UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

RECEIVED JAN 3 1979

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INVENTUR	NUMINATION	FORM D	ATE ENTERED J	46 2 x 1912	
SEE	INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW T TYPE ALL ENTRIES (			S	
HISTORIC	Steiner-Lobmo		igue Hardware	Buildings	
AND/OR COMMON	an/Teague Hardware Bui	lding			
LOCATION					
	Commerce Street		NOT FOR PUBLICATION		
city, town Montgomery		VICINITY OF	CONGRESSIONAL DISTR	RICT	
state Alabama	graphic .	CODE 01	county Montgomery	CODE 101	
CLASSIFIC	CATION		radite gome 1 y	101	
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRES	PRESENT USE	
DISTRICT	PUBLIC	OCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM	
≟ZBUILDING(S)	<b>EPRIVATE</b>	ZUNOCCUPIED	<b>*</b> COMMERCIAL	PARK	
STRUCTURE	вотн	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RESIDENCE	
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS	
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	XYES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC	
	BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTEDNO	INDUSTRIAL MILITARY	TRANSPORTATIONOTHER:	
OWNER O	F PROPERTY	~	/	•	
184 Commerce	Properties, a partner	ship (184)	James Loeb (172)		
Box 270	36101		110 Church Street	36104	
Montgomery		VICINITY OF	Alabama		
LOCATION	N OF LEGAL DESCR	RIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS	,ETC. Montgomery County	Courthouse, Prob	ate Office		
STREET & NUMBER					
142 Washingt	on Avenue		STATE		
Montgomery		Alabama.			
1	TATION IN EXIST	ING SURVEYS			
TÎTLE		ind John His			
DATE		FEDERAI	STATECOUNTYLOCAL		
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS					
CITY, TOWN			STATE		



XFAIR

#### CONDITION

### CHECK ONE

**CHECK ONE** 

\_\_DETERIORATED \_\_EXCELLENT \_\_G00D

\_\_RUINS \_\_UNEXPOSED

\_\_UNALTERED XALTERED Very slightly XORIGINAL SITE \_\_MOVED 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.

### 8 SIGNIFICANCE

SPECIFIC DAT	1891	BUILDER/ARCHITECT			
_X1800-1899 1900-	COMMERCE COMMUNICATIONS	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT INDUSTRY INVENTION	PHILOSOPHY POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	TRANSPORTATIONOTHER (SPECIFY)	
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER	
1600-1699	_XARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SCOLPTORE	
1400-1499 1500-1599	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORICAGRICULTURE	CONSERVATION	LAW LITERATURE	SCIENCESCULPTURE	
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION	
PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				

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.

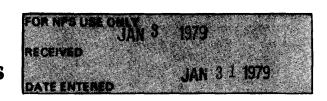
Louis Steiner and Nathan Lobman operated a general store for 19 years in Pineapple, a small town south of Montgomery, before coming to the city in the late 1880's where they opened a wholesale drygoods firm in the Commerce Street wholesale district. Their success was evident when, in 1891, they started 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: 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 1:24000UTM REFERENCES 3 5 8 2 5 6 0 Ah 6 | 1464760 NORTHING 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 COUNTY CODE STATE TIFORM PREPARED BY NAME / TITLE Ellen Mertins ORGANIZATION DATE December 20, 1978 Alabama Historical Commission STREET & NUMBER TELEPHONE 725 Monroe Street (205) 832-6621 CITY OR TOWN STATE 36130 Alabama Montgomery STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS: STATE ~ LOCAL \_\_\_\_ NATIONAL \_\_\_\_ 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 TITLE 3HP0 FOR NPS USE ONLY I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER ATTEST: DATE

Form No. 10-300a (Hev. 10-74)

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# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM



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