(N/A) NOT FOR PUBLICATION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 Laurens Multiple Resource Area

PREFERRED NAME OF PROPERTY: Dr. William Claudius Irby House

HISTORIC NAME(s) OF PROPERTY: Dr. William Claudius Irby House

COMMON NAMES(s) OF PROPERTY: Crowe House

LOCATION: 132 Irby Avenue

CLASSIFICATION: Building

OWNER: Marvin H. and Carolyn T. Crowe
132 Irby Avenue
Laurens, S. C. 29360

DESCRIPTION

The Dr. W. C. Irby House, which was constructed ca. 1890, is a two-story, frame residence sheathed in weatherboarding with a cross-gable roof. A two-tiered porch extends across the facade (east elevation) and has turned posts, pilasters, and balustrades; turned frieze with perforated panels; and perforated brackets with pendants. Two, gabled peaks with flared eaves, louvered vents, and perforated bargeboards are located on the front roof slope. The right gable projects from the plane of the facade and surmounts a two-story, polygonal bay. Single-story porches and gable ends on the north and south elevations have features similar to those on the facade. The main entrance has a single door, sidelights, and transom. A simpler, single-door entrance provides access to the second story porch. The house has two-over-two windows set in pedimented surrounds with sawn appliques. A two- story addition has been made to the rear (west) elevation of the house. Interior features include plaster walls, wood floors and ceilings, four panel doors with operable transoms, and wide crown mouldings and baseboards. Fireplaces have ornamental mantels with beveled glass mirrors, coal grates, and tile surrounds and hearths. The entrance hall has wainscoting, an ornamental archway, a carved wood ceiling medallion, and a cantilevered staircase. Another ceiling medallion and an ornate, Eastlake mantel are located in the parlor. The dining room has wainscoting and a built-in cupboard. A breezeway between the house and the

original kitchen has been enclosed to form a back hall. The second story contains four bedrooms and a hall. To the rear of the house is a fieldstone outbuilding. The house is located on a large lot in a quiet, residential neighborhood of the city of Laurens. It has had few alterations and retains integrity from the time of its construction.

SIGNIFICANCE

AREA(s) OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: L (for office use only)

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built ca. 1890, the Dr. William Claudius Irby House (1848-1916)[1] is significant as an excellent example of a residence featuring the influence of the Eastlake style of architecture. Distinctive features on the exterior include the two-tiered porch on the facade, single-story porches on the side elevations, and pedimented window and door surrounds. The elaborate ornamentation includes turned posts and balustrades, turned frieze with perforated panels, perforated bargeboards, perforated brackets with pendants, and sawn appliques over the windows. Several fireplaces on the interior have ornate, Eastlake style mantels with beveled mirrors and glazed-tile surrounds and hearths. Other noteworthy features include a built-in cupboard in the dining room, sawn ceiling medallions in the entrance hall and parlor, and a cantilevered staircase in the entrance hall. Dr. Irby was a physician who practiced in Clinton, South Carolina, for a number of years before moving to Laurens; in his later years he devoted much time to his extensive farming interests[2]. Following his death, ownership of the house passed to an insurance company, which sold it to Abe and Ike Smith in 1942[3]. It has subsequently been owned by several other families.

ACREAGE: Approximately one acre.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: The boundary of the Dr. William Claudius Irby House nomination is shown as the red line on the accompanying City of Laurens zoning map, which is drawn at a scale of 800 feet to the inch. The nominated property includes the historic house and outbuilding and the lot on which they are situated.

QUAD NAME: Laurens South

QUAD SCALE: 1:24000

UTM REFERENCE POINT(s): A. 17/406495/3817205

OTHER INFORMATION: The owners of the Dr. W. C. Irby House have moved out-of-state, and the house is currently for sale.

FOOTNOTES

[1]Laurens Advertiser, 1 November 1916. The date of construction is based on county records which show that Dr. Irby acquired property in the vicinity during the 1880s, and on a statement in the Laurens Advertiser of 9 December 1914 to the effect that Dr. and Mrs. Irby moved to Laurens in 1891.

[2]Laurens Advertiser, 1 November 1916.

[3]Book 25, p. 271 and Book 80, p. 193, Laurens County Deeds, Laurens County Courthouse, Laurens, S. C.