

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received **DEC 15 1983**

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic S. F. Martin House

and or common

2. Location

street & number 419 Poplar Street not for publication

city, town Atlantic vicinity of

state Iowa code 019 county Cass code 029

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture *	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial *	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

*Planned as bed/breakfast

4. Owner of Property

name Michael J. Audino, Donna L. Beason

street & number 419 Poplar Street

city, town Atlantic vicinity of state Iowa 50022

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Cass County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Atlantic, state Iowa

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" 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		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The S. F. Martin house (c. 1873-74) retains many of the Second Empire and Gothic stylistic elements which originally were ornamentally dominant in this early eclectic Victorian era house. The original house interior is largely intact, and presents a rich range of decorative stone and carpentry. Pending the restoration of the exterior appearance of the house, the interior of the house constitutes a vital component of the architectural significance of the property.

The S. F. Martin House originally most strongly reflected the Second Empire style in its design, but in its eclectic zeal also represented Gothic and Italianate influences. This house, generally rectangular on plan with centered broad south wing, gloried in its Second Empire trappings. These included a four story square mansard roofed tower which projected above a mansard slate roof. Light colored trim, roof curb or cap, and cresting contrasted with the dark roof and slightly darker clapboard exterior. A narrow wrap-around porch, broken by the bay, filled the south and east walls, divided the house vertically, and terminated in a pedimented entrance beneath the tower. Diamond shaped windows penetrated the two sidewalls of the tower at the third floor level.

Italianate features included the paired or single narrow windows ornamented with unusual corner blocks, the tower cornice and the overall placement and design of the partially projecting tower base, and the decorative eaves brackets which are paired around each corner or at each turn of the eavesline. Gothic influences were represented by steeply pitched dormers (on the south bay roof and the northwest corner, and the four sides of the tower roof) with heavy vergeboard trim, with trefoil shadow cuts, bull's eye windows and board and batten fronts. One dormer retains its original ridgeline crest (a line of semi-circular projections terminating with a rounded finial). The south dormer retains an ornate metal finial.

Over time the house has been extensively altered, losing some of its major features. Second floor windows were added to the west half of the south wall c. 1905, and to the east half of same c. 1938. A deeper wrap-around porch replaced the original c. 1915, and in 1938 the rest of tower was removed above the eavesline (the tower itself was lost above the third floor level sometime before this), the porch was enclosed, a new rear porch and laundry room on the north side were added, and a chimney was removed. A tile garage had replaced the carriage house at some time and a rear extension to that garage was made at this time. Several first floor windows were shortened and the north exterior chimney was painted below the eavesline. The laundry room addition partly obscured but left intact the lower portion of a stepped window series which lighted the stairway. The present owners plan to remove the various additions, garage, the 1915 porch, and to replace the tower, the 1873 verandah, chimneys and caps, roof and west porch. This work will begin in 1984. The 1915 verandah was supported by short columns and a pilastered dark brick veneered foundation and wall. A picture window was added to the bay on the first floor in 1915. As of 1938, the chimneys with their decorative caps, and the tower up to its Italianate cornice line were extant. A side entrance on the north wall still sported a bracketed canopy.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet Description Item number 7 Page 2

The interior of the house remains largely intact. Especially notable features include the plaster corner and ceiling moldings, beads, and mouldings and engaged capitals and an unusual extension of molded trim in lieu of sills which run across the bottom of each window (refer to illustrations). Nine foot high pocket rolling doors, skillful wood graining of pine trim, a grand oak staircase, and the already noted stair-stepped windows are all intact. Four of five original fireplaces remain and are highly detailed with various decorative stones such as onyx, slate, and marble. The remaining fireplace is of later date, and is composed of wood with green tile. A single door (east side of bay, exiting to porch) retains its complete complement of applied wooden decoration and elaborate art glass. The surviving doors in the house were made of two vertical halves laminated together.

The house is located one block west of the small central business district in Atlantic, as a part of a rather unusual town layout. The town was founded in 1870 and soon obtained the county seat. The entire town is located on a descending prairie which leads to a creek, which runs a few blocks north of this house. This house is located on a prominent corner lot location one block west of the business district (the district uniquely is located north of the county courthouse and an adjoining public square). The house was surrounded by small homes and duplexes, and commercial uses predominated across the street to the east.

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 1873–74

Builder/Architect Not Known.

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The S. F. Martin House (c. 1873-74) survives as a locally significant example of the influence of the Second Empire, Italianate and Gothic styles on the construction of notable homes. The well preserved interior contributes to the overall significance. The house is locally unique in terms of its scale, style, and its promise for eventual restoration and preservation.

Samuel F. Martin (1842-1919) was a pioneer merchant in Atlantic, who moved to that town in 1865, and operated the first hardware store there until 1890. He was a trustee of the town at the time of its 1870 incorporation and thereafter he served in a series of minor municipal committees and boards. His unsuccessful bid for mayor as a Peoples' Party candidate in 1874 was thwarted by the Temperance League. He constructed a business block at Third and Chestnut Streets (not extant) which housed several firms and several local newspapers over the years. He operated a similar store in nearby Audubon. Martin is most noteworthy for his involvements in the promotion of local industry. In 1879 he was the director of the Atlantic Water Power and Manufacturing Company, in 1880 he was one of six incorporators of the Atlantic Starch and Syrup Company, and in 1882 he was one of three partners who established the Atlantic Canning Company. This last named firm was most successful, locally being claimed as being "...the largest corn canning factory in the world." This firm was a leading local industry, employing as many as one hundred hands at peak season. In 1883 Martin and Dr. D. R. Wilkin took over operations, and in 1890 Martin was bought out. Martin lived his final twenty years in Blair, Nebraska and there operated a similar canning firm.

Atlantic was engaged in a building boom as late as August 1874 at a time when economic depression had stilled construction efforts to the east. S. F. Martin purchased his lots between 1870 and 1872. In May 1874 he landscaped the completed residence, added a verandah in July, and ordered an Esty organ in August. In May, 1875 he completed a large barn behind the house, that structure nearly burning in an alley fire on 21 April 1880.

Across the street from this house the local opera house functioned for years, facing south, away from the Martin property. Appropriately enough, this early building was replaced by a movie house which continues to fulfill a similar cultural service.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Refer to Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Atlantic Iowa

Quadrangle scale 1/24,000

UTM References

A

1	5	3	3	2	6	2	0	4	5	8	5	6	0	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

Original City of Atlantic, Block 29, Lots 9, 10, 11, and 12.
P/6402-1 (1-URES)

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title James E. Jacobsen, National Register Coordinator

organization Iowa SHPO date 6 December 1983

street & number Historical Building
E. 12th & Grand Ave. telephone 515-281-8152

city or town Des Moines state Iowa 50310

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 Adrian A. Anderson

title Executive Director Iowa State Department of History date 6 December 1983

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

for Adlai Stevenson Entered in the National Register date 1/12/84
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet Bibliography Item number 10 Page 2

Bibliography:

- Andreas, A. T. Illustrated Historical Atlas of the State of Iowa 1875. Chicago: The Lakeside Press, 1875.
- Young, Lafe. History of Cass County 1877. Atlantic: Telegraph Steam Printing House, 1877.
- History of Cass County Iowa 1884. Springfield, Illinois: Continental Historical Company, 1884.
- Compendium of History and Biography of Cass County, Iowa. Chicago: Henry Taylor and Company, 1906.
- Atlantic City Directory, 1880.
- Atlantic Daily Telegraph, 19 Dec. 1879, 10 Jan. 1880, 6, 13 Feb. 1880, 1 Mar. 1880, 21 April 1880, 17 July 1880.
- Atlantic News Telegraph, 18 Feb., 3 Mar. 1880, 3 Aug. 1885, 5 Aug. 1891, 12 Dec. 1919.
- Cass County Messenger, 4 March, 11 July, 5 August, 14 November 1874, 15 May 1875.
- Atlantic City Council Proceedings, City Hall, Atlantic, Iowa, 1870-71.
- Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, Atlantic, Iowa, 1888, 1893, 1899, 1908, 1913, 1923, 1931.