

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY  
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #68-32 Building Date: 1897

Building Name: Ervin-Perl House

Location: 4209 Jefferson Street, Hyattsville, Maryland

Private/Residential/Occupied/Excellent/Inaccessible

Description:

The Ervin-Perl House is a fine example of an urban transitional Queen Anne style dwelling. It incorporates many lively Queen Anne elements, e.g., criss-cross balusters, and fan brackets on the porch posts, turned posts and symmetrical architrave trim around the main entrance. The house is a two-and-one-half story, frame, cross-gable roof dwelling house. The main block is three bays by three bays, with horizontal board siding and has a wraparound porch on the north and east elevations. The north facade has an asymmetrical entry and a one-story projecting bay. The porch has a criss-cross balustrade painted yellow, white and green; the turned posts have fan brackets. There is a cross-gable centered in the west elevation. The rear or south elevation is a gable end with a shed roof one-story three bay wing extending out. The cross-gable roof is covered with standing seam metal.

Significance

The Ervin-Perl House is a fine example of a transitional Queen Anne style urban dwelling. It incorporates many lively Queen Anne elements, including a wrap-around porch, projecting bays and decorative porch detail, and stands on one of the original lots in Wine and Johnson's Second Addition to Hyattsville. By the middle of the nineteenth century, Christopher C. Hyatt had purchased property at the intersection of the Turnpike and the Railroad north of Bladensburg. By 1880 several sections of the community had been surveyed and platted into building lots. In 1884, Wine and Johnson surveyed and platted another section of the growing community and began to sell the building lots. In 1897 James Dallas Ervin, a druggist, purchased a corner lot in this new section of town. Within the same year, Ervin built his small but attractive frame building, distinguished by its lively Queen Anne/Victorian porch trim. This attractive dwelling remained the home of the Ervin family until 1926. Since that time it has had several short-term owners, and has been leased to a series of tenants. In the 1960's and 1970's it was used as a boarding house. Recent owners have attempted to restore it to its original lively Queen Anne style appearance. It is a noticeable landmark in the town of Hyattsville.

Acreage: 7,000 square feet

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic James Dallas Ervin House

and/or common Perl House

## 2. Location

street & number 4209 Jefferson Street \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Hyattsville \_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county Prince George's

## 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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 type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Neale and Aaron Perl

street & number 4209 Jefferson Street telephone no.:

city, town Hyattsville state and zip code Maryland 20781

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 5762

street & number Main Street folio 334

city, town Upper Marlboro state MD 20772

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

date \_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. P.G. #68-32

### Condition

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

### Check one

unaltered  
 altered

### Check one

original site  
 moved date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Ervin-Perl House is a fine example of an urban transitional Queen Anne style dwelling. It incorporates many lively Queen Anne elements, e.g., criss-cross balusters, and fan brackets on the porch posts, turned posts and symmetrical architrave trim around the main entrance.

The house is a two-and-one-half story, frame, cross-gable roof dwelling house. It stands on a wooded corner lot in a residential district. The main block is three bays by three bays, with horizontal board siding and has a wraparound porch on the north and east elevations.

The front facade (north) has an asymmetrical entry and a one-story projecting bay. The porch has a criss-cross balustrade painted yellow, white and green. The turned posts are delicate and contain a fan-like bracket. The porch roof has a slight eave overhang. The main entry is protected by the porch roof and has a wood one panelled door with a half window. The casing exhibits symmetrical architrave trim. The second story contains three windows in a row and a smaller window is beneath the gable peak. The porch is approached by a set of stairs.

The west elevation depicts a cross gable roof in the center. Windows are on the first two stories. The opposite elevation (east) has an extended gable bay with two windows on the second story and also a three window bay, one story bay window.

The rear or south elevation is a gable end with a shed roofed, full length, one-story three bay wing extending out. The wing has a central 15 light double door with transom and 2/2 windows to either side. The gable end has two small windows, one on each level.

The cross-gable roof is covered with standing seam metal. The main block sits on high brick foundation piers with lattice panels. The windows are 2/2 double hung sash. A wooden closed fence surrounds the backyard and a small, approximately 10 by 8 foot garage outbuilding opens up to a back alley. The grounds are wooded with mature trees.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. P.G. #68-32

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 type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Local History
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1897 Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria:  A  B  C  D  
and/or

Applicable Exception:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Level of Significance:  national  state  local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Ervin-Perl House is a fine example of a transitional Queen Anne style urban dwelling. It incorporates many lively Queen Anne elements, including a wrap-around porch, projecting bays and decorative porch detail, and stands on one of the original lots in Wine and Johnson's Second Addition to Hyattsville.

By the middle of the nineteenth century, Christopher C. Hyatt had purchased property at the intersection of the old Washington Baltimore Turnpike and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad north of Bladensburg; he built his brick mansion (no longer standing) on the west side of the railroad, and opened a store directly across the tracks. In 1859, Hyatt was appointed postmaster of the new crossroads community which from thence forward was to bear his name.

In 1873, Hyatt had a section of his property surveyed and platted into building lots roughly 60 by 280 feet. This roughly 20-acre area was known as Hyatts Addition to Hyattsville.<sup>1</sup> By 1878 the town was developing into a desirable place of residence for commuters to the Capital city. An 1878 account describes the new town as follows: "Hyattsville, on the Washington Branch of the Baltimore Ohio Railroad, is a beautiful village, tasteful houses in the modern style of architecture, ornamented with gardens and lawns, is largely indebted, for its prosperity, to Christopher C. Hyatt, ...it has gradually increased in beauty and prosperity until its stands as one of the foremost villages between Baltimore and Washington."<sup>2</sup>

In 1882, George Johnson and Louis Wine purchased 196 acres adjoining the original section of Hyattsville, and undertook the development of what they called "Wine and Johnson's First Addition to Hyattsville." This section was surveyed and platted by Surveyor George W. Jackson in September 1882, to create approximately 100 building lots (roughly 50 by 150 feet each), two areas of parkland, and street names honoring the developers.<sup>3</sup>

In 1884, Wine and Johnson surveyed and platted another section of the growing community, immediately to the east of their First Addition, and

began to sell the building lots -- 143 more lots, approximately 50 by 150 feet each.<sup>4</sup> In 1897 James Dallas Ervin purchased a corner lot in this new section of town. Ervin was a young druggist, who worked in Albert H. Wells' drug store at the railroad crossing.<sup>5</sup> Within the same year, Ervin built his small but attractive frame building, distinguished by its lively Queen Anne/Victorian porch trim.<sup>6</sup>

When telephone service was established in Hyattsville in 1901, the switchboard was located in Wells' Drug store; Dallas Ervin was the first to operate the switchboard.<sup>7</sup>

This attractive dwelling remained the home of the Ervin family until 1926. Since that time it has had several short-term owners, and has been leased to a series of tenants. In the 1960's and 1970's it was used as a boarding house. Recent owners have attempted to restore it to its original lively Queen Anne style appearance. It is a noticeable landmark in the town of Hyattsville.

#### Notes

1 Prince George's County Deeds JBB #1:280; JBB #2:481; JBB #4:113,337, CSM #3:476, 477. Prince George's County Plat HB #8:176.

2 G. M. Hopkins Atlas of Prince George's County, 1878, "Historical Sketch".

3 Prince George's County Deed JWB #1:244; Prince George's County Plat JWB #1:286, 1882.

4 Prince George's County Plat JWB #2:618.

5 Prince George's County Deed JWB #39:323; City of Hyattsville Bicentennial Souvenir Booklet, 1976, p. 25; Census of Prince George's County, Hyattsville, 1900.

6 Prince George's County Tax Assessments, 1896-1900.

7 City of Hyattsville Bicentennial Souvenir Booklet, 1976, p. 25.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. P.G. #68-32

Cf. Chain of Title

Cf. Notes, Item #8

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 7,000 square feet

Lot 37, Block F, Tax Map 50

Quadrangle name Washington East, Section E

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Zone	Easting	Northing

B 

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Zone	Easting	Northing

C 

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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D 

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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E 

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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F 

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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G 

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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H 

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Verbal boundary description and justification

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 Susan G. Pearl, Research/Architect Historian and Kelly Taube, Student Intern

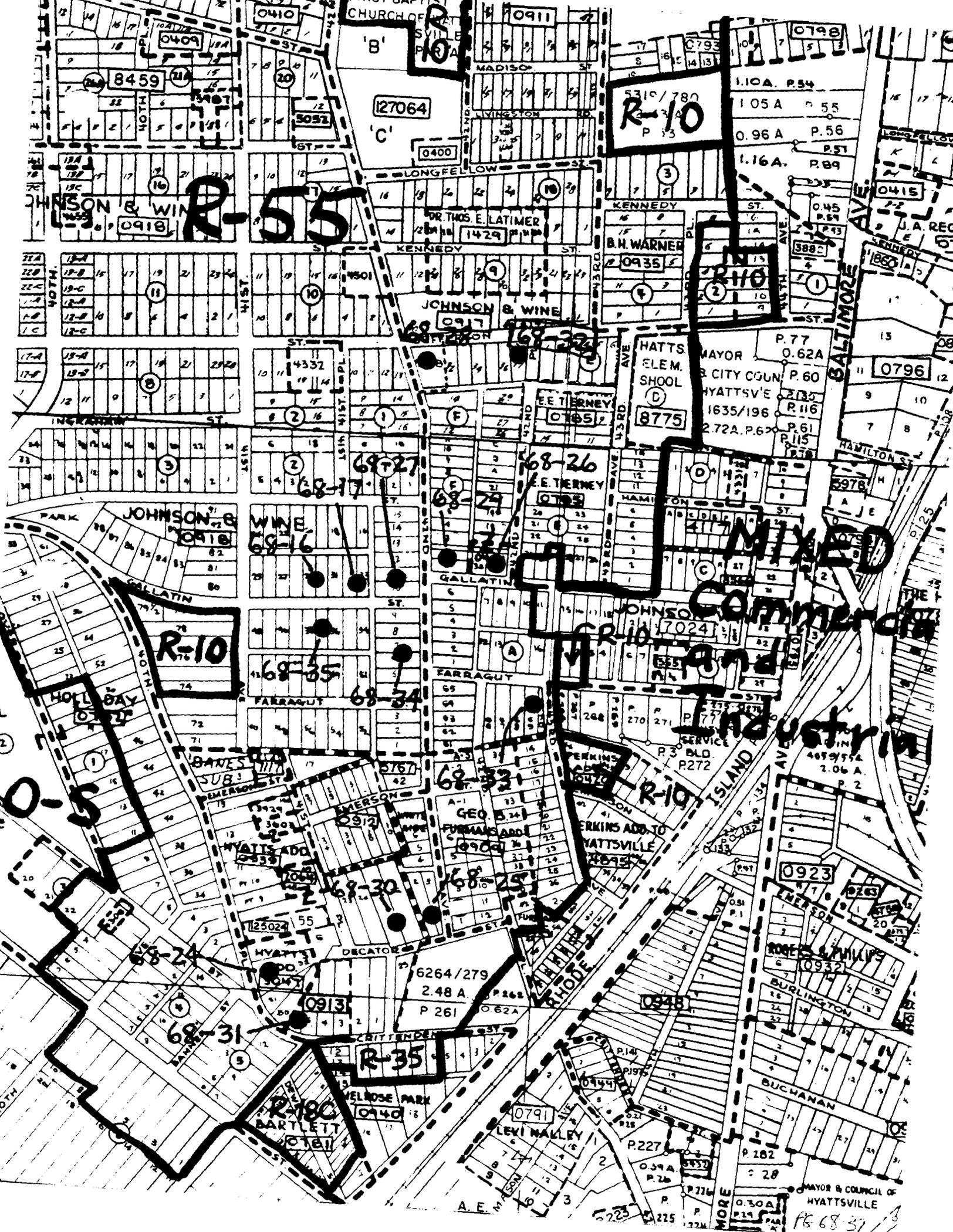
c/o M-NCPPC

organization Historic Preservation Commissiondate September 1987street & number #4010 CABtelephone 952-3521city or town Upper Marlborostate Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438



R-55

R-10

R-110

R-10

R-10

R-19

R-35

R-180

O-5

MIXED  
Commercial  
and  
Industrial

MAYOR & COUNCIL OF  
HYATTSVILLE

PG 68-31/13

# WASHINGTON EAST





P.G. #68-32

Ervin-Perl House  
Prince George's County, Maryland  
Susan G. Pearl  
May 1987  
East elevation  
Neg: Maryland Historical Trust  
Annapolis, MD



P.G. #68-32

Ervin-Perl House  
Prince George's County, Maryland  
Susan G. Pearl  
May 1987  
North elevation  
Neg: Maryland Historical Trust  
Annapolis, MD