

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAY 21 1975
DATE ENTERED	OCT 1 1975

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

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

John Martin House

AND/OR COMMON

Rock House *use this*

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

N of King on
East side of S.R. 1186, in triangle formed by junction of S.R. 1186 with S.R. 1187 and 1175

CITY, TOWN

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

~~Flat Rock~~ *King*

VICINITY OF

5th

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

North Carolina

37

Stokes

169

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

—DISTRICT

—PUBLIC

—OCCUPIED

—AGRICULTURE

—MUSEUM

—BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

—COMMERCIAL

—PARK

STRUCTURE

—BOTH

—WORK IN PROGRESS

—EDUCATIONAL

—PRIVATE RESIDENCE

—SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

—ENTERTAINMENT

—RELIGIOUS

—OBJECT

IN PROCESS

—YES: RESTRICTED

—GOVERNMENT

—SCIENTIFIC

—BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

—INDUSTRIAL

—TRANSPORTATION

—NO

—MILITARY

—OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mrs. Norma Thore and descendents

STREET & NUMBER

413 West Main Street

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Pilot Mountain

— VICINITY OF

North Carolina

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Stokes County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Danbury

North Carolina

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

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

The John Martin House is a two-story stone ruin situated on the crest of a ridge overlooking Sauratown Mountain Range. The south elevation, which faces the mountain, is presumably the main facade, for the porch is centered on this facade, and it is logical that the house would face this breathtaking vista. The ruin is the remains of the late eighteenth century residence of John Martin; it has been a ruin since the late nineteenth century. Martin's grave is located at the bottom of the hill below the house. The strikingly picturesque structure will be stabilized and will serve as the chief attraction of a four-acre nature park which is being developed here.

The three-bay wide, rectangular structure is constructed entirely of irregular-shaped fieldstone, with the exception of the front porch, and has a high raised basement. The walls are generally intact throughout the first and second stories except for the west half of the south facade, where the stone has fallen away. Exterior end chimneys, each with single smooth shoulders, project from the east and west sides. A square two-story wing, approximately one-half the width of the main block, projects from the center bay of the north elevation. All traces of the roof have disappeared, although it was presumably gabled, as a portion of the west gable end is still in situ. The main entrance was apparently located in the center bay of the south facade, but no trace of it remains because this segment of the wall is missing. A segmental-arched rear entrance is located in the center bay of the main block, opening into the rear wing at both stories. The basement contains three very small, wedge-shaped window openings at ground level, which probably functioned primarily for ventilation. Larger window openings, all of which are segmental-arched, survive in the first-story east bay of the main facade and in the end bays of both stories of the rear elevation. The side elevations are windowless. In the northeast bay of the east side at ground level is a wide opening with a large stone slab lintel. The opening is built into the chimney on this side, presumably for added structural strength. Stone steps descend through this opening to the basement. A porch, which rests on a solid bed of rocks, occupies the middle section of the main facade. The stone steps which ascend to the porch, and the stone slabs which compose the porch floor appear to be quarried. Traces of stucco exist on the exterior walls, and are particularly noticeable on the east wall. The entire structure was apparently stuccoed at one time, perhaps originally.

The rear wing appears to be a later addition, for not only are the irregularly shaped fieldstones smaller and more consistently rectangular than those of the main block, but the wing slightly overlaps the second-story southeast window. The rear wing has an opening in the first-story center bay which was apparently a doorway. This opening is flanked by segmental-arched window openings. The only other window openings in the wing are in the second story of the east and west elevations.

There are no visible remains of the interior floors, ceilings, or trim. The set-backs in the east and west stone walls at floor and ceiling levels apparently supported wooden joists. The vertical niches in the east and west stone walls at floor and ceiling levels in the rear wing must have served the same purpose. Most of the stone partition wall located west of center in the main block is still standing, indicating a hall-and-parlor plan. The partition contains a segmental-arched door opening at the basement and

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE one

first-floor levels. There are segmental-arched fireplaces at the basement and upper levels in both sides. Traces of plaster on the interior wall surfaces of the rear wing probably indicate the original wall finish. Historical research has shown that John Martin was a very prosperous man with a wealth of possessions. Archaeological artifacts probably exist beneath the rubble which has piled up within and around the ruin which will yield further information concerning the interior and exterior appearance of the house.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Calendar of the Tennessee and King's Mountain Papers of the Draper Collection of Manuscripts. Publications of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. Calendar Series, Volume III. Madison: By the Society, 1929.

Connor, R.D.W., comp. and ed. A Manual of North Carolina . . . 1913. Raleigh: North Carolina Historical Commission /Division of Archives and History/, 1913.

D A R Patriot Index. Washington: National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, 1966.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 4

UTM REFERENCES

A | 1,7 | 5,5,7 | 2,0,0 | 4,0 | 2,8 | 8,2,0
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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 Research by Robert Topkins, survey specialist; architectural description by Ruth Little-Stokes, survey specialist.

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Division of Archives and History

4/21/75

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

109 East Jones Street

919/829-7862

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Raleigh

North Carolina

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Ruth Little-Stokes

TITLE North Carolina State Historic Preservation Officer DATE 4 April 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

A. B. Mortenson

DATE

10/1/75

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

DATE

Sept 24, 1975

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Atty. Gen. J. Ramsey

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Strong local tradition identifies the impressive stone ruin overlooking Sauratown Mountain as the eighteenth century dwelling of John Martin. Martin acquired land in the area soon after the American Revolution, in which he served as lieutenant. A large landowner, he was a colonel in the militia and held a number of political positions in Stokes County. The picturesque ruin, a reminder of what must have been among the grandest early houses in the area, is to be stabilized as part of a nature park.

The Rock House is believed to have been built by Colonel John Martin on 400 acres of land purchased from Micajah Clark in 1787. (Clark had acquired the land by state grant in 1784.) Local tradition has it that Colonel Martin laid the foundation for his house in 1770 and completed it in 1785. This is unlikely, however, as he would have been only fourteen years old in 1770. Furthermore, an 1845 division of Colonel Martin's former landholdings refers to his "Original home tract of Four hundred acres which was entered by Micajah Clark."

Martin served as a lieutenant in the Revolution and engaged in a skirmish at Colson's Old Fields. He is believed to have been wounded while on a scouting expedition near King's Mountain, which allegedly prevented him from participating in the important battle which took place there.

After the Revolution Martin returned to present-day Stokes County where he served for a time as a colonel in the county militia and married Nancy Shipp. He then began acquiring large quantities of land in Stokes and Surry counties and in Tennessee. Toward the end of his lifetime Martin owned nearly 9,000 acres of land in Stokes County alone.

Various inventories of the personal property in Martin's possession at the time of his death suggest that the Rock House was the home of an educated man of considerable wealth. He was the owner of at least forty-one slaves and in his will bequeathed twenty-six of them by name to various heirs. He owned considerable personal property, including a large number of books on law and the classics. Among the more than eighty volumes in Martin's personal library were an encyclopedia; several law dictionaries and casebooks; Blackstone's Commentary; several English, Greek, and Latin grammars; biographies of Franklin and Washington; several geographies; and many early literary works including "Fieldings works," "Chesterfields letters," "Eesop fables lattin," Virgil, and a number of Greek and Latin books. The Rock House is said to have been widely known as a center of hospitality. Martin's residence is shown on the Price-Strother Map of 1808 (spelled "Marlin").

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Martin served as a magistrate on the Stokes County Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions at various times from 1791 to 1818. In 1798 and 1799 he was elected as one of Stokes's representatives in the North Carolina House of Commons. He is said to have been a highly esteemed leader who spoke with a pronounced stutter. "SAURA," an anonymous spokesman for Stokes County who claimed to have been an eyewitness, penned the following anecdote concerning "Col. Jack" to a Raleigh newspaper in 1854:

When a requisition was made upon the militia of this State for the defence of Norfolk, I was present when the North Regiment of the County was paraded to stand the draft for its quota. Col. Jack Martin, who was the commander, formed them into a hollow square and made them a speech. I wish I could give you the speech; it was the best adapted to its purpose of any I ever heard. He then straightened them out into a line, and gave the word for every one that was willing to go, to march three paces in front. The drums rolled, the fifes squealed, the colors waved a flourish, and, at the word March!! every man, with a simultaneous step, moved forward three paces and halted perfectly in line!! The Col. rode down the regiment and picked out the number called for, and discharged the rest. --During the scene I have attempted to describe, a company of some dozen bare-footed boys with cornstalk guns, whether for frolic or to show their pluck, marched out too and joined in the same line with the volunteer regiment: and there they were when Col. Jack came along picking out his men. 'What, the bo-bo-boys, too! (he stuttered badly,) God bl-bl-bless you, boys!' said he. He then marched them out, riding along the line, to the tune of the white cockade, making a harangue, first to the boys and then to the selected men, (who were advanced somewhat in front,) and then to the Regiment generally; and such shouts and hurras were never heard! Glorious, glorious old Jack! He was a rough specimen of humanity, but he had the ring of true metal.

John Martin died April 5, 1822, at about the age of sixty-six. His will provided that his widow Nancy be provided a life interest in his homeplace and that at her death the property should pass outright to his son William G. Martin.

Nancy Martin died January 24, 1841. The Rock House apparently then descended to William G. Martin, who died intestate and without heirs the following year. In 1845 William G. Martin's lands were divided by court-appointed commissioners among his various brothers and sisters, or their respective heirs. It is uncertain from the land descriptions given in the division exactly who received the Rock House. No reference was made to it by name and an exhaustive examination of existing deed transactions between surviving members of the Martin and related families during the period after 1845 provided no clues as to the identity of the house's owner or owners.

In June, 1887, T. L. Sarles and his wife Malinda, residents of Surry County, conveyed to William K. Thoe (Thore) for \$900 a 133-acre tract of land in Stokes County. Where, when, and how the Sarles obtained the property could not be ascertained. In

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE two

December, 1896, Malinda Sarles sold her interest in the 133-acre "Rock house tract" (the first reference to the tract by name) to Bettie Sarles (also of Surry County) for \$517. Four months later the Sarles sold a seventy-four-acre portion of their land, including the Rock House, to Jessie A. Ashburn and his wife (also of Surry), for \$532.

Local tradition has it that the house was reduced to ruins by fire (or by a windstorm) in 1897. As with so many other local legends concerning the Rock House and its early owners, however, this could not be substantiated by reliable evidence.

In May, 1899, the Ashburns sold the tract for \$700 to Thomas J. and Sarah E. Thore. The ruin has remained in the possession of the Thore family since that time. The present owner is Mrs. Norma Thore of Pilot Mountain.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE one

Raleigh Register. "The County of Stokes," November 15, 1854.
Secretary of State. Land Grant Office. Book 55.
Stokes County Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions. Minutes, 1790-1793; 1815-1832.
Microfilm of originals, Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.
Stokes County Records, Stokes County Courthouse, Danbury, North Carolina (Subgroups:
Deeds, Wills, Deeds).
Stokes County Records, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina
(Subgroups: Deeds, Wills, Estate records, Tax records).
Surry County Records, Surry County Courthouse, Dobson, North Carolina (Subgroups:
Deeds).
Surry County Records, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina
(Subgroups: Deeds).

Property The Rock House
Martin, John, House (change?)

75001292
5 Tokes

State North Carolina Working Number 5.21.75.951

TECHNICAL

Photos 4
Maps 1

4 cont. sheets (#7-9)

CONTROL

OK CM
5.22.75

Some what shaky historical foundation. No precise statement of architectural significance. Statements on military and political significance are good. But the whole story about who the house belonged to

HISTORIAN

Conf.
E. Smith
6-30-75

rest mainly on "local tradition."
Catherine would prefer it just be called "The Rock House."

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Accept 6-19-75
Lebovich

ARCHEOLOGIST

I agree with Ed. I would feel more comfortable if a couple of deeds were more specific. Still, the ruins are impressive without the association with Martin and appear eligible.

OTHER

Conf.
W.P. Luce
7/8/75

HAER

Inventory _____
Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Conference
accept
9-19-75

Wish they had substantiated significance better

BRANCH CHIEF

Accept
9-26-75
E. Shull for
Herrington

KEEPER

Mary Pacey for
Wm. Murtogh 9/24/75

National Register Write-up _____ Send-back _____
Federal Register Entry 12-2-75 Re-submit _____

Entered OCT 1 1975

INT:2106-74



NEGATIVE NUMBER N-73-11 974
PHOTOGRAPHER RANDALL PAGE
PHOTO DATE 11/73
SUBJECT Rock House

Hanging Rock State Park Vic.
Stokes Co.

Form No. 10-301a
(Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

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RECEIVED **MAY 21 1975**

DATE ENTERED **OCT 1 1975**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC

John Martin House

AND/OR COMMON

Rock House

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Flat Rock

VICINITY OF

COUNTY
Stokes

STATE
North Carolina

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Randall Page

DATE OF PHOTO 11/73

NEGATIVE FILED AT Division of Archives and History

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO

Overall from north



NEGATIVE NUMBER N-73-11-984
PHOTOGRAPHER RANDALL PAGE
PHOTO DATE 11-73
SUBJECT Rock House
Hanging Rock St. Park vic.

5

Form No. 10-301a
(Rev. 10-74)

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TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC

John Martin House

AND/OR COMMON

Rock House

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Flat Rock

VICINITY OF

COUNTY
Stokes

STATE
North Carolina

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Randall Page

DATE OF PHOTO 11/73

NEGATIVE FILED AT Division of Archives and History

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT. GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO

Overall from south

DEPARTMENT OF
AND HISTORY
SH, N. C.

31 1974

ORTH CAROLINA
OF HISTORY



NEGATIVE NUMBER N-73-11-1003

PHOTOGRAPHER RANDALL PAGE

PHOTO DATE 11-73

SUBJECT Rock House

Hanging Rock State Park,
Vic., Stokes, Co.

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

NPS Number Oct. 1, 1975

Title: The Rock House

Stokes Co., North Carolina

Loc

Detail of east elevation showing
basement entrance -

FROM STATE DEPARTMENT OF
ARCHIVES AND HISTORY
RALEIGH, N. C.

DEC 31 1974

PRINT BY NORTH CAROLINA
MUSEUM OF HISTORY



NEGATIVE NUMBER N-73-11-1000

PHOTOGRAPHER RANDALL PAGE

PHOTO DATE 11-73

SUBJECT Rock House

Hangyng Rock State Park, vic.
Stokes, Co.

#4

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

1000

NPS Number Oct. 1, 1975

Title: The Rock House

Stokes Co., North Carolina

Loc. Details of east interior wall showing

second floor fireplace

FROM STATE DEPARTMENT OF
ARCHIVES AND HISTORY
RALEIGH, N. C.

DEC 31 1974

PRINT BY NORTH CAROLINA
MUSEUM OF HISTORY

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC

John Martin House

AND/OR COMMON

Rock House

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Flat Rock

VICINITY OF

COUNTY

STATE

Stokes

North Carolina

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE USGS Map, Hanging Rock Quadrangle

SCALE 1:24000

DATE 1964

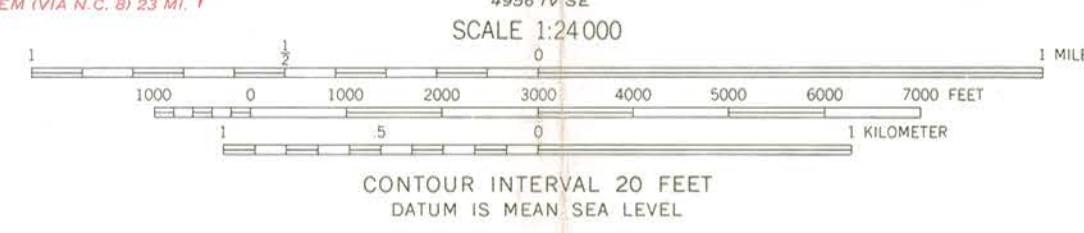
4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

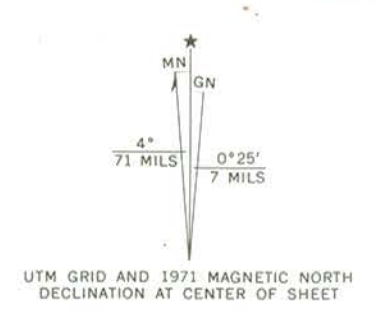
1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES



North Carolina
UTM Reference:
17/557200/4028820



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1962. Field checked 1964
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on North Carolina coordinate system
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 17, shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial
photographs taken 1971. This information not field checked



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

HANGING ROCK, N. C.
N3622.5—W8015.7/5

1964
PHOTOREVISED 1971
AMS 4956 IV NE—SERIES V842



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE NORTH CAROLINA

Date Entered OCT 1 1975

Name

Location

The Rock House

Flat Rock vicinity
Stokes County

Also Notified

Hon. Jesse A. Helms
Hon. Robert B. Morgan
Hon. Stephen L. Neal
Regional Director, Southeast Region

State Historic Preservation Officer
Dr. Larry E. Tise
Acting Director, Division of Archives
and History
Department of Cultural Resources
109 East Jones Street
Raleigh, North Carolina 27611

PR MMott/row 10/2/75



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
Department of Cultural Resources
Raleigh 27611

21 April 1975

James E. Holshouser, Jr.
Governor

Grace J. Rohrer
Secretary

Division of Archives and History
Robert E. Stipe, Director

Dr. William J. Murtagh
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
18th and C streets, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20240



Dear Dr. Murtagh:

We are enclosing a nomination for the Rock House in Stokes County, North Carolina, to be entered in the National Register of Historic Places.

We trust you will find this nomination in order. If there are any questions, please call us.

Sincerely yours,

Robert E. Stipe
State Historic Preservation Officer

enclosures

cc: Hon. Robert Morgan
Hon. Jesse Helms
Hon. Stephen L. Neal

36 NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

1 NAME as it appears on federal register: **Rock House** 2 OTHER NAMES: **John Martin House** 3 date of entry: **10-1-75** 4 county code: **169**

5 LOCATION street & number: **Not King on SR 1186** city / town: **King** vicinity of: **King** state: **NC** county: **Stokes** 6 NPS REGION: **Southeast**

7 OWNER PRIVATE STATE MUNICIPAL COUNTY MULTIPLE FEDERAL (agency name) 8 ADMINISTRATOR: _____

9 EXISTING SURVEYS HABS HAER NHL 10 FUNDED? YES NO 11 CONGRESS. DISTRICT: **5th** 12 SOURCE OF NOMINATION: STATE FEDERAL if state who prepared form? **TOPKINS** 15 ACREAGE: **4.0** LOCAL PRIVATE ORGANIZATION

13 WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES NAME _____ NO 14 WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES NAME _____ NO

16 CONDITION deteriorated altered original site excellent ruins unaltered moved good unexposed reconstructed unknown fair unexcavated excavated

17 features: INTERIOR SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1 NOT INTACT-0 UNKNOWN-4 NOT APPLICABLE-7 EXTERIOR SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2 NOT INTACT-0 UNKNOWN-5 NOT APPLICABLE-8 ENVIRONS SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3 NOT INTACT-0 UNKNOWN-6 NOT APPLICABLE-9

18 ACCESS YES - Restricted YES - Unrestricted No Access Unknown 19 ADAPTIVE USE YES NO 20 SAVED? YES NO IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT? yes no

21 AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: ARCHAEOLOGY - prehistoric-2 ARCHAEOLOGY - historic-1 AGRICULTURE -3 ARCHITECTURE -4 ART -5 ENGINEERING -11 ENTERTAINMENT -26 COMMUNICATIONS -7 CONSERVATION -8 ECONOMICS -9 EDUCATION -10 LANDSCAPE ARCH. -15 LAW -16 EXPLORATION -12 HEALTH -27 INDUSTRY -13 INVENTION -14 POLITICS / GOVT. -21 RELIGION -22 SCIENCE -23 SOCIAL / HUMANITARIAN -24 SOCIAL / CULTURAL -30 TRANSPORTATION -25 RECREATION -28 SETTLEMENT -29 URBAN PLANNING -31 OTHER (SPECIFY) _____

22 CLAIMS: explain 'first' 'oldest' 'only'

23 functions WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: House CURRENTLY: **Not in Use** 24 dates of initial construction: **c. 1787** major alterations: **1897? -- gutted by storm or fire** historic events: _____ 25 ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION: **0 --**

26 architectural style(s): **--** 27 architect: **--** 28 master builder: **--** 29 engineer: **--**

30 landscape architect / garden designer: **--** 31 interior decorator: **--** 32 artist: **--** 33 artisan: **--** 34 builder / contractor: **--**

35 NAMES give role & date PERSONAL: **Col. John Martin, believed to be original owner, wealthy landowner, colonel of the militia, state and county officeholder** EVENTS: _____ INSTITUTIONAL: _____

36 NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP **2-story stone ^{ruins} of one of area's most grand early houses** **to have been** **Remains of one of area's grandest early houses, believed built for John Martin, wealthy landowner, colonel of the militia, and holder of several state and county political offices.**