

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: South Carolina	
COUNTY: Laurens	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	OCT 1 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
James Dunklin House

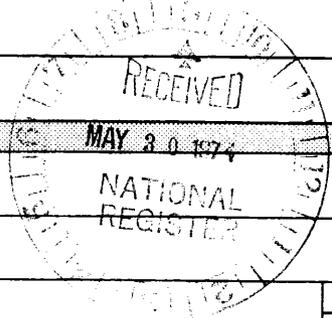
AND/OR HISTORIC:
Williams-Watts-Todd-Dunklin House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
544 West Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Laurens

STATE: South Carolina CODE: 045 COUNTY: Laurens CODE: 059



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Projected use as a museum

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Laurens County Landmarks Foundation

STREET AND NUMBER:
Box 306

CITY OR TOWN: Laurens STATE: South Carolina CODE: 045

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Laurens County Courthouse (Clerk's Office)

STREET AND NUMBER:
(Deed in Trust Department, Palmetto Bank, Laurens)

CITY OR TOWN: Laurens STATE: South Carolina CODE: 045

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina

DATE OF SURVEY: 1973 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
South Carolina Department of Archives and History

STREET AND NUMBER:
1430 Senate Street

CITY OR TOWN: Columbia STATE: South Carolina CODE: 045

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

EXTERIOR

The James Dunklin house, built c. 1812, is a South Carolina upcountry farmhouse. This structure is characterized by a heart-pine exterior painted white, symmetrically arranged bays, and a shed-roofed porch extending the width of the house. The two-story frame house, set on a raised brick basement, has a first story facade of shiplap under the front porch, differing from the clapboard covering of the rest of the house. Six square fluted columns, informally spaced, support the porch roof. Glass panes of the well-proportioned, 9/9 double-sash windows are original. Two of the four exterior chimneys are of the pipe-stem variety, an unusual feature in South Carolina architecture.

The rear facade has been altered. An 1845 wing was removed in 1950 and converted into a six-room apartment building located behind the main house. At this time a first-floor sun porch was added to the rear of the structure.

INTERIOR

The house's interior, typical of the upcountry farmhouse, has been altered to fit the needs of its twentieth century owner. The basic floor plan, two rooms on either side of a central hall, remains unchanged. Two front rooms have paneled wainscoting and original mantels supported by fluted pilasters. Paneled overmantels extend to the eleven-foot-high ceiling.

West rear room has been converted into a kitchen. The twelve-foot-wide hall contains stairs with original railing and nineteen risers.

On the second floor are two large bedrooms with mantel identical to those on the first floor. A bathroom was added, and a rear bedroom reduced in size in 1950 when the rear wing was removed. Furnishings reflect both the twentieth century occupancy and the former owner's avocation, collecting American antiques.

SURROUNDINGS

The house is located in the center of Laurens on West Main Street, a scenic stretch of nineteenth century homes, dotted with oaks, dogwoods, azaleas and magnolias. The settling basins of the city waterworks adjoin the 400 foot long lot at the rear. Four small buildings behind the house are used as apartments. In addition to the rear wing of the main house, these include a renovated slave cabin, a garage apartment, and a reconstruction of a kitchen at Colonial Williamsburg.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) ca. 1812

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Constructed ca. 1812 by Washington Williams for his daughter and her husband, the Dunklin House is one of the oldest in Laurens. In 1843 Samuel Todd, a physician, bought the two-story frame house. Reflecting the respectability and local prominence of its owners, the house is a well-built upcountry farmhouse. The heart-pine shiplap and clap-board exterior, the wide porch, and the symmetrical arrangement of windows and door are typical of the 19th Century vernacular style in South Carolina. Unusual exterior features include the informally spaced columns and two pipe-stem chimneys.

Interior features also reflect the craftsmanship of the 19th Century builder and the careful restoration of the 20th Century owner. Mantels and over-mantel paneling are of unusually fine quality for an upcountry farmhouse in South Carolina. Furnished with an outstanding collection of southern antiques, the house has been deeded to Laurens County for use as a house museum.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bolick, Julian Stevenson, A LAURENS COUNTY SKETCHBOOK, 1973, pgs. 208+210.
Cyclopedia of Eminent and Representative Men of the Carolinas of the
 Nineteenth Century, Vol. 1, Madison, Wisconsin: Brant & Fuller, 1892.
 p. 599. (Reprinted 1972)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES							
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			LATITUDE			LONGITUDE	
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"	34	29	52	82	01	24
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"	<i>almost square</i>					

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **Lot 185' X 400'**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES:

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Nenie Dixon (Fredrick J. Griffiths)

ORGANIZATION: **South Carolina Department of Archives and History** DATE: **April 26, 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER:
1430 Senate Street

CITY OR TOWN: **Columbia** STATE: **South Carolina** CODE: **045**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: *Charles E. Lee*
Charles E. Lee

Title: State Historic Preservation Officer
S.C. Dept. Archives & History

Date: May 20, 1974

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Al R. Mortensen
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 10/11/74

ATTEST: *Wm. H. ...*
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 9.27.74

SEE INSTRUCTIONS