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Continuation Sheet

Item Number

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Name Historic W. B. Smith Whaley House Location 1527 Gervais Street

Common Dunbar Funeral Home Classification Building

Owner John S. Dunbar
Post Office Box 1808
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Representation in Existing Surveys

Description Built between 1892 and 1894, Dunbar Funeral Home is a notable example of the Queen Anne style of architecture in Columbia. The irregular plan of this three-story house is dominated by a round turret and a steep multi-gabled roof with roof tiles which form decorative patterns. Other prominent features of the style are the prominent chimneys and the mixture of wall materials. The turret and gable ends of the building are wooden shingles, while the lower portions of the house are faced with narrow wood siding. The house also features a large front gable with a tripartite window and a long curving front porch which has been enclosed. Other alterations to the property consist of the addition of a porte cochere and a brick outbuilding which is used as a garage. The interior of the house remains largely unaltered and features original mantels and hardware.

Significance Dunbar Funeral Home is significant for its Queen Anne architecture and its association with W. B. Smith Whaley, an important figure in Columbia's development. It was designed and constructed in 1892-1893 by W. B. Smith Whaley as his own private residence. Smith Whaley, in conjunction with architect Gadsden E. Shand, specialized in the design, engineering and building of cotton mills as well as in the construction of residences. His firm was responsible for the design and construction of Olympia, Granby and Richland cotton mills. Whaley was also president of the Columbia Electric Street Railway and Mill Stable Company. Following Whaley's occupation of the house, it was used as a residence until 1924 when it became Dunbar Funeral Home.

Although altered, Dunbar Funeral Home is a unique example of Queen Anne style architecture in (continued)

Acreage .60 acre

Verbal Boundary Description TMS 27-12-11; extending 163' along Gervais Street and 160' along Pickens Street

UTM Reference Point 17497440/3762310

Other Information

Columbia. Its stylistic form and detail with its corner turret, irregular plan and variety of wall texture (shingles and horizontal boards) distinguish it as the only structure of this type in Columbia.