

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED NOV 24 1975
DATE ENTERED MAR 16 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Arnwine Cabin
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER ^{TN}
Highway 61

CITY, TOWN
Norris

STATE
Tennessee

VICINITY OF
Third

COUNTY
Anderson

CODE
47

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Third

CODE
001

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"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
John Rice Irwin

STREET & NUMBER
Highway 61

CITY, TOWN
Norris

STATE
Tennessee

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Anderson County Register's Office

STREET & NUMBER
Courthouse

CITY, TOWN
Clinton

STATE
Tennessee

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT DETERIORATED
 GOOD RUINS
 FAIR UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE 1967

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Arnwine Cabin, built between 1790 and 1820, is typical of the first dwellings built by the pioneers on the wilderness frontier in the Appalachians. The cabin was occupied continuously until well into the twentieth century, having been last inhabited by Aunt Jane and Aunt Pollyanna Arnwine. They died at an advanced age, having spent their entire lives in this small structure.

The cabin is a one-room log structure with a small loft, completely unfinished, which afforded a place for the children, often a dozen or more, to sleep. They reached the upstairs by means of a series of pegs driven in the wall in the south corner, leading to a small opening in the loft. The roof of the building is of hand split red oak similar to the original, and was made by Elmer Sherwood, a seventy year-old neighbor who knows many of the ways of the mountain men. These shingles, or boards as they are called in this area, will last from 25 to 30 years if the sap is properly removed.

The flooring in the cabin is the thick puncheon flooring, made by the early pioneers, often with nothing but an ax, before the saw was introduced to the frontier. The stick and mud chimney is also typical of the early cabins. The chimneys were built deliberately leaning away from the house and propped by a long pole. ^{In} the event the chimney caught fire, the pole would be hurriedly removed, allowing the chimney to fall away from the cabin, thus saving the house from the flames.

The cabin has a door and window in the front, and a door on one side.

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 type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Arnwine Cabin, one of the buildings in John Rice Irwin's Museum of Appalachia, is an excellent example of the first frontier houses built in the area. The cabin was built on the south bank of the Clinch River at a site which later came to be called Arnwine Town, although the "town" never consisted of more than a half-dozen cabins. The only attraction of this isolated community was a ford across the river, so located because the river was wide and shallow at this point. Arnwine Town was located a few miles north of the village of Liberty Hill in Grainger County, some 60 miles northeast of its present location. When Norris Dam was built by the Tennessee Valley Authority in 1936, Arnwine Town was inundated, and this cabin was moved. It was reassembled at the Museum of Appalachia in 1967.

In most instances, the more industrious families would convert the first one-room house into a kitchen, and would add a "great" house to serve as the living quarters. Sometimes the earlier cabin would go to a son or daughter for their homes, while the parents would build a large log structure. In the case of the Arnwine family, however, the original cabin was passed from one generation to another.

Although the Arnwine Cabin is not on its original location, the significance of the building as an example of the type of early frontier cabins which have rapidly disappeared, is great enough to warrant its preservation and recognition.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Miller, Robert W., American Primitives, Wallace-Homestead Book Co.,
Des Moines, Iowa.
"Museum of Appalachia," John Rice Irwin, published by the Museum.
"The Living Mountain Village Recreates Appalachia's Past," Appalachia,
Vol. 7, No. 6, Washington, D. C.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1
UTM REFERENCES

A	1 1 6	7 6 3 5 1 5 0	4 0 0 7 8 4 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Jon Coddington

ORGANIZATION

East Tennessee Development District

STREET & NUMBER

1810 Lake Avenue

CITY OR TOWN

Knoxville

DATE

4/10/75

TELEPHONE

STATE

Tennessee

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE x

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Herbert L. Haysen

TITLE

Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE

11/18/75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Acting

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

3/18/76

ATTEST:

Robert B. Ketting
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

3-14-76

Acting