

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.

Elizabeth A. Lyon
Signature of certifying official

7/18/91
Date

Elizabeth A. Lyon
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

entered in the National Register

Alvina Byers 8/29/91

() determined eligible for the National Register

() determined not eligible for the National Register

() removed from the National Register

() other, explain:

() see continuation sheet

for
Signature, Keeper of the National Register Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions:

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Tudor Revival (English Vernacular Revival)

Materials:

foundation	brick
walls	brick
roof	slate
other	stone

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Beutell House is a two and one-half story Tudor Revival house, built in 1930. It is located in Thomasville, in southernmost Georgia near the Florida border. The house is located northeast of the county courthouse in a 1920s-1940s subdivision. Its picturesque design incorporates brick, stone, half-timbering, and stucco into its masonry veneer construction. The house sits back from a sweeping park-like corner in Glenwood Subdivision, Thomasville's first "garden" suburban development. The house has a modified rectangular plan, and contains a living room, dining room, den, entrance hall, breakfast room, five bedrooms, sewing room, game room and four full and two half baths.

The most distinctive characteristic of the house is its Tudor Revival design, which is emphasized by the exterior building materials. The primary wall surface is brick, with stone used around the front entrance on the first floor. On the second and half-stories, the gabled portions of the house are half timbered and stuccoed. The highly pitched roof is covered with slate, which is original to the house.

As was mentioned above, a light beige colored stone is used to emphasize the front entrance, which is said to have been imported from England. In addition, sandstone is incorporated into the brick to give a rusticated appearance to the first floor of the house. This stone is also used as a lintel over one window on the right side of the facade.

Half timbering is stained dark on all sides, with the stucco painted an off white. Brick is laid in stretcher bond with soldier rows creating lintels over all windows and doors.

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The house has two chimneys. The first is a hipped exterior chimney designed into the facade and topped by a pair of chimney pots. The stack is pierced with an arched stuccoed inset, highlighted with stone. The second chimney is interior with a simple corbelled cap.

The flared gable roof has its original shingles and is also slightly flared on the ridge ends. The fascia, soffit, and frieze around the entire house form very plain eaves which are stained to match the half timbering.

Steel casement windows are used throughout, with multi-paned lights. The central picture window over the front entrance has several small pieces of stained glass inserted randomly into its diamond design. At the top center is a stained glass coat of arms. Another picture window in the first floor den (originally a gun room) has small stained glass animal figures placed in it.

The house is balanced, though not symmetrical, by a porte cochere on the left, and a sun porch on the right. The sun porch was originally screened, but was recently glassed, having little effect on its exterior appearance.

The Beutell House has three floors of living space and a partial basement.

The basement, unusual for Thomasville, has concrete walls and floor. It was built to house the coal furnace and was also used for storage. Because of the high water table, a sump pump is installed to keep it dry.

The first floor contains an entrance hall with stairs, a den to the left (originally the gun room), living room to the right, and kitchen, breakfast room (originally a pantry), and a dining room to the rear. Two lavatories (half-baths) are located on this floor; one off the den and the other off the kitchen.

The second floor contains four bedrooms and a sewing room. The two bedrooms on the north side have private baths, and the other two share one bath. The bedroom on the southwest corner is now used as a den.

The third floor contains one large bedroom and adjoining bath, probably intended as a servant's quarters. The entire north half of the third floor is a large, irregularly shaped game room, which has also been used as a nursery and a studio.

The entire house has plaster walls and ceilings with the exception of the den, which is panelled with pine. Most ceilings have been sheetrocked because of cracking, but all the original plaster is

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intact underneath. Wooden floors are found throughout, though covered with carpet on the second floor. The living room and dining room have parquet floors.

As previously stated, all windows are steel casement. All bathrooms are tiled and contain colored fixtures, original to the house.

Wooden molding is found throughout the house, including baseboards, cornice molding, picture molding, window sills and surrounds, as well as door frames. All mantels are also of wood, except the one in the living room where the same stone is used that is found around the exterior front entrance.

Three of the six baths have the colored lavatories, toilets, and bathtubs as mentioned above. This was a high unusual feature for a house constructed in Thomasville in 1930.

The Beutell House is a brick veneered frame structure, typical of houses constructed in this area in the second quarter of the twentieth century. Undoubtedly the house has balloon framing although no original plans have been located.

Historically the house was heated with a coal burning furnace and radiators. This was removed in recent years when a central heating and air conditioning system was installed in 1968.

Wiring is original to the house, but a new panel and breakers have more recently been installed.

Plumbing is also all original, with the only repair being done as needed. As earlier stated, all existing fixtures in the six baths are original to the house.

The house contains an electric bell system for servants and electric door locks.

The Beutell House sits on high ground, and occupies three lots, with part of a fourth added later. The grounds are well landscaped, with a broad sweeping lawn, tall pines scattered around the house, and an assortment of deciduous and ornamental trees and shrubs planted informally around the grounds. These include azaleas, sweet gum, dogwoods, camellias, boxwood, and others. English ivy also grows on the wall of the front chimney.

A concrete lined goldfish pond is located in the side yard to the north of the house. This was filled in for a number of years, but is now being reopened by the present owners.

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The only outbuilding is a separate wood frame automobile garage with gable roof and brick foundation, located to the northwest of the house. This garage is original to the house, and is stained dark brown to match the half timbering.

Glenwood Subdivision was Thomasville's first park-like "garden suburb." The streets sweep, forming circular blocks. Triangular islands left in the intersections are planted with roses and maintained by the city. All streets are curbed and guttered and sidewalks of poured concrete sections follow the street pattern.

Nearby houses are primarily brick veneer or stuccoed, which is the typical construction method in Glenwood. Many are of English or Spanish revival style, further complementing the Beutell House, although it is larger than most of the other Glenwood houses. One exception is the William Fred Scott, Sr. House, directly in front of the Beutell House, facing Myrtle Drive. The Scott House was built in 1938 in the Colonial Revival style.

The exterior of the Beutell House is essentially the same as it was originally built. In 1968 a closet to the right of the den fireplace was opened up and made into a bar, going through to the kitchen. In 1986 the sun porch was glassed in, replacing the original screening.

In the 1970s the ceilings were sheetrocked, although the original plaster is found underneath. The kitchen was remodeled in 1968 and in the fall of 1986, but no walls or major design features were altered.

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

Period of Significance:

1930

Significant Dates:

1930

Significant Person(s):

N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Beutell, Russell L. (1891-1943)

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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 Joe M. Beutell House is significant in architecture because it is a good example of the Tudor Revival style (English Vernacular Revival), one of the many "revivals" found in American architecture and Georgia in the 1920s and 1930s. The various construction treatments have created the brick and half-timbered look that came to be known as "Tudor Revival." Other details, such as the stained-glass coat of arms, emphasize the English heritage of the style. It is also significant in architecture for the owner who was a prominent contractor in the region, having moved there from the Atlanta area. His brother, Russell L. Beutell (1891-1943), was the architect, and he and his firm of Daniell and Beutell, both Georgia natives, were well-known during the 1930s and later for a variety of architectural works throughout Georgia, including schools, hospitals, as well as private homes. This house was the only Tudor Revival house of its size ever built in Thomasville. It is significant also because it was built during the Depression by a local man in a town where most large homes were built by northern vacationers. The house was sold in 1940 to Justice Reason C. Bell (1880-1962) and his wife, Jennie Vereen Bell, who lived there while he was Chief Justice of the Georgia Supreme Court (1943-47), having served on the court since 1932. The Bells' son, Vereen M. Bell (1911-1944), was a Georgia fiction writer who, before his death in action during World War II, wrote many of his works from the game room of this house which he converted to a study. It remained in the Bell family until 1972.

National Register Criteria

The Joe M. Beutell House meets National Register Criterion C, "distinctive characteristics of a type..." because it is an excellent example of the Tudor Revival Style of revival architecture popular in the 1920s and 1930s. On the exterior it contains brick, sandstone, half-timbering, and stucco to achieve the Tudor or old English effect. Exterior details include the flared gable roof with its original shingles, the central picture window over the front entrance with its stained glass in a diamond design, and the coat of arms at the top. On the interior some of the old English features include a stone mantel in the living room, wooden moldings throughout, and a paneled den formerly a gun room. All of these features create the early 20th century American adaptation of this English house of the 16th century. The house also is situated on a large, curved lot, thus giving it a place of prominence in this subdivision, and an appropriately informal landscaped setting. It is also considered the largest Tudor Revival

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style house built in Thomasville and remarkable because it was built during the Depression by a local man rather than a Northern seasonal resident.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

N/A

Period of significance (justification, if applicable)

The period of significance is just the year 1930, the year the house was built.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if applicable)

N/A

Developmental history/historic context (if applicable)

The history of the Joe M. Beutell House begins with the establishment of the Glenwood Subdivision, 100 years after Thomas County and Thomasville were opened for settlement in the early 1820s.

Glenwood Subdivision was laid out in June 1925 for J. B. Jemison, a local developer and realtor, by O. I. Freeman, an Atlanta civil engineer. Jemison purchased the land on 11 May 1925 from the estate of A. T. and America Young MacIntyre. The 41 acre tract adjoined MacIntyre Park as well as the proposed site for the new Thomasville High School.

Jemison deeded the new subdivision to Jemison Realty Company, a corporation for which he served as president, on June 19, 1925 and began selling lots on November 12th of the same year. As was typical in Georgia at the time, the deed forbade the sale of any lots to persons of African descent, and included lot size and building requirements.

The local newspaper reported on the new development as follows:
The Thomasville Times Enterprise, Monday, May 11, 1925, p. 5:

"Glenwood" name of Jemison Subdivision -
"Glenwood" is the name of the subdivision that has been recently purchased by Mr. J. B. Jemison and is now being mapped off and prepared for many attractive improvements. The name of the park now known as MacIntyre Park was "Glen Fern" before it was deeded to the city, and the name selected by Mr. Jemison suggests some of the many attractive features of the subdivision. The

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underbrush has been cleared off and plans drawn for the streets and lots, which are being prepared in Atlanta. It is expected that this will be ready within a few days. The city will open Washington Street as soon as the trees have been cleared out. The Georgia Crate and Basket Company has the contract to remove the trees and stumps for the lumber in the trees.

Less than a half dozen houses had been built in Glenwood in 1930 when the Beutell House was constructed. Evidence of its slow development can be seen by a complaint by residents to the city fathers that weeds and underbrush needed to be removed.

Jemison continued selling lots until late 1935 when an auction was held and a number of new homes were built. In September 1936, Jemison sold the remaining 76 lots to B. L. and H. L. Brewton, who continued its development into the 1940s.

Joe M. Beutell purchased lots 13, 14, 15, and 16 of Block 2 in Glenwood on September 3 and 23, 1930. He immediately began building, and The Thomasville Times Enterprise reported it on September 6, 1930:

Mr. Joe M. Beutell Will
Build Home in Glenwood

One of the latest building developments will be the erection of a handsome home in Glenwood by Mr. Joe M. Beutell, a prominent south Georgia contractor. This morning Mr. Beutell purchased three, hundred foot lots, facing the first small parkway in Glenwood and adjoining the property of Dr. E. F. Wahl. The property runs around the circle, narrowing at the rear. Mr. Beutell has plans prepared for a handsome brick home, of the English type two stories and with all of the refined comforts that modern architecture can command. The work on this building will start at once, in fact Mr. Beutell has workers clearing up the property there today.

The site is one of rare beauty and it will be most desirable for the lovely home that Mr. Beutell has planned. Thomasville has been Mr. Beutell's home for several years and it is known with great interest here that he plans to become one of the home owners of the city.

Beutell had come to Thomasville in 1928 from Atlanta to build the First Baptist Church on North Broad Street. He and his crew also built the Gordon Avenue Apartments (1929, NR), Birdwood Mansion (1930, NR), Box Hall Plantation (1931, NR), and the R. C. Balfour, Jr. House, among other buildings in Thomasville.

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Joe Beutell's brother, Russell L. Beutell, was a principal in the architectural firm of Daniell and Beutell of Atlanta. Russell Beutell and Sydney S. Daniell practiced together between 1919 and 1941. Among their designs besides Joe Beutell's house in Thomasville were the Gainesville (Ga.) City Hall, the Hall County Courthouse, a bus station in Atlanta, the state sanitorium in Alto, and the Gordon Avenue Apartments in Thomasville. During the 1930s, they specialized in designing health clinics and schools around the state.

The Beutell House is considered the only Tudor Revival house of its size in Thomasville and is important because it was built by a local man in the midst of the Depression rather than by one of the Northern seasonal visitors who built the better-known and much larger mansions and plantations during the same era.

Joe Beutell resided in his Tudor Revival house in Glenwood into the mid-1930s with his wife, Polly, and four children, Joe, Jr., Barrington, Nancy and Jean. The house was sold in 1940 following a separation, and Joe moved to a dance pavilion and recreational lake that he had developed in 1933 on the Lower Cairo (or MacIntyre) Road. The complex was known as "Rock Springs," and has been expanded into a large residence now owned by Mrs. Thomas T. Hawkins. Joe died in the 1970s in Monticello, Florida. Polly Beutell died in the 1980s at Sea Island, Georgia.

On October 23, 1940, Joe Beutell sold his residence in Glenwood to Mrs. Jennie Vereen Bell of Cairo, Grady County, Georgia. Mrs. Bell was the wife of Justice Reason Chestnutt Bell (1880-1962) of the Georgia Supreme Court. The Bells made the house their principal residence for the remainder of their lives.

R. C. Bell entered politics, he said, to overcome shyness. He ran for solicitor general of the Albany Circuit and was elected. He served in this position from 1913 to 1921, followed by becoming Judge. In 1932, he was elevated to be a Georgia Supreme Court Justice. From 1943 until 1947, he was Chief Justice, but stepped down due to ill health and retired in 1949. From that time until his death, he was Justice Emeritus.

Judge Bell retired to his home in Thomasville and died there February 19, 1962. His wife died on December 10, 1967. Both are buried in Laurel Hill Cemetery in Thomasville.

Vereen McNeil Bell (1911-1944) was the only son of Judge and Mrs. Bell and became a celebrated writer of fiction. He came to Thomasville and purchased a home at 209 Myrtle Drive, across from his parents in Glenwood. Bell's writing was often influenced by his love

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of the outdoors and his spirit of adventure. He wrote numerous short stories for national magazines.

Vereen Bell was perhaps most famous for his 1940 novel entitled Swamp Water, which first appeared serially in the Saturday Evening Post, and was published by Little, Brown and Company of Boston in 1941. Swamp Water was his first novel and was an immediate critical and financial success. It was made into a movie in both 1941 and 1951. It was reprinted by the University of Georgia Press and is still in print in 1991.

Although Vereen lived across the street with his wife and children, he made a studio of the game room on the third floor of his parents' house. His second novel, Two of a Kind, was written there, as well as a third which was never published. He was killed in action over the Pacific during World War II in 1944. A number of his other short stories were written from the studio in his parents' home.

Following the death of Mrs. Bell, 101 Montrose became the property of the heirs. Alexandra Bell Daniel was granted power-of-attorney by the other heirs in 1968.

In that year she made a few minor improvements to the house, including modernizing the kitchen, adding the laundry room, turning the closet in the den into a bar and installing central heat and air.

In 1972, the house was sold to Ann Y. Goggins and husband Paul. The Goggins own Industrial Boiler Company of Thomasville, an important local industry which manufactures and services hot water, steam, and thermal oil boilers which use gas, oil, wood, coal, and trash.

Mr. and Mrs. Goggins have kept the house largely as they found it. Minor changes have included glassing-in the former screened sun porch, sheetrocking the cracked plaster ceilings, and modernizing the kitchen. Landscaping is essentially the same as the Bell's planted it, with the addition of some boxwood shrubs near the house. A former goldfish pond in the north yard is being uncovered and restored to the Beutell era.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Montgomery, Erick D. "Beutell House." Historic Property Information Form, Dec. 14, 1986. On file at the Historic Preservation Section, Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

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

- () 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 #

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):

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property one half acre.

UTM References

A) Zone 17 Easting 215830 Northing 3416370

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is marked on the enclosed plat which shows that the property includes all or parts of lots 12-16 of Block 2 of the Glenwood Subdivision, as platted in 1925.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property is all the land currently and historically associated with this house and all the current owners own at this location.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Historian.
organization Historic Preservation Section, 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** July 10, 1991

(HPS form version 11-02-90)

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Photographs

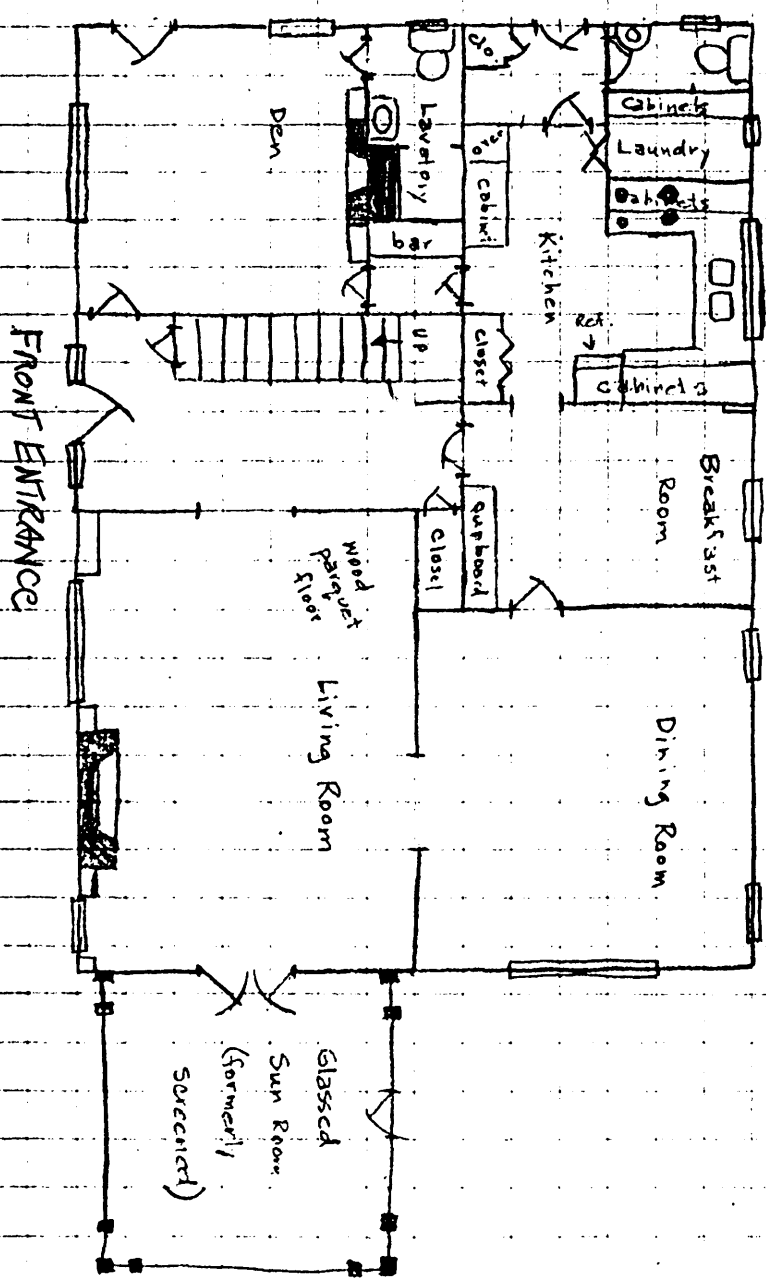
Name of Property: BEUTELL, JOE M., HOUSE
City or Vicinity: Thomasville
County: Thomas
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: January, 1991

Description of Photograph(s):

- 1 of 9: Front facade. Photographer facing northeast.
- 2 of 9: Front and east facade. Photographer facing north.
- 3 of 9: Rear facade. Photographer facing west.
- 4 of 9: Back yard goldfish pond. Photographer facing north.
- 5 of 9: First floor, living room looking toward sun room. Photographer facing northeast.
- 6 of 9: First floor, living room looking toward entry hall. Photographer facing south.
- 7 of 9: First floor, den. Photographer facing west.
- 8 of 9: First floor, den, front windows. Photographer facing southeast.
- 9 of 9: Second floor, master bedroom. Photographer facing east.

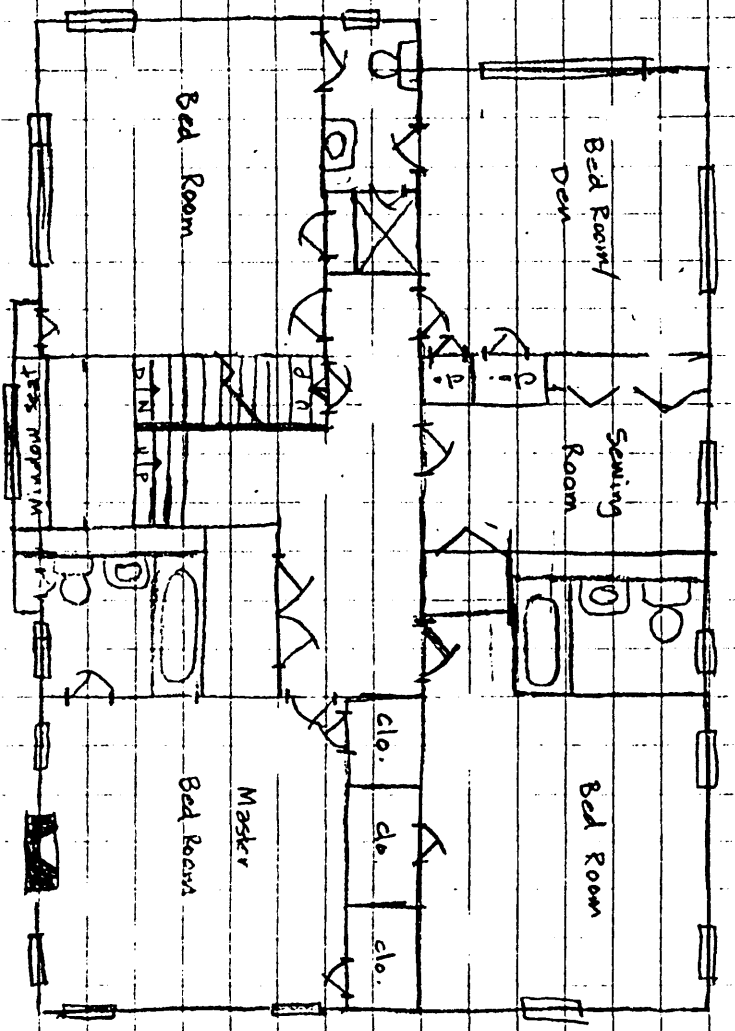
FLOOR PLAN

BEUTELL, JOE M., HOUSE
Thomasville, Thomas County, Georgia
Scale: not to scale
Source: Drawn by Erick D. Montgomery
Date: 1986
Key: First Floor Plan, room usage is marked
directly on the plan.

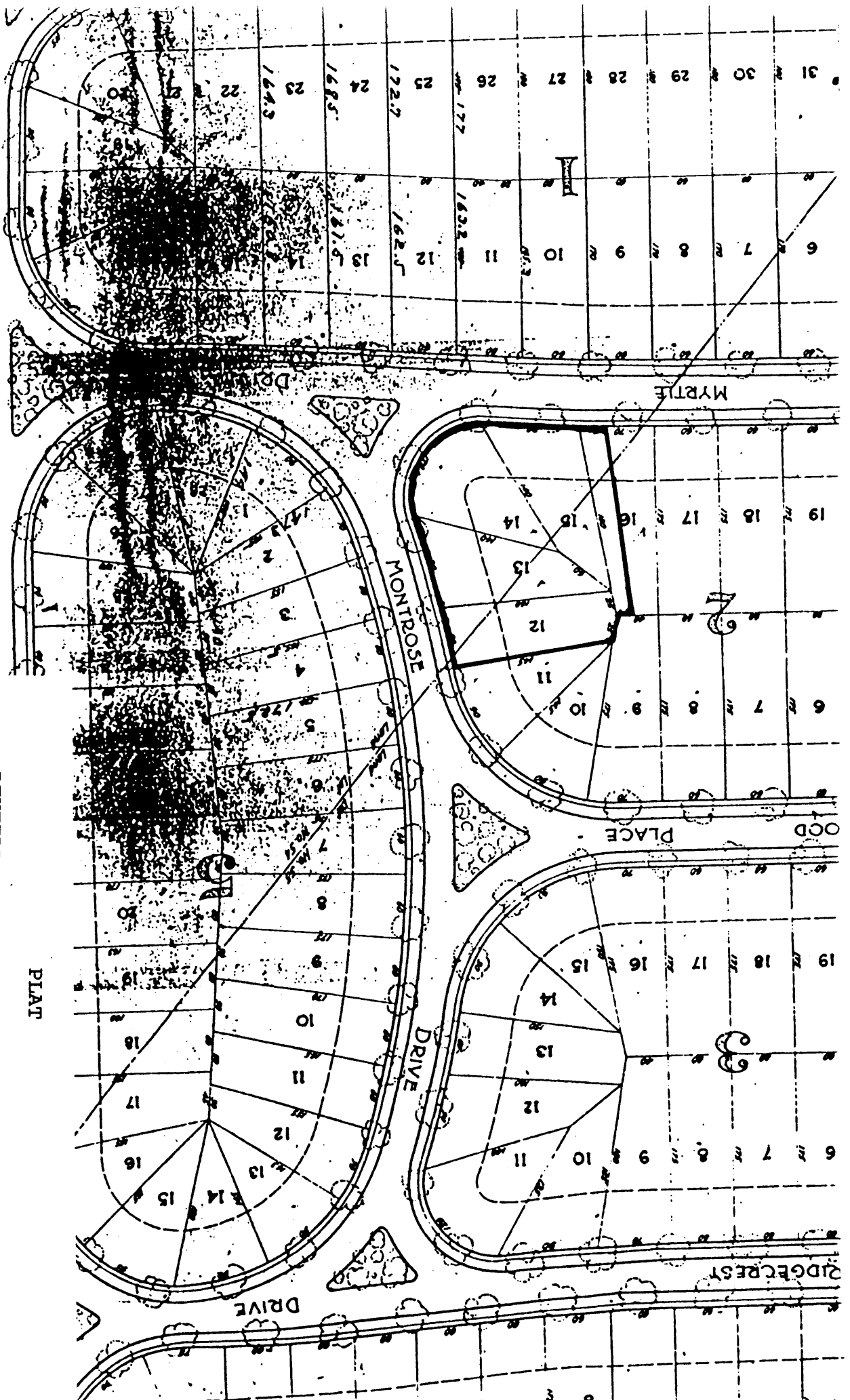


FLOOR PLAN

BEUTELL, JOE M., HOUSE
Thomasville, Thomas County, Georgia
Scale: not to scale
Source: Drawn by Erick D. Montgomery
Date: 1986
Key: Second Floor Plan, room usage is marked
directly on the plan.



2



PLAT

BEUTELL, JOE M., HOUSE

Thomasville, Thomas County, Georgia

Scale: measurements are marked on the plat

Source: "Provisional Subdivision of Glenwood", Thomas County, GA., Deed Book 4-F, pp. 74-75

Date: 1925

Key: The nominated property is marked by a heavy black line on a portion of the plat. It covers portions of lots 12-16 in Block 2.