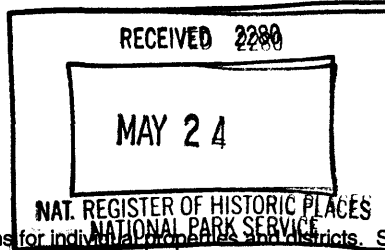


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Darlington Downtown Historic District  
other names/site number

2. Location

street & number Along portions of South Main Street, Pearl Street, Public Square, and Exchange Street not for publication  
city or town Darlington vicinity  
state South Carolina code SC county Darlington code 031 zip code 29532

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets    does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant    nationally    statewide X locally. (   See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official Mary W. Edmonds Date 5/19/06  
Mary W. Edmonds, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, S.C. Dept. of Archives and 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 for additional comments.)

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

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register    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] Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 7.5.06  
Edson H. Beall

Darlington Downtown Historic District  
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5. Classification

Ownership of Property  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property  
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property  
(Do not include previously listed resources)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>21</u>	<u>5</u>	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____	sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____	structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____	objects
		<u>21</u>	<u>5</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)  
City of Darlington Multiple Resource Area

Number of contributing resources previously listed  
in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Category: COMMERCE/TRADE  
COMMERCE/TRADE  
COMMERCE/TRADE  
COMMERCE/TRADE  
COMMERCE/TRADE

Subcategory: Business / Financial Institution  
Professional  
Specialty Store  
Restaurant  
Department Store

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Category: COMMERCE/TRADE  
COMMERCE/TRADE  
COMMERCE/TRADE  
COMMERCE/TRADE

Subcategory: Business  
Professional  
Specialty Store  
Restaurant

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian  
Late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Revivals

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick  
walls Brick  
Metal  
Stucco  
roof Asphalt  
Synthetics  
other Stone

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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Darlington Downtown Historic District  
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The Darlington Downtown Historic District is a collection of twenty-six commercial buildings in the downtown area of Darlington, South Carolina. The district is primarily comprised of two blocks surrounding the modern Darlington County Courthouse on the west and south sides, on South Main Street, Pearl Street, Public Square, and Exchange Street. Twenty-one of the twenty-six buildings contribute to the historic and architectural character of the district, while five buildings are non-contributing resources. The contributing properties were built on the courthouse square between ca. 1870 and ca. 1935, with the majority of them constructed between a disastrous 1892 fire that destroyed most of the west side of the square and before ca. 1930. Significant historic façade alterations occurred to some buildings in the 1930s as well as some new construction following 1930s fires. These buildings are representative of the downtown development and commercial growth of Darlington in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

The majority of the contributing buildings in the district are one- or two-story brick construction constructed between 1892 and the 1930s. (A Darlington city ordinance after the 1892 fire made brick construction mandatory in the city limits.) These buildings display brick panels and corbelling, parapet rooflines, and double-hung wooden windows on the second floor typical of commercial buildings of the period. They also feature first-story glass storefronts, some original and some replaced with later aluminum and metal. They provide a good example of commercial architecture in Darlington.

One of the district's most significant buildings is the Hill Building (ca. 1931), because of its highly intact façade and second-story interior as well as consistent history of use. Its ca. 1892 façade was altered to the present Art Deco design in 1931, when the building was sold to Harry H. Hill. A mix of ca. 1892 and ca. 1931 finishes are in evidence in the stairway and upper floor. Through its history, the first floor was occupied by a pharmacy. From the 1930s through about 1970, the Drs. Blackman, a father and son dentist team, occupied the upper story. The interior still bears evidence of their occupation—including their original signage, painted on the wall at the stair landing.

Another anchor of the district is the Coleman Building (1903), at the corner of South Main and Pearl Streets, perhaps the square's most architecturally distinguished building. A 1904 article in *The Darlington News* asserted that it "would be noticeable in a place much larger than Darlington."<sup>1</sup> Designed in the Classical style, the Coleman Building has a beautifully detailed cornice, with an inscription of "1902/COLEMAN BLOCK." Other notable details include the granite window caps, rounded on the second floor and flat on the third, full height brick pilasters, and decorative ribbon courses below the second and third floor windows. Many interior doors and transoms, mantels and fireplaces, floors and trim remain intact.

Jewel's DeLuxe Café (ca. 1893, 1908), like other businesses on the square, represents the continuity of ownership so prevalent there. Built just after the 1892 fire as a billiard hall, the building was remodeled and given a new facade with pedestal-based engaged columns in 1908 when converted to the People's Bank of Darlington. The bank remained until the 1930s, when the building was remodeled again, and converted to Jewel's DeLuxe Café.

Listed individually in the National Register of Historic Places since 1986, the Manne Building (ca. 1892) is another architectural gem of the district. Constructed just after the fire of 1892, the large building has an elaborate pressed metal façade with Eastlake style decoration and is Darlington's largest and most intact metal facade. It also housed a succession of stores on the first floor and a hotel on the second floor in the early years of the twentieth century.

The oldest building on the square is likely the building at 101-103 Exchange Street (ca. 1870, perhaps as early as ca. 1859). In 1859 a deed for this lot records that the building was owned by James M. and Thornton Brown. The Browns published the newspaper *The Southerner* from 1859 until ca. 1883. In 1875 they sold this building to J.W. Hammond, who founded *The Darlington News* in 1877; the newspaper was printed here until ca. 1905, not long before it merged with

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<sup>1</sup> "The Town of Darlington – One of the Most Progressive Towns in the Southern Country: Its Origins of Progress from 1785 to 1904." *The Darlington News* (Darlington, S.C.), 23 June 1904.

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*The Darlington Press* in 1909 to become *The Darlington News and Press*.<sup>2</sup> A unique metal exterior side stair leads to only entrances to the second floor of the building that are along the side [Ward Street] elevation. Some water damage has affected the second story of the building, though some fireplaces, windows, doors and trim remain.

The following properties contribute to the character of the Darlington Downtown Historic District:

**1. Smith Building, 2-6 South Main Street, ca. 1935:**

One-and-a-half story common bond brick commercial building with four bays and a shaped parapet and flat roof. Three store entries have replacement aluminum and glass storefronts set on original brick footings. The second level of the façade features three rectangular brick decorations and small concrete rectangles flanked by concrete diamonds. These concrete rectangles are inscribed "19—SMITH—35." Footprint of building remains from ca. 1903 with significant façade alterations in 1935. It was built as a dry goods store, and a Roses 5&10 occupied the building for much of its history. A toy store, gift shop, and café currently occupy the building.

**2. Hill Building/Dependency, 10 South Main Street, ca. 1931:**

Two-story, four-bay commercial building faced in painted common bond brick with a parapet roofline, and a flat roof. Wood and glass entry and display window is set on a footing faced in pigmented structural glass. Secondary wood-glass door on south side leads to upper story. Four windows with block glass are located above the first floor. The second floor windows are one-over-one wooden sash. The building's façade has brick pilasters. Concrete stylized arches rise above these windows and connect to a concrete belt course inscribed "19—HILL—31." The footprint of the building remains unchanged from a structure constructed there ca. 1892, immediately following the 1892 fire and likely one of the first buildings rebuilt after it. The original façade of the building was ornate pressed metal. The existing façade was constructed in 1931. A dentist office was constructed on the second floor and offices with original plaster, floors, doors, trim and fireplaces remain intact as does the sign for the dentist office on the second floor landing. The first floor of the building was a drug store throughout much of its history. The building is currently vacant.

On the north side of the Hill Building is a small infill structure in the space of an early twentieth century alley. One-story tall with a flat roof, the building maintains older facade featuring a glass and wood display with tin ceiling. It is currently vacant.

**3. Coggeshall Buildings/ Dependency, 14-16 South Main Street and 107-109 Orange Street, both ca. 1905:**

An L-shaped building with a two storefronts on Main Street and on Orange Street. The Main Street section of the building is two stories tall, faced in common bond brick with a parapet roof. The storefront maintains its original footprint and, raised from street level by a shallow platform. The glass and metal windows and doors are modern. On the north side of the building is a third, older door leading to the upper floor. The façade above the storefronts is covered in black and white Art Deco Carrara glass with a large sign inscribed "COGGESHALL'S." All exterior brick is painted white. Four sets of windows on the second floor are all covered with shutters. Above these windows is a projecting metal cornice with dental molding and elongated modillions. The parapet is shaped and corbeled. A suspended metal awning runs across the whole length of the building. The Coggeshall family opened their dry goods store beginning in 1893 and moved to these joint buildings in the first decade of the twentieth century. It was the second oldest general merchandise store in the county. The nature of the Public Square business evolved overtime, eventually becoming a modern department store; the family operated this portion of the store until the 1980s. Coggeshall's was damaged in fires in 1925 and 1995, mostly on the second floor. One of the storefronts currently houses a wig shop; the other half is storage. The second stories are vacant and inaccessible.

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<sup>2</sup> John Hammond Moore, *South Carolina Newspapers* (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1988), pp. 87-88.

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Immediately adjacent, on the south side of this building is a small, one story infill building in the space of an earlier alley. It has a modern aluminum and glass door and display window. The building shares brickwork, including a decorative corbeled belt course, with the Coggeshall Building.

The Orange Street block is two stories on the front façade and one-story in the rear, with six front bays and is constructed in five-to-one common bond and later infill of running bond brick. The street level features an arcade of two sets of arches. Original center set of arches has been changed to a square opening and filled in with brick. The wood and glass entrances and their display windows are set behind the arcade. Six sets of double windows on the second floor are all covered with plywood. Each window is capped with a stepped sawtooth brick motif and sits atop a corbelled brick belt course separating floors. The interior of the building has suffered some water damage, but retains some tin ceilings, wood floors and windows. The west face of the building features a series of windows and former service doors, indicative of the building's former use as a drive-up grocery store. The Orange Street building was consistently used as a grocery and may be South Carolina's first drive-up grocery store. The building is currently vacant.

**4. McLellan's Department Store, 20 South Main Street, ca. 1893-1898:**

Two-story brick commercial building with nine bays and three entrances with modern glass and metal storefronts. The second story windows are one-over-one and two-over-two and are separated by recessed corbeled brick panels with inset sawtooth soldier course panels. Projecting metal cornice features decorative brackets. The interior is inaccessible. Operated as a McLellan's Department Store from the 1920s through the 1970s, the building is currently vacant.

**5. Wolfram Building, 24-26 South Main Street, ca. 1898:**

Two-story, six-bay commercial building has two storefronts and is constructed in brick that has been painted. The building has a flat built-up roof. The street entrances are constructed of aluminum and glass, covered with a suspended metal awning. Above the awning and corresponding to each of the two storefronts, historic transoms were replaced in the early to mid-twentieth century with glass blocks that are now painted. The second floor has six window openings, the northernmost three having been covered with plywood and the southernmost three having been infilled with brick at an undetermined date. The window openings are separated by recessed panels and under brick pediment window hoods. The two storefronts have housed a variety of businesses, including a jeweler and a grocery, during the early decades of the twentieth century, and later a B.F. Goodrich tire dealership. The upper floor interior is inaccessible. The north store is now occupied by a temporary employment agency; the south is a hair salon.

**6. Jewel's DeLuxe Café, 32 South Main Street, ca. 1893 (ca. 1908 facade):**

Two-story, three-bay brick commercial building with parapet roofline and flat roof, the modern single entry door at center is flanked by glass block, and is topped with a full width transom. Two single pane windows with blind arched heads and granite archivolt with keystones flank the entrance. The windows and entrance are all flanked by Doric order pilasters, those to either side of the entrance extending to the second floor to a large arched tripartite window with one-over-one double-hung sash and granite keyed archivolt. Flanking the tripartite window are single one-over-one double-hung windows with granite surrounds. The facade is dominated by four fluted Ionic [Scamozzi] order pilasters on paneled granite pedestals that were part of the ca. 1908 remodeling. An elaborate metal entablature with projecting cornice features egg-and-dart detail, dental molding and a modillioned projecting cornice. Built as a billiards hall, the building was renovated around 1908 for use as the People's Bank of Darlington. Purchased in 1929 at auction, the owner opened Jewel's Deluxe Café in 1930 and boasted abundant electric lights, mosaic floors and electric ventilation. The building has operated as the café since its renovation.

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**7. Coleman Building/Dependency, 38 South Main Street, ca. 1903:**

Three-story five-bay brick commercial building with Classical influences, the building has a tall parapet roofline and a flat, built-up roof. The street level has two replacement storefronts and a central, older glass and wood door that leads to the upper floors. The storefront is divided by four rusticated brick pilasters on molded granite bases with granite capitals. Above this level is a metal cornice. The second floor windows are one-over-one double-hung wood sash with a flat, continuous granite sill and granite arched window hood. At the center of the second floor is a former door opening, now replaced with a flat panel with modern narrow window. The granite lintel above this door remains. The third story windows have been infilled with brick and have rectilinear granite heads with keystone and flat granite sills. Corresponding to the rusticated pilasters on the street level, the upper two floors are divided by four two-story pilasters of rustic brick, each featuring elaborately carved garland panels and truncated Corinthian capitals. An elaborate metal entablature is decorated with festoons, cartouche and a modillioned cornice. At the center of the frieze is a panel that reads "COLEMAN BLOCK." A parapet with corner pedestals and a center flat pediment contains a tablet that contains the building's construction date, "1902." The elaboration described above for all floors wraps onto the Pearl Street elevation for a distance of three bays. A newspaper article from 1904 states, "For a good many years Darlington had a building fronting the public square that was a perfect eye-sore and a real mortification to all of our citizens. It was an old ramshackle wooden store that had been partitioned off and was occupied by a number of tenants." The newspaper praised the coming of John Coleman, "one of our leading tobacco buyers," who razed the old structure and constructed an attractive three-story Classical Revival-style structure in its place.<sup>3</sup> The building's first floor was consistently occupied by a drug store. The longest occupant was Willcox Drugs, which rented space from 1933 until 1994, at which point the owner sold out to a chain drug store. Various lawyers and doctors occupied the upper floors of the building over the years; currently, the upper levels are empty but retain their integrity of materials such as stairways, balustrades, beaded board wainscoting with chair rail, columns, flooring, and paneled and glazed office doors with transoms and corner block surrounds. The ground floor currently houses the Greater Darlington Chamber of Commerce.

On the north side of the Coleman Building is a narrow one-story infill building constructed in an earlier alleyway. The building is only wide enough for its wood and glass door. A single-light transom is above the door and above that, a large metal sign. It is currently occupied by the Mission for Christ.

**8. Manne Building, 111-117 Pearl Street, 1892:**

Two-story masonry commercial building with a flat roof and pressed metal façade on the second floor. Pairs of pilasters separate sixteen windows. The metal façade is ornamented with Eastlake style designs and displays the name "M. Manne" and the date "1892" in the central pediment and parapet, respectively. An aluminum and glass storefront on the ground floor is divided into two sections. The interior is inaccessible. Several merchandise businesses and other merchants have occupied space in the building during its history. A Chinese restaurant and an outlet store now occupy this space. This building was listed individually in the National Register of Historic Places in 1986.

**9. 103 Pearl Street, ca. 1932:** One-story commercial building constructed of buff-colored brick with an aluminum and glass storefront that is likely original. A recessed rectangular panel outlined by rowlock bricks accents the upper façade. A soldier course lintel defines the upper edge of the storefront, as well as the uppermost edge of the façade. A stone coping caps the building's façade. The original building on site was burned in a 1932 fire. Once Dixie Home Stores (grocery), the building is now vacant.

<sup>3</sup> "The Town of Darlington – One of the Most Progressive Towns in the Southern Country: Its Origins of Progress from 1785 to 1904." *The Darlington News* (Darlington, S.C.), 23 June 1904.

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**10. 101 Pearl Street, ca. 1903:**

Two-story, three-bay brick commercial building with single storefront and stepped parapet roof and chimneys along the east wall. Windows replaced with metal hopper windows and the storefront was replaced with aluminum and glass storefront. Decorative brickwork remains on the second story including three inset under panels for windows with sawtooth design and elongated, narrow inset panels that mimic pilasters. The three upper floor windows of the facade retain their pressed metal window hoods. Above the windows and below a projecting pressed metal, modillioned cornice are ten inset corbeled panels. The interior is inaccessible. The building originally served as a dry goods store and is currently vacant.

**11. 42 Public Square, ca. 1889 [ca. 1930 façade]:**

One-story brick building with stepped parapet roofline or unpainted brick with horizontal panel with buff brick surround over a replacement storefront with aluminum frame door and shaded by metal awnings. Its footprint remains unchanged from the 1889 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, yet its upper stories were likely lost in the 1930 fire and a new façade was likely added then. The building was originally a barbershop until the 1920s. Later uses included electrical supply and gift shop. The interior is inaccessible, as the building is currently vacant.

**12. 44 Public Square, ca. 1893 [ca. 1930 façade]:**

One-story commercial building constructed of stucco-covered brick. A newer recessed metal and glass storefront is an alteration. The interior of building has paneled walls, carpet and vinyl floors and acoustical tile ceilings. Its footprint remains unchanged from the 1889 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, yet its upper stories were likely lost in the 1930 fire and a new façade was likely added then. Built as a clothing store it became a state dispensary for liquor in 1898 and had various later uses. The building is currently vacant.

**13. 46 Public Square, ca. 1893 [ca. 1930 façade]:**

One-story commercial brick building with stepped parapet roofline and diamond brick design accent brick above storefront. Corrugated metal covers transom. Building retains original storefront with terrazzo entry and metal and glass storefront door. A pressed tin ceiling is in the exterior of the entry. Interior floors are concrete with plaster walls and an acoustical tile ceiling. Its footprint remains unchanged from the 1889 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, yet its upper stories were likely lost in the 1930 fire and a new façade was likely added then. Originally serving as a post office, the building has been a barbershop since the 1950s.

**14. 48 Public Square, ca. 1893 [ca. 1930 façade]:**

One-story commercial building of brick construction with stepped parapet roofline and original storefront with original wooden double-leaf entrance with glass panels. Entry has pressed tin ceiling and carpeted floor. Interior retains original plaster walls, wood floors and tin ceiling. Its footprint remains unchanged from the 1889 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, yet its upper stories were likely lost in the 1930 fire and a new façade was likely added then. Consistent in usage since its construction, this space was built as a hardware store and is currently a True Value Hardware Store.

**15. Willcox & Company Building, 50 Public Square, ca. 1890:**

Two-story commercial building with metal pilasters flanking storefront and metal façade on second story with decorative cornice, parapet and pediment with name tablet that reads "Willcox & Co." Storefront is altered and now stuccoed with new doors and windows. Upper floor has four bays with narrow paired one-over-one windows separated and flanked by pilasters with Corinthian capitals. The first floor interior has been altered with paneling, carpet and newer partition walls. The upper floor retains original elements such as wood floors, plaster walls and ceilings, some original doors and transoms and two fireplaces. It is used for storage. The building was originally as a drugstore and remained Davis O.B. Drug Store until 1941. After a decade of vacancy, uses have included plumbing supply, men's ware and a hardware company. The building is currently a law office.

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**16. *The Darlington News Building, 101-103 Exchange Street, ca. 1870 (perhaps ca. 1859):***

Likely the oldest remaining mercantile building in downtown Darlington, this stucco-covered brick, two-story structure has a scored exterior finish and a recessed front entry with single door. The building has a parapet roofline on the Exchange Street façade and six-over-six light, double-hung wooden sash windows on both floors. A variety of wooden paneled exterior doors along the side elevation [Ward Street] of the building provide access to rooms. The building features an exterior cast iron stair and balcony with wood planks on the second story. A later roof sustained severe damage in recent years and is being repaired, reinforced and re-sheathed. Some interior plaster and wooden floors remain and are in fair to poor condition. Some molding and fireplaces and mantels remain. This building housed two newspapers during its existence. James M. Brown, a printer and publisher, founded *The Southerner* in 1859 and may well have built the building for that purpose. It was thought by the late Horace Rudisill, Darlington County Historian, to have housed *The Southerner*, either from ca. 1859-1875 or ca. 1870-1875. J.W. Hammond, a printer, moved to Darlington in 1875, purchased this building from James M. Brown and his son, Thornton Brown, and founded *The Darlington News* in 1877. The Browns continued to publish *The Southerner* at another location until ca. 1883. Hammond occupied this building from 1877 to about 1905. An 1881 deed for the property refers to the building as "Hammond's Corner." The building later housed an insurance office, a barbershop in the rear, and various offices. The building is currently vacant and being stabilized.<sup>4</sup>

**17. *Bank of Darlington, 54 East Public Square, pre-1884 [current façade, post 1913]:***

Two-story commercial building with Romanesque Revival façade of heavy stone [granite] veneer that corners, wraps and extends along Ward Street elevation. Stucco covers brick walls on north and east [rear] elevations. Replacement metal windows are in second floor arched bays and along storefront where window openings have Permastone infill panels. Single first floor entrance facing East Public Square has rusticated stone pilasters flanking it, with smooth frieze bearing inscription "Bank of Darlington" and shelf architrave. On canted corner of building, entrance is simple with keystone. A stone cornice separating the two floors wraps the two street elevations and serves as continuous sill for upper floor windows. A similar stone cornice marks the building's roofline, above which is a stone veneer parapet with coping. Interior altered for use as law offices with paneled walls, acoustical tile ceilings, carpet and some new partition walls. This building housed the Bank of Darlington for much of its life. According to Sanborn Fire Insurance Company maps, it was a brick bank with metal cornice in 1884 but was not labeled as the Bank of Darlington until the 1903 map. By 1908 and continuing in 1913, the building had a stone façade with metal cornice along East Public Square, but not along the side elevation [Bank Lane, later Ward Street]. The building currently houses law offices.

The following properties do not contribute to the historic or architectural character of the district:

- A. **30 South Main Street, ca. 1893:** Two-story, brick with stucco, substantially altered façade with non-historic storefront, metal casement windows and denticulated metal cornice. Originally a millinery, the building currently houses Main Street Jewelers.
- B. **109 Pearl Street, ca. 1932:** One-story commercial building with a recessed aluminum frame storefront, flat roof and Carrara glass and painted brick façade. Use listed as Blackman's grocery for many years. It is currently vacant.

<sup>4</sup> Horace F. Rudisill, Darlington County Historical Commission, to Andrew W. Chandler, 11 December 2002, National Register Files, South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia, South Carolina.



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- C. **107 Pearl Street, ca. 1932:** One-story commercial building with stucco over brick construction, newer aluminum and glass storefront and flat roof. Original building on site was burned in a 1932 fire. At one time housed an A&P grocery store and currently houses B&N Shoe Store.
- D. **40 Public Square, ca. 1930:** One-story commercial building facing Public Square and extending down Main Street. Exterior brick is now covered with rough stucco. It has a newer storefront. Mission-style parapet roofline on façade. On the site of the former Enterprise Hotel, which was destroyed in a fire in 1930, the building is now vacant.
- E. **Carolina Drug Store, 52 Public Square, ca. 1960:** Later construction on the square that is outside the period of significance. It is a brick one-story commercial building with a flat roof and aluminum storefront and façade panels. The original façade was altered to current center entry and aluminum and glass storefront between ca. 1960 and 1975.

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**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- a owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- b removed from its original location.
- c a birthplace or a grave.
- d a cemetery.
- e a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- f a commemorative property.
- g less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
Commerce

**Period of Significance**

ca. 1870-ca. 1935

**Significant Dates**

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**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
- Name of repository:  
S.C. Dept. of Archives & History

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The Darlington Downtown Historic District is significant under National Register Criteria A and C as a collection of intact commercial buildings associated with the growth of Darlington from ca. 1870 to ca. 1935. While significant periods of building and rebuilding are associated with the series of fires that swept through the city in 1866, 1892, and the 1930s, the buildings in this district also show the rise and fall of the city's economy, especially as it relates to the production and sale of cotton and tobacco. The one-, two-, and three-part commercial buildings exhibit typical turn-of-the-twentieth century building styles, with brick detailing and, in some cases, cast-iron storefronts. The Darlington Downtown Historic District is significant for its high level of architectural integrity and as an illustration of the significant periods of prosperity and building in Darlington.

Darlington District was one of three judicial districts created in 1785 from land long occupied by the Cheraw but settled by Welsh Baptists in the 1730s. The county seat, first referred to as Darlington Court House, was located on the plantation of John King, Sr. near the geographic center of the new district. A courthouse was constructed, lots were platted, and the new town appeared on maps as early as 1792. In 1835 the town was granted a charter by the state legislature and was incorporated as Darlington.<sup>5</sup> The largely agricultural county grew steadily in its early days; its total population rose from 7,631 at the turn of the century to 10,949 by 1820.<sup>6</sup> However, while the population of Darlington Court House is unavailable for these early years, historians note that the town was slow to develop because lands within the city were owned by gentlemen opposed to selling it off in lots.<sup>7</sup> Agriculture was the dominant way of life in Darlington District from its earliest days. The Welshmen who settled the area in the 1730s grew hemp, flax, and indigo and raised cattle.<sup>8</sup> The district grew considerably through the first half of the nineteenth century due to the increasing amount of cotton planted in the district.<sup>9</sup> This economy, and the slave labor it required, was responsible for the large rural population in the district and the significant number of black residents. Census records from 1850 indicate that there were nearly twice as many blacks as whites in the Darlington District.

The county's first attempt at industrialization was made in 1812 with the construction of a water-powered cotton mill on Cedar Creek, but it was the only such endeavor of its time.<sup>10</sup> Darlington was slow to develop in the largely agricultural county. A mixture of businesses and dwellings initially surrounded the square. The first storehouse was constructed in 1815 with no fewer than four more to follow in the early part of the century.<sup>11</sup> About 1812 a brick two-story courthouse replaced the wooden one, which was moved across the street and converted to what would become the Darlington Hotel.<sup>12</sup> By 1850, the stores and buildings around the square were plain, one-story wooden structures with piazzas in front. They included a post office, lawyer's offices, a gin house/tavern, a shoe and leather store, bank, hotel, office, wood shop, rum shop, general merchandise, dentist, millinery store, and a jail.<sup>13</sup>

Census records indicate that just before the Civil War, Darlington remained a relatively small town, with fewer than five hundred residents. This is not surprising considering cotton was the largest money crop for the region, with one million pounds gathered in 1840, and an agricultural existence requires a rural population.<sup>14</sup> The railroad, which facilitated the

<sup>5</sup> Clayton W. Griffith, et al. "City of Darlington, South Carolina Architectural Survey." Durham, N.C.: Edwards-Pitman Environmental, Inc., 2002, p. 11.

<sup>6</sup> Griffith, p. 10.

<sup>7</sup> Eliza Cowen Ervin and Horace Fraser Rudisill, eds., *Darlingtoniana: A History of People, Places, and Events in Darlington, South Carolina*. (Columbia: The R.L. Bryan Company, 1964; Reprint Edition. (Spartanburg, S.C.: The Reprint Company, Publishers, 1997), p. 17.

<sup>8</sup> Horace Fraser Rudisill, "A Brief History of Darlington County, South Carolina." <http://www.darcosc.com/history>, accessed 5 December 2005.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>11</sup> Ervin, p. 13.

<sup>12</sup> Ervin, p. 13.

<sup>13</sup> Ervin, pp. 18-20.

<sup>14</sup> Griffith, p. 12.

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cotton trade, reached Darlington in 1856 and spurred urban development.<sup>15</sup> During this time, perhaps more than industry, numerous fires affected the Darlington streetscape. A fire in 1866 destroyed the courthouse, jail, and nearly all the business district. After a second disastrous fire swept around the square in 1892, devastating the central business district by consuming twenty-three commercial buildings, an ordinance was passed requiring commercial buildings around the square be constructed of brick.<sup>16</sup> Most of the buildings or footprints of buildings standing on the square today were constructed in the years following this fire. These fires and this ordinance significantly influenced the appearance of the square and its immediate surrounding streets.

In 1870, Darlington County led the state in cotton production.<sup>17</sup> The 1880s and 1890s saw a period of great growth for the Darlington area beginning with the opening of the Darlington Manufacturing Company, a cotton mill of forty looms and one hundred workers, in 1883.<sup>18</sup> This brought income to the local economy. Cotton markets were held in the town's public square. During this time other public events were held on the square like elections, Fourth of July celebrations, and a gypsy circus. By 1910, over 46 thousand bales of cotton were grown in Darlington County on 74,000 acres of farmland.<sup>19</sup> However, as the twentieth century wore on, Darlington's economy began to shift from cotton. By 1919, Darlington County had fallen to the tenth largest producer of cotton in the state, but still produced 42,946 bales of ginned cotton.<sup>20</sup>

Darlington's population grew steadily through the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. A town of only 940 people in 1880, Darlington had grown to 2,389 by 1890 and 3,789 by 1910.<sup>21</sup> This growth was largely the result of the town's industrial concerns. In addition to the cotton mill, by the 1890s Darlington was home to the "Darlington Phosphate Company, Darlington Compress Company, Darlington Marble Works, Darlington Canning Factory, a fertilizer factory, waterworks for the town, and an electric power plant."<sup>22</sup> The city's infrastructure was expanding. Perhaps because of the many fires in Darlington, in 1880, just after the election of a new mayor, a fire department was formed. The downtown streets were illuminated by electric lights and many buildings on the square were connected with a public sewer system by 1904. The local economy was shifting, however. While cotton ushered in the 1890s, tobacco carried Darlington into the next century.

Perhaps the most influential industry in turn-of-the-twentieth-century Darlington was tobacco. By 1900, Darlington had several tobacco sales warehouses, stemmeries and leaf processing plants, and within a few years "became the largest tobacco market in the state, a title held for many years."<sup>23</sup> Their location in the center of the bright-leaf growing area and their access to railroads made the county a successful competitor in the tobacco market. In 1910, the county produced over four million pounds of tobacco.<sup>24</sup> The success of the tobacco market brought the city continued physical growth and rebuilding. In the early years of the twentieth century a new Town Hall-Opera House was constructed on the square where it remained in use until 1963. A new school building was completed in 1902, a courthouse on the square in 1904, and a high school and four-story hotel in 1915.<sup>25</sup> Buildings on the square including the Coleman block, built with tobacco money by successful tobacco buyer, John Coleman, were constructed during the early twentieth century as well.

<sup>15</sup> Horace Fraser Rudisill, *Darlington County: A Pictorial History* (Norfolk, Va.: The Donning Company, 1986), p. 40.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.*, 46.

<sup>17</sup> Griffith, p. 18.

<sup>18</sup> Rudisill, *Darlington County*, p. 41.

<sup>19</sup> Griffith, p. 18.

<sup>20</sup> Yates Snowden, *History of South Carolina* (Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1920), Volume II, p. 1093.

<sup>21</sup> Griffith, p. 16.

<sup>22</sup> Rudisill, *Darlington County*, p. 41.

<sup>23</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>24</sup> Griffith, p. 19.

<sup>25</sup> Rudisill, *Darlington County*, p. 41.

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New industries arrived in Darlington throughout the early twentieth century. The Darlington Veneer Company opened around 1918 with another factory manufacturing Dixie Cups opening in the late 1930s.<sup>26</sup> However, Darlington's period of intense growth and development ended in the 1920s when overproduction and competition from international markets caused tobacco and cotton prices to drop. Rural residents moved to town causing the population of Darlington to swell 4,669 in 1920 to nearly a thousand more in 1930.<sup>27</sup> This period was followed by the Great Depression, during which few buildings were constructed and those that were built were a result of WPA (Works Progress Administration, later the Work Projects Administration) involvement in the county. The 1930s also saw another major fire in the commercial district. Fire destroyed the four-story Darlington Hotel, on the corner of Pearland South Main Streets, and a significant portion of buildings standing on the south side of the public square.<sup>28</sup> Facades of several buildings were altered during this time. Another fire in 1932 destroyed buildings on Pearl Street that were completely rebuilt after that time. In the years leading up to World War II, the public square was the center of retail and service trades in the city. In addition to the eight department stores, "barbers, beauty shops, drug stores, banks, a billiard parlor, clothing stores and hardware stores maintained storefronts on the square" in 1941.<sup>29</sup> After the war, Darlington experienced significant residential growth, most of it outside of the downtown neighborhoods and by the 1950s, no single industry reigned in the county. Rather, cotton- and tobacco-related businesses, on the decline with the close of the cotton mill in 1956, were joined by concrete suppliers, lumber mills, and fertilizer plants and the downtown area was home to lawyers, insurance dealers, dentists, a restaurant, and druggists. In the twenty-first century, Darlington has struggled with building vacancies on the square and surrounding downtown district. However, the Darlington Downtown Historic District is significant under National Register Criteria A and C because it retains much of the historic fabric from its major periods of construction, between the 1870s and the 1930s. These buildings, and the high level of architectural integrity they possess, illustrate the success of the cotton and tobacco industries in Darlington County and the growth and development of downtown Darlington in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

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<sup>26</sup> Griffith, p. 22.

<sup>27</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>28</sup> Griffith, p. 23.

<sup>29</sup> Griffith, pp. 23-24.

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"The Town of Darlington – One of the Most Progressive Towns in the Southern Country: Its Origins of Progress from 1785 to 1904." *The Darlington News*, 23 June 1904.

Darlington Downtown Historic District  
 Name of Property

Darlington County, South Carolina  
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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** Less than ten acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing
1 <u>17 604040 3796103</u>	3 <u>17 603681 3796154</u>	5 <u>17 603978 3796194</u>
2 <u>17 603830 3795946</u>	4 <u>17 603800 3796227</u>	

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title	<u>Susannah Franklin, Architectural Historian</u>		
organization	<u>Landmark Asset Services, Inc.</u>	date	<u>December 5, 2005</u>
street & number	<u>406 E. Fourth St.</u>	telephone	<u>(336) 714-8917</u>
city or town	<u>Winston-Salem</u>	state	<u>N.C.</u> zip code <u>27101</u>

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white** photographs of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Multiple Property Owners (See Continuation Sheets)  
 street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
 city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). **Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary of the district is shown as the black line marked "Darlington Downtown Historic District" on the accompanying district map, adapted from Darlington County Tax Map 164-15.

**Boundary Justification**

The nominated property includes sixteen contributing properties and six noncontributing properties along South Main Street, Pearl Street, Public Square, and Exchange Street. This district forms an "L" around the courthouse in the center of the square and is comprised of commercial buildings in this central business district developed between the 1870s and 1930s.



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The following information is the same for each of the photographs:

Name of Property: Darlington Downtown Historic District  
Location of Property: Darlington, Darlington County, S.C.

Name of Photographers: Susannah V. Franklin, Tish Wiggs, Heather Wagner, and  
Howard Garland

Date of Photographs: 14 & 15 November 2005 and 30 November 2005

Location of Original Negatives: S.C. Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.

1. Streetscape, 2-38 South Main Street, facing N
2. Streetscape, 42-52 Public Square, facing E
3. Streetscape, 2-38 South Main Street, facing S
4. Streetscape, 42-52 Public Square, facing W
5. Streetscape, 101-117 Pearl Street, facing W
6. Streetscape, 101-117 Pearl Street, facing E
7. Corner of South Main and Orange Streets, facing SW
8. Smith Building, 2-6 South Main Street
9. Hill Building, 10 South Main Street
10. Hill Building, 10 South Main Street, Interior view
11. Hill and Smith Buildings, 10 South Main Street and 2-6 South Main Street, facing W
12. Coggeshall's, 14-16 South Main Street
13. Coggeshall's Grocery, 107-109 Orange Street
14. Coggeshall's Grocery, 107-109 Orange Street, E elevation
15. Coggeshall's, 107-109 Orange Street and 14-16 South Main Street, W elevation
16. McLellan's, 20 South Main Street
17. Wolfram Building, 24-26 South Main Street
18. Main Street Jewelers, 30 South Main Street (Noncontributing)
19. Jewel's DeLuxe Cafe, 32 South Main Street
20. Jewel's DeLuxe Cafe, 32 South Main Street, Interior view
21. Coleman Building, 38 South Main Street
22. Coleman Building, 38 South Main Street
23. Coleman Building, 38 South Main Street, Interior view
24. Manne Building, 111-117 Pearl Street
25. 109 Pearl Street
26. 107 Pearl Street (Noncontributing)
27. 103 Pearl Street
28. 101 Pearl Street
29. 101 Pearl Street, E elevation
30. 40 Public Square (Noncontributing)
31. 42 & 44 Public Square

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32. 46 Public Square
33. 46 Public Square, Interior view
34. 48 Public Square
35. Willcox Building, 50 Public Square
36. Willcox Building, 50 Public Square, Facade detail
37. Willcox Building, 50 Public Square, Interior view
38. Carolina Drug, 52 Public Square (Noncontributing)
39. *The Darlington News* Building, 101 Exchange Street
40. *The Darlington News* Building, 101 Exchange Street, Detail of exterior cast-iron stair
41. Bank of Darlington, 54 East Public Square

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**2-6 South Main Street**

James C. Stone Jr.  
410 Spring Street  
Darlington, SC 29532

**10 South Main Street**

Roseanne Boyce  
Post Office Box 813  
Darlington, SC 29540

**14-16 South Main Street**

Albert P. Coggeshall  
202 N. Ervin Street  
Darlington, SC 29532

**20 South Main Street**

John W. Pope  
2520 Glenwood Ave.  
Raleigh, NC 27608

**24-26 South Main Street**

Gail B. Marlowe  
Post Office Box 1646  
Darlington, SC 29540

**30 South Main Street**

Tony Dileo, Saleeby Rentals, Inc.  
Post Office Box 519  
Hartsville, SC 29551

**32 South Main Street**

Mary Kay Belissary  
1209 Mineral Springs Road  
Darlington, SC 29540

**38 South Main Street**

Darlington Co. Chamber of Commerce, Inc.  
38 South Main Street  
Darlington, SC 29540

**111-117 Pearl Street**

Marshall Germain  
111 Pearl Street  
Darlington, SC 29532

**109 Pearl Street**

Robert H. Blackman  
107 South Spain Street  
Darlington, SC 29532

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**107 Pearl Street**  
Carrie Muldrow  
138 Sparks Street  
Darlington, SC 29532

**103 Pearl Street**  
First Palmetto Savings Bank  
Post Office Box 39  
Camden, SC 29020

**101 Pearl Street**  
Michael V. Woodall, Jr.  
401 Cashua Street  
Darlington, SC 29532

**40 Public Square**  
Moss Enterprises, Inc.  
PO Box 12089  
Florence, SC 29504

**42 Public Square**  
James A. Hariette  
5150 Jessamine Lane  
Florence, SC 29506

**44 Public Square**  
Harold Timmons  
117 East Hampton Street  
Darlington, SC 29532

**46 Public Square**  
Arthur Hammond c/o Leila H. Saunders  
77 Manchester Apt. 107  
Staunton, VA 24401

**48 Public Square**  
Joe Norris  
1516 Woodspond Drive  
Darlington, SC 29540

**50 Public Square**  
John M. Ervin III  
50 Public Square  
Darlington, SC 29532

**52 Public Square**  
J. Adgar Howle  
116 Greenway Dr.  
Darlington, SC 29532

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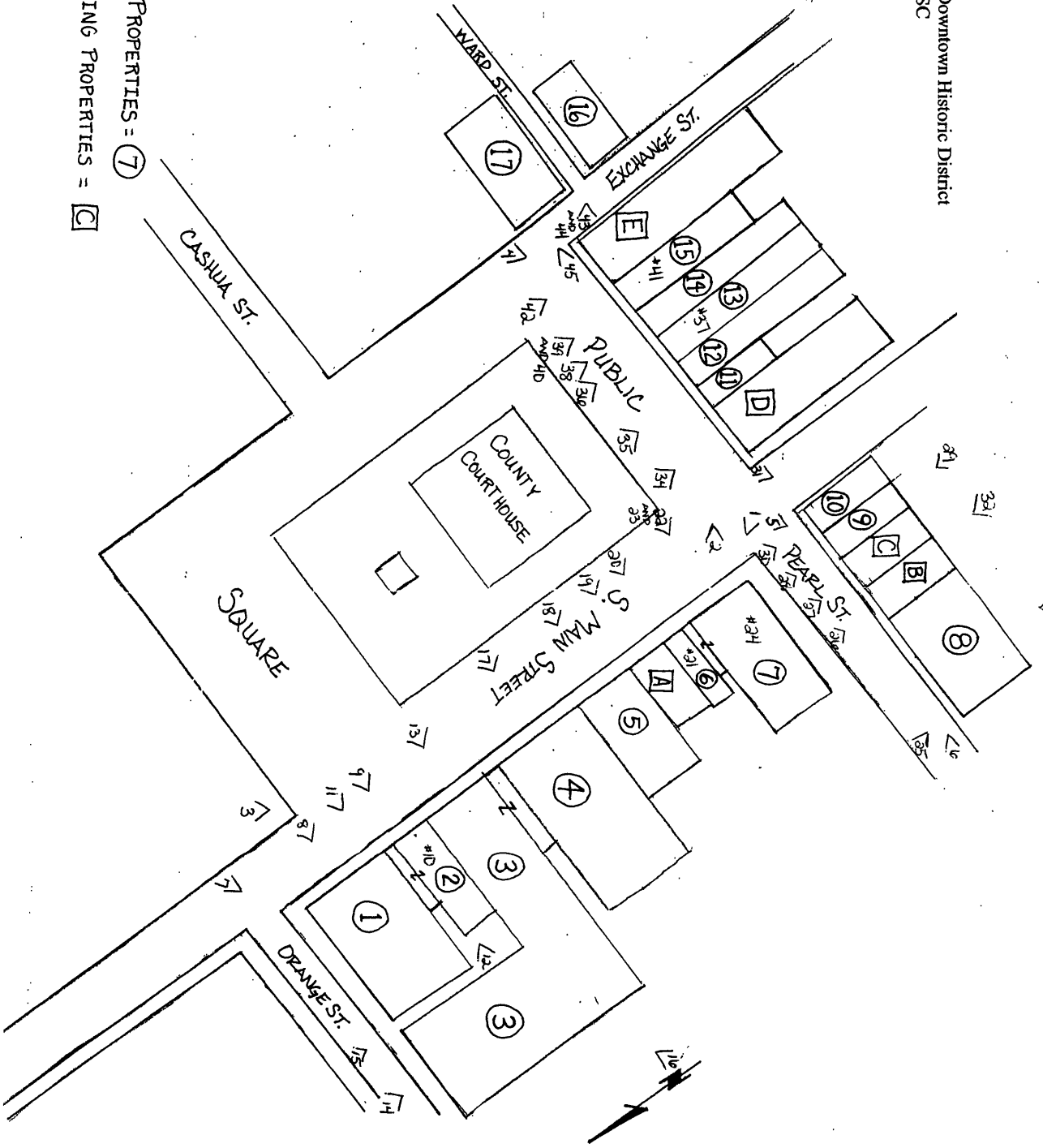
**101 Exchange Street**

City of Darlington c/o Rodney Langley  
Post Office Box 57  
Darlington, SC 29540

**54 East Public Square**

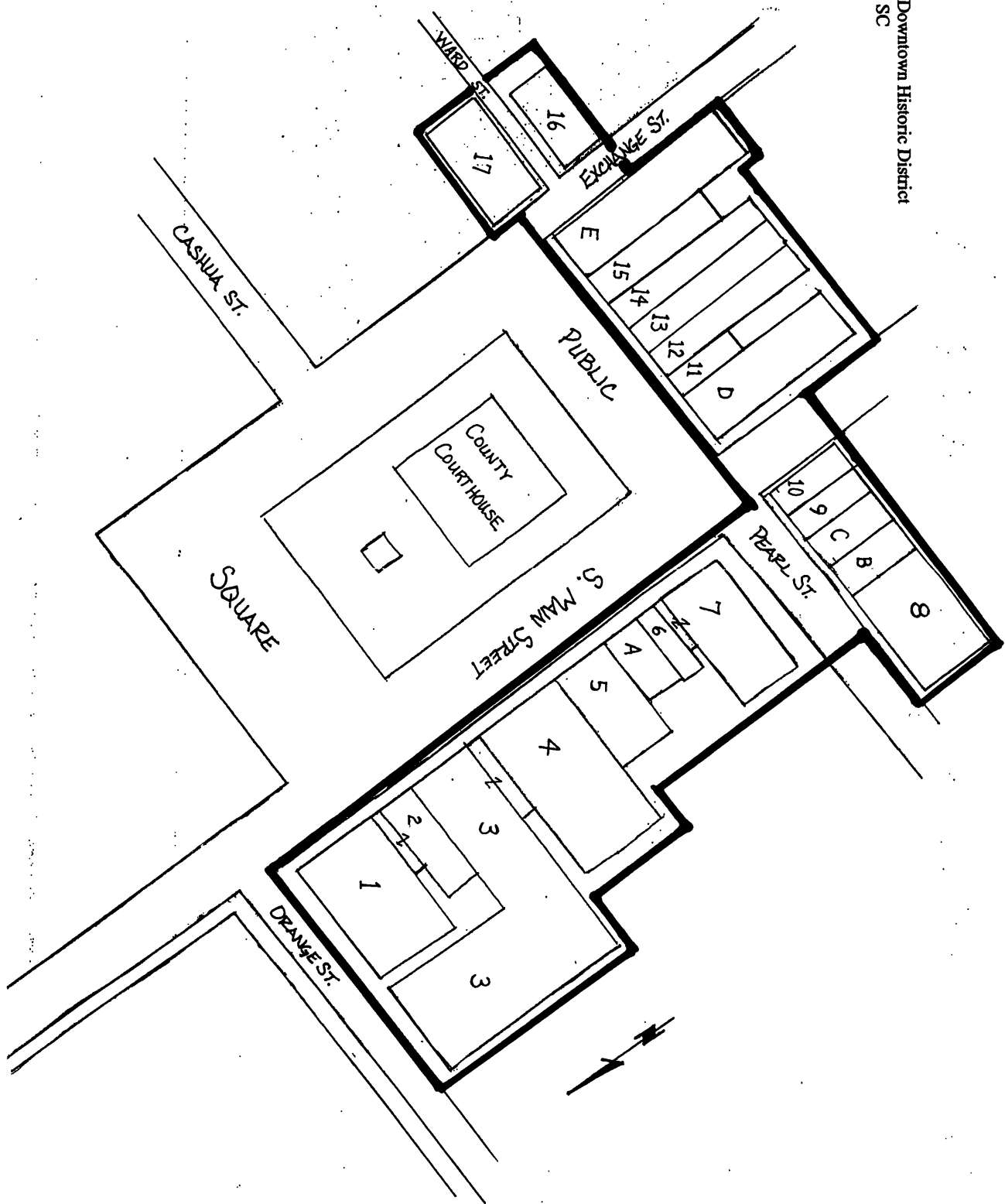
Kenneth D. Baker  
Post Office Drawer 773  
Darlington, SC 29540

Darlington Downtown Historic District  
 Darlington, SC  
 Photo Key



CONTRIBUTING PROPERTIES = (7)  
 NON-CONTRIBUTING PROPERTIES = [C]

Darlington Downtown Historic District  
Darlington, SC



NOT TO SCALE