# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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

For NP	S use onl	ly	
receive	ed U/	N N	5 1988
date e	ntered	ID 1	0 1989

Type all entries-	-complete ap	opiicable se	ctions			
1. Nam	е					
	of Darlin					
historic (Par	<u>rtial Inven</u>	tory: His	toric an	d Archite	ctural Properties)	<u> </u>
and/or common						
2. Loca	tion					
street & number	City limi	ts of Dar	lington			N/A not for publication
city, town	Darlingto	n	N/A v	icinity of		
state South Ca	rolina	code	045	county	Darlington	code 031
3. Class	sificati	on				
district building(s) structure site	Ownership public privateX_ both Public Acqui in process being con	s	Accessib _X_ yes: r	cupied in progress <b>ie</b>	Present Use agricultureX_ commercial educational entertainment governmentX_ industrial military	museum park X private residence X religious scientific X transportation other:
street & number						
city, town			v	icinity of	state	<u> </u>
5. Loca	tion of	Lega	l Des	cripti	on	٠.
courthouse, regist	try of deeds, et	<b>c</b> . Darl	ington Co	ounty Cou	rthouse	
street & number	Courthou	se Square				
city, town Da	rlington				state	South Carolina 2953
6. Repr	esenta	tion i	n Exi	sting	Surveys	
South C title Histori	arolina In c Places	ventory of		has this pro	perty been determined	eligible? yes _X no
date 1986	•				federal _X s	tate county local
depository for sur	vey records	South Car	rolina De	epartment	of Archives and H	istory
city, town		Columbia			state	South Carolina 29211

#### 7. Description

Condition
\_X\_ excellent
\_X\_ good

\_X\_ fair

\_X\_ deteriorated \_X\_ ruins

\_\_\_ unexposed

Check one unaltered X altered

Check one \_X\_ original site

\_\_\_ moved

date See inventory forms

#### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The nomination for the City of Darlington Multiple Resource Area consists of three historic districts (containing approximately 88 historic resources) and ten individually nominated properties within the city limits of Darlington, South Carolina. The resources, which date from ca. 1830 to ca. 1935, are generally residences and industrial buildings, but churches, railroad depots, and commercial buildings are also included.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Located in northeastern South Carolina near the Pee Dee River, the city of Darlington has a population of approximately 9,000. The seat of county government for Darlington County, it is the largest town in the county, the economy of which is primarily agricultural. United States Highway 52 and South Carolina Highway 34 pass through the city, which is also served by the Seaboard Coastline Railroad.

Although Darlington was established around 1785, no above-ground historic resources from the early years of the city remain. The majority of the extant resources date from ca. 1830 to ca. 1935. Most of these properties are residences, which range from modest, one-story, frame houses containing only a few rooms to substantial, two-story, generally frame houses displaying a variety of architectural ornamentation. The extant nineteenth and early twentieth century residences represent only a portion of the neighborhoods that surrounded the central business district in the early twentieth century. Modern commercial development has encroached on most of these neighborhoods along with the expansion of the central business district, leaving many of the streets with only a scattering of historic buildings. However, several fairly intact concentrations of historic residences remain along West Broad Street and along a small section of Cashua and Spring Streets.

#### SURVEY METHODOLOGY

In 1984, the survey staff of the South Carolina Department of Archives and History conducted a reconnaissance survey of the city of Darlington to locate those properties in the town that should be recorded at a later date. This reconnaissance survey was used as the foundation for the intensive historical and architectural survey conducted between January and June of 1986 by Steve Smith of Dowis Associates with assistance from Cindy Cole, James Gilstrap, and Margaret Marion.

Preceded by historical research on Darlington, the inventory attempted to include all buildings, sites, structures, and objects that were at least fifty years old and were still substantially intact. Each of the 414 properties included in the survey was photographed, described in detail, and located on a map. During and after the survey, numerous meetings were held at the Darlington County Historical Commission with Mr. Horace F. Rudisill to gather historical information concerning individual resources. Numerous other meetings were held with Mrs. Florence E. Horton and Miss Josephine Edwards, two of Darlington's most informed local historians. Two meetings with Mr. S. C. Disher and Mrs. Rosena James produced much information concerning black history in Darlington. Additional research was also done to supplement information provided by these local historians.

#### 8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799X 1800–1899X 1900–	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric archeology-historicX agricultureX architecture artX commerce communications		military music philosophy politics/government	religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater X transportation A other (specify)
Specific dates	ca. 1830 - ca. 1935	Builder/Architect See	individual inventory	

#### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The nomination for the City of Darlington Multiple Resource Area includes three historic districts (containing approximately 88 resources) and ten individually nominated properties within the city limits of Darlington, South Carolina, which are of historical and/or architectural significance to the city. Dating from ca. 1830 to ca. 1935, these resources, along with the St. John's Historic District in Darlington (listed on the National Register in 1980), serve as a visible reminder of the city's history. Located in an agricultural area, Darlington developed as a governmental, commercial and industrial center for the county.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In 1785, the South Carolina General Assembly established Darlington County, one of three subdivisions of the old Cheraw District. The origin of the name of the county and city of Darlington is uncertain; it is thought to have been so designated to honor a Colonel Darlington, a revolutionary war hero, or to have been named for a town in England.

The seat of justice for the county, Darlington was described in 1826 as being located near Swift Creek and having a "handsome new brick court-house and jail; beside several private houses, and the requisite taverns." None of the buildings existing at that time are known still to be standing.

Darlington showed little growth before the Civil War; its inhabitants in 1861 numbered less than 500. It was not until after the Act of 1785, when the Cheraws District was subdivided into Chesterfield, Marlborough, and Darlington Counties, that the importance of the village became apparent. By 1818, the population of the village had increased sufficiently to warrant the founding of a school. That year a group of influential citizens was instrumental in the organization of the Darlington Academy, which later became St. John's School.

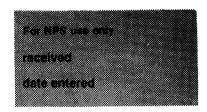
General Joseph Burch Nettles wrote in his reminiscence of early Darlington (1879): "The village was kept from improving earlier for the fact that the lands around it were owned by gentlemen who were opposed to selling it in lots, .... In 1825 T. D. Pettigrew purchased from Col. Bright Williamson his lands on the southwest of the village, and sold off lots starting the improvement of the village in that direction."

### 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheets.

10. Geographic	al Data				
Acreage of nominated property See		orms.			
Quadrangle nameUTM References				Quadrang	le scale
A	1411	В	نلا لل		
Zone Easting North	ing . l l	д р	one East . I I I	ting i i	Northing
E	<u> </u>	F	┸╌┚ ╵╏╏╏	<del>-1                                    </del>	<del> </del>
		н[			
Verbal boundary description and	d justification	<del></del>	1		
The incorporated city limi		ngton, Sout	h Caroli	na.	
	·.				
List all states and counties for p	properties over	lapping state	_	boundaries	
state N/A	code	county	N/A		code
state N/A	code	county	N/A		code
11. Form Prepar	red By				•
name/title Steve Smith, Ma	argaret Mario	on	,		
organization Dowis Associate	es, Inc.		date	March 31,	1987
street & number P.O. Box 368			telepho	one (803)	669-5223
city or town Florence	-		state	South Car	olina 29503
12. State Histor	ic Pres	ervatio	on Off	icer C	ertification
The evaluated significance of this pro	perty within the	state is:		T	
national	state	X local			
As the designated State Historic Pres 665), I hereby nominate this property according to the criteria and procedu	for inclusion in t	he National Re	gister and c	ertify that it h	et of 1966 (Public Law 89– as been evaluated
State Historic Preservation Officer sign	gnature Ma	W 71).	Edma	uds	
State Historic Preservation Officer signal George L. Vogt title State Historic Preserv	ation Office	<i>(</i> )		date	12/23/87
For NPS use only I hereby pertity that this properties that the properties of the second seco	//	he National Re	gister	date	2/10/88
Keeper of the National Register				uate	
Attest:		-		date	
Chief of Registration					

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In his <u>Glimpses of Old Darlington</u>, W. A. Brunson stated that most of the dwellings in Darlington during its early years were "of moderate size, - the people of that day valuing comfort more than display, so far as houses were concerned; and, in village and country, refinement, social position and even wealth were not to be measured by great houses." He indicated that there were some "large and comfortable homes" -- the Wilds-Edwards House (#1) and the Julius A. Dargan House (#2) were among those he named. Another survivor of the antebellum period is the ca. 1830 Nelson Hudson House (#3).

When the Civil War began, Darlington's militia company, the "Darlington Gyards," was the first to respond to Governor Pickens' urgent call for volunteers. Although Darlington contributed leaders to the Confederacy, life was quiet in the village until Federal forces passed through town during the final days of the conflict. It is thought that J. L. Klickner, an architect who is credited with the design the Samuel H. Wilds House (#1), persuaded the commanding officer to wait until the afternoon to destroy buildings in the area. In the meantime, the Federals went on a foraging trip down the old Florence road where they met General Joseph Wheeler's cavalry and were defeated.

At the end of the Civil War, Darlington had only 200-300 residents and six or seven business houses. Soon after the war, the town began to grow. The population of the town had increased to 940 in 1880, and in 1890 it was 2,389. In 1895, there were 4,500 inhabitants. The population in the early 1900's was estimated to be around 5,000.

In 1866, a disastrous fire destroyed much of the town square and the second county courthouse, which had been built ca. 1825. On February 27, 1892, another fire destroyed twenty-three buildings, which included nearly all of the central business district. The commercial buildings erected immediately after the 1892 fire were constructed of brick instead of wood. Among the stores built immediately after the 1892 fire is the M. Manne building (#5).

The Darlington Riot of March 30, 1894 was one of the town's most regrettable incidents. What started as a fist fight between two boys at the Atlantic Coast Line Railway Station resulted in the shooting deaths of two leading citizens and two of Governor Benjamin F. Tillman's constables. The chaos that followed required numerous battalions of the State Troops in Darlington to restore law and order. The uprising stemmed from the Dispensary legislation enforced by Governor Tillman. A controversial subject in 1893 when it was passed in revised form by the state legislature, the Dispensary bill allowed constables appointed by the governor to search private property for contraband liquor. A group of these constables, who had been in Darlington and had stirred up a controversy, were waiting for the train to take them back to Charleston when the fight broke out. The nineteen military organizations and eight companies of volunteers left Darlington about ten days later after peace was restored.

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By the first decade of the 20th century, the public school system in Darlington had been established for many years. St. John's School had been in Darlington since 1818. Later changed to St. John's Academy, this school was one of the first three schools in South Carolina to be accredited. St. John's also had the first school orchestra and the first honor society in the state. The St. John's Grammar School (1917) and St. John's High School (1935) are the center of a National Register Historic District (listed in 1980) which includes a number of significant Darlington residences.

During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, numerous public improvements were made in Darlington. A \$25,000 city hall and opera house, a \$50,000 granite and brick post office building, a \$10,000 Carnegie library (located in the St. John's Historic District, listed in 1980), and the paving of streets in the business district of the city were among the additions to the town during that period.

#### Agriculture

Agriculture has played an important role in Darlington's development from the very beginning. The Agricultural Society for Darlington District was formed on May 5, 1846, for the purpose of "collecting and extending general agricultural information." Beginning in 1873, and continuing for many years, a large regional fair was held annually in Darlington, representing most of the counties of the upper Pee Dee region. The Darlington Agricultural Society still exists today and is supported by descendants of the original 56 members.

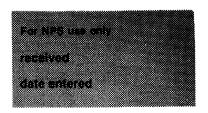
Darlington is situated in an area well adapted to the cultivation of corn and cotton. A ca. 1895 publication promoting Darlington and its vicinity asserted that before 1860 the county stood second in cotton production in the South. In 1892, the country surrounding Darlington was said to have produced about 30,000 bales of cotton, about 5,000 of which was consumed locally by the Darlington cotton factory. The Darlington Industrial Historic District contains several buildings which reflect the importance of cotton to the area's economy - a cotton warehouse (#I-4), and two cotton gins (#I-12) and #I-13.

In the late 1800's, tobacco became an important crop in the Darlington area. As a result, the town became a leading tobacco market in South Carolina. On August 22, 1895, two large warehouses in Darlington sold on their opening break 89,557 pounds of tobacco. Standing in the Darlington Industrial Historic District are the ca. 1910 Thomas and Howard Tobacco Warehouse (#I-1) and the Price's Tobacco Warehouse (#I-15).

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#### Commerce

From its early years, Darlington served as the commercial center of the surrounding agricultural area. Farmers brought their produce to Darlington to sell or ship, and they purchased goods at the commercial establishments in the city. A promotional brochure of the late 19th century listed the banks in the town as having paid up capital of \$200,000 and a surplus of \$80,000. In 1917, the three banks in the town were reported to have combined resources of nearly two million dollars.

The period immediately following the 1894 riot is among the most stable in the city's history. This was a time of progressive city government, economic prosperity, and civic pride. New businesses were opening almost weekly in Darlington, many of them owned by members of its Jewish community.

Darlington's three banks did not survive the stock market crash of 1929. Many people were on relief by 1934 and others worked on W.P.A. projects, including the development of Williamson Park. Although the effects of the Depression were deeply felt, Darlington continued to have one of the largest tobacco markets in the country. The cotton business also survived the Depression as did other area enterprises. The Individual Drinking Cup Company opened a plant in the old Imperial Tobacco Company building (#I-3) in 1938, thereby offering many new jobs to the area. This company exists today under new ownership and has expanded its facilities around the old site.

#### Industry

Darlington began its industrialization in 1850 when the Williams Cotton Factory opened. In 1856, Darlington had the following businesses: carriage makers, blacksmiths, watchmakers, saw and grist mill operations, wheelwrights, cotton gin manufacturers, turpentine distillers, a tinsmith, a shoe shop, three tanners, and various mercantile establishments. By 1860, a great change in the labor force in Darlington had taken place in that steam or water power had replaced manual power in operating businesses.

With the development of Darlington as a tobacco market, there was a demand for tobacco-related industries in the town. In addition to tobacco warehouses, the Darlington Industrial Historic District contains the Imperial Tobacco Company (#I-3), which was originally the G. T. Patton & Co. Tobacco Stemmery, and the W. B. Lewis & Sons Tobacco Stemmery (#I-10), two factories where stems were removed from tobacco leaves by machines.

Cotton processing played an important role in the industrialization of Darlington. In addition to numerous cotton warehouses and gins, the town boasted a large cotton mill, the Darlington Manufacturing Company, which was constructed ca. 1890 and, although altered, still stands today.

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Other locally significant industries were established in Darlington during the late 1800's and early 1900's. Among them were the Darlington Roller Mill (#I-7), which ground flour, meal, and mill feed, a saw mill (#I-6) and lumber yard (#I-5), and the Darlington Veneer Company #I-9).

#### Transportation

Essential to both agriculture and industrial progress was transportation in Darlington. By 1855, three railroads came together near James' Station, ten miles south of the village. They were the Cherawa and Darlington, the Wilmington and Manchester, and the North Eastern Railroad. The following year a spur was extended to Darlington. The traditional reason that Darlington did not become a major rail center was the prejudice against railroad construction by "Colonel" E. R. Gregg, a prominent resident and merchant at Mars Bluff. Since he refused to permit the Wilmington and Manchester to build a depot, that railroad was forced seven miles to the east where the town of Florence was developed. The railway company was interested not only in building a railroad, but also a town that would increase the profits from the railroad.

The Charleston, Sumter, and Northern Railway, which built a freight station in 1891 (#I-2), and the South Carolina Western Railway, which constructed a passenger station in 1911 (#4), were important modes of transportation to Darlington. These two railroads crossed each other within the Darlington Industrial Historic District (#I-8) and served area industries.

Water transportation was also available in Darlington where the Great Pee Dee formed the eastern boundary of the district. Steamers and pole boats were common agents in shipping goods between inland centers and Georgetown, where freight was received for Charleston and from Charleston. Roads of various degrees of passage traversed the district and ferries did a great deal of business as did stagecoaches and freight wagons.

#### Black History

Since its early years, the city of Darlington, and the county as well, has had a large black population. In 1870, for example, the black population of Darlington County was 16,146 with a white population of only 10,097. Edmund H. Deas was a prominent leader in Republican politics in Darlington County for many years. He assumed the county chairmanship of the Republican Party in 1884 and was a delegate to the national conventions of 1888, 1896, 1900, and 1908.37 His house (#6), a cottage with Eastlake detailing, is intact in a residential area on Avenue E.

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Another prominent member of the black community in Darlington was master carpenter Lawrence Reese. A native of Bennettsville, he moved to Darlington around 1887 and constructed many of the notable residences on West Broad Street, which are included in the West Broad Street Historic District. He trained his two sons, Harry and Larry Reese, in the carpentry trade, and they joined their father in his work.

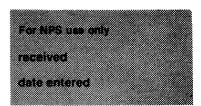
#### Architecture

The residential historic districts in the city of Darlington nomination are cohesive collections of the wide range of domestic urban architectural forms of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. These areas contain the residences of the more well-to-do citizens, and display the designs and features in vogue during that era. These collections of buildings also depict accurately the historic residential character of their neighborhoods.

Additionally, several of the institutional and commercial buildings in Darlington are noteworthy expressions of the fashionable styles of the era. The First Baptist Church (#10) is an interpretation of the Georgian Revival style that was popular in church design in the early twentieth century. The Manne Building (#5) displays an elaboration of pressed tin detailing while the South Carolina Western Railway Station (#4) is a fine example of the eclectic style.

Other noteworthy examples of mid-nineteenth and early twentieth century revival styles are the Julius A. Dargan House (#2, Greek Revival with Italianate features), the Nelson Hudson House (#3, Greek Revival), the Wilds-Edwards House (#1, Italianate), the Charles S. McCullough House (#9, Second Empire with Italianate and Eastlake details), the B. F. Williamson House (#8), and the Clarence McCall House (#7, Queen Anne).

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1 News and Courier (Charleston, S.C.), 26 July 1917,
Darlington-Florence-Hartsville Section, p.3; History, Description and
Resources of Darlington County, State of South Carolina (Charleston,
S.C.: News & Courier Job Presses, 1874), p.5.

<sup>2</sup>Robert Mills, <u>Statistics of South Carolina</u>, <u>Including a View of Its Natural</u>, <u>Civil and Military History</u>, <u>General and Particular</u> (<u>Charleston</u>, <u>S.C.</u>: <u>Hurlbut and Lloyd</u>, <u>1826</u>), <u>p. 512</u>; <u>The Department of Agriculture</u>, <u>Commerce and Industries</u>, and <u>Clemson College</u>, <u>South</u> <u>Carolina</u>: A Handbook (<u>Columbia</u>, <u>S.C.</u>: n.p., 1927), p. 305.

<sup>3</sup>Mills, Statistics, p. 513.

<sup>4</sup>News and <u>Courier</u>, p. 3.

<sup>5</sup>Eliza Cowan Ervin and Horace Fraser Rudisill, <u>Darlingtoniana</u> (Columbia, S.C.: R. L. Bryan Co., 1964), p. 9.

<sup>6</sup>Ibid., p. 197-198.

<sup>7</sup>Ibid., p. 17.

<sup>8</sup>W. A. Brunson, <u>Glimpses of Old Darlington</u> (Columbia, S.C.: State Co., 1910), p. 7.

9 Darlington, S.C., 1893; A Guide to Leading Industries (n.p., 1893), p. 22.

<sup>10</sup>Ervin and Rudisill, <u>Darlingtoniana</u>, p. 349.

<sup>11</sup>Darlington, S.<u>C.</u>, <u>1893</u>, p. 16.

12 The Queen City of the Pee Dee. Darlington, S.C. A Flourishing Tobacco Centre (Charleston, S.C.: Lucas & Richardson Co., n.d.), p. 30.

News and Courier; Department of Agriculture, Commerce and Industries, and Clemson College, p. 305; Sanborn Map Company, Darlington, Darlington County, South Carolina, 1908 and 1913.

<sup>14</sup>Ervin and Rudisill, Darlingtoniana, p. 17.

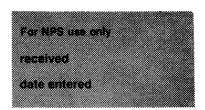
<sup>15</sup>Darlington, S.C., 1893, p. 18.

<sup>16</sup>Ervin and Rudisill, Darlingtoniana, p. 216.

<sup>17</sup>Ibid., p. 228.

<sup>18</sup>Ibid., p. 210.

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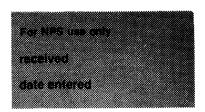
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- 19 News and Courier, p. 1?; "Darlington, South Carolina," The Exposition, June 1901, p. 256.
  - <sup>20</sup>Ervin and Rudisill, <u>Darlingtoniana</u>, p. 191.
  - <sup>21</sup>Ibid., p. 195.
  - <sup>22</sup>Mills, p. 513.
  - 23 The Queen City, p. 5.
  - <sup>24</sup>Darlington, S.C., 1893, p. 24.
  - <sup>25</sup>The Queen City, p. 10-11.
  - <sup>26</sup>Ibid., p. 10.
  - 27 News and Courier, p. 1?
  - <sup>28</sup>Ervin and Rudisill, <u>Darlingtoniana</u>, p. 136.
  - <sup>29</sup>Ibid., p. 237.
  - <sup>30</sup>Ibid., p. 180.
  - <sup>31</sup>Ibid., p. 180.
  - <sup>32</sup>Ibid., p. 180.
  - <sup>33</sup>Ibid, p. 181.
- 34G. Wayne King, Some Folks Do: A Pictorial History of Florence County (Norfolk/Virginia Beach, Va.: Donning Co., 1985), p. 10.
  - <sup>35</sup>Ibid., p. 10.
  - <sup>36</sup>Ervin and Rudisill, Darlingtoniana, p. 181.
- 37 Official Proceedings of the Republican National Convention: 1888, 1896, 1900, 1908, Edmund H. Deas, Historical Marker Files, S.C. Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.
- <sup>38</sup>Interviews with Mrs. Benny Gary, Darlington, S.C., 12 February 1986 and 3 March 1987.

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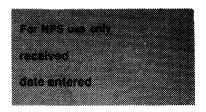
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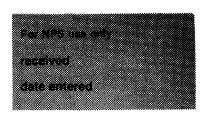
Page 2

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### **United States Department of the Interior**National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section	on number Page _	<u>-</u>	
			Multiple Resource Area Thematic Group
Name	City of Darlington M	RA	
State	Darlington County,	SOUTH CAROLINA	
Nomin	ation/Type of Review		Date/Signature
Cov	er	Maria (S.L. SES NOA) SANSA (S. C.	Keeper Any Schlage 2/13/8
1.	Cashua Street-Spring Str Historic District	eet Entered in the Tational Register	Attest
2.	Dargan, Julius A., House	Whatered in the National Register	freeper Schunger 2/10/88  Attest
3.	Darlington Industrial Hi District	storic Entered in the National Register	Attest
4.	Daes, Edmund H., House	intered in the Intipual Register	Treeper Sum Byen 2/10/88
V <sub>5</sub> .	First Baptist Church	METERSTON MALE	Keeper Paliul Andlus 10/17/91 s Attest
6.	Hudson, Nelson, House	Tarbered in the	Keeper Kuluus Bye 2/10/8. Attest
7.	Manne Building	Natered in the National Register	Ckeeper Sulver Byen 2/10/88
8.	McCall, Clarence, House	Batered in the: Notional Register	Keeper Selves Byen 2/10/18
9.	McCullough, Charles S.,	House The Chief National Register	Attest
10.	South Carolina Western R	ailway	Keeper SulverByun 3/10/88

Mational Register

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

ame n	City of Darlington MRA		Multiple Resource Area Thematic Group
tate	Darlington County, SOUTH CAROLIN	A	
omina	tion/Type of Review		Date/Signature
11.	West Broad Street Historic District	Keeper	Amy Schlagel 2/10/88
	District	Attest	
12.	WildsEdwards House	Keeper	Alous Byen 4/19
	A CONTRACTOR OF THE PROPERTY O	Attest	
13.	Williamson, Mrs. B.F., House	f Keeper	Spelver Byen 2/14
	Wattonal Begister	Attest	
14.		Keeper	
		Attest	
15.			
		Attest	
16.			
		Attest	
17.			
		Attest	
18.		Keeper	
		Attest	
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		Attest	
20.			