Name: Historic: Joseph Jennings Dorn House Location: Corner of Gold and Oak Streets

Common: Sexton House Classification: Building

Owner: Mr. O. S. Sexton
P.O. Box 576
McCormick, S.C. 29835

Representation in Existing Surveys South Carolina Inventory of Historic Places

Description: The Joseph Jennings Dorn House was built ca. 1917 in the Colonial Revival style and is one of the few early brick homes in McCormick. The house is two stories with the main facade oriented towards Gold Street. On the main (south) facade is a one-story porch with paired Ionic columns resting on brick piers. Below the eave of the roof are large modillion blocks. On the east facade the porch extends to form an open porte-cochere with extended roof brackets. The house is three bays wide and of Flemish bond brick construction. On the central bay of the first floor is the main entrance which features Corinthian motif pilasters and a dentilled cornice. Windows on the flanking bay of the first story and on the central bay of the second story are of tri-part design with both sash and casement windows. Other windows in the house are twelve-over-one sash. At the roofline is a hipped dormer with casement windows. The entire roof has a sheathing of terra-cotta tiles. The house has two prominent exterior chimneys with corbelled brick decoration. The interior of the house has been restored in recent years and displays the original staircase, wainscoting and decorative woodwork. At the rear of the house is a one-story brick garage built ca. 1917.

Significance: The Joseph Jennings Dorn House was built ca. 1917 by Joseph Jennings Dorn, a prominent businessman and politician. Jennings Dorn was a great-nephew of gold miner William Dorn and owned many large farms in the McCormick vicinity in the early 1900s. Dorn was a co-owner of the McCormick Manufacturing Company, Dorn Lumber Company and president of the Dorn Banking Company (36). Around 1917 Dorn commissioned architects J.E. Summer and J.C. Hemphill of Greenwood to design this house in McCormick. Upon its completion the house was one of the largest and most ornate in the community. In 1917 Dorn purchased the McCormick cotton seed oil mill (NR) along with his brother Martin Gary Dorn and Preston Finley (37). This mill complex was one of the major industries in the community, and the Dorn brothers operated the mill for many years. In 1930 Jennings Dorn was elected to the state senate and served until 1936 when he was killed in an automobile accident. Following his death the property remained in the Dorn family until its purchase and restoration in recent years by the Sexton family.

Acreage: Approx. .7 acre.

Verbal Boundary Description: The boundary of the Joseph Jennings Dorn House nomination is shown as the broken line on the accompanying McCormick County Tax Map #277 drawn at a scale of 1"=200'. The boundary contains only the house and its immediate surroundings.

UTM Reference Point: 17/380400/3753160

Other Information: