

1948

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Registration FormRECEIVED
NOV 21 1990NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Dr. John Wilson Martin House

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 200 Ash Street ☐ not for publication n/a
city, town Warren ☐ vicinity n/a
state Arkansas code AR county Bradley code AR 011 zip code 71671

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
3	1 buildings
	sites
	structures
	objects
3	1 Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
n/aNumber of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official
Arkansas Historic Preservation ProgramDate
11-16-90

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this 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:)Entered in the
National Register

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action
12/27/90

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Domestic/Single Family

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Recreation and Culture/Museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival
Queen Anne-Eastlake

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick
walls Wood/Weatherboard

roof Asphalt
other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

☒ See continuation sheet

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1

Summary

The Dr. John Wilson Martin House is a two-story, wood frame residential building designed in a simplified, vernacular interpretation of the Greek Revival style. Its' ell-shaped plan includes a full-length, shed roof, two story open front porch, a single-story screened porch on the eastern elevation of the two-story section, a single-story, gable roof, open entrance porch on the gable end of the rear ell and a shed roof enclosed room running along the western side of the ell and the northern side of the two-story, main section of the house.

Elaboration

The Dr. John Wilson Martin House is a two-story, wood frame residential building designed in a simplified, vernacular interpretation of the Greek Revival style. The main, two-story section is an I-House; the single story rear ell creates an "L"-shaped plan overall that also features a full-length, shed roof, two story open front porch supported by six turned posts on each story, a single-story screened porch on the eastern elevation of the two-story section, a single-story, gable roof, open entrance porch on the gable end of the rear ell and a shed roof enclosed room running along the western side of the ell and the northern side of the two-story, main section of the house. A single exterior end brick chimney with fireboxes on both floors rises through the center of the eastern gable end (an original identical chimney on the opposite elevation has been removed within the last fifteen years). A continuous brick foundation supports the weatherboarded walls, and the roof surfaces throughout are covered with asphalt shingle.

The southern or main facade of the house is six total bays in length, with the screened porch forming the sixth bay on the eastern end and the front wall of the house - divided into two window bays on each side of the central entrance - forming the other five. The first and second floors on this elevation are almost identical, with central, double-leaf entrances opening out onto the porch and two six-over-six wood sash windows placed to either side. The only difference between the entrances is that the first floor entrance is surrounded by an eleven-pane transom (noteworthy through its use of three smaller panes at each end flanking the five larger central panes) and two six-pane fixed half-sidelights, while the second story entrance lacks the transom. The two-story, full-length porch is supported by six turned posts on each story. A jig-sawn wood balustrade connects the posts on the second story, while the first story posts lack the balustrade and rest upon the wood porch deck and foundation. The screened porch bay at the eastern end is accessed via a central entrance and is itself supported upon three chamfered columns running its full length along the eastern elevation of the I-house portion.

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The eastern elevation is lighted by two symmetrically-placed six-over-six wood sash windows on the second floor that flank the central brick chimney; a single leaf entrance stands to the south of the chimney on the first floor, with a single six-over-six wood sash window lighting the wall to the north of the chimney. The overhanging eaves feature decorative Craftsman-style brackets (added later), and the screened first story porch is accessed via a screen door placed toward the southern end of the house. The single story ell to the north is lighted by three three-over-one wood sash windows. The western elevation of the I-house section is essentially identical, with the exception of the removal of the chimney. To the north, a smaller six-over-six wood sash window lights the shed roof room and the side of the rear ell is punctuated by a single leaf entrance and a two-over-two wood sash window placed toward the northern end.

The northern elevation of the rear ell is accessed by the single story, gable roof rear porch, placed to the east. The ell's gable end is lighted by two three-over-one wood sash windows placed to the west of the gable roof porch. To the west, the wall of the shed room attached to the rear of the I-house section is lighted on the first story by three six-over-one wood sash windows; it is lighted on the second story by a single six-over-six wood sash window placed directly above the middle window below.

The interior of the building is typical of such vernacular interpretations of the Greek Revival style. The large, single panel doors that provide access through the front entrances on both floors are matched by the single panels below the side-lights. Inside, the trim is characterized by the unmilled baseboards and door facings throughout. An extremely simple balustrade ornaments the stairwell at the back of the central hall and continues around the top of the stairwell above.

Though this building appears basically the same as it did when it was completed after the end of the Civil War, it has suffered some significant alterations. Historic photographs reveal the existence of squared, Greek Revival columns on the front porch that were designed so as to slope inward toward their capitals (a visual effect known as *entasis* that was first developed by the Greeks to make relatively small buildings appear more vertical). These were later replaced with columns formed from connected planks grouped together in a decorative fashion. The current posts were probably installed by 1910, as the Folk Victorian style began to go out of fashion thereafter. Other alterations include the extending of the eaves on the roof of the I-house section of the house and the addition of decorative brackets to support them. Furthermore, a comparison of even the latest Sanborn map with the current structure seems to indicate a significantly longer rear ell originally, a theory that is further supported by the fact that later Craftsman windows have been installed around the entire rear of the ell. And finally, the western chimney was removed within the last fifteen years, probably due to deterioration.

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Included in the nomination is the entire lot surrounding the house that has not been subdivided. Extant on this property are three outbuildings: an early brick structure (locally known as the kitchen), a deteriorated, gable roof wood frame building, and a Craftsman-style, wood frame, gable roof automobile garage that may or may not be historic. However, Sanborn maps from the early twentieth century (1912, 1920 and 1931) reveal the existence on this property of at least six other outbuildings of as yet undetermined use, though it is virtually certain that they were subsistence farming-related.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☒ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Archeology/Historic -- Non-Aboriginal

Period of Significance

1860-1900

1860-1940

Significant Dates

n/a

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

European

Significant Person

n/a

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

☒ See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ 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 # _____

☒ See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than one

UTM References

A

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

C

Zone			Easting					Northing						

B

Zone			Easting					Northing						

D

Zone			Easting					Northing						

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Lot 6, Block 30, City of Warren, Arkansas

☐ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

This boundary includes all the property historically associated with this resource.

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth Story, Architectural Historian

organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

street & number 225 E. Markham, Suite 200

city or town Little Rock

date November 16, 1990

telephone (501) 324-9346

state Arkansas zip code 72201

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National Park Service**

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Summary

Criteria C and D, local significance

The Dr. John Wilson Martin House is both the oldest known standing residence in the city of Warren and the best surviving example of the vernacular interpretations of the Greek Revival that were far more common in the Arkansas countryside during the antebellum period than the more popular, high-style designs. Furthermore, the documentary evidence that survives regarding its original outbuildings, combined with the visible surface record, distinguishes it as both the best known example in Warren of an urban farmstead and that most likely to reveal further information about such farmsteads in this vicinity.

Elaboration

John Wilson Martin was born in mountainous Harrison County, Virginia on June 8, 1819, the grandson of Colonel Benjamin Wilson, a veteran of both the Indian and Revolutionary Wars. He first studied medicine under a Dr. Clark of Parkersburg, West Virginia, and then came to New Orleans c. 1843 to attend lectures at Tulane University. Upon completion of the lecture series at Tulane, Martin came north by boat from New Orleans to join his older brother in southeast Arkansas, who had preceded J.W. Martin into the region by two years to work for Phelps and Company, commission merchants from New Orleans.

His first years in this new country were apparently quite lonely and difficult for the young doctor, as letters written by him to his siblings back in Virginia reveal a desire to know more about news from his native state and a hunger for more information about family and old friends. However, he also notes that the country around Warren is improving very fast as more settlers are arriving and clearing the land for farmsteads.

It is known that he settled in Warren by 1848, as the county marriage records indicate that he married Mary Elizabeth Franklin in that year, a daughter of one of the original ten families to settle the area around the present-day site of Warren. Dr. J.W. Martin established a flourishing practice throughout Bradley County over the next several decades, often riding on horseback all day to reach the frequently remote residences of the afflicted. He also became active in the Methodist church, where he served as both deacon and teacher. He took his relaxation in hunting, of which he found abundant opportunity in the game-rich wilds of mid-nineteenth century southeast Arkansas.

Naturally, his medical practice was especially active, if not profitable, during the Civil War. Stories abound of Dr. Martin's nightlong rides around the countryside to reach wounded Confederate soldiers while trying all the while to avoid Yankee patrols. He was less successful

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at keeping his valued collection of horses from the Federals, who frequently requisitioned whatever mounts they needed from his family stables.

Dr. J.W. Martin embarked in the mercantile business after the Civil War in partnership with a Mr. Goodwin and pursued that line of work in addition to his medical practice for several years thereafter. He died on February 11, 1910, living to be over ninety years old.

There is virtually no documentation regarding the construction of the house, though the oral tradition maintains that construction was begun in 1860, and then delayed until after the end of the Civil War, when the building was completed. The earliest surviving historic photograph of the house was taken in the 1880's and gives us our first glimpse of the original supports for the full-length front porch. However, Dr. Martin was a slave-owner before the war, and it is likely that among his slaves were craftsmen who helped him design and construct the building according to the designs of other local residential construction they had seen. The style of the building is typical of the vernacular interpretations of the Greek Revival that abounded throughout Arkansas during this period. The standard transom and half-sidelights, the six-over-six wood sash windows, the full-length, two-story porch galleries along the front of the house, and the long rear ell in which meals were prepared and brought around through the covered rear shed rooms to the dining room are all features of the Greek Revival houses of this period constructed in this part of the state. In spite of the alterations, the Dr. John Wilson Martin House remains the best surviving example in Warren of this particular floor plan and vernacular architectural style.

The section of the original lot that remains intact around the house and the surviving outbuildings also have the potential to reveal further information about the occupation of the site by Dr. Martin, his family and possibly even his slaves. The earliest Sanborn map on which this lot appears, that for the year 1912, reveals no fewer than nine wood frame outbuildings in addition to the extant brick building. The two westernmost buildings (now demolished, with their site having become part of another house lot that was subdivided from this one) were identified as stables; the purpose of the others is not indicated. However, when one considers that J.W. Martin was a doctor, it is likely that at least one of the buildings was an office and medicine preparation area (Dr. Martin made all of his own remedies and powders). Furthermore, with a total of twelve children living in the house, food storage facilities, a privy or privies, livestock shelters, smokehouses and other such facilities common to most farmsteads, rural or urban, must have been required. Though only the brick building to the north of the house and the small frame building to the west of the house survive from the historic occupation of the site, the relatively undisturbed nature of the site combined with the afore-mentioned documentary evidence of the abundance of structures that existed as of 1912 clearly indicate the site's archeological potential to reveal further information about the urban farmstead and the professional practice that was operated here by Dr. Martin and his family. Specifically, the evidence may reveal valuable information about early rural medicine

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in southeastern Arkansas; the extent to which this family may or may not have enjoyed commercial, cultural and social interactions with the outside world, given the relatively landlocked nature of this area; and about the agricultural practices and methods employed by the family in the process of maintaining this urban farmstead and providing for their daily subsistence needs.

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Bibliography

Edwards, Gladys, "Mementos Recall Lives and Living of Long Ago," *The Eagle Democrat*, Warren, Arkansas, April 5, 1951, pg. 8.

Meek, Elizabeth M., "Two Pioneer Doctors of Southeast Arkansas: John Wilson Martin and Charles Nicklin Martin," *Arkansas Historical Quarterly*, Vol. V, No. 2, Summer, 1946, pp. 114-119.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Company Maps; Warren, Arkansas: 1912, 1920, and 1931.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Martin, Dr. John Wilson, House

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Bradley

DATE RECEIVED: 11/21/90 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 12/04/90
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 12/20/90 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/05/91
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 90001948

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 12/27/90 DATE

Entered in the
National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA _____
REVIEWER _____
DISCIPLINE _____
DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

CLASSIFICATION

___count ___resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

___historic ___current

DESCRIPTION

___architectural classification
___materials
___descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

___summary paragraph
___completeness
___clarity
___applicable criteria
___justification of areas checked
___relating significance to the resource
___context
___relationship of integrity to significance
___justification of exception
___other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

___acreage ___verbal boundary description
___UTMs ___boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

___sketch maps ___USGS maps ___photographs ___presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Signed _____ Phone _____

Date _____



DR. JOHN WILSON MARTIN HOUSE

WARREN, ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY J. DEPOSE

JULY, 1989

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW FROM SOUTH



DR. JOHN WILSON MARTIN HOUSE

WARREN, ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY V. DE ROSE

JULY, 1989

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW FROM NORTHEAST



DR. JOHN WILSON MARTIN HOUSE
WARREN, ARKANSAS
PHOTOGRAPHED BY V. DEPOSE
JULY, 1989
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP
VIEW FROM SOUTHEAST



DR. JOHN WILSON MARTIN HOUSE

WARREN, ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY J. DEROSE

JULY, ~~1988~~ 1989

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

WINDOW DETAIL



DR. JOHN WILSON MARTIN HOUSE
WARREN, ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY J. DE ROSE
JULY, 1989

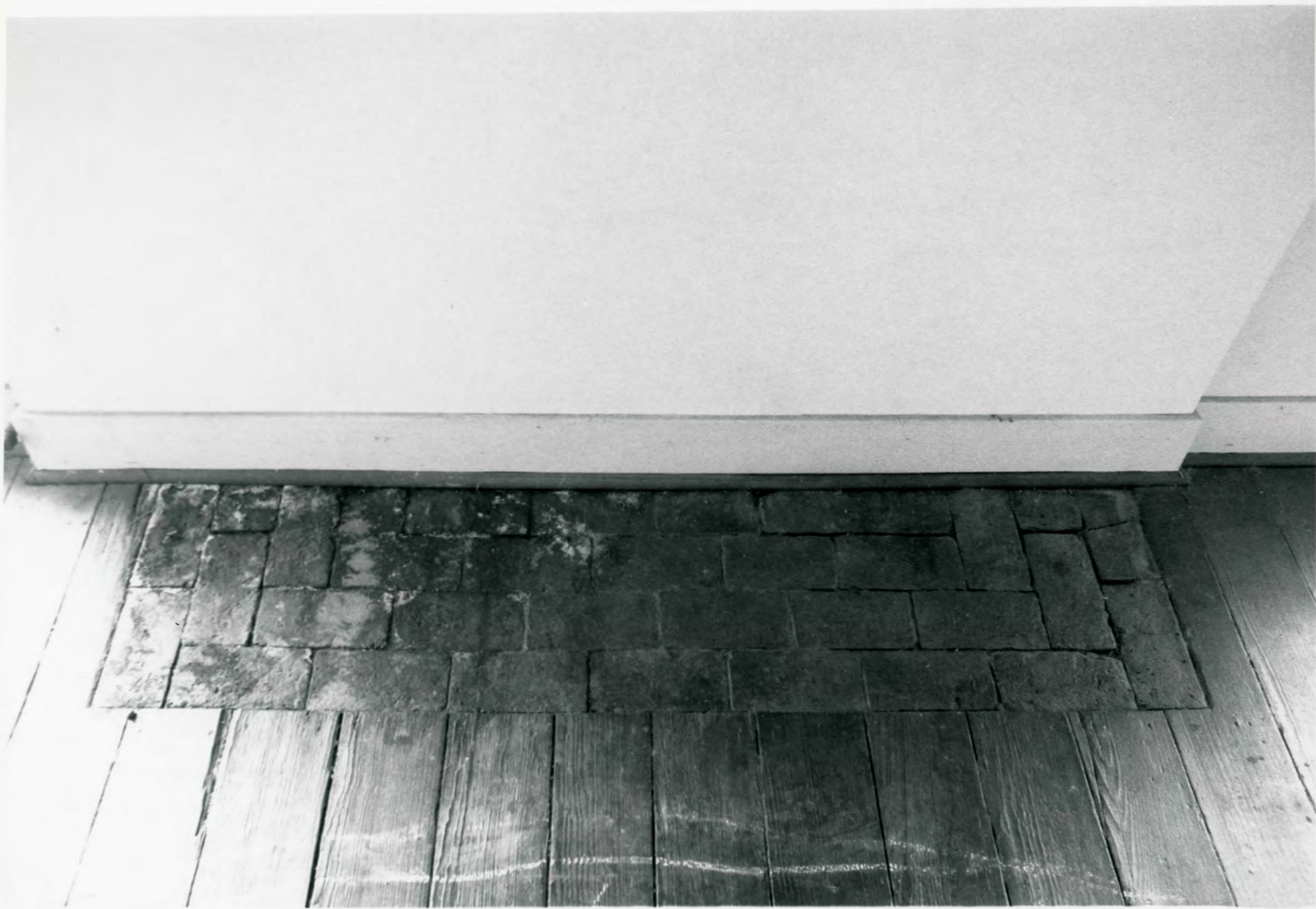
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP
VIEW OF CENTRAL HALLWAY



DR. JOHN WILSON MARTIN HOUSE
WARREN, ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY V. DE ROSE
JULY, 1989

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP
VIEW OF SECOND STORY HALLWAY



DR. JOHN WILSON MARTIN HOUSE
WARREN, ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY V. DEPOSE
JULY, 1989

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW OF UPSTAIRS FLOORING AND LOCATION OF
REMOVED FIREPLACE



DR. JOHN WILSON MARTIN HOUSE
WARREN, ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY J. DEPOSE
JULY, 1989

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP
INTERIOR STAIRWAY



DR. JOHN WILSON MARTIN HOUSE

WARREN, ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY V. DE ROSE

JULY, 1989

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

UPSTAIRS DOORS



DR. JOHN WILSON MARTIN HOUSE
WARREN, ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY V. DE ROSE
JULY, 1989

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW OF NON-CONTRIBUTING OUTBUILDING
FROM NORTHEAST



DR. JOHN WILSON MARTIN HOUSE

WARREN, ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY J. DEPOSE

JULY, 1989

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

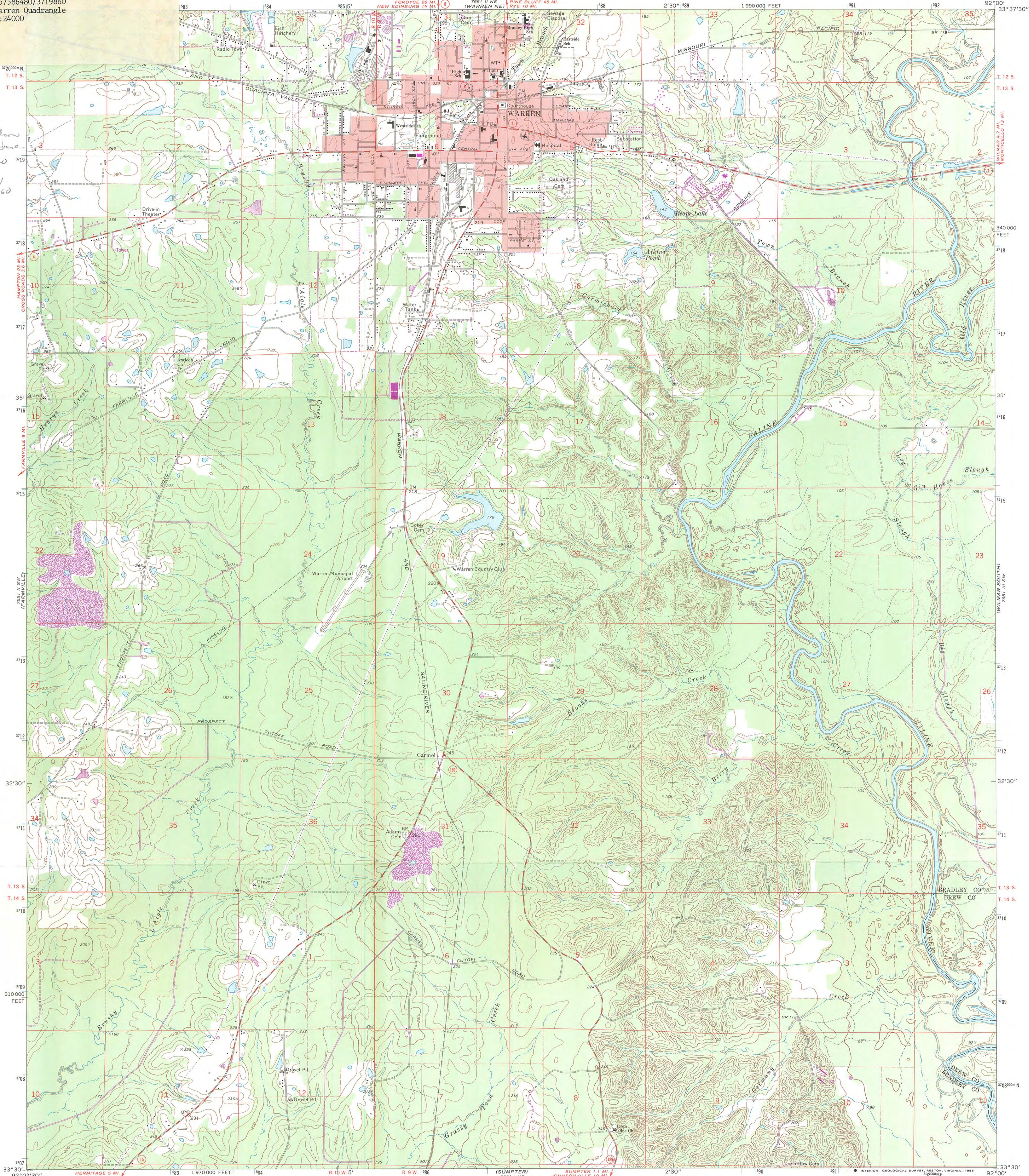
VIEW OF HISTORIC BRICK OUTBUILDING
FROM SOUTH

Dr. John Wilson Martin House
Warren, Arkansas
Bradley County
15/586480/3719860
Warren Quadrangle
1:24000

WARREN QUADRANGLE
ARKANSAS
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

1851 11 N W
WILMAR 12 N W
NORTH

John Wilson
Martin House
Bradley Co
AR
15586480/
3719860



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USC&GS

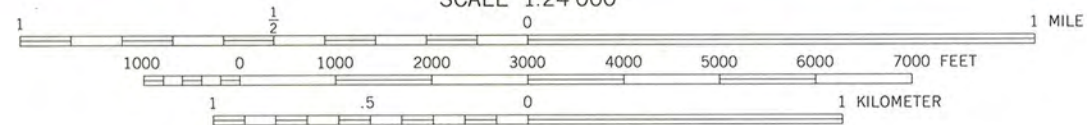
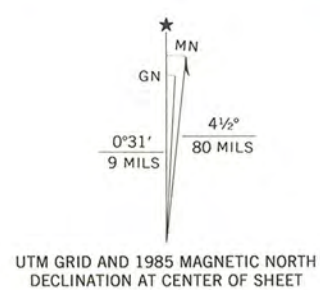
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1972. Field checked 1973

Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Arkansas coordinate system, south zone (Lambert conformal conic)
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 15, shown in blue. 1927 North American datum

Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983, move the projection lines 10 meters south and 13 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken 1984 and other sources. This information not field checked. Map edited 1985



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 5-FOOT CONTOURS
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929



ROAD CLASSIFICATION	
Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U. S. Route
	State Route

WARREN, ARK.

33092-E1-TF-024

1973
PHOTO REVISÉ 1985
DMA 7551 II SE-SERIES V884

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225 OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72204
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST