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(N/A) NOT FOR PUBLICATION

SOUTH CAROLINA INVENTORY FORM FOR HISTORIC DISTRICTS AND  
INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES IN A MULTIPLE PROPERTY SUBMISSION

NAME OF MULTIPLE PROPERTY SUBMISSION: City of Laurens Multiple Resource Area

PREFERRED NAME OF PROPERTY: Lyde Irby Darlington House

HISTORIC NAME(s) OF PROPERTY: Lyde Irby Darlington House

COMMON NAMES(s) OF PROPERTY: Monroe House

LOCATION: 110 Irby Avenue

CLASSIFICATION: Building

OWNER: Mrs. Mary W. Monroe  
110 Irby Avenue  
Laurens, S. C. 29360

DESCRIPTION

The Lyde Irby Darlington House is a two-and-one-half-story, frame residence, sheathed in weatherboarding, with wood shingles in the gable ends. Built ca. 1899, the house is an eclectic building which utilizes elements of the East-lake, Queen Anne, and classical revival styles of architecture. The house has a hip roof, from which project two-story, gabled bays on the east, north, and south elevations. The facade (east elevation) is three bays wide and features a central entrance flanked by polygonal bays on the first story. The entrance has a single door with beveled glass panel, transom, ornamental moulding and shelf architrave. The second story has a central balcony and a polygonal bay which support a large, pedimented gable. The gable has alternate shingles; three, small windows; and a semicircular-arch, louvered, attic vent. A single-story, hip roof porch extends across the facade and portions of the north and south elevations. It has turned posts, balustrade, and frieze; perforated brackets; and pedimented gable with shingled tympanum. The balcony has similar details. Windows vary in size, but have one-over-one sash. Three, brick chimneys pierce the roof. Two-story, polygonal bays are located on the north and south elevations. A two-tiered porch on the rear (west) elevation has been enclosed. The house originally had a central hall with five, large rooms on each story; a detached kitchen was located to the rear. The breezeway and rear porches have since been enclosed to provide a den, work room, and bathrooms. Interior features include pocket doors, plaster walls, wainscoting, mantels with beveled glass mirrors, coal grates with tile surrounds, and built-in china

cabinet. Some of the interior ornamentation--such as colonnaded mantels--illustrate the influence of the classical revival style. The house is located on a large lot in a quiet, residential neighborhood of the city of Laurens. A molded cement block retaining wall surrounds the front yard and lines the wide, front walk. A nonhistoric garage is located to the rear of the house. The house has had few alterations and retains integrity from the time of its construction.

#### SIGNIFICANCE

AREA(s) OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: L (for office use only)

#### SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Lyde Irby Darlington House is architecturally significant in the city of Laurens as an eclectic, turn-of-the-century residence. Built ca. 1899, the house is an important architectural document of the period when the exuberant Eastlake and Queen Anne styles were losing popularity to the more restrained and sedate classical revival styles. The Lyde Irby Darlington House is significant in that it utilizes elements of each of these styles in its plan and ornamentation. Exterior features of the Queen Anne style include polygonal bays, wraparound porch, and sheathing of weatherboarding and alternate shingles. Eastlake ornamentation includes the perforated brackets and the turned posts, balustrades, and friezes found on the porch and balcony. The classical revival style is represented on the interior in mantel details and on the exterior by the pedimented gables of the house and porch. The house was built as a residence for Col. Thomas Dean Darlington (1867-1932) and his wife, the former Lyde Irby (1873-1934). The property was acquired from Mrs. Darlington's father, Dr. W. C. Irby, in 1899, and the house was believed to have been built shortly thereafter.<sup>1</sup> It remained in the Darlington family until 1942, when it was purchased by M. H. Monroe, husband of the present owner.<sup>2</sup>

ACREAGE: Approximately one acre.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: The boundary of the Lyde Irby Darlington House nomination is shown as the red line on the accompanying City of Laurens zoning map, which is drawn at a scale of 800 feet to the inch. The nominated property includes the historic house, nonhistoric garage, and the lot on which they are situated.

QUAD NAME: Laurens South

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QUAD SCALE: 1:24000

UTM REFERENCE POINT(s): 17/406520/3817300

OTHER INFORMATION: N/A

FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup>Book 10, p. 273, Laurens County Deeds, Laurens County Courthouse, Laurens, S. C.; Laurens Advertiser, 4 August 1932, 8 February 1934. Mrs. Darlington's date of birth was obtained from her grave marker in the Laurens City Cemetery.

<sup>2</sup>Book 79, p. 65, Laurens County Deeds.