

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

For NPS use only

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

received APR 25 1986
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Shepherd Building
and/or common Executive Building

2. Location

street & number 312 Montgomery Street NA not for publication
city, town Montgomery NA vicinity of congressional district 2
state Alabama code 01 county Montgomery code 101

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<u>NA</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name K. C. Investments
street & number P. O. Box 2069
city, town Montgomery NA vicinity of state Alabama 36197

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Courthouse
street & number Washington Avenue
city, town Montgomery state Alabama

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Alabama Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date 1970-present federal state county local
depository for survey records Alabama Historical Commission
city, town Montgomery state Alabama

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Shepherd Building is an eight-story, 150' x 43' brick building at the northwest corner of Montgomery and Molton Streets. It exemplifies clearly the early formula for "skyscraper" construction with its "base" formed by the first two floors which are faced with Indiana limestone. Two-story limestone pilasters lend to the verticality of the building. The "shaft" of the building consists of four repetitive floors faced with Jenkins Bluefield brick. A limestone cornice delineates the eighth floor and the building is "crowned" by another richly embellished stone cornice.

Windows on the southern and eastern exposures of the building are all one-over-one wooden sash windows with stone sills and brick lintels. Windows on the northern and western exposures are two-over-two metal sash openings glazed with wire mesh glass. At street level, a variety of wood and glass storefronts open onto Montgomery Street, a few of which have been replaced with aluminum sash. New metal panels and awnings obscure transoms over the storefronts.

The entrance to the Shepherd Building centers the Montgomery Street facade. An ornate stone lintel supported by scroll brackets embellishes the opening which now has metal sash and plate glass doors.

Inside, all of the floors feature a central hall scheme with offices to each side of the east/west corridor. A massive renovation, post-1954, sacrificed much of the interior's historic decoration. Brass elevator doors and casings were removed in favor of a "moderne" variety. Lobby millwork was faced with brick, while the marble walls were replaced with false wood paneling. Green and black formica wainscoting was installed in the hallways and some offices were paneled with wood.

Terrazzo and marble hall floors, mosaic tile lobby floors and three-inch hardwood office floors (in some areas) remain as do the brass mail drop and basement doors and casing as reminder of the 1923 interior. Original mechanical equipment, including heating and electrical systems, remains in the basement although they are not used.

The building has a reinforced concrete frame with hollow brick tile walls faced on the outside with brick and limestone and on the inside with plaster. The building's only addition is a new exterior fire stair adjoining the rear of the building at the elevator shaft.

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 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1922-23 **Builder/Architect** Hugger Bros. Construction/
Frederick Ausfeld/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Criterion B - Architecture

The Shepherd Building was designed by Frederick Ausfeld, Montgomery's most significant architect of "skyscrapers." Ausfeld was the architect of four of Montgomery's seven early twentieth century multistory commercial buildings. He is also recognized for being at the forefront of mechanical innovation in his building and is credited with installing Montgomery's first air-conditioning system, in the Empire Theatre.

Buildings he designed include the Jeff Davis Hotel (adjacent to the Shepherd Building), the Bell Building, the Tullis Hardware/Haverty Building, Lanier High School, Capitol Heights Junior High School, the Schloss and Kahn Warehouse Building, the Hobbie Grocery Company Building and the Durr Drug Company Building. All of the buildings in Montgomery known to have been designed by Ausfeld, which survive today, are already listed on the National Register except the Shepherd Building.

Criterion C - Architecture

The Shepherd Building's reinforced concrete frame and hollow brick tile construction, its tripartite design and "advanced" mechanical systems are characteristic of the Chicago School of Architecture which transformed cities around the world during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The Shepherd Building's construction is also exemplary of the "strictly fireproof" building techniques and materials that characterized Montgomery commercial construction during the 1920s.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Montgomery North

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	6	5	6	4	7	4	0	3	5	8	2	1	0	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state NA code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Marilyn Sullivan, Consultant, Point of Reference; and Tom Dolan, Architectural Historian

organization Alabama Historical Commission

date October 22, 1985

street & number 725 Monroe Street

telephone 205 261-3184

city or town Montgomery

state Alabama

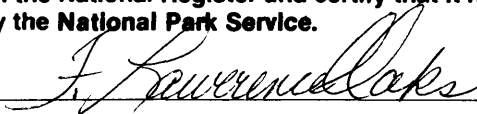
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

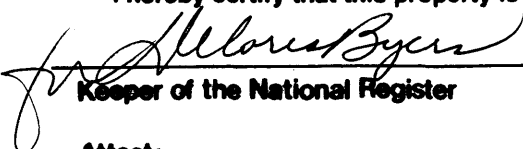


title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 4-22-86

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register



Entered in the
National Register

Keeper of the National Register

date 5/22/86

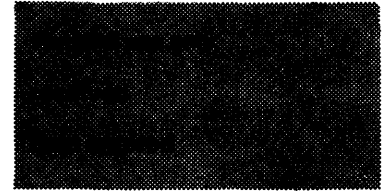
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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HISTORICAL SUMMARY

Saturday morning, November 18, 1922, the front page of the Montgomery Advertiser carried an announcement and architect's rendering of the Shepherd Building. To be built one block from Montgomery's premier, and perhaps finest, skyscraper of the Chicago School, the c. 1910 Bell Building, the Shepherd Building was also designed by Frederick Ausfeld.

Less than ten months after construction began, a special section in the same publication announced the opening of the Shepherd Building, already at seventy-five percent occupancy.

Provocation for the construction of the new building was attributed to the W. L. Shepherd Lumber Company's need for more office space and, according to the paper, "to relieve the congested situation in the way of offices for business and professional men occasioned by the fast-growing industries of Montgomery."

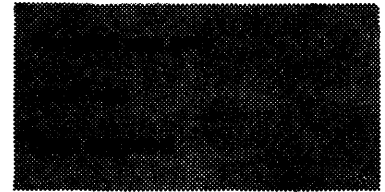
Characteristic of the 1920s, the newspaper's announcement and description emphasized strongly the mechanical wonders of the Shepherd Building. The two "speedy" elevators, the "Otis-type," thankfully sacrificed nothing in the way of safety to achieve their speed and unlike any others in town, had floor indicator gauges for the reassurance of waiting passengers. Furthermore, the elevators did not have to be abandoned during thunderstorms, thanks to electrical innovations.

Indeed, the whole building was electrically up-to-date. An Alabama Power Company transformer in the basement serviced the Shepherd Building only. Each office was fitted out with Western Electric fixtures and "four convenience outlets." A "circulating ice water system" which guarantees a cool refreshing drink of water which has not become "stagnant" also serviced the building. There were fountains in the corridors of each floor.

Erected by Montgomery's noted Hugger Brothers Construction Company, the Shepherd Building, of which E. S. Hugger was an officer and stockholder, was constructed with a reinforced concrete frame and hollow brick tile walls, "strictly fireproof." It was flexibly partitioned within so that each floor could be "thrown together en suite" for one tenant or divided for many tenants.

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Walter L. Shepherd, President and chief shareholder of the building, began his career with the W. T. Smith Lumber Company of Chapman, Alabama. In 1915 he began his own business which apparently prospered since it occupied a whole floor in the new building by 1923.

Montgomery's skyline was significantly altered by Ausfeld's influence on Montgomery Street. Also a stockholder in the Shepherd Building, Ausfeld later joined Shepherd in the construction of the adjacent Jeff Davis Hotel. Ausfeld, who also designed the Hobbie Grocery Company Building, the Tullis Hardware/Haverty Building, the Durr Drug Company Building, Lanier High School and numerous other schools as well as jails, moved his office from the Bell Building to the Shepherd Building at its opening and practiced there until his death in 1930.

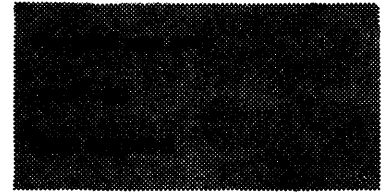
Witness to the growth of the business community and the increased interest in the Montgomery Street area, is also the fact that another Shepherd Building stockholder, Hartwell Douglass, lobbied to have the new Federal Post Office built on Molton Street next to the Shepherd Building. Correspondence, c. 1930, reveals that Douglass assembled and offered a parcel of land to the government for that purpose. The post office was not to be at that location, however. Indeed, commercial growth along Montgomery Street virtually ended in the early 1930s for several reasons. Shepherd, Ausfeld and Douglass all died in the early thirties. Hugger suffered bankruptcy during the Depression and, of course, the whole economy suffered from the Depression.

Another factor which also affected the area's growth was the destructive fire in 1927 which demolished a considerable portion of Montgomery's existent commercial district along Commerce Street. The opportunity for new construction in that prime location no doubt lessened the desirability of a Montgomery Street location. And when postwar prosperity reached Montgomery, attention began to turn away from downtown altogether.

The original stockholders sold the Shepherd Building in 1954 to the Guaranty Savings Life Insurance Company. The new owners embarked on a renovation that almost completely obscured the Shepherd Building's original interior. But in no way could they alter the lasting legacy of Ausfeld's skyline.

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Hartwell Douglass Papers, Manuscripts Division, Archives and History Department.

Montgomery Advertiser, November 18, 1922, p. 1.

Montgomery Advertiser, September 23, 1923, Shepherd Section, pp. 1-4.

Montgomery Advertiser, March 15 and 16, 1930.

Montgomery Advertiser, August 8, 1936.

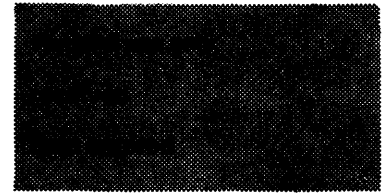
Montgomery Advertiser, December 5, 1954.

Montgomery City Directories 1900-1931.

Point of Reference Files: Montgomery Architects and Builders, Tullis Hardware/
Haverty, 603 Martha Street and Commerce Street.

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Beginning at the Northwesterly corner of the intersection of Molton Street and Montgomery Street; thence running Northwesterly along the Westerly side of Molton Street a distance of 54.5 feet; thence Southwesterly along a line, more or less, parallel to the Northerly side of Montgomery Street, a distance of 151.0 feet to a point on the Jefferson Davis Hotel property; thence Southeasterly along the Jefferson Davis Hotel property a distance of 54.3 feet to a point on Montgomery Street; thence Northeasterly along Montgomery Street a distance of 150.8 feet to the point of beginning. Said property being a part of Lot 5 in Block 11 of that portion of the city of Montgomery, Alabama, formerly known as "East Alabama."