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SOUTH CAROLINA INVENTORY FORM FOR HISTORIC DISTRICTS AND
INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES IN A MULTIPLE PROPERTY SUBMISSION

NAME OF MULTIPLE PROPERTY SUBMISSION: City of Darlington
Multiple Resource Area

PREFERRED NAME OF PROPERTY: Darlington Industrial Historic District

HISTORIC NAME OF PROPERTY: Same

COMMON NAME OF PROPERTY: Same

LOCATION: Along both sides of Avenue A, Railroad Avenue between Sixth
Street and Dargan Street, and on both sides of a small
portion of East Broad Street.

CLASSIFICATION: District

NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY: Contributing - 12 Buildings; 1 Structure
Noncontributing - 4 Buildings
2 Sites

OWNER: Multiple Ownership (see Continuation Sheet)

DESCRIPTION

The Darlington Industrial Historic District contains 13 industrial buildings, structures, and sites which were constructed between ca. 1890 and 1935 and which represent the early industrial development of Darlington. All of these buildings are located along the rights-of way of the S.C. Western Railway and the Charleston, Sumter, and Northern Railway since the industries each of these buildings served employed the services of the railroad. Most of the structures are still in use, some of them having been adapted for other purposes. Four buildings were either constructed after 1935 or have been significantly altered and therefore do not contribute to the integrity of the district. There are two sites within the district which also do not contribute to its character.

SIGNIFICANCE

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Transportation
Agriculture
Industry

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: L (for office use only)

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Darlington Industrial Historic District is significant as an intact collection of resources which were important in the history of Darlington in the areas of transportation, agriculture, industry and commerce during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. A majority of the buildings in the district were built between ca. 1890 and 1925 when Darlington underwent steady development.

Among the prominent resources in the district is the Charleston, Sumter, and Northern Railway Freight Station (I-2), which was completed in 1891.¹ Both the Charleston, Sumter and Northern Railway and the South Carolina Western Railway served as the principal transportation source for Darlington. These two railroads crossed each other within the district (I-8) and served each of the various industries. The Darlington Roller Mill (I-7) was erected in 1899 and owned by businessman T. C. Shores.² By 1901, the mill was flourishing and grinding out fifty barrels of roller flour,³ meal, and mill feed each day with a large warehouse room being added.³ A saw mill (I-6) and lumber yard (I-5) were added to the operation by 1920.⁴ The saw mill burned in 1951 and was not rebuilt. The roller mill burned in January 1985 and the site has been abandoned. A related industry, the Darlington Veneer Company (I-9) relocated to its present site in 1931 after a fire destroyed the original plant. The Darlington Veneer Company laminates plywood for an adjoining industry, the Diamond Hill Plywood Company.

Darlington was an important tobacco market in South Carolina by 1901.⁵ Numerous tobacco related industries are evident in the following buildings: Thomas and Howard Tobacco Warehouse (I-1), and Price's Tobacco Warehouse (I-15), two largeleaf auction warehouses; the Imperial Tobacco Company (I-3), which was originally the G. T. Patton & Co. Tobacco Stemmary, and W. B. Lewis & Sons Tobacco Stemmary (I-10), two factories where stems were removed from tobacco leaves by machines; and the Tobacco Prize Warehouse (I-11), a warehouse which was originally part of the Carolina Ice and Packing Company.⁶

Cotton processing played an important role in the industrial development of Darlington as early maps indicate numerous cotton warehouses and sheds along the railroad right-of-way, the cotton warehouse (I-4) being the only survivor.⁷ Bonnoitt's Cotton Gin (I-13) and the Cotton Gin and Floyd Building (I-12) joined the Ice House (I-14) to form a complex of buildings in the 1920's known as the Carolina Ice and Packing Company.⁸

ACREAGE: Approximately 26 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: The boundary of the Darlington Industrial Historic District is shown as the red line on the accompanying map entitled "Darlington Industrial Historic District." This map was copied from a map of the town of Darlington, S.C., which is dated June, 1980, and is drawn at a scale of one inch to 500 feet. The district includes the highest concentration of contributing resources with the smallest number of noncontributing resources possible.

QUAD NAME: Darlington East, S.C.

QUAD SCALE: 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCE POINTS: A. 17/604700/3796180 B. 17/604860/3795920
 C. 17/604460/3795600 D. 17/604080/3795560
 E. 17/604040/3795720 F. 17/604320/3796040

OTHER INFORMATION: Additional information on these resources is available in the South Carolina Inventory of Historic Places files, South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia, South Carolina.

Key resources which define the character of the historic district:

I-1. Thomas and Howard Tobacco Warehouse (S. Main Street): Built ca. 1910, this warehouse is a large, one-story frame building with a gable roof. The front of the building, which features a stepped gable, has a central door flanked on either side by two six-over-six windows. The north and south elevations feature pairs of small, three-over-three windows alternating with large loading doors. The gable roof is punctuated above the loading doors by dormer vents and along the apex by gravity vents. An addition to the west end of the building was constructed ca. 1950.

I-2. Charleston, Sumter and Northern Railway Freight Station (127 Avenue A): The Charleston, Sumter, and Northern Railway Freight station is a ca. 1891, one-story brick warehouse which has a gable roof with wide eaves supported by heavy brackets. Each of the gable ends contains a circular window. The south (office) end of the building features a single door between two double windows. Simple brick pilasters separate the bays of the north and south elevations; every other bay of these two sides features loading doors that open onto a loading platform.

I-3. Imperial Tobacco Company (126 Avenue A): Constructed ca. 1895, this two-story brick factory building has a flat roof behind a parapet wall. The east elevation features segmentally arched window and door openings with brick voussoirs on the first floor and stilted arches on the second floor. Across the north front of the building is a brick loading dock with a shed roof supported by shelf brackets. The west elevation adjoins modern plant facilities; it has a central square tower with louvered side wings flanked by windows on both floors.

I-9. Darlington Veneer Company Office (Fourth Street): This ca. 1918 building is brick and has a hipped roof with flared eaves, wide soffit with heavy curved brackets, single interior chimney with plain cap, moulded sandstone water table below the main floor windows, one-over-one windows, and a straight flight of eleven sandstone steps to the front door. The symmetrical west front has at the main floor level central double doors of mahogany veneer construction with beveled glass panels. Above this entrance are a segmental-arched, multi-light transom with brick voussoirs and sandstone keystone, and a bronze canopy supported by heavy chains. On either side of the front entrance is a segmental-arched double window. The east elevation matches the west front. Interior walls, doors and ceilings are constructed of mahogany veneer plywood produced at the plant and exhibit impeccable workmanship; the ceilings have heavy mahogany mouldings forming diagonal patterns.

I-10. W. B. Lewis & Sons Tobacco Stemmary (474½ E. Broad Street): Built ca. 1900, this large, three-story building is rectangular in plan. It has a flat roof, stepped parapet, and nine-over-three metal windows. The north and south elevations have eleven bays; the east and west have twenty. On the east side is a brick addition.

Resources which contribute to the character of the district:

- I-4. Cotton Warehouse (201 Avenue A): ca. 1930 warehouse.
- I-5. Darlington Roller Mills - Lumber Yard (301 Avenue A): ca. 1915 lumber yard.
- I-8. Junction of S.C. Western Railroad and the Charleston, Sumter & Northern Railroad: ca. 1891 railway junction.
- I-11. Tobacco Prize Warehouse (253 Columbian Street): ca. 1910 tobacco warehouse.
- I-12. Cotton Gin and Floyd Building (239 E. Broad Street): ca. 1920 cotton gin and connecting warehouse.
- I-13. Bonnoitt's Cotton Gin (239 E. Broad Street): ca. 1920 cotton gin.
- I-14. Ice House (234 E. Broad Street): ca. 1920 ice house.
- I-15. Price's Tobacco Warehouse (100 E. Broad Street): ca. 1910 warehouse.

Resources which do not contribute to the character of the district:

- I-6. Darlington Roller Mills - Saw Mill (303 Avenue A): ruins of ca. 1915 saw mill. (This site has the potential to yield significant archeological information.)
- I-7. Darlington Roller Mills - Grist Mill (200 3rd Street): ruins of ca. 1890 mill. (This site has the potential to yield significant archeological information.)
- I-16. 201 3rd Street: ca. 1950 office building.
- I-17. Corner of 4th Street and Avenue A: ca. 1920 warehouse.
- I-18. Frame warehouses on Darlington Veneer Co. property: ca. 1940 warehouses.
- I-19. Bonnoitt's Feed Mill: ca. 1945 feed mill.

FOOTNOTES

¹Horace Fraser Rudisill, "Coming of the Seaboard to Darlington," Darlington, S.C., 1973. (Typewritten)

²Darlington News (Darlington, S.C.), 30 March 1899; 18 May 1899; 27 July 1899.

³"Darlington, South Carolina, The Exposition (June 1901), p. 264.

⁴Sanborn Map Company, Darlington, Darlington County, South Carolina, 1924.

⁵"Darlington, South Carolina," The Exposition (June 1901): pp. 255-256.

⁶Ibid., p. 258; Sanborn Map Company, Darlington, Darlington County, South Carolina, 1908 and 1924.

⁷Sanborn Map Company, Darlington, Darlington County, South Carolina, 1893, 1898, 1908, 1924.

⁸Ibid., 1924.

