

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Marten-Becker House

AND/OR COMMON

Becker House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

837 First Capitol Drive

CITY, TOWN

St. Charles

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

#9 - Hon. Harold Volkmer

STATE

Missouri

CODE

29

COUNTY

St. Charles

CODE

183

**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 Aimee Becker

STREET &amp; NUMBER

837 First Capitol Drive

CITY, TOWN

St. Charles

VICINITY OF

STATE

Missouri 63301

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETCOffice of the Recorder of Deeds, St. Charles County  
Administration Building

STREET &amp; NUMBER

118 North Second Street

CITY, TOWN

St. Charles

STATE

Missouri 63301

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

1. Missouri Historic Sites Catalogue

DATE

1963

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

State Historical Society of Missouri

CITY, TOWN

Columbia

STATE

Missouri 65201

## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT  
☒ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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

Facing north from its location on a tree-lined lot at 837 First Capitol Drive, the Marten-Becker House is a restrained, elegant version of the Italianate style, surviving in near-original condition. The ell-shaped brick dwelling features a richly bracketed cornice, cupola with arched windows of colored glass and ornate cast iron portico. Complementing the house are two brick outbuildings: a coal storage house and a multi-purpose building combining privy, wash-house and wood storage area.

The house is constructed of red brick, laid in common bond on a slightly projecting foundation of quarry-faced, coursed limestone. It consists of a rectangular main block, measuring approximately 42'5" east-west and 35'3" north-south, with a rectangular ell on the south, measuring approximately 17' north-south by 27'5" east-west. A two-story gallery spans the length of the east side of the ell, providing access to the second story by means of an exterior stair. Under that stair is an entrance to the two-room, brick-floored basement beneath the ell.

Fenestration consists of symmetrically placed, double-hung sash framed with cut-stone lintels and lugsills and flanked by louvered wooden shutters, painted dark green. The three-bay primary facade is highlighted by a central, one-story, cast iron portico with balustraded balcony. Delicate, attenuated columns support the porch, which is embellished with arching vine motifs below the cornice. Painted a silvery grey, the portico bears the stamp of T.R. Pullis & Bros., one of the earliest ironworks in St. Louis. Beneath the portico, interior access is gained through a double-leaf, panelled door. The round-arched upper lights and the transoms above are filled with etched glass. When the left arched light was broken, the Unique Glass Company of St. Louis was commissioned to make an exact duplicate.

The main block of the house is capped by a low-pitched, hip roof which is truncated by a 15' by 15' cupola. The broad eaves of the roof are embellished with scrolled brackets, and the corners of the cupola are accented with giant, paired brackets. Three round-arched windows pierce each side of the cupola, their lower lights filled with blue, green or red colored glass. The rear ell is capped by a ridge roof which extends to shelter the gallery. Composition shingles, replacing original wood shingles, cover all roofs.

Although certain alterations have been made to equip the house with kitchen and baths and to accommodate a tenant on the second floor, these changes have been minimal and could be removed easily. The distinctive interior woodwork, of pine grained to resemble maple and oak, has been retained throughout. The influence of the Classical Revival is seen in the eared surrounds and simple, pedimented lintels of interior openings. Highlighting the front parlor is a white marble mantel with arched opening and central cartouche. It was the only fireplace; the remainder of the house's five chimneys serviced stoves. The eight-foot wide central hallway is dominated by a u-shaped staircase with walnut handrail and octagonal newel post. The staircase, which ascends all the way to the cupola, has been modified to meet present needs. However, the alterations, involving the addition of a partition to close off the second floor level, could be removed without great difficulty to restore the stairway to its original appearance.

# SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PRE-HISTORIC	<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

ca. 1865

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

H. Kister (?)

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Marten-Becker House is an important St. Charles example of a mid-nineteenth century Italianate residence, remarkable for its elegance and near-original integrity. Combining overall symmetry and interior Classical detailing with the ornate embellishments of bracketed cornice, cupola and cast iron portico, the house reflects the mid-century transition from Classicism to Victorian Italianate detailing. The well-preserved cast iron portico, from the St. Louis ironworks of T.R. Pullis & Bros., is a rare surviving feature that lends further significance to the property. The Marten-Becker House, which has remained in the hands of the same family since its construction for merchant Francis Marten ca. 1865, has been maintained with meticulous attention to preservation of its salient features. Situated on a well-shaded lot in the midst of expanding urbanization, it provides a reflection of the character of a bygone era.

Francis Marten was born in Prussia on May 28, 1824, the son of John H. and Eliza (Kastien) Marten. Raised and educated in Prussia, he eventually learned the trades of merchandising and distilling from his father. At about the age of twenty-three he came to America, working first in St. Louis for two years. In 1849 he moved to St. Charles, where he established himself in the merchandising trade, pursuing that business until 1865. He devoted the next seventeen years to the operation of flour mills, before turning exclusively to the grain trade. By about 1885 he had become the leading grain dealer in St. Charles, shipping 75,000 bushels a year.

Following the death of his first wife in 1851, Marten married Adeline Becker, daughter of Philip Becker. One of their five children, Matilda, eventually married Franklin Becker. Becker was a merchant at the Rectern-Becker Dry Goods Store and for thirteen years served as President of the First National Bank of St. Charles. He was the father of Aimee Becker, the present owner of the Marten-Becker House. The Beckers lived in a home adjoining the Marten property on the east. (That house, of similar design to the Marten-Becker House, was demolished eventually to make way for a church.) Following the death of Franklin Becker's wife, the Becker family moved in with the Marten family next door. Miss Aimee Becker has lived in the Marten-Becker House since that move in 1894. Still active in her community, college and church, Miss Aimee is a prominent figure in St. Charles.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. History of St. Charles, Montgomery and Warren Counties, Missouri. St. Louis: National Historical Company, 1885.
2. Olson, Edna McElhiney. Historical Saint Charles. St. Charles, Mo.: author, 1967.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

QUADRANGLE NAME "St. Charles, Mo."

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 115 171179510 1421916131810

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C         

E         

G         

B         

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D         

F         

H         

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Beginning at a point at the intersection of the south side of First Capitol Drive and the west side of an alley that borders the Marten-Becker property on the east, proceeding S 272.2' to a point, turning W and continuing 137.0' to a point, turning N and continuing 272.2' to a point, turning E and continuing 137.0' to the

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

1. Claire F. Blackwell, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION Office of Historic Preservation  
Department of Natural Resources

DATE

July 19, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 176

TELEPHONE

314/751-4096

CITY OR TOWN

Jefferson City

STATE

Missouri 65102

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL   

STATE   

LOCAL X

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

TITLE Director, Department of Natural Resources and  
State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 6 PAGE 1

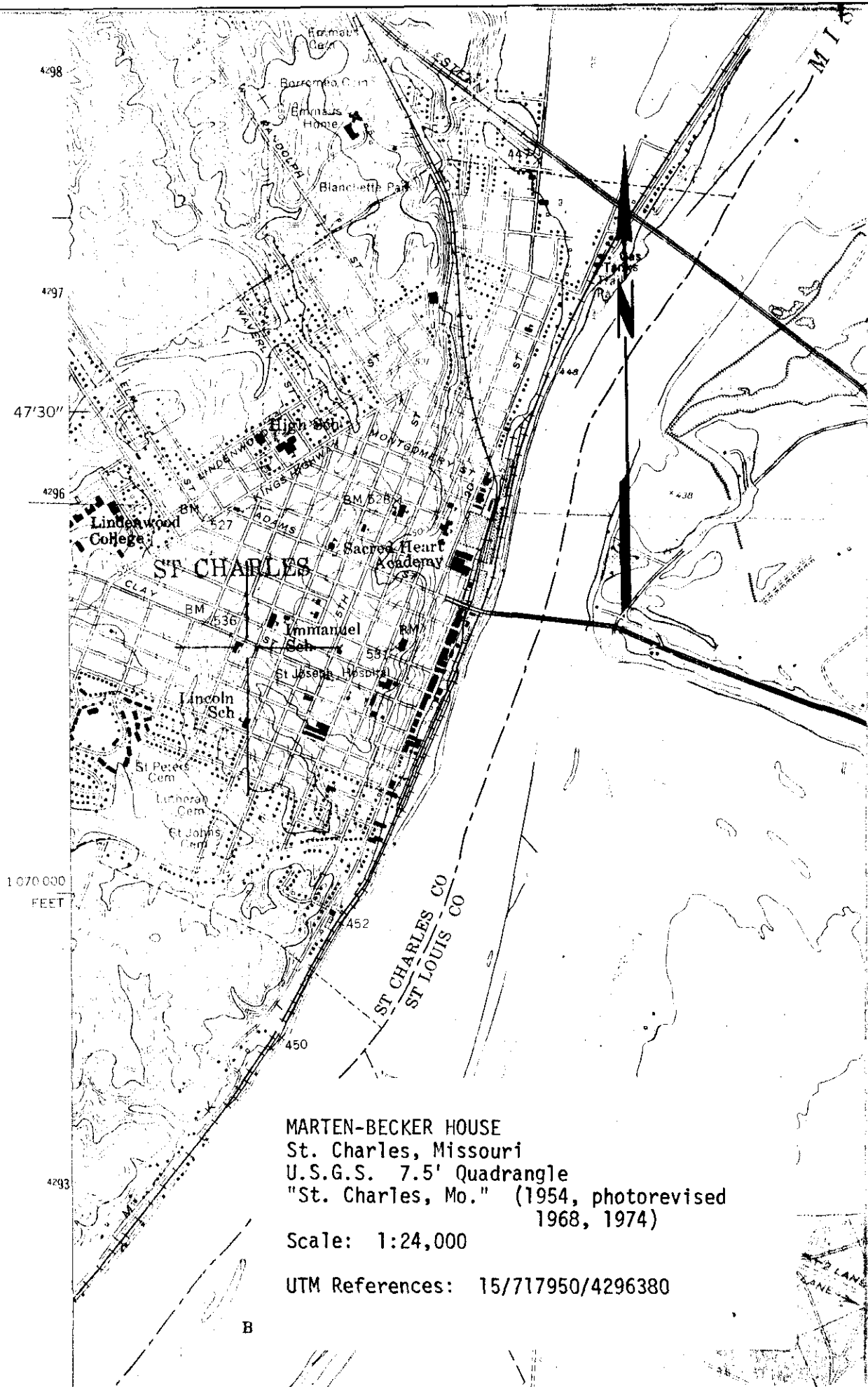
2. Historic Sites in St. Charles County, Missouri county  
1976  
St. Charles County Historical Society  
St. Charles, Missouri 63301
3. Missouri State Historical Survey state  
1979  
Office of Historic Preservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

ITEM NUMBER 11 PAGE 1

2. Mary Lichliter November 20, 1978  
715 Tompkins  
St. Charles, Missouri 63301
3. Raymond F. Donohue November 20, 1978  
3433 St. Ignatius  
St. Ann, Missouri 63074

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

point of beginning.



MARTEN-BECKER HOUSE  
St. Charles, Missouri  
U.S.G.S. 7.5' Quadrangle  
"St. Charles, Mo." (1954, photorevised  
1968, 1974)

Scale: 1:24,000

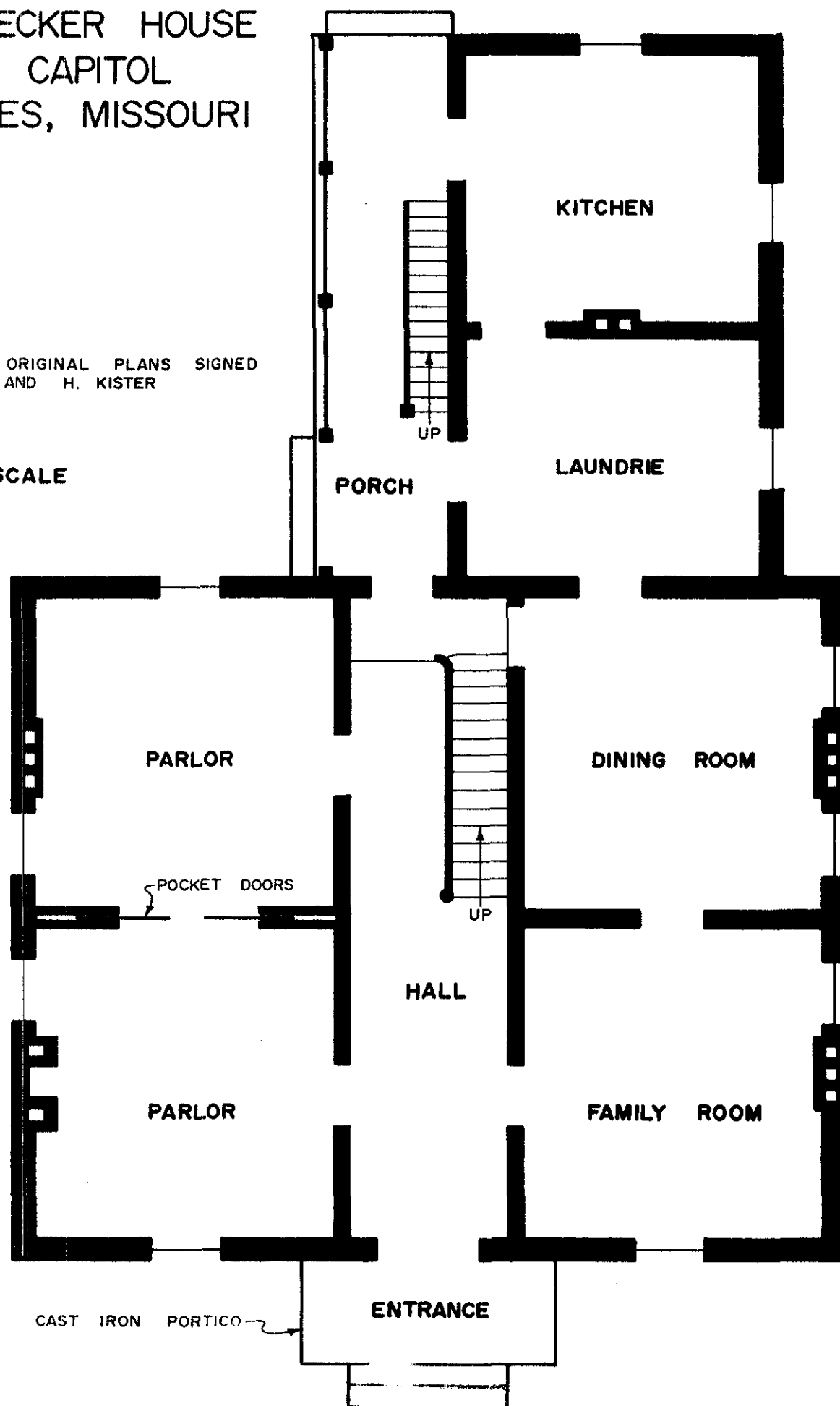
UTM References: 15/717950/4296380

B

FIRST FLOOR PLAN  
MARTEN-BECKER HOUSE  
337 FIRST CAPITOL  
ST. CHARLES, MISSOURI

ADAPTED FROM ORIGINAL PLANS SIGNED  
BY F. MARTEN AND H. KISTER

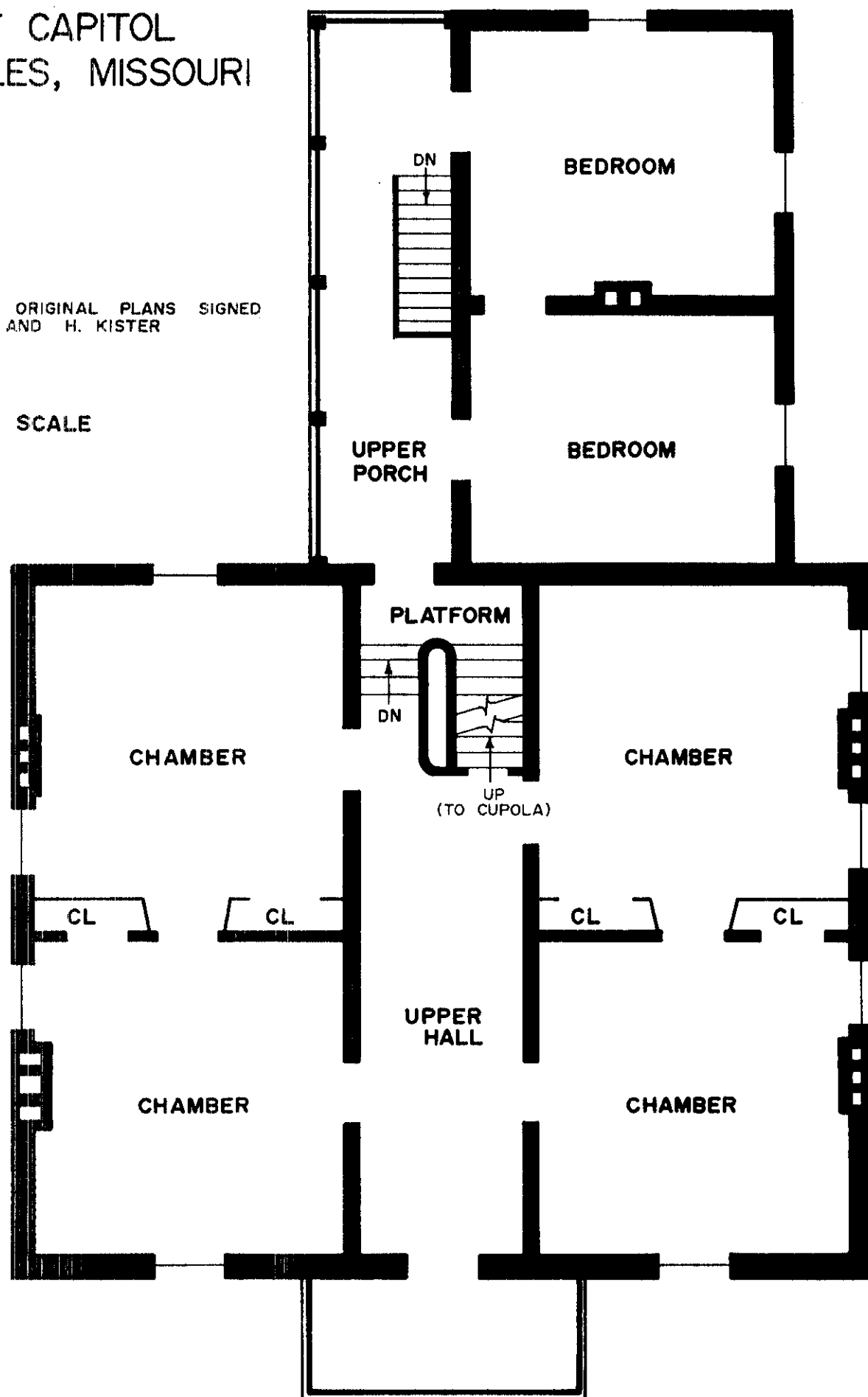
NOT TO SCALE



SECOND FLOOR PLAN  
MARTEN-BECKER HOUSE  
337 FIRST CAPITOL  
ST. CHARLES, MISSOURI

ADAPTED FROM ORIGINAL PLANS SIGNED  
BY F. MARTEN AND H. KISTER

NOT TO SCALE





MARTEN-BECKER HOUSE 1 of 7

837 First Capitol Drive  
St. Charles, St. Charles Co., Missouri  
Photographer: C.F. Blackwell

June 6, 1979

Neg. Loc.: Dept. of Natural Resources,  
P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Mo. 65102

Primary facade, view from N.



MARTEN-BECKER HOUSE 2 of 7

837 First Capitol Drive  
St. Charles, St. Charles Co., Missouri  
Photographer: C.F. Blackwell

June 6, 1979

Neg. Loc.: Dept. of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Mo. 65102

Primary facade, view from NE.



3 of 7

MARTEN-BECKER HOUSE  
837 First Capitol Drive  
St. Charles, St. Charles Co., Missouri  
Photographer: C.F. Blackwell  
June 6, 1979

Neg. Loc.: Dept. of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Mo. 65102

Rear ell, view from SE.



MARTEN-BECKER HOUSE

4 of 7

837 First Capitol Drive  
St. Charles, St. Charles Co., Missouri  
Photographer: C.F. Blackwell

June 6, 1979

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Rear ell, view from S. The asphalt-shingle-covered, frame lean-to on the west, containing

a bath, is a twentieth century addition.







MARTEN-BECKER HOUSE

5 of 7

837 First Capitol Drive

St. Charles, St. Charles Co., Missouri

Photographer: C.F. Blackwell

June 6, 1979

Neg. Loc.: Dept. of Natural Resources,

P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Mo. 65102

Detail of primary facade, view from NE,  
showing cast iron portico.



MARTEN-BECKER HOUSE

6 of 7

837 First Capitol Drive  
St. Charles, St. Charles Co., Missouri  
Photographer: C.F. Blackwell

June 6, 1979

Neg. Loc.: Dept. of Natural Resources,  
P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Mo. 65102

Detail of primary facade, view from N,  
showing etched glass of main entrance.



MARTEN-BECKER HOUSE 7 of 7

837 First Capitol Drive  
St. Charles, St. Charles Co., Missouri  
Photographer: C.F. Blackwell  
June 6, 1979

Neg. Loc.: Dept. of Natural Resources  
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View from SE, showing outbuildings. The  
small structure on the left was used for  
coal storage. The larger, rectangular

structure combines privy, wash-house and wood  
storage area (from east to west, respectively).  
The main house is situated directly to the  
east.



EXTRA  
PHOTOS



