Form No. 10-300 REV. (9/77)

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### NATIONAL PARK SERVICE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE

RECE	IVEQ	JAN	9 1	197 <b>9</b>
DATE	ENTER	RED		JA

JAN 3 1 1979

#### SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1	N	A	<b>M</b> ]
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E Steiner-Lobman and Teague Hardware Buildings

HISTORIC

Steiner-Lobman/Teague Hardware Building

## **LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER					
184 and 172 Commerce S	Street				
CITY, TOWN	CITY, TOWN		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT		
Montgomery	VICINITY OF	2			
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE		
Alabama	01	Montgomery	101		

# CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESI	ENTUSE
DISTRICT	PUBLIC	OCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
BUILDING(S)				PARK
STRUCTURE	вотн	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RESIDENCE
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	YES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	_INDUSTRIAL	TRANSPORTATION

\_\_NO

# **OWNER OF PROPERTY**

	•			
	NAME	~	/	
	184 Commerce Properties, a p	artnership (184)	James Loeb (172)	
	STREET & NUMBER			
	<u>Box 270 36101</u>		110 Church Street	36104
	CITY, TOWN		STATE	
·	Montgomery	VICINITY OF	Alabama	
	LOCATION OF LEGAL D	E <b>SCRIPT</b> ION		
_	COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Montgomery C	ounty Courthouse, P	robate Office	
	STREET & NUMBER			
	142 Washington Avenue			
	CITY, TOWN		STATE	
	Montgomery		Alabama	
6	<b>REPRESENTATION IN E</b>	XISTING SURVE	YS	
	ΤΪΤLE			
	DATE			
		FEDE	RALSTATECOUNTYLOCA	AL
	DEPOSITORY FOR			
	SURVEY RECORDS			

CITY, TOWN

STATE

\_\_\_MILITARY

\_\_\_OTHER:

# 7' DESCRIPTION

CC	NDITION	CHECK ONE	CHECK (	DNE
excellent good _Xfair	DETERIORATED RUINS UNEXPOSED	UNALTERED _XALTERED very slightly	_Xoriginal moved	SITE DATE

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Steiner-Lobman/Teague Hardware Building is a Victorian-Italianate, commercial block containing two stores sharing a common firewall. Located at the southeast corner of Commerce and Tallapoosa streets, it presents two elevations to the public with the Commerce Street facade being the main entrance. Of brick masonry construction with first floor cast iron treatment, it rises three stories above ground level, has a full basement, and originally measured 120' x 100'. The southern half, or Teague Building, was extended 10' into the rear alley in the 1960's; this half shares a common wall with an earlier adjacent structure. The building is the most noted of a two block row of superb late 19th century warehouses and commercial establishments, and its corner tower is the dominant feature of the district.

With the exception of roof ornament and some minor alterations, the Commerce Street elevations of the two stores are identical. The stores are gradiated in height, and a subtle rhythm is established by varying the width of the pilasters which define the single window bays. The ground floor retains most of the original treatment on both stores; each is divided into 6 bays by cast iron pilasters, and the separate stores are delineated by a slightly wider pilaster with deep, narrow panels which is repeated at the terminating corners of each store. The central pilaster of each store is wide, but lacks panels. Originally each bay consisted of a double door with lower paneled sections and a large, upper light topped with 10 smaller colored lights. A large, rectangular, single light transom is located above each door. The doors of the Steiner-Lobman Building are closed and the 4th door is recessed and replaced with a plywood substitute. On the Teague Building, the two central doors were converted to single pane windows above, but retain a portion of the lower paneled section.

The ground floor is separated from the upper floor by a full entablature with a modillioned cornice of sheet metal. The upper floors are sheathed in pressed metal embossed with restrained egg and dart, beed and reel, leaf and tongue, rope molding, rosettes and raised panels. Shallow paneled pilasters, which correspond with the brick piers of the masonry construction, divide each of the stores into 6 bays. The four outer pilasters of each store are continued through the heavy cornice as giant brackets and terminate above the cornice as finials. A second set of rhythms is established by alternating wide (2') with narrow (1'4") pilasters. The pilasters are broken at the story levels with rope molding; these sections are unpaneled and have small, centered rosettes. Windows of the second floor are square-headed; those of the third are flat with rounded corners. Both have rope molding and heavy metal hoods topped with small faces. The original 2/2 sashes of the Steiner-Lobman Building are intact beneath plywood panels, while those of the Teague Building have been replaced with 12-light stationary, metal frames. The Teague Building retains a suspended metal awning added in the past two decades, while the one on the Steiner-Lobman Building has been removed.

Both stores have central stepped parapets above the cornice and each is topped with a decorative sheet metal sculpture. The Teague Building supports an anvil, while the Steiner-Lobman Building had an 8' goddess, which will be returned in the proposed rehabilitation. The dominant feature of the building is a 15' corner tower on the northeast with a curved mansard roof supporting a metal casket believed to surround a water tower.

#### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM



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On the Tallapoosa Street elevation the two upper floors are similar to the facade; however, uniform-width pilasters divide the wall into 7 bays. Windows are grouped in the bays in 1-2-2-3-2-2-1 pattern with the central three windows being somewhat narrower than the outer windows. The ground floor is of solid masonry and is punctuated with narrow segmental arched windows grouped in the same pattern from the second to the fifth bay. A double paneled door occupies the first bay and a bricked-in door (probably single-leaf paneled) is centered beneath the 5th and 7th bays. The windows have eared trim, top and bottom, and the lower sashes were bricked in at an early date. A central stepped parapet, similar to those on the front, was removed some time after the late 1920's.

The Steiner-Lobman Building has a low hipped and gabled roof behind the cornice with the apex of the gable shaded from view by the central parapet. The roof of the Teague Building is a full gable. Both were originally standing metal seam. Interiors of both buildings have been partitioned, but were originally open and supported by a central row of cast iron columns on the first and second floors, and by a central row of brick piers flanked by two rows of timbers in the basement. The roofs are both supported by a full-span trusses. The central stair in the Steiner-Lobman Building has been altered and an elevator installed in the last 20 years. The alteration of the stairs has caused structural problems. The Teague Building retains its three flights of centrally located stairs with turned balusters. Interior conditions vary: the Steiner-Lobman Building is in exceptional condition, while the Teague Building has suffered some deterioration. Both buildings will be rehabilitated for office use.



PERIOD	AF	EAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW		
PREHISTOHIC 1400-1499 1500-1599 1600-1699 1700-1799 X1800-1899 1900-	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC AGRICULTURE Marchitecture ART COMMERCE COMMUNICATIONS	COMMUNITY PLANNING CONSERVATION ECONOMICS EDUCATION ENGINEERING EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT INDUSTRY INVENTION	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE LAW LITERATURE MILITARY MUSIC PHILOSOPHY POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	RELIGION SCIENCE SCULPTURE SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN THEATER TRANSPORTATION OTHER (SPECIFY)	
SPECIFIC DATES 1891 BUILDER/ARCHITECT					

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Steiner-Lobman/Teague Hardware Building is a superb, two-store commercial block. A richly ornamented structure with motifs freely adapted from Italian Renaissance palaces, it is one of the most important elements in an outstanding district of late 19th and early 20th century commercial buildings. Its fanciful corner tower is a dominant feature of the district. Completed in the midst of a boom which saw the expansion of Montgomery's role as a wholesaler to the surrounding counties, it demonstrates its builders' concern for the presentation of a magnificent image to their customers and the public in general. The exterior is surprisingly intact with only minor alterations and the loss of a few pieces of ornament.

Louis Steiner and Nathan Lobman operated a general store for 19 years in Pineapple, a small town south of Montgomery, before coming to the city in the late 1880's where they opened a wholesale drygoods firm in the Commerce Street wholesale district. Their success was evident when, in 1891, they started construction of an imposing masonry building to be ornamented with pressed metal sheathing. On March 15, 1891, the <u>Montgomery Daily Advertiser</u> enthusiastically stated: 'Work is progressing on the new dry goods emporium on the corner of Commerce and Tallapoosa streets, and there will soon be a beautiful storehouse there.'' On its completion, the Steiner-Lobman firm occupied the northern half. Although the building was clearly intended to house two separate businesses, the early tenant of the southern half is unknown. In 1895, that portion was sold to the Teague Hardware Company, organized in 1892 by William Martin Teague. Both firms are still in business and occupied their respective portions until the mid-1970's. Both buildings are slated for rehabilitation.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Montgomery Advertiser, Ma				
Montgomery Daily Advertis			tense ( <b>De e ensemble</b> )	Chieren C I
Owen, Thomas M. History Publishing Co., 1921		tionary of Alar	bama Biography.	Chicago: S.J.
Records of Conveyances, M		ourthouse. Off	ice of the Probat	te Judge: Book 27
Page 35; Book 37, Pa		our mouse, orr		to suage. Dook 1/
<b>10</b> GEOGRAPHICAL I			·····	
ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPER		_		
QUADRANGLE NAME MONTOO		ries	QUADRANGLE SCALE	1:24000
UTM REFERENCES			1 1 1 1	
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GL LI		нЦЦ		
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCR That part of Lot 10 in Sq		hama Dlat front	ting 1001 on East	r side of Commerce
Street and running back 1		bana i rat 110m		
LIST ALL STATES AND	COUNTIES FOR PROPERT	TES OVERLAPPING S	STATE OR COUNTY BOU	JNDARIES
STATE	CODE	COUNTY		CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY		CODE
<b>11</b> FORM PREPARED NAME / TITLE Ellen Mertins	<i>D</i> .			
ORGANIZATION			DATE Decembers 2	1070
Alabama Historical Con STREET & NUMBER	IERISSION		December 2	,0, 1978
725 Monroe Street			(205) 832-	-6621
CITY OR TOWN		······································	STATE	
Montgomery			Alabama	36130
<b>12 STATE HISTORIC</b>	PRESERVATIO	N OFFICER C	<b>ERTIFICATIO</b>	DN
THE EVAL	JATED SIGNIFICANCE OF	THIS PROPERTY WIT	THIN THE STATE IS:	
NATIONAL	STAT	те <u> </u>	LOCAL	
As the designated State Historic P hereby nominate this property for criteria and procedures set forth by STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OF	inclusion in the National A the National Park Service.	Register and certify th	7	
TITLE SHPO	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,		DATE 1	21, 1978
			- Alec	- 21,1978
FOR NPS USE ONLY I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS	PROPERTY IS INCLUDED	IN THE NATIONAL R	EGISTER	
	1 11			37.79
- Mapl	in alfan		DATE / · ·	
ATTEST KEEPER OF THE VATIONAL	REGISTER	-	DATE //	10/29
CILLE OF REGISTRATION	- V · WY			

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### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM



**CONTINUATION SHEET** 

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Tax Records, Montgomery County (Microfilm in possession of Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama), 1894.