

894

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

JUN 16 1989

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, John, Mill  
other names/site number Martin, John, Mill (BL-1587)

2. Location

street & number On Mill Road three-tenths of a mile south of N/A not for publication  
city, town intersection with West Millers Cove Road - Walland  vicinity  
state Tennessee code TN county Blount code 009 zip code 37886

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>        </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	<u>        </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>2</u>	<u>        </u> objects
			<u>        </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 L. Bryan 6/8/89  
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:) \_\_\_\_\_  
Albous Bryan 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)

INDUSTRY/Manufacturing Facility

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

OTHER/Turn-of-the Century Industrial

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Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stonewalls Weatherboard

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roof Metalother Wood

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**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

The John Martin Mill is a two-story frame, rectangular plan, six bay mill building constructed ca. 1900. The building has a gable roof of metal standing seam, weatherboard siding, a concrete foundation, and interior flues. The door leading to the second story is a ca. 1950 frame and glass design. On the first floor the door is original diagonal frame design. Windows are original four light casement, two-over-two sash and ca. 1960 hinged louvered design. On the main (north) facade is an added one story shed roof c. 1970 metal and frame porch which encloses the main entrance.

The second story has been remodeled into a residence but the first story retains its original floor plan and mill equipment. The mill was originally powered by a turbine wheel which was located underneath the mill building. Water was channeled through a concrete flue into the building and flowed through to power the turbine. Adjacent to the mill is a c. 1900 concrete mill dam which is a contributing structure. The interior retains original five panel doors, exposed ceiling beams, and wide floor boards. No interior photographs were possible. The mill sits on the north bank of Hesse Creek in a rural area of West Millers Cove.

**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)

Industry  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

ca. 1900 - ca. 1939  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

1900  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

The John Martin Mill is significant under criterion A for its association with the milling industry of the county. Water powered grist mills were the primary industry of the county and there were dozens of mills in operation during the 19th century. These mills supplied residents with corn and wheat products and often also provided sawn lumber. Mills were important commercial centers and focal points for rural areas. The John Martin Mill is one of four relatively unaltered extant mills in the county. The mill was built ca. 1900 and retains the majority of its original design and site and setting.

The first mill at this location was built by John Hesse around 1796 for which Hesse Creek is named. Hesse operated the mill for a number of years and it was later owned by Josias Gamble and Vance Walker who sold the mill in 1867 to John L. Martin. The Martin family operated the mill for the next seventy years and around 1900 the original mill building was replaced with the present mill and concrete dam. This building was constructed by Martin's son, John V. "Snakey" Martin. John V. Martin was a well known miller of the period and constructed White's Mill on Crooked Creek in the early 1900s. Martin operated the mill until the late 1930s and sold the property in 1940. The operation of the mill was discontinued and the second floor was later converted into a residence. The present owners have owned the building and site since 1955.

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**

Acres of property Less than 1 acre.

UTM References

A 

1	7	2	4	4	5	7	0	3	9	5	5	1	8	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

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B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Kinzel Springs Quad

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary for the John Martin Mill is illustrated on accompanying Blount County tax map 83, lot 10, which is drawn at a scale of 1" = 400'. The property is bounded on the west by a fence line and by a line which is located approximately 5' from the western foundation of the mill building and extends south across Hesse Creek to the south bank of the creek. The east boundary is a fence line and line which is located approximately 45' to the east of the eastern foundation of the building and extends to  See continuation sheet the south across Hesse Creek to the southern bank of the creek. The property is bounded on the north by the south

**Boundary Justification** right-of-way of Mill Road, and on the south by the south bank of Hesse Creek.

The boundary for the John Martin Mill includes the entire mill property historically associated with the site. This includes the mill building and adjacent concrete dam. No other significant site features are located outside the property boundary and the boundary excludes modern buildings to the north  See continuation sheet and west.

**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**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Photographs Page 1 Hist. and Arch. Resources of Blount Co.

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John Martin Mill  
West Millers Cove Rd., Walland vic., Blount County, TN  
Photographs By: Thomason and Assoc.  
Date: Fall, 1988  
Location of Neg: THC

View: West and north facades.  
Photo # 1

View: East and south facades.  
Photo # 2

View: West and south facades.  
Photo # 3

View: Dam.  
Photo # 4



