

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

VLR: 09/20/88

NRHP 11/03/88

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Carter, John Waddey, House (DHL File No. 120-35)  
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 324 East Church Street  not for publication  
city, town Martinsville  vicinity  
state Virginia code VA county Henry code 089 zip code 24112

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.  
Signature of certifying official: [Signature] Date: 9/30/88  
Virginia Division of Historic Landmarks

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet  
Signature of commenting or other official: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

## 6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/Trade: Business

## 7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Queen Anne-Eastlake

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick  
walls Wood/weatherboard

roof Metal/tin  
other Wood/shingle

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

### Summary Description

The John Waddey Carter House located at 324 East Church Street in Martinsville is a two-story Queen Anne residence. Built by Mr. Carter in 1896 as a wedding present for his young bride, the house is situated on a regularly shaped one-half-acre lot two blocks from the town's central business district. Referred to as the "Gray Lady" by locals, the dwelling is a textbook example of the Queen Anne style, possessing the typical features of an irregular composition, mixture of materials and surfaces, and extensive use of Eastlake ornamentation. Conspicuously located on one of Martinsville's main thoroughfares, the house was appropriate for a prominent and prosperous lawyer and his young wife.

### Architectural Analysis

The John Waddey Carter House is a two-story gray frame weatherboard dwelling featuring a dominant two-story central gable, an asymmetrical one-story wrap-around porch, and a corner tower. The standing-seam metal-clad roof is hipped with steeply pitched lower cross gables and a rear ell. A large inset dormer on the east side and a smaller gabled dormer in the rear further complicate the roofline. Two brick chimneys rise above the roof; one very simple and capped, the other with decorative brickwork and a corbelled brick cap. The two-story bay window on the east side, the service ell, and the polygonal corner tower give the house an irregular mass. The foundation is running bond brick with inset rectangular panels for ventilation.

The front elevation of the Carter House is a striking combination of Queen Anne elements. The one-story porch extends along the front of the house, curving to incorporate the multi-sided tower and continuing halfway down the west side. The shed-roofed porch is detailed with a delicate beaded spindlework frieze supported by turned porch posts and lace brackets. The low balustrade is a combination of heavy turned balusters and corner raised panels along the front of the house with only balusters along the side.

A two-story, cross gable emphasizes the main entrance of the house. Turned porch supports with sunburst-patterned solid brackets create a basket arch and the center is marked with a pendant. The first-floor gable has a lower pitch, a simple bargeboard, and board-and-batten decoration. The second-story porch is more elaborately decorated with a fish-scale shingle base,

See continuation sheet

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)  
Architecture

Period of Significance  
1896

Significant Dates  
1896

Cultural Affiliation  
N/A

Significant Person  
N/A

Architect/Builder  
Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Statement of Significance

The John Waddey Carter House is significant under Criterion C as a high-style landmark example of Queen Anne architecture exhibiting Eastlake ornamentation. Built in 1896 at the height of the style's popularity, it is one of the few surviving architecturally distinguished houses built before the turn of the century in downtown Martinsville. Having been in the same family for ninety-one years, the house maintains a high degree of design integrity. Mr. Carter had already attained prominence as a lawyer and local politician when he chose to build a fashionable Queen Anne style house as a wedding present for his second wife Mary Kizziah Drewery. This architectural style may have been chosen not only as a statement of Carter's position but also to impress his young bride.

Historical Background

Henry County, named for its most renowned citizen Patrick Henry, is located in southwest Virginia and was formed in 1776 from Pittsylvania County. Supported by fertile soil, the county's farms produced excellent tobacco. After the Civil War, tobacco farming and production sustained the area through the turn of the century. In 1886 Henry County was given access to a nationwide market when the Roanoke & Southern Railway built a line connecting Roanoke to Winston-Salem, North Carolina. The line was taken over in 1896 by the Norfolk & Western Railway, and manufacturing began to replace the old agricultural economy. Some of the families that had prospered from the land moved from their farms to the county seat of Martinsville and built town houses that signified their position. The Carter and Drewery families were two of these families associated with the early business and social life of Martinsville.

John W. Carter, the only son of James and Elizabeth Carter, was born April 14, 1860, near Horsepasture in Henry County. After attending local public schools, he was graduated from Roanoke College in 1882 and from law school

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Henry County Will Book No. 3, pp. 162-163 (1826).  
Henry County Deed Book No. 24, pp. 541-542 (1891).  
Henry County Deed Book No. 27, pp. 235-236 (1894).  
City of Martinsville Deed Book No. 176, p. 766 (1987).  
Henry County Circuit Court Case #420, Mary Thomas-Guardian vs. J. B. Lavinder et. als. (1884).  
Cleal, Dorothy and Herbert, Hiram H. Foresight, Founders, and Fortitude. Bassett, Virginia: Bassett Printing Corp., 1970.  
Newspaper clippings from the family scrapbook, dates and newspapers unknown.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Virginia Division of Historic Landmarks

**10. Geographical Data**

221 Governor Street, Richmond, VA 23219

Acreage of property Less than one acre

UTM References

A 17 1991320 4060700  
 Zone Easting Northing

C \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zone Easting Northing

B \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zone Easting Northing

D \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zone Easting Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The property is described as the lot at 324 East Church Street in the city of Martinsville, Virginia as recorded in City of Martinsville Deed Book No. 176, p. 766. On the plat accompanying the deed, it is described as all of Lot #9 (scale 1"=60', reduced from 1"=40').

See continuation sheet

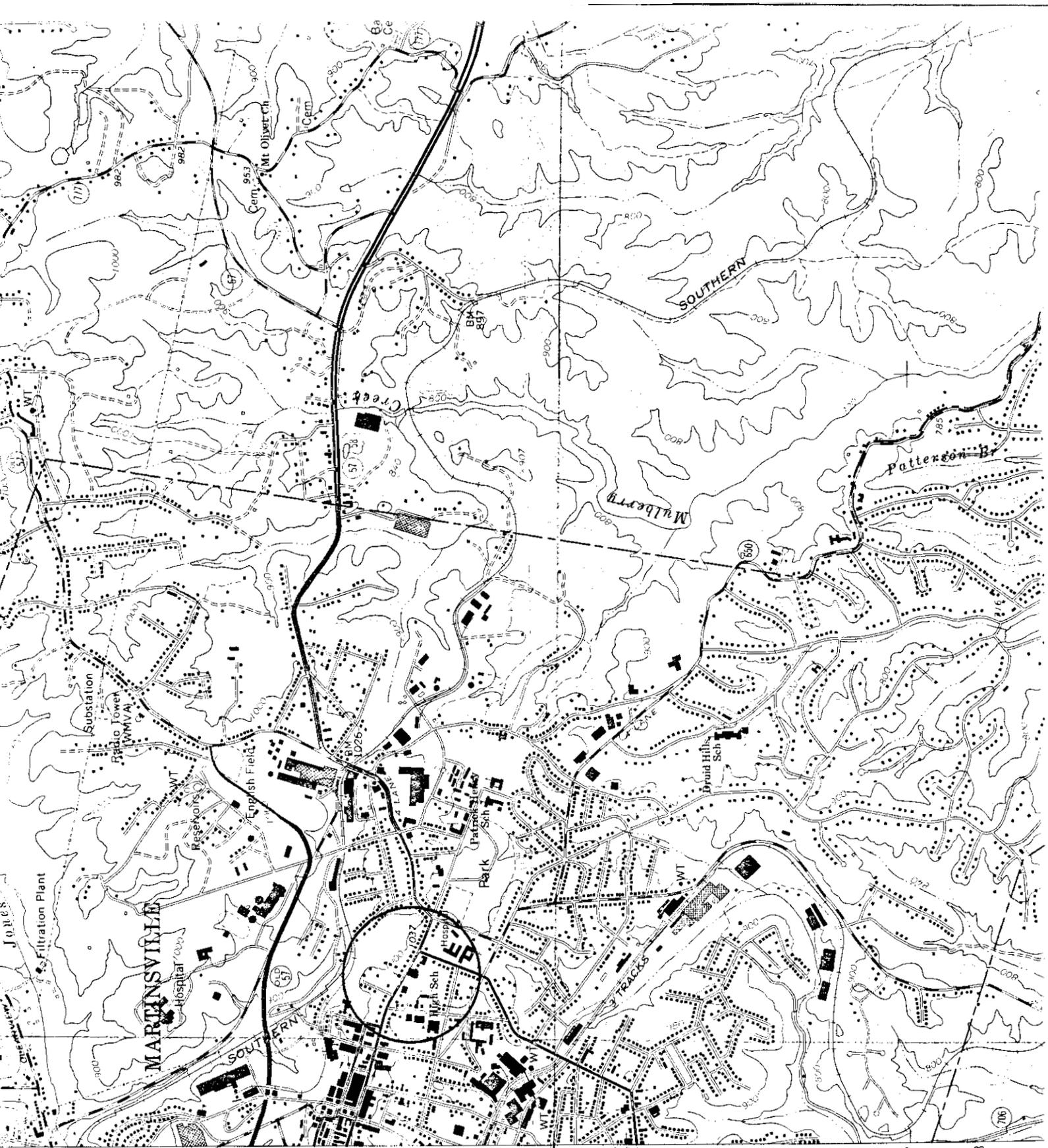
Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the parcel that has historically been associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Virginia W. Hamlet  
 organization N/A date August 2, 1988  
 street & number Route 4, Box 542 telephone (703)629-2121  
 city or town Bassett state Virginia zip code 24055



John W. Carter House  
 Martinsville, VA  
 UTM References:  
 17/001320/4060700

FIGSBORO 11 MI (MARTINSVILLE WEST) 5057 III NW (MARTINSVILLE WEST) 4060  
 STUART 28 MI HORSE PASTURE 6 MI 4060  
 40' 4058

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brackets forming ogee arches, and a spindlework balustrade and frieze with stylized sunflower corner medallions. The second-story gable has a steeper pitch than the gable below and a much wider bargeboard. Fish-scale shingles give the gable a textured look and a pair of small one-over-one windows with diagonal muntins completes the design.

The tall, graceful corner tower is a prominent feature of the front elevation. The first floor of the tower bulges out from the main mass of the house and is surrounded by the wrap-around porch. On the second floor, the polygonal shape becomes more apparent, ending in a pure octagon above the roofline. A variety of materials and devices provide the texture, beginning with weatherboard siding and tall windows on the first and second floors, a wide band of fish-scale shingles, smooth wood surrounding half-round windows in the attic, sturdy brackets supporting a cornice, and patterned metal shingles on the onion dome.

The east elevation features a one-story bay window with large scroll brackets supporting the corners of the floor above. The rear elevation is somewhat different now than in 1896 - a result of bathroom additions and kitchen improvements in the early twentieth century and of sunporch remodeling in 1987. The windows come in many different shapes and sizes, including round, half-round, arched, large paned one-over-one, single paned, and stained glass. The exterior door and window casings are simple, the only exception being the thin scroll brackets below the sidelights flanking the front door.

The Carter house sits at the front of a half-acre rectangular town lot with a painted brick retaining wall in front. An asphalt driveway on the east side leads to a parking area in the back of the house. A frame two car garage with living quarters above, built in the 1940s and not a contributing structure, is situated near the site of the original horse barn. The rest of the lot is naturally landscaped with boxwood, azaleas, magnolias, Bradford pear trees and other traditional southern plants and trees.

In contrast to the elevations, the plan of the house is fairly symmetrical, revolving around a central hall divided into a front hall and a stair hall. Four downstairs reception rooms open off the hall while the kitchen and service areas run along the back of the house. That widespread use of the balloon framing system allowed for more flexibility of plan is evidenced by the number of rooms with more than four sides. The vertical proportions of the interior are accomplished inside through the use of high ceilings, tall thin windows, and doors with glass transoms. The thin crown mouldings and wide baseboards also emphasize the feeling of height, particularly in the more formal first-floor rooms.

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The gracious entrance hall with a forty-five degree corner is articulated with three-inch plaster crown moulding, three-foot high chair rail, and ten-inch moulded baseboard. Applied moulding divides the wall into panels above and below the chair rail and above the three nine-foot high cased openings. Interior double-hung, solid bi-fold shutters adorn the windows on either side of the front door. The ceiling is unadorned and the stained oak flooring of the hall continues throughout the house. All of the hardware in the formal reception rooms is solid brass and elaborately detailed with stylized flower motifs.

To the east of the hall is the front parlor which has the same crown moulding, baseboard and casings as the hall. A fireplace in the corner of the room is topped with a simple shelf mantel supported by fluted Doric columns on bases. Paired seven-foot tall one-over-one windows have a raised panel below and thin cornice above as does the large front single-paned fixed window. Above the large window is a panel of stained glass.

Separated from the east parlor by a pair of nine-foot tall panelled pocket doors, the dining room has a large bay with three seven-foot tall windows facing east. Since a forty-five degree wall in the west corner results from the placement of the front parlor fireplace, the room is seven sided. Although lacking the applied moulding panels, the woodwork and the trim are similar to those in the entrance hall. A large, built-in storage cabinet has raised panel doors and decorative brass hardware. Two seven-foot, four-inch panelled doors with operable glass transoms lead to the butler's pantry and the stair hall.

West of the central hall on the front of the house is the parlor. The polygonal tower with windows on three sides creates an interesting nook in the corner of the room. A door with two raised panels below and a single large pane of glass set into the upper portion leads to the side porch. A panelled door on the back wall accesses a coat closet, while the other panelled door leads to a small study. Operable transoms above the passage doors in this room and others allow for better cross ventilation in the summer months.

The study behind the west parlor is the smallest of the formal downstairs rooms. The same casings and ten-inch moulded baseboard of the larger rooms are used here as well. A picture moulding is mounted twelve inches below the ceiling, making it appear coved. A small fireplace consisting of a shelf supported by two simple three-quarter round columns and a center bracket is the focal point of the room. Surrounded by brick, the shallow coal-burning grate has been inoperable, as have all the other fireplaces in the house, since central heat was installed.

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Separated from the front central hall by a five-foot wide cased opening is the richly decorated stair hall. The chair rail and applied moulding panels of the front hall are repeated here and continue up the side wall of the half-turn stair with landings. The balustrade consists of closely spaced turned balusters with a heavy moulded handrail and simple stringer. The box newel post at the base of the steps acts as a pedestal for a composition of acanthus leaves supporting a torch flame finial. Each inside corner has a similar newel post that is smaller and less elaborately detailed. Large pendants and raised paneling below the balustrade and under the final flight of steps makes the staircase the focal point of the interior.

Behind the dining room, extending along the back of the house, is the service area comprised of the butler's pantry, the kitchen, the cellar staircase, the sunporch and the half bath. Although the butler's pantry has been modernized, the original plate rail above the tongue and groove, narrow-board wainscoting remains. The kitchen has been remodeled several times, but the original windows and simple mouldings have survived. All the equipment has been removed from the kitchen to adapt it for use as an office. In the 1940s the original screened porch was enclosed with floor-to-ceiling jalousied windows to make a sunporch, and metal awnings were added for shade. Recently, these windows were replaced with single-light French doors with transoms, and the awning removed.

The plan of the second floor revolves around a large central stair hall. Opening off the hall are three spacious bedrooms, the fourth bedroom being separated by a large arched opening to the right. The ten-foot ceilings still provide the vertical proportions as do the tall moulded baseboards, the thin crown moulding and the doors with glass transoms. Each bedroom has a clothes closet and there is a linen closet in the hall. Three bedrooms have fireplaces with more detail than the first-floor fireplaces. Two fireplaces have a decorative overmantel surrounding a beveled mirror with brackets supporting a small shelf. The master bedroom has the most elaborate overmantel with an intricately carved top surrounding a larger beveled mirror and brackets supporting three half-round shelves. All the second-floor fireplaces are shallow coal-burning grates with earthenware glazed tile or brick surrounds. Another focal point of the master bedroom, which is directly over the west parlor, is the polygonal corner resulting from the tower. The current owner has removed an octagonal section of the ceiling in this area, and the half-round windows now provide clerestory lighting for the room. The large master bath was created out of the two walk-in closets. Another full bath and storage area were added when the service area was improved.

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at the University of Virginia in 1884. Upon returning to Martinsville, he opened a law practice and soon was considered by many as one of the foremost men in the bar of Henry County and southwest Virginia. He was local counsel for the Norfolk & Western Railway Company and for many other large interests. He married in 1886 but his wife died less than a decade later. Building a large dwelling on East Church Street in 1896 only a few houses down from Dr. and Mrs. Henry M. Drewery, he married their daughter Mary Kizziah, known as Kizzie, less than one year later. Carter took an active part in the Democratic party and served as mayor of Martinsville. He also served as commissioner of accounts of Henry County and was the examiner of records for his judicial circuit. He was a prominent Mason, and early member of the Martinsville Kiwanis Club, and a member of the Roanoke Lodge of Elks. He was greatly interested in his church work and was a vestryman of Christ Episcopal Church.

Mary Kizziah Carter was born in 1872 at the Drewery homestead near Martinsville. Her father, Dr. Henry M. Drewery, was a highly respected physician in the county as well as a good businessman who operated Redwood Plantation and a sawmill. Her mother, Flora Redd Drewery, was the granddaughter of Colonel George Waller and Ann Winston Carr of Bellevue, a historic landmark in Henry County. Major John Redd and Colonel Waller served in the Revolutionary War. In 1885 Dr. Drewery decided to move his family to town and build a house on East Church Street, only a few lots away from where John Carter would later build his house. Mrs. Carter served as registrar of the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and was a Colonial Dame and Daughter of 1812.

The area comprising downtown Martinsville and the surrounding residential property was originally part of the thirty thousand acres owned by George Hairston, one of the largest slaveholders in Virginia and builder of Beaver Creek Plantation. Through his many descendants, the property was eventually divided. A large parcel, controlled by C. Y. Thomas, became known as the Thomas estate. In order to provide for Thomas's heirs after his death, the estate was divided in Henry County Court Case #420, Mary A. Thomas-Guardian vs J. B. Lavinder. A special commissioner, C. B. Bryant, was appointed in 1884 to divide the property into lots and arrange for their sale. The result was Plat D, a map that laid out a street system that is still dominant in Martinsville today. James P. Lewis acquired Lots 6 and 7 of Plat D, subdivided them into three equal lots and sold one to John Carter in 1894 for \$750.00. The only changes to the lot since that time have resulted from the widening of Church Street and a back alley.

Upon Mrs. Carter's death, the house and land passed to her daughter Ruth Carter Whitener, wife of Myron E. Whitener. She resided in the house until

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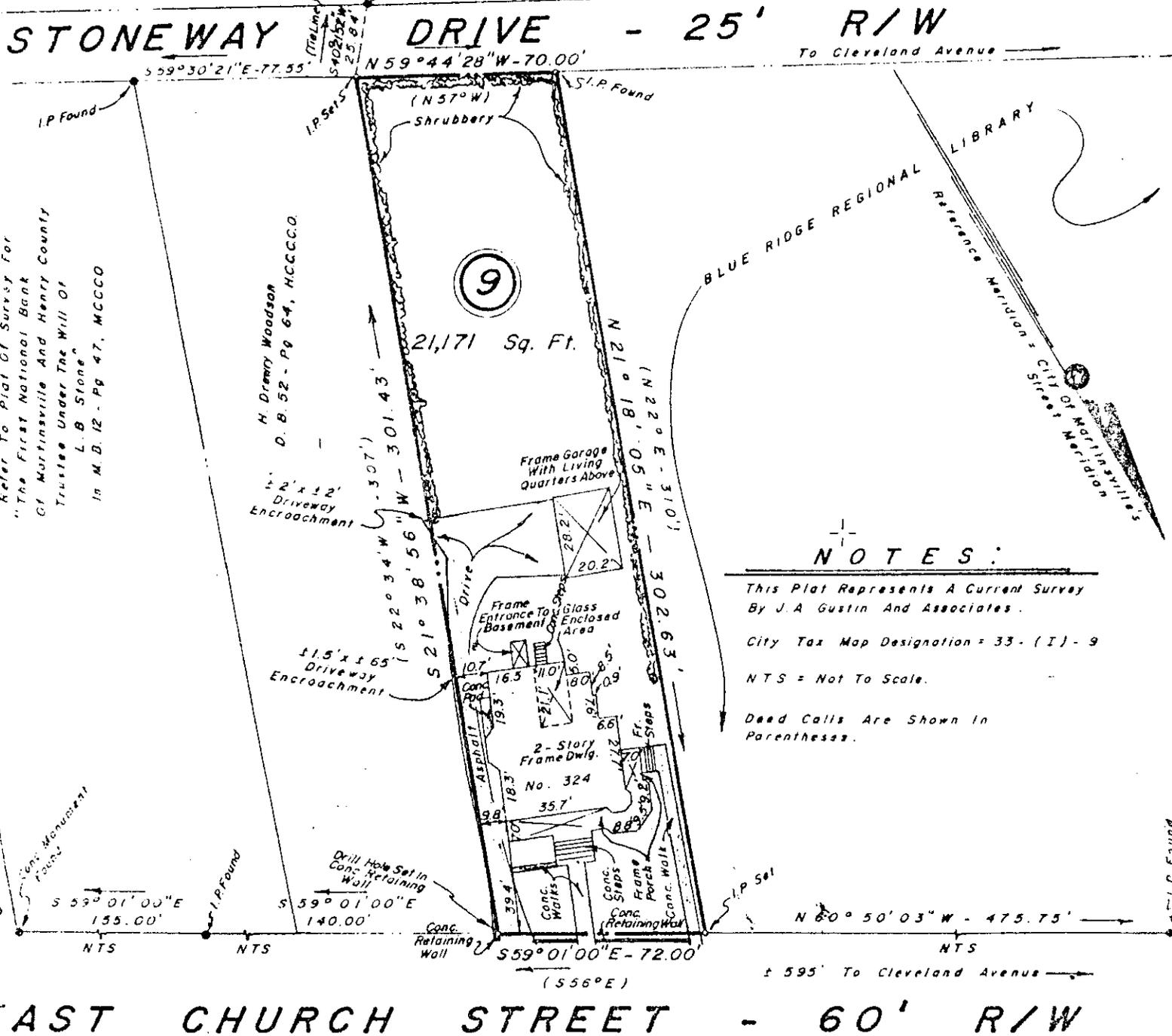
her death in 1987, and the house was inherited by her neice. It was not until 1987 that the house passed out of the family. The property was bought by Rives Brown, Inc., the oldest real estate company in the area. Rives S. Brown, its founder, had a long association with the Carter and Whitener families before his death, having served as a flower bearer at the funeral of Mrs. Carter.

The house is currently being preserved with minor renovations by Rives Brown, Inc., and will be used as the headquarters of the Real Estate Division. The company hopes that the choice of one of the last remaining Victorian houses in Martinsville as its headquarters will awaken a local interest in the preservation of historic landmarks. Such valuable architectural resources help document the history of Martinsville and Henry County.

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**NOTES:**

This Plat Represents A Current Survey  
By J.A. Gustin And Associates.

City Tax Map Designation = 33 - (I) - 9

NTS = Not To Scale.

Deed Calls Are Shown In  
Parentheses.