

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY
NOMINATION FORM

| Continuation Sheet | Item Number | Page |
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| <u>Name</u> Historic Balwearie Common | <u>Location</u> West side of county road 22; approximately 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ miles northwest of its junction with S.C. Hwy. 34 <u>Classification</u> Building | |
| <u>Owner</u> Maude Douglas Route 2. Box 90 Blackstock, S.C. 29014 | | |

Representation in Existing Surveys South Carolina Inventory of Historic Places, 1983

Description Belwearie is a one-and-one-half-story, brick and frame residence with a gabled roof and cross-gabled front (northeast elevation) porch. Front gable is supported by six paneled wooden posts and has a turned balustrade. The gable ends feature cornice with returns and central, paired, louvered windows with plain surround. Facade has paired four-over-four windows flanking a double-leaf entrance. Three-paned sidelights over recessed panels and a five-light transom surround central entrance. First story is of masonry construction; half-story is sheathed in weatherboard. Two interior chimneys pierce the roof ridge. A rear porch was converted into a kitchen in 1975. Family tradition holds that the house was constructed ca. 1822, but alterations resulting from 1886 storm make it difficult to document this date based on stylistic characteristics.

Significance According to A Fairfield Sketchbook Balwearie is believed to have been named after the Douglass family castle in Scotland. According to the Sketchbook it was constructed as the seat of a 900 acre plantation. Although the builder of the house has not been determined, the first known owner was James Douglass, a wealthy planter.¹ Following the death of James Douglass, the property was purchased in 1868 by his nephew, prominent physician, Dr. Thomas Goulding Douglass.² It is now occupied by the grandchildren of Dr. Thomas G. Douglass. Balwearie is significant as an example of early-nineteenth-century brick construction. *

Acreage 2.2 acres

Verbal Boundary Description The nominated property is shown as the red line on the accompanying Fairfield County Tax Map #84, with a scale of 1 inch equals 400 feet. It includes the house and its surroundings.

UTM Reference Point 17/477530/3812330

Other Information

* ¹ Bolick, A Fairfield Sketchbook .

² Interview with Dr. John W. Douglass, Jr., Fairfield County, South Carolina, January 31, 1983; Winnsboro (South Carolina) News & Herald, June 27, 1906.