

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 (James) Martin House

and/or common Martin-Bounds House, Bounds House

2. Location

SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 4, T. 3S, R. 11W.

street & number 1400 Cypress Mill Rd.

___ not for publication

city, town Florence

___ vicinity of

congressional district

V 5

state Alabama

code 01

county Lauderdale

code 077

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
___ district	___ public	___ occupied	___ agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	___ commercial
___ structure	___ both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	___ educational
___ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	___ entertainment
___ object	___ in process	___ yes: restricted	___ government
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	___ military
			___ museum
			___ park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			___ religious
			___ scientific
			___ transportation
			___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Ira K. ("Ike") Hibbett

street & number P.O. Drawer 791

(tel. 205/766-9205)

city, town Florence

___ vicinity of

state Alabama 35631

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Probate Office, Lauderdale County Courthouse

street & number

Court St.

city, town

Florence

state Alabama 35630

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Alabama Inventory

has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes no

date 1971 - present

___ federal state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

Alabama Historical Commission

city, town

Montgomery,

state Alabama 36130

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 type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The James Martin house is a frame structure set on a low brick foundation and now covered by a standing-seam metal roof which apparently replaced wooden shakes. The nucleus of the dwelling is a five-bay, story-and-a-half main block measuring 43 feet across the front and 32 feet deep, with two brick exterior end chimneys at each side. A long, low wing at the rear, originally attached by an open breezeway directly behind the central hall, may be of the same vintage. If not, it appears to have been added soon after the house was built. Some time during the mid-19th century, two more rooms and a narrow hall were added to the west side of the house, on axis with the original structure. The early nine-over-six sashing, as well as flanking window blinds with stationary louvers, survives throughout.

A small pedimented entrance porch is upheld by a pair of short, fluted Doric columns to which a corresponding pair of engaged columns that flank the front door are linked with a connecting wooden balustrade. The paneled, double-leaf doorway is framed by sidelights and a rectangular transom, and is enclosed by an architrave, unadorned except for corner rosettes. While the rest of the house is weatherboarded, that portion of the facade sheltered by the porch is sheathed with flush boarding.

Inside, to the right of the nine-foot wide central hall, en suite rooms are connected by a double doorway. There is no internal connection between the pair of rooms, of equal dimension approximately, to the left of the hall. Between the hall and the southwest front room, a narrow enclosed stair rises to the single large room on the second floor. Here, the walls are finished in their original lathe and plaster, while the stairwell is enclosed by a balustrade with molded handrail and slender turned newels.

Woodwork throughout the circa 1843 nucleus of the house is predominately Federal in feeling, with some admixture of Greek Revival. The mantelpieces merit particular note. Presumably the product of a local cabinetmaker (possibly even the handiwork of Martin himself), each contrives to be subtly different although adhering to the conventional Adamesque pattern of slender, engaged colonnettes carrying a wide frieze and molded mantelshelf. Another interior feature also to be noted are the Carpenter and Company locks found on the hall doors.

Much of the original woodwork in the three-room back wing has been removed, although elements such as flush-board wall-sheathing and four-panel doors probably date from no later than the turn of the century. In the narrow hallway that separates the west addition from the core structure, there is a primitive wainscoting that appears to be contemporary with the wing itself, as do the louvered transoms above the doors at each end. The remainder of this wing, beyond the hall, has been gutted and re-partitioned to provide bath, closet, and kitchen space. The summer-beam beneath the floor of the wing suggests the location of the original partition between the wing rooms. A cellar lies beneath this wing.

In the early 1900's, the appearance of the front portico was somewhat marred by replacement of the bases and lower part of the shafts of the two main columns with a pair of brick piers. Subsequent changes, besides the interior modifications already cited, include the enclosure of the breezeway between the rear wing and the main house, and the substitution of shiplap siding for the original clapboarding on the lateral walls.

An underground circular brick cistern lies immediately behind the rear wing; and to the northwest rear are the subterranean remains of what may have been a brick or frame out-building. None of the early dependencies now exist.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates ca. 1843 - ca. 1860 **Builder/Architect** James Martin (?)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Martin-Bounds House is significant for its associations with James Martin, a leading industrialist of early Florence, who was involved in the development of the textile manufacturing industry in Florence. Martin was the major partner in the firm of Martin, Weakley and Company, the largest industrial concern in ante-bellum Florence. Additionally, it exemplifies a characteristic local dwelling-type of the 19th-century.

This is a story-and-a-half frame cottage (the same form appeared more rarely in brick), with two rooms to either side of a central hallway, a half story above, and a pair of butterssing end-chimneys. While by no means unique to the area, the house-type was noticeably popular in the region about Muscle Shoals during the ante-bellum period. Overlaid with stylistic details that were variously Federal or Greek Revival in derivation, and enlarged as needed by rear and/or side wings, the basic form itself survived as part of the local building vocabulary to the eve of the Civil War at least.¹ Since Martin began his career locally as a house-carpenter and cabinetmaker, it is conceivable that he himself designed and oversaw the construction of his residence and, indeed, may be responsible for similar dwellings in the vicinity.

* * * * *

On January 2, 1840, James Martin purchased from the State of Alabama an 80-acre tract which included the site of the present house. A deed for a contiguous parcel that Martin acquired three years later, on July 10, 1843, refers to "James Martins new frame house now being built" (Lauderdale County Deedbook 11, p. 164). It seems virtually beyond question that the dwelling mentioned is that which stands today on Cypress Mill Road. At that time the house was two miles from town, on the brow of a hill that dropped down to Cypress Creek, where Martin's waterpowered textile mill was situated.

Martin himself was then forty-five years old. Born in Jefferson County, Kentucky, he was established in Florence by 1824, when he advertised in the local paper that he continued "to carry on the house Carpenters and Joiners business in all its various banches [sic]", as well as "the Cabinet business, where work in that line can be had on very moderate terms for cash".

Fifteen years later, in 1839, Martin established the "Globe" cotton factory on Cypress Creek in partnership with Levi Cassity. The factory employed some 150 people by 1844, when it was destroyed by fire with an estimated loss of \$25,000. But Martin quickly rebuilt, in alliance with a new partner, Samuel D. Weakley.

¹Other examples in Florence of this house-type are the Gov. Edward A. O'Neal house and the Abraham Dean house, at 468 and 458 No. Court St. respectively, and the Wood house on Wood Ave.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Garrett, Jill K. A History of Lauderdale County, Alabama. Privately printed, 1963. Property abstract. In possession of Ira K. Hibbett, Florence, Alabama.
 Tennessee Valley Historical Society. Historic Muscle Shoals. Florence: no publishers given, 1976.

10. Geographical Data

ADDRESS NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property 0.726 acres

Quadrangle name Florence

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle scale 7.5' Series

UMT References

A

1	6
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4	3	5	6	8	0
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3	8	5	2	6	4	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

B

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 Zone Easting Northing

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The property nominated is a rectangular lot 150' east to west, by 210' north to south, bounded by Cypress Mill Rd. on the west and by an unmarked lane which passes 80' south of the house.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robert Gamble, Architectural Historian

organization Alabama Historical Commission date MAY 1981

street & number 725 Monroe St. telephone 832-6621-

city or town Montgomery, 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Phil B. Howard Jr.

title SHPO Alabama date October 30, 1981

For HCRS use only I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register Entered in the National Register	
<u>Melores Byers</u> Keeper of the National Register	date <u>12/9/81</u>
Attest: _____ date _____ Chief of Registration	

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Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 1

Under the name of "Martin, Weakley & Company," the firm was in 1850 producing 80,000 yards of cotton cloth a week from 46 looms and 1600 spindles. During the decade prior to the Civil War, two other mills were erected, providing either employment or direct support for over 800 people. Capital investment in 1860 was estimated at \$250,000, with 166 male and 139 female "operatives". The firm also operated a gristmill and sawmill. A workers' village clustered about the factory buildings, along with a dayschool and church which Martin--reflecting the industrial paternalism of his age--caused to be constructed.

In 1863, the entire factory complex was put to the torch by Federal troops, leaving only portions of the brick walls standing. Martin's nearby residence escaped destruction. Following the end of the war, in 1866, Martin bought out the interests of the other partners in the firm and, with his son Henry, attempted to reestablish the concern. But only three years later, on July 22, 1869, the elder Martin died. In 1873, his heirs conveyed the entire factory site to the Cypress Mills Company. The single building which had by then been rebuilt continued to operate under the new ownership until 1893, when the Cypress Mills Company itself ceased to function.

For two years following the sale of the factory site in 1873, the Martin heirs retained title to James Martin's residence. But in 1875, they were forced to mortgage the property, finally losing it in 1879 to one, Dallas J. Jones. After changing hands several times more, the house was purchased in 1886 by John Bounds and his wife. The Bounds family continued to occupy the house until 1974, when it became the property of Clarence G. Boyd. In 1980, it was purchased for eventual restoration by Ira K. ("Ike") Hibbett. The exterior of the house has since been painted.

Structurally, the house remains sound and, except for the interior of the west wing, relatively unaltered.

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Continuation sheet

Item number 9

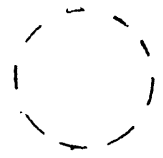
Page 1

Wilhelm, Dwight. A History of the Cotton Textile Industry in Alabama: 1809 to 1950.
Privately published, 1950.

MEASURED
8-12-80

JAMES MARTIN HOUSE
1400 CYPRESS MILL RD.
FLORENCE, ALA.

SUBTERRANEAN
BRICK
CISTERN



SUBTERRANEAN
REMAINS
(UNSCALED)

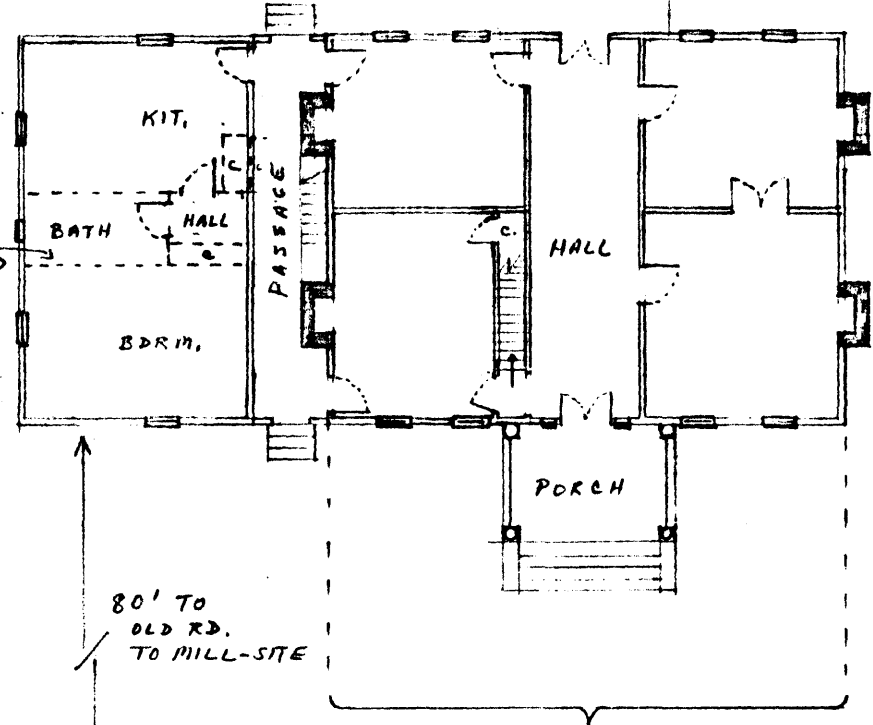


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210' ±

20TH C.
PARTITIONING

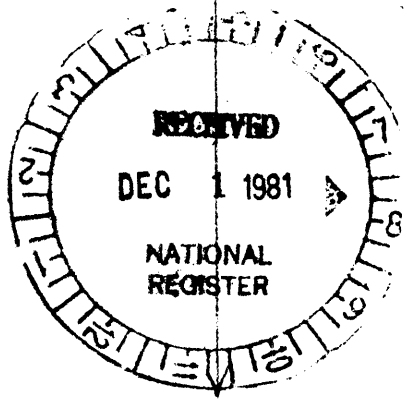
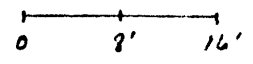
OPEN BREEZEY,
(NOW ENCLOSED)

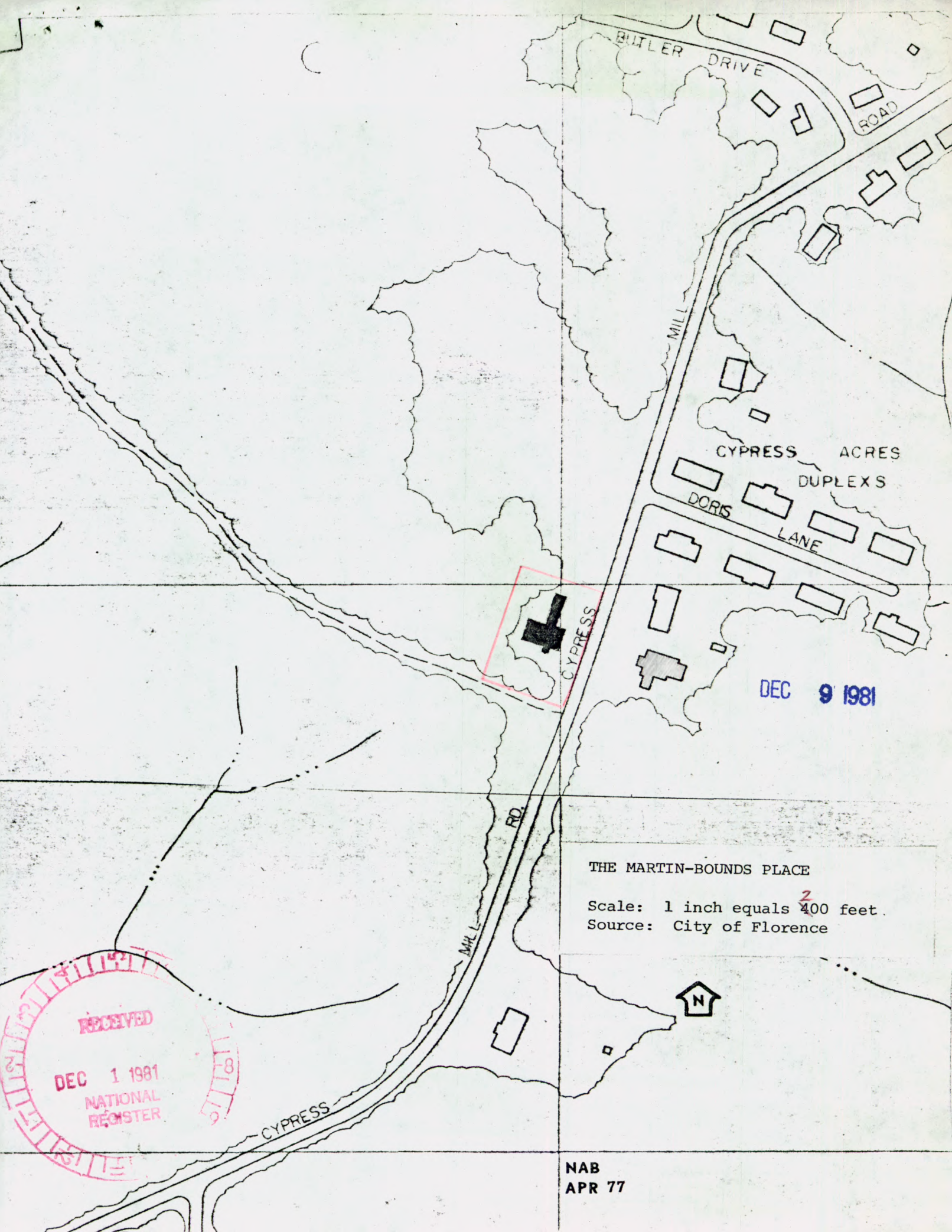


80' TO
OLD RD.
TO MILL-SITE

1843
PORTION

SCALE





BUTLER DRIVE

ROAD

CYPRESS ACRES
DUPLEXES

DORIS LANE

CYPRESS

DEC 9 1981

THE MARTIN-BOUNDS PLACE

Scale: 1 inch equals ²400 feet.
Source: City of Florence



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