

JAN 05 1988
FEB 10 1988

8

(N/A) NOT FOR PUBLICATION

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: Mrs. B. F. Williamson House

HISTORIC NAME OF PROPERTY: Same

COMMON NAME OF PROPERTY: Williamson-Wilson House

LOCATION: 141 Oak Street

CLASSIFICATION: Building

NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY: 2 Contributing Buildings

OWNER: Dr. John M. Wilson
141 Oak Street
Darlington, South Carolina 29532

DESCRIPTION

Constructed ca. 1898, the Mrs. B. F. Williamson House is a vernacular building that contains elements of the Queen Anne style. This two-story frame residence has shiplap siding, a high complex roof with boxed cornices, tall interior chimneys with bands and corbeled caps, and one-over-one windows.

On the north and east sides of the house is a porch with hip roof, turned posts, and plain balustrade. On the east side of the porch, marking the location of the front entrance of the house, is a gabled projection, above which is a balcony. The balcony is covered by a tall gable, the end of which contains a round-arched window and is decorated with shingles; this gable is supported by three turned posts that rest on a low curvilinear wall sheathed with imbricated shingles and pierced by balusters.

In the center of the front (east) elevation is the main entrance to the house, which consists of double glazed doors flanked by diamond-paned sidelights; on either side of the front entrance is a set of French doors. The gabled balcony above the front door shelters two single windows and is situated between two double windows. On the north side of the house is a two-story gabled wing, the east side of which is the terminus of the porch; the design of the gable end of this wing is

identical to that of the gable of the front balcony. The south elevation features a triangular vent with rectangular openings in a gablet. The one-story wings of the rear (west) elevation appear to have once been a porch and detached kitchen and are now enclosed and contain six-over-six and six-over-nine windows.

On the property is an original servant's cottage. Rectangular in plan, this weatherboarded building has a hipped roof, a central interior chimney, and one-over-one windows. On the north side of the cottage, a porch with a hip roof, simple posts and balustrade shelters two single doors. A carport has been attached to this cottage, which now overlooks a swimming pool.

SIGNIFICANCE

AREA OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: L (for office use only)

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Mrs. B.F. Williamson House is significant as an example of a large turn-of-the-century residence featuring some Queen Anne detail and is one of the few remaining intact residences from the 1890's period on Oak Street. The residence is summarily defined by its two-story frame rectangular form capped by a high hipped and gable roof and tall interior chimneys. The well-executed details of the house are evidence of the skill of the master carpenter who built it.

Little documentation exists on the early history of the Mrs. B. F. Williamson House. A descendent of the original owner recalls that the house was built ca. 1898 by Benjamin Franklin Williamson for his mother, Mrs. B. F. Williamson, Sr., and his sister, Miss Annie Williamson.¹ After Miss Williamson's death in the late 1940's, the present owners purchased the house and later enclosed the back porch and detached kitchen.²

ACREAGE: Approximately 1.3 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: The boundary of the B. F. Williamson House nomination is shown as the red line on the accompanying map entitled "Mrs. B. F. Williamson House." The 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 nominated property includes the historic house and an outbuilding, and the lot on which they are situated.

QUAD NAME: Darlington East, S.C.

QUAD SCALE: 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCE POINT: 17/603860/3796540

FOOTNOTES

¹Interview with Mrs. B. F. Williamson, Darlington, S.C., 12 March 1987.

²Ibid.

