

15. W. L. HALSEY WAREHOUSE  
300 North Jefferson Street

W. L. Halsey Grocery Company, Inc.  
W. L. Halsey, Jr.  
P. O. Box 22  
Huntsville, Alabama 35804

Lot 2b, Block 302, Old Town; 50' (Jefferson) X 140' (Halsey)  
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1904: Architect unknown; William Myers, Huntsville, contractor

#### DESCRIPTION

The Halsey building was erected in late 1904 as a two-story, brick warehouse measuring 50 feet wide and 135 feet deep. The street level is nearly all glass, a design made possible by the introduction of five slender cast iron columns between the brick corner piers. Each bay is composed of a large pane of plate glass and topped by two smaller ones, all supported on a base of diagonal woodwork. Double glass doors fill one bay. A metal awning partially obscures the design but appears to be original. The second floor has six double-hung windows under segmental brick arches. The wall above the windows is set forward to produce a wavy line across the top of the window arches. A pressed metal cornice of alternating triangular brackets and sunburst patterns terminates the facade; an additional metal panel above the middle of the cornice reads, "W. L. Halsey - 1904."

#### SIGNIFICANCE

This is one of the finest commercial buildings in Huntsville with its subtle combination of cast iron, brick and metal cornice. It is one of only two remaining buildings in the downtown to retain its cast iron elements intact and to utilize them so as to achieve an all glass facade on the street level. The cast iron was manufactured locally by Huntsville Foundry and Machine Works. A brick addition to the north side of the structure has not affected the design of the original facade. The building was erected by the wholesale grocer, W. L. Halsey, and remains in the family.

