Monroe Str.

_ private residence

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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

Name 1.

city, town Montgomery NA_vicinity of congressional district 2 state Alabama code 01 county Montgomery code 10 3. Classification Category Ownership Status Present Use	and/or common	Court Square-Dexter	Avenue Historic Di	istrict	
street & number East side of Court Square NA_not for publication city, town Montgomery NA_vicinity of state Alabama code 01 county Montgomery code 10: State Alabama code 01 county Montgomery code 10: State Alabama code 01 county Montgomery code 10: Category Ownership Status Present Use X district Montgomery code 10: Main to for publication Status Present Use X district Montgomery code Montgomery code 10: Main to for publication Status Present Use X otoccupied </th <th>2. Loca</th> <th>ation a from</th> <th>alle peri</th> <th>ty. Courta</th> <th>ad monroe s.</th>	2. Loca	ation a from	alle peri	ty. Courta	ad monroe s.
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	<u>X</u> district building(s) structure site	public private both Public Acquisition in process being considered	_X_ occupied _X_ unoccupied _X_ work in progress Accessible _X_ yes: restricted yes: unrestricted	agriculture agriculture X commercial educational entertainment government industrial	park private residen religious scientific transportation
4. Owner of Property	4. Own	er of Proper	ty		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

city, town **Location of Legal Description** 5.

Montgomery County Courthouse courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.

street & number

142 Washington Avenue

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Representation in Existing Surveys 6.

city, to	own	Montgomery		state	Alaba	ma	
depos	itory for survey records	Alabama Historical Commission					
date	1970-present		federal	_X stat	e	county	local
title	Alabama Inventory	has this property	been deter	mined eli	gible?	ye	s <u>X</u> no

7. Description

Condition

Condition		Check one
excellent	deteriorated	unaltere
<u> X g</u> ood	ruins	<u>X</u> altered
fair	unexposed	

Check one _X_ original site __ moved date _

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

unaltered

The district includes 39 commercial buildings, an elaborate late 19th century cast-iron fountain, and an early 20th century street clock, all located in a three-block area at the junction of Dexter Avenue with Court Square. Originally listed as the Court Square Historic District (NRHP 3-1-82), the district included only those buildings which fronted onto the square, and the two corner buildings facing onto Dexter Avenue. The current nomination enlarges the district to include two adjacent structures on the south side of Dexter Avenue, the buildings fronting the north side of Dexter in the 100 and 200 blocks, and significant adjacent buildings in those two blocks.

Montgomery's Court Square is a small triangular space formed by the meeting of two grid patterns with different orientations. Dexter Avenue is the major thoroughfare of the eastern grid pattern. Buildings are two, three and four story, brick and masonry buildings in a large variety of 19th and early 20th century commercial styles. Most have had ground-floor alterations, and a number have had later modifications to the upper floors.

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Contributing Structures

- 1. Shinbaum's (35 Court Street Plaza): c. 1910, Commercial Brick, 3 story, brick, polychormatic brickwork, grouped triple windows, parapeted flat roof; first floor altered, 2nd and 3rd floor windows infilled.
- 3. Gerson Building (25 Court Street Plaza): c. 1910; Commercial Brick, 2 story, brick, grouped triple window flanked by single windows, metal cornice below low parapet; first floor altered, 2nd floor window sash removed.
- 8. Winter Building (2 Dexter): c. 1840s, Italianate; 3 story, brick, low hipped roof, bracketed eaves, recently rehabilitated (NRHP 1-14-72).
- 9. 14 Dexter Avenue, 1837 with c. 1890 facade, Late Victorain. In sharp contrast to its severe neighbors on either side, this three story cast iron facade is exuberant with decorative detail. The first floor has a modern brick covering with modern display windows and glass door. The brick directly above the entry is recessed in three, shallow, decorative panels.

The second and third floors are divided vertically by four, paneled, square shafts which intersect the cornice and roofline with large scale bracket-like terminations. Between these dividing shafts are three recessed planes each containing an array of windows and decorative elements. At the roofline spanning the two middle brackets is a semi-classical cornice.

The second floor has a large circular opening in the middle of the facade. In the center of this opening is a rectangular two-over-two sash window on either side of which are very small, square, stained glass panes. Flanking the center circular opening is a pair of sash windows with transoms. The top sash and transoms of these windows contain small stained glass panes matching those in the circular window. Between the second and third floors is a band of decorative elements including a series of three bas relief swags.

The third floor windows align with those on the second floor. The center bay has three one-over-one sash windows rather than the circular treatment directly below. Flanking the center section of the facade are a pair of sash windows with small, stained, glass panes in the upper sash and a single light in the lower sash. In the cast iron lintel and frieze above each of these windows are low relief geometric designs.

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- Klein and Son (1 Dexter): 1856; Italian Renaissance Revival; 3 story, cast iron trim, designed by Stephen Decatur Button; street level altered to accommodate display windows.
- 12. Maner Building (18 North Court Street): 1866; Second Empire. 3 1/2 story, brick, mansard roof with dormers, cast iron window hood molds, bracketed cornice with dentils below mansard; first floor atlered.
- 13. Montgomery Fair Building (24 North Court Street): 1907, with 1949 annex and ground floor updating; strong Chicago influences, 4 story, glazed white brick with blue tile designs, four ornated sculptured heads; blue carrera glass ground floor updating matches blue of tiles.
- 14. Bible Society Building, 11-19 Dexter Avenue, c. 1930 facade applied to c. 1890 three party structure. This three story, tan-yellow brick building has a recently renovated triple entry with large, single pane, glass display windows surrounded by aluminum framing and new red brick veneer. Above the first floor is a band of ashlar topped with a simple molding which stretches across the entire width of the facade.

The second and third floors give the illusion of a tripartite facade with a slightly projecting center block with flanking recessed surfaces. The dominating central portion of the facade has three, three-over-three, vertical pane windows on each floor. The reveals of all of these windows are corbeled creating a rolled rather than a square appearance. The flanking ends of the building each have two windows at the second and third floor levels. These windows and their surrounds match those in the center of the facade.

At the roofline, the center portion of the facade rises slightly higher than the flankers creating a broken parapet with a rusticated ashlar cap.

15. 25 Dexter Avenue, prior to 1859, facade C. 1900, Victorian/Neoclassical. The cast iron facade of this three story, brick building is transitional between the late Victorian and the Neoclassical periods. The proportions and general form are Victorian but much of the detail is Neoclassical. The first floor is basically modern with a central glass entry flanked by single pane, display windows. At both outside corners of the windows are cast iron shafts connected to the iron facade above.

A panel above the first floor is heavily decorated with a central cartouche, low relief swags and corner quadrants with garlands and tendrils. Rising from this panel to the top of the third floor windows are corinthian pilasters on either corner of the building. Between these

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pilasters are the second and third floor windows. The four windows on each floor are separated with two four-over-six sash windows in the center and a single six-over-nine window on either side. Between each of the second and third floor windows are panels with low relief swags.

- 16. 35 Dexter Avenue, date unknown, Art Deco. The first floor of this three story, brick building has modern storefront windows and entrance. The facade above the first floor is covered with square marble tiles. These tiles are stepped along the vertical length of both corners of the building, creating an Art Deco zigzag effect. Centered directly over the entrance is a large nine pane, rectangular window.
- 17. Kress Building, 39 Dexter Avenue, 1929, Neoclassical. This three story, ashlar building is a very fine example of the Neoclassical style. It is relatively unaltered both inside and out retaining most of its classical design elements. The first floor has retained most of its original display windows but the double entry doors have been replaced.

The massive facade above the first floor has two, in antis, baseless, fluted Doric columns. Recessed behind these columns are three rows of large windows with metal frames. The middle row of windows has stained glass panes while the top and bottom bands have translucent glass. Above the columns is a Doric polychromed entablature complete with triglyphs, metopes and guttae with palmette carving in the cyma recta molding at the top of the cornice. Rising above the entablature is an ashlar parapet with rectilinear, inset, decorative panels on either side of the word, Kress, spelled out in painted metal letters. The parapet is capped with a corbeled stone molding and a painted scroll and palmette finial.

The interior walls are completely intact featuring fluted pilasters with stylized capitals. The ornate, coffered ceiling has cast iron girders with bas relief ornamentation and dentil work. Between these girders are what appear to be pressed metal or possibly plaster ceiling surfaces with richly fluted and scrolled borders.

19. 55 Dexter Avenue, c. 1930, Modernistic. The lower floor of this two story facade has been heavily renovated with deeply recessed entry and very recent display windows. The upper portion of the building, however, is ashlar and is quite well preserved. The large central tripartite window has original metal framing and glazing. Separating the three window sections are fluted stone, vertical shafts surmounted by a wide stone lintel with rich, low relief foliation suggestive of Sullivanesque ornamentation. The lower portion of each sidelight window is covered with an ornate metal grill.

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The false, gable roofline has inset corner blocks with low relief scroll decoration.

22. H. L. Green, Co. Building, 71-73 Dexter Avenue, 1933-34, Art Deco. 71-73 Dexter Avenue is a good example of a typical Art Deco commercial facade. The lower floor has modern, double, glass doors with original wooden framing and modern display windows mounted on polished granite faced bases. Separating the three vertical, ashlar surfaces of the upper facade are four polished, dark brown granite pilasters.

Each ashlar surface is ornamented at the third floor level with low relief, zigzag motifs in recessed, rectangular panels. Threee, second floor windows directly below the decorative panels have metal frames and modern, tinted glass.

23. Old Cobb's Department Store, 101-103 Dexter Avenue, 1914. Located on the corner of Dexter and North Perry Street this early twentieth century, four story, tan brick structure has been covered on the first floor with stucco obscuring original window and door openings. The southwest corner entry is altered with large plate glass windows. Between the first and second floors is a series of string courses creating a band decorated with a series of green ceramic tiles arranged in diamond patterns.

The second and third floors have a rythmical series of recessed, vertical, rectangular planes. At the base of each recess is a second story window and at the top is a third floor window capped by a segmental arc with a narrow, tripartite transom. All of the rectangular windows are tripartite with three-over-three sash in the center and glass block infill on both sides. Between each second and third floor window is a diamond shaped pattern of green ceramic tile.

Separating the third and fourth floors is another band with green, ceramic tile, diamond patterns identical to those on the lower floors. The windows on the fourth floor match those on the second. Between each window is a recessed panel. Above the fourth floor is a classical cornice with modillions and rising above the cornice is a low parapet.

25. Old Montgomery Light and Power Building, 121-123 Dexter Avenue, 1905, Late Victorian. This massive three story yellow-orange brick facade is a transitional building between the late Victorian and the Neoclassical styles. The ground floor, modern glass front and entry is flanked on either side by narrow, rusticated brick, wall surfaces. Stucco infill over the entry and windows may conceal original transoms or decorative

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elements. Extending across the facade between the first and second floors is a metal cornice with modillions.

The five, second floor windows have neoclassical ashlar lintels with projecting center keystones. Along both vertical edges of each window is decorative, corbeled brick quoining. The original sash has been replaced with single panes of modern glass.

The third floor has a large central, rectangular, stucco panel bordered on three sides by an ashlar molding. At the base of the panel is an ashlar sill with dentils. On either side of the panel is a window with an ashlar sill and bracketed metal hood. The original sash has been replaced with a single sheet of glass.

The roofline is broken in the middle with brick piers on either side projecting above the lower central portion. Between the piers is a narrow pent roof beneath which is a very heavy, overscaled metal cornice complete with modillions and massive brackets at either end. Beneath the cornice between the brackets is a running, corbeled arcade.

26. 135 Dexter Avenue, 1898. This very fine c. 1950 facade covers a turn of the century three story structure. The first floor has a modern central, recessed, glass door with transom. Flanking the doorway are modern showcase windows with aluminum framing.

A string course separates the first floor from the floors above. The center of the upper facade is recessed creating a narrow vertical panel which extends through the roofline. In the center of this panel, on both the second and third floor levels, are modern, square windows, each with a single pane of glass. The two projecting wall surfaces on either side of the center recessed panel are completely devoid of decoration. At the top of the facade are six string courses which extend across the entire width of the facade dividing the surface into a sort of giant, stylized entablature complete with architrave, frieze and cornice.

- 28. 110 Monroe Street, 1850, Italianate. This two story brick building has a modern corner entry and display windows surrounded by aluminum sheathing. The second floor windows are either covered with signs or infilled with glass block. Above these windows is a corbeled belt course with paired wooden brackets beneath the eaves. Projecting above the low hipped roof are the tops of two interior chimneys.
- 30. 110 Monroe Street, c. 1905. A two story, three bay brick structure with modernized first floor. Aluminum corrugated paneling surrounds the recent, angular

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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recessed doorway and windows. A wooden sign completely covers three windows on the second floor. A metal cornice with drip mold caps the flat roof.

33. Old Arlington Hotel Building, 22-26 North Perry Street, c. 1900, Late Victorian. This three story, brick facade is an excellent example of the eclecticism of the late Victorian genre. The lower floor has undergone renovation including new display windows and double entrances surrounded by stucco covered wall surfaces. The original, central entry has been sealed. A modern metal canopy spanning the entire facade is suspended over the current double entries. Above the canopy is the original central entrance cornice topped by a bullseye window with carved ashlar surround and bas relief foliation. On either side of this decorative treatment are plywood panels possibly concealing original transoms or decorative details.

Between the first and second floor is a narrow cornice with dentils. Rising from this cornice are four pilasters terminating in corinthian capitals above the third floor windows. Recessed between these pilasters are three bays with double second and third floor windows all of which are sealed with plywood. The second floor windows are rectilinear with stone lintels. The third floor windows are arched with imposts which have carved stone, corinthian capitals. The spandrels between the arches are decorated with stone cartouches and bas relief foliation.

- 34. 12-16 North Perry Street, 1914. Three of the four entries to this building have been altered with modern metal framing and glass display windows. The north end of the structure, however, has an original double door entry with beveled glass. The display windows at this end of the building are also original with wooden framing. Surrounding all four entries, the brick wall surfaces have been covered with variegated black and green carrara glass tiles. The tan-yellow brick facade above the ground floor has groups of three, four-over six, second floor windows above each of the entries below. An ashlar band running the full width of the facade forms a common sill for all four second floor windows. Between each of these windows is a small blind window complete with ashlar sill. A vertical brick course runs across the width of the facade and the tops of all windows creating a common lintel. Above this course is a ploychromatic ashlar band with a diamond pattern from which rises a low parapet with a stone cap.
- 35. Old Montgomery Theatre, 39 North Perry Street, 1859-60. Located on the corner of North Perry and Monroe Streets this three story, brick building exhibits two facades. The lower floor has modern display windows

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surrounded by aluminum sheathing. A simple cast iron cornice above the first floor separates it from the sandblasted brick facade above.

The six-over-six, segmentally arched windows on the second and third floors have ornate cast iron hoods and simple iron sills. Directly above the main floor entry on the North Perry Street facade is a recessed panel with a single second and third floor window. Flanking either side of this central fenestration is a pair of larger recessed panels each having three second and three third floor windows. The Monroe Street facade has five narrow recessed panels each with a single second and third floor window.

At the low hipped roofline is a running, corbeled arcade which gives a bracket-like effect to the shallow eave above.

- 36 & 37. 58-64 Monroe Street, prior 1884. These two, very similar buildings have been joined by a partial alley infill between them. The first floors of both buildings have modern recessed display windows and entries with metal panels above possibly hiding early transoms. Both buildings are two story, three bay structures whose segmental arched second floor windows have been renovated with single pane tinted glass. Above these windows are brick string courses and corbeled dentil work.
 - 38. 52 Monroe Street, prior 1884. This two story, three bay brick storefront has partial, original window framing with modern glass. The entry has been recessed from the sidewalk but the original double leaf doors and framing may have been reused.

The second floor has three, four-over-four sahs windows with stone lintels. Above each of these windows is a rectangular ventilator opening with a cast iron grill cover. Spanning the top of the facade is a corbeled brick cornice with dentils.

39. 38-40 Monroe Street, prior 1884. This is a good example of a typical, late nineteenth century, small, three bay, two story brick storefront. The first floor is covered with stucco with a modern multipaned window and new six panel door.

The second floor has three, four-over-four, segmentally arched windows with projecting brick hoods. Above each of these windows is a circular attic ventilator opening with recessed cast iron grills. Across the top of the facade is a corbeled brick cornice with dentils.

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- 40. Court Square Fountain (Court Square): mid 1880s; cast-iron fountain attributed to the J. L. Mott Iron Works of New York.
- 41. Klein's Clock (Sidewalk to the SW of Klein's): 20th c. cast-iron street Clock, Seth Thomas.

Conditionally contributing:

- 2. Rosen Jewelry (29-31 Court Street Plaza): two antebellum, 2-story brick buildings with low gable roofs, end-wall parapets and old brick in rear. One contains original interior with Federal mantels and wide pine flooring. New brick facade may be removable.
- 4. City Pawn Shop (23 Court Street Plaza): c. 1905; 2 story, brick with central palladian window flanked by single windows with exaggerated flat arches; ground floor altered, upper floor covered with corregated metal facade. Metal facade is removable without damage to front.
- 5. Old Nathan Rosen Jewelry (21 Court Street Plaza): c. 1890; 2 story, alley infill.
- 6. U. S. Army Recuiting/House of Eyeglasses (15-19 Court Street Plaza): prior to 1866 with 1970s corregated metal and brick facades; 3 story, brick, gable roof. New facades may be removable.
- 7. Seawell Shoes (13 Court Street Plaza): c. 1851 with new stucco facade; 2 story, brick, hipped roof, facade parapet. Facade may be removable.
- 10. 18 Dexter Avenue, 1837. This three story brick structure was probably built at the same time as the building next door (14 Dexter Avenue). Hidden behind the modern facade is a gable roof with end wall chimneys. Old brick is visible on each side and rear wall.

The first floor facade has been modernized with aluminum window and door framing with sheet glass and a recessed doorway. The two story, rectangular, stucco facade on the upper floors rises above the gable roof directly behind it. The stucco is progressively recessed toward the center of the facade in four, distinct, rectangular planes. In the innermost plane, in the center of the facade, is a modern metal framed window at both the second and third floor levels.

18. 51 Dexter Avenue, c. 1930. The upper facade of this two story building is covered with rectilinear marble tile surrounded on all four sides with a relatively narrow, metal frame which is slightly extruded from the

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surface. The lower facade has modern display glazing and recessed entrance surrounded by sheet metal paneling.

20 & 21. Old Concert Hall, 61-67 Dexter Avenue, 1851. The double facade hides a former Greek Revival, three story brick building with a low hipped roof. The original building may have had seven bays. Still visible between the two current facades are a pair of second and third floor windows, now sealed. Also visible on the east end of the building, now occupied by Shoe Salon, are the tops of three more original windows, also sealed. The entablature at the roofline of the eastern portion of the facade is probably also original. The first floor of the Shoe Salon has been covered with ceramic tile which surrounds the modern windows and recessed central entry.

> The western end of the building has been stuccoed and scored in a Moderne motif with a stepped roofline with bas relief foliation and metal eagle ornamentation. The lower floor like its neighbor has a modern glass display case front with recessed entry.

- 24. 111 Dexter Avenue, between 1847 and 1856. This three story, early, brick structure is hidden behind a scored stucco facade. The ground floor is moderized with recessed plate glass showcases and entry. At the second floor level is a large rectangular brick panel broken by a doorway which may have formerly been an original window or doorway opening onto a balcony. Another similar door opening exists directly above it at the third floor level.
- 27. 141 Dexter Avenue, between 1846 and 1859. Behind the vertically banded corrugated metal facade is a three story, relatively early, brick structure. The first floor, like so many others, has been altered with a recessed, central entry with modern showcase windows on either side.
- 31. 42 North Perry Street, c. 1850. The entire facade of this mid-nineteenth century storefront has been renovataed with a solid glass and metal frame, lower floor with central entry. Above the ground floor is a metal canopy. The second story window fenestration is marked by metal louvers which probably hide the original window openings. The wall surface surrounding these windows is covered with rectangular panels of sheet metal.

Non-contributing structures:

29. 110 Monroe Street, two story brick infill, date unknown. This two bay, two story structure has a single, modern display window with evidence of

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a former entrance infilled with brick on the first floor. The entire structure has been joined to the building immediately to its east by means of an alley infill between the two buildings.

The second floor has two double windows one of which has six-over-six sash. The other window has been modified with modern glass and wood framing. A simple, double string course delineates the flat roofline.

32. 32 North Perry Street, c. 1965. This modern, two story brick building has three display windows and two entries on the first floor. A metal canopy spans the width of the facade above the first story.

The second floor has three rectangular windows each with a single pane of tinted glass. Between the tops of these windows and the flat roof, all of the bricks are laid vertically contrasting with horizontal brick work in the rest of the building.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—C	heck and justify below		
prehistoric	archeology-prehistoric	community planning conservation economics education engineering X_ exploration/settlement	Iandscape architectur Iaw Iterature Iterature Itary Italitary	re religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)

Specific dates c. 1837 - c. 1930 Builder/Architect unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

<u>Architecture: Criterion C</u>. The district is architecturally significant for its collection of excellent and representative examples of 19th and early 20th century commercial buildings. Included are the city's best examples of retail commercial buildings in styles ranging from Italianate to the Modernistic. Excellent examples of the use of cast-iron decorative features (#11) and pressed metal facades (#14) are located in the district. The district also contains a particularly fine late 19th century cast-iron fountain.

<u>Commerce/Exploration & Settlement: Criterion A.</u> The district is significant as the psychological and physical center of downtown Montgomery, a distinction it has had since the founding of the city in 1819. Court Square is a triangular-shaped space formed by the boundaries of the two rival communities which consolidated to form the city, and is strongly associated with the founding and early history of Montgomery. The site of the county courthouse from 1823-1854 and the major public watering hole, it served as a popular site for sales, auctions, and the exchange of news and gossip. On its perimeters, particularly in the first blocks of Dexter Avenue, were located the city's major retail and financial establishments, including the most prestigious local department store and the national retail chain stores.

<u>Art-Sculpture, Criterion C</u>. The cast-iron fountain on Court Square in downtown Montgomery is the largest and most impressive of only three surviving, turn-of-the century, urban fountains in the United States. It is a superb example of mass produced iron industrial art which was extremely popular during that period. The Court Square Fountain, like its existing counterparts in Memphis, Tennessee and Savannah, Georgia, is of a very large scale and high artistic quality. An impressive urban fountain with this degree of artistic elaboration seems to have been especially popular in the South due in part perhaps to the extended season of warm weather allowing a prolonged public enjoyment of such an outdoor decorative feature.

<u>Integrity</u>: The Court Square Fountain suffered heavy damage caused by ice during an unprecedented cold period in December and January of 1983-84. As a result, the entire fountain had to be completely restored. Certain parts of the original fountain including decorative elements (foliage, sculptural faces, etc.) and the central support between the first and second tiers of the fountain were reused. The remainder of the fountain, however, had to be recast by the Robinson Iron Foundry. Great care was exercised in the recasting of the new elements using the original parts to create sand molds to be used in the formation of replacement pieces. The original iron was analyzed to duplicate the exact same type of iron in the renovated fountain.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10.	Geograp	hical Data		
	of nominated proper gle name <u>Montgome</u> erences			Quadrangle scale <u>1:24000</u>
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Gerson Family Folder

Montgomery Business Files - Department Stores

Montgomery City Directories - 1859-present

