

PH0501905

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED AUG 2 1977
DATE ENTERED JAN 18 1978

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

John Erwin Home

AND/OR COMMON

Glencairn

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

705 Erwin Drive, section 20, T20N, R5E

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Greensboro

VICINITY OF

7

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Alabama

01

Hale

065

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

X OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

X BUILDING(S)

X PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

X PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

X YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Vernon Erwin MaHood (Mrs. D.L. MaHood)

STREET & NUMBER

705 Erwin Drive

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Greensboro

VICINITY OF

Alabama

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Hale County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

1001 Main Street

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Greensboro

Alabama

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic American Building Survey

DATE

1935

X FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Washington

D.C.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Glencairn, constructed in the 1830's as the home of a prominent Greensboro lawyer and politician, has remained in the Erwin family since its construction and has suffered few alterations. Located at the rear of a narrow five acre lot, the house is approached by a long, tree-lined drive.

The two-story structure, which rests on brick piers, consists of a porticoed rectangular block with a hipped roof and a rear gabled wing with flanking one-story veranda. The rear wing is one room deep and is slightly offset from the eastern side of the main block. The five-bay facade features a central, two-story, pedimented portico with heavy Tuscan columns on the ground floor and slender but similar columns on the second. Windows are 9/9 with stylized trim and corner blocks. Pilasters with a flat band of decorative trim terminate the corners of the facade. The central ground floor entrance is elaborately treated with heavy paneling, ornate pilasters and a full Doric entablature framing the entranceway, while fluted trim with corner blocks frame the door, sidelights and transom. The sidelights and transom are divided by delicate wooden muntins. A second floor doorway gives access to the balcony and is given a similar but less elaborate treatment.

Two end-exterior chimneys are located on the western side, one on the eastern side and one on the rear wing. On the eastern side a one-story veranda extends from the chimneys to the rear of the house. Two entrances are afforded to the house from this veranda. One leads into a rear stair hall, the other into the rear wing which served as a dining room in the 19th Century.

The interior of the house is divided by a front stair hall with double parlors to the west and a large single room and narrow stair hall to the east. The double run stair with landing has to slender rectangular balusters per tread and decorated step ends. Fine plaster medallions are located in the front hall and the two rooms to the west. The western rooms are given the most elaborate treatment, having the finest medallions, ornate plaster cornices and heavy fluted trim with floral carvings in the corner blocks. One original mantel remains and is located in the front parlor. It is of black marble and is a simple classical design.

Minor additions and alterations were made to the house in the early 20th Century and in more recent years. In 1914 the rear half of the eastern veranda was enclosed to provide space for a small kitchen and the upstairs back hall landing was partitioned for bathroom space. A second bath was added in the rear wing a few years later. In 1952 a third bath was added to an upstairs bedroom and later the western veranda on the rear was enclosed and extended for kitchen and laundry space.

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES

1837

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Glencairn, the home of John Erwin, a noted mid-19th Century politician and lawyer, is one of the finer antebellum homes in Hale County and is noted for its particularly fine woodwork around the front entrance.

Construction of the house, which reflects the growing popularity of the Greek Revival style in the black belt section of the state, was begun in the mid 1830's, but the house was not completed until 1837. Family traditions maintain that Erwin hired craftsmen from Philadelphia for the detail work on the front portico and for the interior ceiling.

A native of Virginia, John Erwin came to Alabama around 1820 and opened a law office in Greensboro, at that time located in Greene County. He was a successful lawyer and acquired extensive property in land and slaves, becoming one of the wealthiest men in the town. In 1831 he was elected to represent Greene County in the state Senate and the following years was chosen president of the body. From 1837 through 1942, he was a member of the state House of Representatives and during the latter part of this tenure was elected Speaker of the House. Twice he ran for congress (1845 and 1851) and twice was defeated. Although he retired from his law practice in the early 1850's, he maintained his interest in politics and was a noted presence at the Democratic Conventions toward the end of that decade. He was a strong advocate of session and served as a delegate to the Charleston Convention where he represented Alabama on the platform committee. His last public appearance was at the Baltimore Convention. At his death on December 10, 1860, the house passed to his wife and is still owned by members of the family.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Erwin Family File. Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama.

Historic American Building Survey.

Mahood, Danner Lee. "John Erwin 1799-1860". Unpublished manuscript in possession of the Alabama Historical Commission.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY c. 5 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Latitude $32^{\circ} 42' 12''$
 Longitude $87^{\circ} 35' 45''$

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point approximately 220' north of the northwest corner of the intersection of State Street and Tuscaloosa Street, thence approximately 586.6' in a northerly direction to a paved drive, thence along said approximately 279.5' in a westerly direction to the intersection with another paved drive, thence along that paved drive approximately 187' in a southerly direction, thence approximately 35' in a westerly direction to fence, thence southerly along said fence approximately 662.3' to the southern property boundary, thence approximately 338.8' in a easterly direction to the point of origin.

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

W. Warner Floyd, Executive Director and Ellen Mertins

ORGANIZATION

Alabama Historical Commission

STREET & NUMBER

725 Monroe Street

CITY OR TOWN

Montgomery

DATE

July 27, 1977

TELEPHONE

(205) 832-6621

STATE

Alabama 36130

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Wils B. Howard, Jr.

TITLE

SNPO Alabama

DATE

July 28, 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

W. Warner Floyd
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

11/18/78

ATTEST:

Charles H. ...

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
 DATE 1.17.78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

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Owen, Thomas M. History of Alabama and Dictionary of Alabama Biography. Chicago:
S.J. Clark Publishing Company, 1921.