



**4. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination 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 meets the National Register criteria. ( ) See continuation sheet.

Mark R. Edwards  
Signature of certifying official

6/05/95  
Date

Mark R. Edwards  
State Historic Preservation Officer,  
Georgia Department of Natural Resources

In my opinion, the property ( ) meets ( ) does not meet the National Register criteria. ( ) See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency or bureau

**5. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

Edson H. Beall Entered in the  
National Register 7/7/95

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other, explain:

see continuation sheet

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature, Keeper of the National Register Date

for

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## 6. Function or Use

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### Historic Functions:

DOMESTIC/single dwelling  
DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling  
EDUCATION/school

### Current Functions:

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

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## 7. Description

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### Architectural Classification:

LATE 19TH CENTURY/Neo-Classical Revival

### Materials:

foundation	brick
walls	brick
roof	slate
other	N/A

### Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Donehoo-Brannen House is a two-and a-half-story Neoclassical-style house with a partial basement. The main facade has three bays and a two-story portico. There are two large wings and porches extend from the sides as well as a rear ell which was once a porch. There is a small, original porte cochere and a large new carport.

The house is of red brick, with wood columns with plaster capitals and details. There is red tile flooring on the first floor porches. Pennsylvania slate was used for the roof on all dormers, gable roofs and the hipped ell. There is a tin roof on the flat second story porch decks.

There are Corinthian and Doric capitals on the fluted columns. There are turned balustrades and classical urns on the front facade and porches. There is a patterned slate roof; and modillion blocks and a classical entablature. There are pediments in the gable ends. The house has Palladian windows, and oval dormers.

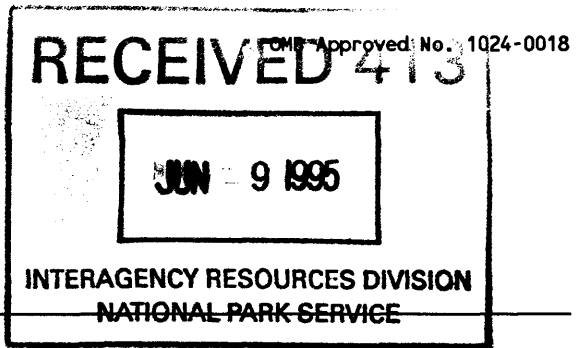
The floorplan is asymmetrical. On the first floor there is a central entrance which enters into a large front parlor, but no central hall. On the second floor there is a more symmetrical arrangement with an L-shaped hall and an attic. There are two staircases - the main circular staircase connecting the first two floors and an L-shaped rear staircase which connects the rear of all three floors.

The house retains most of its original materials. There is Tiger oak flooring on the first floor, and heart-pine flooring on the second

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floor. There are plaster walls and mahogany ceilings on the first floor, and small octagonal tiles in the bathrooms.

The house has pocket doors in the large public rooms on the first floor; leaded glass (prism) windows; brass hardware on most doors; picture moulds; china rail in the dining room; and brass electrical fixtures.

The house has 18-inch thick masonry walls and is built of common bond brick.

There are four fireplaces on the 1st and 2nd floors each; an intact original hot water system (now inoperative); large coal furnace (now converted to gas); cast iron radiators; modern plumbing but original porcelain tubs, lavatories and faucets; propane heater; servants' buzzer; and a built-in oak refrigerator.

There is a spacious front lawn and a circular walk leading from Savannah Avenue to the front steps; and an original unpaved driveway. Trees and shrubs on the premises include: pecan, magnolias, wisteria, pines, azaleas, camellias, camphor tree, and a large juniper.

No historic outbuildings survive. There were several at the time the house was completed: carriage house, two servants quarters, a barn/stable, and a pigeon or dove cote. Many of these predated the current house and served the earlier residence of W. M. Foy which burned in 1915. By the late 1940s both servants quarters, the barn, and carriage house had been destroyed by fire or to make the right of way for the Grady Street entrance to the nearby hospital.

The major archaeological sites on the property would be the above-mentioned outbuildings and the site of the Foy Residence itself. The present house was built on the same site as the Foy House which burned in 1915. No archaeological investigations have been done on the property.

The house faces Savannah Avenue, a major thoroughfare leading into Statesboro, a county-seat city. The street was once lined with houses, is now lined with residential buildings and new buildings. Donehoo Street borders the house on the east. Behind the house on Grady Street are doctor's offices and, to the southeast, the Bulloch County Hospital.

Since the Donehoo House completion in 1917, there have been few changes. During 1920-30 the back porch was enclosed. A support column was added in the drawing room, and a shower was added. During 1942-43 the upstairs hall was enclosed with doors and the kitchen remodelled. In the 1950s a bathroom was added to the music room and the kitchen

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remodeled again. There have been major repairs to the front columns and alterations to several capitals. In 1969 the carport was added; and in 1974 there were additional repairs.

The house has been restored in the late 1980s-early 1990s.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

**Applicable National Register Criteria:**

A     B     C     D

**Criteria Considerations (Exceptions):**     N/A

A     B     C     D     E     F     G

**Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):**

ARCHITECTURE  
COMMERCE  
GOVERNMENT

**Period of Significance:**

1917-1945

**Significant Dates:**

1917

**Significant Person(s):**

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation:**

N/A

**Architect(s)/Builder(s):**

Edward C. Hosford & Co., Eastman, GA, architect  
J. B. Sargent, Statesboro, builder

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**Significance of property, justification of criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above:**

**Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)**

The Donehoo-Brannen House is significant in architecture because it is an excellent example of the Neoclassical Revival style whose popularity began just before the turn of the 19th-20th century, having been inspired by the Columbian Exposition of 1893. It reflects the return to classical detailing with its large front, semi-circular portico and extensive use of classical motifs on the exterior. The house retains most of its original materials including wood, plaster, mantels, hardware, stairs, and some slate roofs. It is also significant as a work of Edward C. Hosford, a Georgia-born and trained architect. He was noted in his lifetime for his many courthouse designs in Georgia and Florida. The house is also significant in commerce because the original owner, Dr. James E. Donehoo (1867-1949), was a locally-prominent physician and businessman. He owned a major local trading company and was involved in the Bulloch Oil Mill (as president), the Savannah, Augusta and Northern Railroad (as a charter member), and a grocery store. He had a direct interest in several of Statesboro's major commercial enterprises. The house is significant in government because in 1940 it was adapted as a training school for women enrolled in the New Deal's National Youth Administration which gave practical training in agriculture and home economics, the so-called "duties of life". The house was sold in 1942 to Irvin A. Brannen (1882-1957), a prominent farmer, businessman and former legislator from nearby Candler County who had worked for that county's creation in 1905. Under his ownership the house continued to be a center for social, cultural and civic functions.

**National Register Criteria**

The Donehoo-Brannen House meets National Register Criterion A because it was associated with two men involved in the commercial and business history of Statesboro as well as being used as a training school for the National Youth Administration in 1940. The house meets National Register Criterion C because it is a fine example of an architect-designed Neoclassical Revival style house with almost all of its interior and exterior workmanship and materials intact.

**Criteria Considerations (if applicable)**

N/A

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**Period of significance (justification)**

The period of significance runs from the building of the present house (1917) through the end of the historic period (1945). The house was used as a private residence except for a brief time when it was a boarding house and a training school.

**Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)**

There is only one resource on the nominated property, the historic dwelling house, hence one contributing property.

**Developmental history/historic context (if applicable)**

Historical Narrative

[Original text prepared by Dr. (Caroline) Mary Brannen NeSmith, owner, in 1993. Additional information on architect added by K.H.Thomas, Jr.]

The history of the Donehoo-Brannen-NeSmith House began in March 1901 when Washington Manassas Foy (1862-1903) purchased ten acres of land east of the Bulloch County Courthouse on the Savannah Road from the Zetterower Estate for \$2,000. Foy, who originally came from Effingham County, was a prosperous merchant, sea island cotton farmer, and naval stores manufacturer. After graduating from the University of Georgia in 1883, he immediately went into business for himself. His fortunes grew rapidly and by 1890 he "laid out the town of Manassas," which is in Tattnall County. In 1891, Foy married Maxie Ponita Olliff (1871-1949), the eldest daughter of another Bulloch County entrepreneur, William W. Olliff of Excelsior. Olliff participated in several business ventures with other Foy family members.

On March 15, 1901, the Statesboro News reported that Foy had purchased land on which he was to build a new residence and predicted that the house "would be the best and most costly residence in this section of the state. Mr. Foy expects to finish up all rooms in different kinds of hardwood and no expense will be spared in finishing the structure and grounds. It is estimated the cost of the dwelling will be \$7,000". On May 24, the newspaper wrote that "contractor A. J. Franklin has been awarded the contract for the construction of Mr. W. M. Foy's palatial residence just east of the city limits. The costs of which will be something like \$8,000. Mr. Franklin spent some days in Valdosta the past week looking up plans for the same." Nearly a year later, on May 23, 1902, the Statesboro News featured a photograph



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of the Queen Anne house Foy had built. In the accompanying article, the newspaper writer stated that:

there has been a force of hands at work on it (the house) for eight months and it will take four months more to complete it. The building has eighteen rooms. One of the front rooms is finished in bird's-eye maple, another in quartered oak, and birch, beech, sweet gum and cedar have been used with good effect in the finishing. The rooms are finished in hard oil, showing the natural grains of the different woods used. At the main entrance is the reception hall, which is handsomely furnished and which will accommodate Suite a large number; and with the drawing room, bed rooms, dining room, and kitchen on the ground floor, give the family more room downstairs than is found in most of the houses in town. Upstairs are large, airy comfortable bedrooms and halls which will accommodate quite a large number.

In furnishing his home Mr. Foy will spare no expense to have the furnishings in harmony with the house itself.

The house is of modern design and reflects credit on the builder, Contractor A. J. Franklin. It is a home that would be an ornament to any town, and Statesboro is proud to number it among her other handsome buildings.

Foy continued to be an object of great interest for the newspaper. On August 29, 1902, the Statesboro News featured an article about Foy, "Captains of Industry, Mr. W. M. Foy is One of Them," listing his business interests and property. By this time Foy owned twenty thousand acres of land in the counties of Bulloch, Effingham, and Tattnall. Eleven thousand of his acres lay near Statesboro and Adabelle (where his turpentine still employed 125 people). At Undine, in Tattnall County, he owned another still which employed 75 workers. Foy also had 800 acres of land in both counties planted in sea island cotton and corn. The article added that Foy would harvest 5,000 acres of his timberland.

Foy would not enjoy his new house or prosperity for long. On January 9, 1903, the Statesboro News reported that Foy had died of typhoid fever. A January 16th article valued his estate at \$200,000. According to the inventory and appraisement of Foy's estate, in Bulloch County alone the total value of this property was \$105,816.66, including his \$12,000, 171 acre home tract, \$1,000 worth of furniture and a piano, and "twenty-two shares of stock in the Adabelle Trading Company," valued at \$40,000.

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On July 18, 1903, Foy's widow, Maxie, petitioned for twelve months' support for her and her four children. She received \$16,500 worth of livestock (including seven head of cattle), a phaeton, farm implements, the family furniture, seventy-five acres of crops and \$13,932 cash. At subsequent estate sales in August, November, and December 1903, Maxie purchased the 171 acre Foy home tract and a half interest in numerous parcels of land in and around Statesboro worth over \$13,000. She also purchased half interests in livestock, farm implements, and crops at these estate sales with a total value of nearly \$2,000.

A wealthy widow, Mrs. Foy did not remain unmarried for long. In 1904, she married Dr. J. E. Donehoo, a Statesboro physician and businessman. In addition to Mrs. Donehoo's four children from her previous marriage (Inman Murphy Foy, Jesse Ponita Foy, Marian May Foy, and Louise O. Foy), she and Dr. Donehoo would have four children-- (James) Edwin, Maxie P., Evelyn (died as an infant), and Nita.

James Elijah Donehoo (1867-1949) had practiced medicine in the Bulloch County town of Emit by the 1890s. It is not known how much wealth Dr. Donehoo brought to his marriage to Maxie; but like his predecessor, Donehoo would soon have various business interests in Statesboro and Bulloch County. In 1907, Donehoo and several other men, including Edward M. Rice of New York City, applied for a charter for the Savannah, Augusta & Northern Railroad. The railroad would run from Savannah through Statesboro and on to Augusta, Athens, Rossville and end in Chattanooga. The railroad's backers supported the line because it would make the towns along its route connected to the sea and the coal mines of Tennessee. Because of financial difficulties, however, by late 1910 the line had only reached as far as Stevens Crossing (near Midville in Burke County, north of the Ogeechee River) where it connected with the Georgia and Florida.

Following the death of Maxie's brother, John Olliff, in late 1907, J. E. Donehoo became vice President of Olliff's Department Store. In February 1908, Donehoo was one of several men who incorporated the Statesboro Mercantile Company, a consolidation of the J. W. Olliff Company, Kennedy & Bland, and E. M. Anderson & Son. In April 1909, Donehoo sold his stock in the company to Raif Simmons, who obtained a controlling interest in the company.

In May of 1908, Donehoo assumed two important posts. At the annual stockholders' meeting of the Bulloch Oil Mill (a sea island cotton gin and cotton oil manufacturer in Statesboro), the stockholders elected Donehoo the president of the company. In addition, the stockholders of the Olliff Investment Company elected Donehoo Secretary and Treasurer of the Board of Directors.

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In 1909, J. E. Donehoo and Maxie's sons, Inman and J. P. Foy, bought John W. Williams' interest in the Adabelle Trading Company. Williams had helped Washington Manassas Foy start the company in 1895 when they purchased the Carr Brothers Turpentine Distillery. In 1912, the Statesboro News reported "that the Adabelle Trading Company would not renew its charter, but that the business of the company would be carried on by Dr. Donehoo and J. A. McDougald." The company was eventually dissolved, but Inman and J. P. Foy continued their turpentine business at Adabelle.

Donehoo was one of the first citizens of Statesboro to own an automobile. The March 11, 1909 Statesboro News reported that:

a party will leave this morning going through the country in automobiles. The party will consist of Dr. and Mrs. J. E. Donehoo, Judge and Mrs. S. L. Moore, Dr. and Mrs. R. J. Kennedy, Mr. and Mrs. Cecil W. Brannen, and Mr. D. P. Averitt. They will leave early this morning and will arrive in Augusta about midday remaining over night and returning home tomorrow.

The trip must have been an adventure because on March 16 the newspaper stated:

The automobile party returned from Augusta on the steam cars. Their machines are scattered all the way between here and Augusta, the heavy rains making it impossible to climb the heavy hills with them. They will be gathered back home in the next day or two.

Such problems did not discourage Donehoo because he bought a Buick in May 1909 and, along with D. P. Averitt and W. M. Hagins, Donehoo helped to start the Statesboro Automobile Company. In June 1909, the three men planned to build a garage on the courthouse square. The following month, however, the name of the establishment had been changed to the Averitt Automobile Company. Although Mrs. Donehoo continued to use her surrey and Dr. Donehoo was apparently no longer a partner in the automobile company, he later purchased a "Seven-passenger Winton" in the Spring of 1910.

In addition to the above business ventures, Donehoo ran a grocery store in Statesboro. A 1910 newspaper advertisement read "'When you want groceries and fruits in haste/Ask the telephone girl to ring Donehoo's Place.'" According to the July 31, 1913 Bulloch Times, Dr. Donehoo had announced that forty cars of watermelons had arrived "from his Adabelle property with many more to go during the week."

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Dr. Donehoo also supported local causes to advance Statesboro. In 1906 he bought a subscription to help raise funds for Statesboro's successful bid in obtaining the First (Congressional) District Agricultural (A and M) School (now Georgia Southern University). In April 1910 Donehoo belonged to an executive committee working toward the creation of a county fair. Later that year the Committee's efforts met with success when the county held its first fair at the First District Agricultural School.

On May 6, 1915, the Donehoo family suffered a tragedy when their home burned in an early morning fire. The fire destroyed the house and most of the family's belongings. No one died in the fire, but as the Bulloch Times reported "'the family barely had time to escape in their night garments.'" The family governess, Miss Burson, received serious burns, reportedly because she was too modest to escape without fully clothing herself. The family moved to a house across the street which belonged to Dr. Donehoo's close friend, Cecil W. Brannen.

The Bulloch Times of July 8, 1915 announced that "work had commenced" on the Donehoo's new house and that it would be "equally nice as the one before". The Manufacturer's Record, published in Baltimore on the same date, announced:

Ga.-Statesboro-Dr. Donahue (sic) has plans by E. C. Hosford & Co., Eastman, Ga., for residence; brick & frame, press-brick exterior; slate roof; hot-water heat; vacuum cleaning system; patented wood columns; constructed by day labor under superintendent who has been employed; cost \$25,000.

Local information indicates that the builder was J. B. Sargent and that the cost was \$52,000. It was finished in 1917 and the family returned to their property. The house became known as "The Donehoo Mansion."

The architect, Edward Columbus Hosford (1883-1939), was a native of Cochran, Georgia. He was a graduate of Georgia Tech in Atlanta and trained (in 1903) with Walter T. Downing, one of Atlanta's best-known architects, and from 1904-1906 with Harry F. Walker. He began his professional career in Eastman, where his relatives lived and where he later died. He moved to Florida and was in Lakeland during the 1920s. He later returned to Georgia, living in Atlanta, before returning to Eastman. Some of his best known works are county courthouses. In Georgia, he is known to have designed those for Dodge (1908), Harris (1908) and Wheeler (1913) counties; and at least six in Florida. He is also known to have designed some fine houses in Lakeland, as well as schools and banks. The History of Polk County, Florida published in 1928 during the time that Hosford lived there in Lakeland stated that he "is one of the leading architects of the State, having designed many

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handsome structures in this section and elsewhere to bear out this statement". The fact that a county history mentioned him and his career, even if he wrote the statement himself, is significant. Further work is underway to establish more about his career through contact with his descendants.

The style of architecture is primarily Neoclassical Revival, derived from the revival of interest in classically inspired architecture as well as a reaction against Victorian styles. The most influence came from the antebellum Greek Revival and Early Classical Revival movements. The style was often a combination of both Greek and Roman details. The order of the three Greek columns (Corinthian, Ionic, and Doric capitals) and the way they are used in the imposing facade are one of the distinguishing features of this period.

The new Donehoo home was constructed of red brick and masonry. The Corinthian capitals on fluted columns support three large dormers extending from the Pennsylvania slate roof laid in diamond/oval patterns over the main portico. Balustrades topped with decorative finials and soffit decorative ornaments and moldings signify superb craftsmanship and quality materials.

The three-story with basement twenty-room house was completed on a grand scale. A rounded balcony with balustrades extends over the Georgian entrance into a vestibule which opens into a large drawing room. The drawing room features a curved stairwell with beveled glass prism windows. The tremendous sliding pocket doors in the drawing room open to the other reception areas--library, music, dining, and sun rooms. The butler pantry contains a four-door McCray built-in oak refrigerator; this room also contains a three-tiered radiator warmer operated in conjunction with the hot water radiator heating system. Other outstanding features are eleven and one-half foot ceilings, plaster walls, tiger oak flooring, modern servant bell system, built-in vacuum system, and spacious tiled bathrooms.

The house soon became a center for many social events. In 1924, Louise Foy married Frank Simmons in the house. After the wedding, the Donehoos had a square column added in the drawing room when they discovered that a large number of people upstairs had caused the floor to sag during the reception. In 1921, Marian Foy also was married to Bruce Olliff in the house.

Mrs. Maxie Donehoo, who was a china painter, had a kiln hooked to the furnace system to pursue her ceramic hobby. Today, the china rail she used to display some of her works still hangs in the dining room.

Apparently, Dr. Donehoo's fortunes began to decline during the 1920's. In the latter half of the decade, the family was forced to take

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boarders into their home. This disruption to their domestic life continued until October 4, 1932. When Dr. and Mrs. Donehoo failed to pay taxes on their property, the county took the house, outbuildings and acreage, and sold them at auction to Dr. E. C. Watkins, who had the winning bid of \$9,000. The Donehoo family continued to live in their house and run it as a boarding house, paying rent to Dr. Watkins.

Around 1938, however, the Donehoo family moved to a nearby house on College Boulevard where they resided until their deaths in 1949. Dr. Watkins continued to rent the house as apartments during the remainder of the decade.

The house was also vacant some of the time, and vandalism and deterioration took their toll on the building. The acreage around the house continued to dwindle. In 1935, the county purchased land on Grady Street, originally a part of the Foy-Donehoo estate, and planned to build a hospital. Walter H. Aldred, Jr. designed the hospital and the county awarded the contract to the Artley Company of Savannah. The hospital, still unfinished, opened on November 30, 1936. Works Progress Administration Funds allowed the county to hire new contractors, The Averitt Brothers and J. B. Sargent (who had built the Donehoo House), and complete the hospital on July 1, 1937.

Another New Deal Program, the National Youth Administration (NYA), enabled the county to give practical training to local boys and girls in agriculture and home economics respectively. The Statesboro Times reported on February 8, 1940:

(The) Bulloch County NYA project under which 120 young women are being given schooling and to training for the duties of life, has been in progress for two weeks, having begun with the first group of sixty students ; two weeks ago tomorrow. . . . This project will continue for one year, with sixty young women each (sic) two week, who are selected upon application and proper showing of their eligibility.

The training school is being conducted in the Donehoo home on Savannah Avenue, which has been admirably adapted for the purpose. . . .

Despite the fact that the house had served as apartments and as the training school, few if any changes were made to the building.

In early 1942, Mr. and Mrs. Irvin A. Brannen of Candler County expressed an interest in purchasing the Donehoo House and its surrounding acreage. Mr. Brannen (1882-1957), a prominent businessman, farmer, and timberman, had agitated for the creation of Candler County

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in the early 1900's and had served in the Georgia General Assembly in the mid-1920's. Mrs. Brannen, the former Carrie Mae Brinson (1892-1986) of Stillmore in Emanuel County, had attended some parties held at the Donehoo Mansion while she was a student at Brenau in Gainesville, graduating in 1912. The Brannens inspected the house while their daughter Mary was a patient at the county hospital. Later that year, on November 20, 1942, the Brannens purchased the house and acreage from Dr. Watkins for \$10,000.

During the 1940's and throughout the 1950's the house and acreage underwent numerous changes. The Brannens reduced the four-acre property to one and a half acres when they sold lots to Aulbert Brannen, Dr. Albert Deal, Robert Bland, C. A. and Brooks Sorrier, Herbert Kingery, and F. Everett Williams. To permit the extension of East Grady Street and increase access to the hospital, Washington Manassas Foy's barn, pigeon cote, servants' houses, and carriage house were torn down during the 1940's. An entrance to the house grounds was made off East Grady Street. The Brannens gave the Christopher Wren-styled cupola on the carriage house to Dr. Jack Averitt which he put on the carriage house behind his mother's home on Zetterower Avenue.

Carrie Mae Brannen had doors installed at the top of both staircases around 1943 to reduce drafts. Irvin Brannen had repairs done to some of the large capitals on the rounded portico. The Brannens remodeled the kitchen in 1956 and enclosed part of the east portico outside the music room to make a bathroom in 1957.

While the Brannens owned the Donehoo-Brannen House, it continued to be a center for social, cultural, and civic functions. Mr. and Mrs. Brannen, belonging to many civic organizations, enjoyed entertaining in their home. In May, 1947, the house was the scene of the Georgia Teachers College Old South History Class' "Ante-bellum Ball," a "three-day pageant depicting the 'Culture of the old South.'" Dr. Jack Averitt was facilitator of this event.

History and genealogy were particular interests of Carrie Mae Brannen, as she was the Organizing Regent of the Adam Brinson Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. She not only was a member of the following organizations, but held several top offices: The Colonial Dames of the Seventeenth Century, Magna Carta Dames, Daughters of the American Colonists, Order of the Eastern Star, the Bulloch County Historical Society, Statesboro Woman's Club, and the First United Methodist Church. She was known as a civic leader and gracious hostess.

Mrs. Brannen, like Mrs. Donehoo, enjoyed china painting. Today, some of her painted china is featured on the dining room china rail, along with china painted by her daughter Mary.

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The Brannen children--Irvin Alexander, Jr., Annie Ursula (Moxley), and Caroline Mary (NeSmith)--like the Foy and Donehoo children, enjoyed many social events in the house. For many years the Statesboro High School Freshman-Sophomore proms were held on the premises. Mary's senior piano recital, "with over 200 Easter lilies and orchids from many friends" was an event of the season. Her mother's Steinway Parlor Grand piano is a focal point of the drawing room today.

Both of the Brannen daughters were wed in the Donehoo-Brannen home, as were two of the grand-daughters, Caroline T. Otwell (Harless) and Lynda Anne Brannen (Williamson). In the 1960's Revlon used the front lawn for one of its "Charlie" advertisements.

On November 5, 1957, Irvin Brannen died. The following year his widow began to convey undivided interests in the family's property to her three children.

In 1969, Carrie Mae Brannen added a carport at the rear of the house because the old porte cochere could not accommodate the larger automobiles. She had a new entrance created off the enclosed back porch.

In 1986, the year of her death, Carrie Mae divested her remaining interest in the family's property to her children. On March 20, 1986, Dr. Mary Brannen NeSmith purchased the two-thirds interest her brother and sister controlled in their parent's former home.

Dr. NeSmith, a noted academician holding the Doctor of Philosophy Degree from Georgia State University, 1970, lives [1993] in Alexandria, Virginia, with her husband, Colonel E. Archie NeSmith, Jr., (USAF, Retired). Colonel NeSmith is presently Vice President of Congressional Affairs for Allied Signal Aerospace. Both Colonel and Doctor NeSmith belong to many civic and social organizations in the Greater Washington, DC, area, as well as the Palm Beach, Florida, area.

Today the Mansion continues to be an important local landmark and is featured in many state and local articles and brochures. A picture of the house made during the azalea blooming season is on the cover of the **Statesboro Convention and Visitors Bureau** brochure, along with a picture of the Bulloch County Courthouse. The Georgia Department of Industry, Trade and Tourism state tourism magazine, "Georgia on My Mind," also featured the house in the 'Magnolia Midlands' Section.

The NeSmiths are frequent visitors to the Donehoo-Brannen-NeSmith home, as well as their children, Dr. Roy P. Otwell, III and Caroline Otwell Harless and her husband Steve, all of Atlanta.



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The Mansion renovations were made by William A. Powell and his construction personnel in collaboration with Dr. NeSmith.

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## **9. Major Bibliographic References**

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NeSmith, Dr. Mary. "Donehoo-Brannen House." Historic Property Information Form, late 1989, with supplemental information in 1990 and 1993. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

Hosford, Edward C. File in "Architects and Builders in Georgia" Collection, Historic Preservation Division, Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):** ( ) N/A

- (X) preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested NPS final certification Feb. 24, 1994.
- ( ) 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 #

**Primary location of additional data:**

- (X) State historic preservation office
- ( ) Other State Agency
- ( ) Federal agency
- ( ) Local government
- ( ) University
- ( ) Other, Specify Repository:

**Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):**

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**10. Geographical Data**

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**Acreage of Property** one and one-half acres

**UTM References**

A) Zone 17 Easting 427500 Northing 3589600

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The nominated property is marked on the enclosed tax map/plat.

**Boundary Justification**

This is the remaining historic acreage associated with the house.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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**name/title** Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Historian  
**organization** Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of  
Natural Resources  
**street & number** 205 Butler Street, S.E., Suite 1462  
**city or town** Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30334  
**telephone** (404) 656-2840 **date** May 15, 1995

(HPS form version 10-29-91)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Photographs

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**Name of Property:** Donehoo-Brannen House  
**City or Vicinity:** Statesboro  
**County:** Bulloch County  
**State:** Georgia  
**Photographer:** James R. Lockhart  
**Negative Filed:** Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
**Date Photographed:** July, 1994

**Description of Photograph(s):**

- 1 of 18: Front facade; photographer facing southwest.
- 2 of 18: Front facade; photographer facing south.
- 3 of 18: Front and west facades; photographer facing southeast.
- 4 of 18: Front facade, close-up of front portico; photographer facing southwest.
- 5 of 18: East facade; photographer facing north.
- 6 of 18: Rear facade with carport; photographer facing north.
- 7 of 18: West facade with porte cochere; photographer facing northeast.
- 8 of 18: First floor, Front Entrance, Drawing Room/Living Room; photographer facing east.
- 9 of 18: First floor, Front Entrance, Drawing Room/Living Room, front door to right of photograph; photographer facing northwest.
- 10 of 18: First floor, Dining Room, looking toward Drawing Room on left and hall on right; photographer facing northeast.
- 11 of 18: First floor, Dining Room, photographer facing northwest.
- 12 of 18: First floor, Butler's Pantry; photographer facing southeast.
- 13 of 18: First floor, Library, looking into sunroom on left, and bedroom on right; photographer facing southeast.
- 14 of 18: First floor, bedroom off library; photographer facing northeast.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Photographs**

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15 of 18: Second floor, bedroom above dining room; photographer facing east.

16 of 18: Second floor, sun porch; photographer facing southeast.

17 of 18: Stairs between Second and Third floors; photographer facing south; photographer facing south.

18 of 18: Third floor room over portico; photographer facing north.

House

Donehoo -  
Brannen -  
DeSmith  
House: 1942

Servants  
House

Carriage  
House

Pigeon or Dove Cote

East Grady Street

N Site Plan

Prepared by  
Altamaha  
Georgia  
Southern  
APDC

Driveway

Pecan

Pecan

Pecan

Pecan

Pecan

Pecan

Banana  
Sweet  
Shrub  
Tree

Camphor  
Tree

Juniper

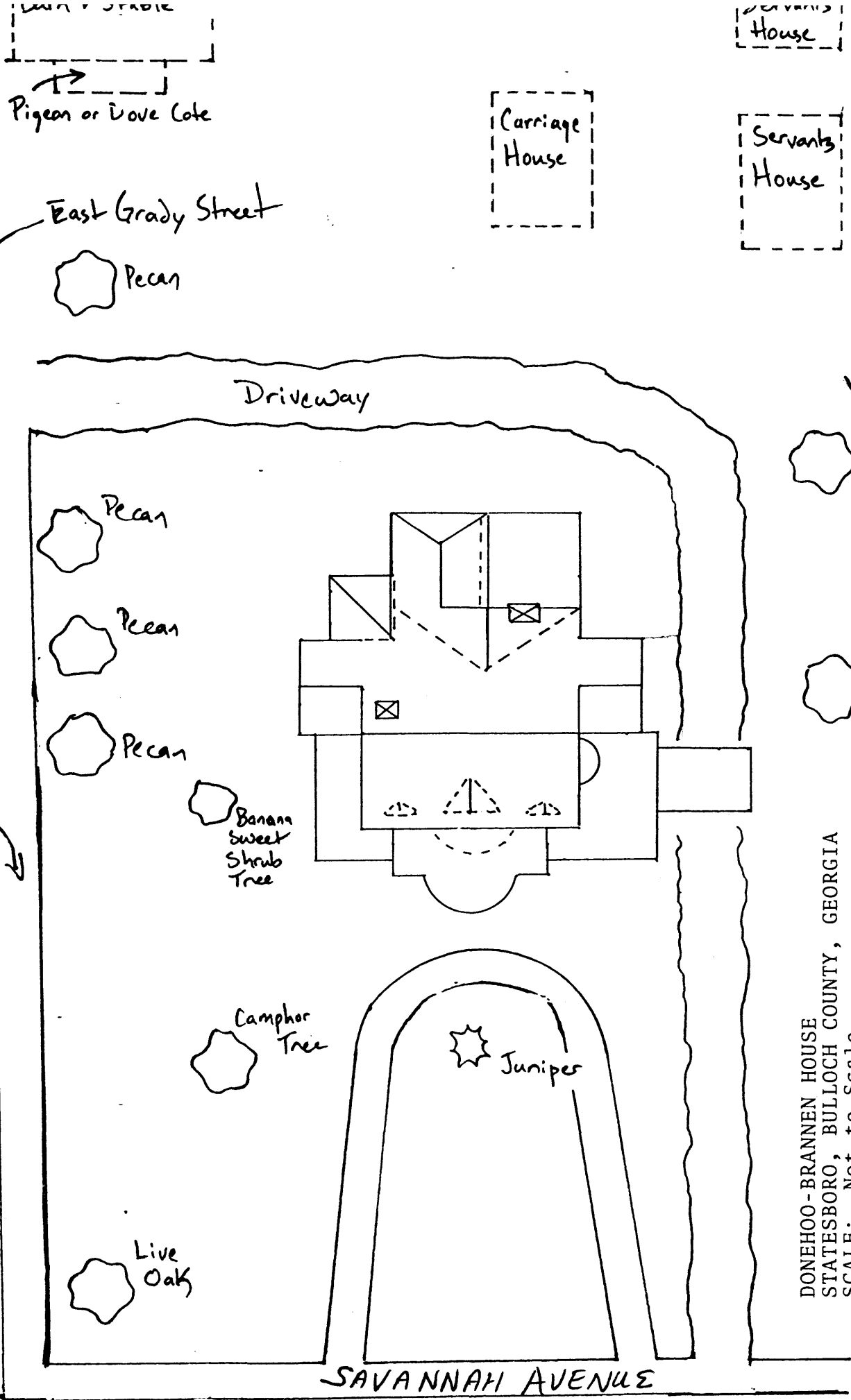
Live  
Oak

DONEHOO-BRANNEN HOUSE  
STATESBORO, BULLOCH COUNTY, GEORGIA  
SCALE: Not to Scale  
SOURCE: Drawn by Regional Planner  
DATE: 1989  
KEY: All properties are marked on  
plan. Only the main house remains.

SKETCH MAP

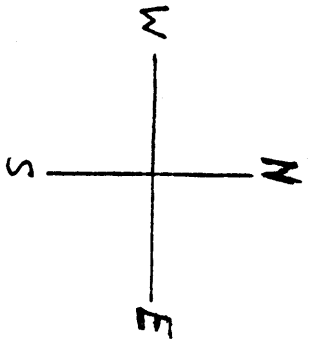
Donehoo Street

SAVANNAH AVENUE

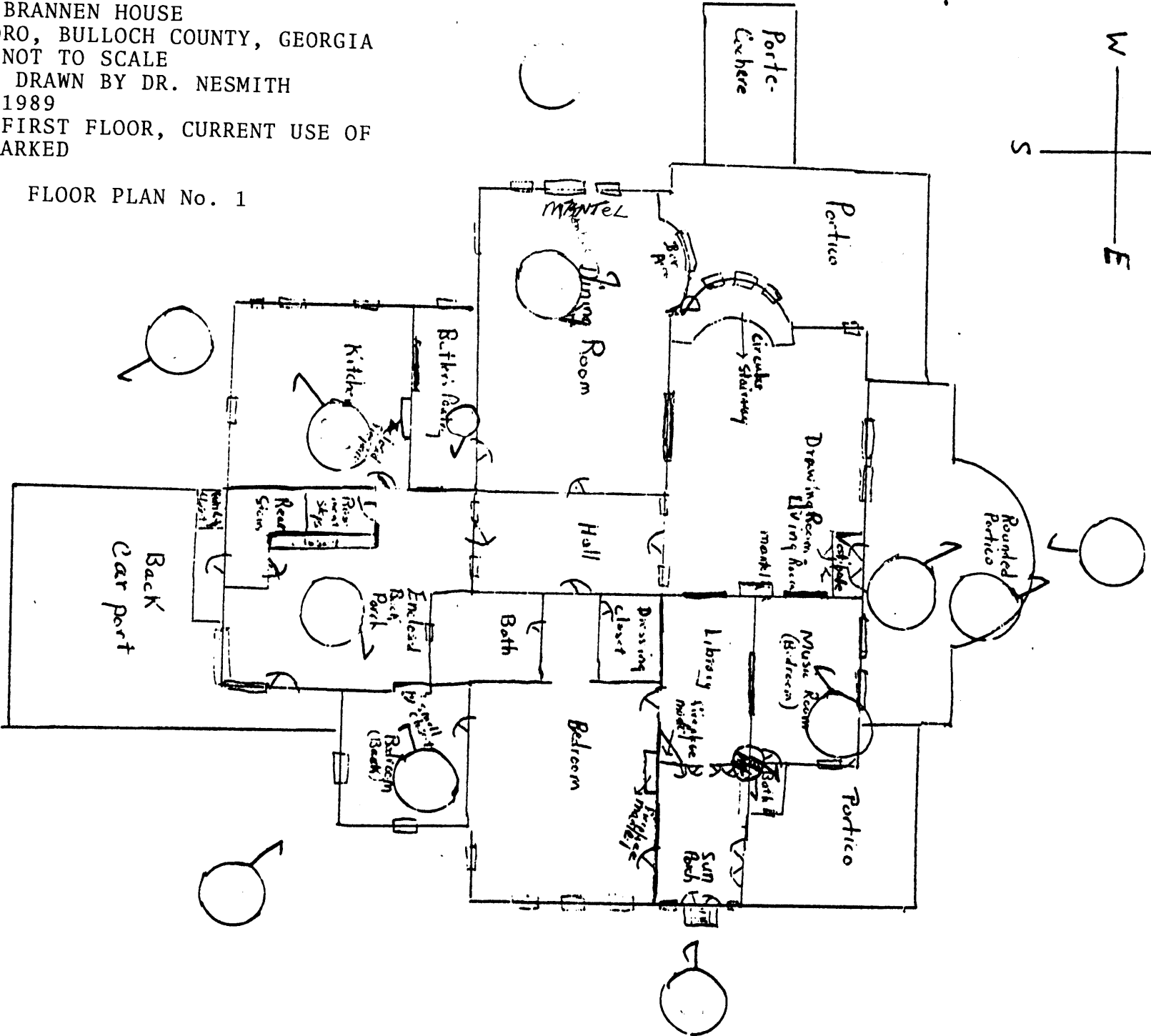


DONEHOO-BRANNEN HOUSE  
 STATESBORO, BULLOCH COUNTY, GEORGIA  
 SCALE: NOT TO SCALE  
 SOURCE: DRAWN BY DR. NESMITH  
 DATE: 1989  
 KEY: FIRST FLOOR, CURRENT USE OF  
 ROOMS MARKED

FLOOR PLAN No. 1



Donehoo Brannen Nesmith House  
332 Savannah Avenue, Statesboro, GA 30458

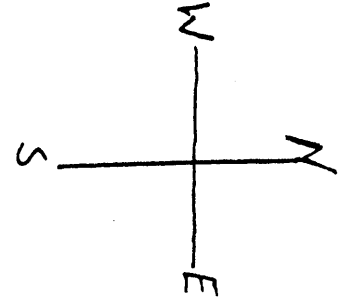
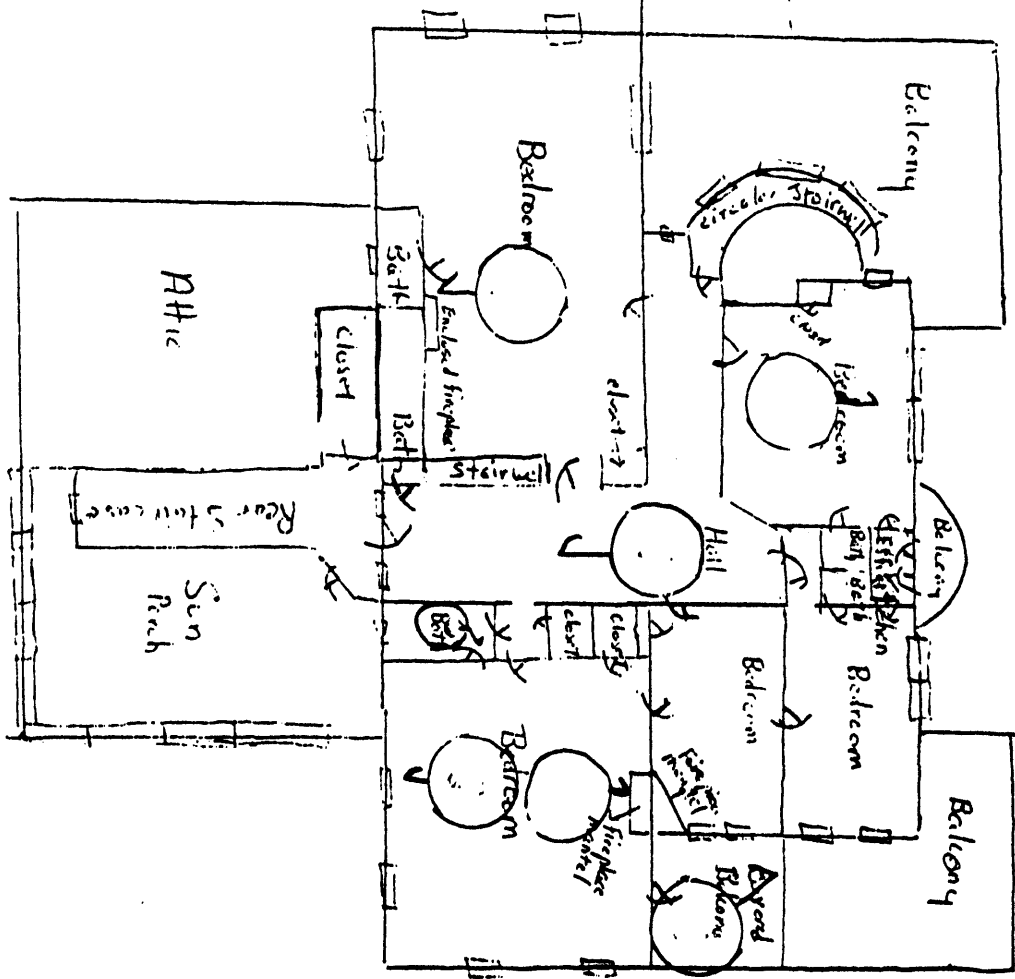


First Floor Plan

Not to Scale

DONEHOO-BRANNEN HOUSE  
 STATESBORO, BULLOCH COUNTY, GEORGIA  
 SCALE: NOT TO SCALE  
 SOURCE: DRAWN BY DR. NESMITH  
 DATE: 1989  
 KEY: SECOND FLOOR, CURRENT USE OF  
 ROOMS MARKED

FLOOR PLAN No. 2



Donehoo-Brannen-Nesmith House  
332 Savannah Avenue, Statesboro, GA 30458

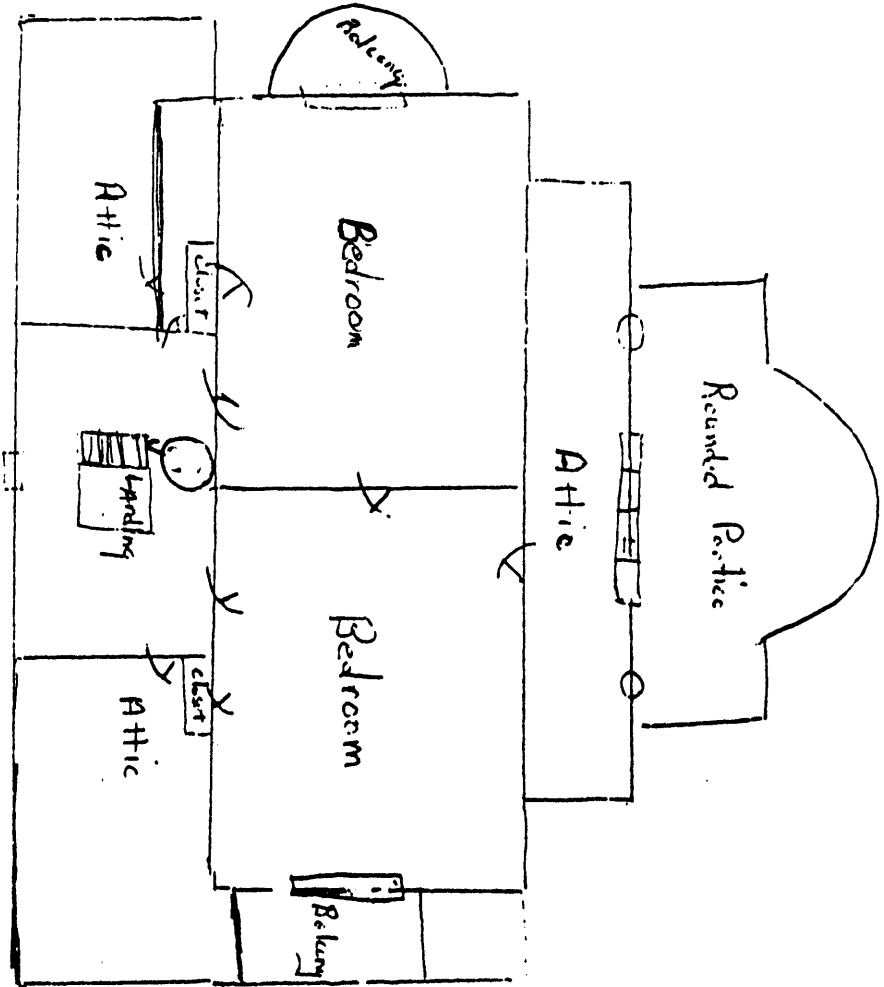
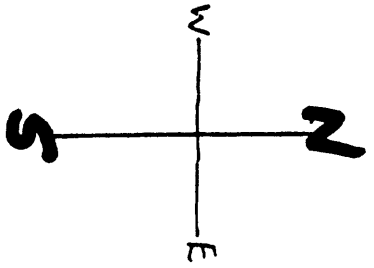
Second Floor Plan

Not to Scale



DONEHOO-BRANNEN HOUSE  
STATESBORO, BULLOCH COUNTY, GEORGIA  
SCALE: NOT TO SCALE  
SOURCE: DRAWN BY DR. NESMITH  
DATE: 1989  
KEY: THIRD FLOOR, CURRENT USE OF  
ROOMS MARKED.

FLOOR PLAN No. 3



Donehoo-Brannen-Nesmith House  
332 Savannah Avenue, Statesboro, GA 30458

Third Floor Plan

Not to Scale

4 11 1989 10:10am

