

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

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NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Martin House

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number Martin Lane and U. S. 165, 2 miles north of N/A not for publication

Columbia

city or town Columbia  vicinity

state Louisiana code LA county Caldwell code 021 zip code 71418

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

*Gerri Hobdy*

July 8, 1993

Signature of certifying official/Title Gerri Hobdy, Date  
LA SHPO, Dept of Culture, Recreation and Tourism  
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.
  - See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
  - See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

*Delores Byers*

Entered in the National Register

Date of Action

8/12/93

Martin House  
Name of Property

Caldwell Parish, LA  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
4		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
4	0	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Work in Progress

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls weatherboard

roof asphalt

other \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Martin House, Columbia vicinity, Caldwell Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 1

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The Martin House (c. 1879) is a late vernacular interpretation of the Greek Revival style. The one and one-half story cottage is located in rural farming country near Columbia in Caldwell Parish along a road with several other houses. The home has undergone relatively little change since its construction, and its National Register eligibility remains intact.

The house consists of a main block and a rear kitchen/dining ell. The main block contains four rooms, two on either side of a central hall with a steep staircase. Two additional rooms and a narrow hallway are tucked beneath the eaves of the gabled roof. The home's vernacular Greek Revival features include:

- 1) front and rear entrances outlined by transoms and sidelights with wooden panels below the glass. The transoms and sidelights frame double doors.
- 2) mock shoulder molding surrounding door and window openings. This "molding" is formed by extending the lintels outward beyond the edge of the beaded vertical members of the surrounds, and
- 3) four simple mantels, one found in each of the downstairs rooms. Each identical mantel has molded pilasters rising from tall beveled bases which support a wide entablature. This entablature is separated from the mantel shelf by a wide band of molding.

The two-room kitchen and dining wing stands a few feet behind the main house. Its gallery extends to form a breezeway which connects with the rear entrance of the home. An interesting feature of the ell's gallery is its roof and accompanying supports. The gallery is integrated beneath the mass of the wing's gabled roof and is supported by slender posts. However, an additional shed roof extends outward from the roof's edge, somewhat in the manner of a false gallery. This feature is supported by diagonal braces rising from the edge of the gallery floor. Shelves are attached to the posts and braces at the level where a railing would ordinarily be found.

Other features of interest in the home include wide interior baseboards, chamfered columns with molded capitals supporting a gable roof front porch on the main block, and matching engaged chamfered columns framing the main block's front and rear entrances. The house also has six-over-six windows and, with one exception, four panel doors. That one exception is a plank door which connects the two rooms of the rear wing.

CONTINUED

**United States Department of the Interior  
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Continuation Sheet**

Martin House, Columbia vicinity, Caldwell Parish, LA

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Few alterations have occurred to the Martin House over the years. Changes worth noting are as follows:

- 1) the possible addition of closets beside two of the fireplaces in the main block. The exact date of these closets is uncertain. Although their doors and surrounds exactly match those found in the rest of the house, the inclusion of closets as an original feature in a house of this type and date would have been somewhat unusual.
- 2) the installation of beaded board on the home's ceilings and walls, and
- 3) a current restoration which has accomplished the following:
  - a) the replacement of rotten wood in several places. These locations include patches of siding and interior flooring, the area of the rear gallery floor connecting to the rear entrance, part of the rear entrance's door surround, and the entire front porch floor and balustrade. Although the new balustrade replicates the original, the accompanying newel posts are conjectural.
  - b) the installation of a small bathroom next to the fireplace in the rear ell, and
  - c) the removal and reinstallation of the home's four mantels, which caused a misalignment of the pieces with the walls. As a result, the brick behind the mantels is now visible along the mantels' edges.

These alterations are minor in terms of the National Register eligibility of the house. Except for the conjectural newel posts on the front porch and the deterioration which accompanies a vacant building, the Martin House looks exactly as it did when constructed. The beaded board walls and ceilings are themselves a historic alteration. As one of the oldest surviving structures in Caldwell Parish, the Martin House is a viable candidate for National Register listing.

Contributing Elements

Also standing on the property are three board and batten dependencies with metal roofs. These structures appear to be contemporary with the house and, thus, are being counted as contributing elements for the purposes of this nomination.

Martin House  
Name of Property

Caldwell Parish, LA  
County and State

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations** N/A  
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

architecture

**Period of Significance**

c.1879

**Significant Dates**

c.1879

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):** N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

\_\_\_\_\_

Martin House  
Name of Property

Caldwell Parish, LA  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property .94 acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 

1	5	5	8	8	0	2	0	3	5	5	4	5	7	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

3 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

2 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

4 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Please refer to sketch map.

**Boundary Justification** Boundary lines follow the property lines of the parcel of land upon which the house and its three dependencies are located.  
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title National Register Staff

organization Division of Historic Preservation date April 1993

street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone (504) 342-8160

city or town Baton Rouge state Louisiana zip code 70804

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Louisiana Art & Folk Festival, Inc., Attn: Johnny James, President

street & number P. O. Box 196 telephone (318) 322-3024

city or town Columbia state Louisiana zip code 71418

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior  
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**National Register of Historic Places  
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Martin House, Columbia vicinity, Caldwell Parish, LA

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The Martin House is locally significant in the area of architecture within Caldwell Parish because, as one of Caldwell's oldest surviving structures, it is a local landmark.

The area which would become Caldwell Parish was settled, first by a small number of Frenchmen and later by Anglo-American pioneers, well before the parish was officially created in 1838. Eventually migrants from Mississippi, Georgia, Alabama, Virginia, and North and South Carolina contributed their building traditions to the architectural patrimony of the parish. These settlers would have built houses like they knew in their home states, including many Upland South log dogtrots and galleried cottages with Greek Revival styling. However, very little remains to illustrate the parish's nineteenth century architectural heritage. The Historic Structures Inventory for Caldwell Parish documents only 261 buildings of at least 50 years of age in the entire parish. The overwhelming majority of these were built in the first three decades of the twentieth century. With the exception of two landmark commercial structures, one landmark church, and a dozen Queen Anne Revival style houses, all of these twentieth century structures are unstyled and undistinguished. The Martin House is a landmark within Caldwell Parish because, with its vernacular late Greek Revival styling, it is one of only four surviving houses which stylistically pre-date the Queen Anne.

Historical Note

The property where the Martin House is located was originally part of Minden Hall Plantation, which was owned by Samuel B. Fluitt. In 1879 Fluitt's five children drew lots for the property. George Martin, a Caldwell Parish cotton merchant and seed buyer, drew for his wife, Ann Fluitt Martin. The Martins took possession of a plot of 248 1/2 acres which was appraised at \$1,900. George and Ann lived in a log cabin (now destroyed) at the rear of the property while the kitchen and dining wing was being built, then lived in the newly completed structure while the main block of the house was under construction. The house is presently being restored by the Louisiana Art & Folk Festival, Inc. for use as a museum.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

# **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Martin House, Columbia vicinity, Caldwell Parish, LA

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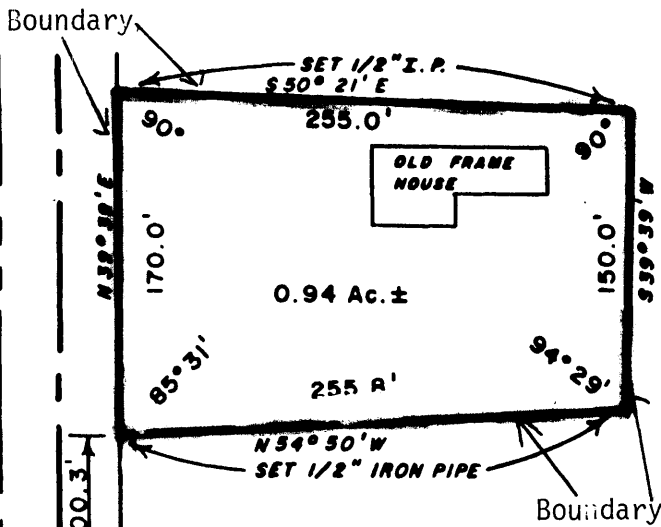
## BIBLIOGRAPHY

Cottingham, E. B., Sr. A History of Caldwell Parish, Louisiana. N.P., 1938.

Division of Historic Preservation, Historic Structures Inventory for Caldwell Parish, Louisiana.

Woods, H. Ted. Caldwell Parish In Slices: Beginning A Brief History of Caldwell Parish, LA. 1838-1971. Baton Rouge: Claiborne's Publishing Division, 1972.





**DESCRIPTION**

A 0.94 Ac. + Parcel in irregular Section 42, Township 13 North, Range 4 East, in Caldwell Parish, La. described as follows:

From the most westerly corner of the Raymond Cruse lot, as shown on the W. Guy Gates Subdivision plat, Plat Book 1, page 80 records of Caldwell Parish, La., being 30.0 feet+ South 51 degrees East of the northwest boundary of said Section 42, & being the intersection of the southeast R.O.W. line of Martin Lane & the northeast R.O.W. line of Old U.S. Hwy. 165; thence North 39 degrees 39 minutes East 666.2 feet+ along the said Martin Lane R.O.W. to the most northerly corner of the Walter James one acre lot as described in Conveyance Book 88, page 57, being adjacent to the Helen Lyke, et al, tract as described in Conveyance Book 89, page 593; thence continue North 39 degrees 39 minutes East 300.3 feet+ along the said Martin Lane R.O.W. to the Point of Beginning marked with a 1/2" i.p.; thence continue North 39 degrees 39 minutes East 170.0 feet + to a point marked with a 1/2" i.p. ; thence South 50 degrees 21 minutes East 255.0 feet + to a point marked with a 1/2" i.p.; thence South 39 degrees 39 minutes West 150.0 feet + to a point marked with a 1/2" i.p.; thence North 54 degrees 50 minutes West 255.8 feet + to the P.O.B. enclosing the said 0.94 Ac. +.

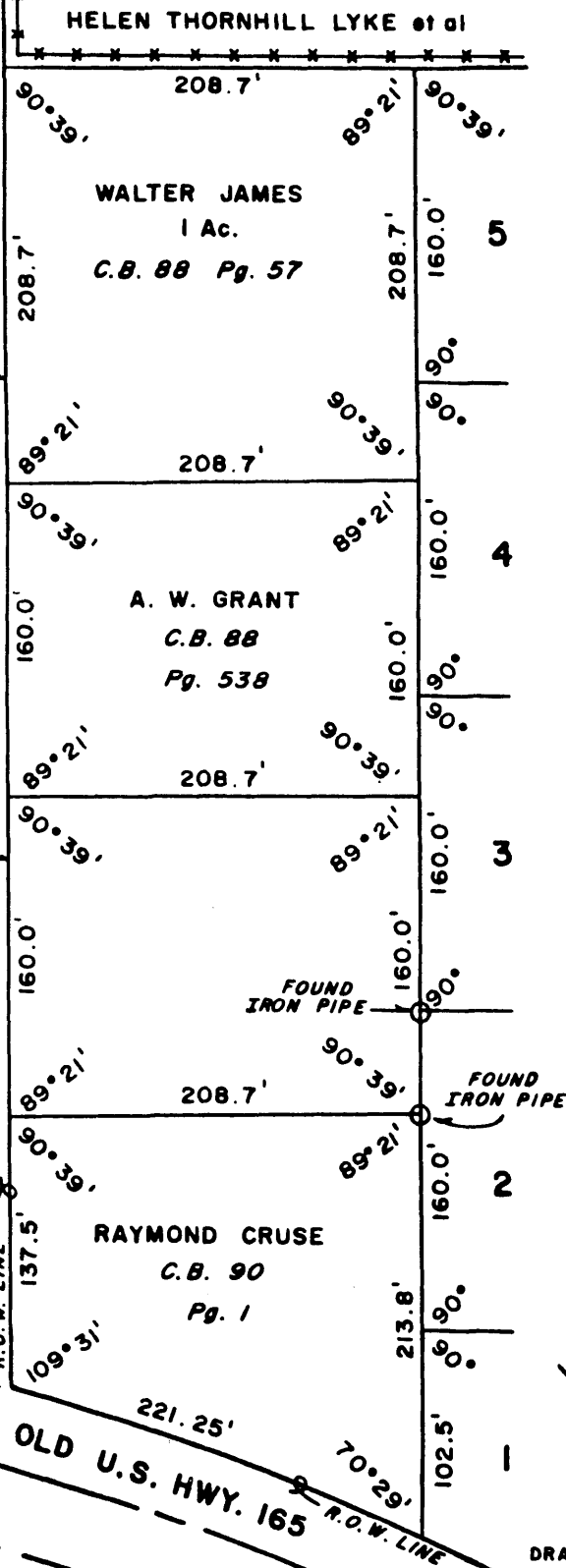
MARTIN HOUSE

Columbia vicinity, Caldwell Parish, LA

N.W. COR. OF  
64.08 Ac.  
W.G. GATES  
TRACT  
CON. BK. 50  
Pg. 487

MARTIN LANE

SECTION 38  
SECTION 42



NORTH

JULY 4, 1986

0 20 50 100

DRAFTED BY:  
KEVIN THOMPSON

SCALE 1" = 100'

**PLAT OF SURVEY**

OF  
THE GEORGE & ANN FLUITT MARTIN HOMEPLACE

SECTION 42, T13N-R4E

CALDWELL PARISH, LA.

FOR: LOUISIANA ART & FOLK FESTIVAL, INC.

BY: MEREDITH & SON — SITE PLANNING & SURVEYING — COLUMBIA, LA.

R.F. MEREDITH, C.E. & P.L.S. — SCOTT H. MEREDITH, L.A. & ASSOC. MEM. LA. LAND SURVEYORS