

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JAN 3 1979
DATE ENTERED JAN 31 1979

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

1 NAME Steiner-Lobman and Teague Hardware Buildings
HISTORIC Steiner-Lobman/Teague Hardware Building
AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

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

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY OWNERSHIP STATUS PRESENT USE
 DISTRICT PUBLIC OCCUPIED AGRICULTURE MUSEUM
 BUILDING(S) PRIVATE UNOCCUPIED COMMERCIAL PARK
 STRUCTURE BOTH 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 MILITARY OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME 184 Commerce Properties, a partnership (184) James Loeb (172)
STREET & NUMBER Box 270 36101 110 Church Street 36104
CITY, TOWN Montgomery VICINITY OF Alabama

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Montgomery County Courthouse, Probate Office
STREET & NUMBER 142 Washington Avenue
CITY, TOWN Montgomery STATE Alabama

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
DATE
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
CITY, TOWN STATE
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

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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.

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/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

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 Montgomery Daily Advertiser 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, March 15, 1891.

Montgomery Daily Advertiser, March 15, 1891.

Owen, Thomas M. History of Alabama and Dictionary of Alabama Biography. Chicago: S. J. Publishing Co., 1921.

Records of Conveyances, Montgomery County Courthouse, Office of the Probate Judge: Book 27 Page 35; Book 37, Pages 53-54.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 100' x 130'

QUADRANGLE NAME Montgomery North 7.5' Series

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 564760 3582560

B

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

That part of Lot 10 in Square 7 of East Alabama Plat fronting 100' on East side of Commerce Street and running back 130'.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Ellen Mertins

ORGANIZATION

Alabama Historical Commission

STREET & NUMBER

725 Monroe Street

CITY OR TOWN

Montgomery

DATE

December 20, 1978

TELEPHONE

(205) 832-6621

STATE

Alabama 36130

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

Wils B. Hayward Jr.

TITLE SHPO

DATE Dec. 21, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: Charles Adams
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
Walter J. Smith
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 1-31-79

DATE 1/10/79

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