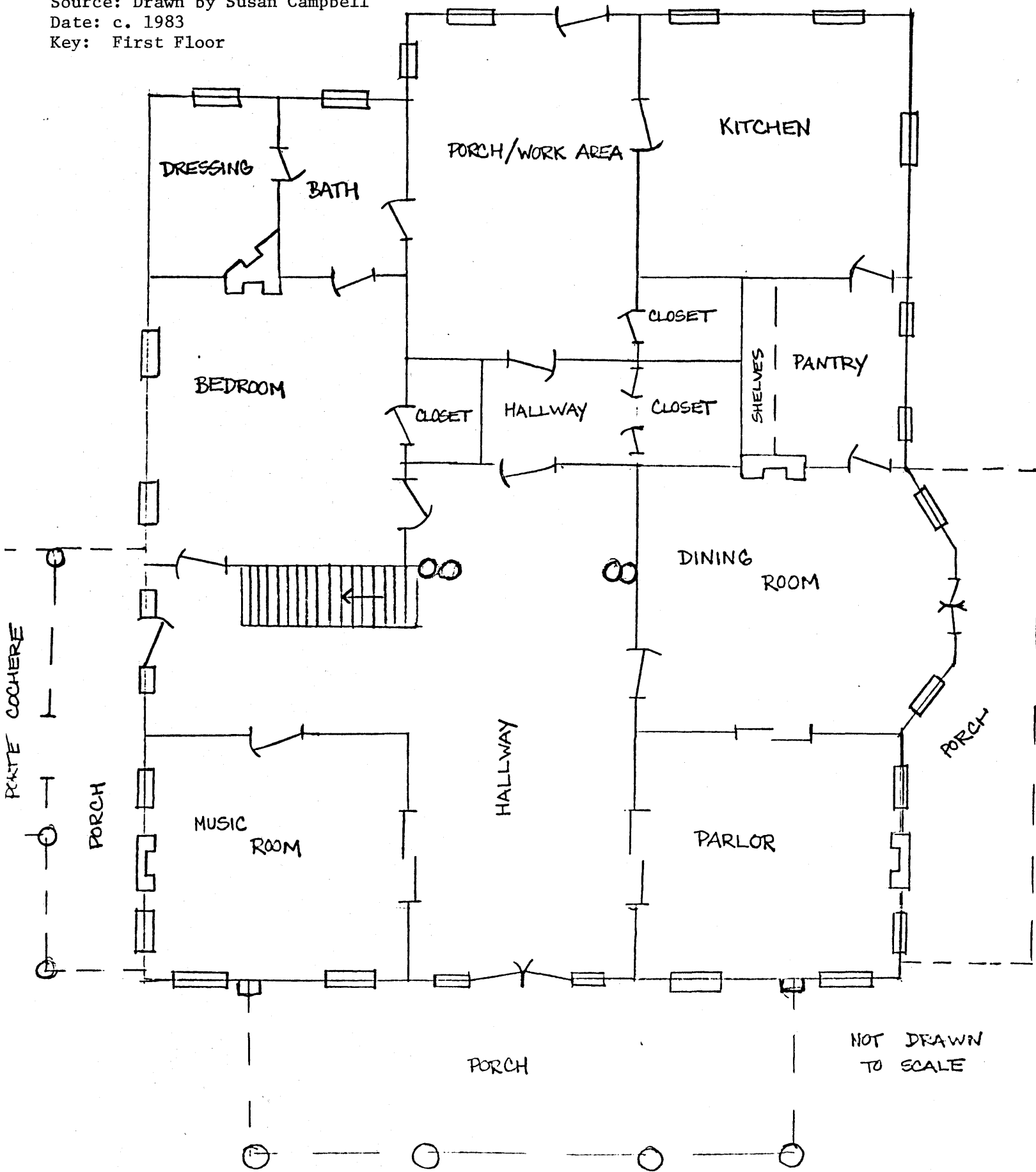


In my opinion, this plat is a true and correct representation of the land platted. It has been prepared in conformity with the minimum standards and requirements:

MONTEZUMA, GEORGIA

DeVAUGHN-LEWIS HOUSE  
Montezuma, Macon County, Georgia

Scale: Not to Scale  
Source: Drawn by Susan Campbell  
Date: c. 1983  
Key: First Floor



NOT DRAWN  
TO SCALE

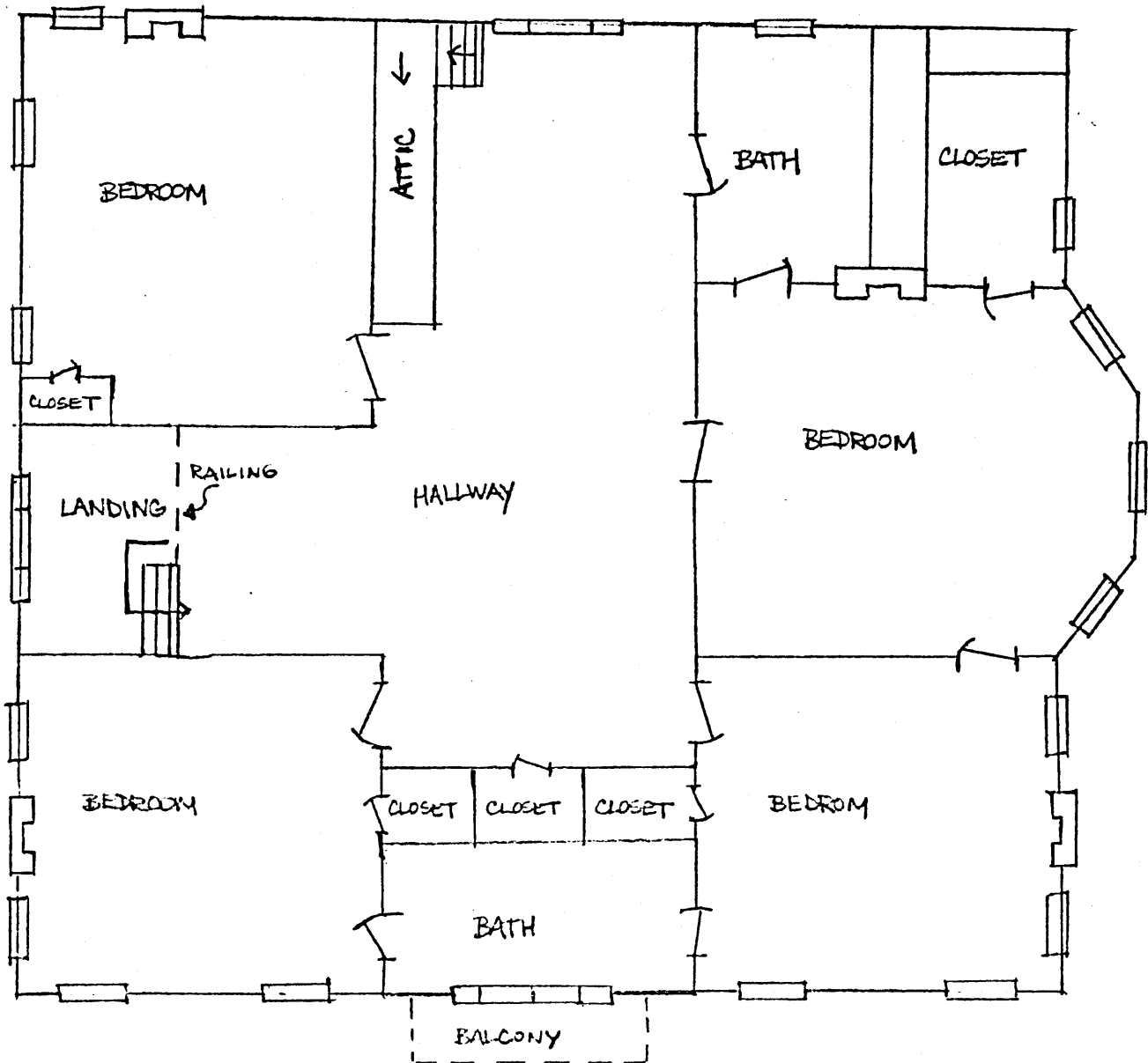
# THE DEVAUGHN HOUSE

## SECOND FLOOR

DeVAUGHN-LEWIS HOUSE  
Montezuma, Macon County, Georgia

Scale: Not to scale  
Source: Drawn by Susan Campbell  
Date: c. 1983

Key: Second Floor



NOT DRAWN  
TO SCALE