

DH 0075868

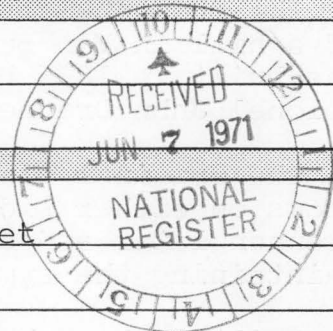
Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Arkansas	
COUNTY: Crawford	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 11,9,05,0007	DATE 9/10/71



<b>1. NAME</b>	
COMMON: Drennen-Scott Home	
AND/OR HISTORIC:	

<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: Drennen-Reserve - North Third Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Van Buren			
STATE: Arkansas	CODE: 05	COUNTY: Crawford	CODE: 033

<b>3. CLASSIFICATION</b>			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PUBLIC ACQUISITION: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered			
ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC			
Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No			
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <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 (Specify) _____ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____			

<b>4. OWNER OF PROPERTY</b>			
OWNER'S NAME: Miss Caroline Scott			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN: Van Buren	STATE: Arkansas	CODE: 05	

<b>5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION</b>			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Crawford County Courthouse			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN: Van Buren	STATE: Arkansas	CODE: 05	

<b>6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS</b>			
TITLE OF SURVEY: Arkansas Landmark Commission			
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Arkansas Commemorative Commission			
STREET AND NUMBER: Old State House - 300 West Markham			
CITY OR TOWN: Little Rock	STATE: Arkansas	CODE: 05	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
ENTRY NUMBER  
DATE

11,9,05,0007 9/10/71

# 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Drennen-Scott House, located high on the crest of a hill in Van Buren, overlooking the Arkansas River, was built in 1836 by one of the founders of the town, Colonel John Drennen.

The original plan is rectangular with two back to back rooms on either side of a spacious central hall. Colonel Drennen later added two smaller wings to the east and west, maintaining the symmetry of the main building mass.

Built of hand hewn logs, it is finished with horizontal beveled siding and corner boards. A low veranda extends the entire length of the main mass, excluding the wings. The character established by the veranda is almost contemporary in feeling, akin to our "ranch style" homes of today. The veranda form and decoration may well be influenced by some plantation homes of southern Maryland built in the late 1700's and early 1800's.

The roof line of the main portion is bellcast gable, the veranda roof changing pitch as an "out shut" of the main roof line. The east and west wing roofs are simple gables and pitched the same as the veranda roof. The veranda roof is supported by square columns with relieved corners and moulded bases resting upon square pedestals. Wing-like carved brackets extend from the column capitals to the underside of the architrave. The eaves are moulded and close with a flat frieze board; the rake trim on both main building and wings is plain and close.

The main window structural openings are flat with wood shelf moulding head surrounds and flat wood side surrounds. Double hung, the windows are shuttered with louvered blinds.

A raised panel entrance door is within a flat opening; with flat surrounds. The door and surrounds are within a side lighted and transomed architrave.

The Colonel John Drennen Home is a sensitively conceived well executed building, certainly outstanding for this early period in Arkansas.

The two main chimneys are brick laid running bond and have corbeled caps. One is offset left, the other offset right; both straddle the ridge.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian

☐ 16th Century

☐ 18th Century

☐ 20th Century

☐ 15th Century

☐ 17th Century

☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1836

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal

☐ Prehistoric

☐ Historic

☐ Agriculture

☒ Architecture

☐ Art

☐ Commerce

☐ Communications

☐ Conservation

☐ Education

☐ Engineering

☐ Industry

☐ Invention

☐ Landscape

☐ Architecture

☐ Literature

☐ Military

☐ Music

☐ Political

☐ Religion/Phi-

losophy

☐ Science

☐ Sculpture

☐ Social/Human-

itarian

☐ Theater

☐ Transportation

☐ Urban Planning

☐ Other (Specify)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Drennen-Scott House is an outstanding and well preserved example of ante-bellum architecture. Stylistically, its form and detailing indicate the influence of southern Maryland plantation homes of the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

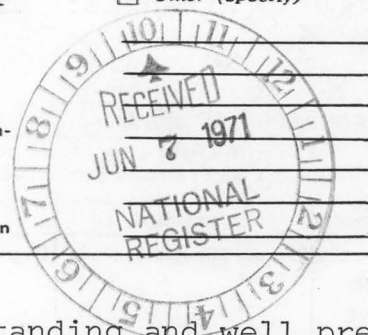
Although its form and symmetry are beautiful, the most significant quality is its adaptation to the site. Because of the rearward slope of the ground, it was possible to lower the front of the house and still maintain adequate ground clearance allowing ground level entrance to the house as opposed to two feet or more which is typical of construction of the period.

John Drennen, son of Thomas and Isabella Drennen, was born at Elizabeth, Pennsylvania, February 5, 1801. In 1826 he went to Potosi, Missouri, where he married Mrs. Emily Rosanna Deaderick Stuart, widow of James Stuart. Soon after his marriage he moved to Nashville, Tennessee where he entered into partnership with his brother-in-law, David Thompson, in the mercantile business. During 1830 Drennen and Thompson arrived in Arkansas and located at Little Rock. In November of 1831 they advertised a large stock of goods for sale at both Little Rock and Washington in Hempstead County.

Drennen and Thompson did not remain at Little Rock very long. An advertisement in a Little Rock paper of May 1832 indicates that they apparently sold some part of their business and stock to a Mr. Edward Cunningham. Whether Drennen and Thompson first moved from Little Rock to Van Buren or to Columbus is not known. It is known, however, that both men, and their families lived at Columbus, which was about a mile down river from Van Buren. In any event Drennen and Thompson established a landing and a store at Columbus sometime between 1832 and 1836.

( continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS





# 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

American Guide Series, Arkansas, A Guide to the State,  
New York: Hastings House, 1941.

Boggan, Mrs. Carrie, "John Drennen," Heritage, Crawford  
County Historical Society, Vol. V, No. 2, October 1961.

End, Clara B., History of Crawford County, Van Buren,  
Arkansas: The Press-Argus, 1951.

# 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES			
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"	35 ° 26 ' 10 "	94 ° 21 ' 17.2 "
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"		
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"		
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"		

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

# 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Staff		DATE 2-11-71
ORGANIZATION Arkansas Historic Preservation Program		
STREET AND NUMBER: 1023 West Third Street		
CITY OR TOWN: Little Rock	STATE Arkansas	CODE 05

# 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

# NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the Na-  
tional 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. The recommended  
level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☒

Name George M. Reynolds

Title State Liaison Officer

Date February 11, 1971

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

Eugene A. Connelly  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

SEP 10 1971

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

William M. Smith  
Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

STATE Arkansas	
COUNTY Crawford	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 71-9-05-0007	DATE 9/10/71

Page 2

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

8. SIGNIFICANCE, Continued

In the fall of 1835 John Drennen was one of three Crawford County men who were elected to represent the county at the first Constitutional Convention which met at Little Rock January 4 to 13, 1836, thus he assisted in drafting the first State Constitution of Arkansas.

In 1836 Drennen and Thompson bought out a man named Phillips, who had operated a landing at the site of Van Buren. The property they acquired was known as Phillips Point. The townsite itself was known as Phillips Landing. The name being changed to Van Buren (after President Martin Van Buren) after Drennen and Thompson had acquired the property.

After Arkansas was admitted to statehood Drennen was elected a member of the first House of Representatives. He served in 1836 and again in 1838.

In 1837 Drennen and Thompson laid out the first plat of the town, and in 1838 had it named the County Seat of Crawford County.

Charles G. Scott came to Van Buren, from Galena, Maryland in 1836. He entered the mercantile business in which he engaged until the civil war. He and Drennen became associated in business ventures and at one time jointly owned a building near the river landing. They formed an even closer tie when Scott married Drennen's daughter, Caroline L. Drennen, on January 14, 1845. The wedding was held in the John Drennen residence at Van Buren. This was the marriage that was to unite the Drennen-Scott families and to insure that descendants of this union would occupy the house for over 130 years.

Drennen and his partner Thompson were concerned with the future of Van Buren. In 1839 they donated Block 14, in the town of Van Buren, to the County of Crawford, in order to provide the Courthouse Square. Drennen also donated the land on which the Fairview Cemetery stands.

Drennen served his Country, State, County, and City

( continued )

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Arkansas	
COUNTY Crawford	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 71.9.05.0007	DATE 9/10/71

Page 3

(Number all entries)

8. SIGNIFICANCE, Continued

in many ways. In addition to his service in the Constitutional Convention and the State Legislature, he also served as Postmaster of Van Buren from 1836 to 1843. In June of 1846 he was elected captain of a militia organization known as the Arkansas Frontier Guards. Drennen was appointed Indian agent to the Choctaws in June of 1849, and later superintendent of Indian affairs for the southwestern area.

John Drennen died of yellow fever, at Indianapolis, Indiana, on September 27, 1855. He was enroute to Virginia and was taken ill on the road. The body was returned to Van Buren and he was interred in the family plot at Fairview Cemetery, the cemetery he had given to the City.

Charles G. Scott died in 1882. The Drennen-Scott home has, however, been in the possession of a Drennen or a Scott since it was built in 1836.



Dreunen - Scott Home

Ark.

## RECEIPT

## PROPERTY

## STATE

DATE OF RECEIPT

3/23/71

DATA PAGE

PHOTO (S)

PHOTO DESCRIP (S)

MAP (S)

MAP DESCRIPTION &amp;

TAGGED

ACKNOWLEDGE

RECEIVED

6/7/71 3/25/71

71.9.05.0007 9/10/71

REVIEW

HISTORIAN

ARCHAEOLOGIST

ARCHITECT

ASST. KEEPER

KEEPER

ENTRY

CHIEF, CRD

EDITORIAL, PROCESSING, EDITOR

Federal Register Entry

Annual Report Entry

logged  
Card

COMMENTS

Form signed by Keeper

OK 6/7/71  
HunkOK 6/14/71  
LevyOK 6/8/71  
MerrissOK 6-8-71  
ChambersOK  
9-10OK  
CD 6/15/71

WORKING NUMBER

3.23.71.4

Return 5/13/71 R11

OK - current photo  
- original set?



The attached National Register Inventory-Nomination form(s) is(are) being returned to your office because the information checked below is lacking or has been incorrectly supplied.

Insufficient locational information.

Comments:

Geographical location codes missing or incorrect.

Classification (Item #1) incomplete.

Comments:

Owner of property/location of legal description necessary.

Comments:

No Bibliography.

Acreage of nomination not given.

Comments:

Longitude and latitude coordinates lacking, incorrect, or in wrong place.

Form is not signed by the State Liaison Officer (Item #12).

Photograph/map form(s) (15-301) required for each photograph/map.

Insufficient map coverage of property.

Comments:

X Description (Item #7).

Comments:

Are we correct in assuming the building is on its original site?

YES

Statement of Significance (Item #8).

Comments:

Xerox forms unacceptable.

Comments:

X Other

Comments:

A current photograph would be appreciated.

Attached

The inadequacies noted above must be rectified prior to the initiation of our professional review process. Correction of these technical errors does not necessarily indicate that the nomination will then meet all other National Register criteria.

Please return this form with the property nomination. Thank you.





SEE INSTRUCTIONS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE	
Arkansas	
COUNTY	
Crawford	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
719.05.0001	9/10/71

## 1. NAME

COMMON: Drennen - Scott House  
AND/OR HISTORIC:

## 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Drennen Reserve - North Third Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Van Buren

STATE:

Arkansas

CODE

05

COUNTY:

Crawford

CODE

033

## 3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

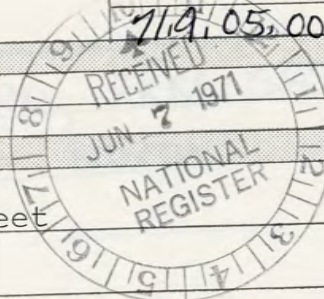
DATE OF PHOTO: May 1971

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Office  
1023 West Third Street, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

## 4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

View from North Northeast









①

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Arkansas	
COUNTY Crawford	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 76.9.05.0007	DATE 9/10/71

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Drennen - Scott House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Drennen Reserve - North Third Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Van Buren

STATE:

Arkansas

CODE

05

COUNTY:

Crawford

CODE

033

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

DATE OF PHOTO: May, 1971

NEGATIVE FILED AT:

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Office

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

View from Southwest







Drennan-Scott House  
Van Buren, Crawford County, Arkansas

d.s.e.:  
9-10-71

Reproduced from the collection of the Library of Congress

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
(Library of Congress Negative)

Hester Jones, Photographer

Date                     , 1940

58625  
ARC  
17 VAB

6

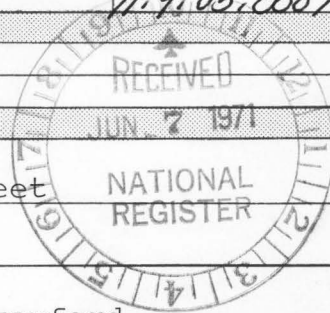
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	
Arkansas	
COUNTY	
Crawford	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
71.9.05.0007	9/10/71



1. NAME			
COMMON: Drennen-Scott Home			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
Drennen-Reserve -North Third Street			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Van Buren			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Arkansas	05	Crawford	033
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE:			
U.S.G.S. 7½' Van Buren, Arkansas Quadrangle			
SCALE: 1: 24,000			
DATE: 1947			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Louemima Lake

3925  
27°30"  
3924  
3923  
3922  
7154 IV NW  
(FORT SMITH)  
FORT SMITH 3.9 MI.  
25'  
T. 9 N.  
T. 8 N.  
3919

14

13

18

23

24

VAN BUREN

BM

Athletic field

Fairview Cemetery

Grace Lawn

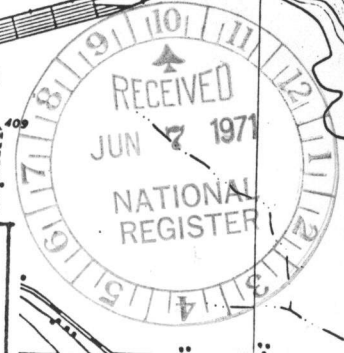
Zinc smelter

35° 26' 10"

94° 21' 17.2"



U.S.G.S. 7½' Series  
Van Buren Quadrangle  
Arkansas  
1947 Scale 1:24,000



Forest Park Cemetery

26

25

30

35

6

ARKANSAS

U P P E R

FORT SMITH

6 80



# ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

1023 WEST THIRD STREET

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72201

501 374-0375



March 17, 1971

Dr. William Murtagh  
Keeper of the National Register  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
801-19th Street NW  
Washington, D. C. 20006

Dear Dr. Murtagh:

Attached are National Register Nominations for  
the following properties:

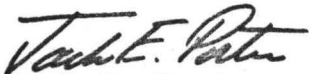
Drennen-Scott Home  
Garrott House  
Du Bocage  
Hudson-Grace-Borreson House  
Grandison D. Royston House  
McCollum-Chidester House  
Headquarters House



These Nominations have been approved by a majority  
of the State Review Committee.

Sincerely,

George M. Reynolds  
State Liaison Officer

BY:   
Jack E. Porter  
Administrator

JEP/hp

Attachments

MAR 22 1971

Green  
SMarusin  
9/10/71

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ARKANSAS

Date Entered SEP 10 1971

Name

Location

Drennen-Scott Home

Van Buren  
Crawford County

Also Notified

Hon. John L. McClellan  
Hon. J. W. Fulbright  
Hon. John P. Hammerschmidt

Director, Southeast Region

HR

SAMarusin:mmm

9/10/71

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN HR

State Liaison Officer  
Dr. George M. Reynolds  
Chairman, State Review Committee  
Arkansas History Commission  
Old State House  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 1

### SUMMARY

The Drennen-Scott Home was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on September 10, 1971, with local significance. At the time, the nomination stated that the house was "an outstanding and well-preserved example of ante-bellum architecture."

Subsequent research in recent years has brought to light the important role of John Drennen in the Indian affairs of the nineteenth century, including the eligibility process for settlement payments for Cherokees who had been relocated to the Indian Territory. As a result of the new information about the Drennen-Scott Home, the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program seeks to add Criterion A as a criterion of significance for its associations with John Drennen's role in nineteenth-century Indian affairs as well as add Criterion B for the home's association with John Drennen and to increase the Drennen-Scott Home's level of significance from local to national.

### ELABORATION

John Drennen was born at Elizabeth, Pennsylvania, on February 5, 1801, and, sometime after 1826, moved to Nashville, Tennessee, where he entered into the mercantile business with his brother-in-law, David Thompson. During 1830, Drennen and Thompson arrived in Arkansas, located briefly in Little Rock and eventually moved to Columbus, one mile below the present site of Van Buren near the location where I-540 crosses the Arkansas River. They established a landing on the north bank of the river and a store sometime between 1832 and 1836. There is also evidence showing that they started a woodlot to supply firewood to the new and lucrative steamboat traffic.<sup>1</sup>

In the fall of 1835, John Drennen was one of three Crawford County men who were elected to represent the county at the first Constitutional Convention which met at Little Rock from January 4 to 13, 1836, where he assisted in drafting the first State Constitution of Arkansas. The location of Columbus was prone to flooding and after rebuilding twice, Drennen and Thompson sought higher ground. They purchased the property known as Phillips Point, which soon after became Van Buren, for \$11,000 in 1836. Statehood for

---

<sup>1</sup> Eno, Clara B. ; History of Crawford County; Van Buren; The Press Argus, 1950.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 2

Arkansas in 1836 brought an influx of settlers to Van Buren from Tennessee, Kentucky and Mississippi and the town flourished.<sup>2</sup>

After Arkansas was admitted to statehood, Drennen was elected a member of the first House of Representatives. He served in 1836 and again in 1838. In 1837, Drennen and Thompson laid out the first plat of the town, and in 1838 they were successful in having it named the County Seat of Crawford County. Thompson died in 1838 leaving his partner to become one of the most wealthy and prominent members of the community. Drennen was concerned with the future of Van Buren. In 1839 he donated Block 14 in the town of Van Buren to Crawford County as the site for the courthouse. Drennen also donated the land on which the Fairview Cemetery stands.

Drennen served his country, state, county, and city in many ways. In addition to his service in the Constitutional Convention and the State Legislature, he also served as Postmaster of Van Buren from 1836 to 1843. In June of 1846, he was elected captain of a militia organization known as the Arkansas Frontier Guards which served in the Mexican War. He was promoted to Colonel before the war's end.<sup>3</sup>

He was a successful businessman, owning real estate in Chicot, Pope, Crawford and Washington counties in Arkansas, as well as property in other states. He was a business partner with Sam Houston, was a trustee of the Real Estate Bank<sup>4</sup>, was the first President of the Little Rock & Fort Smith Railroad, and chartered the Chihuahua Trading Company for the purpose of trading with Mexico. John Drennen died of yellow fever at Indianapolis, Indiana, on September 27, 1855. He was traveling to Virginia when he was taken ill on the road. The body was returned to Van Buren and he was interred in the family plot at Fairview Cemetery, the cemetery he had given to the city.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Goodspeed's History of Crawford County; 1889;reprinted by the Crawford County Genealogical Society; 1995.

<sup>4</sup> Brown, Walter Lee; A Life of Albert Pike, University of Arkansas Press, 1997. As a stockholder in the Real Estate Bank, Drennen could borrow money and take an extra ten years to pay it back. The Real Estate Bank became the center of speculation and controversy for the state of Arkansas.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 3

Drennen was appointed Indian Agent to the Choctaws in June of 1849 by President Zachary Taylor, replacing Samuel M. Rutherford and later became Superintendent of Indian Affairs for the southwestern area.<sup>5</sup> As such, he conducted the first allotment of the new Cherokee immigrants of 1839 (the Drennen Rolls of 1851-52). The people counted in this census were the New Echota Treaty group.<sup>6</sup> The Treaty of New Echota in 1835 remains a source of division in the Cherokee Nation. The treaty supporters, headed by Major Ridge, Elias Boudinot and Stand Watie were mixed bloods who sought compensation from the Federal Government. The full blood faction, led by John Ross opposed this action. The U.S. government recognized the Mixed Blood faction and enforced the terms of the treaty on all Cherokees. Political violence and intertribal conflict are reoccurring themes in Cherokee history clearly traced back to the Treaty of New Echota. Article 9 of the Treaty of August 8, 1846, between the United States government and the Cherokee Nation called for "a fair and just settlement of all moneys due the Cherokees under the Treaty of 1835 (New Echota)." The Drennen Roll was compiled in 1851 to determine eligibility to receive settlement payments for persons claiming membership in the Cherokee Nation at the time of its forced removal from the Cherokee Nation in the east.<sup>7</sup> The roll included a census of Cherokees residing in Indian Territory (northeastern Oklahoma) after the removal in 1838-1839 who were eligible for a per capita payment. A "Disputed Roll" is also included, listing 102 family groups that immigrated to the West prior to the Treaty of New Echota (1835) but who returned to the east before the removal. This roll was in turn used by the United States government in the early 1900s to determine the eligibility of the Guion Miller Roll Applications, which, like the Drennen Roll, concerned settlement payments to the Cherokee.

The Drennen Roll includes the notable names of Ridge and Watie. Both played instrumental roles in the treaty and subsequent removal of the Cherokee. Major Ridge,

<sup>5</sup> Ibid, Page 246. Albert Pike was a close personal friend of Drennen and traveled to Washington to secure posts for prominent Arkansas Whigs in the new Taylor administration. Pike hand carried a list of choices (which included Drennen) to Taylor, who in turn referred Pike to Thomas Ewing, Secretary of the Interior.

<sup>6</sup> Blankenship, Bob; Cherokee Roots Volume II, Western Cherokee Rolls August 1992, Cherokee Roots Publications.

<sup>7</sup> National Archives Record # M 685, 1852.

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one of the signers of the treaty of New Echota was assassinated for his actions along with Elias Boudinot. The Ridge family is included on the Drennen Roll. Stand Watie, also a member of the Treaty Party, survived numerous attempts on his life, for his participation in forfeiting Cherokee lands.<sup>8</sup> Watie and his family are listed as well. The total amount of the allotment was \$1,047,067 and resulted in a per capita payment of \$92.83 for each Cherokee in the West who moved following the Treaty of New Echota. John Drennen traveled to New Orleans and collected the newly minted funds returning in February of 1852. The payment was started on April 5.<sup>9</sup> Drennen and the Cherokee allotment that bears his name, were quoted in the 1893 Supreme Court case that settled Western Cherokee claims against the United States.<sup>10</sup> The 1850 Census lists John Drennen's occupation as "Indian Agent." Drennen's Indian Agency office in Van Buren was located in his home, overlooking the Arkansas River. His service as Superintendent and Indian Agent connects him to the nationally significant events surrounding the Trail of Tears and the implementation of Federal Indian Policy.<sup>11</sup> As Indian Agent and Superintendent of Indian Affairs in the Southwest, Drennen was the representative of the United States Government to the largest and most numerous Native American groups. The duties of Agent/Superintendent varied from census taker, judge, legal counsel, economic development officer, and trusted friend.

In 1849, the Chief of the Chickasaw Nation wrote John Drennen concerning a murder trial. These letters are held at Depauw University in Indiana and illustrate the wide range of duties administered by Drennen as Indian Agent.<sup>12</sup> The crisis involved a Shawnee who had committed a murder in the Chickasaw Nation. The man's guilt was not in

<sup>8</sup> Grace Steele Woodward; The Cherokees, page 225.

<sup>9</sup> Grant Foreman; The Five Civilized Tribes, page 407.

<sup>10</sup> U.S. Supreme Court, U. S. v. 'OLD SETTLERS', 148 U.S. 427 (1893) <http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/cgi-bin/getcase.pl?court=us&vol=148&invol=427>.

<sup>11</sup> Eno, Clara B. ; History of Crawford County; Van Buren; The Press Argus, 1950.

<sup>12</sup> Formerly Indiana Asbury University, Greencastle Indiana, quoted at:

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question due to the evidence and his admission to the crime, but he implicated two Chickasaws who were clearly innocent. Punishing a Shawnee but not the others could have led to war between the respective nations. Complicating matters, the Creek Nation acted on behalf of the accused Shawnee as well. Drennen's response to his superiors is evidence of the need in Indian Territory for Federal Court jurisdiction to handle the complex cases between the sovereign nations. "It however seems to me that there should be some international arrangement in regard to such cases as the present. The punishment of the individual of one Tribe for an offence committed against another, by the party so injured, is likely to cause dissatisfaction and might lead to serious difficulty. In order to obviate this; some tribunal should be established in the Indian Country to try such cases or the parties should be caused to appear before the Court of the United States in that District to which the particular portion of the Indian Country was attached, in which the offence was committed. I mean in criminal cases. This system would prevent any unfriendly feelings from arising between different Tribes in such cases."<sup>13</sup> From 1871 to 1896 the Federal Court for the Western District of Arkansas in Fort Smith was charged with the responsibility Drennen prophetically suggested as necessary in 1849.<sup>14</sup>

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Drennen-Scott Home was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on September 10, 1971, with local significance. At the time, the nomination stated that the house was "an outstanding and well-preserved example of ante-bellum architecture."

Subsequent research in recent years has brought to light the important role of John Drennen in the Indian affairs of the nineteenth century, including the eligibility process for settlement payments for Cherokees who had been relocated to the Indian Territory. As a result of the new information about the Drennen-Scott Home, the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program seeks to add Criterion A as a criterion of significance for its associations with John Drennen's role in nineteenth-century Indian affairs as well as add

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[http://www.chickasawhistory.com/CHICI\\_49.htm](http://www.chickasawhistory.com/CHICI_49.htm).

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> Bearss Edwin C *Fort Smith: Little Gibraltar on the Arkansas*, pages 314-315.



Drennen-Scott Home

Name of Property

Crawford County, Arkansas

County and State

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

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Criterion B for the home's association with John Drennen and to increase the Drennen-Scott Home's level of significance from local to national.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

PROPERTY Drennen-Scott House  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Crawford

DATE RECEIVED: 8/05/05 DATE OF PENDING LIST:  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/18/05  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 71000123

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

\_\_\_ACCEPT \_\_\_RETURN \_\_\_REJECT \_\_\_\_\_DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*Additional Documentation Accepted*

RECOM./CRITERIA

REVIEWER

DISCIPLINE

TELEPHONE

DATE

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



AUG - 5 2005

# The Department of Arkansas Heritage

Mike Huckabee, Governor  
Cathie Matthews, Director

Arkansas Arts Council

Arkansas Natural Heritage  
Commission

Delta Cultural Center

Historic Arkansas Museum

Mosaic Templars  
Cultural Center

Old State House Museum

August 3, 2005

Dr. Janet Matthews  
Chief of Registration  
United States Department of the Interior  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
8th Floor  
1201 Eye Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005

RE: Additional Documentation for the Drennen-Scott Home –  
Van Buren, Crawford County, Arkansas

Dear Dr. Matthews:

We are enclosing for your review the above-referenced nomination. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has complied with all applicable nominating procedures and notification requirements in the nomination process.

If you need further information, please call Ralph S. Wilcox of my staff at (501) 324-9787. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Cathie Matthews  
State Historic Preservation Officer

CM:rsw

Enclosure



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