



16-1 Major Robert Lide

On SC 34 near intersection of Road 495

Born May 19, 1734. Died March 12, 1802. Major Robert Lide served in the S.C. militia under General Francis Marion during the Revolutionary War and was for many years deacon of Cashaway Baptist Church. He is buried in Lowders Hill Cemetery .2 mile E. Erected by Major Robert Lide Chapter, D.A.R. and the County of Darlington-1960

16-2 David Rogerson Williams

Road 133, 3 miles S of Society Hill

March 8, 1776-November 17, 1830. Statesman, educator, pioneer manufacturer, scientific farmer, State Senator, Congressman, Governor 1814-1816, Brigadier General in the War of 1812. His residence, "Center Hall," was 1/2 mile east. His grave is in the family cemetery 2 1/2 miles east. Erected by Darlington County Historical Society-1962

16-3

US 15-401 at Welsh Neck Baptist Church, Society Hill

(Front) Long Bluff

Long Bluff, 3/4 mile east on Great Pee Dee River, was the site of the first courthouse and jail for old Cheraws District in 1772. The town was known as Greeneville after the Revolution and remained the seat of justice until the formation of Darlington, Marlboro and Chesterfield Districts. Circuit courts and elections were conducted for a while longer.

(Reverse) Long Bluff

At a Circuit Court held here on November 15, 1774, more than a year before the Declaration of Independence, the Grand Jury of Cheraws District denied the right of Parliament to levy taxes on them and declared themselves ready to defend with their lives and fortunes the right to obey only those laws made by their own elected representatives. Erected by Darlington County Historical Society-1965

16-4 Evan Pugh

Near intersection of Road 29 & Road 892

Evan Pugh (1729-1802) is buried near his homesite at Pugh Field one half mile E of this site. He moved to this Pee Dee section in 1762 from Pennsylvania and served as a Minister for the Welsh Neck, Cashaway, and Mount Pleasant Churches of the Charleston Baptist Association, 1766-1802. He was an American Revolutionary patriot. Erected by Darlington County Historical Society-1967

16-5 La[e]muel Benton

On SC 34 near intersection of Road 495

Owner of many acres north of here, Lemuel Benton was prominent in the Revolution as Colonel of the Cheraws militia under Francis Marion and as forager for Greene's Continental Army. Member S.C. House of Representatives, 1781-87; Delegate to the S.C. Constitutional Convention of 1790; Sheriff of Cheraws District, 1798 and 1791; Member of Congress, 1793-1799. Erected by Darlington County Historical Commission-1968

16-6 George W. Dargan 1802-1859

Weaver Street at Smith Avenue, Darlington

Near this site stood the home of George W. Dargan, ante-bellum leader of this area, who served as State Senator, 1842-1847 and Chancellor of the S.C. Court of Equity, 1847-1859. He was a trustee of the S.C. College and a member of the Southern Rights Convention of 1852. The mansion burned down on May 14, 1898. Erected by Darlington County Historical Commission-1968

16-7

Just N of Darlington on Road 177, N side
(Front) Darlington District Agricultural Society

On May 5, 1846, a society was organized for "mutual improvement in agriculture and to promote the planting interest of the country." Most of the annual meetings since that time have been held at this spring. The first officers were W. E. James, Rev. J. M. Timmons, Isaac W. Wilson, Robert Rogers, and Rev. Robert Campbell.

(Reverse) The Mineral Spring

On July 17, 1819, this spring and the surrounding lands were purchased from Henry King by the Darlington Mineral Springs Company, intent upon developing the site as a beneficial spa. The enterprise was abandoned soon after the death of the chief promoter. Erected by Darlington County Historical Commission-1969

16-8 Jacob Kelley House

S of SC 12 in Kelleytown, 3 miles W of Hartsville

This house, home of Jacob Kelley (1780-1874), was used as a Union headquarters on March 2-3, 1865 by Major-General John E. Smith, Commander of the Third Division, Fifteenth Army Corps. During the encampment by Federal forces, the mills near Kelley Town were run for the benefit of the Third Division and foraging parties roamed the area. Erected by Darlington County Historical Commission-1969

16-9 St. David's Academy

US 401, at present St. David's Academy, Society Hill

The St. David's Society, organized in 1777 and chartered in 1778, built the first public academy in St. David's Parish 3/4 mile northeast in 1786. Alexander McIntosh, George Hicks, Abel Kolb, William Pegues, and Thomas Evans were early officers. The academy was removed to this site about 1840 and the present building was erected in 1957.

Erected by Darlington County Historical Commission-1970

16-10 Thomas E. Hart House

Road 10 (W. Carolina Ave. extension), near Hartsville city limits

This house was the residence of Captain Thomas Edwards Hart, who settled on these lands in 1817, and for whom Hartsville was named. He was a Justice of the Peace, Chairman of the Board of Free Schools, planter, merchant, and was appointed first Postmaster when the Hartsville Post Office was established in 1838. He died in 1842 at the age of 46. Erected by Darlington County Historical Commission-1970

16-11 Samuel Bacot 1745-1795

Road 179, 2 miles SE of Darlington

Early land records indicate that Samuel Bacot settled in the back country of S.C. about 1770. He served in the state militia during the Revolution, was taken prisoner by the British in 1780, but with his companions made his escape, avoiding confinement in a Charles Town prison. His grave is one half mile northeast. Erected by Darlington County Historical Commission and Samuel Bacot Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution-1972

16-12 Attempted Ambush

Road 49, about 0.5 miles from US 52, S of Darlington

On March 5, 1865, near the point where the Ebenezer Road crossed the Cheraw and Darlington Railroad, the 29th Missouri Mounted Infantry of Col. Reuben Williams's command deployed on either side of the tracks to capture a Confederate train approaching from Florence. The attempt failed when the engineer, discovering the trap, reversed his engine and escaped. Erected by Darlington County Historical Commission-1975

16-13

US 401, in front of church, Society Hill

(Front) Welsh Neck Church

This church, the pioneer center of Baptist influence in the area, was constituted January 1738 by Welsh from Pennsylvania and was originally located about two miles northeast of here. The first pastor was Philip James. It was incorporated March 17, 1785, as the "Baptist Church at the Welsh Neck on Pedee River."

(Reverse) Welsh Neck Church

Seat of worship of this Baptist church was relocated here about 1799 on land acquired from Capt. William DeWitt. The second meeting house on this spot, dedicated in 1843, was destroyed by lightning July 5, 1928 and was replaced by the present structure in 1938. Erected by Welsh Neck Baptist Church and the Darlington County Historical Commission-1976

16-14 Augustin Wilson

SC 403 in front of Lake Swamp Baptist Church cemetery

Augustin Wilson, whose grave is about 150 ft. E. and marked by a partially embedded cannon barrel, was born 1755 in Va. During the American Revolution, he served with N. C. troops protecting S. C. against Tories and Indians and as an ensign at the 1779 Battle of Brier Creek, Ga. He moved to South Carolina before 1820, where he died in 1848.

Erected by Darlington County Historical Society-1976

16-15

South Main Street, Darlington

(Front) Macedonia Church

Tradition says first meetings of this Baptist Church were held in the home of Laura Brown. A house of worship was constructed on the N.E. corner of present S. Main and Hampton streets on land purchased during 1866-1874. The present site was acquired in

1922 and the building occupied Feb. 3, 1935.

(Reverse) Macedonia Church

This Baptist Church was constituted when a group of black members led by Rev. Isaac Brockenton withdrew from the Darlington Baptist Church on Feb. 11, 1866. Brockenton became the first pastor and served until his death in 1908. The first trustees were Evans Bell, Peter Dargan, Lazarus Ervin, Antrum McIver, Samuel McIver, Samuel Orr, and Samuel Parnell. Erected by Darlington County Bicentennial Commission for Ethnic Participation-1977

16-16 St. James Church

Pearl Street, Darlington

This United Methodist Church was originally named Pearl Street Methodist Episcopal Church. The first trustees were Henry Brown, Abner Black, Wesley Dargan, Zedidiah Dargan, January Felder, Randolph Hart and Rev. B. Frank Whittemore. Tradition says Federal occupation troops supplied the church bell, which they had taken from nearby St. John's Academy. Erected by The Congregation-1976

16-17

Road 53 near its intersection with Road 23

(Front) Gum Branch Church

In 1797, David Kelly was deacon and Cornelius Keith was clerk of Lower Fork of Lynches Creek Church. Originally in the Charleston Association and later the Moriah Association, the church joined the Welsh Neck Association in 1837. The name was changed to Gum Branch in 1844, and the present sanctuary was completed in 1955.

(Reverse) Lower Fork Of Lynches Creek Baptist Church

This church, which probably evolved from a branch meeting house built nearby in 1770 by First Lynches Creek Church, was constituted in 1789; Joshua Palmer became minister in the same year. The church held early meetings at Lower Fork of Lynches Creek, Boggy Swamp and Witherinton's Mill. By 1798, the church was located here. Erected by The Congregation-1977

16-18 Edmund H. Deas

2nd block of Ave. E, off South Main Street, Darlington

After moving to Darlington County in the 1870s, Edmund H. Deas served as county chairman of the Republican Party for a number of years and was a delegate to four national conventions. A black candidate for Congress in 1884 and 1890, Deas was Deputy Collector of Internal Revenue in S. C., 1889-94 and 1897-1901. This house was his residence at his death in 1915. Erected by Darlington County Bicentennial Committee for Ethnic Participation-1977

16-19

About 4 miles S. of Darlington at crossroads of S. C. 340 and road 19

(Front) Wilson Crossroads

At this point the Camden-Mars Bluff road intersected the road to Darlington on property granted to the Reverend John Wilson (1790-1869) by the state of South Carolina in 1837. Wilson, a North Carolinian, settled here, and after his death his grandson, Dr.

Peter A. Wilson, lived on a portion of the land and practiced medicine.

(Reverse) Dr. Peter A. Wilson

Peter Wilson (1846-1913) was born in Darlington County and served in the Confederate Army. He graduated from Washington University School of Medicine in Maryland (1869) and upon the death of his grandfather, the Reverend John Wilson, settled near here and practiced medicine. Dr. Wilson is buried in High Hills Baptist Church Cemetery, about one mile north of here. Erected by The Dr. Henry Woodward Chapter S.C. State Society, Daughters of the American Colonists-1979

16-20 William Andrew Dowling

SW of Darlington on Road 19, about 1.5 miles west of Dubose Crossroads

Born in Darlington County in 1859, William Dowling was a descendant of Robert Dowling, who had settled in S.C. in the Parish of St. David by 1773. William served as a member of the South Carolina House of Representatives, 1899-1900, and was Darlington County Supervisor when the 1902-1903 courthouse was built. Dowling's home stood about one-half mile east of here. Erected by The Dr. Henry Woodward Chapter S.C. State Society, Daughters of American Colonists-1979

16-21 Zachariah W. Wines

Cheraw Street, Society Hill

Black merchant and educator Zachariah

Wines, was born in 1847 in Society Hill, represented Darlington County in the S.C. House 1876-78, and was commissioned captain in the National Guard by Gov. Wade Hampton in 1877. He taught at nearby Waddell School and later served as Society Hill Postmaster, 1897-1904. He died in 1920 and is buried about 1/3 mile northeast. Erected by Darlington County Bicentennial Committee for Ethnic Participation-1979

16-22

At the Court House in Darlington

(Front) Darlington County

This area become part of St. David's Parish in 1768, Cheraws District in 1769, and then Darlington County on March 12, 1785. In 1800 Darlington became a circuit court district, and again a county in 1868. Extensive territory was lost in 1888 and 1902 with the creation of new counties.

(Reverse) Darlington County Courthouse

The first courthouse at this site was destroyed by fire March 19, 1806. A later building, thought to have been designed by architect Robert Mills, burned in 1866 and was rebuilt in 1873. The subsequent courthouse, built 1903-1904, was in use until 1964 when the present structure was completed. Erected by Darlington County Bicentennial Commission-1985

16-23

East Home Avenue, Hartsville

(Front) John L. Hart

In 1845, John Lide Hart (1825-1864) bought a 491-acre plantation here. Along what is now Home Avenue, he built a carriage factory, a store, a steam-powered sawmill and

grist-mill, and houses for himself and his workers. Hart also donated land for the First Baptist Church, which he helped establish. The property here left his ownership in 1854. Hart, a Confederate lieutenant, died in action near Petersburg, Virginia.

(Reverse) John Hart House

This example of regional vernacular architecture of the mid-19th century is the last antebellum structure known to remain on the site of John Hart's plantation and carriage factory. Many of Hartsville's leading citizens have owned or lived in the house since it left Hart's ownership in 1854. In 1981, the house was acquired by the Hartsville Heritage Foundation. Erected by Hartsville Heritage Foundation-1986

16-24 Wesley Chapel

On Road 28 about 1.3 miles SE of Lydia

Said to be Darlington County's oldest Methodist church, Wesley Chapel, thought to be founded in 1789, was the site of early camp meetings. By 1802, the church was known as Gully Meetinghouse and was located about 1 1/2 miles N. The site here was obtained from Jesse & John Clements in 1832; the church renamed Wesley Chapel in 1834; and the present sanctuary built in 1908. Erected by The Congregation-1989

16-25

Main Street, Society Hill

(Front) Lawrence Faulkner

Born c.1840 and a resident of Darlington County by 1871, Lawrence Faulkner was a black school teacher, later merchant, and Society Hill's postmaster from 1877 to 1889. A trustee of nearby Union Baptist Church, Faulkner died in 1898. His store and dwelling were located on this site.

(Reverse) Simon Brown

A former slave from Virginia, Brown lived in Society Hill around 1900 and for years was employed by Lawrence Faulkner's widow to work on her farm. His small house was adjacent to the Faulkner house on this site. A gifted story-teller of black folk tales, Brown's allegories were posthumously recorded by the Smithsonian Institution. Erected by Darlington County Historical Commission-1989

16-26

On Academy Street off Main Street, Society Hill

(Front) Society Hill Library Society

On June 5, 1822, twelve men paid \$20 each to purchase books for a library. These men were J. J. Evans; David and Elias Gregg; D. R. W., J. K. and T. E. McIver; Thomas Smith; Alexander Sparks; D. R. and J. N. Williams; J. F. Wilson; and J. D. Witherspoon.

On December 7, 1822 the men formed the Society Hill Library Society.

(Reverse) Society Hill Library Society

This society was incorporated Dec. 20, 1823 and by 1826 was located in a structure about 900 ft. N. on land given by John D. Witherspoon. Elias Gregg is thought to have been the first librarian, serving until 1844. The library building was moved from its original site on Main St. to the St. David's Academy lot here about 1932. It was taken into the county library system in 1971. Erected by South Carolina Society of Colonial Dames XVII Century-1990

16-27

On Home Avenue at 4th Street, Hartsville

(Front) James Lide Coker

James L. Coker (1837-1918) came here from Society Hill ca. 1858 as a planter. While serving in the Civil War as a captain in Co. E, 6th Regiment SC Volunteers, he was seriously wounded. Promoted to major in 1864, he was a member of the SC House 1865-66. In 1865 he founded J. L. Coker & Co. and was a founder of the Bank of Darlington (1881); Darlington Manufacturing

(Reverse) James Lide Coker

Co. (1881); Hartsville Railroad (1884); Carolina Fiber (1890) and Southern Novelty (1899), both now Sonoco; Hartsville Oil Mill (1900); Hartsville Cotton Mill (1900); Coker's Pedigreed Seed Co. (1902); and the Bank of Hartsville (1903). Major Coker's generosity resulted in the founding of Coker College in 1908. His home, which burned in 1922, was located here. Erected by Hartsville Heritage Foundation-1991

16-28 David Robert Coker

Home Ave. between Third and Fourth streets, Hartsville

Known world-wide for developing new varieties and for perfecting superior strains of agricultural crops (including cotton), Coker, for years was pres. Pedigreed Seed Co., chartered 1918. He was intendant (mayor) of Hartsville 1900-1901; member National Agricultural Advisory Commission; trustee of University SC and Coker College. His 1916 home here is now part of Coker College. Erected by Hartsville Centennial Commission-1992

16-29

Home Avenue at Third St., Hartsville

(Front) Carolina Fiber Co.

One of the first methods for producing paper from native pine wood pulp was developed by J. L. Coker, Jr. As a result, he with Maj. J. L. Coker and C. J. Woodruff formed the Carolina Fiber company, March 20, 1890, to manufacture and market wood pulp and paper. Their mill was on nearby Black Creek. In 1941 the entire operation merged with adjacent Sonoco Products Company. Erected by Hartsville Centennial Commission-1993

(Reverse) Sonoco Products Company

This enterprise was chartered as Southern Novelty Company in 1899; first directors were: Maj. J. L. Coker, J. L. Coker Jr., D. R. Coker, J. J. Lawton, and W. F. Smith. The name was changed to Sonoco Products Company in 1923. Today Sonoco is a leading global manufacturer of packaging products for major industries and employs approximately 16,000 people in 22 countries. Erected by Hartsville Centennial Commission-1993

16-30

Trinity Church

Main and Burns streets, Society Hill

This Episcopal church, located about 800 ft. N., was incorporated 1833. Early members

associated with the church are said to have been from the Dewitt, Edwards, Evans, Hanford, Hawes, McCollough, Williams and Witherspoon families. In 1834 the present structure was consecrated by Bishop Nathaniel Bowen. After many years, the church became inactive and was officially listed as dormant 1931. The building is now maintained by private benefactors. Erected by Pee Dee Committee National Society of Colonial Dames of America in the State of SC-1993

16-31

Eastern Carolina Silver Company

Hartsville, at intersection of Home Avenue and Second Street

This silver co., chartered March 5, 1907, manufactured and sold coffee and tea sets, bread trays, bowls, candelabra, and cups. J. L. Coker served as pres., W. F. Smith as vice pres., and C. W. Coker as sec. & treas. By 1908 the company had begun to manufacture classically-designed quadruple plate, some ornamented with cotton blossom motifs. The enterprise, located 3 blocks NE, dissolved Nov. 25, 1909. Erected by Hartsville Centennial Commission-1994

16-32

Facing Coker College property in front of Allston House, near intersection of E. Home Ave. and Campus Drive, Hartsville

(Front) Welsh Neck High School

The Welsh Neck Baptist Association initiated this institution as a coeducational boarding school. It opened Sept. 17, 1894, through the generosity of Maj. James Lide Coker, Civil War veteran, local industrialist, and the school's first chairman of the board of trustees. Enrollment peaked at 267 in 1902. When the 1907 public high school act reduced the need for this school, it became a four-year college for women.

(Reverse) Coker College

The trustees of Welsh Neck High School converted their institution into a non-sectarian Baptist college. It opened Sept. 30, 1908, as "Coker College for Women, founded by James L. Coker." Baptist control ended in 1944, and in 1969, the college became coeducational. The Governor's school for Science and Mathematics opened on the campus in 1988. Throughout its history, Coker has emphasized liberal arts. Erected by Hartsville Centennial Commission-1995

16-33

Laurie M. Lawson

SW corner of roads 19 and 360, about 1.8 miles east of Oats

Birthplace of L. M. Lawson (1873-1943), attorney, farmer, Methodist layman. Served in SC House 1905-10, SC Senate 1911-14, Pres. Darlington Agricultural Soc. 1938-39.

Erected by Darlington County Historical Commission-1995

16-34

In front of church, 104 E. Home Ave., Hartsville

First Baptist Church

(Front) Members of New Providence and Gum Branch Baptist churches under John L.

Hart's leadership began Hartsville Baptist, the first church in town, 16 November 1850. A union Sunday school met on the site as early as July 1849. John L. Hart donated land on which the congregation built a sanctuary in 1851. Rev. J. W. Burn served as first pastor for many years. The church joined Welsh Neck Association in 1851, and the SC General (Reverse) Assembly chartered the congregation in 1853. By 1906 name changed to First Baptist Church. Dr. E. V. Baldy, pastor in 1909, served as first president of Coker College. New congregations established by this church are: Fourth Street 1906; Eastside (now Emmanuel) 1926; Lakeview 1944; South Hartsville 1951; West Hartsville 1952; and North Hartsville 1959. The congregation completed the present sanctuary 1964. Erected by Hartsville Centennial Commission-1995

16-35

Butler School

In front of the school, Sixth Street, Hartsville

Butler School, located on this site since 1921, was the second public school to serve Hartsville's black community and operated for over sixty years. Known as the Darlington Co. Training School until 1939, it was renamed for Rev. Henry H. Butler, its principal 1909-1946. The first building on this site burned in 1961; extant buildings date from 1936 to the mid-1960s. Butler School was a junior high and high school when it closed in 1982. Erected by Hartsville Centennial Commission-1996

16-36

3/10 mi. north of the church, Society Hill

Society Hill Presbyterian Church

(Front) Was organized August 12, 1891 with 17 charter members, by a commission of the Pee Dee Presbytery under Revs. J. G. Law, J. G. Richards, and W. B. Corbett. Elders H. A. Womack and J. S. McCall and deacon L. M. Crosswell were appointed church officers. Services were held in the school until the sanctuary was built 1892-93; a manse was built 1922. Rev. J. P. Marion, the first full-time minister, served 1892-1902. (Reverse) For several years in the early twentieth century the church also sponsored seminary students preaching at as many as six mission stations in the Pee Dee region without financial aid from the Presbytery. Society Hill Presbyterian Church is in the Welsh Neck-Long Bluff-Society Hill Historic District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1974. Erected by the congregation-1996

16-37

At Raceway, 2 mi. W of Darlington on Hwy. 151-34

Darlington Raceway

(Front) Darlington Raceway, the first superspeedway in NASCAR history, was constructed in 1950 by Harold Brasington, a local race promoter who saw an asphalt-paved track as an advance over the standard dirt tracks and wanted a 500-mile stock car race to rival the Indianapolis 500. On September 4, 1950 the new mile-and-a quarter raceway hosted the first Southern 500, a 400-lap race in which 75 cars raced at top speeds of 80 m.p.h.

(Reverse) The egg-shaped track at Darlington quickly gained a reputation as "the track too tough to tame" and the Southern 500 became one of racing's most important events. The Plymouth which Johnny Mantz drove to win the first race is one of several historic cars on display with other racing memorabilia at the NMPA Stock Car Hall of Fame/Joe Weatherly Museum, which opened here in 1965 to honor the pioneers of NASCAR.
Erected by Darlington Raceway-1997

16-38

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH [DARLINGTON]

at the church, 246 S. Main St., Darlington

(Front) Established in 1831 as Darlington Baptist Church of Christ, with Rev. W.Q. Beattie as its first minister; joined the Welsh Neck Association in 1832. The first sanctuary, built in 1830 just before the church was formally organized, was replaced in 1859 by a second building. During the Civil War the church offered its bell to be melted down to cast cannon for the Confederacy.

(Reverse) This church, which has licensed or ordained 14 clergymen since 1831, was renamed First Baptist Church of Darlington in 1912; the present brick sanctuary was dedicated that December. The Hardin Building was built in 1924; the Jones Building in 1956, the Illy McFall Memorial Building in 1975, and the E.S. Howle Fellowship Hall in 1983. Additional renovations were completed in 1997.
Erected by the Congregation, 1998

16-39

JAPONICA HALL

S. Main St., Society Hill

(Front) This house, built in 1896-97 and designed in the Beaux Arts style by noted S.C. architect Charles Coker Wilson, was the home of Maj. James Jonathan Lucas (1831-1914). An earlier house here, which burned in 1892, had been the home of Dr. Thomas Smith (d. 1875), who married the widow of Judge Samuel Wilds. Lucas served Charleston District as a state representative 1856-1862.

(Reverse) MAJ. J.J. LUCAS

In 1862, Lucas, a Citadel graduate, organized and became major of Lucas' Battalion of Heavy Artillery, which spent most of the Civil War on James Island near Charleston. Maj. Lucas moved to Society Hill in 1865, and later served as a director of the Cheraw & Darlington RR and Atlantic Coast Line RR. Japonica Hall was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1989.
Erected by the Darlington County Historical Commission, 1999

16-40

WILLIAMSON'S BRIDGE

S.C. Co. Rd. S-16-35, at Williamson's Bridge on Black Creek

Williamson's Bridge was built over Black Creek by 1771. In 1780 a part of Brig. Gen. Francis Marion's S.C. militia brigade – the "Pee Dee Regiment" or "Cheraws Militia" under Lt. Col. Lamuel Benton (1754-1818) – clashed with Loyalists here. Benton's militiamen forced the Tories from the bridge, pursued them for some distance, and finally routed them in hand-to-hand combat.

Erected by the Darlington County Historical Commission, 2000

16-41

CALEB COKER HOUSE

Main St., Society Hill

This house, built ca. 1832, was the home of Caleb Coker (1802-1869) and the birthplace of his son Maj. James Lide Coker (1837-1918), Confederate officer, industrialist, and founder of Coker College. Caleb Coker, a merchant, was also a director of the Cheraw & Darlington RR, librarian of the Society Hill Library Society, and a charter member of the Darlington Agricultural Society.

Erected by the Darlington County Historical Commission, 2000

16-42

HARTSVILLE OIL MILL

at the mill office, South Fifth Street, Hartsville

(Front) The Hartsville Oil Mill, founded in 1900 by J.L. Coker, D.R. Coker, and J.J. Lawton, stood here until 1993. A cotton oil mill, it crushed cottonseed to produce cooking oil; meal and cake for feed and fertilizer; and lint for stuffing and explosives. It was chartered in 1909 with Lawton as president, treasurer, and general manager; Albert Jordan as secretary; and C.G. Timberlake as superintendent.

(Reverse) The mill office, still standing at this site, was built in 1915. Under the leadership of president E.H. Lawton, Sr., the mill was converted from hydraulic presses to screw presses in 1954. The mill began extracting oil and meal from soybeans by 1957. The company sold the Hartsville mill in 1981 and moved its headquarters to Darlington. In 2000 it was the last cotton oil mill still operating in S.C.

Erected by the Hartsville Museum, 2000

16-43

HENRY "DAD" BROWN

corner of U.S. Hwy. 52 & Brockington Rd., Darlington

(Front) Henry "Dad" Brown (1830-1907), a black veteran of the Mexican, Civil, and Spanish-American Wars, is buried 75' N with his wife Laura. Variouslly said to have been born free or born as a slave who purchased his and Laura's freedom, he was born near Camden. Brown, a brickmason, joined the Confederate army in May 1861 as a drummer in the "Darlington Grays," Co. F, 8th S.C. Infantry.

(Reverse) Brown enlisted as a drummer in Co. H, 21st S.C. Infantry in July 1861 and served for the rest of the war. He "captured" a pair of Union drumsticks in battle. He was also a member of the "Darlington Guards" 1878-1907. Described as "a man of rare true worth" at his death in 1907, Brown was honored shortly afterwards by Darlington citizens who erected the monument nearby.

Erected by the City of Darlington Historical Landmarks Commission, 2000

16-44

FAIR HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

at the church, Lamar

This church was organized in 1872 by Harmony Presbytery with Capt. Joseph Commander (1800-1883) as its first elder. This sanctuary, built on land donated by Commander, was moved here and remodeled about 1909. Fair Hope, a founding member of the Pee Dee Presbytery in 1889, withdrew in 1969 to become an independent church.

Erected by the Darlington County Historical Commission, 2001

16-45

LAWRENCE REESE (1865-1914)

in front of the Belk Funeral Home, 229 W. Broad St., Darlington

(Front) West Broad Street features several late-19th to early-20th century residences designed and built by Lawrence Reese (1865-1914), a native of Marlboro County who came to Darlington as a merchant by 1887. Reese, who had no formal training in architecture, was a self-taught master craftsman and designer. The Belk Funeral Home, at 229 West Broad, was built ca. 1900 as a residence for Abraham Hyman and was Reese's own favorite of the several houses he designed here.

(Reverse) The West Broad Street Historic District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1988, features 14 houses designed and built by Lawrence Reese between ca. 1890 and ca. 1910, most of them with elaborate Eastlake, Queen Anne, and other Victorian era architectural elements. Reese also designed and built the South Carolina Western Railway Station on Russell Street, built in 1911 and also listed in the National Register in 1988.

Erected by the St. John's Heritage Foundation, 2000

16-46

DAMASCUS METHODIST CHURCH

at the site of the church, East Home Ave., Hartsville

The church organized as early as 1817 and known as "Wright's Meeting House, Black Creek" was the first Methodist congregation in the area. James D. Wright, an elder who was appointed "Exhorter" in 1826, preached here until his death in 1862. Damascus Methodist Church declined after 1893, when Wesley Methodist Church was founded in Hartsville; it disbanded by 1901.

Erected by the Darlington County Historical Commission, 2001

16-47

EXECUTION OF ADAM CUSACK

intersection of Main St. extension and S.C. Hwy. 464, Society Hill

In August or September 1780 Major James Wemyss's 63rd Regiment of Foot marched from Georgetown to Cheraw burning and looting Patriot houses and farms. When Adam Cusack, who ran a ferry over Black Creek, refused to take some British officers across he was arrested. Convicted in an extralegal court martial, he was hanged nearby as his wife and children pleaded with Wemyss for mercy.

Erected by the Darlington County Historical Commission, 2002

16-48

WILDS-EDWARDS HOUSE

Edwards Ave., Darlington

(Front) This Italianate house, designed by J.L. Clickner, was built 1856-57 for planter Samuel H. Wilds (1819-1867). According to tradition Clickner returned in early 1865 as a Union soldier and persuaded his superiors not to burn the house during a raid in the area. In 1870 attorney B.W. Edwards (1824-1890), later a state senator, acquired the house; it remained in the family until 1999.

(Reverse) SAMUEL HUGH WILDS

Samuel H. Wilds was a member of the Darlington Agricultural Society, a colonel in the antebellum militia, and a state representative 1856-57 and again in 1864. He organized the "Wilds Rifles" (later Co. B, 21st S.C. Infantry) at the outbreak of the Civil War as its captain and rose to major by war's end. This house was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1988.
Erected by the City of Darlington Historical Landmarks Commission, 2001

16-49

DARLINGTON MEMORIAL CENTER

Pearl St., Darlington

This house was built in 1889 by Charles McCullough (1853-1908), who served as town councilman and later as mayor. It was for many years a recreation center for local youth. The Darlington Memorial Center, chartered in 1946 as a memorial to Darlington men who died in World War II, was funded primarily by area civic clubs. It was acquired by the city of Darlington in 1950.
Erected by the Darlington Landmarks Commission, 2002

16-50

ANDREW HUNTER

Darlington County

(Front) Andrew Hunter (d. 1823), planter, state representative, and county official, is buried in the Hunter family cemetery about 400 ft. south. During the American Revolution he ran a grist mill several miles south on High Hill Creek, supplying meal and corn to the Patriots in the Southern Department. He also served as a scout in the state militia under Gen. Francis Marion.

(Reverse) In 1782 Hunter, scouting in N.C., was captured by Col. David Fanning, a prominent Loyalist. He escaped on Fanning's horse, taking his saddle, holsters, pistols, and papers. After the war he represented St. David's Parish (1787-88) and Darlington County (1796-97) in the S.C. House of Representatives and served on commissions for roads, navigation, and a new courthouse and jail.
Erected by the Darlington County Historical Commission, 2002

16-51

"YANKEE HILL"

U.S. Hwy. 52 near N. Main St., Darlington

(Front) In the summer of 1865, just after the end of the Civil War, Federal troops began their occupation of many cities and towns in S.C. Units in Darlington in 1865-66 included the 15th Maine Infantry, 29th Maine Veteran Volunteers, 1st Maine Battalion, and 30th Massachusetts Veteran Volunteers. They camped on the grounds of the nearby St. John's Academy and used it as a hospital.
(Reverse) Four Federal privates (Patrick Gately and Ira J. Newhall of the 15th Maine and George Kinney and John Maloney of the 29th Maine) who died of disease while stationed in Darlington in 1865-66 were originally buried nearby. This area was called "Yankee Hill" for many years. Their remains were later removed and reburied at Florence National Cemetery.
Erected by the Darlington County Historical Commission, 2002