Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS	S USE OI	NLY		
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

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HISTORIC St. John's Historic District

		Gebru, Saman east side of Swift Cr		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
2 LUCATIO	N Along the south Street, along o	ne block of Sanders S	treet, and along one	e block of Orand
STREET & NUMBER	Street, along of Street and part	of another block of	Orange Street.	
CITY, TOWN	lington		CONGRESSIONAL DIST	RICT
	lington		Sixth COUNTY	CODE
state Sou	th Carolina	CODE 045	Darlington	031
CLASSIFI	CATION			
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRES	ENTUSE
	PUBLIC			MUSEUM
BUILDING(S)	PRIVATE			PARK
STRUCTURE	<u>_Х</u> вотн	WORK IN PROGRESS		A PRIVATE RESIDENCE
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUIS			<u>Å</u> RELIGIOUS
OBJECT	IN PROCESS		<u>A</u> _GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED	$\frac{X}{X}$ yes: UNRESTRICTED \underline{X} NO	INDUSTRIAL MILITARY	TRANSPORTATION OTHER:
NAME	DF PROPERTY			
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STREET & NOWBER				
CITY, TOWN			STATE	
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LUCATIO	N OF LEGAL DE	SURIPTION		
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEED	os,etc. Darlington Co	ounty Courthouse		
STREET & NUMBER	Courthouse So	quare		
CITY, TOWN	Danlington	·	South Carolina	29532
	Darlington	VIOTINIO OLIDIVENO		29332
	IN TATION IN E2	XISTING SURVEYS)	
title Inv	entory of Historic	c Places in South Card	olina	
DATE	······································		V	
197 DEPOSITORY FOR	'3 (update)	FEDEHAL		-
SURVEY RECORDS	South Carolina De	epartment of Archives	and History	
CITY, TOWN			STATE	20011
	<u>Columbia</u>		South Carolina	29211

7^c DESCRIPTION

CON	DITION	CHECK ONE	CHECK OF	IE
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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The St. John's Historic District is located northwest of, and adjacent to, the central business district of Darlington, South Carolina, a town of approximately 7,000 residents and the county seat of Darlington County. Mainly a residential and educational area, the district consists of approximately nineteen properties of particular historical or architectural significance and thirty-six supporting properties. The focal point of the district is the St. John's School complex and its campus, the Academy Green. The properties in the district are located in an approximately five block area of oak lined streets. Approximately 75 percent of the buildings were constructed prior to 1925. Most of them were built between 1880 and 1925 during a period of unprecedented agricultural prosperity and reflect the architectural characteristics of that era. The majority of the buildings in the district have been continuously used and have been kept in good repair.

Key properties contributing to the character of the historic district:

- 1. Central Baptist Church (102 Park Street): ca. 1916-1918, Georgian Revival, one story, brick, flat roof, recessed entrance with double front doors and fanlight, pediment with thermal window above arched opening leading to door, arched windows, brick pilasters that define bays, cornice with dentils.
- Darlington County Library (127 N. Main Street): ca. 1921, one story with high basement, brick, flat roof, recessed entrance, ribbon windows, cornice with dentils, enlarged in the 1950's. Built with funds donated by the Andrew Carnegie Foundation, this building has been used as a library since its construction.
- 3. Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church (122 St. John's Street): ca. 1834, two stories, frame with weatherboard siding, gable roof, boxed cornice and return, front entrance with transom and sidelights, attic rafters hand hewn, numbered, and pegged, altered. Originally constructed as a church this building is now a residence. The original steeple, front porch and brick columns have been removed.
- 4. St. John's Elementary School (Park Street): ca. 1902, Georgian Revival, two stories with high basement, brick, original central pavillion and wings with slate hip roof, portico with giant Tuscan columns, entrance with transom and sidelights, boxed cornice with dentils and modillions, enlarged ca. 1917.
- 5. St. John's Academy Green (Park Street): in continuous use by the community since ca. 1818, located on long bluff overlooking Swift Creek, open-space bordered by live oak and magnolia trees accented by Spanish moss. The Academy Green has been the center of community life for over 160 years. Educational activities, sporting events, militia drills, political rallies, and parades have occurred there. During the Civil War troops of the Union Army occupied the green. Nineteenth and early twentieth century photographs show that this site has been well preserved.
- 6. Open-Air Theatre (Campus of St. John's School): ca. 1925, open-air Greek style theatre, set on natural slope toward bank of Swift Creek, still used for high school commencement exercises.



PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION	
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE	
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE	
1600-1699	"XARCHITECTURE	LEDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER	
X_1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION	
<u>X</u> 1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	LOTHER (SPECIFY)	
		INVENTION		local history	

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The St. John's Historic District is a collection of properties located northwest of, and adjacent to, the central business district of Darlington, South Carolina. The district is comprised of a mainly residential area and the adjacent St. John's School complex and its campus, the Academy Green. The majority of the buildings were constructed between 1880 and 1925 and represent a range of late nineteenth and early twentieth century vernacular design. In addition, since the first half of the nineteenth century, the St. John's area has been the educational and cultural center of the town of Darlington.

In 1785 the district of Cheraw was divided into three counties -- Darlington, Marlboro, and Chesterfield. Soon after this, the courthouse was moved to Darlington from Greenville (Society Hill). At this time, Darlington was only a crossroads. However, by 1826 the village had a new brick courthouse and jail and several private residences.

In 1818, a group of citizens, concerned for the education of their sons, purchased land for the establishment of an academy and soon a schoolhouse was built. Although the school was originally known as Darlington Academy, according to local tradition an early teacher, who was an ardent Mason, named the school for the apostle St. John, who was believed to have belonged to the Masonic order.

During the nineteenth century the front campus of St. John's Academy,which early became known as the Academy Green, was often the scene of important social, military, and political activities in the town of Darlington. For example, before the Civil War the green was used as a parade ground for musters of the militia. A large group of citizens gathered here on 22 September 1860 to witness the presentation of a company banner to the Darlington Guards by the ladies of Darlington. At the close of the Civil War in 1865 Federal occupation troops encamped on the green and converted the St. John's Academy building into a hospital. On 23 September 1876 during his gubernatorial campaign, General Wade Hampton addressed a throng of citizens and approximately one thousand members of the mounted Democratic Clubs of Darlington County (Red Shirts) on the green in front of St. John's Academy.

Later in the nineteenth century the St. John's area continued to be an important cultural and educational center in the town. A Confederate monument was erected on the Academy Green in 1880, and Confederate memorial ceremonies were held on the green until the monument was moved to the Court House square ca. 1883. St. John's Academy ca. 1880 became Darlington Military Academy and operated under this name for a time. After the South Carolina Legislature passed an act

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet.

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10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY <u>approximately</u> 42.8 acres UTM REFERENCES

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of the St. John's Historic District nomination is shown as the red line on the accompanying map entitled "Property Tax Map, Darlington County, S.C." and drawn at a scale of 100 feet to the inch.

LIST ALL STATES AND COU	INTIES FOR PRO	PERTIES OVERLAP	PING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
11 FORM PREPARED BY NAME / TITLE Staff, Historic Preservation		Mr. and Mrs.	Pee Dee Regional Council of Governments Tom Edwards, Mrs. J. R. Richardson, Kevin Kennedy, Mr. Horace F. Rudisill
ORGANIZATION South Carolina Department or STREET & NUMBER		nd History	DATE April 16, 1980 TELEPHONE
Post Office Box 11,669, Cap CITY OR TOWN Columbia	itol Station	l	(803) 758-5816 State South Carolina
12 STATE HISTORIC PR THE EVALUATI	ED SIGNIFICANC		ER CERTIFICATION RTY WITHIN THE STATE IS: LOCAL <u>X</u>
-	usion in the Natio National Park Se	onal Regis to r and ce	c Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I ertify that it has been evaluated according to the
TITLE SHPO		•••	DATE 6/18/80
FOR NPS USE ONLY I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PRO	PERTY IS INICLU	l	DATE 9-4-80
ATTEST: ULA DUNL REEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGIS	OY AND HISTOF	HC PRESERVATION	DATE 9/2/80

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7. St. John's High School (Park Street): ca. 1915, two stories with high basement, brick flat roof, central pavillion, entrance with double doors and projecting segmental arch pediment, boxed cornice with dentils and egg and dart molding, later additions to rigk property fronted by live oak and magnolia trees. This building has been vacant since 1976, but there is a possibility of restoration.

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- 8. Haynesworth House (231 St. John's Street): ca. 1895-1905, Colonial Revival, two storframe with weatherboard siding, truncated hip roof with two dormers and widow's walk, portico with Ionic columns, oval window in pediment, rounded side porch with balustra boxed cornice with dentils and modillions. Between 1943 and 1956 this building was operated by the Darlington School District as a boardinghouse for teachers. Many stirefer to it as "the teacherage."
- 9. L. S. Welling House (219 St. John's Street): ca. 1917, one story, pale yellow brick with pink mortar, green tile gable roof, Palladian entranceway with false four centers arches and Tuscan columns, entrance with transom and side panels of beveled and leaded glass, bracketed bargeboards, garage on property. According to local tradition, the construction of the house cost \$165,000.
- 10. Judge E. C. Dennis House (215 St. John's Street): ca. 1911, Colonial Revival, two stories, brick, hip roof, imposing two-story rounded portico with Ionic columns, cente dormer with Ionic pilasters, portico on left with Ionic columns and balustrade, entrage with leaded glass side- and headlights, double doors with oval windows, polygonal gazebo and four very old oak trees on property.
- 11. Barn (215 St. John's Street): early 20th century, one story with loft, frame with weatherboard siding, gable roof, stone foundation, lean-to shed on each side, strap hinges and square nails.
- 12. Slave Cabin (110 Sanders Street): nineteenth century, one story, frame with weatherboard siding, gable roof, shed porch sheltering two doors on facade, log joists and log framing overhead, strap hinges and square nails. This building was part of the property of Moses Sanders, one of the first residents of the St. John's area.
- 13. Moses Sanders House (114 Sanders Street): ca. 1832, two stories, frame with flush bog siding, hip roof with pedimented dormer, L-shaped porch with pedimented projection defining entranceway; entrance with original double doors with transom, boxed cornice wi dentils and modillions, kitchen connected to house by enclosed porch. In 1909 or ear the house was moved 100 feet to its present location.
- 14. James S. McCall House (114 St. John's Street): ca. 1832, two stories, frame with weatherbc, siding, hip roof, one story porch on front and right side with paired posts on brick piers, second story central bay portico with paired posts, central entrances on both floors with oversized sidelights and headlights.
- 15. Dana House (298 Orange Street): ca. 1892, two stories, frame with weatherboard siding hip roof, two tier veranda across facade with balustrade, and brackets on posts, centrance on each floor with head- and sidelights.

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16. Methodist Cemetery (corner of Orange and Wells Streets): approximately 100 by 30 yards, contains about 65 graves of citizens, some of whom played prominent roles in the development of the St. John's area. Several ministers of the 1834 Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church are buried here. In addition, many of this area's first residents, including members of the Haynesworth, McCall, Nettles, Earle, Sanders, and Gibson families are buried in this cemetery. The setting is a beautiful wooded hill.

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- 17. Presbyterian Church Parsonage (112 Wells Street): ca. 1890, two stories, frame with weatherboard siding, gable roof with boxed cornice with return, two tier veranda with rounded corner on facade, gingerbread ornamentation, well landscaped setting.
- 18. (279 Orange Street): ca. 1903-1908, Colonial Revival, one story, T-shaped, frame with weatherboard siding, hip roof, porticos with Tuscan Order columns on front and left, boxed cornice with dentils and modillions, front entrance with double doors and transom.
- 19. The Old Gibson House (148 Orange Street): between 1877-1884, Downing cottage style, two stories, frame with weatherboard siding, steep gable roof with center gable, decorative cross bracing in gable end, one story, centered front porch, front entrance with head- and sidelights. The 1913 Darlington city directory lists Robert Werner Coggeshall, a civic and agricultural leader in Darlington, as the owner.

Other properties contributing to the character of the district:

- 20. (107 Park Street): ca. 1919-1920, one story, brick, hip roof with eyebrow dormer, recessed entrance, head- and sidelights.
- 21. (109 Park Street): ca. 1910, two stories, frame, weatherboarded, hip roof, attic dormer, one story wrap around porch, leaded glass transoms.
- 22. (113 Park Street): ca. 1910, two stories, frame, weatherboarded, hip roof with dormer, iron cresting on roof, eaves with modillions, porch on three sides, entrance with headand sidelights.
- 23. (123 Park Street): ca. 1919, one story, brick, front porch.
- 24. (125 Park Street): ca. 1914, one story, frame, hip roof, front porch with posts on brick piers.
- 25. (127 Park Street): ca. 1924, one and a half stories, brick, jerkinhead roof, front porch with brick pillars.
- 26. (127-A Park Street): ca. 1955, one story frame cottage, gable roof.
- 27. (110 Sanders Street): ca. 1913, two stories, frame, weatherboarded, hip roof with pedimented side gable, wide eaves, first floor porch on two sides, double doors with transom, bay window on right side.
- 28. (118 Sanders Street): before 1913, one story, frame, weatherboarded, high pitched hip roof, wrap around porch, double doors, transom.

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29.	(120 Sanders Street):	before 1913, one story	, frame, weatherboarded,	high pitched hip
	roof, front porch, dou	ble doors, transom.		

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- 30. (122 Sanders Street): ca. 1915, one story, frame, weatherboarded, hip roof with dormer, porch with paired posts on brick piers, central door, head- and sidelights.
- 31. (119 Sanders Street): ca. 1915, one story, frame,weatherboarded, hip roof, square posts on brick piers.
- 32. (117 Sanders Street): ca. 1920, frame, weatherboarded, hip roof, exposed rafters, entrance at left of street facade.
- 33. (115 Sanders Street): ca. 1880, one story frame cottage, weatherboarded, gable roof, projecting bay, brackets on porch posts.
- 34. (109 Sanders Street): ca. 1913, one story, frame, shingled and weatherboarded, gable roof, screened front porch.
- 35. (107 Sanders Street): ca. 1903, one story, frame,weatherboarded, gable roof, porch on two sides.
- 36. (105 Sanders Street): between 1913 and 1924, one story, weatherboarded and shingled frame bungalow, gable roof, front porch, window and brackets in gable end facing street.
- 37. (111 St. John's Street): ca. 1890, one story, frame, weatherboarded, gable roof with cross gable, three sided bay under extended gable on right.
- 38. (112 St. John's Street): ca. 1924, one story brick bungalow, red tile hip roof, Palladian window in porch pediment, brick pillars with concrete arches supporting porch.
- 39. (176 Orange Street): between 1880 and 1890, some Italianate features, two stories, frame, weatherboarded, hip roof, projecting cornice, heavy modillions, open and enclosed porches and balconies with Tuscan columns, double-leaf doors with beveled glass.
- 40. (109 St. John's Street): ca. 1924, one story frame cottage, hip roof, porch on two sides with paired posts on brick piers.
- 41. (280 Orange Street): between 1870 and 1880. Queen Anne, two stories, frame with aluminum siding, modified cross-gable roof, octagonal tower, wrap around porch, paired columns, arched door surround.
- 42. (156 Orange Street): early 20th century, two stories, frame, weatherboarded, hip roof, one story porch across facade and side elevations features turned posts and balustrade, projecting two-story bay with pedimented gable faces street.
- 43. (290 Orange Street): ca. 1930, weatherboarded frame cottage with gable roof, L-shaped plan, front and side porch.

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44. (244 Orange Street): ca. 1925, one story, frame, weatherboarded, gable roof, dormer with triple window, screened porch on two sides, paired posts on brick piers, projecting bay window.

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- 45. (313 Orange Street): ca. 1900, Queen Anne, two stories, frame, weatherboarded, gambrel roof with shed dormer, octagonal tower with octagonal bell cast roof, front porch, dentil work, head- and sidelights.
- 46. (283 Orange Street): ca. 1916, one story, weatherboarded frame cottage, gable roof, corner porch, paired windows.
- 47. (168 Orange Street): ca. 1911, two stories, frame, weatherboarded, hip roof with dormer, entrance with double doors and rectangular transom.
- 48. (124 Park Street): ca. 1925, frame bungalow with weatherboard siding, gable roof, brackets on eaves facing street.
- 49. (126 Sanders Street): ca. 1910, one and a half story bungalow, frame, weatherboarded, shed dormer, shingles in gable ends and dormer, wrap around porch, paired square pillars.
- 50. (298½ Orange Street): ca. 1940, one story frame guest cottage, weatherboarded, gable roof, screened porch.
- 51. (319 Orange Street): ca. 1930, vernacular house with covered front stoop, frame, weatherboarded.
- 52. (170 Orange Street): ca. 1920, frame bungalow, gable roof, entrance with diamond design side- and headlights, large dormer with brackets.
- 53. (130 Orange Street): ca. 1915, one story, frame, weatherboarded, large porch on three sides with square posts, balustrade, double leaf door with transom.
- 54. (107¹/₂ Park Street): ca. 1940, one story, frame, weatherboarded, gable roof.

55. (127¹/₂ Park Street): ca. 1930, two stories, frame garage apartment with gable roof.

Noncontributing properties:

- 56. (110 St. John's Street): ca. 1960, one story, frame, weatherboarded, gable roof, front chimney.
- 57. (120 St. John's Street): ca. 1920, one story cottage, brick veneer, hip roof with dormer, triple windows, remodeled and original appearance considerably altered.
- 58. (100 St. John's Street): ca. 1960, brick veneer, gable roof, two picture windows.
- 59. (107 St. John's Street): ca. 1960, one story, brick veneer with wood siding, hip roof.

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60. (303-309 Orange Street): ca. 1975, metal "Butler" building.

- 61. Carolina Bank and Trust Company, Operations Center (105 Orange Street): ca. 1975, one story, cement block with brick veneer, asphalt parking lot.
- 62. St. John's High School addition (Park Street): between 1950 and 1960, two stories, brick veneer, flat roof, metal window frames.
- 63. Matown Terrace Apartments (Sanders Street): ca. 1975, two stories, brick veneer.

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to establish a new school district in Darlington County in 1888, the old St.

John's Academy was reorganized as part of the public school system.

Also, agricultural production accelerated as the Darlington area recovered from the Civil War and its aftermath, and development in the town increased in proportion. Numerous fine homes were built in the St. John's area in the late nineteenth century. Prosperity continued until the mid 1920's when the market for cotton collapsed. Most of the buildings in the St. John's Historic District were constructed during this period. For the most part, this section of the town has remained basically unchanged in character since ca. 1925. Although Darlington has experienced rapid economic growth since World War II, most of the growth has taken place in the fringe areas of the town. The St. John's area has, however, remained a focal point of the community.

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<u>Architecture</u>: The St. John's Historic District contains a concentration of late nineteenth and early twentieth century vernacular buildings, including residential, religious, and educational examples. The majority of the buildings were erected by local contractors without the help of an architect. Reflective of the different periods in the development of the area, these buildings reveal a diversity of architectural form.

The major portion of the district is residential and the greatest variety of architectural design is found in buildings of this type. The Old Gibson House (19), ca. 1877-1884, with its steeply pitched roof with center gable reveals the influence of the Downing cottage style. Large verandas with bracketed posts, typical of the later Victorian era, characterize the Dana House (15), ca. 1892, and the Presbyterian Church Parsonage (17), ca. 1890. Several of the residences in the district which were built at the turn of the century and in the early twentieth century reveal a preference for designs inspired by architecture of the colonial period. Both the Haynesworth House (8), ca. 1895-1905, and the Judge E. C. Dennis House (10), ca. 1911, have symmetrical facades dominated by porticos with classical columns. Another notable residence in the district, the L. S. Welling House (9), ca. 1917, with its tile roof, bracketed vergeboards, and Palladian entranceway with false four-centered arches, is unique in the area. The district also contains bungalows constructed in the early twentieth century which feature varied architectural elements. 112 St. John's Street (38), ca. 1924, has a tile roof and a Palladian window in the porch pediment.

Other notable residences contributing to the character of the district are 280 Orange Street (41), 176 Orange Street (39), 156 Orange Street (42), 110 Sanders Street (27), 118 Sanders Street (28), and 115 Sanders Street (33).

The educational and religious buildings, most of which were constructed between 1902 and 1921, generally follow Georgian and neo-classical precedent. The St. John's Elementary School (4), ca. 1902, features a portico with Tuscan columns. Central Baptist Church (1), ca. 1916-1918, has a pediment over the entrance, pilasters, and cornice with dentils. Taken as a unit, the buildings within the boundaries of St. John's Historic District combine to form a significant concentration of late nineteenth and early twentieth century vernacular architectural design.

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Continuation sheet

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