

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

HISTORIC

Martin Hotel

AND/OR COMMON

Morgan County Historical Museum

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

118 North Monroe Street

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN

Versailles

— VICINITY OF  
CODE

#4- Honorable Ike Skelton

STATE

Missouri

29

COUNTY

Morgan

CODE

061

**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 ☒ MUSEUM  
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK  
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS  
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Morgan County Historical Society

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Versailles

— VICINITY OF

Missouri

STATE

65084

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of Recorder of Deeds

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Morgan County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Versailles

STATE

Missouri 65084

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Missouri State Historical Survey

DATE

1977

— FEDERAL ☒ STATE — COUNTY — LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Department of Natural Resources

CITY, TOWN

Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

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

### MARTIN HOTEL

The Martin Hotel consists of two buildings, side by side, facing west on Monroe Street. The building to the north is a two story frame structure with a gable roof and a lean-to porch on the front facade. It was the first of the two buildings, having been built in 1877. The brick building adjoining it on the north is two stories with a flat roof; it too has a lean-to porch. It was built and adjoined to the frame structure in 1884.

### EXTERIOR

The plan of the two buildings combined forms a slightly modified "U". The frame building is in a rectangular plan running north-south. To the east facade of this building, at its north end, a rectangular addition has been connected. This wing is used as a library, and it has been enlarged to include: on its north facade, a vault and small porch; on its east facade, a kitchen and a porch; and on its south facade a porch that runs the entire length of the library addition.

The brick structure adjoins the frame building on the west end of its south facade. The 1884 building has a rectangular plan running east-west. It has one addition on its east facade, which was once used as a kitchen.

The square open area inside the "U" formed by the two buildings is called the "courtyard."

### BRICK 1884 BUILDING

The brick 1884 building has had white stucco applied over the original brick. A brick veneer has been applied to the first floor front facade. This level presents two single leaf doors with two large double hung two-over-two light windows flanking each entrance. Wrought iron grillwork covers the lower half of these windows. The lean-to porch spanning the primary facade has five square wooden columns supporting the roof. This roof has approximately a 4 X 12 slope, is covered with asbestos shingles, and the underside construction of the porch is exposed. The second story west facade of the brick building has a pair of long double hung two-over-two light windows with segmental arches and bracketted lugsills. They flank a single door with a transom above. This door opened onto the original second floor porch.

The alley or south facade of the brick building presents seven equally spaced double hung two-over-two light windows on the second floor and three small square windows at the first floor level. Four brick chimneys exist on this facade, atop a stepped parapet. The east facade has three equally spaced two-over-two light double hung windows, matching those on the west facade at the second floor; on the first floor level there is one such double hung

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window, one doorway onto a fenced yard, and a later addition of a small frame 9' X 12' kitchen covered with simulated brick asbestos shingles on all three sides. This addition has two small double hung windows on both the south and east facades. The north facade, facing the courtyard, has four two-over-two light double hung windows on the second floor and two windows on the first floor separated by a single entry door of a later date. There are three brick chimneys atop a stepped parapet on this facade also.

1877 FRAME BUILDING

The 1877 frame building is connected to the brick building on the north side. This building has beveled wood siding painted white. The second floor of the primary facade has long two-over-two light double hung windows with plain classical lintels flanking the centrally positioned double leaf doors, three on each side. These double doors feature sidelights and are topped by the same style lintel. It once opened onto a second story porch.

The lean-to porch is supported by seven equally spaced wooden columns; the roof has an approximate 4 X 12 pitch and is covered with asbestos shingles. The construction is exposed underneath; this porch extends across the entire front facade with the porch line being approximately one foot lower than that of the lean-to porch of the brick building which it joins. There are three entrances, with concrete stoops in front of each doorway of the primary facade. The three doors are all single-leaf, with four wooden panels and glass overhead transoms. These doors have the same style lintels as the second floor windows.

The fenestration of the first floor of the primary facade is irregular and not original: a single window occurs in the north bay of the primary facade; the center bay is dominated by a triple massed range of windows, surmounted by a four-light transom, set in the wall slightly north of a center axis; and the remaining bays feature paired windows or doorways. All windows feature the same plain entablatured lintels found throughout the building. The north facade has also had some alterations: a shallow oriel window enclosing two sashes has been added on the first floor northeast corner. There are 21 panes in each sash. There is one original double hung window at the northwest corner of the building's north facade. The second story of the north facade has three windows identical to the second story windows on the main facade, with the center window almost entirely obscured by the addition of a large metal louver. One more window is centered in the gable face. The entire frame building has a classical cornice with an approximately one foot eave which returns on the north elevation. There is one brick chimney on the north facade, embellished by belt courses.

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The east facade has four windows on the second story, a shallow paired sash oriel window on the first, and has been covered with simulated brick asbestos siding. The library addition, connected to the frame building on its east facade, has on its north wall a 4' X 5' porch and a 6' X 12' poured concrete vault. This vault, of recent construction, houses documents and papers belonging to the Historical Society. The east facade of the library addition has a small room adjoined, used as a kitchen; a small porch in turn is affixed to the kitchen. On the east facade of the library addition, at the attic level, are a small four-over-four light double hung window, and a single leaf door with one light. This door once opened onto an outside stairway. This facade has also been covered with the same simulated brick asbestos siding found elsewhere. One brick chimney penetrates the roofline at midpoint. A covered lean-to porch with an approximate slope of 2 X 12 runs the entire length of the south facade, facing the courtyard. The porch is supported by four square wooden columns. The facade has two double hung windows separated by a six panel single leaf wooden door. Another door leads to the kitchen and to the porch at the rear of the library addition. The wall treatment on this portion of the building is bevel wood siding painted white, and the door and windows have the same entablature as the others of this building.

INTERIOR

1884 BRICK BUILDING

There is a full basement under the 1884 brick building. The basement is essentially two areas, entered by a set of exterior stairs from the east. The larger area to the north where the steps enter the basement is approximately 56' X 15'6". The walls of the basement as well as the separating wall defining the two areas is of native limestone. There is a concrete floor in both rooms. The basement ceiling is 6'2" in height; the floor joists are exposed, and are 2" X 16" wood members in good condition.

The first floor of the brick building has been divided into a living unit (an apartment presently rented out), comprising five rooms plus storage rooms and a bath. The west facade of this first floor had a previous history as a restaurant with living quarters behind what is now part of the apartment. The north room is now the present entrance to the museum. There is a stairway to the second floor leading up from this entry room. The floors are of wood, covered for the most part with linoleum and asphalt tile.

The second floor of the brick building has six rooms on the south and four rooms and two baths to the north, all opening off of a "T" shaped central

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hallway. This was the major block of hotel rooms in the past, and now all except one are used for display purposes for the museum. The floors are wood, partially covered with linoleum; the walls and ceilings have a plaster finish covered with wallpaper. The doors into the rooms are four panel wood, with operating glass transoms above for ventilation. The short arm of the "T" shaped hallway connects with the longer hallway of the second floor frame building by means of a short flight of stairs.

1877 FRAME BUILDING

There is only a crawl space under the 1877 frame building. The first floor of the 1877 frame building has four rooms in the main block of the structure. These rooms were occupied by retail shops some time ago and their arrangement and size reflect a revision for these uses. There is a stairway up to the second floor from the northwest room. Under the stairway is a small bath. The southwest room was apparently the original entrance into the old hotel building. The rear one story addition of the 1877 building contains the present library for the historical society, as well as a bath. The fireproof vault attaches to the north side of the building, and is accessible from the library. A small kitchen is reached from the east end of the library, and a porch, now completely enclosed, spans the south facades of the library-kitchen addition. A small storeroom is reached from the east end of the porch.

The second floor level of the building contains a wide central hall running north-south. On the west side of the hall are two large rooms divided by a large hall and stairwell. This central hall contains the set of double doors which previously led to the upper veranda. On the east side are rooms and another hall leading into the attic space over the first floor library.

The third floor of the frame building was used primarily as servants' quarters; it is one large room running north-south the full length of the building with closet space under the eaves. There are three four panel doors leading into the attic spaces under the eaves. The trim and woodwork is extremely simple and with no adornment.

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ALTERATIONS

The buildings originally had no electricity or plumbing; electricity was installed in 1908 and plumbing in 1923.

Frame building:

1. A bathroom was made out of the first floor kitchen pantry in 1923.
2. A half bath was installed under the stairway in 1923.
3. At an unknown date the back outdoor stairs were removed; these stairs were used by the porter to carry out the chamber pots. The steps are gone but the door remains.
4. In the second floor southwest room a wall was removed to make the room larger.
5. A wall was also removed in the second floor southeast room, across the hall. A window in this room on the south wall was closed when the brick building was added.
6. In the 1920's a ladies' dress shop used the first floor northwest room. In order to make this shop, a hallway from the stairs to the rear south-east room (dining room) was removed, and the door into the dining was closed. At this time a wall was erected against the stairs and a half bath was added under the stairs.
7. In 1968 the window box on the west facade was removed; a wall was removed, making the front two rooms one large one. The door to the dining room was reopened.
8. In 1944 the dining room was made into an apartment with a wall added and an archway.
9. In 1947 a north door was opened in the rear kitchen addition and a bathroom was made out of the pantry.
10. In 1971 the vault was built, for newspapers, files, etc. A door was made into the vault through an existing window.
11. In 1913 the back porch wooden floor was replaced with a new cement floor.
12. At some unknown date the original veranda was altered to a lean-to porch.
13. A metal louver was added to the second story north facade which serves as a ventilating system for the upper hall of the museum.

Brick building:

1. At some unknown date the central north room, second floor was partitioned by the addition of a wall, and two bathrooms were installed.
2. Two half baths were installed at the east end of the hallway of the second floor.
3. A bath was added to the central north room of the first floor.

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4. In 1968 a bath and a small kitchen were added for the apartments.
5. In 1945 Miss Lucy Martin paid A.F. Lingle \$200 to stucco the exterior of the building. This stucco covered a decorative brickwork on the top front facade of the building.
6. In 1968 the brick veneer was added to the lower front facade.
7. Wrought iron grillwork was applied to the lower half of the first floor front facade windows, presumably at the same time that the brick veneer was added, in 1968.
8. In 1949 the original veranda was replaced by a shingled porch.
9. In 1967 a door in the northeast corner of the "present lobby" leading into the dining room was closed for insurance purposes. It was reopened in 1974.

**CONDITION**

The two buildings are both in stable condition.

**SITE**

The Martin Hotel is located on 122 acres, a short block from the Courthouse Square. The two adjacent buildings face west on Monroe Street. The brick building's south facade faces onto Versailles Street. To the north and east of the buildings is a lawn, enclosed by a chain link fence. The two hotel buildings form a "U" plan, creating a courtyard to the rear. The entire east half of the block, to the rear of the hotel, is occupied by the Bank of Versailles Drive-In Bank, with bank parking on each end of the bank building.

Across the street to the west, the hotel faces a private residence bordered by Versailles Street on the south. The remainder of the block houses an office, a beauty shop, and furniture store. Offices and retail businesses occupy the remainder of the area around the hotel.

The buildings blend in appearance and feeling with their surroundings, creating the atmosphere of a typical small midwest county seat, centered with a Courthouse Square. The site is easily accessible, just a few blocks from both Missouri Highways 5 and 52.

**PRESENT STATUS**

The Morgan County Historical Society bought the frame building in 1967, restored it, and reopened it a year later as a museum. In 1974 the 1884 brick addition was purchased. There are 24 rooms open to the public as a museum in the hotel buildings. They are furnished in various themes with items typical of the area one hundred years ago. Some of these rooms are:

1. Hotel lobby, many of its original items are still as they were.
2. Sewing room; antique sewing machines and other sewing equipment.

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3. Parlor
4. Library; books, showcases, old post office letter holders.
5. Vault, contains Martin Hotel registers, old county newspaper files.
6. Kitchen
7. Dining room
8. War relics
9. School
10. Doctor's equipment
11. Tools; an outstanding display of antique tools.
12. Photography
13. Men's furnishings
14. Weaving; two rooms with old, unusual looms;
15. Children's furniture and toys
16. Quilts
17. Chapel; furnishings from churches in the county, all old.
18. Maids' rooms; where the hotel staff slept on the third floor.

Many items from the hotel and personal belongings of the family are on display throughout the museum, including numerous pieces of furniture, etc. These include:

1. Thirty-three hotel registers - 1883, 1888, 1893, and thirty books from 1900 on
2. Drummer's table
3. Swivel stand from hotel register with call bell, ink well
4. Original hotel registration desk, handmade, with wooden "M"
5. Hotel keyboard with keys
6. Seth Thomas clock put up when the hotel opened
7. Wooden express box marked "United States Express Co."
8. Chicken catcher
9. Picture of the old hotel building, and many documents, receipts, and scrapbooks.<sup>1</sup>

FOOTNOTE

1. Information for alterations derived from a statement by Mrs. Omega Hutchison, September, 1977.



## 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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" 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 1877 and 1884

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Mr. Samuel Martin

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

#### MARTIN HOTEL

The Martin Hotel is significant as a hotel operated on this site from 1853 to 1972, 119 years, by the same family. The long frame building built in 1877 and a brick 1884 addition remain nearly unchanged and contain many of the original furnishings, as well as guest registers, pictures, and documents. It has hosted hundreds of Civil War soldiers, stage coach travelers and people from around the world. P.T. Barnum, Jesse James, Cole Younger, and Harry S. Truman<sup>1</sup> and his family were among its guests.

Osage Indians still lived in Morgan County when it was organized in 1833. Wyan and Galbraith, pioneers, donated 36 blocks of land, each 170 feet square, and platted the City of Versailles in 1835. It was incorporated as a village in 1866. In 1881, in an election in which the total vote was 72, Versailles became a fourth class city.<sup>2</sup>

On November 1, 1853, Samuel and Elizabeth Martin and their four children arrived in Versailles in the remnants of an oxen caravan from Patrick County, Virginia. One child had died on the way, as well as one of Mr. Martin's brothers. At that time Versailles was a public square with a courthouse in the center, a few saloons, several stores, and a few scattered houses.<sup>3</sup>

The second day the Martins were in Versailles a woman offered to rent them a small rooming house for \$100 a year, the only stipulation being that they must retain a Negro servant who had been with her many years. A year later they bought the entire block of land for its taxes and moved a log structure to the present hotel site.<sup>4</sup>

The Civil War in Versailles put business at a standstill. Families and friends were divided in their loyalties, as Versailles was a border area. One legend surrounding the hotel during these times concerned Mr. Martin and his crippled daughter Sally. Samuel Martin had been accused of aiding the enemy and had been ordered to be shot. The Union soldiers had Mr. Martin just outside the hotel in the street and were taking him to the Court House Square a block away for the execution. Sally heard the soldiers and hobbled out on her crutches to her father and took hold of his hand. The Captain looked at her a minute and told her to go back in the hotel and take her father with her. He said that the little girl needed him a whole lot more than the North did.<sup>5</sup>

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Still another tale relates a Civil War incident involving two young Confederate soldiers whom the Martins knew who came to the hotel seeking refuge. In spite of their fear, the Martins let the boys stay the night. Early the next morning Mrs. Martin heard the spurs of a dozen Yankee soldiers clanking on the floor. She hid one boy in a closet behind some clothes and had the other one dress as a hotel waitress, then went down to cook breakfast for the soldiers. The morning's search for the rebels was fruitless, and they stayed for dinner. When their hunger was satisfied by the free meal, they left, unaware that they had been served by the southern masquerader.<sup>6</sup>

In 1877, the frame Martin Hotel building was erected. An early photograph (photograph #1) suggests that the original log building adjoined the new frame one and may have continued to be used until being dismantled to make way for the brick building. The photograph appears to have been taken during this dismantling.

Guest rooms were on the second floor of the hotel, and there was a covered porch running across the front facade that was enclosed by a railing to form a second-story veranda where guests sat in warm weather. A third floor was used as sleeping quarters for the female help. Guests arrived by private horsedrawn vehicles and by the Jefferson City-Springfield stagecoach line which came through Versailles. The hotel ran a stage coach connecting with the Missouri Pacific Railroad at Tipton. The Martins also operated a livery barn, where the guests' horses were fed and housed.<sup>7</sup>

Traveling salesmen called drummers made the Martin Hotel their headquarters. These drummers often hired buggies and went out in the country to sell their products; the hotel also provided a "sales room" and furnished it with drummers' tables. Merchandise was spread on the tables and local merchants came there to purchase goods for their stores. One of these tables is on display in the hotel lobby, now a museum.<sup>8</sup>

Rates at the hotel were 25¢ for a double bed, some with a straw-tick mattresses and some with featherbeds. Three meals and lodging was \$1.00 per day. Each room was furnished with a bed, bureau, wardrobe for clothes, wash stand with bowl and water pitcher, and a chamber pot or commode. A dug well, still at the rear of the building, furnished water for cooking, drinking, laundry, and for the pitchers in the guest rooms. Each guest room also had a wood stove and a heavy rope fastened to the floor to throw out the window and use to escape in case of fire. Some of the ropes are still in place.<sup>9</sup>

In the early days Mr. Samuel Martin did all the cooking and served the food family style. Venison was plentiful, and deer steaks were a staple. They had fruit trees and a vegetable garden, butchered their own hogs and raised chickens. (A chicken catcher from the hotel is on display in the museum). Milk, butter, and cream was home produced. Sometimes Mr. Martin drove to the woods and brought back wild

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turkey or prairie chicken. Mrs. Martin picked blackberries in her "off hours" after the kitchen work was done. She served pie and hot bread three times a day. Court week was always a big event and meant crowds of people and days of preparation ahead of time. Mrs. Martin mixed up a barrel of bread dough and made hundreds of berry and custard pies.<sup>10</sup>

In 1883, a Tipton, Missouri newspaper reported that Versailles was on the eve of a big boom, and "Uncle" Sam Martin was getting ready to build "one of the finest hotels in the county."<sup>11</sup> It was a two story brick addition on the south side of the frame building and also had a second level veranda across the front. The arrival of the first regular train had been celebrated on June 2, 1880 with a banquet for the great crowd of people in attendance. This was the completion of the Missouri Pacific railroad that ran from Boonville to Tipton, then to Versailles. A Rock Island railroad line between St. Louis and Kansas City was completed in 1903. Railroads and their construction stimulated the area's economy; workers by the hundred came to the county and spent freely. Never before in the history of Versailles had merchants, farmers and all business prospered so well. Land prices rose sharply, and real estate was very profitable. New businesses began - a clay plant that made brick and tiling,<sup>12</sup> an electric plant, a telephone system, a soda pop factory, and a broom factory.<sup>12</sup> Mining brought explorers and prospectors from many parts of the country. The county seemed to be a vast storehouse of valuable minerals - zinc, lead, iron, brown and red hematite ores, glass-tiff, coal. Specimens of zinc or "black jack" were of a grade unsurpassed anywhere.<sup>13</sup>

Prosperity brought the construction of business buildings and many new residences in Versailles. Social activity and entertainment flourished. Theater groups, musical performers, tent shows and circuses came to town. Grandma Martin recalled being unable to sleep one night because of the noise of a circus that was leaving town. She heard someone under their bed. The circus owner had paid Mr. Martin \$80 for the performers' board bill. He had put the money in his pants and hung them in their bedroom. One of the circus people had been hiding under the bed waiting for a chance to steal it.<sup>14</sup>

Samuel Martin died suddenly in 1906 at the age of 91, and his funeral was at the hotel.<sup>15</sup> Mrs. Martin and her daughters, Sally and Lucy, continued to operate the business with Miss Jessie Cole, a family friend who lived at the hotel. As teenagers, the Martin girls had gone to the Missouri State Fair and met Jessie Cole, who had no family. They invited her to go home with them, and she stayed the rest of her life.

The Martin Hotel Dining Room was considered one of the finest places to eat. Three meals a day, seven days a week, were served - always family style - on long tables to hotel guests and local people. The food was prepared in large vessels on a big range in the hotel kitchen. One of their specialties was Miss Lucy's 18 egg

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angelfood cake. She sent these cakes to people throughout Missouri. Versailles residents often went there after church for Sunday dinner; dinner meant a noon meal. Some of the hotel registers have a record of people who spent the night and also of those who ate meals. They are marked "B", "D", or "S" to show whether the guest had breakfast, dinner or supper.<sup>16</sup>

Already known by many people all around Missouri and other places, Grandma Martin became a celebrity when she reached her 100th birthday in 1926. The town of Versailles gave her a party; during the parade, she rode in a car one of the few times in her life. More than a thousand people attended a basket dinner at the courthouse. Gifts and letters came from many states. Two groups each gave her \$100 in gold. She was deeply religious and asked the blessing before the dinner. In a voice that carried to every part of the large makeshift dining area, she expressed her thanks with an impact that deeply impressed many of the people who had gathered for the celebration. Honors, publicity and attention were given her periodically until she died in 1930 at the age of 103. She led a well-ordered life in the Martin Hotel for 76 years. The Seth Thomas clock, which still hangs in the lobby where it was placed when the hotel was opened, is an eight day clock. Mrs. Martin always wound it on Sunday afternoon. Just before her death, she asked her daughter if the clock had been wound. A few hours later she died quietly.

The hotel began serving fewer meals before Mrs. Martin died. In 1928 some space in the hotel was rented for a dress shop and a restaurant.<sup>17</sup> The restaurant<sup>18</sup> changed hands a few times but operated until 1950.

Jessie Cole died in 1931. Sally Martin's health had been failing, and she died in 1936. Lucy Martin, then 71 years old, continued the hotel operation, accommodating overnight guests, sometimes to capacity. Thousands of tourists were coming to the area to see the huge new Lake of the Ozarks, formed by the Bagnel Dam finished in 1928. The lake begins 12 miles south of Versailles, and the entire region became a resort area. A local Versailles resident remembers going there in 1944 to stay. The last room had just been rented. The man who rented it graciously gave up his room to the lady and spent that night in a chair in the lobby.

Lucy Martin died in 1954 at the age of 89 in the Martin Hotel where she was born and lived her entire life. Her nephew, Foster Y. Brown, who had been manager a few years, took over the hotel operation. In 1967 the frame hotel building was purchased by the Morgan County Historical Society and opened as a museum. Mr. Brown and his wife continued to operate the hotel in the adjacent brick building until 1974, when it was sold to the Morgan County Historical Society, thus ending 119 years of continuous operation of the Martin Hotel by the Martin family.<sup>19</sup>

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MARTIN HOTEL

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 4

The Martin Hotel is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with Missouri's survey relating to theme studies in Missouri history. Its buildings, nearly unchanged, are examples of facilities for the traveler of a century ago. The primary theme for nomination is "Society." One family operated the hotel for over a century without interruption, and devoted their lives to the comforts of its itinerant guests. Its prominence in the history of the area is unparalleled.

FOOTNOTES

1. Versailles Leader Statesman, 27 November 1953. Hereafter referred to as Statesman.
2. A.G. Baker, A History of Morgan County and Some of its People. (Versailles: Versailles Leader Statesman, 1917), p. 25-26.
3. St. Louis Globe Democrat, 17 April 1927.
4. Statesman, 2 October 1925.
5. St. Louis Globe Democrat, 17 April 1927.
6. Statesman, 2 October 1925.
7. Statesman, 27 November 1953.
8. Ibid.
9. Statesman, 21 July 1977.
10. Statesman, 12 March 1977.
11. Tipton Times, 2 May 1883.
12. Baker, A History of Morgan County and Some of its People, p. 50-51.
13. A History of Cole, Moniteau, Morgan, Benton, Miller, Maries, and Osage Counties, Missouri, (Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1889), p. 397.
14. St. Louis Globe Democrat, 17 April 1927.
15. Statesman, 15 June 1906.
16. Martin Hotel Registers, 22 March 1884.

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MARTIN HOTEL

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5

17. Statesman, 23 November 1928.
18. Statesman, 21 July 1977.
19. Statesman, 16 February 1929.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Baker, A.G. A History of Morgan County and Some of its People. Versailles: Versailles Leader Statesman, 1917.
2. History of Cole, Moniteau, Morgan, Benton, Miller, Maries and Osage Counties, Missouri. Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1889.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .22

UTM REFERENCES

A	115	51138410	421536010	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Section 6, Township 42 N, Range 17 W. All that part of Lot One (1) and south 32.5 feet of Lot Two (2) of Block 2 of Thurston and Wyan Addition to the city of Versailles.

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

Mrs. A.V. Williams

ORGANIZATION

Morgan County Historical Society

DATE

November 28, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

Route 2, Box 71

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Gravois Mills

STATE

Missouri 65037

## 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

TITLE

Director, Department of Natural Resources and  
State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

February 10, 1978

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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MARTIN HOTEL

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

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PAGE 1

3. Martin Hotel Registers.
4. St. Louis Globe Democrat, 17 April 1927.
5. Tipton Times, 2 May 1883.
6. Versailles Leader Statesman, 15 June 1906.
7. Versailles Leader Statesman, 2 October 1925.
8. Versailles Leader Statesman, 23 November 1928.
9. Versailles Leader Statesman, 16 February 1929.
10. Versailles Leader Statesman, 27 November 1953.
11. Versailles Leader Statesman, 12 March 1970.
12. Versailles Leader Statesman, 21 July 1977.

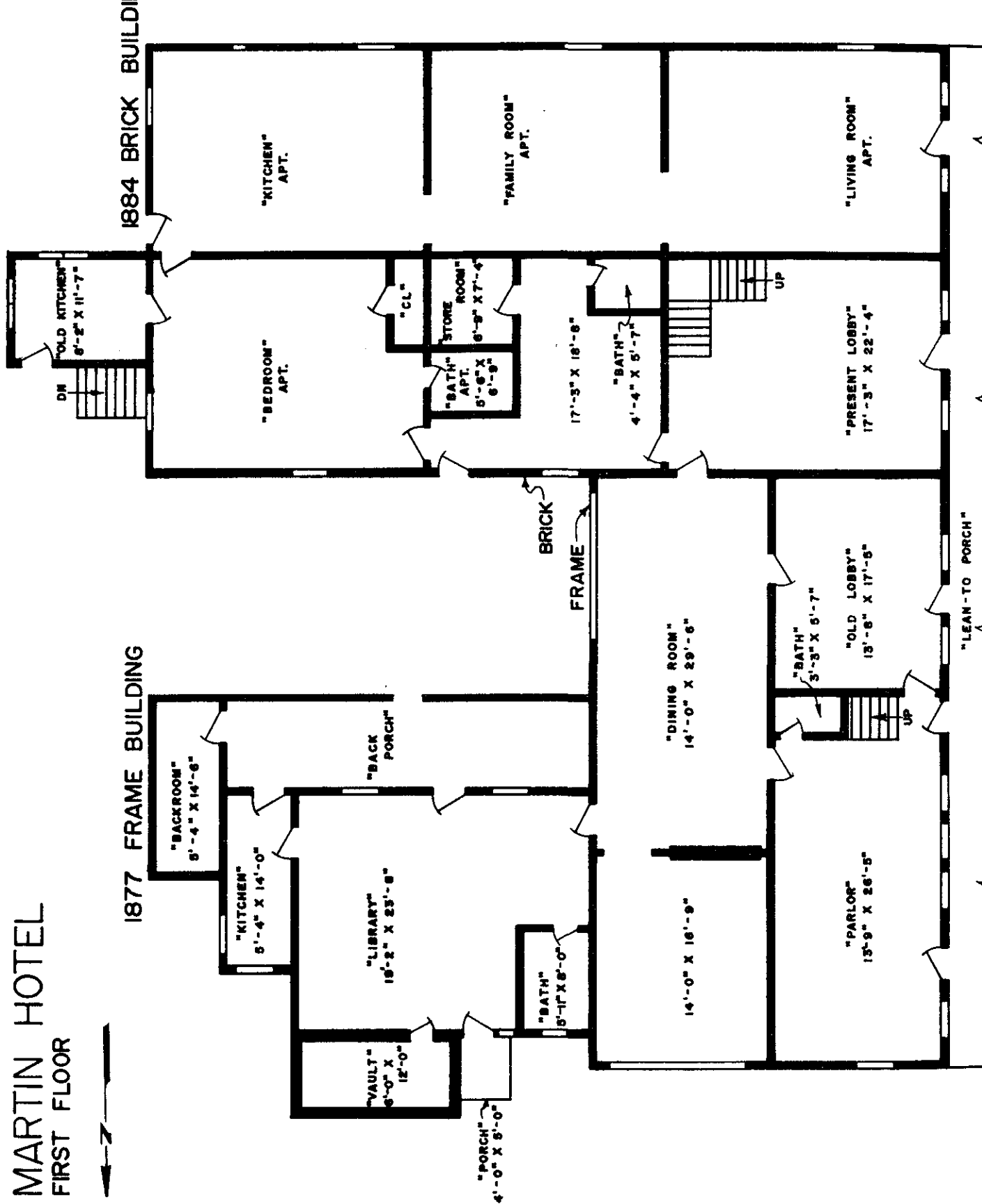


# MARTIN HOTEL FIRST FLOOR



1877 FRAME BUILDING

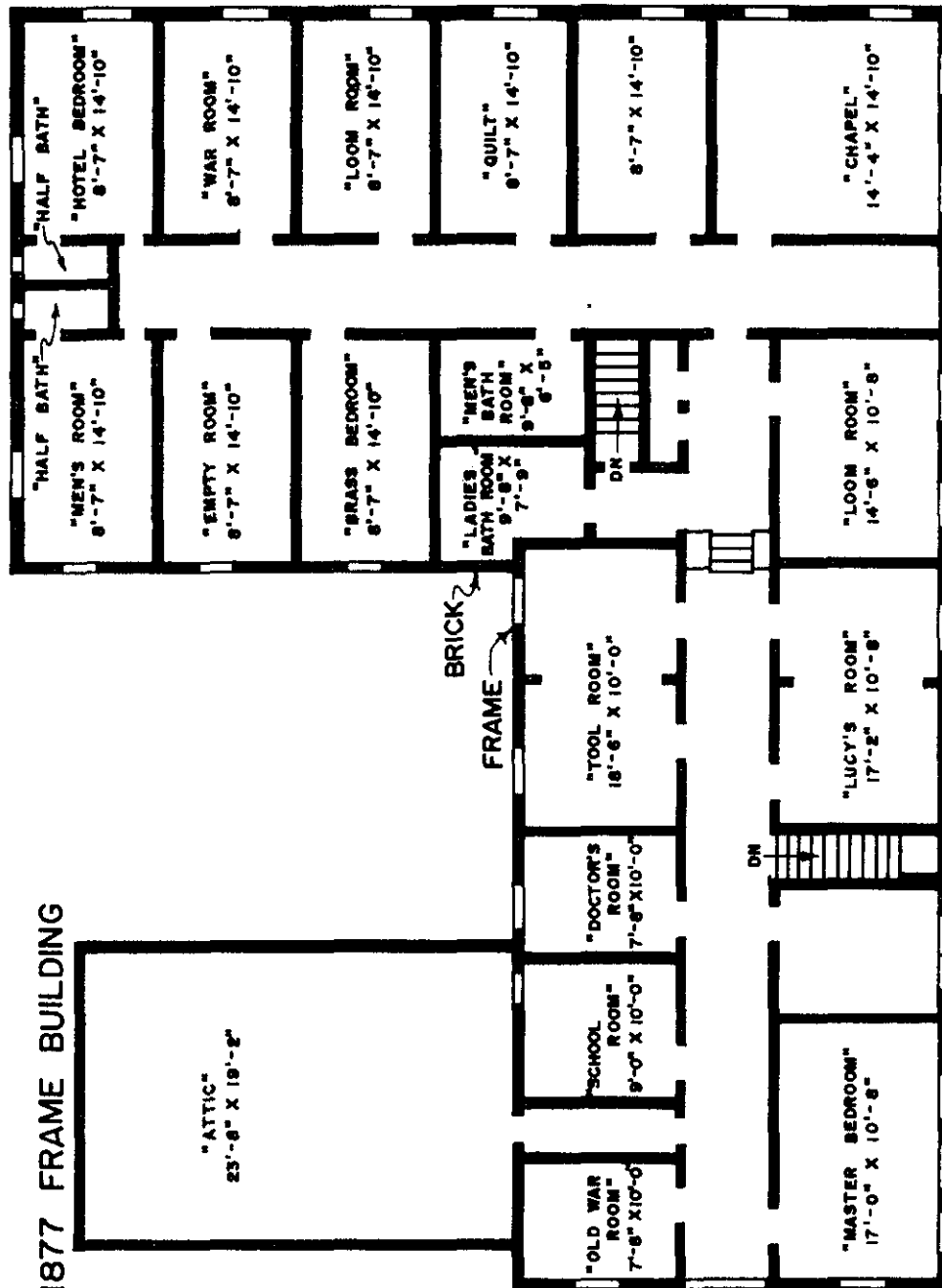
1884 BRICK BUILDING



# MARTIN HOTEL SECOND FLOOR



1884 BRICK BUILDING

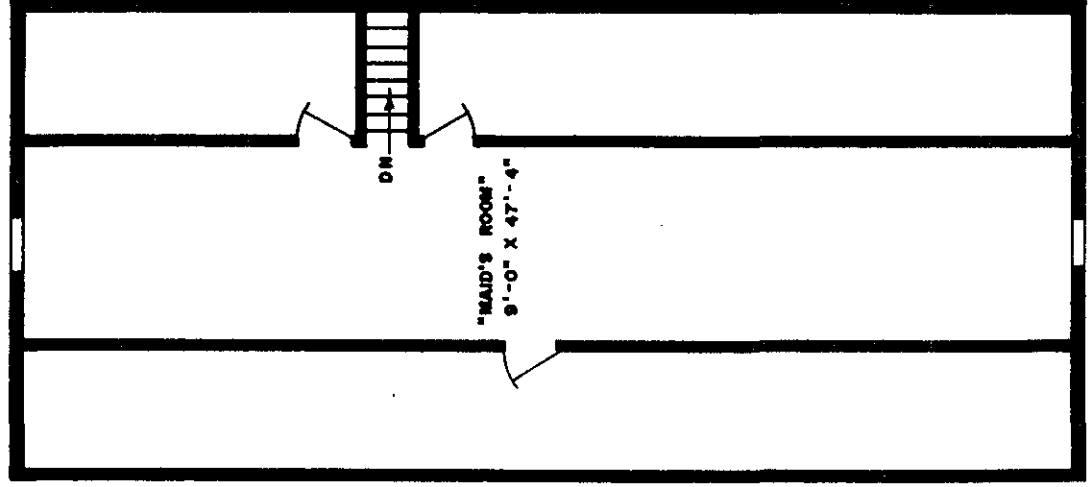


1877 FRAME BUILDING

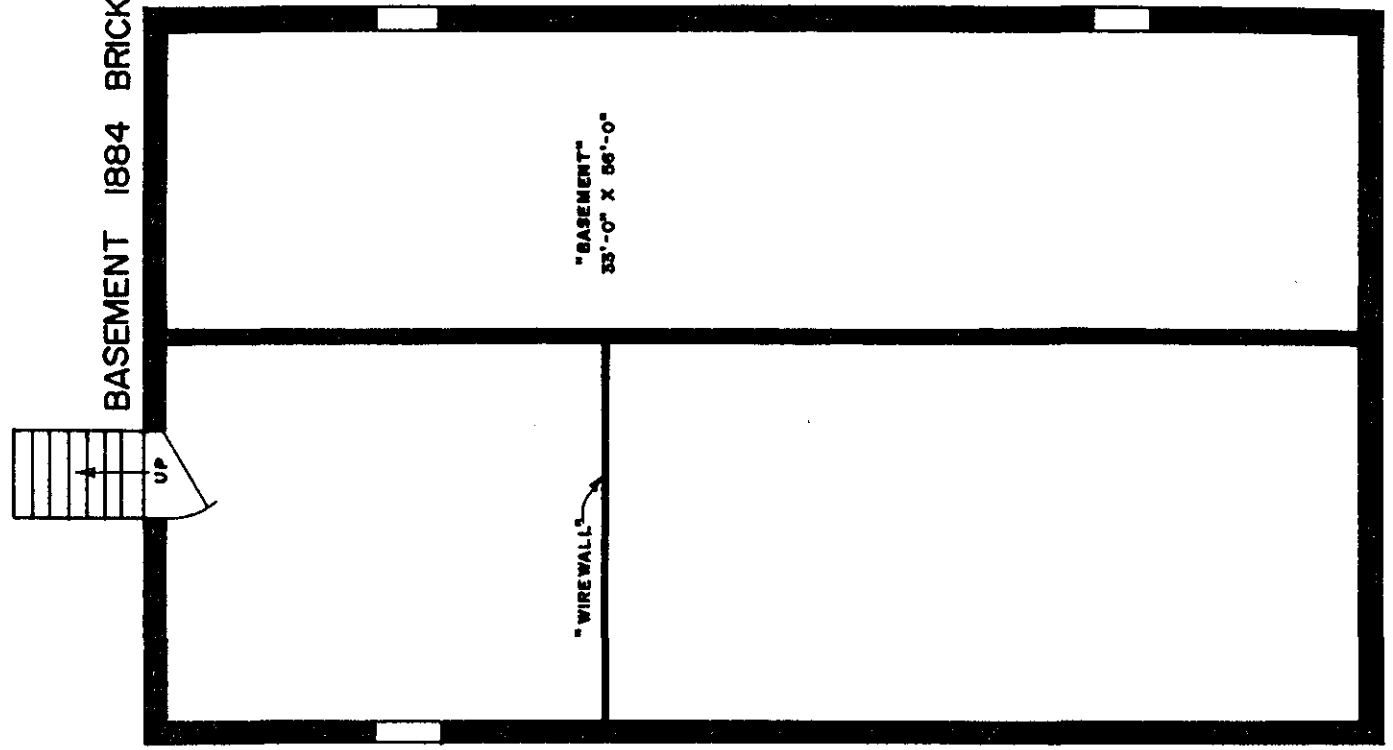
"ATTIC"  
23'-8" X 19'-2"

# MARTIN HOTEL

ATTIC 1877 FRAME BUILDING



BASEMENT 1884 BRICK BUILDING



## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.22 Acres <sup>±</sup>

UTM REFERENCES

A	15	13850	153600	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

All of lot 1 and the South 32.5 feet of lot 2, Block 2 of Wyan and Thurston's Addition to the City of Versailles, ALSO the South 42.8 feet of the vacated alley lying between blocks 2 and 3 of said Wyan and Thurston's Addition, all in Morgan County, Missouri.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 10. Geographical Data

### 10.1 Acreage.

The acreage should faithfully represent the significance for which the property is being nominated.

\* Excessive acreage such as buffer zones should *not* be included as the environment of a property is also protected under Section 106 of the Historic Preservation Act. If an exceptionally large area is being nominated, a justification for this acreage should be reflected in either Items 7 or 8 of the form.

Acreage must be entered on the form.

### 10.2 UTM reference.

The UTM (Universal Transverse Mercator) Grid System provides a simple and accurate method for recording the geographic location of an historic site. The UTM Grid System has a number of advantages over the Geographic Coordinate System (latitude/longitude), particularly speed and precision, and the use of linear, metric units of measure. UTM involves no complicated geometric constructions, and in its simplest application, requires only a straightedge, a "coordinate counter," and a sharp pencil as working tools. (The coordinate counter is a plastic measuring tool.)

The UTM grid location ("reference") of a point may be found if the point can be located on a USGS quadrangle map that has the blue UTM grid tick marks along its edges. Most USGS quadrangles published since 1950, and all published since 1959, regardless of scale, have these ticks. If no USGS map with UTM ticks exists for a location, its coordinates in terms of latitude and longitude, or any State grid system, may be used instead, although complex mathematical formula must be applied at the Register to convert such coordinates to UTM grid references. Computer programs are available to perform this task, but the initial recording of locations in UTM grid terms is always preferable to any translated value.

In the UTM system, the Earth is divided into 60 "zones," running north and south, each 6 degrees wide. Each zone is numbered (most of the USA is included in zones 10 through 19), beginning at the 180-degree meridian near the International Date Line. On a map, each zone is flattened, and a square

grid is superimposed upon it. The grid is marked off in meters, and any point in the zone may be referenced by citing its zone number, its distance in meters from the Equator ("northing") and its distance in meters from a reference line ("easting"). These three figures, the zone number, easting, and northing, make up the complete "UTM grid reference" for any point, and distinguish it from any other point on Earth.

The simplest method of determining a UTM reference is based on drawing part of the UTM grid on the map, and measuring from the grid lines to the point. It requires the following:

- A. a flat work surface on which the map may be spread out in full
- B. a straightedge (ordinary rulers may not be quite straight) long enough to reach completely across the map - generally about 30" to 36" long
- C. a very sharp pencil
- D. an ink pen for marking reference points
- E. and a UTM coordinate counter

For each point to be measured, follow these steps:

- A. Draw a line from the top of the map to the bottom, connecting the UTM ticks directly west of the point, i.e., with the highest easting value less than that of the point.
- B. Draw a line from the left to the right side of the map, connecting the grid ticks directly south of the point i.e., with the highest northing value below the point. This will intersect the previous line somewhere to the southwest of the point.
- C. Copy the zone number onto the worksheet.
- D. Copy onto the worksheet the portions of the easting and northing values given with the map ticks through which the lines have been drawn.
- E. Locate the scale on the coordinate counter which matches that of the map. Align the counter on the map so that:
  - 1. the side of the scale that reads from right to left lies along the east-west line
  - 2. the side of the scale that reads from left to right passes directly through the point.Check the alignment to be sure that it is precise.
- F. Read the coordinate counter scales, right-to-left for the easting and upward for the northing. Enter the measured values onto the form.
- G. Check the readings for plausibility - are all figures in the correct decimal place?
- H. Check the figures for accuracy by remeasuring.
- I. Be sure that the correct order is observed: zone number, easting, northing.

If the area of a property is less than 10 acres, only one UTM reference for a point centered on the site has to be completed. If the property includes 10 or more acres, the area nominated must be enclosed by a 3-or-more sided figure with a UTM reference for each corner.

For more information on the UTM Grid System, guidelines are available from the National Register. If USGS maps are not available, a State map with longitude and latitude coordinates may be used. For more information, see the section "Property Map Forms."

### 10.3 Verbal boundary description.

The purpose of this section is to define boundaries of large and/or complex properties. This section should be completed for district nominations, properties larger than 10 acres, or properties with complicated boundaries. The verbal boundary description should include street names, property lines, geographical features, etc. which separate the property from its surroundings. An example of such a description may be found in the historic district nomination in Appendix 1.

### 10.4 Overlapping state or county boundaries.

This section should be completed only if the property nominated extends over more than one State or county.

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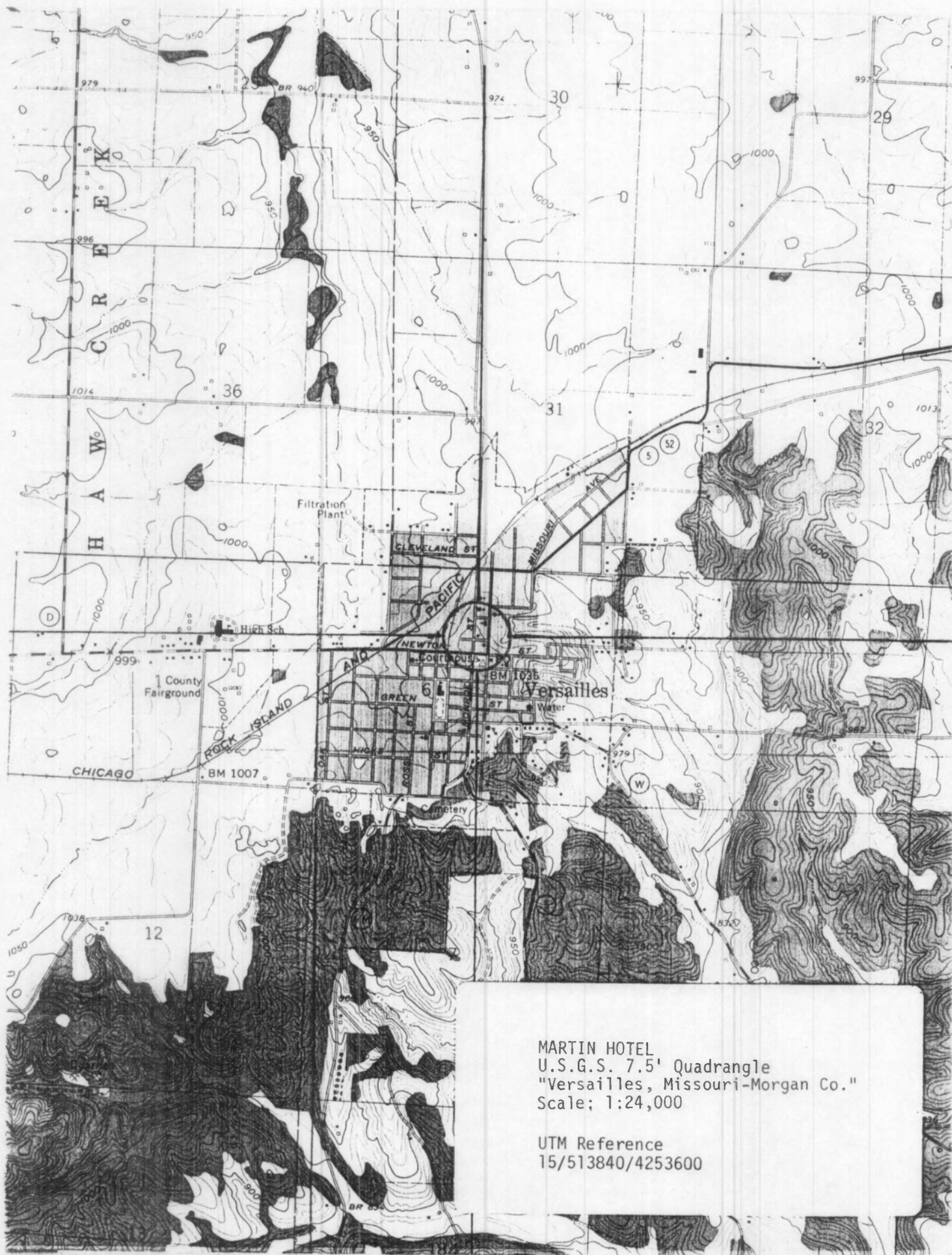
DATE ENTERED

MARTIN HOTEL

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 11 PAGE 1

- |   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 2. Ms. Mary J. Matthews, Research Assistant<br>Office of Historic Preservation<br>Department of Natural Resources<br>P.O. Box 176<br>Jefferson City, Missouri 65101 | January 9, 1978<br><br>314-751-4096 |
| 3. James M. Denny, Historian (Editor)<br>Office of Historic Preservation<br>Department of Natural Resources<br>P.O. Box 176<br>Jefferson City, Missouri 65101       | January 9, 1978<br><br>314-751-4096 |



MARTIN HOTEL  
U.S.G.S. 7.5' Quadrangle  
"Versailles, Missouri-Morgan Co."  
Scale: 1:24,000

UTM Reference  
15/513840/4253600

MARTIN HOTEL #1  
Versailles, Mo.

Photographer: Unknown  
Copy Neg. Loc.: Dept. of Natural  
Resources, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson  
City, Missouri 65101

The first log Martin Hotel, photo  
circa 1880. 1877 frame building  
can be seen adjoining the log  
structure.





MARTIN HOTEL #2

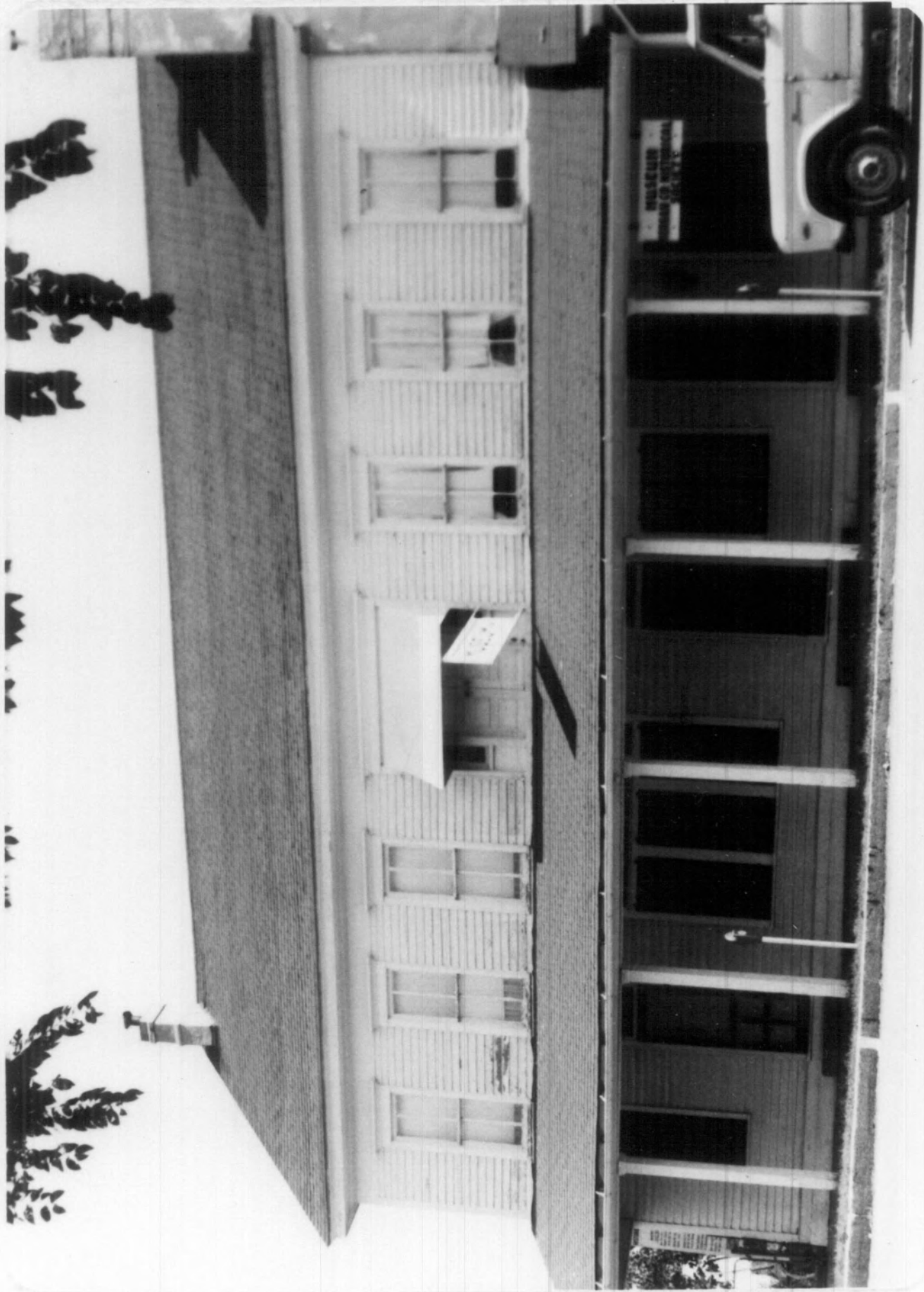
Versailles, Mo.

Photographer: Harold Lampe  
September, 1977

Cadmenton, Mo.

Copy Neg. Loc.: Dept. of Natural Resources,  
P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Mo. 65101

1877 frame building, front west facade



MARTIN HOTEL #3  
Versailles, Mo.  
Photographer: Harold Lampe  
September, 1977  
Cadmenton, Mo.  
Copy Neg. Loc.: Dept. of Natural Resources,  
P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Mo. 65101

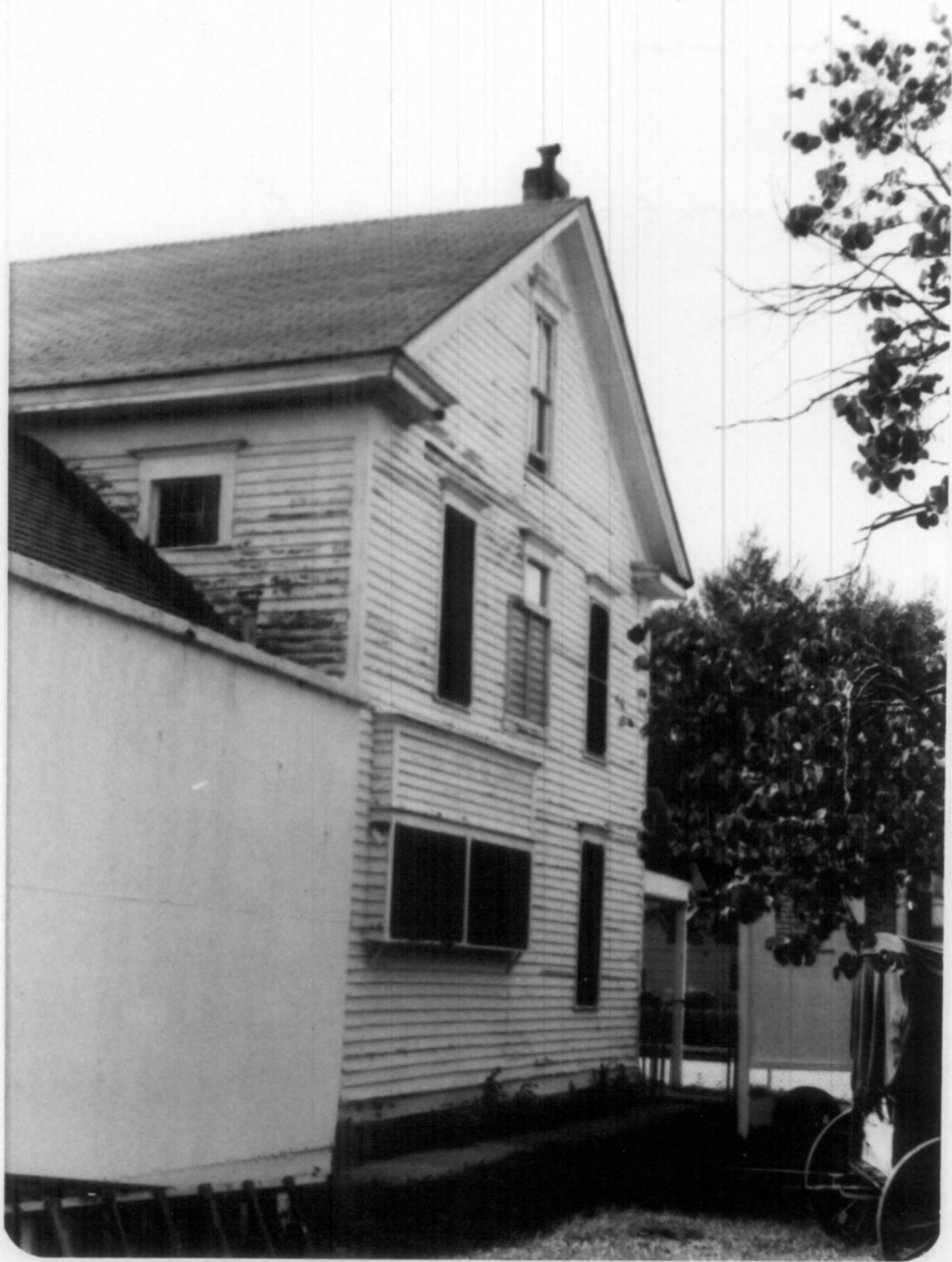
Front west facade, view beneath lean-to  
porch, frame structure on the left



MARTIN HOTEL #4  
Versailles, Mo.  
Photographer: Harold Lampe  
September, 1977  
Cadmenton, Mo.  
Copy Neg. Loc.: Dept. of Natural Resources,  
P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Mo. 65101

Frame building, north facade, showing  
corner of vault





MARTIN HOTEL #5  
Versailles, Missouri  
Photographer: Harold Lampee  
September, 1977  
Cadmenton, Mo.  
Copy Neg. Loc.: Dept. of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Mo. 65101

Frame building, east facade, showing porch on the south side of the library addition





MARTIN HOTEL #6  
Versailles, Mo.  
Photographer: Harold Lampe  
September, 1977  
Cadmon, Mo.  
Copy Neg. Loc.: Dept. of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Mo. 65101

Frame building, east facade, showing rear  
view of library addition.



MARTIN HOTEL #7

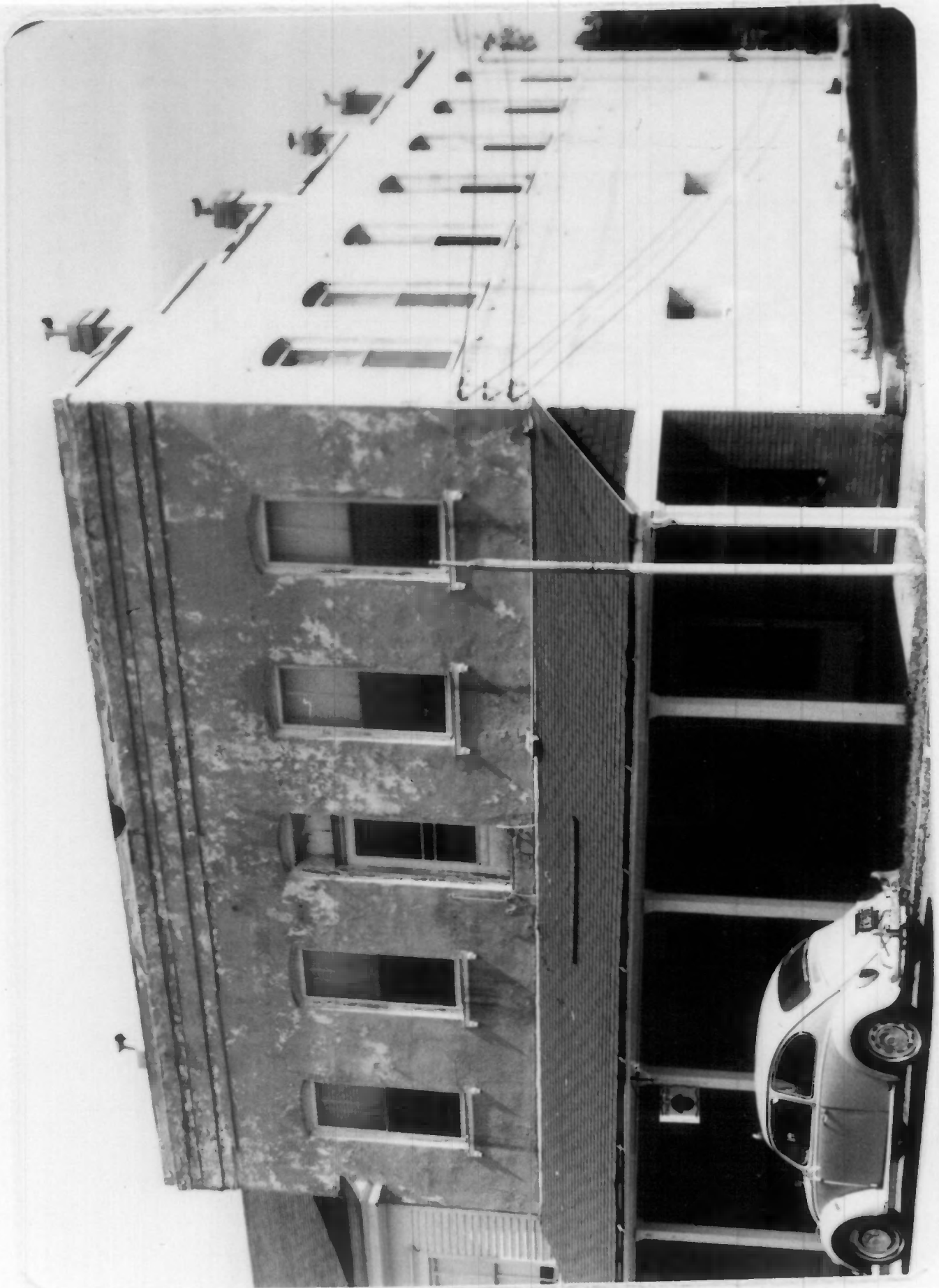
Versailles, Mo.

Photographer: Harold Lampe  
September, 1977

Cadmon, Mo.

Copy Neg. Loc.: Dept. of Natural Resources,  
P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Mo. 65101

Brick 1884 building, front west facade.



MARTIN HOTEL #8

Versailles, Mo.

Photographer: Harold Lampe  
September, 1977

Cadmenton, Mo.

Copy Neg. Loc.: Dept. of Natural Resources,  
P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Mo. 65101

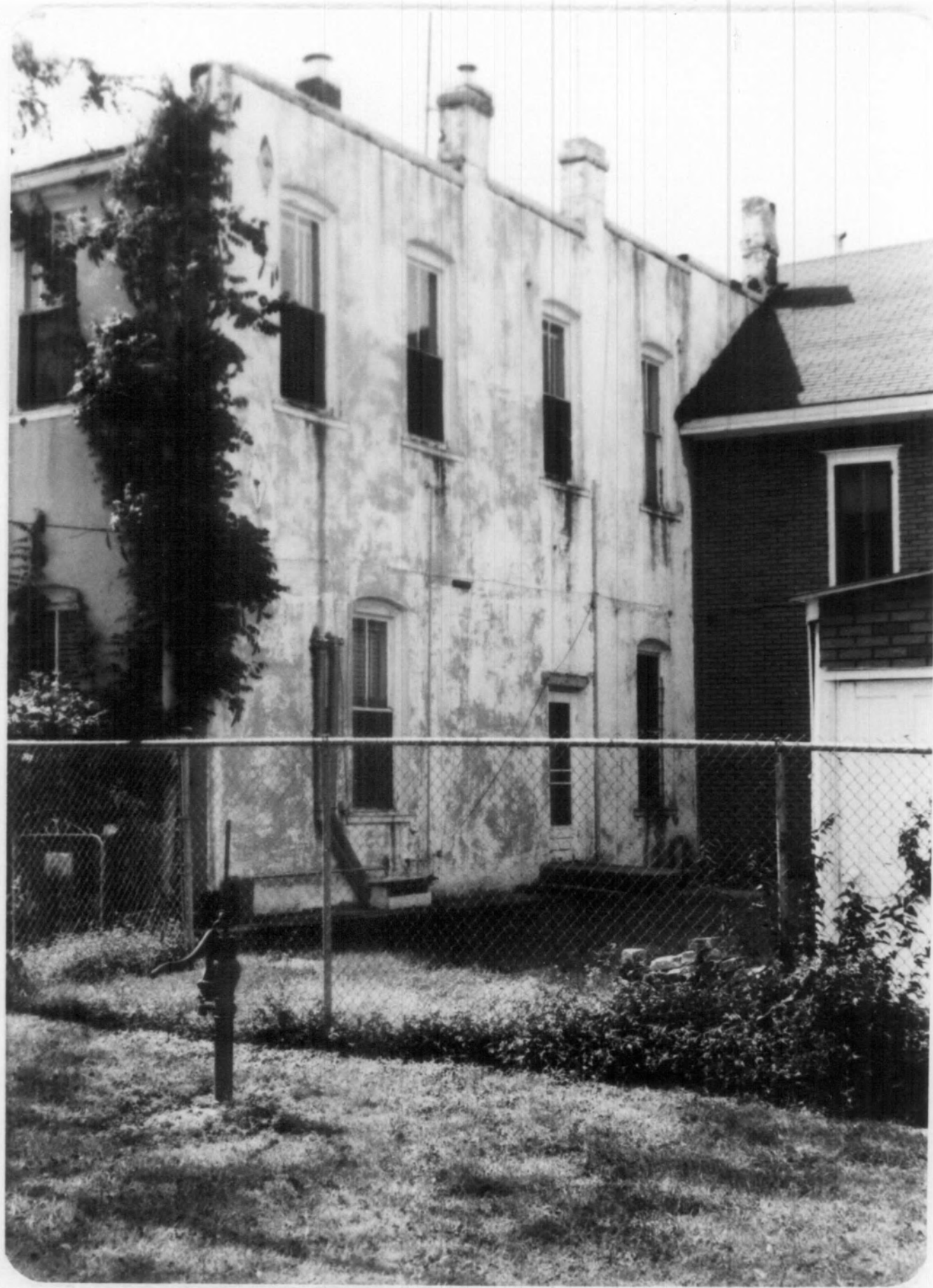
Brick building, east facade, showing  
"old kitchen" addition.



MARTIN HOTEL #9  
Versailles, Mo.  
Photographer: Harold Lampe  
September, 1977  
Cadmenton, Mo.  
Copy Neg. Loc.: Dept. of Natural Resources,  
P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Mo. 65101

Brick building, north facade, showing junction of frame building.





MARTIN HOTEL #10

Versailles, Mo.

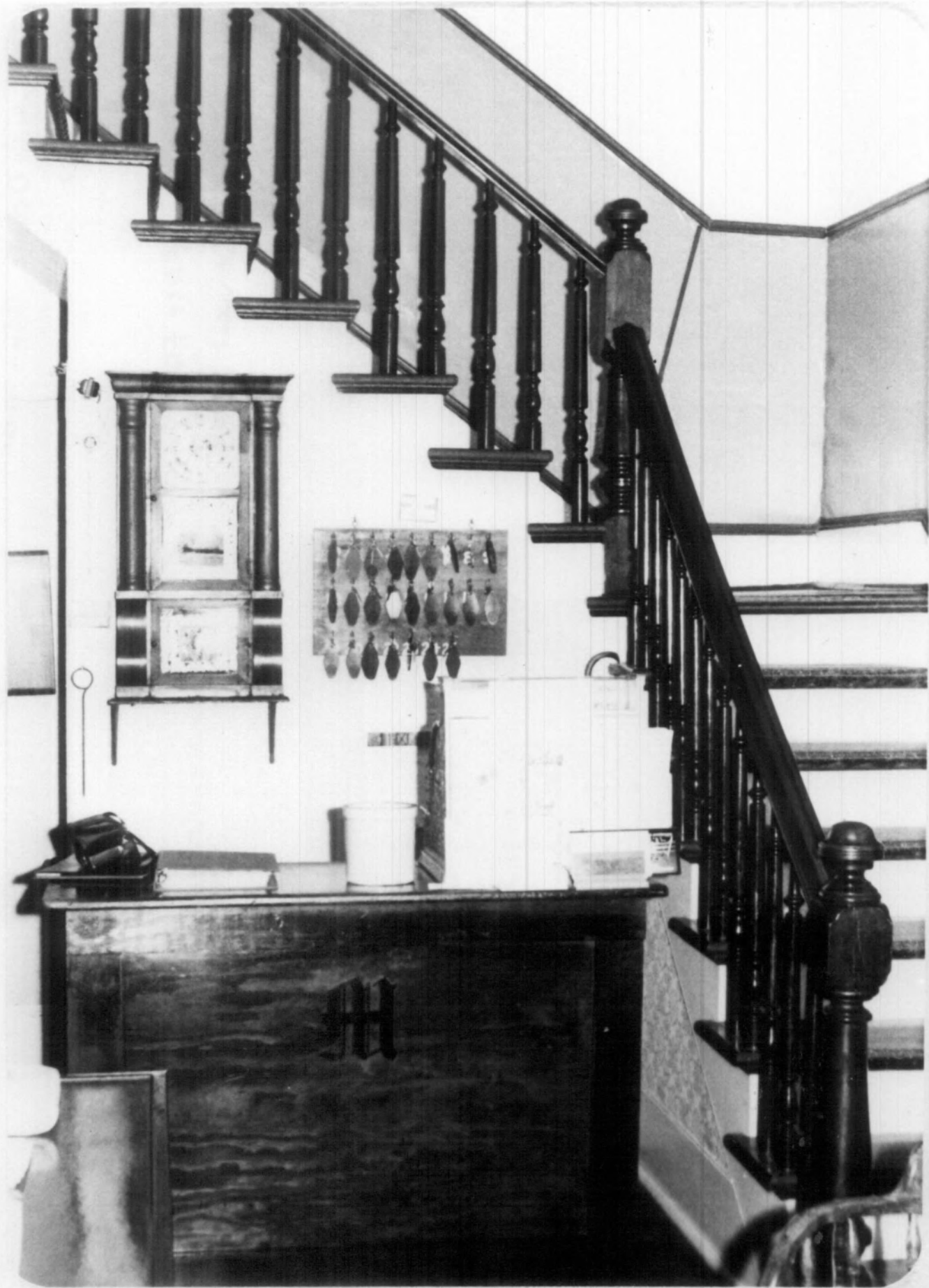
Photographer: Deborah Blumhorst

September, 1977

Versailles Leader Statesman

Copy Neg. Loc.: Dept. of Natural Resources,  
P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Mo. 65101

"Old lobby", showing main staircase,  
original hotel registration desk, and  
Seth Thomas clock.



MARTIN HOTEL #11

Versailles, Mo.

Photographer: Deborah Blumhorst

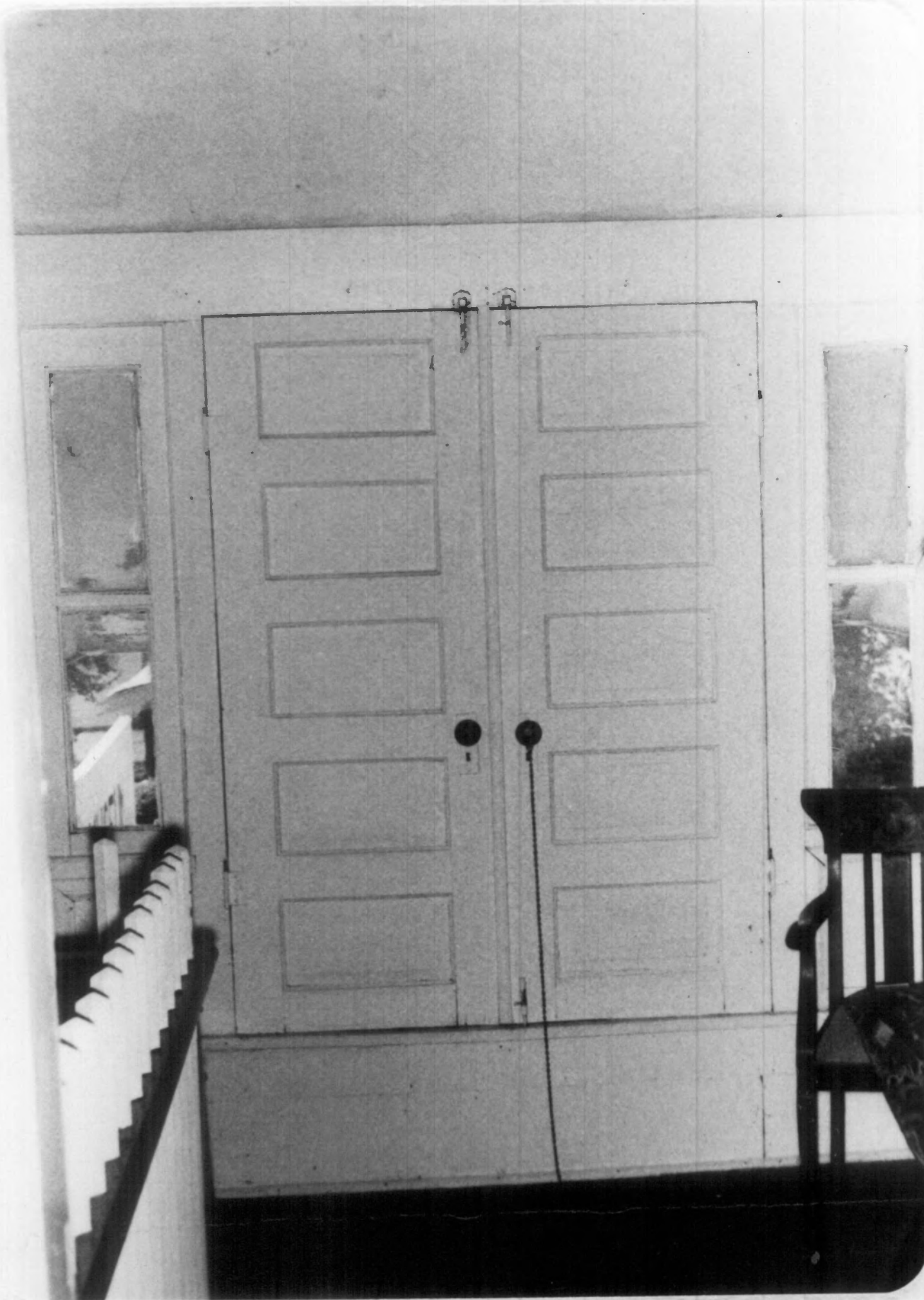
September, 1977

Versailles Leader Statesman

Copy Neg. Loc.: Dept. of Natural Resources,

P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Mo. 65101

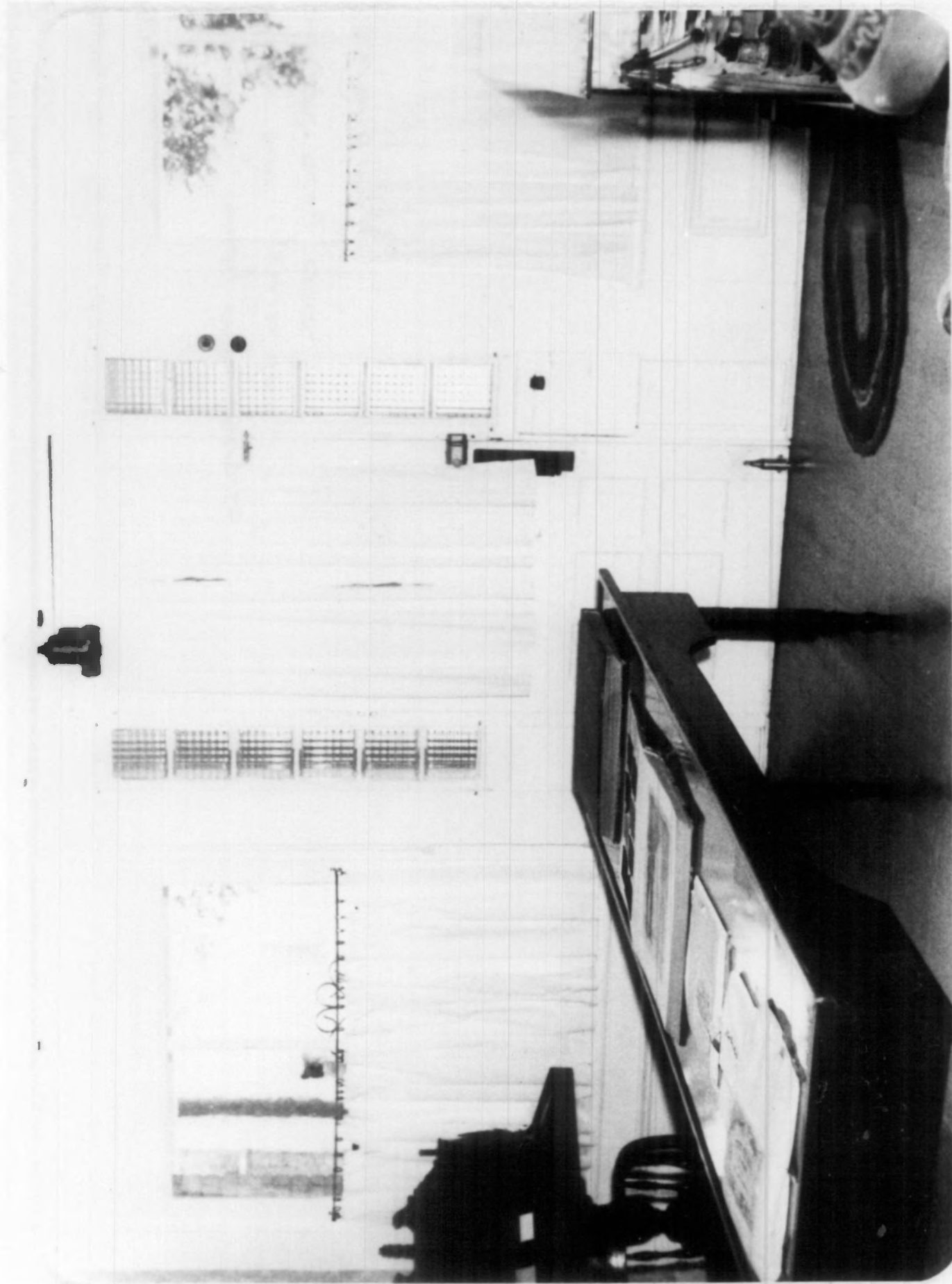
Frame building, second floor; double doors  
that once led to the veranda, from inside



MARTIN HOTEL #12  
Versailles, Mo.  
Photographer: Deborah Blumhorst  
September, 1977  
Versailles Leader Statesman  
Copy Neg. Loc.: Dept. of Natural Resources,  
P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Mo. 65101

Brick building, first floor interior view,  
main entryway of west facade





EXTRA  
PHOTOS



