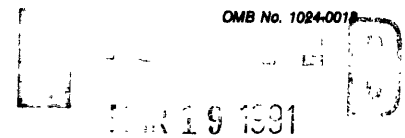


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Coker, James L., III, House  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 620 West Home Avenue  not for publication  
city, town Hartsville  vicinity  
state South Carolina code SC county Darlington code 031 zip code 29550

3. Classification

| Ownership of Property                       | Category of Property                            | Number of Resources within Property |                  |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|------------------|
|   |   | Contributing                        | Noncontributing  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <u>2</u>                            | _____ buildings  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-local       | <input type="checkbox"/> district               | _____                               | _____ sites      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-State       | <input type="checkbox"/> site                   | _____                               | _____ structures |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal     | <input type="checkbox"/> structure              | _____                               | _____ objects    |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> object                 | <u>2</u>                            | <u>0</u> Total   |

Name of related multiple property listing:  
Historic Resources of Hartsville, SC, c. 1817-c. 1941

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Mary W. Edmonds 3/4/91  
Signature of certifying official Date  
Mary W. Edmonds, Deputy SHPO, S.C. Department of Archives & History, Columbia, S.C.  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. Ray Federman 5/3/91  
 See continuation sheet. \_\_\_\_\_  
 determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet. \_\_\_\_\_  
 determined not eligible for the National Register. \_\_\_\_\_  
 removed from the National Register. \_\_\_\_\_  
 other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

**6. Function or Use****Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)**

Domestic/Single Dwelling

Domestic/Secondary Structure

**Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)**

Domestic/Single Dwelling

Domestic/Secondary Structure

**7. Description****Architectural Classification**

(enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th &amp; 20th Century Revivals

Colonial Revival

**Materials (enter categories from instructions)**

foundation Brick

walls Brick

roof Slate

other Wood

**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

The James L. Coker, III, House is located at 620 West Home Avenue in Hartsville. Constructed in 1931 and designed by Willis Irvin, it is an excellent example of the Colonial Revival style. This house is representative of residences in Hartsville associated with the community's industrial, commercial, and civic leaders.

This two-story residence has a rectangular plan core and a three bay symmetrical facade. It has a lateral gable slate roof and an engaged portico with four slender tuscan columns and sunburst motif in the frieze. Flush, two-story, lateral gable wings are flanked by one-story end gable wings. The central entry has a traceried fanlight and sidelights set within a simple brick opening. The white-washed, distressed, brick veneer cladding contributes to the Colonial Revival character of the residence. The windows are six-over-six double-hung-sash, with flat arches, decorative keystones, and shutters. The facade is accented with a simple brick dentil course and pilasters. A one story sun room has been added to the left elevation.

The garden facade features a central entry with traceried sidelights and transom set within an elaborate segmental arch surround and a cornice with triglyphs and guttae in the frieze.

A one-story, frame, double-pen "cabin" is associated with the house. It has a rectangular plan, lateral gable roof, and engaged porch.

## 8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Industry

Period of Significance

1931

Significant Dates

1931

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Coker, James L., III

Architect/Builder

Irvin, Willis

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The James L. Coker, III, House is significant as an excellent example of Colonial Revival residential architecture in South Carolina; as one of the designs of Willis Irvin, a prominent regional architect of the early twentieth century; and for its association with James Lide Coker, III (1904-1961), prominent Hartsville manufacturer and president of Sonoco Products Company.

It was built in 1931, soon after Coker succeeded to the presidency of Sonoco at the death of his father, Charles W. Coker (1879-1931). James L. Coker, III graduated from the University of North Carolina in 1926, and received an M.B.A. from Harvard University in 1928. He served as assistant treasurer of Sonoco in 1930-31 before succeeding to the presidency, which he held for thirty years. He was described by his brother Charles W. Coker, Jr., as "a rare combination of meticulous management skills and a gambler's flair for optimistic speculation." Coker guided the company's dramatic growth and expansion from a small, primarily Southeast-oriented, paper manufacturer to a national and international corporation. "With the development of man-made fiber," one history of Sonoco noted, "an entirely new concept in textiles developed -- and here began a firm policy of branch-plant expansion, tied into development of new product lines, new taper and finish on cones, and faster production machines. In rapid succession, plants were established or acquired in eight new locations, from Georgia to California." Another significant factor in this development was Sonoco's diversification, which included the production of plastics, packaging, forest products, adhesives, and many other products.(1)

The house was designed by Willis Irvin (1890-1950), a prominent regional architect of the twentieth century. Irvin, a Georgia native, received his architectural training at the Georgia Institute of Technology and began practicing in 1916 at Augusta, Georgia. Although

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

See continuation sheet

See continuation sheet

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

**Specify repository:**

SC Department of Archives & History,  
Columbia, SC

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property 2.8 acres

**UTM References**

A 17 583780 3803540  
 Zone Easting Northing

C         

B           
 Zone Easting Northing

D         

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary of the nomination is shown as the broken line labeled "James L. Coker III House" on the accompanying map, "City of Hartsville," drawn at a scale of 1" = 500.'

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

The nominated property includes the house and cabin and their immediate surroundings.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title J. Tracy Power, NR Historian/Julie Turner, NR Architectural Historian

organization SC Department of Archives & History date 13 June 1990

street & number PO Box 11669 telephone (803) 734-8610

city or town Columbia state SC zip code 29211

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 2

Irvin designed several residences in Augusta throughout the 1920s, his best-known Georgia commissions are the Bon Air Hotel (1923) and the Forrest-Ricker Hotel (1926), both in Augusta. He worked extensively in South Carolina after 1920, particularly in Aiken and in the lowcountry, where he specialized in designing winter residences for prominent Northern visitors. Among his most noted South Carolina designs are the residences of Robert R. McCormick (1928) and Richard Howe (1930) in Aiken, and the residences of Arthur H. Caspary (1932) in Colleton County and Henry W. Corning in Beaufort County.(2) Another Irvin design in Hartsville is the C.K. Dunlap House, an individual property in this multiple property submission. In addition, a 1934 remodelling of 222 East Home Avenue in Hartsville has been tentatively attributed to Irvin; the house is a contributing property in the East Home Avenue Historic District, also in this multiple property submission.

## NOTES

(1) George Lee Simpson, Jr., The Cokers of Carolina: A Social Biography of a Family (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press for the Institute for Research in Social Science, 1956), p. 275; Charles W. Coker, The Story of Sonoco Products Company (New York: The Newcomen Society in North America, 1976), pp. 18-19, 21; "James Lide Coker," in The National Cyclopaedia of American Biography . . . Volume XLIX (New York: James T. White and Company, 1966), pp. 500-01.

(2) Who's Who in the South: A Business, Professional and Social Record of Men and Women of Achievement in the Southern States (Washington: The Mayflower Publishing Company, 1927), p. 384; Selections from the Work of Willis Irvin - Architect (Augusta, Georgia). (New York: Architecture Catalog Company, Inc., 1937); Aiken Standard and Review (Aiken, S.C.), 9 August 1950; The State (Columbia, S.C.), 9 August 1950; National Register of Historic Places files, South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

PHOTOGRAPHS

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 1

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Name of property: J.L. Coker, III, House  
(Historic Resources of Hartsville  
multiple property submission)

Location of property: Hartsville, South Carolina  
Location of negative: South Carolina Department of Archives and History  
Photographer: Staff, SC Dept. of Archives and History  
Date of Photograph: October 1989

1. Front Facade
2. Portico Detail
3. Garden Facade
4. "Cabin"

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

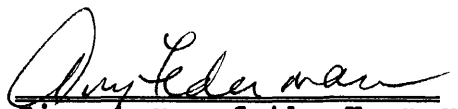
SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 91000471 Date Listed: 05/3/91

Coker, James L. III, House Darlington SC  
Property Name County State

Hartsville MPS  
Multiple Name

**This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.**

  
Signature of the Keeper

5/03/91  
Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

The documentation for this property reflects the contribution of its owner in the growth and development of Hartsville, South Carolina. This documentation does not include an analysis of the significance of this building under Criterion A as reflective of a pattern of events in Hartsville, and therefore Criterion A should not be included. The nomination and its cover form clearly justify the significance of the property under Criterion B and Criterion C.

Discussed and concurred in by Andy Chandler, SCSHPO, on May 2, 1991.

**DISTRIBUTION:**  
National Register property file  
Nominating Authority (without attachment)