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(N/A) NOT FOR PUBLICATION

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SOUTH CAROLINA INVENTORY FORM FOR HISTORIC DISTRICTS AND  
INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES IN A MULTIPLE PROPERTY SUBMISSION

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NAME OF MULTIPLE PROPERTY SUBMISSION: City of Darlington  
Multiple Resource Area

PREFERRED NAME OF PROPERTY: Nelson Hudson House

HISTORIC NAME OF PROPERTY: Hudson-Law-Dargan-Wilson House

COMMON NAME OF PROPERTY: Neille Wilson Residence

LOCATION: 521 Pearl Street

CLASSIFICATION: Building

NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY: 2 Contributing Buildings

OWNER: Mrs. Neille A. Wilson  
521 Pearl Street  
Darlington, South Carolina 29532

DESCRIPTION

Constructed ca. 1830, the Nelson Hudson House is a one and one-half story Greek Revival residence. The gable roof of this frame, weatherboarded house features a boxed cornice with wide fascia and full returns. The main section of the house has two stuccoed interior end chimneys and gabled dormers on the south slope of its roof; the two-story gabled rear wing has a stuccoed exterior end chimney.

The three-bay front (north) elevation is symmetrical. The front pedimented portico has flush boards and a peaked casement window in the pediment, four square paneled columns freestanding from the porch, and plain balustrade with corner posts. The siding of the house under the portico is flush board. The central front entrance consists of paneled double doors, fanlight with vertical muntins, symmetrically moulded trim and keystone, and sidelights. On either side of the front entrance is a large, triple-hung window, six-over-six-over-six lights, with symmetrically moulded trim and louvered blinds. The east and west gable ends each have two peaked six-light windows with louvered blinds in the gable and two six-over-six windows with blinds on the first floor. The two-story rear wing was added by Dr. Theodore A. Dargan around 1854.

In the back yard is the original clapboard kitchen, which has a wood shingle gable roof and interior end chimney.

## SIGNIFICANCE

AREA OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE:   L   (for office use only)

## SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Nelson Hudson House is significant as one of the few relatively intact antebellum residences remaining in the city of Darlington. The house is an excellent local example of a Greek Revival cottage. Its impressive proportions and finely executed mouldings reflect a command of classical motifs on the part of the builder.

Little documentation exists on the early history of the Nelson Hudson House. According to local tradition, Nelson Hudson was a carriage maker who came to Darlington from Marion District and built the house in 1830. He died shortly after the house was built,<sup>1</sup> and his widow and two small sons moved to St. Charles, South Carolina.

Mr. E. A. Law occupied the house for some time after Hudson's death. An attorney and a member of the South Carolina House of Representatives, Law later built a fine residence around the corner on Law Street.<sup>2</sup> Dr. Theodore A. Dargan (1822-1881) purchased the house and enlarged it around 1854. Dargan was mayor of Darlington during the 1850's and served as surgeon-in-charge<sup>3</sup> of Wayside Hospital in Florence, South Carolina, during the Civil War.

ACREAGE: Less than one acre

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: The boundary of the Nelson Hudson House nomination is shown as the red line on the accompanying map entitled "Nelson Hudson House." The map was copied from a map of the town of Darlington, S.C., which is dated June, 1980, and is drawn at a scale of one inch to 500 feet. The nominated property includes the historic house and kitchen building, and the lot on which they are situated.

QUAD NAME: Darlington West, S.C.

QUAD SCALE: 1:24,000

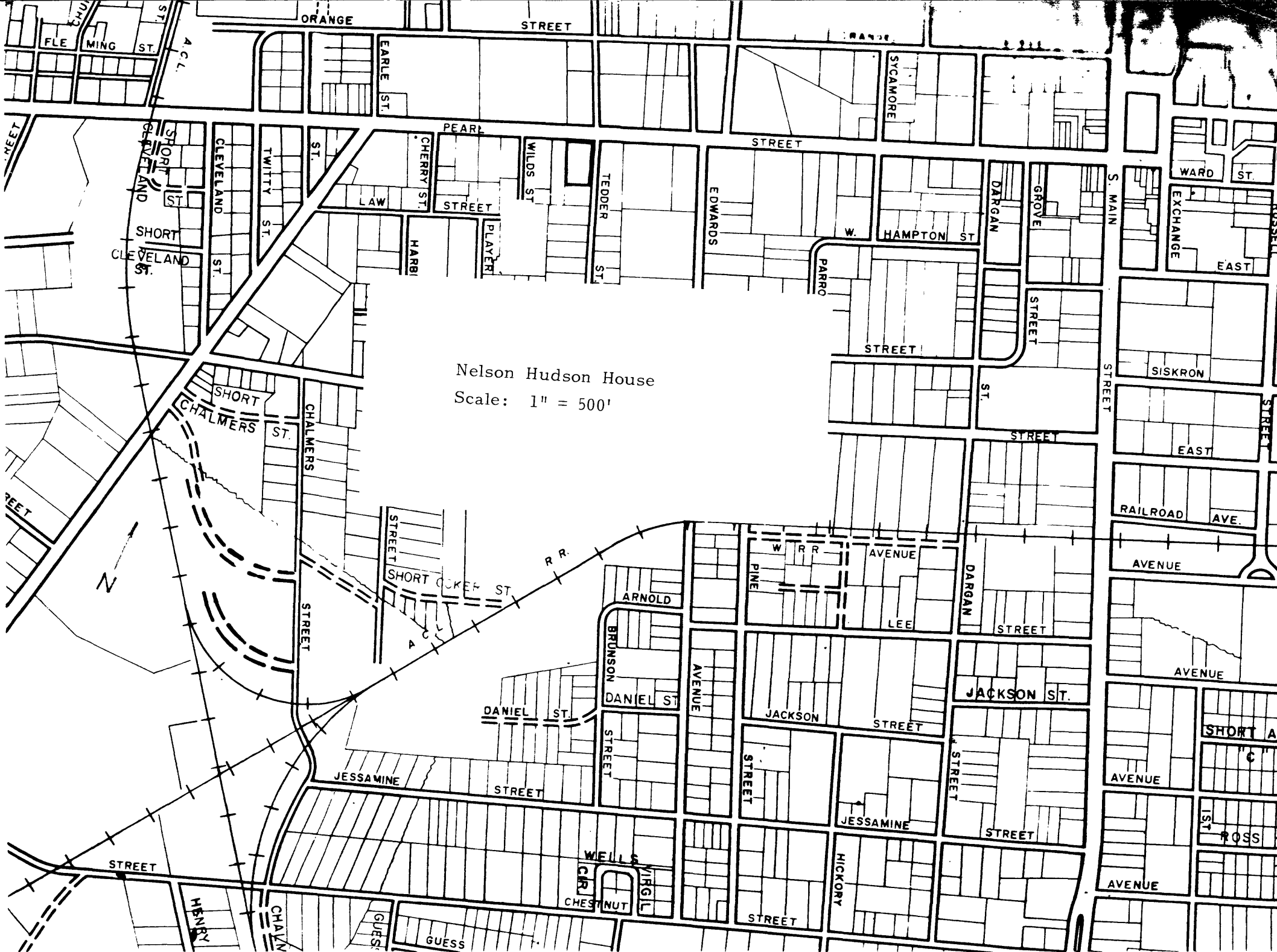
UTM REFERENCE POINT: 17/603280/3795660

## FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup>Horace Fraser Rudisill, "A Brief History of Darlington County, South Carolina" (Darlington, S.C.: Darlington County Historical Booklet Task Force, 1983), p. 11; Interview with Mrs. Neille A. Wilson, Darlington, S.C., 15 March 1986.

<sup>2</sup>Eliza Cowan Ervin and Horace Fraser Rudisill, Darlingtoniana (Columbia, S.C.: R. L. Bryan Co., 1964), pp. 350-354; Horace Fraser Rudisill, "A Brief History of Darlington County, South Carolina," p. 11.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid.



Nelson Hudson House  
Scale: 1" = 500'