

(Downtown

Huntsville Multiple Resource Nomination)

105 N. Washington Street
Huntsville, Madison County

Stanford Johnson

Huntsville, Alabama

Verbal Boundary Description: South 23' of Block 21, and North 21' of Lot 1, Block 29, North 81' 7" of Block 21, Washington Street

1931

Unknown

UTM: 16 / 537960 / 3843150

Description: This is a two-story, 5-bay brick facade with wide terra-cotta frieze and cornice and terra-cotta window surrounds. Brick soldier-course decorative panels are above the storefront level. Steel casement sashes appear in an early 1930's photograph and appear to be original (the building was constructed in 1931 after a fire destroyed the earlier structure on the site). The upper facade is apparently in its original condition.

The street-level storefront is circa 1975 and consists of inappropriate brick, painted panels, and small wooden-frame doors and windows. (The storefront is proposed to be restored per the 1930's photograph in 1983-4.)

An examination of the interior shows clearly that it was built new, rather than remodeled from the earlier burned structure on the site as had previously been thought. Only the north party-wall shows sooty brick, and sooty wallpaper over plaster, from the 1925 fire. The south brick party wall, the roof structure, trusses, and second-floor structure show no evidence of soot or of interior finishes. The second floor was never finished out after the 1931 construction date and was used only for storage. A few rooms were added in the back part later.

Significance: The structure at 105 N. Washington is an excellent example of early small-town 20th century commercial architecture with Art-Deco detailing in the light tan terra-cotta and a faint French Renaissance flavor.

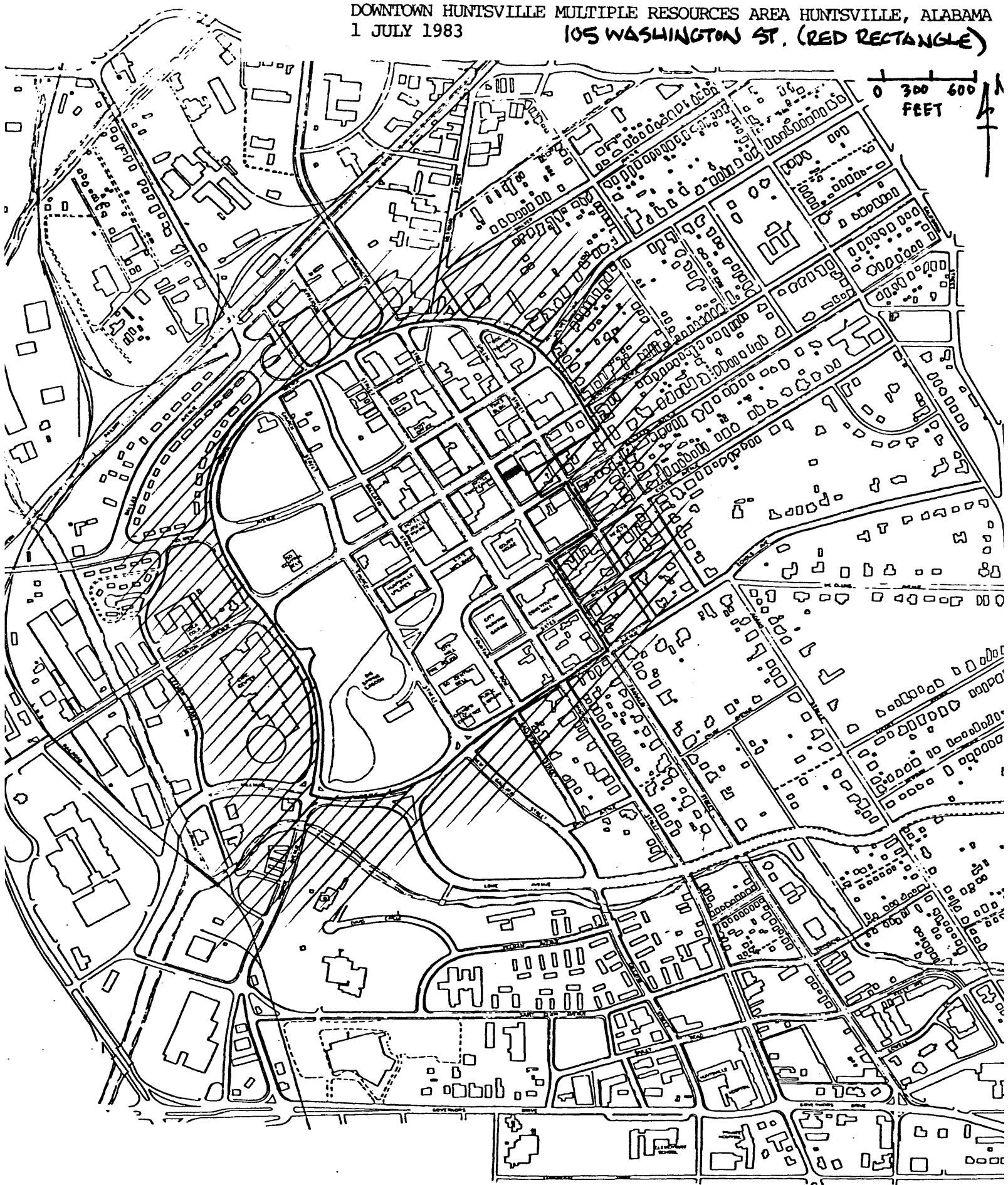
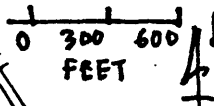
The large frieze and cornice have a distinct Art-Deco design, having two types of geometric chains, one at the cornice and one at the bedmold of the frieze. The cornice "chain" consists of large interlocking circular moulds. The bedmold chain is alternating small diamonds and rectangles. The frieze pattern is tall, narrow, closely-spaced flutes with hemispherical tops and bottoms. The terra-cotta window surrounds have large floral corner-blocks connecting bands of Art-Deco geometric stretchers, each stretcher having two "X" designs separated by a central space.

The faint French-Renaissance influence is seen in the facade's basic arrangement and scale, its use of casement windows with transoms and surrounds, its wide frieze and cornice and its low relief of surfaces. The main walls of the 1771 Hotel des Monnais in Paris illustrates this design idea.



LOWER FACADG REHABILITATION
SKETCH BASED ON 1930'S PHOTO
105 N. WASHINGTON STREET
HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA
JONES & HERRIN, ARCHITECTS, A.I
28 JUNE 1983
DRAWING NO. 1

DOWNTOWN HUNTSVILLE MULTIPLE RESOURCES AREA HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA
1 JULY 1983
105 WASHINGTON ST. (RED RECTANGLE)



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

PROPERTY Building at 105 N. Washington Street
NAME:

MULTIPLE Downtown Huntsville MRA
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ALABAMA, Madison

DATE RECEIVED: 2/07/06 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/23/06
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 84000653

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

___ ACCEPT ___ RETURN ___ REJECT ___ DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

~~CONFIDENTIAL - REVIEW ONLY~~

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept
REVIEWER Edson Beall DISCIPLINE History
TELEPHONE _____ DATE 3-20-06

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 2, 7 Page 1 name of property: Building at 105 N Washington Street
county and State Madison County, AL

The address for the building listed as "Building at 105 N. Washington Street" (Downtown Huntsville MRA) should be 105 S. Washington Street. The north/south dividing street in Huntsville is Clinton Avenue. The address was corrected in the Alabama Historical Commission's files but never forwarded to NPS.