

Washington

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

For HCRS use only

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

received

date entered

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

1. Name

historic Sarah Martin House

and/or common George Nelson Morris House

2. Location

street & number 310 East Broadway ___ not for publication

city, town Monmouth ___ vicinity of congressional district 19th

state Illinois code 012 county Warren code 187

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 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"/> 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:

4. Owner of Property

name George Nelson Morris

street & number 310 East Broadway

city, town Monmouth ___ vicinity of state Illinois

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Warren County Courthouse

street & number Public Square

city, town Monmouth state Illinois

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Ill. Historic Structures Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date October, 1972 ___ federal state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records 405 East Washington

city, town Springfield state Illinois

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input 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 Martin home at 310 East Broadway, Monmouth, Illinois, exhibits all the paraphernalia, inside and out, of the architectural style known as the Italian Villa. Although the house lacks a tower, it does possess a small characteristic cupola slightly raised on the center of the roof. A low slightly pitched roof with elegant flared eaves, supported by the usual graceful brackets, dentils and beautiful medallions adorn the house on all sides. Composed of two stories, the home shows a full basement and attic. There are three enormous bays surrounding the home, one in each front living room and one in the master dining area. The windows in the home show the typical Italian Villa architectural style by being grouped on the upper story mainly in twos with hoodmolds, and the bays grouped in fours. The attic has the obvious two rounded windows in the cupola allowing light to penetrate into this area. Structurally speaking the walls are composed of four layers of solid brick, which makes the walls almost sixteen inches thick. Some walls inside are as much as twenty two inches thick and are solid. The roof is composed of the original copper material, which has been sealed to allow for its durability. Cut stone headers over all the windows and front door are heavily ornamented and articulated to effect the gracefulness and beauty of the home. The castiron headers over the double windows on the second floor depict the original wood carvings proclaiming the date the home was completed 1878. So many architectural details account for the relatively long construction time, as the home was started in 1875. Facing you as you look at the front of the house is an enormous front porch, which wraps around the west corner of the house, this presents a picturesque sight which was so common in the Italian Villa homes. There are two chimneys, each is double enabling the home to be effectively heated. Gracing the front of the homes are three beautiful, all original, leaded-glass windows. There are also two beautiful original etched glass windows, one in the front door and one above it. Surrounding most of the home is the original ornamental iron fence. This fence was specially made and erected in 1878, it still has three stone headers one at the southwest corner and two supporting the west side.

The inside of the house has retained almost all of its original features. As you enter the front hall, you are greeted by a beautiful floating walnut spiral staircase, which ascends thirty three feet up to the second floor, and has retained the original lighting fixtures. There are doors entering into each of the two front rooms, each door is heavily articulated with massive moulding. All of the doors and windows on the first floor are surrounded by this massive moulding which is truly a masterpiece in itself. Most of the woodwork and moulding on the first floor is walnut. All the doors in the house are topped by transoms. Most of the first floor transoms contain the original etched glass. The fireplace is supported by two graceful pillars heavily articulated with beautiful gold medallions and leafing. Also adorning the fireplace is the original Italian marble tile. Everyone comments on the hardwood floors which in themselves are a masterpiece of workmanship and design. They are oak with dark walnut trim on the outer edges and geometric designs at each corner.

The front entrance porch (now lacking its ballustrade) and the beveled glass found near the entrance were added c.1890 and complement the original design.

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All of the bays have oak parquet floors in them. The house has all of its original features: sliding doors, being restored now, folding doors of the French variety being restored now, all the original hardware, porcelain knobs and some original lighting fixtures. In the master dining room one might note the location of the dumb-waiter.

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
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Local History

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect Messrs. Dunn and Stevens

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

This house has been identified by the Illinois Historic Structures Survey as one of only a dozen houses in Warren County (1970 population: 21,595) meriting individual listing on the National Register on the basis of architectural significance. Moreover, for over seventy years this home was owned by Miss Sarah Martin, a lady of great dignity and elegance. Thus, not only does this home exhibit a beautiful architectural style, but it glows, too, with cultural and historical events which helped play an important role in the early development of Monmouth and of Warren County.

HISTORY

In 1832 Hugh Martin, grandfather of Sarah Martin, came to Warren County to settle. The Martin family was one of the first to settle in this area and later became one of the leading families of Warren County. In this same year, William Martin (who would have been Sarah Martin's uncle) was murdered and scalped by raiding Indians. Throughout the county details of this tragic event were heard, forcing settlers to flee to the present-day site of Monmouth for protection.

Miss Sarah Martin's father was John Martin, an early Warren County farmer and businessman. During these early years John Martin became well known not only for his farming abilities but also for his great generosity and kindness to other people of the community. John Martin helped plan out the present day village of Little York, Illinois, known before as Martinsville. He also was the first to initiate a plan for the first church organized in Warren County and the first school in Little York. Later additions to the village of Little York were called Martins addition in honor of John Martin. John Martin was made one of the original trustees of Little York, and also the commissioner of the roads.

In 1862 John Martin married Sarah Gibson. They had four children, three boys and one girl, who was named Sarah Elizabeth Martin. Although still living in the Little York area John Martin was very active in the affairs in Monmouth and throughout Warren County. In 1863 he helped organize the First National Bank in Monmouth and was appointed director of the board. After the opening of Monmouth College in 1853 John Martin became a very warm and close friend of judge Ivory Quinby. John Martin donated much money to Monmouth College and also much of his valuable time. Mr. Martin was quite well known for the soundness of his judgement and the candor with which he expressed his opinions.

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In 1875 John Martin loaned a great sum of money to a Mr. Cotes to build a beautiful home on East Broadway in Monmouth. When this home was completed it was the most talked about home in the area. It was noted for its beauty and lavish furnishings. Not being able to repay this money Mr. Cotes was forced to turn the home over to Mr. Martin. In 1880 as fate would have it, both Mr. Martin and his wife died, one month to the day apart. Sarah Martin inherited the home at this time although she was but 14 years old.

During this period of time it was not customary for a woman to participate in anyway in the world of culture and thought. It was also not wise to give her the privilege of a higher education. This was not true of Sarah Martin. The plan for all the Martin children was to become as highly educated as was possible. Sarah Martin entered Monmouth College in 1887 and finished in 1891. While at Monmouth College Sarah Martin took all the literary and humanity courses possible. Being educated in the humanities had prepared Sarah for her up and coming social life in Monmouth. "Lizzie", as Sarah was more commonly known, loved to entertain people in her home. She loved to entertain large groups of people for all types of social gatherings. During these years Sarah traveled throughout Europe extensively picking up all the knowledge possible. Sarah was a firm believer in education for everyone. She donated much of her time to Monmouth College like her father before her. In addition to the time and thought given to Monmouth College she made large donations of money to the college. It is doubtful whether there was a person in Monmouth whose opinion on any question carried greater weight than did Sarah's. In appearance and manner she was somewhat of a small lady but she was very tenderhearted. She was very modest and willing to give of herself to help everybody. Above all Sarah was a Christian. During her lifetime Sarah was asked to entertain at many social events. Being an accomplished musician she did much entertaining in the Monmouth area.

In 1914 Sarah Martin married Mr. John Fahey a man who was employed by the Rock Island Railroad. They were married by judge Loren Murphy in the east front sitting room of Sarah's home. This was proclaimed as the social event of the year in Monmouth. After their marriage Mr. & Mrs. Fahey traveled throughout Europe visiting friends Sarah had made earlier in her life. Mr. and Mrs. Fahey continued to entertain throughout their stay in Monmouth. In the late 1920 Mr. and Mrs. Fahey moved to Sunnyvale, California to make their home. Sarah still retained her home in Monmouth at 310 East Broadway. In 1945 Sarah sold her Monmouth home and in 1949 Mrs. Lucille Winter purchased the home. In 1969 Mrs. Winter moved to California to make her home with her son Robert Winter.

The current owners purchased the home in October 1976.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Monmouth

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References

A 15 698035 4531045
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

Part of lots 2, 3 and 7 of Block 13 in the Old Town Plat of Monmouth, Illinois.

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 Mr. George Nelson Morris

organization

date November, 1979

street & number 310 East Broadway

telephone 309-734-5177 or 309-734-457

city or town Monmouth

state Illinois

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Dir., Ill. Dept. of Conservation

date 6/30/80

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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2. Drury, John. Old Illinois Houses. Springfield, Illinois, printed by the State of Illinois, 1948.
3. Dutton, Ralph. The Victorian Home. 4 Fitzhardinge Street, London, W. L. William Clowes and Sons, Ltd. for B. T. Batsford, Ltd. 1954.
4. Gowans, Allan. Images of American Living Four Centuries of Architecture and Furniture as Cultural Expression. Philadelphia and New York. J. B. Lippincott Company. 1964.
5. Past and Present of Warren County, Illinois, 1877. Chicago, Illinois, H. F. Kett and Co., 1877.
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9. Moffet, Hugh R. Illinois and Warren County Historical Encyclopedia Volume I, II. Munson Publisher, Chicago, Illinois. 1903.
10. Kett. H. F. The Past and Present of Warren County Illinois 1877. Chicago, Illinois. 1877.

I wish to acknowledge the following people for their assistance and interviews.

Mr. Robert Winter, 626 Arroya Blvd., Pasadena, California. November 28, 1979. October 1, 1979. September 3, 1979. August 9, 1979. June 2, 1979. December 15, 1976. May 18, 1977. December 12, 1977. January 15, 1978. February 5, 1978. April 3, 1978. August 12, 1978. October 28, 1978. January 12, 1979.

Mrs. Lucille Winter, 626 Arroya Blvd., Pasadena, California. Same dates as above.

Mrs. Hugh Martin. Wilmette, Illinois, August 12, 1979.
Mr. Hugh Martin. Wilmette, Illinois, November 26, 1979.

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Bibliography (Continued)

Mrs. Dorothy Shaver, 202 North 3rd. St., Monmouth, Illinois. Daily for the last one and one-half years.

Mrs. Hubert Wray, 903 East 2nd. Ave., Monmouth, Illinois. October 12, 1979. July 15, 1979. May 1, 1979. January 13, 1978.

Mrs. Alice Martin. 317 South 9th St., Monmouth, Illinois. November 13, 1979. December 4, 1979.

Mrs. Mabel McCoy. 402 South 3rd. St., Monmouth, Illinois. November 12, 1979. October 13, 1979.

Mr. Thomas Brooks. 415 South 3rd. St., Monmouth, Illinois. December 3, 1979. November 3, 1979. October 15, 1979. July 6, 1979.

Mr. and Mrs. William Ventress, 9525 Whitgate Lane, Cincinnati, Ohio. October 3, 1979.

Mrs. Marie Gabby. 317 North 10th St., Monmouth, Illinois. March 4, 1979. November 13, 1979.

Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints, Salt Lake City, Utah. October 15, 1979. Main Headquarters for Geneological Research.

Huntington Beach Chamber of Commerce, Huntington Beach, California. October 15, 1979.

Mr. Ray Whiteman. Little York, Illinois. May 15, 1979.

Mr. Charles Hallam, 600 East 1st Avenue, Monmouth, Illinois. August 15, 1979. November 1, 1979.

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ILLINOIS

Date Entered OCT 9 1980

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Haist Memorial Library	DeKalb DeKalb County
Pekin Federal Building	Pekin Tazewell County
Kirk, Col. Edward N., House	Sterling Whiteside County
Martin, Sarah, House	Monmouth Warren County

Also Notified

Honorable Charles H. Percy
Honorable Adlai E. Stevenson
Honorable Tom Corcoran
Honorable Robert H. Michel
Honorable Tom Railsback

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.