OCT 7 1996

(N/A) NOT FOR PUBLICATION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: South Harper Street Historic District

HISTORIC NAME(s) OF PROPERTY: South Harper Street Historic District

COMMON NAMES(s) OF PROPERTY: South Harper Street Historic District

LOCATION: Along both sides of South Harper Street, from 320 South Harper to 1037 South Harper, inclusive

CLASSIFICATION: District

OWNER: Multiple ownership: more than 50 owners

DESCRIPTION

The South Harper Street Historic District is composed of forty-four resources located along both sides of South Harper Street in the city of Laurens. Forty-two of the resources are residences, four of which are especially noteworthy. Nineteen noncontributing resources also fall within the district boundaries. The district extends along eight blocks and is primarily single-family residential in character. The South Harper Street Historic District provides tangible evidence of the prosperity which Laurens experienced at the turn of the century, with almost half of the houses having been constructed during the first decade of the twentieth century. The district contains two antebellum residences, both of which were renovated in the early twentieth century; forty residences constructed during the period ca. 1880-1935; and two undeveloped lots. Five other residences located within the district boundaries were built prior to 1912, but have had substantial exterior alterations which compromise their architectural integrity. South Harper Street is also characterized by large shade trees, terraced lawns, and distinctive retaining walls. Demolition of older residences and construction of new buildings have occurred in the area proposed for nomination, primarily along the eastern side of South Harper Street and near the intersections with Jones and Academy Streets on the west. Nevertheless, seventy percent of the resources in the proposed boundaries contribute to the significance of the district, and the area retains its overall integrity.

Key Resources Contributing to the Character of the Historic District:

8) Hix-Blackwell House, 606 South Harper Street (before 1857): One-and-one-half-story, frame residence, sheathed in weatherboarding. The front slope of the metal, gable roof is pierced by three, pedimented, gabled dormers. The main entrance is centered and has double doors, sidelights, and transom. A porch which extended across the facade was removed and replaced by a gabled portico during the 1920s.

9) H. Douglas Gray House, 616 South Harper Street (ca. 1910): Two-story, neoclassical residence sheathed in weatherboarding. The facade is dominated by a monumental, pedimented portico supported by paired, Doric columns. A single-story porch extends across the facade and south elevation; a balcony is located beneath the portico.

31) Machen-Long House, 1022 South Harper Street (ca. 1905): One-and-one-half-story, frame residence which was significantly renovated and brick veneered in the 1930s. The house has a complex roofline with bellcast slopes. The single-story portico is pedimented and shelters a single-door entrance with mullioned sidelights and transom.

32) Gov. Robert A. Cooper House, 1030 South Harper Street (ca. 1905): Two-story, frame residence, sheathed in weatherboarding. The house has a hip roof of pressed metal, two-story polygonal bays, a wraparound porch with porte-cochere, and a gable-roof balcony. The porch, balcony, and porte-cochere feature Tuscan columns with balustrades. Two, brick chimneys with corbelled caps pierce the roof. Gable ends are sheathed in sawtooth shingles.

Other Resources Contributing to the Character of the Historic District:

1) John P. Tucker House, 320 South Harper Street (ca. 1880): Two-story, frame residence.

2) Austin-Fowler House, 404 South Harper Street (ca. 1908): Two-story, frame residence.

3) Ozzie Anderson House, 410 South Harper Street (ca. 1922): One-and-one-half-story, brick veneer residence.

7) Dr. Clifton Jones House, 522 South Harper Street (ca. 1906): Two-and-one-half-story, frame residence.

10) Word-Humphries-Childress House, 622 South Harper Street (early 1800s and later): Two-story, frame residence.

11) Hudgens-Sullivan House, 628 South Harper Street (ca. 1906): Two-and-one-half-story, frame residence.

12) Clarence M. Babb House, 636 South Harper Street (1906): Two-and-one-half-story, frame residence.

13) Terry-Brown House, 644 South Harper Street (ca. 1906): One-story, frame residence.

14) Ben A. Sullivan House, 652 South Harper Street (1898): Two-story, frame residence.

15) Bolt-Swygert House, 662 South Harper Street (ca. 1894): Two-story, frame residence.

16) E. W. Copeland House, 708 South Harper Street (1904): Two-story, frame residence.

17) J. W. Henderson, Jr., House, 710 South Harper Street (ca. 1925): One-and-one-half-story, brick veneer residence.

18) H. L. Roper House, 714 South Harper Street (ca. 1918): One-and-one-half-story, brick veneer residence.

19) Richey-Thomason House, 802 South Harper Street (1908): One-and-one-half-story, frame residence.

20) McLeod-Switzer House, 808 South Harper Street (ca. 1908): One-and-one-half-story, frame residence.

21) W. G. McDaniel House, 814 South Harper Street (ca. 1932): Two-story, brick veneer residence.

22) Frank H. Caine House, 830 South Harper Street (ca. 1919): Two-story, brick veneer residence.

24) Thomason-Long House, 838 South Harper Street (ca. 1935): Two-and-one-half-story, brick veneer residence.

28) Willis-Inman House, 920 South Harper Street (ca. 1904): One-and-one-half-story, frame residence.

29) Lancaster-McGowan House, 1008 South Harper Street (ca. 1919): One-and-one-half-story, frame residence.

30) Timmerman-Crump House, 1010 South Harper Street (ca. 1933): Two-story, brick veneer residence.

33) Moore-Wier House, 1032 South Harper Street (ca. 1920): One-story, frame residence.

34) Wasson-Thrailkill House, 1037 South Harper Street (ca. 1908): One-story, frame residence.

35) Ellen D. Owings House, 1027 South Harper Street (ca. 1919): One-and-one-half-story, frame residence.

36) Drummond House, 1025 South Harper Street (ca. 1904): Two-story, frame residence.

37) Gilkerson-Franks House, 1023 South Harper Street (ca. 1920): One-story, frame residence.

38) Moore-Hudgens House, 1007 South Harper Street (ca. 1907): One-story, frame residence.

39) Albert G. Irby House, 1001 South Harper Street (ca. 1914): Two-story, frame residence.

40) Minter-Milam House, 915 South Harper Street (1901): One-and-one-half-story, frame residence.

41) Tessier-Culbertson House, 911 South Harper Street (ca. 1935): One-story, brick veneer residence.

43) 800 block, South Harper Street (at Caine Street): Vacant, undeveloped lot.

44) Smith-Wasson House, 821 South Harper Street (ca. 1920): One-and-one-half-story, frame residence.

45) W. C. Byrd House, 819 South Harper Street (ca. 1920): One-story, frame residence.

47) John T. Langston House, 805 South Harper Street (ca. 1896): One-story, frame residence.

52) Switzer-Moore House, 657 South Harper Street (ca. 1905): One-story, frame residence.

54) 600 block, South Harper Street: Vacant, undeveloped lot.

55) Earl Owens House, 629 South Harper Street (ca. 1925): One-story, brick veneer residence.

59) Gilkerson-Downey-Peterson House, 517 South Harper Street (ca. 1887): One-story, frame residence.

61) R. B. Terry House, 507 South Harper Street (ca. 1907): One-story, frame residence.

63) Cliff McLaurin House, 413 South Harper Street (ca. 1905): One-story, frame residence.

Resources which do not contribute to the character of the Historic District:

4) Robert T. Crow, III, Insurance Office, 412 South Harper Street (ca. 1980): One-story, frame office building.

5) R. T. Crow, Jr., Dentist Office, 518 South Harper Street (ca. 1950): One-story, brick veneer office building.

6) Simpson-Crow House, 520 South Harper Street (ca. 1941): One-and-one-half-story, brick veneer residence.

23) 836 South Harper Street: Vacant lot, site of former residence.

25) Felder Smith House, 910 South Harper Street (ca. 1940): One-story, brick veneer residence.

26) McCord-Kennedy House, 912 South Harper Street (ca. 1907): One-story, frame residence; an ell was added, the exterior substantially altered, and brick veneer applied ca. 1977.

27) 900 block, South Harper Street (ca. 1977): One-and-one-half-story, frame residence.

42) Grimes-Caine House, 907 South Harper Street (before 1857): Two-story, frame residence, remodeled ca. 1900. In recent years, the wraparound porch has been enclosed, and windows have been replaced.

46) 817 South Harper Street: Vacant lot, site of former residence.

48) 719 South Harper Street: Vacant lot, site of former residence.

49) 713 South Harper Street: Vacant lot, site of former residence.

50) 703 South Harper Street (ca. 1885): One-story, frame residence; the north ell was demolished, a new ell constructed, and nonhistoric siding applied ca. 1983-84.

51) 661 South Harper Street: Vacant lot, site of former residence.

53) Sullivan-Switzer House, 649 South Harper Street (ca. 1883): Two-story, frame residence; the single-story, wraparound porch has been replaced with a shed-roof portico and side porch.

56) 627 South Harper Street: Vacant lot, site of former residence.

57) Bramlett-Kendrick House, 615 South Harper Street (ca. 1890): Two-story, frame residence; the wraparound porch has been replaced with a portico and side porch, and the house has been brick veneered.

58) Kendrick House, 605 South Harper Street (ca. 1950): One-story, brick veneer residence.

60) Cora G. Peterson House, 515 South Harper Street (ca. 1950): One-story, brick veneer residence.

62) Dr. Martin M. Teague Office, 501 South Harper Street (ca. 1951): One-story, brick veneer office building.

SIGNIFICANCE

AREA(s) OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture, Commerce, Industry, Politics/ Government

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: L (for office use only)

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE

The South Harper Street Historic District is significant architecturally as a collection of early twentieth century vernacular residences. In addition, several of its residents distinguished themselves in the fields of commerce, industry, and politics/government. Construction dates for the houses range from the early nineteenth century to ca. 1935, with almost half having been built during the first decade of the twentieth century.

South Harper Street is one of Laurens' oldest roads, but it remained largely undeveloped until the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. An 1845 plat of Laurens identifies that part of Harper Street south of an unnamed branch as the "road to Hamburg"; early deeds also call it the road to Augusta. Harper Street proper extended from the branch northward along the eastern boundary of the public square, until it became the road to Union.[1] Beginning in the late 1800s, the name Harper was used for the entire length of the street within the corporate boundaries.

A map of Laurens, dated 1882-83, shows six houses along South Harper Street in the area proposed for nomination.[2] One of the houses has been demolished, and another was relocated to a side street. The other four (John P. Tucker House, #1; Hix- Blackwell House, #8; Word-Humphreys-Childress House, #10; and Grimes-Caine House, #42) remain. In the late nineteenth century a large portion of the property adjacent to South Harper Street was owned by the Irby, Sullivan, and Garrett families. As these and other landowners sold off lots, South Harper Street began to develop as an upper middle-class residential neighborhood. The most active period of development was during the first decade of the twentieth century, when approximately twenty buildings in the district were constructed. Construction of residences continued steadily through the 1930s, with about five to seven houses being built per decade. Although several vacant lots were

never developed, most post-1940 construction has involved the renovation of older buildings or the erection of newer buildings on sites of demolished or relocated houses. Several vacant lots in the district are the sites of residences which have been moved, burned, or demolished.

The South Harper Street Historic District has few examples of specific architectural styles, but is significant for the numerous vernacular residences in its boundaries. Among the more stylistic buildings are the Austin-Fowler House (#2) and the H. Douglas Gray House (#9), which show the influence of the neoclassical style, and the Gov. Robert A. Cooper House (#32), which incorporates elements of the Queen Anne and neoclassical styles. The district also has a number of turn-of-the-century cottages, central hall townhouses, and bungalows. Several substantial, brick veneer residences dating from the 1930s are also located in the district. Among the more ambitious of the vernacular houses are the Dr. Clifton Jones House (#7), the Hudgens-Sullivan House (#11), the Minter-Milam House (#40), and the Cliff McLaurin House (#63).

Residents of South Harper Street represented a number of professions and served in a variety of elected offices. Among the more prominent industrialists and businessmen in Laurens was H. Douglas Gray (#9), who was a partner in the Laurens Glass Works, one of the city's major employers, from 1913 until his death in 1965. He also was co-founder and president of the Southern States Lumber Company.[3] Politicians and governmental officials who resided on South Harper include Robert A. Cooper (#32), O. L. Long (#31), and Caldwell Wier (#33). Cooper, a lawyer, served as Governor of South Carolina (1919-22), member of the Federal Farm Loan Board, and federal judge.[4] Long was Mayor of Laurens (1926-30) and State Senator (1940-48).[5] Wier was Laurens County Sheriff for five terms (1936-52 and 1957-60).[6] At least four other residents of South Harper Street served in the state legislature: Homer S. Blackwell, (#8), 1912-14; W. R. Richey, Jr., (#19), 1916-18; Clarence M. Babb, (#12), 1920-22; and James H. Sullivan, (#11), 1924-30 and 1942-44.[7] Several other locally prominent persons have lived along South Harper Street.

ACREAGE: Approximately 32 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: The boundary of South Harper Street Historic District 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 area extends along both sides of South Harper Street and represents that portion of the street which includes the largest number of significant properties.

QUAD NAME: Laurens South

QUAD SCALE: 1:24000

UTM REFERENCE POINT(s): A. 17/406900/3817460
B. 17/406600/3816480
C. 17/406480/3816520
D. 17/406780/3817440

OTHER INFORMATION: N/A

FOOTNOTES

[1]Book P, p. 43, Laurens County Deeds and Plats, Laurens County Courthouse, Laurens, S. C.

[2]C. L. Fike, A Map of the Town of Laurens, South Carolina From Surveys In The Years 1882 & 1883, n.p., n.d.

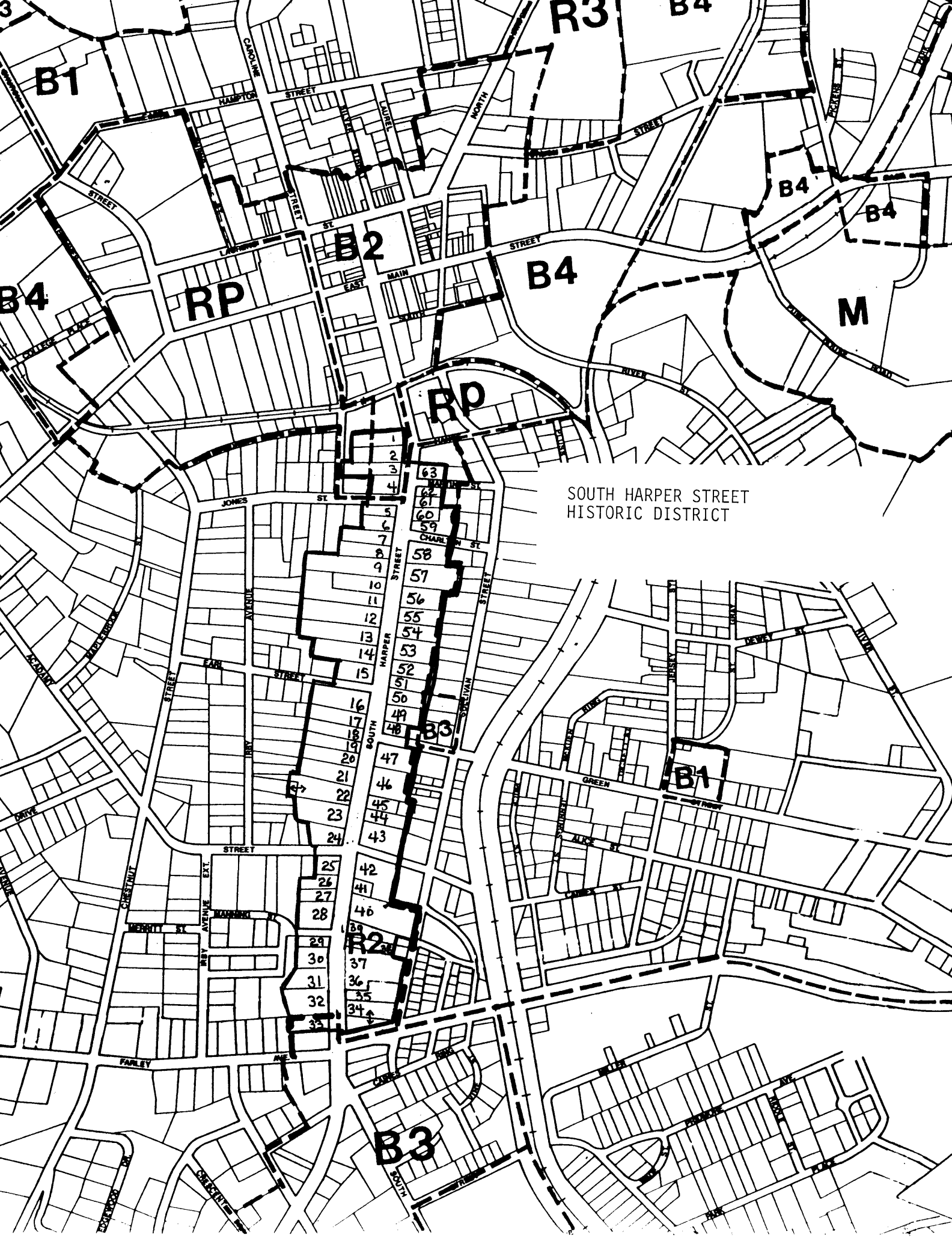
[3]Interview with Mrs. Morris J. (Mae) Crump, Laurens, S. C., 20 September 1985; "Laurens Glass Company," in The Scrapbook: A Compilation of Historical Facts About Places and Events of Laurens County, South Carolina, ed. William P. Jacobs ([Clinton, S.C.: Jacobs Press], 1982, pp. 682), 685.

[4]James P. Sloan, "Robert A. Cooper," in The Scrapbook, pp. 129-130.

[5]James P. Sloan, "Laurens County Senators (1778-Through Present Time)," in The Scrapbook, p. 31.

[6]James P. Sloan, "Laurens County Office Holders," in The Scrapbook, pp. 34-35.

[7]James P. Sloan, "Laurens County House Members (March 26, 1776 Through Present Time)," in The Scrapbook, p. 33.


SOUTH HARPER STREET
HISTORIC DISTRICT
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B3
B4
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RP
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R3
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CAROLINE
LAUREL
NORTH
STREET
EAST MAIN STREET
RIVER ST
JONES ST
CHARLTON ST
EARL STREET
SOUTH HARPER STREET
SULLIVAN STREET
IRBY AVENUE
MAPLEBROOK
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DRIVE
CHESTNUT
MERRITT ST
MANNING ST
FARLEY AVE
GREEN STREET
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