NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)

OMB No. 1024-0018

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INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Coker, Robert R., House

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 1318 West Carolina Avenue — not for publication ___
city or town Hartsville — vicinity ___
state South Carolina code SC county Darlington code 031
zip code 29550

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ___ nationally ___ statewide X locally.
(___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Mary W. Edmonds 8/4/94
Signature of certifying official Date

Mary W. Edmonds, Deputy SHPO, S.C. Department of Archives & History, Columbia, S.C.
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.
(___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

✓ entered in the National Register — Edson H. Beall 9/8/94
___ 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):

Entered in the National Register
for
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- X private
- ___ public-local
- ___ public-State
- ___ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- X building(s)
- ___ district
- ___ site
- ___ structure
- ___ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	___	buildings
___	___	sites
___	___	structures
___	___	objects
1	___	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Historic Resources of Hartsville, ca. 1817-ca. 1941

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:	Sub:
DOMESTIC	Single Dwelling

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:	Sub:
DOMESTIC	Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)
Late 19th & 20th Century Revivals;
Colonial Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation	Not Visible
roof	Asphalt Shingle
walls	Wood/Brick Veneer
other	Wood

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ___ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- X **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- X **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ___ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

____ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
____ **B** removed from its original location.
____ **C** a birthplace or a grave.
____ **D** a cemetery.
____ **E** a reconstructed building, object,or structure.
____ **F** a commemorative property.
____ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)
Architecture
Industry

Period of Significance
1938-1942

Significant Dates
1938
1941
1942

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
Coker, Robert R.

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Oliver, C. Hardy

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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
X Other
Name of repository: Hartsville Museum

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 2.9 acres

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	17	582280	3802980	3			
2				4			

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title J. Tracy Power & Andrew W. Chandler, NR Specialists, South Carolina SHPO, with the assistance of Patricia J. Wilmot & Jerry Mixon, Hartsville Museum

organization S.C. Department of Archives and History date 28 June 1994

street & number P.O. Box 11669 telephone (803) 734-8610

city or town Columbia state SC zip code 29211

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Mrs. Robert R. Coker

street & number 1318 West Carolina Avenue telephone (803) 332-6604

city or town Hartsville state SC zip code 29550

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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The Robert R. Coker House is located at 1318 West Carolina Avenue in Hartsville. Constructed in 1938, it is an excellent example of the Colonial Revival style. This house is also representative of residences in Hartsville associated with the community's industrial, commercial, and civic leaders.

This two-story brick residence has a rectangular plan, with a five-bay facade, a lateral gable roof, and an engaged two-story portico supported by six slender square columns. The symmetrical five-bay facade has six-over-six double-hung sash windows with louvered shutters, and the central entry features a single door with Colonial Revival pedimented surround with sidelights. The white-washed brick veneer further contributes to the Colonial Revival character of the residence. There are two exterior end chimneys. A two-story wing was added to the west elevation and a one-story wing was added to the east elevation ca. 1942.

The Robert R. Coker House is significant as an excellent example of Colonial Revival residential architecture and for its association with Robert R. Coker (1905-1987), prominent Hartsville agriculturalist and businessman who served as president of J.L. Coker and Company and the Coker Pedigreed Seed Company.

The house was built in 1938 for Chalmers Butler (1901-1981), postmaster of Hartsville, and was designed by architect C. Hardy Oliver of Darlington; Robert R. Coker acquired the house in 1941, soon after becoming president of J.L. Coker and Company. Robert Richardson Coker, a son of David Robert Coker (1870-1938) and grandson of James Lide Coker (1837-1918), graduated from the University of South Carolina in 1928 and returned to Hartsville to work for his father's firm, the Coker Pedigreed Seed Company. The younger Coker became a sales manager and director in 1935, then became vice president of the company in 1938 at the death of his father. In 1940 Robert Coker became president of J.L. Coker and Company, the Hartsville department store founded by his grandfather in 1865; he became vice president of the Hartsville Oil Mill in 1941, and served in several business and civic capacities through the 1940s and and beyond, including terms as a director of the Bank of Hartsville, as vice president of the National Cotton Council during World War II, and as an organizer and the first president of the South Carolina Farm Bureau. Coker succeeded to the presidency of the Coker Pedigreed Seed Company in 1951 at the death of George J. Wilds, then served as president of the seed company until its sale to a West German agricultural research firm in 1978 and of the department store until it closed in 1983. An estimate of Coker's career published at his death in 1987 called him "one of the most respected leaders of agriculture in the past 30 years" and "a man of determination, intellect and energy."[1]

[1]President Max Lennon of Clemson University, quoted in Bill Hughes, "Farming Pioneer Coker Dies; Native of Hartsville Spurred Seed Study," The State, 29 September 1987; see also The State (Columbia, S.C.), 15 January 1981; "Robert Richardson Coker," in National Cyclopedia of American Biography: Volume J (New York: James T. White and Company, 1964), pp. 129-130; George Lee Simpson, Jr., The Cokers of Carolina: A Social Biography of a Family (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press for the Institute for Research in Social Science, 1956), pp. 283, 288-89; and Lucile Boswell Neely, Hartsville: Our Community, rev. ed. (Columbia: R.L. Bryan Company, 1965), pp. 153, 222-23.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Hughes, Bill. "Farming Pioneer Coker Dies; Native of Hartsville Spurred Seed Study." The State (Columbia, S.C.), 29 September 1987.

National Cyclopedia of American Biography. New York: James T. White and Company, 1964. Volume J.

Neely, Lucile Boswell. Hartsville: Our Community. Revised edition. Columbia: R.L. Bryan Company, 1965.

Rogers, James A., with Larry E. Nelson. Mr. D.R.: A Biography of David R. Coker. Hartsville: Coker College Press, 1994.

Simpson, George Lee, Jr. The Cokers of Carolina: A Social Biography of a Family. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press for the Institute for Research in Social Science, 1956.

The State, 15 January 1981.

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated property is shown as the dotted black line labeled "Robert R. Coker House" on the accompanying map "City of Hartsville," drawn at a scale of 1" = 700'.

Verbal Boundary Justification

The nominated property is restricted to the house and its immediate setting.

The following information is the same for each of the photographs:

Name of Property:	Robert R. Coker House
Location:	Hartsville, Darlington County, South Carolina
Name of Photographer:	J. Tracy Power S.C. Department of Archives & History
Date of Photographs:	15 June 1994
Location of Negatives:	S.C. Department of Archives & History, Columbia, S.C.

1. Principal facade

2. Principal facade

3. Facade, right oblique