

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received **JAN 05 1988**
date entered **FEB 10 1988**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic City of Darlington Multiple Resource Area
(Partial Inventory: Historic and Architectural Properties)

and/or common

2. Location

street & number City limits of Darlington N/A not for publication

city, town Darlington N/A vicinity of

state South Carolina code 045 county Darlington code 031

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> multiple resource	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple ownership (see inventory forms)

street & number

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state _____

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Darlington County Courthouse

street & number Courthouse Square

city, town Darlington state South Carolina 29532

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title South Carolina Inventory of Historic Places
has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1986 federal state county local

depository for survey records South Carolina Department of Archives and History

city, town Columbia state South Carolina 29211

7. Description

Condition excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered**Check one** original site moveddate See inventory forms

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The nomination for the City of Darlington Multiple Resource Area consists of three historic districts (containing approximately 88 historic resources) and ten individually nominated properties within the city limits of Darlington, South Carolina. The resources, which date from ca. 1830 to ca. 1935, are generally residences and industrial buildings, but churches, railroad depots, and commercial buildings are also included.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Located in northeastern South Carolina near the Pee Dee River, the city of Darlington has a population of approximately 9,000. The seat of county government for Darlington County, it is the largest town in the county, the economy of which is primarily agricultural. United States Highway 52 and South Carolina Highway 34 pass through the city, which is also served by the Seaboard Coastline Railroad.

Although Darlington was established around 1785, no above-ground historic resources from the early years of the city remain. The majority of the extant resources date from ca. 1830 to ca. 1935. Most of these properties are residences, which range from modest, one-story, frame houses containing only a few rooms to substantial, two-story, generally frame houses displaying a variety of architectural ornamentation. The extant nineteenth and early twentieth century residences represent only a portion of the neighborhoods that surrounded the central business district in the early twentieth century. Modern commercial development has encroached on most of these neighborhoods along with the expansion of the central business district, leaving many of the streets with only a scattering of historic buildings. However, several fairly intact concentrations of historic residences remain along West Broad Street and along a small section of Cashua and Spring Streets.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

In 1984, the survey staff of the South Carolina Department of Archives and History conducted a reconnaissance survey of the city of Darlington to locate those properties in the town that should be recorded at a later date. This reconnaissance survey was used as the foundation for the intensive historical and architectural survey conducted between January and June of 1986 by Steve Smith of Dowis Associates with assistance from Cindy Cole, James Gilstrap, and Margaret Marion.

Preceded by historical research on Darlington, the inventory attempted to include all buildings, sites, structures, and objects that were at least fifty years old and were still substantially intact. Each of the 414 properties included in the survey was photographed, described in detail, and located on a map. During and after the survey, numerous meetings were held at the Darlington County Historical Commission with Mr. Horace F. Rudisill to gather historical information concerning individual resources. Numerous other meetings were held with Mrs. Florence E. Horton and Miss Josephine Edwards, two of Darlington's most informed local historians. Two meetings with Mr. S. C. Disher and Mrs. Rosena James produced much information concerning black history in Darlington. Additional research was also done to supplement information provided by these local historians.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Black history
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates ca. 1830 - ca. 1935 **Builder/Architect** See individual inventory forms.

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The nomination for the City of Darlington Multiple Resource Area includes three historic districts (containing approximately 88 resources) and ten individually nominated properties within the city limits of Darlington, South Carolina, which are of historical and/or architectural significance to the city. Dating from ca. 1830 to ca. 1935, these resources, along with the St. John's Historic District in Darlington (listed on the National Register in 1980), serve as a visible reminder of the city's history. Located in an agricultural area, Darlington developed as a governmental, commercial and industrial center for the county.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In 1785, the South Carolina General Assembly established Darlington County, one of three subdivisions of the old Cheraw District.¹ The origin of the name of the county and city of Darlington is uncertain; it is thought to have been so designated to honor a Colonel Darlington, a revolutionary war hero, or to have been named for a town in England.²

The seat of justice for the county, Darlington was described in 1826 as being located near Swift Creek and having a "handsome new brick court-house and jail; beside several private houses, and the requisite taverns."³ None of the buildings existing at that time are known still to be standing.

Darlington showed little growth before the Civil War; its inhabitants in 1861 numbered less than 500.⁴ It was not until after the Act of 1785, when the Cheraws District was subdivided into Chesterfield, Marlborough, and Darlington Counties, that the importance of the village became apparent. By 1818, the population of the village had increased sufficiently to warrant the founding of a school. That year a group of influential citizens was instrumental in the organization of the Darlington Academy, which later became St. John's School.⁶

General Joseph Burch Nettles wrote in his reminiscence of early Darlington (1879): "The village was kept from improving earlier for the fact that the lands around it were owned by gentlemen who were opposed to selling it in lots, In 1825 T. D. Pettigrew purchased from Col. Bright Williamson his lands on the southwest of the village, and sold off lots starting the improvement of the village in that direction."⁷

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In his Glimpses of Old Darlington, W. A. Brunson stated that most of the dwellings in Darlington during its early years were "of moderate size, - the people of that day valuing comfort more than display, so far as houses were concerned; and, in village and country, refinement, social position and even wealth were not to be measured by great houses." He indicated that there were some "large and comfortable homes" -- the Wilds-Edwards House (#1) and the Julius A. Dargan House (#2) were among those he named.⁸ Another survivor of the antebellum period is the ca. 1830 Nelson Hudson House (#3).

When the Civil War began, Darlington's militia company, the "Darlington Guards," was the first to respond to Governor Pickens' urgent call for volunteers.⁹ Although Darlington contributed leaders to the Confederacy, life was quiet in the village until Federal forces passed through town during the final days of the conflict. It is thought that J. L. Klickner, an architect who is credited with the design the Samuel H. Wilds House (#1), persuaded the commanding officer to wait until the afternoon to destroy buildings in the area. In the meantime, the Federals went on a foraging trip down the old Florence road where they met General Joseph Wheeler's cavalry and were defeated.¹⁰

At the end of the Civil War, Darlington had only 200-300 residents and six or seven business houses. Soon after the war, the town began to grow.¹¹ The population of the town had increased to 940 in 1880, and in 1890 it was 2,389. In 1895, there were 4,500 inhabitants.¹² The population in the early 1900's was estimated to be around 5,000.¹³

In 1866, a disastrous fire destroyed much of the town square and the second county courthouse, which had been built ca. 1825.¹⁴ On February 27, 1892, another fire destroyed twenty-three buildings, which included nearly all of the central business district. The commercial buildings erected immediately after the 1892 fire were constructed of brick instead of wood.¹⁵ Among the stores built immediately after the 1892 fire is the M. Manne building (#5).

The Darlington Riot of March 30, 1894 was one of the town's most regrettable incidents. What started as a fist fight between two boys at the Atlantic Coast Line Railway Station resulted in the shooting deaths of two leading citizens and two of Governor Benjamin F. Tillman's constables. The chaos that followed required numerous battalions of the State Troops in Darlington to restore law and order. The uprising stemmed from the Dispensary legislation enforced by Governor Tillman. A controversial subject in 1893 when it was passed in revised form by the state legislature, the Dispensary bill allowed constables appointed by the governor to search private property for contraband liquor.¹⁶ A group of these constables, who had been in Darlington and had stirred up a controversy, were waiting for the train to take them back to Charleston when the fight broke out. The nineteen military organizations and eight companies of volunteers left Darlington about ten days later after peace was restored.¹⁷

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By the first decade of the 20th century, the public school system in Darlington had been established for many years. St. John's School had been in Darlington since 1818. Later changed to St. John's Academy, this school was one of the first three schools in South Carolina to be accredited. St. John's also had the first school orchestra and the first honor society in the state.¹⁸ The St. John's Grammar School (1917) and St. John's High School (1935) are the center of a National Register Historic District (listed in 1980) which includes a number of significant Darlington residences.

During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, numerous public improvements were made in Darlington. A \$25,000 city hall and opera house, a \$50,000 granite and brick post office building, a \$10,000 Carnegie library (located in the St. John's Historic District, listed in 1980), and the paving of streets in the business district of the city were among the additions to the town during that period.¹⁹

Agriculture

Agriculture has played an important role in Darlington's development from the very beginning. The Agricultural Society for Darlington District was formed on May 5, 1846, for the purpose of "collecting and extending general agricultural information."²⁰ Beginning in 1873, and continuing for many years, a large regional fair was held annually in Darlington, representing most of the counties of the upper Pee Dee region.²¹ The Darlington Agricultural Society still exists today and is supported by descendants of the original 56 members.

Darlington is situated in an area well adapted to the cultivation of corn and cotton.²² A ca. 1895 publication promoting Darlington and its vicinity asserted that before 1860 the county stood second in cotton production in the South.²³ In 1892, the country surrounding Darlington was said to have produced about 30,000 bales of cotton, about 5,000 of which was consumed locally by the Darlington cotton factory.²⁴ The Darlington Industrial Historic District contains several buildings which reflect the importance of cotton to the area's economy - a cotton warehouse (#I-4), and two cotton gins (#I-12 and #I-13).

In the late 1800's, tobacco became an important crop in the Darlington area. As a result, the town became a leading tobacco market in South Carolina. On August 22, 1895, two large warehouses in Darlington sold on their opening break 89,557 pounds of tobacco.²⁵ Standing in the Darlington Industrial Historic District are the ca. 1910 Thomas and Howard Tobacco Warehouse (#I-1) and the Price's Tobacco Warehouse (#I-15).

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Commerce

From its early years, Darlington served as the commercial center of the surrounding agricultural area. Farmers brought their produce to Darlington to sell or ship, and they purchased goods at the commercial establishments in the city. A promotional brochure of the late 19th century listed the banks in the town as having paid up capital of \$200,000 and a surplus of \$80,000.²⁶ In 1917, the three banks²⁷ in the town were reported to have combined resources of nearly two million dollars.

The period immediately following the 1894 riot is among the most stable in the city's history. This was a time of progressive city government, economic prosperity, and civic pride. New businesses were opening almost weekly in Darlington, many of them owned by members of its Jewish community.²⁸

Darlington's three banks did not survive the stock market crash of 1929. Many people were on relief by 1934²⁹ and others worked on W.P.A. projects, including the development of Williamson Park.²⁹ Although the effects of the Depression were deeply felt, Darlington continued to have one of the largest tobacco markets in the country. The cotton business also survived the Depression as did other area enterprises. The Individual Drinking Cup Company opened a plant in the old Imperial Tobacco Company building (#I-3) in 1938, thereby offering many new jobs to the area. This company exists today under new ownership and has expanded its facilities around the old site.

Industry

Darlington began its industrialization in 1850 when the Williams Cotton Factory opened.³⁰ In 1856, Darlington had the following businesses: carriage makers, blacksmiths, watchmakers, saw and grist mill operations, wheelwrights, cotton gin manufacturers, turpentine distillers, a tinsmith, a shoe shop, three tanners, and various mercantile establishments.³¹ By 1860, a great change in the labor force in Darlington had taken place in that steam or water power had replaced manual power in operating businesses.³²

With the development of Darlington as a tobacco market, there was a demand for tobacco-related industries in the town. In addition to tobacco warehouses, the Darlington Industrial Historic District contains the Imperial Tobacco Company (#I-3), which was originally the G. T. Patton & Co. Tobacco Stemmary, and the W. B. Lewis & Sons Tobacco Stemmary (#I-10), two factories where stems were removed from tobacco leaves by machines.

Cotton processing played an important role in the industrialization of Darlington. In addition to numerous cotton warehouses and gins, the town boasted a large cotton mill, the Darlington Manufacturing Company, which was constructed ca. 1890 and, although altered, still stands today.

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Other locally significant industries were established in Darlington during the late 1800's and early 1900's. Among them were the Darlington Roller Mill (#I-7), which ground flour, meal, and mill feed, a saw mill (#I-6) and lumber yard (#I-5), and the Darlington Veneer Company #I-9).

Transportation

Essential to both agriculture and industrial progress was transportation in Darlington. By 1855, three railroads came together near James' Station, ten miles south of the village. They were the Cheraw and Darlington, the Wilmington and Manchester, and the North Eastern Railroad.³³ The following year a spur was extended to Darlington. The traditional reason that Darlington did not become a major rail center was the prejudice against railroad construction by "Colonel" E. R. Gregg, a prominent resident and merchant at Mars Bluff. Since he refused to permit the Wilmington and Manchester to build a depot, that railroad was forced seven miles to the east where the town of Florence was developed.³⁴ The railway company was interested not only in building a railroad, but also a town that would increase the profits from the railroad.³⁵

The Charleston, Sumter, and Northern Railway, which built a freight station in 1891 (#I-2), and the South Carolina Western Railway, which constructed a passenger station in 1911 (#4), were important modes of transportation to Darlington. These two railroads crossed each other within the Darlington Industrial Historic District (#I-8) and served area industries.

Water transportation was also available in Darlington where the Great Pee Dee formed the eastern boundary of the district. Steamers and pole boats were common agents in shipping goods between inland centers and Georgetown, where freight was received for Charleston and from Charleston. Roads of various degrees of passage traversed the district,³⁶ and ferries did a great deal of business as did stagecoaches and freight wagons.

Black History

Since its early years, the city of Darlington, and the county as well, has had a large black population. In 1870, for example, the black population of Darlington County was 16,146 with a white population of only 10,097. Edmund H. Deas was a prominent leader in Republican politics in Darlington County for many years. He assumed the county chairmanship of the Republican Party in 1884 and was a delegate to the national conventions of 1888, 1896, 1900, and 1908.³⁷ His house (#6), a cottage with Eastlake detailing, is intact in a residential area on Avenue E.

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Another prominent member of the black community in Darlington was master carpenter Lawrence Reese. A native of Bennettsville, he moved to Darlington around 1887 and constructed many of the notable residences on West Broad Street, which are included in the West Broad Street Historic District. He trained his two sons, Harry and Larry Reese, in the carpentry trade, and they joined their father in his work.

Architecture

The residential historic districts in the city of Darlington nomination are cohesive collections of the wide range of domestic urban architectural forms of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. These areas contain the residences of the more well-to-do citizens, and display the designs and features in vogue during that era. These collections of buildings also depict accurately the historic residential character of their neighborhoods.

Additionally, several of the institutional and commercial buildings in Darlington are noteworthy expressions of the fashionable styles of the era. The First Baptist Church (#10) is an interpretation of the Georgian Revival style that was popular in church design in the early twentieth century. The Manne Building (#5) displays an elaboration of pressed tin detailing while the South Carolina Western Railway Station (#4) is a fine example of the eclectic style.

Other noteworthy examples of mid-nineteenth and early twentieth century revival styles are the Julius A. Dargan House (#2, Greek Revival with Italianate features), the Nelson Hudson House (#3, Greek Revival), the Wilds-Edwards House (#1, Italianate), the Charles S. McCullough House (#9, Second Empire with Italianate and Eastlake details), the B. F. Williamson House (#8), and the Clarence McCall House (#7, Queen Anne).

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¹News and Courier (Charleston, S.C.), 26 July 1917, Darlington-Florence-Hartsville Section, p.3; History, Description and Resources of Darlington County, State of South Carolina (Charleston, S.C.: News & Courier Job Presses, 1874), p.5.

²Robert Mills, Statistics of South Carolina, Including a View of Its Natural, Civil and Military History, General and Particular (Charleston, S.C.: Hurlbut and Lloyd, 1826), p. 512; The Department of Agriculture, Commerce and Industries, and Clemson College, South Carolina: A Handbook (Columbia, S.C.: n.p., 1927), p. 305.

³Mills, Statistics, p. 513.

⁴News and Courier, p. 3.

⁵Eliza Cowan Ervin and Horace Fraser Rudisill, Darlingtoniana (Columbia, S.C.: R. L. Bryan Co., 1964), p. 9.

⁶Ibid., p. 197-198.

⁷Ibid., p. 17.

⁸W. A. Brunson, Glimpses of Old Darlington (Columbia, S.C.: State Co., 1910), p. 7.

⁹Darlington, S.C., 1893; A Guide to Leading Industries (n.p., 1893), p. 22.

¹⁰Ervin and Rudisill, Darlingtoniana, p. 349.

¹¹Darlington, S.C., 1893, p. 16.

¹²The Queen City of the Pee Dee. Darlington, S.C. A Flourishing Tobacco Centre (Charleston, S.C.: Lucas & Richardson Co., n.d.), p. 30.

¹³News and Courier; Department of Agriculture, Commerce and Industries, and Clemson College, p. 305; Sanborn Map Company, Darlington, Darlington County, South Carolina, 1908 and 1913.

¹⁴Ervin and Rudisill, Darlingtoniana, p. 17.

¹⁵Darlington, S.C., 1893, p. 18.

¹⁶Ervin and Rudisill, Darlingtoniana, p. 216.

¹⁷Ibid., p. 228.

¹⁸Ibid., p. 210.

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¹⁹News and Courier, p. 1?; "Darlington, South Carolina," The Exposition, June 1901, p. 256.

²⁰Ervin and Rudisill, Darlingtoniana, p. 191.

²¹Ibid., p. 195.

²²Mills, p. 513.

²³The Queen City, p. 5.

²⁴Darlington, S.C., 1893, p. 24.

²⁵The Queen City, p. 10-11.

²⁶Ibid., p. 10.

²⁷News and Courier, p. 1?

²⁸Ervin and Rudisill, Darlingtoniana, p. 136.

²⁹Ibid., p. 237.

³⁰Ibid., p. 180.

³¹Ibid., p. 180.

³²Ibid., p. 180.

³³Ibid, p. 181.

³⁴G. Wayne King, Some Folks Do: A Pictorial History of Florence County (Norfolk/Virginia Beach, Va.: Donning Co., 1985), p. 10.

³⁵Ibid., p. 10.

³⁶Ervin and Rudisill, Darlingtoniana, p. 181.

³⁷Official Proceedings of the Republican National Convention: 1888, 1896, 1900, 1908, Edmund H. Deas, Historical Marker Files, S.C. Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.

³⁸Interviews with Mrs. Benny Gary, Darlington, S.C., 12 February 1986 and 3 March 1987.

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Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name City of Darlington MRA
State Darlington County, SOUTH CAROLINA

Nomination/Type of Review	Date/Signature
Cover	Keeper <u>Army Schlager 2/10/88</u>
1. Cashua Street-Spring Street Historic District <i>Entered in the National Register</i>	Keeper <u>Melvin Byrum 2/10/88</u> Attest _____
2. Dargan, Julius A., House <i>Entered in the National Register</i>	Keeper <u>Melvin Byrum 2/10/88</u> Attest _____
3. Darlington Industrial Historic District <i>Entered in the National Register</i>	Keeper <u>Melvin Byrum 2/10/88</u> Attest _____
4. Daes, Edmund H., House <i>Entered in the National Register</i>	Keeper <u>Melvin Byrum 2/10/88</u> Attest _____
54 ^v 5. First Baptist Church <i>7th District to Darlington</i> <i>Substantive Review</i>	Keeper <u>Patrick Andrus 10/17/91</u> Attest _____
6. Hudson, Nelson, House <i>Entered in the National Register</i>	Keeper <u>Melvin Byrum 2/10/88</u> Attest _____
7. Manne Building <i>Entered in the National Register</i>	Keeper <u>Melvin Byrum 2/10/88</u> Attest _____
8. McCall, Clarence, House <i>Entered in the National Register</i>	Keeper <u>Melvin Byrum 2/10/88</u> Attest _____
9. McCullough, Charles S., House <i>Entered in the National Register</i>	Keeper <u>Melvin Byrum 2/10/88</u> Attest _____
10. South Carolina Western Railway Station <i>Entered in the National Register</i>	Keeper <u>Melvin Byrum 2/10/88</u> Attest _____

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Thematic Group

City of
Name Darlington MRA
State Darlington County, SOUTH CAROLINA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- 11. *gjk* West Broad Street Historic District
Keeper Amy Schlager 2/10/88
Attest _____
- 12. Wilds--Edwards House **Entered in the National Register** *for*
Keeper Melons Byer 2/14/88
Attest _____
- 13. Williamson, Mrs. B.F., House **Entered in the National Register**
Keeper Melons Byer 2/14/88
Attest _____
- 14. _____
Keeper _____
Attest _____
- 15. _____
Keeper _____
Attest _____
- 16. _____
Keeper _____
Attest _____
- 17. _____
Keeper _____
Attest _____
- 18. _____
Keeper _____
Attest _____
- 19. _____
Keeper _____
Attest _____
- 20. _____
Keeper _____
Attest _____