

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**DATA SHEET**

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED MAY 2 1977  
DATE ENTERED NOV 23 1977

**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

Lavery - Martindale House

AND/OR COMMON

Martindale House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

237 South Tenth Street

\_\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

La Crosse

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Third

STATE

Wisconsin 54601

CODE

55

COUNTY

La Crosse

CODE

063

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- \_\_\_ DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- \_\_\_ STRUCTURE
- \_\_\_ SITE
- \_\_\_ OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- \_\_\_ PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- \_\_\_ BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- \_\_\_ IN PROCESS
- \_\_\_ BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- \_\_\_ UNOCCUPIED
- \_\_\_ WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- \_\_\_ YES: RESTRICTED
- \_\_\_ YES: UNRESTRICTED
- \_\_\_ NO

**PRESENT USE**

- \_\_\_ AGRICULTURE
- \_\_\_ COMMERCIAL
- \_\_\_ EDUCATIONAL
- \_\_\_ ENTERTAINMENT
- \_\_\_ GOVERNMENT
- \_\_\_ INDUSTRIAL
- \_\_\_ MILITARY
- \_\_\_ MUSEUM
- \_\_\_ PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- \_\_\_ RELIGIOUS
- \_\_\_ SCIENTIFIC
- \_\_\_ TRANSPORTATION
- \_\_\_ OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Miss Katharine Martindale

STREET & NUMBER

237 South Tenth Street

CITY, TOWN

La Crosse

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Wisconsin 54601

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

La Crosse County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

La Crosse

STATE

Wisconsin 54601

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

1976

\_\_\_ FEDERAL  STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

CITY, TOWN

Madison

STATE

Wisconsin 53706

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Laverty-Martindale House is a two-story clapboarded structure of Italianate design. A veranda wraps around the front and sides of the house. The supports consist of paired pencil-thin columns on high, blocky pedestals with an eave bracket over each column. Thin corner pilasters frame the front (west) facade which features a large, simple, double door with rectangular transom, and two floor-to-ceiling windows on the first floor. The window lintels are supported by small brackets. Double eave brackets with pendants decorate the entablature. A rectangular cupola surmounts the shallow-pitched hip roof. The cupola has an arcade of three round-arched windows on Doric piers on the front and four on each side with single eave brackets enriching the entablature. A low, hipped roof covers the two-story back wing.

The first substantial rise in the property tax for the two lots on which the Laverty-Martindale House is located occurred in 1861.<sup>1</sup> Therefore, the house had probably been erected by that time. The contract with the builders, Richard Moffatt and Son, was cancelled in 1863. However, in 1868, when the Martindales were negotiating to buy the house, the front part of the second floor was not yet completed.<sup>2</sup> The first floor plan is typical of the period. Front and back parlors along the south side of the house parallel a long hall (with curved staircase) along the north side which leads to the dining room. The kitchen (behind the dining room) and the master bedroom (behind the back parlor) are separated by the service stairs and a pantry. To the east of the kitchen is the rear shed which housed a workshop, the water closet, and the cistern. The outside walls of the parlors are twelve inches thick to accommodate disappearing blinds on the windows and round-arched niches flanking the fireplace in the north parlor. This simply carved, marble fireplace is the only original mantel extant in the house. A built-in breakfront with glass doors above and cupboards below graces the west wall of the old dining room.

In 1883-1884, the north wing was extended five feet north. A brick chimney and fireplace flanked by French windows was added to the dining room which after 1906 became the library (the old master bedroom was converted into the dining room). A "modern marbled mantel" decorated the second floor fireplace in the new wing.<sup>3</sup> The Martindale's son, Stephen IV, lived in this bedroom until his first child was born in 1888.

After Stephen Martindale III and his wife died in the winter of 1905-1906, the house was modernized. A sleeping porch was added above the east entry porch and dormers were added onto the rear shed; central heating, a modern bathroom, and electric lighting replaced the old stoves, water closet, and gas lights. The fruit cellar in the basement was converted into a laundry. The partition between the front and back parlors, including its sliding doors, was removed and the woodwork in the upstairs bedroom was painted white (the rest of the woodwork retains its dark stain and hand graining). Since these alterations, no significant changes in the character of the house have occurred.

The house is painted colonial yellow with white trim, green blinds, and red doors as a picturesque allusion to the autumn color of hard-maple trees in New England.<sup>4</sup> A two-story, frame barn sits to the northeast of the house. It was built in 1886 to house a storeroom, and a studio for a daughter who was an artist.<sup>5</sup> A wooden fence, built in 1972 and similar to the 19th century fence, encloses the lot.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES erected 1860-1861; finished 1868-1869; altered 1906-1910 BUILDER/~~ARCHITECT~~ Richard Moffatt & Son

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Laverty-Martindale House is significant architecturally as a fine, relatively unaltered example of the frame Italianate house and historically as the home of early settlers of La Crosse and prominent businessmen in the early history of the area.

In his discussion of the origins of Percy Dwight Bentley's early Prairie School houses, H. Allen Brooks uses the "four-square" Laverty-Martindale House as "a splendid example of the type of residential construction being done in the mid-nineteenth century."<sup>1</sup>

On December 27, 1859 Richard Moffatt and Son (Richard R. Moffatt) contracted with Thomas and Maria Laverty to build a house for them. Cash payments were to be made as work progressed over sixty weeks with a transfer of five acres of land when the work was complete. The Moffatts were English emigrants who called themselves "mechanics."<sup>2</sup>

Thomas Laverty was a sailor from New Brunswick. He moved to New York where he married his wife Maria before moving on to Milwaukee in the late 1840's and then to La Crosse. In 1859 he was renting a store in La Crosse from I. Munson Hill, Stephen Martindale's brother-in-law, who lived in Beloit at the time.<sup>3</sup> Laverty enlisted in the Union Army on April 18, 1861 and returned home a disabled veteran in August, 1863.<sup>4</sup> On November 11, 1868 the Lavertys sold their house and shortly thereafter returned to the east.

Stephen Martindale III, his wife, Katharine Howard Martindale, and their children were the next occupants of the house. In 1849 Stephen Martindale III went west to Racine from his home in Wallingford, Vermont after graduating from Middlebury College and the National Law School in New York. In Racine he worked for his brother-in-law's lumber firm, Durand and Hill. Five years later he came to La Crosse. He formed a business partnership with Albert W. Pettibone and the two men built a double house together.<sup>5</sup> Then Martindale returned to Vermont to claim his bride. Martindale and his partner pursued several business interests. In the late 1850's they owned a mill in Black River Falls.<sup>6</sup> In the Civil War Martindale served as a colonel and aide-de-camp for the Union Army. In the 1880's he bought the G. R. Montague Agency of Northwest Mutual Life and devoted his time thereafter to insurance and loans.

Meanwhile his son, Stephen IV (b. August 21, 1859) had married Sophie Rosenblatt whom he met at Beloit College in 1883 and received his law degree at the University of Wisconsin in 1886. He practiced law in La Crosse for five years and then joined his father in business after he had stepped in to help and found it to his liking. In 1906, after the elder Martindales had died, Stephen IV moved his wife and three children into the family home. His daughter, Katharine, continued in the insurance business and still resides in the Laverty-Martindale house.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .44 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	5
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6	4	1	4	0	0
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4	8	5	1	9	5	0
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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C 

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B 

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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D 

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Edges of property owned by Katharine Martindale.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Katherine E. Hundt, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

DATE

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

October 11, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

816 State Street

608/262-2970

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Madison

Wisconsin 53706

## 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

*Richard M. Curney*

TITLE

Acting Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE

4/25/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Robert B. Rottig*

DATE

11/23/77

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

*Charles A. ...*

DATE

11-21-77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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FOOTNOTES

1. Letter, Katharine Martindale to Katherine E. Hundt, April 16, 1976, Historic Preservation Office, State Historical Society of Wisconsin.
2. Letters, Cephas K. Martindale to Stephen Martindale III, September 5, 1868 and September 22, 1868, in the collections of Miss Katharine Martindale.
3. Letter, Katharine Martindale to Katherine E. Hundt, January 22, 1976, Historic Preservation Office, State Historical Society of Wisconsin.
4. Ibid.
5. Letter, Katharine Howard Martindale to her mother in Vermont, October, 1886, in the collections of Miss Katharine Martindale.

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FOOTNOTES

1. H. Allen Brooks, "Percy Dwight Bentley at La Crosse," Prairie School Review, IX (Fall, 1972): 6-7.
2. U. S. Census, 1870, for the City of La Crosse, La Crosse County, 70 and 91.
3. Letter, Katharine Martindale to Katherine E. Hundt, January 22, 1976, Historic Preservation Division, State Historical Society of Wisconsin.
4. Bruce Hanson, The Iron Brigade - Company B - La Crosse, 43 and 48, xerox copy in the collections of Katharine Martindale.
5. The house burned to the ground in November, 1859 and the Martindales moved in with a brother, Cephas Kent Martindale (letter, Katharine Martindale to Mr. C. H. Crownhart, Secretary, State Medical Society of Wisconsin, October 9, 1968, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, La Crosse Area Research Center).

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Biographical History of La Crosse, Trempealeau, and Buffalo Counties, Wisconsin, Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1892, 175.

Brooks, H. Allen, "Percy Dwight Bentley at La Crosse," Prairie School Review, IX (Fall, 1972): 5-17.

Hanson, Bruce, The Iron Brigade - Company B - La Crosse, xerox of copy in the collections of Katharine Martindale, 43 and 48.

History of La Crosse County, Wisconsin, Chicago: Western Historical Company, 1881.

Private Collections of Katharine Martindale, La Crosse, Wisconsin, including deeds and contracts relating to real estate holdings of Thomas P. Laverty and Stephen Martindale III; miscellaneous letters from Cephas Kent Martindale to Stephen Martindale III, June, 1868 to February, 1869; letter from Katharine H. Martindale to Stephen Martindale III, September 10, 1868; letter from Katharine H. Martindale to her mother, October, 1886; account book of Stephen Martindale III; and Genealogy of the Kent and Martindale Families, typescript.

Polleys, A. D., Stories of ... Pioneer Days in the Black River Valley, Black River Falls, Wis.: The Banner-Journal, 1948.

State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Historic Preservation Division, telephone and mail correspondence from Katharine Martindale to Katherine E. Hundt, December, 1975 to October, 1976.

State Historical Society of Wisconsin, La Crosse Area Research Center, Letter, Katharine Martindale to C. H. Crownhart, Secretary, State Medical Society of Wisconsin, October 9, 1968.

U. S. Census, 1850, for the City of Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, 219; and, 1860, for the City of La Crosse, La Crosse County, 70 and 91.