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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

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 Historic District
other names/site number n/a

2. Location

street & number Along both sides of Georgia Hwy 17 and the Norfolk Southern Railroad
city, town Martin (n/a) vicinity of
county Stephens code GA 257
state Georgia code GA zip code 30557

(n/a) not for publication

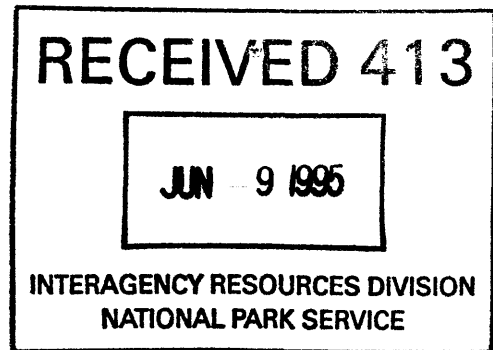
3. Classification

Ownership of Property:

- private
- public-local
- public-state
- public-federal

Category of Property

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



Number of Resources within Property:

| | <u>Contributing</u> | <u>Noncontributing</u> |
|------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| buildings | 40 | 22 |
| sites | 1 | 0 |
| structures | 1 | 1 |
| objects | 0 | 0 |
| total | 42 | 23 |

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: n/a

Name of related multiple property listing: n/a

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 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 the National Register criteria. () See continuation sheet.

Mark R. Edwards
Signature of certifying official

6/05/95
Date

Mark R. Edwards
State Historic Preservation Officer,
Georgia Department of Natural Resources

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 or bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

Edson H. Beall 7/7/95

determined eligible for the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other, explain:

see continuation sheet

Signature, Keeper of the National Register

Date

for

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
COMMERCE/TRADE/specialty store/department store/financial institution
TRANSPORTATION/rail-related
EDUCATION/school
FUNERARY/cemetery

Current Functions:

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
COMMERCE/TRADE/specialty store
TRANSPORTATION/rail-related
RECREATION AND CULTURE/auditorium
FUNERARY/cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

LATE VICTORIAN/Queen Anne
LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/Colonial Revival/Classical Revival
LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS/Bungalow/Craftsman
OTHER: Folk Victorian

Materials:

foundation brick, stone
walls weatherboard, brick
roof asphalt, metal
other wood, shingle, stone, vinyl

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

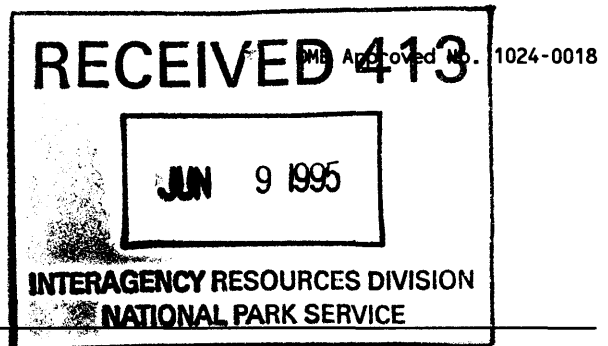
The Martin Historic District consists of the historic commercial and residential development of the small town of Martin, in Stephens County in northeast Georgia. The town of Martin developed along the historic railroad corridor, and the rail line still runs through the middle of the district. Parallel to the rail line is Georgia Highway 17, the main road through town. At the center of Martin is the historic commercial area. Residential development grew up around the commercial center along both sides of the rail line. Martin is an example of a railroad strip community, as defined by Georgia's historic community typology. The district includes a range of historic resources, from commercial buildings to large, high-style houses to more modest houses and a few remaining outbuildings.

The historic commercial area is located at the center of the district at the intersection of the railroad and Bank Street. The railroad depot (photo #21) sits between the rail line and the main road in this commercial area. The depot was constructed in 1877 and is a small, wood-framed building with gabled roof and widely overhanging eaves that identify it as a depot. The commercial buildings are one-story, attached brick buildings fronting on the main road and the railroad

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corridor (photo #19, 20). The majority of these buildings were constructed in the 1890s. Most of them retain their wooden storefronts with large display windows and double entrance doors. They have simple Folk Victorian-style details including a variety of corbeled brick cornices and round-arched and segmentally arched window and door openings. A c.1940 gas station with smooth stuccoed wall surfaces and flat roof is an example of the streamlined commercial design of the automobile era (photo #18).

The residential buildings in the district are characteristic in style and type of the kinds of buildings constructed in small Georgia towns from the late-19th into the mid-20th century. More than the usual number of large, high-style houses for such a small town are found in Martin. Stylistic influences include Queen Anne, Folk Victorian, Neoclassical Revival, Colonial Revival, and Craftsman. There are several large Queen Anne-style houses, including the c.1895 T.R. Yow House (photo #6), the c.1904 Dean House (photo #5 on the left), the c.1904 Walters-Alexander House (photo #3), and the c.1908 Mitchell-Mills House (photo #15). The Yow House in photo #7 is a good example of the Neoclassical Revival style with Colonial Revival details. Another Yow House in photo #16 is an interesting combination of Neoclassical Revival, Colonial Revival, and Craftsman stylistic features. The Cole-Yow House (photo #10) is an example of a Craftsman-style bungalow reportedly taken from a pattern book by Atlanta-based architect Leila Ross Wilburn.

A number of house types are found in the district, including Queen Anne, Georgian, gabled ell, New South, central hallway, I-house, and bungalow. Two good examples of gabled ells are photo #9 and photo #14. The house in photo #21 is an example of the New South house type. The house on the left in photo #1 is an I-house, and the house on the right in photo #5 is an example of a central hallway. A number of outbuildings, such as barns and garages, also remain in the district (photo #8 in the center).

Historic community resources in the district are the school building and cemetery. The school (photo #2) was constructed in 1902 as a private school, the Martin Institute, and later served as a public school. It is a brick building with large hipped roof and a center front-gabled section containing the main entrance. The building is now used as a community center. The historic cemetery within the district was originally part of the Methodist Church property, which stood nearby but is no longer extant. The cemetery has a number of historic ornamental monuments (photo #11).

Landscaping within the district is informal. The houses generally sit on large lots with grassed lawns, large shade trees, and a number of smaller planted trees and shrubs. This type of landscaping is

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characteristic of the New South landscaping found in numerous Georgia communities from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Stone retaining walls are found in several yards (photo #6, 9). An example of more formal landscaping is found at the Yow House (photo #7), including the circular drive with landscaped center in front of the house.

Surrounding the district are agricultural and pasture lands that in some places come right up into town, giving the town a rural feeling (photo #4, 8). Also outside the district is more recent residential and commercial development.

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): N/A

A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):

Architecture
Commerce
Community Planning and Development
Transportation

Period of Significance:

1877-1944

Significant Dates:

1877 - construction of railroad depot and establishment of community
1891 - incorporation of city of Martin

Significant Person(s):

n/a

Cultural Affiliation:

n/a

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Wilburn, Leila Ross (pattern book)

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Significance of property, justification of criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above:

Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)

The Martin Historic District is the historic commercial and residential center of the city of Martin. It is significant in the areas of architecture, commerce, community planning and development, and transportation. These areas of significance support National Register eligibility under Criteria A and C.

The district is significant in architecture for its historic commercial, residential, and community buildings constructed from 1877 into the 1940s. The commercial buildings in Martin are typical of the types of masonry buildings constructed in small Georgia downtowns for commercial use during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. These one-story, attached, brick buildings have simple details such as corbeled brick cornices, arched window and door openings, and wooden storefronts. Martin's residential buildings represent the styles and types of houses popular in the late-19th- to mid-20th-century period in Georgia towns. These include Queen Anne, Folk Victorian, both Neoclassical and Colonial Revival, and Craftsman styles, as well as examples of Queen Anne, Georgian, gabled ell, New South, central hallway, I-house, and bungalow house types. The 1902 school building is representative of a historic educational building that served the community.

The district is significant in commerce for its historic central business district that served the commercial needs of Martin and surrounding areas. The establishment of Martin provided a center for shipping cotton grown in the surrounding area to various markets by rail. Both a cotton gin and a cotton seed oil company also once operated in Martin. The town's commercial center developed as a result of the commercial activity centered on the depot. This commercial activity is represented by the remaining historic commercial buildings in the district.

The district is significant in community planning and development for its representation of the development of the small railroad community of Martin. Martin was established in 1877 with the construction of the railroad depot at the crossroads of the Air Line Railroad and a well-established transportation route called the Red Hollow Road. The railroad served as the commercial lifeline of the town, and the community grew up along both sides of the rail line. The town was incorporated in 1891. Martin is an example of the railroad strip community type, as defined in Georgia's historic community typology, due to its development in a linear pattern along both sides of the rail line.

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The district is significant in transportation for the very important role of the railroad in the town's existence and development. Martin became a center for shipping cotton to market by rail. The town's transportation history is represented by the presence of the rail line, depot, and commercial buildings directed related to the commercial transportation activity that revolved around the railroad.

National Register Criteria

The district is eligible under Criterion A for its development as a historic railroad community. It is eligible under Criterion C for its historic residential, commercial, and community architecture.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

n/a

Period of significance (justification)

The period of significance is 1877-1944. 1877 is the date of construction of the railroad depot, the earliest building in the district. 1944 was the 50-year cut-off date when the district documentation was compiled.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

Contributing resources are those constructed from 1877 to 1944 that retain their historic integrity. Noncontributing resources are those constructed after 1944 and those that have lost their historic integrity due to extensive alterations. The contributing structure is the railroad corridor. The noncontributing structure is a nonhistoric water tower. The contributing site is the cemetery.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Butler, Scott. Historic District Information Form, June 1992. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia, with supplemental information.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): (x) 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:

- (x) State historic preservation office
- () Other State Agency
- () Federal agency
- () Local government
- () University
- () Other, Specify Repository:

Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

St-M-1 to St-M-29

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 100 acres.

UTM References

- A) Zone 17 Easting 298795 Northing 3818525
- B) Zone 17 Easting 299415 Northing 3818755
- C) Zone 17 Easting 299870 Northing 3817510
- D) Zone 17 Easting 299265 Northing 3817285

Verbal Boundary Description

The district boundary encompasses the contiguous historic development in the city of Martin along both sides of the Norfolk Southern Railroad and Georgia Highway 17. The district boundary is drawn to scale on the enclosed tax map.

Boundary Justification

The district boundary encompasses the intact historic commercial and residential center of the city of Martin.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Debbie Curtis, Architectural Historian
organization Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
street & number 205 Butler Street, S.E., Suite 1462
city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30334
telephone (404) 656-2840 **date** May 26, 1995

(HPS form version 10-29-91)

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Photographs

Name of Property: Martin Historic District
City or Vicinity: Martin
County: Stephens
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: December 1993

Description of Photograph(s):

- 1 of 23: The west side of Georgia Highway 17 south of Walters Road; photographer facing northwest.
- 2 of 23: Historic school building at the corner of Highway 17 and Walters Road; photographer facing southwest.
- 3 of 23: House on Walters Road; photographer facing northeast.
- 4 of 23: View from Walters Road toward Red Hollow Road, Highway 17, and the rail line showing pasture land; photographer facing north.
- 5 of 23: Houses on the west side of Red Hollow Road south of Ludrum Drive; photographer facing northwest.
- 6 of 23: House on the west side of Red Hollow Road south of Martin Road; photographer facing west.
- 7 of 23: House at the corner of Red Hollow Road and Martin Road; photographer facing west.
- 8 of 23: Houses and outbuildings off Martin Road; photographer facing northwest.
- 9 of 23: House on Avalon Street north of Martin Road; photographer facing west.
- 10 of 23: House on Avalon Street north of Martin Road, design reportedly taken from Leila Ross Wilburn pattern book; photographer facing west.
- 11 of 23: Historic cemetery at the corner of Highway 17 and West Mitchell Street; photographer facing northwest.
- 12 of 23: House on Knox Street; photographer facing northeast.

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Photographs

13 of 23: Bank Street; photographer facing east.

14 of 23: House on Lyons Street; photographer facing northeast.

15 of 23: House on Lyons Street at Knox Street; photographer facing east.

16 of 23: House on the east side of Highway 17 between Lyons and Mitchell Streets; photographer facing northeast.

17 of 23: Lyons Street; photographer facing northeast.

18 of 23: Historic commercial area on the east side of Highway 17 between Lyons and Bank Streets; photographer facing north.






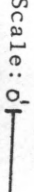
19 of 23: Historic commercial buildings on Highway 17 south of Bank Street; photographer facing northeast.

20 of 23: Historic commercial buildings on Highway 17 north of Bank Street; photographer facing northeast.

21 of 23: Historic depot between Highway 17 and the rail line; photographer facing northeast.

22 of 23: Intersection of Highway 17 and Bank Street; photographer facing east.

23 of 23: House on the east side of Highway 17 north of the commercial area; photographer facing northeast.

Martin Historic District
 Stephens County, Georgia
 Historic District Map
 District Boundary: 
 Contributing Property: 
 Noncontributing Property: 
 Photo/Direction of View: 
 North: 
 Scale: 0'  400'

