

(N/A) NOT FOR PUBLICATION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: Sitgreaves House

HISTORIC NAME(s) OF PROPERTY: Sitgreaves House

COMMON NAME(S) OF PROPERTY: Sitgreaves House

LOCATION: 428 West Farley Avenue

CLASSIFICATION: Building

OWNER: Joe V. and Betty G. Koon
Route 5, Box 590
Laurens, S. C. 29360

DESCRIPTION

The Sitgreaves House is a one-and-one-half-story, frame residence sheathed in weatherboarding. It rests on a granite pier foundation. Built ca. 1907, the house utilizes elements of the Queen Anne and colonial revival styles. The hip roof is covered with metal shingles, and each slope has a gabled extension. The front roof slope is further characterized by a small, gabled dormer and a centrally-located, octagonal tower with flared, tent roof and finial. Gable ends on the south (facade), west, and east elevations are sheathed in alternate shingles and have simple, ornamental bargeboards. A hip-roof porch extends across the facade and a portion of the east elevation. The porch features three-quarter-length, Doric columns on paneled, wood piers; turned balustrade; ornamental medallions; and gabled pediment with sunburst design in the tympanum. The main entrance has a single door with transom. Most windows have one-over-one lights. The west elevation features a Palladian window and a polygonal bay window with paneled apron. Two, single-story, gabled ells, joined by a lattice-enclosed, shed porch are located on the rear (north) elevation. The interior has wood floors, plaster walls, and push-button light switches. Pocket doors are located between the southwest room and hallway. The fireplaces have coal grates with tile surrounds and colonial revival mantels. Bay windows are located in the southwest and southeast rooms. The dog-leg staircase, located at the rear of the hall, has been enclosed, but

the present owners plan to remove the partition. The second story has a large hall and four, large rooms, only two of which were finished. A large attic above the hall is visible from the unfinished rooms. The Sitgreaves House is located on a tree-shaded lot in a well-kept residential neighborhood of the city of Laurens. A vacant lot separates the nominated property from the Laurens District Hospital, which is to the east of the house. The house has had few alterations and retains integrity from the time of its construction.

SIGNIFICANCE

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: L (for office use only)

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built ca. 1907, the Sitgreaves House is significant architecturally as a building which demonstrates the transition from the Queen Anne style to the colonial revival style of architecture. Many of the ornamental details of the house--tower, bargeboards, porch configuration and balustrade, polygonal bays, and gable ends--are reminiscent of the Queen Anne style, but other features--the house's overall symmetry, porch pediment and columns, interior mantels, and placement of the tower--indicate the designer's desire to incorporate elements of the more modern colonial revival style. The juxtaposition of the two styles is perhaps best demonstrated in this house by the tent-roof tower. The tower itself is a feature of the Queen Anne style, but its central placement on the front roof slope, rather than a corner of the building, draws attention to the symmetry advocated by the colonial revival style. Although the house is one-and-one-half stories in height, the upper floor contains four spacious rooms opening off the central hall. These rooms are made possible by gabled projections on the right end of each roof slope. The house was built as a residence for Edwin Sitgreaves, a real estate developer, and remained in the Sitgreaves family until 1979, when it was sold to the Laurens District Hospital.¹ The present owners acquired the house in 1983 and are renovating it as a private residence.²

ACREAGE: Less than one acre.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: The boundary of the Sitgreaves 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 and the lot on which it is situated.

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QUAD NAME: Laurens South

QUAD SCALE: 1:24000

UTM REFERENCE POINT(s): 17/405585/3816745

OTHER INFORMATION: N/A

FOOTNOTES

¹Book 20, p. 275 and Book 221, p. 258, Laurens County Deeds, Laurens County Courthouse, Laurens, S. C.; Interview with W. R. (Bob) McCuen, Jr., Laurens, S. C., 24 February 1984.

²Book 230, p. 844, Laurens County Deeds.