FHR-8-300 (11-78)

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only
received AUG 1 3 1980
date entered OCT 1 0 1980

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

1. Name

historic Laurens Historic District

and/or common Laurens Historic District

2. Location

U. S. 221 and U S 76

street & number Laurens Public Square and along sections of Harper, Saxton, Caroline, Hampton, West Main, Court, Franklin, Laurens and Church Streets and College Place ___ not for publication

city, town Laurens ___ vicinity of congressional district Fifth

state South Carolina code 045 county Laurens code 059

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
X district	___ public	X occupied	___ agriculture	X museum
___ building(s)	___ private	X unoccupied	X commercial	___ park
___ structure	X both	___ work in progress	___ educational	X private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	X religious
___ object	___ in process	X yes: restricted	X government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	X yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	X transportation
		___ no	X military	X other: vacant

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Ownership

street & number

city, town ___ vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Laurens County Courthouse

street & number Laurens Public Square

city, town Laurens state South Carolina 29360

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina has this property been determined elegible? ___ yes X no

date 1979 (update) ___ federal X state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records South Carolina Department of Archives and History

city, town Columbia state South Carolina 29211

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	_X_ unaltered	_X_ original site
_X_ good	___ ruins	_X_ altered	___ moved date _____
_X_ fair	___ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The town of Laurens is the county seat of Laurens County located in the Piedmont region of South Carolina. The Laurens Historic District contains fifteen buildings of particular architectural or historical significance, and seventy-five supporting properties. The historic district is centered on the Laurens Public Square, and extends northwards along Caroline Street to Hampton Avenue, and west along Main Street to Moreland Street. Approximately sixty-five percent of the buildings in the Historic District were built prior to 1925. Most of the buildings were built during a period of rapid growth, from about 1880 to 1925, and retain the architectural characteristics of that era. The majority of the buildings have been kept in continuous use since their date of construction and remain in good repair.

Key properties contributing to the character of the historic district:

2. Governor William Dunlap Simpson House, 726 W. Main Street: 1839, two story frame, weatherboarded building with medium gabled roof and pedimented gables, four interior chimneys, two story Greek Revival portico supported by four large fluted Doric columns. The house, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, was the home of William Dunlap Simpson, who served as governor of South Carolina between 1879 and 1880.

7. Babb House, 706 W. Main Street: ca. 1880-90, two story farmhouse variation, medium gabled roof with projecting front gable on the west end of the south elevation. Windows are one over one. Once the home of Robert Babb, who sat as acting associate justice on the South Carolina Supreme Court. It is presently the home of Dr. Willie Kate Baldwin, one of South Carolina's distinguished women. Recognized with many other honors for her work with mentally retarded and exceptional children, she is Professor Emeritus of Glassboro State College and also served as a missionary in Nigeria.

12. Davis House, 560 W. Main Street: a two story frame, weatherboarded residence, built ca. 1896, in the Queen Anne style. The house features a wraparound porch with decorative turnings and brackets. A turret with a corkscrew finial is on the west elevation. The interior ornamentation includes stained glass, turned balusters, and wainscoting in the Eastlake style.

16. James Dunklin House, 544 W. Main Street: ca. 1812, two story, frame, weatherboarded house with exterior end chimney, medium gabled roof. Windows are nine over nine with louvered shutters. The Dunklin House is one of the oldest in Laurens County and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The house is presently used as a house museum.

19. Todd House, 530 W. Main Street: Victorian residence, built ca. 1880, has carpenter gothic influence. The two story frame, weatherboarded house has a medium gabled roof with brackets and a one story flat roofed portico with bracketed cornice that wraps around the front and side of the house. Front projecting second story gable has decorative bargeboard trim. The windows are two over two; interior has exquisite detail with plaster cornices, wainscoting, ornate mantels and overmantels.

21. Augustus Huff House, 520 W. Main Street: Victorian residence, built ca. 1890, shows influence of carpenter gothic style. Two story frame, weatherboarded house with medium gabled roof and two interior chimneys. There is decorative bargeboard trim. Small second story porch has a bellcast mansard roof. Windows are two over two with louvered shutters.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500–1599	X agriculture	X economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	X architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
X 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	X transportation
X 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates **Builder/Architect**

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Containing some 90 properties, the Laurens Historic District includes the public square with the courthouse and surrounding commercial buildings, and extends to the north and west to include significant residential sections of the town of Laurens. The district is an unusually intact collection of buildings of nineteenth- and early twentieth-century vernacular architectural design. Historically, the growth and development of Laurens in the late nineteenth- and early twentieth-centuries reflect the impact of the expansion of the railroad into the upcountry agricultural areas of South Carolina. Most of the governmental commercial, residential, and religious buildings in the Laurens Historic District were built between 1880 and 1925 and are a visual record of the economic prosperity and growth which followed the construction of several railroads through Laurens in the 1870's and 1880's.

Laurens County, named in honor of South Carolina Revolutionary patriot Henry Laurens, was one of six counties created in 1785 from a division of the old district of Ninety-Six. By 1792 Laurens was the seat of justice for the county. The earliest courthouse is believed to have been built of logs near the site of the present courthouse. An 1800 plat of the area reveals that the land surrounding the courthouse had been divided into lots and sold. A commercial area gradually developed around the courthouse. By 1826 Laurens, often called Laurensville in the antebellum period, had 250 inhabitants and 35 houses. Laurens remained a small village through the first half of the nineteenth century; the federal census of 1860 reported a population of 429 for the town.

With the construction of several railroad lines through the town in the late nineteenth century, however, Laurens, like numerous other South Carolina upcountry towns, experienced a period of rapid economic growth and development. An improved transportation system made these towns more useful and popular markets for area farmers. A railroad from Laurens to Newberry, which had been constructed in the 1850's but had gone bankrupt, was rebuilt in the 1870's, and two other railroads through Laurens had been completed by 1886. An 1888 business directory of Laurens reported that as a result of the construction of the 1874 railroad, "the town was enthused with new life and as a consequence the log-cabins and wooden structures that were then on the square gradually disappeared, and in their places were erected large commodius and beautiful brick store rooms which now adorn it." The population of Laurens reflected this boom; the population, which was 752 in 1880, rose to 2245 in 1890 and to 4029 in 1900.

In the late nineteenth century, Laurens County was primarily an agricultural county with cotton as the major crop, and the prosperity of the town of Laurens, which was a trading center for the surrounding area, was closely tied to cotton. The acreage in the county planted in cotton increased and cotton was marketed and shipped by rail from Laurens during this period. An 1889 map of Laurens by the Sanborn Map and Publishing Company depicts several cotton platforms and warehouses along the railroads, a cotton gin, and a cottonseed oil company. The number and size of these types of businesses increased as the nineteenth century came to an end. Also, by 1906 Laurens had two cotton mills, the Laurens Cotton Mills, with 1290 looms, and the Watts Mills, with 712 looms. Numerous substantial residences, commercial buildings, and churches were constructed in Laurens during the 1880's, 1890's, and the early years of the twentieth century. By 1910 the rapid growth

9. Major Bibliographical References

see continuation sheet

UTM NOT VERIFIED
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property approximately 85

Quadrangle name Laurens South, S.C.; Fountain Inn, S.C. **Quadrangle scale** 1:24000; 1:62500

UMT References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	17	406750	3818200
B	17	405740	3817580
C	17	405920	3816950
D	17	407080	3817750
E			
F			
G			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification The boundary of the Laurens Historic District nomination is shown as the red line on the accompanying map entitled "Laurens Historic District." The nominated property includes the largest concentration of significant properties with the smallest number of noncontributing in this area of Laurens.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Mary Watson/John Wells/ Susanne Pickens	Mrs. Charles Allen/Ruth LaForge Upper Savannah Council of Governments	
organization	Historic Preservation Division S.C. Department of Archives & History	date	June 12, 1980
street & number	1430 Senate Street Post Office Box 11,669, Capitol Station	telephone	(803) 758-5816
city or town	Columbia	state	South Carolina 29211

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national ___ state X local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Charles E. Lee

title SCDSHPO date 8/4/80

For HCRS use only
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

for W. Ray Luce date 10/10/80
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: Carol Dubois date 10/6/80
Chief of Registration

27. Old Methodist Church, 419 W. Main Street: ca. 1852, one story frame, weatherboarded building, medium gable roof, three interior chimneys; front gable has boxed cornice with returns and a centered rectangular louvered vent; windows are six over six with three light overlights and wooden shutters. The northeast elevation has a Charleston porch with shed roof and pilastered door surround with entablature. Epworth Methodist Children's Home in Columbia, South Carolina had its beginnings here.

34. Laurens First Presbyterian Church, Main Street: constructed in 1891, Victorian Gothic Revival, red brick, cross-gable roof, two story mansard roofed tower on east corner, with recessed arches containing the main entrances to the sanctuary, board and batten dormers with round windows and an octagonal broach spire; decorative brickwork including blind corbelled arcades, blind raked arcades, soldier courses set with diagonally placed bricks, brick buttresses with stone caps, shoulders and bases, and brick chimneys with recessed panels and corbelled bands and caps.

45. First United Methodist Church, W. Main Street: ca. 1897, one and one-half stories, Romanesque Revival, red brick, complex roofline with cross-gables, four story tower on the east with stained glass windows and a tall pyramidal roof surrounded with pinnacles, large tripartite stained glass windows under a brick arch in the center of the facade and a small tower on the west with semi-circular windows under brick arches at the first level. A brick educational building has been added at the rear, and another large brick building is attached to the church by an arched brick passageway.

47. Episcopal Church of the Epiphany, 225 W. Main Street: one story red brick church with portico supported by four massively constructed primitive Doric columns, massive arched windows flanking the central entrance, frame belfry, twelve over twelve paned windows. The oldest church building in the city of Laurens, the building was erected in 1846 and is one of the oldest of its faith in the county.

78. Brown Franklin Building, 125 Franklin Street: a three story brick commercial building, built ca. 1890, with decorative brickwork throughout. The first story facade is stuccoed, with three entrance doors alternating with four windows. The building is interlaced with earthquake rods with star-shaped turnbuckles. The second and third floor windows have joined arches with plastered keystones. A cast iron balcony and awning on the second floor are later additions. Brown Franklin was a locally prominent black restaurateur.

86. Laurens County Courthouse, Public Square: ca. 1837-38, additions in 1911 and 1940, masonry construction stuccoed and scored to resemble stone, raised basement, octagonal dome, two Corinthian porticos. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Courthouse continues to be a key focus point of the Laurens Historic District.

101. Mary Whitner House, 225 Caroline Street: ca. 1896, one and one-half story frame, weatherboarded residence with Victorian additions, medium gabled roof has two projecting dormers with imbricated shingles and bargeboard trim, tower on one side of building; constructed by Columbus White, a black contractor who built Bethel A.M.E. and St. Paul Churches.

104. Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, 234 Caroline Street: ca. 1910, Romanesque Revival, one story red brick church; features a tower on each end of the facade with brick buttresses with stone caps and shoulders, pyramidal roofs, and multi-paned windows beneath flat and segmental brick arches; the tower at the north end of the facade has stained glass windows. The center of the facade features a gable roof with raked corbelling and a semi-circular quadrapartite stained glass window in the gable, and a shed roofed porch supported by brick pillars and with a simple brick balustrade. The church was constructed by Columbus White, a black contractor. Bethel, organized in 1868, is one of the earlier black churches in Laurens. Two A.M.E. bishops have come from Bethel.

112. Saint Paul First Baptist Church, Corner of Caroline and Hampton Streets: built in 1912, this is a brick church in the Romanesque Revival style, with two asymmetrical towers, the taller one crennelated, and large round-headed windows surmounted by pointed arches. The church was built by Columbus White. Saint Paul First Baptist was the first black Baptist Church in Laurens. It also served as the first public education center for blacks in the county.

Other properties contributing to the character of the district:

1. Meeks House, 738 W. Main Street: ca. 1907-08, two story weatherboarded frame residence, one story small portico supported by four plain Doric columns, one over one windows with louvered shutters, side screened porch with Doric columns.

3. Eaddy House, 727 W. Main Street: ca. 1890-1900, one and one-half story brick residence with a medium gabled roof and boxed cornice, two interior chimneys, screened in front porch.

4. Putnam House, 720 W. Main Street: one story weatherboarded frame residence, one story portico with small plain columns, projecting front gable with imbricated shingles.

6. Todd-Latimore House, 714 W. Main Street: ca. 1910, two story frame residence, shingled with one story porch with half size Doric columns on stone pillars.

8. Barksdale House, 701 W. Main Street: ca. 1892, two story frame, weatherboarded residence projecting gable with imbricated shingles and Palladian window on the front. This was the home of John Augustus Barksdale, who helped found the First National Bank of Laurens in 1886.

9. Rawls House, 614 W. Main Street: ca. 1910, two story frame residence with shiplap siding, one story porch with sawtooth trim, two over two windows with louvered shutters.

13. Poole House, 557 W. Main Street: ca. 1933, two story brick residence, painted white, with an Art Deco doorway and restrained ornamentation.

14. Stephens House, 550 W. Main Street: ca. 1900, two story white frame residence, one story Greek Revival portico supported by two Doric columns.

17. McAllister House, 541 W. Main Street: built ca. 1930, two story, white brick building with two exterior end chimneys, two projecting bay windows flanking a single entrance.

20. Fleming House, 529 W. Main Street: ca. 1920, two story red brick building with medium hipped roof, one story flat portico with brackets supported by brick columns, double entrance doors have a transom with diamond shaped panes.

22. McDonald House, 517 W. Main Street: ca. 1895, two story neo-classical building with two story portico supported by fluted Ionic columns with elliptical window in pediment. Previous owner C.C. Featherstone was a lawyer and judge.

24. Wilson House, 505 W. Main Street: ca. 1907, two story, four bay, frame, weatherboarded residence, home of Senator Ralph Wilson, senator from Laurens County, 1948-56.

25. Wham House, 427 W. Main Street: ca. 1911, two story frame, weatherboard building, up-country farmhouse variation, one story portico with brackets and rectangular lattice trim.

26. W. Main Street: open wooded lot.

29. Bridge, carrying Main Street over the Charleston and Western Carolina Railroad Tracks: This concrete and timber bridge, built in 1937, features a pierced guardrail on each flank.

30. Wells Clardy House, 409 W. Main Street: ca. 1895, one story frame, weatherboarded house with hipped roof. Hip roofed portico has sawn ornamentation, brackets, and sawtooth trim.

31. Presbyterian Parsonage, W. Main Street: ca. 1920, two story brick residence with a hip roof. The building has a one story porch with paired columns and a one story wing in the rear.

32. W. Main Street: open wooded lot.

33. W. Main Street: open wooded lot.

35. 215 College Place: ca. 1920, one story brick cottage, with a hip roof and multiple cross-gables, and a porch on two elevations.

36. 209 College Place: ca. 1920, one story stuccoed residence, asymmetrical, with a hip roof, and bungalow style posts on brick piers supporting the porch roof.

37. 210 College Place: ca. 1920, one story brick cottage with a hip roof and multiple cross-gables. A porch wraps around two elevations.

38. 204 College Place: ca. 1920, one story brick cottage, asymmetrical, with a hip roof, and a porch with turned colonnettes on two elevations.

39. Roper House, 201 Church Street: two story asymmetrical frame residence, built ca. 1897 by J.C. Burns, with a one story porch on the south and east elevations, featuring turned colonnettes and sawn brackets. A three sided bay is under a gable on the southeast corner.

42. Davis House, 263 W. Main Street: ca. 1890, two and one-half story frame, weatherboarded house with metal hipped roof. Projecting front gable has small Palladian window with imbricated shingles.

43. W. Main Street: open wooded lot.

46. Owens House, 233 W. Main Street: ca. 1920, two story frame, weatherboarded building, bellcast hipped roof with brackets, one story portico with decorative swag; home of Dr. and Mrs. Aiken.

48. W. Main Street: open wooded lot.

49. W. Main Street: open wooded lot.

52. Old Law Range, S. Harper Street: On property with Palmetto Bank (#50); one story brick building containing a series of four offices, each with a central door and flanking nine over nine windows. All windows and doors have segmental brick arches. The building was erected ca. 1890; a small brick addition on the north end of the range, with a single door and window, was built ca. 1940.

53. 116 W. Main Street: ca. 1925, two story brick commercial building. The building contains offices for lawyers, realtors, and insurance agents.

54. W. Main Street: ca. 1925, two story brick commercial building, with recessed panels above the second floor windows. The building contains a barber shop and realtors' offices.

55. Blackwell Print Shop, Caroline Street: ca. 1930, one and one-half story building; stucco over brick, medium gabled roof with two interior chimneys, small portico supported by two Doric columns.

56. Wayside Gallery, 114 Court Street: ca. 1940, one story brick commercial building, with a multi-paned display window.

58. W. Laurens Street: ca. 1915, one story, stuccoed brick commercial building, with plate-glass display windows and a broken cornice line, presently unoccupied.

59. New Image Salon, W. Laurens Street: ca. 1915, one story brick commercial building with projecting brick cornerings and a glass block facade.

60. The Toy Box, West side of Public Square: ca. 1915, two story brick commercial building. The first floor has plate-glass display windows, while the second floor has brick pilasters and cornices framing the windows.

61. Old Belk Building, 119-123 W. Public Square: ca. 1900, two story brick building has been subdivided into three stores, plain windows have been bricked up, stone lintels, belt course with brick across the top, modern first floor entrance and plate-glass window.

62. Sanitary Market, 117 W. Public Square: ca. 1900, two story brick building, three windows in the second story with one over one panes and stone lintels. First floor has been remodeled with plate-glass windows and wooden mullions and canvas awning.

63. Singer Sewing Center and Vacant building, 111 W. Public Square: originally two adjacent buildings, each built ca. 1900; a brick facade was built ca. 1922 on the second story, connecting the two. The first floor of each part of the building has a recessed entrance with modern plate-glass windows.

64. Provident Finance Company and Parker Furniture, 107-109 W. Public Square: ca. 1900, two story brick building with brick pilasters on second story front, arcaded frieze, granite slipsills, windows enclosed with wooden shutters. First floor is modern plate-glass with canvas awning.

65. Eleanor Shop and Culbertson, Whiteside, and Turner Attorneys, 103-105 W. Public Square: ca. 1898, two story brick building with decorative frieze, turnbuckles; windows are boarded up on second floor except one with one over one panes with granite lintel; first floor has modern board and batten facade with two bay windows which were added ca. 1978.

66. Harrison Jewelry Store, 101 W. Public Square: ca. 1900, two story stuccoed building, decorative pilasters, second story recessed facade, second story one over one windows with pilasters and sidelights; first floor has modern plate-glass and marble under front windows.

67. Men's Shop, 102 S. Public Square: ca. 1915, two story brick building with plate-glass door, arch with stepped radiating vouissoirs and pilaster, entablature with brackets around top of building, decorative brickwork beneath entablature.

68. Cato's, 104-106 S. Public Square: ca. 1915, two story red brick building with modern plate-glass entrance; second story features Palladian type windows with semi-elliptical arch and stepped radiating voussoirs with keystone and pilasters.

69. Ben Franklin 5 and 10, 106-110 S. Public Square: ca. 1920, three story brick building with modern metal awning and plate-glass entrance, second and third stories feature belt course, one over one windows with lintels, turnbuckles beneath entablature, and brackets.

71. Laurens Music and Furniture, S. Public Square: ca. 1900, three story brick building; first floor has modern plate-glass windows and double doors with one glass panel in each with rectangular transom, pressed tin ceiling in interior. This building was a hardware store in 1900.

72. John Graham, S. Public Square: ca. 1900, two story red brick building with one over one windows and corner blocks, modern plate-glass windows, and metal awning.

73. South side of Public Square: ca. 1930, two story brick commercial building. The lower floor, with its glass display windows, has been subdivided into insurance, loan, and pawn shops. The upper floor is white painted brick with a projecting cornice and no fenestration.

74. Earl Thomason Jewelers, Gregory's Boutique, and Professional Drugs, 102, 104, 106 E. Public Square: ca. 1885, two story red brick building with modern awning and plate-glass entrance; second story windows are one over one with granite lintels and sills, decorative brick trim across facade.

75. Brown's Jewelers, 108 E. Public Square: ca. 1885, two story brick building with modern awning and plate-glass windows, second story paired one over one windows with granite lintels and sills, decorative brick work. This building has been a jewelry store since 1890.

76. Chandlers, 110 E. Public Square: ca. 1900, two story brick building with modern awning and plate-glass window, second story one over one windows with segmented arches and decorative brick work.

77. Chandlers, 112 E. Public Square: ca. 1900, two story brick building with modern metal awning and plate-glass windows, second story windows with six over six lights and granite sills and lintels, turnbuckles, decorative brick cornice.

79. Southern Bank and Trust, E. Public Square: ca. 1900, two story brick building with modern first floor facade, second story windows with segmented arched openings.

81. Midtown Paint Shop, E. Public Square: ca. 1910, two story brick building with modern entrance and awning; second story windows are one over one with granite lintels and sills.

82. City Hall, E. Public Square: ca. 1920, three story, brick Georgian Revival building. The facade is five bays wide, with the three central bays projecting and crowned with a pediment. The central doorway has a concrete Gibbs surround. Windows on the first and second floors are six over six, with brick and concrete flat arches. Windows on the third floor have semi-circular heads with intersecting tracery; impost blocks and keystones on these windows are concrete. A cornice and attic story complete the composition.

84. American Stove Company, Home Credit Company, and The Now Shop, 115, 117, 119 N. Public Square: ca. 1920, two story brick building with imitation stone facade; facade has roll-out windows with metal awning and plate glass windows and entrance.

85. Old Palmetto Bank Building and Gables, 111-113 N. Public Square: ca. 1910, three story brick building with cornice; windows in second and third story are one over one panes with granite lintels; first story facade is rusticated stone with three elliptical arches and interior has excellent marble pilasters with Corinthian capitols and decorative marble throughout; Gables has a modern store front with recessed entrance.

87. Murray Furniture, 107 N. Public Square: before 1900, three story red brick building; windows boarded up, second and third story with stone lintels and decorative corner blocks, decorative stone diamond shaped design in center of building, six turnbuckles through side of building.

88. Rosenblum's, and Maxwell Brothers and Kinard Furniture, 103-105 N. Public Square: ca. 1900, three story brick building with decorative cornice; third story windows are boarded up; second story windows are single pane flanked by two over two windows with single pane transom above, modern plate-glass entrance.

89. Swofford Building, 101 E. Laurens Street: ca. 1915, two story brick building, decorative brick work with stepped masonry, turnbuckles, first floor facade with modern plate-glass.

90. Chaney's, W. Laurens Street: ca. 1920, two story red brick building with modern plate-glass window and metal awning.

91. Echo Theater, W. Laurens Street: ca. 1910, two story brick building, modern entrance and metal marquee.

92. Coleman Furniture Company, 110 W. Laurens Street: ca. 1930, two story brick building with four windows in second story which are boarded up; they have radiating brick arches and stone lintels; first floor facade has modern plate-glass.

94. The Furniture Center, W. Laurens Street: ca. 1929, two story stuccoed building with six over six windows and battlement entablature.

98. Ball House, 248 Caroline Street: ca. 1850, two story red brick residence, entrance with rectangular transom and sidelights. This building was constructed as a residence for a member of the locally prominent Ball family.

99. Madden House, 221 Caroline Street: ca. 1898, one story white frame, weatherboarded residence with medium gable roof, front projecting gable with imbricated shingles and bargeboard trim.

100. Watson House, 223 Caroline Street: ca. 1910, one story white frame, weatherboarded residence with medium gabled roof of molded metal, small one story shed portico, six over six windows.

102. 228 Caroline Street: ca. 1910, one story frame residence, asymmetrical. The house has a standing-seam metal gabled roof, and a hip-roofed porch.

105. Caroline Street: open wooded lot.

106. 238 Caroline Street: ca. 1930, one story frame residence, with a gable roof and a gable roofed entrance porch.

107. Caroline Street: open wooded lot.

109. Caroline Street: open wooded lot.

110. Caine House, 244 Caroline Street: ca. 1910, one story white frame, weatherboarded residence with center interior chimney, small six over six windows with one story portico, medium gable tin roof.

113. 212 E. Hampton Street: ca. 1900, one story frame residence with a gable roof, a central cross gable, and a hip roofed porch with turned colonnettes and a simple balustrade.

Noncontributing properties:

5. Cullum House, 713 W. Main Street: one story modern brick building, medium hip roof.

10. O'Dell House, 602 W. Main Street: built 1950, one story, modern brick ranch style home.

11. Kennedy Mortuary, 606 W. Main Street: ca. 1895, two story building converted from home to a mortuary ca. 1950. Facade has been altered to Spanish Mission type.

15. Riddle-Foy House, 547 W. Main Street: ca. 1940, two story, red brick residence with one small portico supported by a plain Doric column.

18. First Baptist Church Parsonage, 535 W. Main Street: ca. 1965, one story ranch style, white brick residence with Greek Revival details, front projecting portico with dentils and the pediment supported by plain Doric columns.

23. Funeral Home, Corner of W. Main and Saxton Streets: built 1979, one story, white brick building with colonial influence, pediments with dentils and plain columns.

28. Laurens Lumber Company, 400 Block of W. Main Street: built 1970, modern one story red brick building with commercial facade, plate-glass.

40. First Baptist Church, 400 Block of W. Main Street: built 1958, large two story, red brick building with two story front portico supported by plain Doric columns, heavy entablature with dentils, center spire.

41. Palmetto Savings and Loan Association, 300 Block of W. Main Street: built 1976, one story, brown brick building with colonial influence. Projecting front portico supported by plain Doric columns, double front entrance door with broken colonial pediment.

44. Dagnell House, 235 W. Main Street: built 1955, one story, red brick residence, small and unobtrusive.

50. Laurens Federal Savings & Loan, 211 W. Main Street: ca. 1953, two story, red brick building with colonial influence, heavy cornice with dentils, front pediment with dentils, front entrance has heavy entablature.

51. Palmetto Bank, Corner of W. Main and S. Harper Streets: ca. 1950, two story, commercial building, scored interior.

57. Interstate Gas Station, Corner of Caroline and W. Laurens Streets: service station.

70. Downtown Bazaar and the Kenwin Store, South side of Public Square: two story brick commercial building, erected ca. 1940, with an unornamented facade. The first floor has plate-glass display windows, and the second floor has six casement windows. The building is occupied by the Downtown Bazaar and the Kenwin Store.

80. Laurens Cablevision & Crews, E. Public Square: ca. 1920, two story brick building with new brick front facade and metal awning with plate glass.

83. U.S. Army Recruiting Station and Liberty Loan Building, North Side Public Square: built ca. 1957, one story modern, red brick building with plate-glass.

93. W. Laurens Street: ca. 1940, one story brick commercial building, painted white, with glass display windows. The building is currently empty.

95. Furniture Center, W. Laurens Street: a modern one story brick building with plate-glass windows.

96. The Music Service Center, W. Laurens Street: modern one story stuccoed brick building with a metal awning.

97. Caroline Street. On property with #'s 91, 92, 93, 94, and 96: ca. 1940, one story brick and corrugated-metal warehouse.

103. 231 Caroline Street: one story contemporary frame residence with a brick-veneer facade.

108. Goins Funeral Home, 241 Caroline Street: two story concrete block building.

111. Corner of Caroline Street and Hampton Avenue: vacant lot.

in population had begun to subside. Between 1900 and 1910 the population of Laurens only grew from 4029 to 4818.

The town has experienced later periods of growth. However, more recent development in Laurens has been concentrated in the outlying areas of the town and has not significantly affected the centrally located historic district.

Architecture: The Laurens Historic District reflects the several stages of architectural growth and development in Laurens. The oldest buildings in the district represent the antebellum agrarian community; the James Dunklin House (#16) is typical of the Piedmont farmhouse type. The Greek Revival style is represented in Laurens by the Simpson House (#2), and by the Episcopal Church of the Epiphany (#47), which exemplify the interpretation of high style architecture by vernacular builders.

The majority of the buildings in the Laurens Historic District date from the affluence of the post-railroad era. The Augustus Huff House (#21) and the Todd House (#19) belong to the Carpenter-Gothic style. The Queen Anne style is represented by the Davis House (#12). Victorian polychrome Gothic Revival is evident in the Laurens First Presbyterian Church (#34), which makes use of contrasting materials, multiple textures, tall proportions, and Gothic traceried windows for its effect.

The work of Columbus White, a black Laurens contractor, also dates from the late nineteenth century. The Bethel A.M.E. Church (#104) and the St. Paul First Baptist Church (#112) are both brick interpretations of the Romanesque Revival style. The Mary Whitner House (#101) shows Columbus White's work in the Queen Anne style.

The central business district of Laurens developed around the county courthouse in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The Brown Franklin Building (#78), one of the oldest and finest of Laurens' commercial buildings, has decorative brickwork with contrasting cement trim. The old Palmetto Bank Building (#85) shows the influence of the Italian Renaissance Palazzo in American commercial buildings -- an influence especially prominent in bank buildings. The rusticated masonry of the ground floor, the severe brick facade of the two upper floors, and the massive overhanging cornice identify the style.

Many buildings in the public square area have plate-glass display windows on the first floor and decorative brickwork with corbelled cornices on the second floor. Other prominent buildings in the Courthouse Square area include the Georgian Revival city hall (#82) and the Parker Furniture Building (#64), a brick building with an arcaded frieze and hip roof.

Most of the buildings in the Laurens Historic District are still used for their original purposes and have been kept in good repair. The district has admitted growth but retains integrity as a district.

Bolick, Julian Stevenson. A Laurens County Sketchbook. n.p.: Mrs. Julian S. Bolick, 1973, p. 16.

Cooper, Thomas, ed. The Statutes at Large of South Carolina. 10 vols. Columbia, S.C.: A. S. Johnston, 1838, 4: 661.

Department of Commerce. Thirteenth Census of the United States Taken in the Year 1910. 11 vols. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1913, 1: 645; 7: 518.

Department of the Interior. Compendum of the Eleventh Census: 1890. 15 parts. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1892, 1: 363.

Department of the Interior. Report on the Productions of Agriculture as Returned at the Tenth Census. 13 vols. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1883, 3: 204, 240, 308, 309.

Department of the Interior. Statistics of the Population of the United States at the Tenth Census. 13 vols. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1883, 1: 329.

Department of the Interior. Twelfth Census of the United States, Taken in the Year 1900. 10 vols. Washington, D.C.: United States Census Office, 1901, 1: 353.

Garlington, S. F., ed. Business Directory of the Town of Laurens, South Carolina, Together with an Historical Sketch. n.p., n.p., 1888, pp. 27-35.

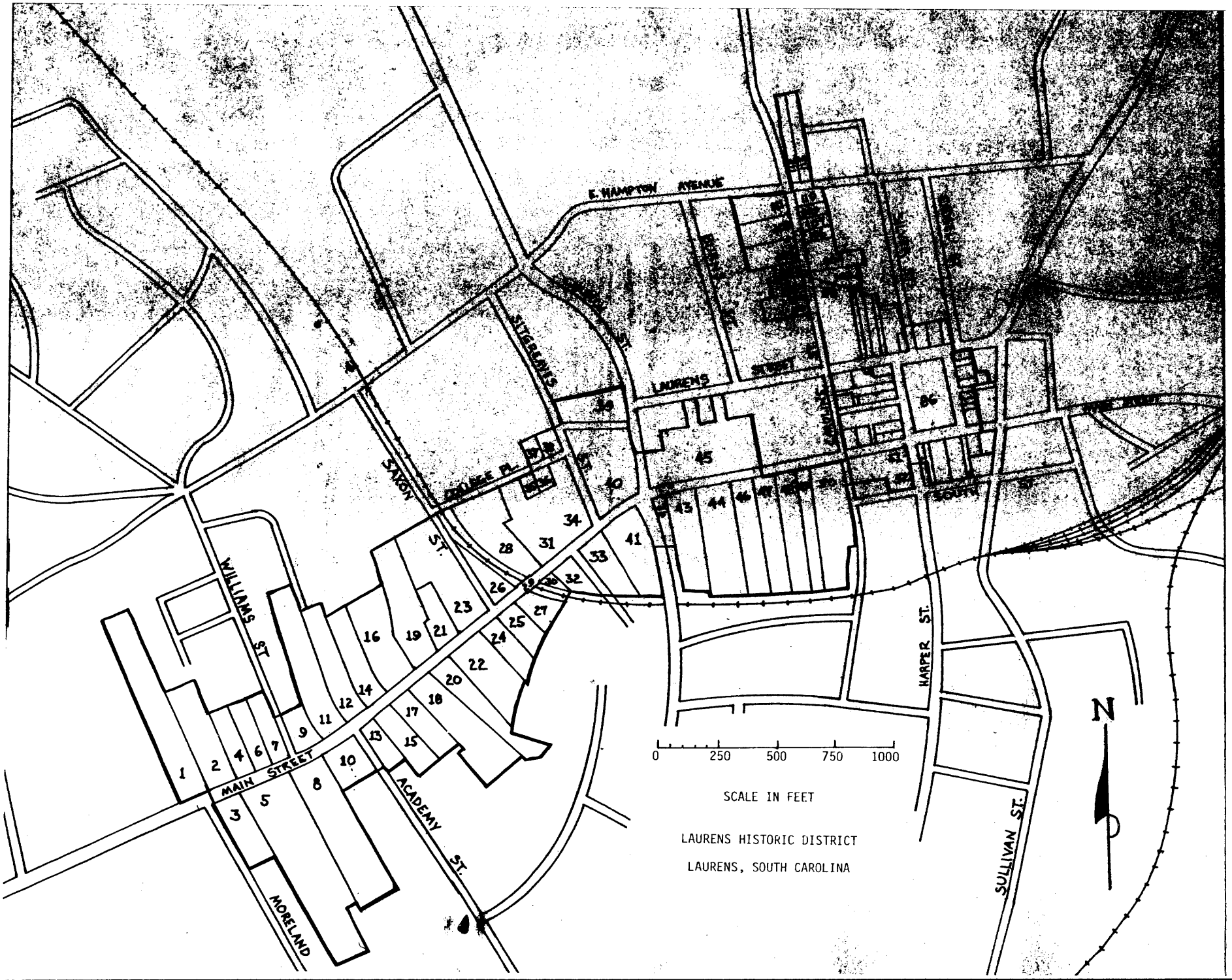
Laurens, S.C. Laurens County Clerk of Court. Deed Book D, p. 195; Deed Book G, p. 225.

Mills, Robert. Statistics of South Carolina, Including a View of Its Natural, Civil, and Military History, General and Particular. Charleston, S.C.: Hurlbut and Lloyd, 1826, p. 605.

Sanborn Map Company. Laurens, South Carolina. New York, 1906.

Sanborn Map and Publishing Company. Laurens, South Carolina. New York, 1889.

Sanborn-Perris Map Company. Laurens, South Carolina. New York, 1894; 1901.



LAURENS HISTORIC DISTRICT

LAURENS, SOUTH CAROLINA