

(N/A) NOT FOR PUBLICATION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

PREFERRED NAME OF PROPERTY: Laurens Historic District Extension

HISTORIC NAME(S) OF PROPERTY: Laurens Historic District Extension

COMMON NAMES(S) OF PROPERTY: Laurens Historic District Extension

LOCATION: Along both sides of West Main Street, from 742 West Main to 964 West Main, inclusive.

CLASSIFICATION: District

OWNER:

<u>Property #</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	
1	Agnes B. Sherer	964 W. Main St., Laurens, SC	29360
2	Charles W. Hester, Jr.	842 W. Main St., Laurens, SC	29360
3	Beaufort B. Copeland	840 W. Main St., Laurens, SC	29360
4	Wm. Barry & Martina Flynn Hughes	830 W. Main St., Laurens, SC	29360
5	Harriett G. Hunter	812 W. Main St., Laurens, SC	29360
6	Harriett G. Hunter	812 W. Main St., Laurens, SC	29360
7	Lucy S. Dial Habenicht	806 W. Main St., Laurens, SC	29360
8	Paul W. & Barbara D. McAlister	788 W. Main St., Laurens, SC	29360
9	Dean B. & Maria A. Youmans	780 W. Main St., Laurens, SC	29360
10	Mary Balle	774 W. Main St., Laurens, SC	29360
11	The First United Methodist Church	(trustees)	
12	Furman E. (Jr.) & Anne B. Ott	750 W. Main St., Laurens, SC	29360
13	Virginia T. Townsend	746 W. Main St., Laurens, SC	29360
14	Nell E. Holtzendorff	744 W. Main St., Laurens, SC	29360
15	Melmouth S. & Diane A. Patterson	742 W. Main St., Laurens, SC	29360
16	Bobby F. Lanford	743 W. Main St., Laurens, SC	29360
17	Joe W. & Curran B. Hiller	P. O. Box 4802, Greenville, SC	29608
18	P. Bailey Williams	773 W. Main St., Laurens, SC	29360
19	John Calvin Owings II	787 W. Main St., Laurens, SC	29360
20	Mary N. Owings	789 W. Main St., Laurens, SC	29360
21	W. Reid (Jr.) & Ann Cox	805 W. Main St., Laurens, SC	29360
22	Donald E. & JoAnn J. Ross	815 W. Main St., Laurens, SC	29360
23	J. G. & Maggie Lois Bailes	Box 137, Laurens, SC	29360
24	Van S. & Eloise C. Jones	821 W. Main St., Laurens, SC	29360
25	Marion R.(Jr.) & Jeannette D. Cook	825 W. Main St., Laurens, SC	29360
26	D. Smith & Suzette N. Patterson	831 W. Main St., Laurens, SC	29360
27	Frank B. Roper	Box 267, Laurens, SC	29360
28	Etta Lee Mason (839 W. Main St.)	P. O. Box 316, Laurens, SC	29360
29	William Forest Adair	911 W. Main St., Laurens, SC	29360

#### DESCRIPTION

The Laurens Historic District Extension is composed of twenty-one residences constructed during the period ca. 1880 to ca. 1940. Eight non-contributing resources also fall within the boundaries. The district extension, which includes an area omitted from the original Laurens Historic District (listed in the National Register on October 10, 1980), encompasses three blocks of West Main Street and is almost entirely residential in character.

Although originally lined by antebellum residences (only two of which remain intact) on multi-acre lots, West Main Street experienced two periods of major development, as these tracts were subdivided and the houses replaced or modernized. The first period was from ca. 1885 to ca. 1915 and the second occurred between World Wars. These buildings display a wide range of architectural styles. The area is also characterized by its large trees, well-kept yards, and granite retaining walls.

#### Key Resources Contributing to the Character of the Historic District:

- 7) Martin-Dial House, 806 West Main Street (pre-1883): Two-story, weather-boarded residence with a hip roof. The house was renovated ca. 1903 in the Georgian revival style. Notable features include the monumental, pedimented portico with balcony; Palladian window in the tympanum; denticulated cornice; single-story, side porches with Doric columns; and turned balustrades.
- 9) Wright-Easterby House, 780 West Main Street (ca. 1925): Two-story, stuccoed masonry residence constructed in Spanish colonial revival style. The building, designed by Greenwood, South Carolina, architect James C. Hemphill, is the sole example of this style in Laurens and is notable for its red tile roof, wide eaves with modillions, flat-roof porch with stuccoed pillars, and wrought-iron railing.
- 10) Balle House, 774 West Main Street (1911): One-and-one-half-story, frame residence built in the Craftsman style. The building has a gable roof and is sheathed in wood shingles. Notable features include an elaborate, gabled dormer with flower box and tripartite window; shed-roof porch with paneled, brick pillars and simple balustrade; and exposed rafters.
- 19) John Calvin Owings House, 787 West Main Street (ca. 1896): Two-and-one-half-story, frame residence built in the Queen Anne style. The house has a slate roof with cresting and is sheathed in weatherboarding, board-and-batten, and wood shingles. The wraparound porch and large balcony display elaborate, Victorian-era, ornamental features. The house, designed by George F. Barber, has a round, three-story, conical-roof tower and an octagonal, tent-roof oriel at the corners of the facade.

- 26) Gelder-Roper House, 831 West Main Street (ca. 1917): One-and-one-half-story, gambrel-roof residence with wraparound porch and porte-cochere supported by brick pillars. The house is sheathed in brick veneer on the first story and in wood shingles on the upper story. A long, shed-roof dormer with paired and tripartite windows dominates the facade. Most windows have twelve-over-one lights.

Other Resources Contributing to the Character of the Historic District:

- 1) Wolff-Todd House, 964 West Main Street (ca. 1920): One-and-one-half-story, brick veneer residence.
- 2) Hudgens-Harney House, 842 West Main Street (ca. 1915): Two-story, brick veneer residence.
- 3) John N. Wright House, 840 West Main Street (ca. 1910): One-and-one-half-story, frame residence.
- 4) Farrow-Humbert House, 820 West Main Street (ca. 1885): Two-story, frame residence.
- 6) M. Hampton Hunter, Jr., House, 812 West Main Street (1938): One-story, brick veneer residence.
- 13) McCravy-Townsend House, 746 West Main Street (ca. 1934): One-and-one-half-story, brick veneer residence.
- 14) Robert H. Roper House, 744 West Main Street (ca. 1919-20): One-story, frame residence.
- 15) Thomas B. McDaniel House, 742 West Main Street (ca. 1928): One-and-one-half-story, brick veneer residence.
- 18) Clardy-Jones House, 773 West Main Street (ca. 1920 and earlier): Two-story, brick veneer residence.
- 20) Thomas C. Owings House, 789 West Main Street (ca. 1938): One-and-one-half-story, brick veneer residence.
- 22) George Blakely House, 815 West Main Street (ca. 1936): Two-story, brick veneer residence.
- 23) Thomas R. Easterby House, 817 West Main Street (ca. 1925): One-story, brick veneer residence.
- 24) Nannie F. Lake House, 821 West Main Street (ca. 1925): One-and-one-half-story, brick veneer residence.
- 27) Frank B. Roper House, 835 West Main Street (ca. 1937-38): One-story, brick veneer residence.

West Main Street Historic District

Page 4

- 28) A. I. "Gus" Mason House, 839 West Main Street (ca. 1931): One-and-one-half-story, frame residence.
- 29) James Y. Milam House, 911 West Main Street (ca. 1920): One-and-one-half-story, frame residence, now housing an apothecary shop.

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

- 5) Kilgo-Todd House, 816 West Main Street (ca. 1950): One-story, frame residence.
- 8) Paul W. McAlister House, 788 West Main Street (1953): One-and-one-half-story, brick veneer residence.
- 11) Laurens First Methodist Church Parsonage, 772 West Main Street (1960): One-story, brick veneer residence.
- 12) Dial-Owings House, 750 West Main Street (ca. 1931): One-story, brick veneer residence; the facade has been substantially altered.
- 16) Roberson-Harman House, 743 West Main Street (ca. 1948): One-story, brick veneer residence.
- 17) Westside Manor Apartments, 753 West Main Street (ca. 1975): Apartment complex consisting of seven two-story and one one-story frame and brick veneer buildings. Only one building is visible from West Main Street.
- 21) C. B. Bobo House, 805 West Main Street (ca. 1905): One-story, frame residence; the wraparound porch was replaced by a pedimented portico ca. 1965.
- 25) C. A. "Bunch" Power House, 825 West Main Street (ca. 1924): Two-story, brick veneer residence; the single story porch was replaced by a monumental portico ca. 1965.

SIGNIFICANCE

AREA(s) OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture, Industry

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: L (for office use only)

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Laurens Historic District Extension expands the ability of the Laurens Historic District to convey visually the residential development of the city of Laurens. Architecturally this area is significant for its well-preserved residences, dating from the late nineteenth century to World War II, which represent numerous architectural styles popular during this period.

## West Main Street Historic District

Page 5

On an 1845 plat of the town of Laurens, the first two blocks of West Main Street are identified as Republican Street. At its intersection with what is now Church Street, the road became the "Old Greenville Road," a name which appears on many nineteenth century deeds.<sup>1</sup> By 1883 the entire street had become known as Main. A map of the town in that year shows a concentrated residential area of about fifteen houses in the first two blocks, and about sixteen buildings in the area being nominated.<sup>2</sup> One building shown on the 1883 map remains in the nominated area--the Martin-Dial House (#7). As Laurens grew during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the large tracts of land on which the old residences were located were subdivided into smaller, city-size lots. The old houses were renovated or were destroyed, either by fire or demolition. This gradual development left West Main Street with an array of residences, spanning a period of more than a century. Among the architectural styles represented in the Laurens Historic District Extension are the Queen Anne (John Calvin Owings House, #19), Georgian revival (Martin-Dial House, #7), bungalow (Balle House, #10, and Thomas R. Easterby House, #23), Spanish colonial revival (Wright-Easterby House, #9), colonial revival (A. I. "Gus" Mason House, #28). A noteworthy eclectic house is the Gelder-Roper House (#26). The John Calvin Owings House was designed by Knoxville, Tennessee, architect George F. Barber.<sup>3</sup> The Wright-Easterby House (#9) and the Thomas R. Easterby House (#23) were designed by Greenwood, South Carolina, architect James C. Hemphill.<sup>4</sup>

Throughout its existence, West Main Street has been a prominent address in Laurens, and many of the city's most influential families have resided there. The area included in the Laurens Historic District Extension contains the homes of Albert Dial (#7) and Ernest D. Easterby (#9), prominent local industrialists. These two men were partners in Laurens Glass Works, a major industry and employer in Laurens. Dial served as president from 1913 to 1928, and Easterby from 1928 to 1968.<sup>5</sup>

The district contains several residences constructed during the period 1936-39. These properties qualify as exclusions to the fifty-year criterion because they are integral parts of the natural development of the neighborhood, which came to a halt with the advent of World War II.

ACREAGE: Approximately 31.5 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: The boundary of the West Main 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 includes the largest number of significant properties with the smallest number of noncontributing properties in this area of Laurens.

QUAD NAME: Laurens South

QUAD SCALE: 1:24000

West Main Street Historic District

Page 6

UTM REFERENCE POINT(s): A. 17/405780/3817500  
B. 17/405240/3817180  
C. 17/405400/3816860  
D. 17/406000/3817080

OTHER INFORMATION: The Governor William Dunlap Simpson House (#17), James Dunklin House (#25), and John Calvin Owings House (#48) are listed individually in the National Register. The Laurens Historic District (National Register District) includes properties #16-44, inclusive.

FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup>Book P, p. 43, Laurens County Deeds and Plats, Laurens County Courthouse, Laurens, S. C.

<sup>2</sup>C. L. Fike, A Map of the Town of Laurens, South Carolina From Surveys In the Years 1882 & 1883, n.p., n.d.

<sup>3</sup>Architectural plans and specifications for the John Calvin Owings House, Personal Files of John Calvin Owings, II, Laurens, S. C.; Manufacturers Record, 1897.

<sup>4</sup>Architectural plans and specifications of the works of James C. Hemphill, Personal Files of James C. Hemphill, Jr., Charlotte, N. C.

<sup>5</sup>"Laurens Glass Company," in The Scrapbook, pp. 682-685.

LAURENS HISTORIC DISTRICT - Yellow  
(Listed 10 October 1980)

Proposed LAURENS HISTORIC DISTRICT  
EXTENSION - Red

