

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAR 3 1976  
DATE ENTERED MAY 24 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  
 Erwinton Plantation, Erwin House

AND/OR COMMON

Erwinton Plantation and Hunting Club

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

State Highway 26, off State Highway 301

—NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Allendale

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1

STATE

South Carolina

CODE

045

COUNTY

Allendale

CODE

005

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER: private

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Walter S. Montgomery, R. Z. Cates, McFarland Cates

STREET & NUMBER

Spartan Mills

CITY, TOWN

Spartanburg

VICINITY OF

STATE

South Carolina

hunting club

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Allendale County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Memorial Avenue and Barnwell Highway

CITY, TOWN

Allendale

STATE

South Carolina

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina

DATE

1973

—FEDERAL  STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

South Carolina Department of Archives and History

CITY, TOWN

Columbia

STATE

South Carolina

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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		

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Erwinton is a one and one-half story, white clapboard structure built upon a raised brick basement. It was constructed ca. 1828 by Dr. William Robinson Erwin (1799-1856).

Exterior: The front facade is characterized by three dormers and a piazza which extends its entire length (as well as halfway down each of the side facades). Fourteen square wooden columns extend along the piazza, and similar pilasters ornament the corners of the house and frame the doorways. Wooden balustrades run along the piazza and down the sides of the single wooden steps. The front entranceway features a paneled door with transom and sidelights.

The balustraded piazza extends halfway down both side facades. Steps lead up to the south (right) side facade. The rear facade features three dormers and a central, balustraded portico. Single wooden balustraded steps lead up to the door which is identical to the front door.

Dormer windows are 6/6 and main floor windows are 9/9 with louvered shutters. Brick pillars support the piazza. The gable roof features two interior chimneys and boxed cornice.

During the 1950s the dormers were added, shutters were added to the downstairs windows, and a bathroom was added on the left side. At this same time, the house, having never been painted, was painted, and a new roof replaced the original.

Interior: The floor plan is basically rectangular. The first floor features a wide central hallway and four large main rooms. The entire first floor is paneled in wide hand-rubbed pine boards. Deep cornice moldings, wide-board ceilings (16 feet high), and hand-hewn sills characterize the rooms. Large fireplaces are in each of the main rooms of the structure.

A stairway is enclosed to the right of the central hall on the main floor and leads to the central hallway upstairs. The upstairs floor features a four room plan with central hallway, with two bedrooms on each side of the hallway. Separating the bedrooms on the left side is a large chimney where guests have registered their names through the years.

Surroundings: Erwinton was originally a cotton plantation of ca. 430 acres. The five acres being nominated include the house and yard.

# 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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      ca. 1828

BUILDER/ARCHITECT      Dr. W. R. Erwin

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Erwinton was built ca. 1828 by Dr. William Robinson Erwin in whose family it remained until 1955 when it was purchased by Houston Rawls of Boston. The structure had been basically unoccupied following the War Between the States, however, and upon Mr. Rawls' acquisition it required modernization and some alterations. The Rawls used Erwinton as their winter residence until the 1960s when they sold it to its present owners. They are presently using the structure and grounds as a hunting club.

Erwinton has been the residence of prominent figures in local and state affairs.

Architecture: Erwinton is an example of the Bahamian-influenced raised cottage style of architecture. This style was prevalent in the Southeast -- particularly on the coast -- during the 19th Century.

Erwinton has been altered only minimally and the integrity of the original design remains despite the addition of dormers, shutters, and necessary modernizations. Much of the original materials and characteristics -- the long-leaf pine boards, hand-hewn sills, large rooms, and high ceilings -- have been preserved.

Religion: Dr. William Robinson Erwin, the original owner of Erwinton, his wife Julia C., and her sister-in-law, Mrs. Rachael Roberts, were excommunicated in 1833 from Kirkland Church, a Baptist Missionary Church, due to their affiliations with other denominations. The three entered into a covenant declaring their beliefs, thus founding the second Christian congregation (Disciples of Christ) in South Carolina. They held weekly services at Erwinton until 1835 when the present meeting house was completed and dedicated as Antioch Christian Church.

Dr. J. D. Erwin, son of W. R. Erwin, was both a medical doctor and a Christian minister. He was the main promoter of the establishment of the South Carolina Christian Missionary Cooperation in November 1879 and later served as its corresponding secretary, treasurer, and state evangelist. He also served as minister at Antioch Christian Church.

Social-Humanitarian: In 1863 Clark Howell was born at Erwinton, his mother being the daughter of the original owner. His family later moved to Georgia where he served as Speaker of the State House of Representatives, President of the State Senate, and Democratic National Committeeman for the State of Georgia. In 1889 he became Managing Editor of the Atlanta Constitution, and later became Editor-in-Chief, after the retirement of his father, Evan P. Howell, from that position.



JACKSONBORO BRIDGE 10 MI.

1080  
55

1075



32° 57' 15"  
 Erwinton Plantation  
 Allendale County  
 South Carolina  
 Longitude W 81° 24' 50"  
 Latitude N 32° 57' 15"