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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

JUN 16 1989

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
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 Martin, Warner, House  
other names/site number Martin, Warner, House (BL-1818)

2. Location

street & number At junction of Central Point Road & Old Nails Creek  N/A not for publication  
city, town Road - Rockford  vicinity  
state Tennessee code TN county Blount code 009 zip code 37853

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Hist. & Arch. Resources of Blount Co.  
Number 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.

Robert P. Berger 6/13/89  
Signature of certifying official Date  
Deputy SHPO, Tennessee Historical Commission  
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:)

Alton Byers Entered in the National Register 7/25/89  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/Not In Use

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

OTHER/I-House

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Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Limestone

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walls Weatherboard

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roof Metal

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other Wood

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**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

The Warner Martin House is a two-story timber frame, 5 bay, central passage plan I-House. The house appears to have been built in two separate stages. The east two-story, two bay single frame pen section was built ca. 1793 and consisted of one large room on each floor. Around ca. 1810, the house was enlarged into its present central hall plan with a one-story rear ell. The house has a limestone block foundation, weatherboard siding, exterior end brick chimneys and gable roof of metal standing seam. The chimneys have stone foundations and are of 5 course common bond construction. On the main facade is a one-story shed roof porch added ca. 1900 with round columns and a tongue-in-groove ceiling. A concrete and marble base has been added to the porch.

The main entrance has original double doors with three raised panels and the door is of pegged construction. Above the door is a rectangular transom but the original lights have been removed. Window openings are original with ca. 1880 two-over-two sash added. The exterior has original weatherboard with hand cut nails. Central doors on the main facade of the ca. 1793 east pen were enclosed in the ca. 1810 remodeling and weatherboard added then. The rear wing has ca. 1880 four panel doors and ca. 1910 six panel doors. The rear porch in the one-story ell was added ca. 1900 with a shed roof and square columns. A similar porch was added across the rear of the house around ca. 1900.

The interior of the house is remarkably preserved and retains original floors, ceilings, and wall boards and panels. The first floor west pen has an original ca. 1810 fluted mantle. The door leading to the room is of three panel frame design. The ca. 1810 staircase has a square newel post and balusters with a curved handrail. At the top of the stairs is a railing with acorn design pendants on the handrail. In the first floor west pen is a chair rail and fluted mantle of Federal design. In the one-story ell is a continuation of the chair rail and an undecorated mantle. In the north room of the one-story ell is an original kitchen area with a large brick fireplace opening approximately 4' wide.

To the east of the house is a ca. 1900 non-contributing one-story, frame privy. No other pre-1940 outbuildings associated with the property are extant. The house is located in a rural section of the county to the northeast of Maryville.

See continuation sheet

**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    N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

ca. 1793 - ca. 1810

Significant Dates

1793

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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

The Warner Martin House is significant under criterion C for its architectural significance. The house is the oldest timber frame residence remaining in Blount County and the original section was built ca. 1793 for Warner Martin. Martin was one of the first settlers of the county and was known for his mill he operated on nearby Nails Creek. The house was enlarged into its present form ca. 1810 and has not been significantly altered. The interior of the house retains some of the finest detailing of the period known to exist in the county.

Warner Martin was one of the first settlers in Blount County arriving in the early 1790s. He purchased land along Nails Creek prior to the formation of the county and built the first section of a two-story frame residence ca. 1793. In 1801, Martin was listed as a taxpayer in the county and owned two slaves. Martin was known for the grist mill he operated on nearby Nails Creek which was one of the first mills known to be in operation in the county. Martin appears to have enlarged his house into its present form ca. 1810 and this enlargement included finely crafted doors, mantles, and central staircase. When it was completed the house was one of the finest in the county and is the only example of a frame plantation home of the settlement period. Upon Martin's death he was one of the largest landowners in the county with over 1,500 acres going to heirs.

The Martin family owned and operated the mill on Nails Creek for several decades with the property owned by Warner Martin heirs, Joshua Martin and John C. Martin. In 1866, Sarah K. Martin, John C. Martin's widow, sold the house and mill to Thomas Sanderson. Sanderson used the house as his residence and installed wool carding machinery in the mill. The Sanderson family owned the house until 1887 and the property has since been in the hands of the Beason and Delozier families. The house has been vacant for at least two decades and is used as storage by the present owners. No listing for the mill on Nails Creek appears after the 1870s and no trace of the site remains.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

- Blount County Deed Records. 1800 - 1989. Blount County Courthouse, Maryville, Tennessee.
- Burns, Inez E. History of Blount County, Tennessee: From War Trail to Landing Strip. Tennessee Historical Commission, Mary Blount Chapter DAR, 1957.
- Morgan, John. Blount County Cultural Resource Survey. Tennessee Historical Commission, Nashville, Tennessee.

See continuation sheet

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

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property Less than 1 acre.

UTM References

A 17 239860 3967825  
 Zone Easting Northing

B \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zone Easting Northing

C \_\_\_\_\_

D \_\_\_\_\_

Maryville Quad

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary for the Warner Martin House is illustrated on accompanying Blount County tax map 28, lot 22, which is drawn at a scale of 1" = 400'. The house sits in an open field and the property is a rectangular parcel which measures 100' by 100' and whose northwest corner is 25' directly northwest of the northwest corner of the foundation of the house and whose southeast corner is 25' directly southeast of the southeast corner of the foundation of the house.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary for the Warner Martin House includes the house and one adjacent non-contributing early 20th century structure. There are no other significant buildings or sites located on the property.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Philip Thomason

organization Thomason and Associates date 3/30/89

street & number P.O. Box 121225 telephone 615-383-0227

city or town Nashville state TN zip code 37212

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Photographs  
Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 1

~~Hist. and Arch. Resources of Blount Co.~~

Warner Martin House  
Central Point Rd., Rockford Vic., Blount County, TN  
Photographs By: Thomason and Assoc.  
Date: Fall, 1988  
Location of Neg: THC

View: South facade.  
Photo # 1

View: South and west facades.  
Photo # 2

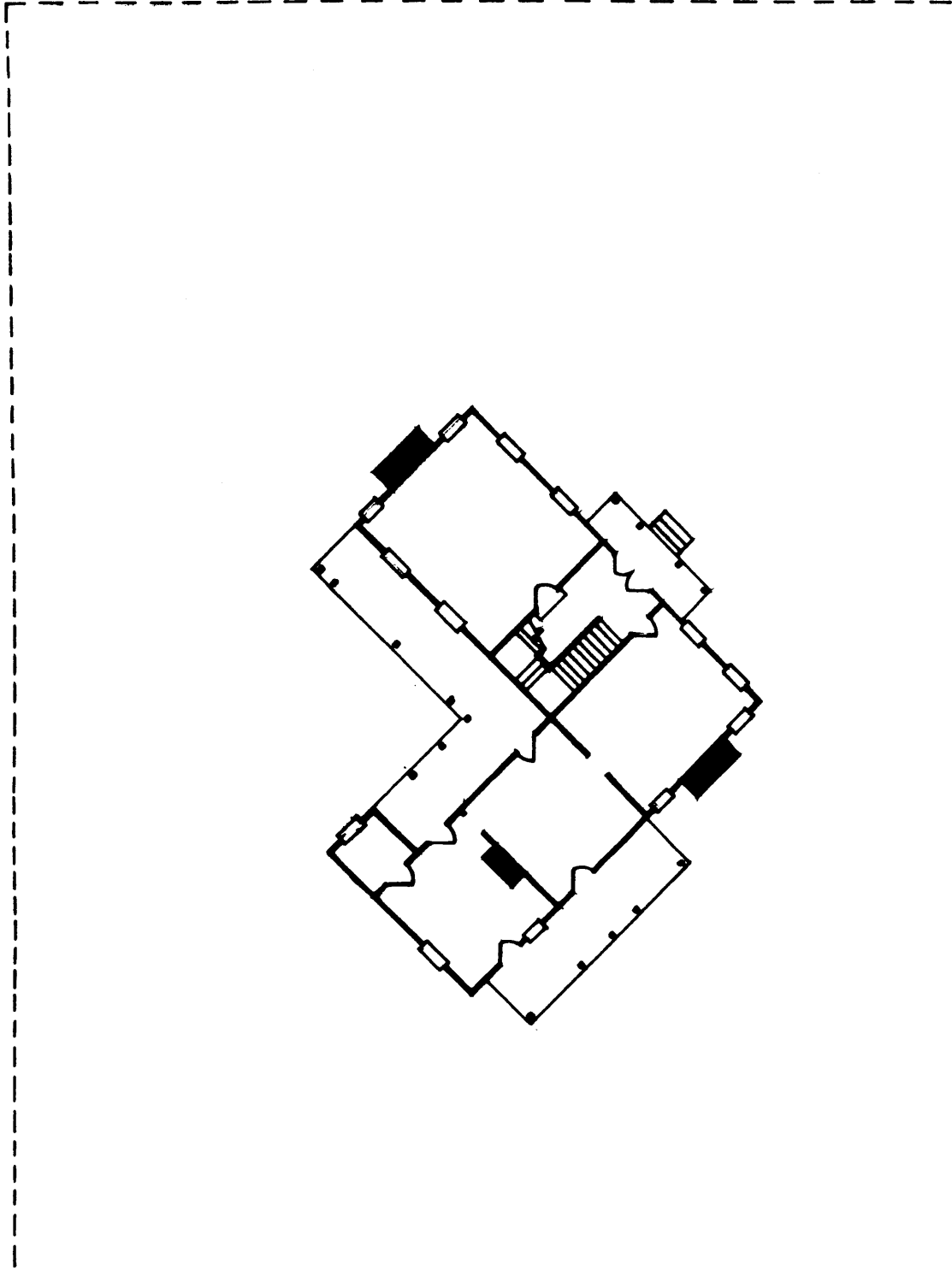
View: West and north facades.  
Photo # 3

View: North facade.  
Photo # 4

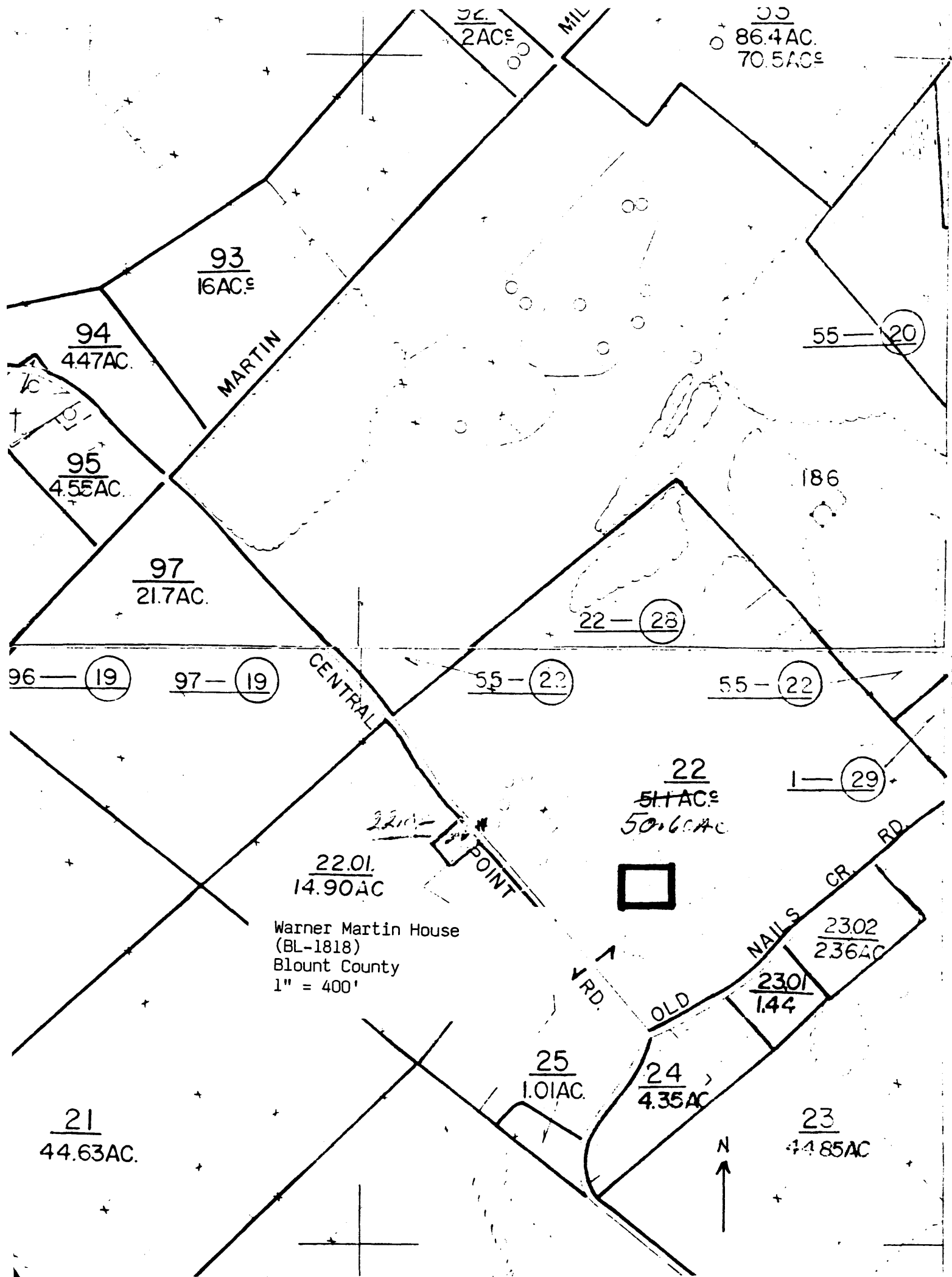
View: Interior, staircase.  
Photo # 5

View: Interior, staircase.  
Photo # 6

#1818 - WARNER MARTIN HOUSE



CENTRAL POINT ROAD



30  
86.4AC.  
70.5AC

22  
2AC

93  
16AC

94  
4.47AC

95  
4.55AC

97  
21.7AC

55 — (20)

186

22 — (28)

96 — (19)

97 — (19)

55 — (22)

55 — (22)

1 — (29)

22  
51.1AC  
50.6AC

22.01  
14.90AC

Warner Martin House  
(BL-1818)  
Blount County  
1" = 400'

2302  
236AC

2301  
1.44

25  
1.01AC

24  
4.35AC

23  
44.85AC

21  
44.63AC

