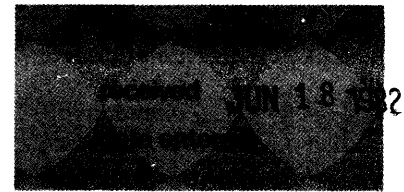


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 William C. Martin House

and/or common Dalton Regional Library

2. Location

street & number 101 South Selvidge St. N/A not for publication

city, town Dalton N/A vicinity of 9th congressional district

state GA code 013 county Whitfield code 313

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Larry Sampson, Chairman of the Board

street & number Dalton Regional Library, P.O. Box 1567

city, town Dalton N/A vicinity of GA state 30720

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior

street & number Whitfield County Courthouse

city, town Dalton state GA 30720

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Structures Field Survey:
Whitfield County, GA has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1975 federal state county local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Section, Department of Natural Resources

city, town Atlanta state GA

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The William C. Martin House is a two-story, brick Neo-Classical styled house with a two story portico on the front and two recently added brick wings and a rear addition. The main body of the original house consisted of five rooms on the main floor, three on the second with a plastered attic on the third floor. The house is centered on a city block diagonally facing the county courthouse with much of its original landscape intact.

The Martin House has as its central portion the original dwelling house that consists of a first floor of five rooms, a second floor of three rooms and a bathroom, and a third floor which houses an attic. There are two one story brick wings, added in 1948 and 1955, on either side of the main house and a 1965 technical services facility added by the Dalton Regional Library, to the rear.

The exterior of the house is brick with the central feature being a two story portico on the front centered on the front door. The portico is supported by a grouping of three Ionic columns on each side. There is a second floor balcony with decorative railing. Three tall chimneys survive, reminiscent of earlier styles where such tall chimneys were more in vogue. There are also dormer windows on either side of the roof giving light to the third floor attic. The windows of the main house are 12 over 12 panes on the front facade and 9 over 9 on the side facades and rear. The front doorway now reflects a more Colonial style, the entrance having been modernized to meet fire codes and library needs. The main entrance is flanked by a pair of French doors on either side; similar French doors can be found on the second floor, providing access to the balcony as well as the roof of the South wing. The rear facade has a center weatherboard portion, possibly an enclosed back porch.

The interior of the Martin House has five rooms on the first floor, originally having served as the parlor, hall, dining room, kitchen and probably a library since Mr. Martin had a large collection. The walls have smooth plaster finish and wood crown mouldings. These rooms have now been converted to library usage as indicated on the accompanying floor plan. Pocket doors still remain on either side of the main hallway, now the lobby. The ceiling has been lowered and acoustical tile placed therein. Two of the downstairs fireplaces have been covered by bookcases, while the one in the "Juvenile" room remains intact. The stairway leading to the upper floors is original. There was once a stained glass window at the mid-level turn. There are angle staffs on several corners. An original bathroom is off the "special collections" room. It retains its original fixtures. An enclosed back stairway leads from the "special collections" room to the second floor. It is probably a remnant of an original back porch. The second floor consisted originally of three bedrooms and a bathroom.

The bedrooms have been converted to an office, audiovisual room and staff lounge. The office and staff lounge have corner mantels that share a chimney. Original Federal Revival mantels remain in all of the rooms; the rooms originally had plastered walls and ceilings. The office has had modern veneer paneling installed. The third floor consists of an attic with plastered walls and two dormer windows. The attic is reached through a small stairway located in a closet-like space off the second floor hall.

Changes have been made to the house to convert it from a private residence to a public library. As mentioned, the front door was changed in accordance with fire codes for public access. Book cases have been installed in the first floor rooms dividing up the space and

(Continued)

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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Continuation sheet

Description

Item number 7

Page 2

covering some fireplaces. In the hall, or lobby, a registration/checkout desk has been added, befitting a library. The stained glass window at the turn level of the stairs was recently removed to a new library building. Two one-story wings were added, one in 1948, the other in 1955, to either side of the main house, to accommodate the need for larger library quarters. In 1965 a major "technical services" wing was added to the rear of the facility off the southeast corner. A garage is part of the addition. The original porte-cochere on the north side of the house was also removed.

The house sits in the middle of one end of a city block and retains landscaping features such as small shrubs, a few large trees, and lawn, much like it had originally. It is adjacent to a commercial area; the county courthouse is diagonally across the street, and a church is nearby. There are no outbuildings.

PHOTOGRAPHS

The Historic Preservation Section has determined that the photographs taken in March, 1981 still represent the character and appearance of the property. No significant changes have been made since that date.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) local history
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1911 **Builder/Architect** Builders - John Williams, Glynt Hamilton

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The William C. Martin House is historically significant in the areas of architecture and local history. Architecturally it is significant as an example of a Neo-Classically styled house built in the early 20th century by one of Dalton's most prominent civic figures. Major design features of the Neo-Classical style include the two-story front portico with its six Ionic columns and a balcony. The house reflects the finest architecture available at the time consonant with the owner's economic and social status. It is significant also for retaining much of its architectural integrity, and its original location and setting, even though it is downtown, surrounded by commercial and governmental structures, and has been adaptively reused as a library. It is significant in local history for its association with William C. Martin (1861-1941), the original owner. At the time he built this house he had been a successful lawyer, bank president, state senator, and chairman of the county board of education. These areas of significance support property eligibility under the National Register criteria B and C.

The architectural significance of the William C. Martin House rests with its being built in the Neo-Classical Style so prevalent at the turn of the century. In almost every Georgia town or city, houses built in this style were those of the most prominent citizens. This style, one of the many revivals that encompassed 19th and early 20th century architecture, began in the late 19th century, and although many of the revival elements such as the columns were also elements of the earlier Greek Revival style, the houses were larger, certainly never in a temple form, with broad expanses of relatively plain wall surface, and almost always a large porch. It was thus in this style that the William C. Martin house was built in 1911 toward the end of its prevalence. It said to anyone riding through the city, especially one well-travelled in other towns, "this is where an important man lives." Its downtown location, across from the county courthouse, also speaks of an important personage, one who could build, landscape and live, with no qualms, in such a prestigious location, since he was one of the county's most influential citizens. The Martin House also reflects in its workmanship, design, materials, and setting significance in architecture. Characteristic of its style are its Ionic columns, balcony, tall chimneys, several original mantelpieces, stairway and general room arrangement, and interior finishes and details. Especially noteworthy is its brick construction; many contemporary houses were built of less prestigious wood. The numerous additions and alterations to the house, while non-historic, do not significantly compromise its architectural integrity as a turn-of-the-century structure.

The local historical significance of William Martin's house is best given in a summary of Martin's long and varied career. Martin was born in 1861 in nearby Murray County. He lost his father in the service of the Confederacy. By 1885 his studies in law had allowed him to pass the bar examination. After working for three years in Murray County he moved to nearby Dalton in 1888, and practiced

(CONTINUED)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Draft nomination and supplemental material supplied by Dalton Regional Library.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property .56 acre

Quadrangle name Dalton North, GA

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	6	6	8	5	7	0	0	3	8	4	9	3	3	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B

Zone	Easting				Northing									

C

Zone	Easting				Northing									

D

Zone	Easting				Northing									

E

Zone	Easting				Northing									

F

Zone	Easting				Northing									

G

Zone	Easting				Northing									

H

Zone	Easting				Northing									

Verbal boundary description and justification The nominated property is marked on the accompanying tax map with a heavy black line. It is all that remains associated with the house and all the current owner owns at this location.

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

state N/A code county code

state N/A code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Historian
Historic Preservation Section

organization Department of Natural Resources

date May 20, 1982

street & number 270 Washington Street

telephone (404) 656-2840

city or town Atlanta

state Georgia

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 Elizabeth A. Lyon
Elizabeth A. Lyon

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 6/8/82

For NPS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>for</u> <u>Delores Byers</u>	Entered in the National Register date <u>7/15/82</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service****National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCERS use only

received

date entered

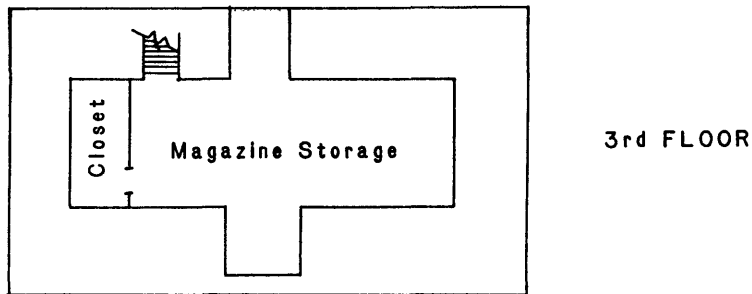
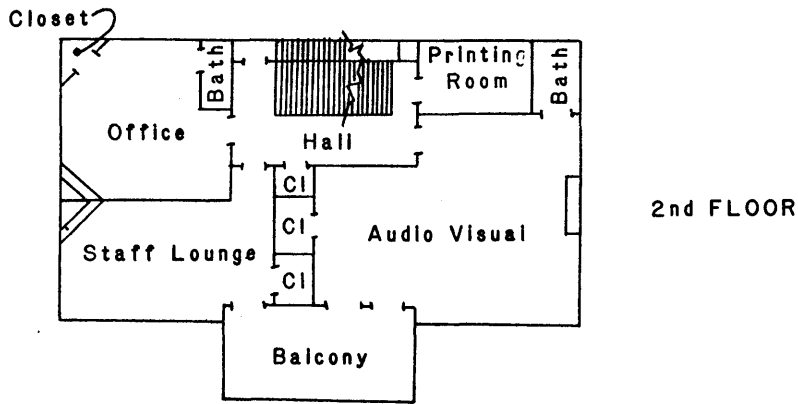
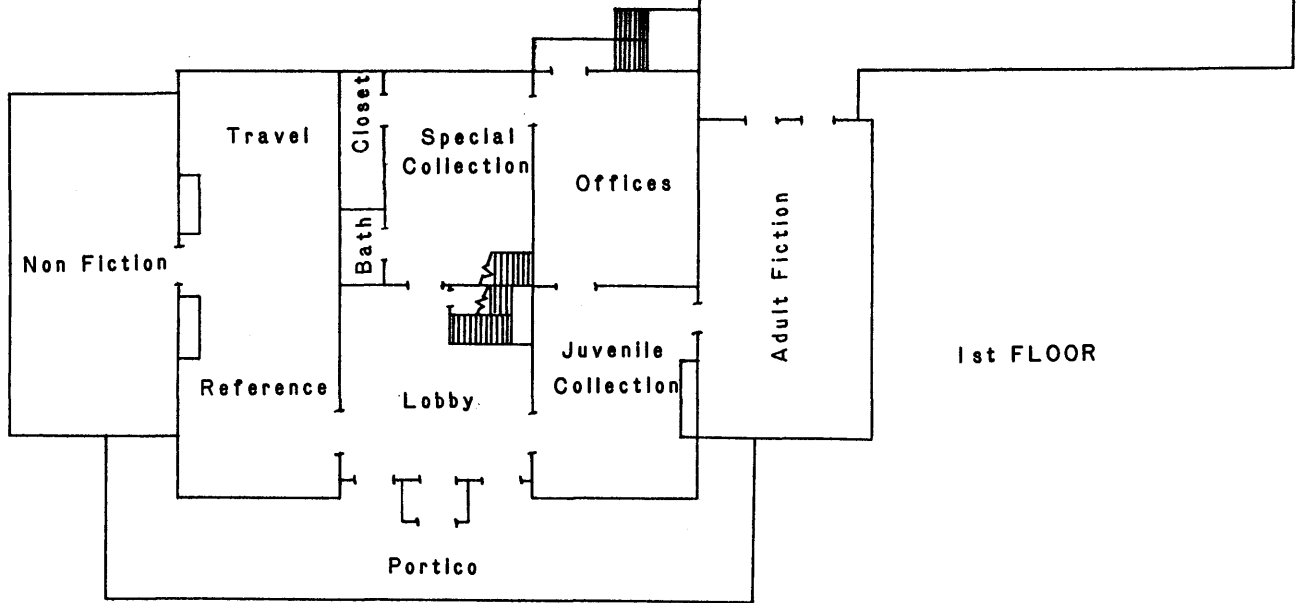
Continuation sheet Significance Item number 8 Page 2

law there. He served as a state senator from 1907-1908. While serving in this office he was instrumental in changing the convict lease system so that the convicts once again served the state, not the leaseholders. He served as chairman of the Whitfield County Board of Education from 1902-1941. He also served as vice-president and then president of the First National Bank of Dalton from 1900-1926; and also president of the Bank of Dalton after 1918, the Walker County Bank in Lafayette, Georgia, the Dalton Building and Loan Association, and the Cherokee Manufacturing Company. In 1922 his interests in better highways led to his election to the Dixie Highway Association. At his death he was one of the largest real estate owners in the entire county.

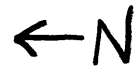
Martin married in 1894 Miss Ella Lewis of Tennessee. After his death in 1941 she remained in the house until her death in 1947. At her death she was also remembered for "her outstanding contribution through years to the civic and cultural life of Dalton and Whitfield County" and was remembered especially "for her keen interest in trees and parks and the beautification of the community." She shared the interest of her husband in "schools and libraries and in both public and private charities". She was responsible for the building of the Central Club House for womens groups to meet. After her death, the house became the Dalton Regional Library, which has occupied it until the present. The library will soon be moving to new headquarters.

FLOOR PLAN
 WILLIAM C. MARTIN HOUSE
 Dalton, Whitfield County, Georgia

Scale: not to scale
 Source: Drawn by staff of Dalton Regional
 Library
 Date: c. 1980
 Key: each floor is separately labeled.



FLOOR PLAN



NO SCALE

W. C. MARTIN HOUSE

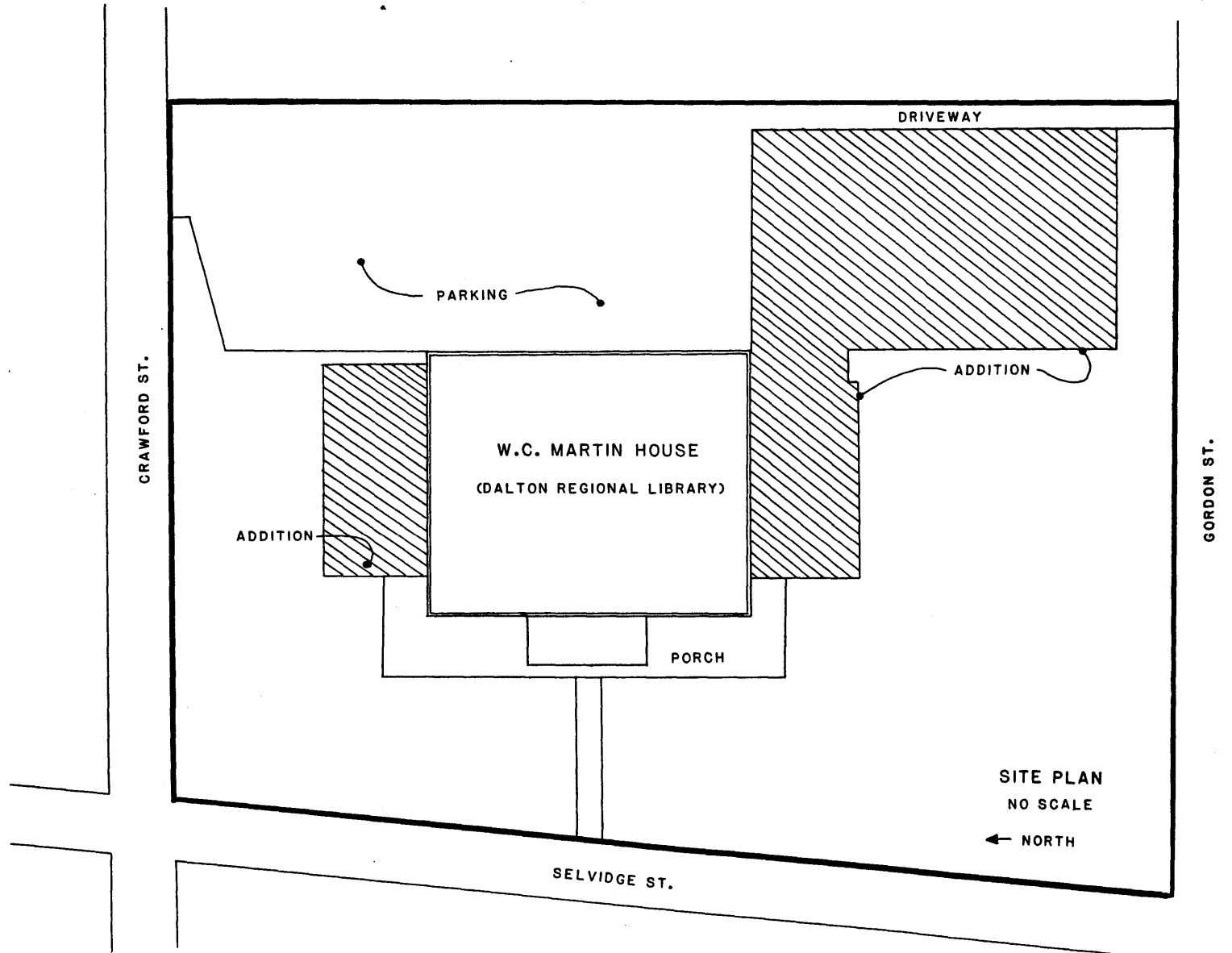
SKETCH MAP
WILLIAM C. MARTIN HOUSE
Dalton, Whitfield County, Georgia

Scale: not to scale

Source: Drawn by staff of Dalton Public
Library

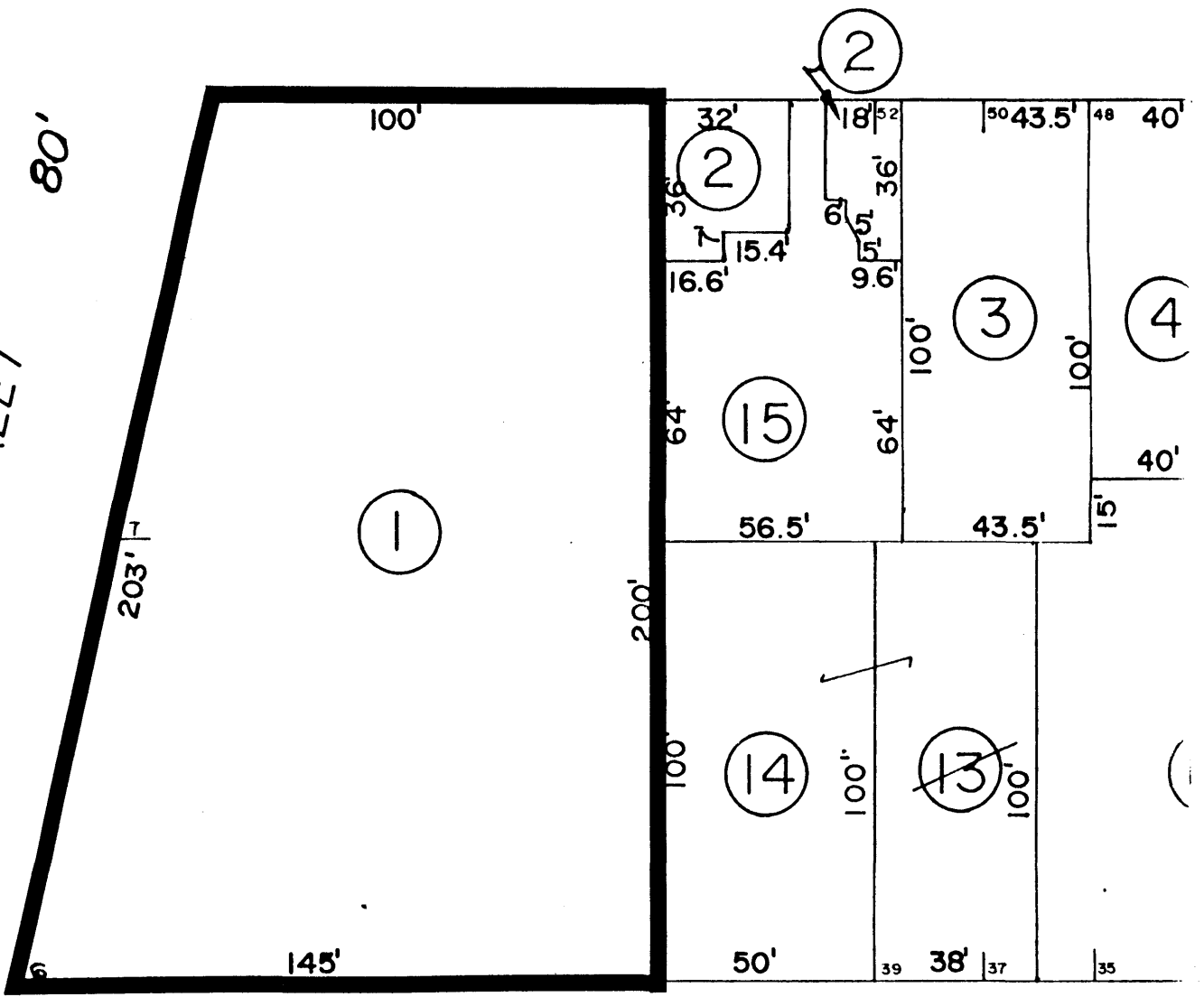
Date: c. 1980

Key: The nominated property is outlined by
a heavy black line. The house and its
additions are marked on the map.



CRAWFORD STREET

CLEVELAND (SELVIDGE) STREET



GORDON STREET

SKETCH MAP/TAX MAP
 WILLIAM C. MARTIN HOUSE
 Dalton, Whitfield County, Georgia

Scale: 1" = 40'
 Source: Whitfield County Tax Assessors Office
 Date: c. 1980
 Key: The nominated property is marked by a heavy black line.

