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RECEIVED

JAN 13 1978

DATE ENTERED

APR 20 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

Martin, Charles J., House

AND/OR COMMON

Martin, Charles J., House

**LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

1300 Mount Curve Avenue

\_\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Minneapolis \_\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

5th

STATE

Minnesota

CODE

22

COUNTY

Hennepin

CODE

053

**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  
 \_\_\_ COMMERCIAL  
 EDUCATIONAL  
 \_\_\_ ENTERTAINMENT  
 \_\_\_ GOVERNMENT  
 \_\_\_ INDUSTRIAL  
 \_\_\_ MILITARY  
 \_\_\_ MUSEUM  
 \_\_\_ PARK  
 PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
 \_\_\_ RELIGIOUS  
 \_\_\_ SCIENTIFIC  
 \_\_\_ TRANSPORTATION  
 OTHER: Institutional
**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Extraordinary Learning & Educational Complex/Antioch-Minneapolis  
Communiversitry

STREET &amp; NUMBER

1300 Mount Curve Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Minneapolis \_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Minnesota

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Hennepin County Government Center - Registry of Deeds

STREET &amp; NUMBER

3rd Avenue South at 5th Street

CITY, TOWN

Minneapolis

STATE

Minnesota

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Statewide Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1973, 1976

\_\_\_ FEDERAL  STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Minnesota Historical Society - Building 25, Fort Snelling

CITY, TOWN

St. Paul

STATE

Minnesota

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT                     DETERIORATED  
 GOOD                             RUINS  
 FAIR                              UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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

The Charles J. Martin House is situated on a spacious lot in the Lowry Hill/Kenwood neighborhood southwest of the central business district of Minneapolis. It is approached via a semi-circular driveway which enters the property through a double set of gates in an ornamental wrought-iron fence. To the rear of the property is a steep bluff, which provides an excellent overlook of the city.

Designed in 1903 by Minneapolis architect, William Channing Whitney, the Martin House is an example of the Renaissance Revival mode, popular in Minnesota during the first decade of the twentieth century. It is two and one half storeys in height, the upper one-half storey being concealed under a low hipped, tile roof. The primary material employed in the construction is a creme brick set with butter-joints. Decorative features executed in brick include moulded window surrounds, cornices and pediments, dentils, quoins, and banding on the first storey to simulate rusticated masonry. Cornices are executed in wood with prominent modillions.

The Mount Curve (front) facade is symmetrical in arrangement, consisting of a central projecting pavillion flanked by wings of two bays each; the central pavillion is comprised of three bays. The entrance is shielded by a three-bay doric loggia with balustraded second storey level. Windows on the second level are treated in two methods; those in the bays are crowned by triangular pediments, whereas those in the central section are crowned by segmental pediments.

Contrary to the design of the front facade, the rear is asymmetrical. The western bay is semi-circular and is an extension of the living-room. The eastern bay is rectangular, houses kitchen and service facilities, and is linked to the basement-level garage. Central to the facade is a two storey semi-circular Ionic portico. Within the portico is a small balcony supported by immense scroll-type brackets; this balcony is accessible from the main stair landing via a Palladian door. The ceiling of the portico is coffered. The portico opens onto a man-made terrace (above the garage area) which is enclosed with a wrought-iron fence; this terrace extends to the bluff line.

Elsewhere on the exterior are low balustrades constructed of brick and stone; the balusters on these are in the shape of urns.

On the interior, the Martin House is finished in fine quality woods such as quarter-sawn oak, mahogany, and cherry. The first floor of this large house consists of primarily five areas or rooms. Upon entering through a small vestibule with a mosiac tile floor one stands within a large stairhall. The monumental staircase with turned balustrade and landing extends the width of the hall. Under the staircase is an alcove with a door to the terrace. To the immediate right upon entering the stairhall is a small library/office with floor-to-ceiling bookcases.

(see continuation sheet)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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Charles J. Martin House

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

Advancing further into the stairhall, and to the right, is the dining room. This room occupies the total frontage of the east wing of the house. The most dominant feature of this room is a large fireplace with slate mantel supported by scroll-type consols and veined green Italian marble hearth and surround. The kitchen, in the rear of the east wing, is linked to the dining room through a butler's pantry.

The entire west wing of the first floor is devoted to the living room. The south (front) section of the living room is rectangular in shape whereas the smaller north (rear) section has a semi-circular bay; the sections are defined by a flat arch supported by two ionic columns.

The second floor of the building is devoted to bed-chambers which are arranged in suites of bedroom, dressing room, and bath. The original floor plan has been retained, although this floor served as apartments after the period of the Martins' occupancy. The third floor consists of storage rooms and servants' rooms.

The C.J. Martin House now serves as the President's House for the Extraordinary Learning and Educational Complex of the Antioch-Minneapolis Community. It is in excellent condition and has remained true to the original design.

# 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 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 1903

BUILDER/ARCHITECT William Channing Whitney

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Constructed in 1903 according to designs by Minneapolis architect William Channing Whitney, the Charles J. Martin House at 1300 Mount Curve Avenue is a well preserved and excellently maintained example of the early twentieth century "city estate". The design is executed in the Renaissance Revival mode, an architectural style particularly applied to large scale residences or "mansions" in the early years of this century; it was also one of the styles in which the architect Whitney excelled. Further, it is increasingly rare in metropolitan areas to find such an estate which has retained its grounds intact.

Charles J. Martin was a prominent businessman who was deeply involved in the development of the Minneapolis flour milling industry. For many years he served as secretary and treasurer of the Washburn-Crosby Milling Company, later re-organized as General Mills. In addition to his business interests, Martin was involved in civic affairs, such as the promotion of city parks, libraries, and art societies.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Holcombe & Bingham: History and Biography of Minneapolis and Hennepin County, 1914,  
p. 226

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 2

UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	5
ZONE	EASTING

4	7	6	6	5	0
EASTING					

4	9	7	9	2	0	0
NORTHING						

B 

ZONE	EASTING

EASTING					

NORTHING						

C 

ZONE	EASTING

EASTING					

NORTHING						

D 

ZONE	EASTING

EASTING					

NORTHING						

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Charles W. Nelson, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Minnesota Historical Society

DATE

8 November 1977

STREET & NUMBER

Building 25, Fort Snelling

TELEPHONE

612-726-1171

CITY OR TOWN

St. Paul

STATE

Minnesota

# 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

*Russell W. Fridley*

TITLE Russell W. Fridley  
State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

*1/10/78*

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*Walter Cote*

DATE

*4/26/78*

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

*Walter Cote*

DATE

*4-13-78*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER