

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

AUG 21 1980

1. Name

historic Southall Drugs

and/or common Southall's

2. Location

street & number 201 North Court Street (N.W. corner Court & Mobile St.) not for publication

city, town Florence _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district 5

state Alabama code 01 county Lauderdale code 077

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Court Street Realty, Inc. (A closely held Alabama corporation in which
all stock holders are members of the Southall
family)

street & number 2005 Mt. Diablo Boulevard

city, town Walnut Creek _____ vicinity of _____ state California 94596

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Lauderdale County Courthouse

street & number South Court Street

city, town Florence _____ state Alabama

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Alabama Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1970-present _____ federal state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records Alabama Historical Commission

city, town Montgomery _____ state Alabama

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The building sits at the intersection of two of the major downtown streets and faces prominently onto both streets. It is surrounded by structures which appear to date from the late 1800s to recent times. A notable Art-Moderne department store faces this building from across the side-street.

This is a two-story brick building with a full basement which runs out of the ground at the rear due to the slope of the lot. The foundation is brick with a brick water-table which projects about 2" at the main floor level. Five courses of light-colored brick above the water-table give it emphasis. The exterior, bearing walls are of smooth, red-brown brick laid with red-brown tinted mortar in a running bond.

The first floor side wall has 8 segmental-arch windows, of which 5 are high, short windows near the front to clear the wall display shelves. The original storefront is removed, but an early 20th-century photograph shows cavas awnings, above the location of the present windows, which are treated with mid-20th century turquoise opaque glass and aluminum column covers, sash members and corner doors. The original storefront was probably in much the same position and general configuration as the present modern opening.

First floor windows are removed and openings stopped-up with concrete blocks. Second floor windows are removed and boarded-up, but some original wooden 2/2 sashes are stored inside the second floor space. The second floor elevation has a strong band of rectangular brick pilasters (with 9 round-arched 2/2 windows intersperesed) which wraps around the corner. The bottoms of the pilasters rest on limestone plinths about 12" high. The pilaster capitals are stamped galvanized metal in a Corinthian design. The pilaster caps "support" a stepped out brick parapet which is supported by corbelled brick crenellated brackets 8" wide and spaced 8" apart. Missing are two heavy stamped metal cornices which were just below and just above the pilasters. The windows are spaced in every bay at the front and the corner entry, and in alternate bays along the side. The brick parapet rises approximately 7' at the rounded corner in a somewhat Baroque curvilinear shape. The parapet appears to be capped with limestone, some of which has deteriorated. It conceals a built-up asphalt and felt roof which slopes to the rear and drains into a large galvanized gutter, leader head and downspout.

The rear wall of the building is in common bond. The second floor has 4 round arched 2/2 windows and the main floor has 4 segmental arched windows. The basement (above ground at this face) has 2 sets of double doors and 2 short windows capped with segmental arches.

The water table is absent at the rear wall. All window sills are limestone and all arches are brick. The arches at the front and side are emphasized with a string of colored bricks. An open stair well descends along the side of the building to the basement. A pipe-rail with ball post-tops and spike top-rail guards the stair well.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 1

Interior: Heavy wood columns spaced approximately 11' 4" support a center longitudinal wood beam. Lateral floor joists bear on brick perimeter walls and the center wood beam. The second floor is said to be - and appears to be - in original condition. The 15' high ceiling is double-beaded 1 x 6 wood in a dark paint. The center beam is cased with smooth boards, and a heavy moulded wood crown and frieze (about 12" high) wraps around the entire room and the center beam. Walls are plaster over brick and plaster on wood lath and studs at partitions. Floors are pine, approximately 3 3/4" wide. Doors and sashes are trimmed with irregularly-fluted members. Corner-blocks are capped with a 3-pointed wood "crown" shape, or variant of the fluer-de-lis. A wood stair rail with closely-spaced turned balusters is at the rear wall. The newels have carved foliated tops in a rounded, pyramidal shape. The plaster of two front rooms contains a frieze of stenciled paint in a pattern of torches in a laurel wreath connected by swags to each other and to small intermediate torches.

The second floor consists of two front rooms about 15 feet square with the remainder of the space in one large stock room. The front rooms are said to have been living quarters for the off-hours pharmacist. Baseboards are approximately 16" high in a combination of heavy and light moulded shapes. All second floor trim is dark paint. Floors are unfinished wood. The wood doors have large transoms above them and are divided into six panels - two horizontal and four vertical. They retain what appears to be original hardware.

At the main floor, all visible materials are mid-20th century. Floors are composition tile, ceilings are suspended wood-fiber tile and lights are exposed fluorescent strips. A mezzanine (now enclosed) is at the rear of the main floor. Its stair has a heavy decorative rail of a different and cruder design than the second story rail. The mezzanine wood floor is the same as the second floor. The basement is mostly unfinished with exposed wood joist and beams above and a concrete floor. A small finished space exists by the outside stair.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1900 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Southall Building is representative of late 19th-century Commercial Italianate architecture as it was conceived in the smaller Alabama cities. Constructed to house the wholesale and retail drug business of Charles M. Southall in 1900, it was built of the finest available materials. Its distinctive appearance, its continuous use as a drugstore and its single-family ownership have made it a noted downtown landmark. A proposed restoration is viewed by local planners as a catalyst for downtown rehabilitation.

By virtue of its corner site on the main business street, the Southall Building has a very strong visual impact which is enhanced by the continuous curved band of second-floor pilasters and arched windows which wraps around the full length of both street facades. The curved corner is emphasized by a somewhat Baroque projection of the brick parapet, giving the same emphasis that a corner tower would have. In spite of the loss of the heavy metal cornices, the building maintains a strong sense of period and a very strong "presence" on the street.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Jones, Harvie: Visual Inspection 5-15-79, filed at Alabama Historical Commission "C. M. Southall." Trotwood's Magazine, Nashville, 1906 (undated clipping in possession of owner).

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED
 Quadrangle scale 1:24000

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1 (34.5' x 156.7')
 Quadrangle name Florence

UMT References

A	<u>16</u>	<u>438100</u>	<u>3851000</u>	B					
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing		
C				D					
E				F					
G				H					

Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ellen Mertins/Harvie Jones
 organization Alabama Historical Commission date February 22, 1980
 street & number 725 Monroe Street telephone 832-6621
 city or town Montgomery state Alabama

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Phil B. Howard, Jr.

title SHPO Alabama date February 22, 1980

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>W. Ray Juice</u>	date <u>8/21/80</u>
Keeper of the National Register	date <u>8/18/80</u>
Attest: <u>[Signature]</u>	date <u>4/24/80</u>
Chief of Registration	

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

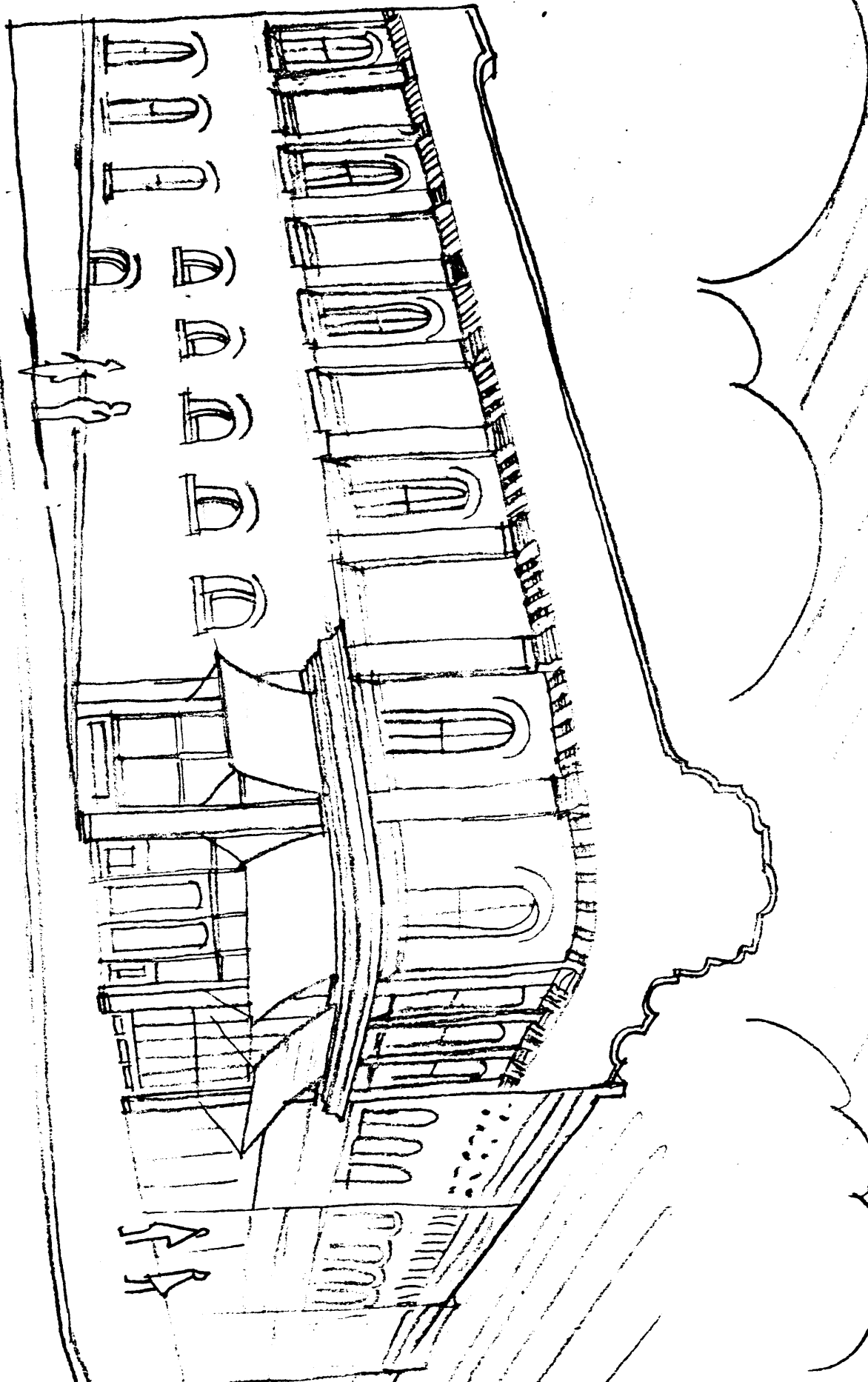
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

Legal description of Court Street Realty, Inc. property located at 201 North Court Street, Florence, Alabama:

"Part of original Lot 54 of Cypress Land Company Map and Survey of the City Florence, Alabama, together with the abutting strip of land donated to the abutting property owners in the narrowing of Mobile Street, more particularly described as beginning at the intersection of the present northwardly line of Mobile Street with the westerly line of Court Street, thence northwardly with the westerly line of Court Street 34.5 feet to the center of a common wall at the southeast corner of Ella Perry Dabney estate tract, thence at right angles westwardly and along the center line of said wall 156.75 feet to the eastwardly line of an alley, thence at right angles southwardly along the westerly line of said alley 34.5 feet to the present northwardly line of Mobile Street, thence at right angles eastwardly along said street line 156.75 feet more or less to the point of beginning, together with the right and privileges and subject to the party wall agreement along the northwardly line thereof."



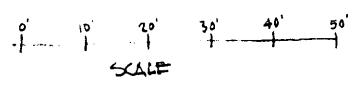
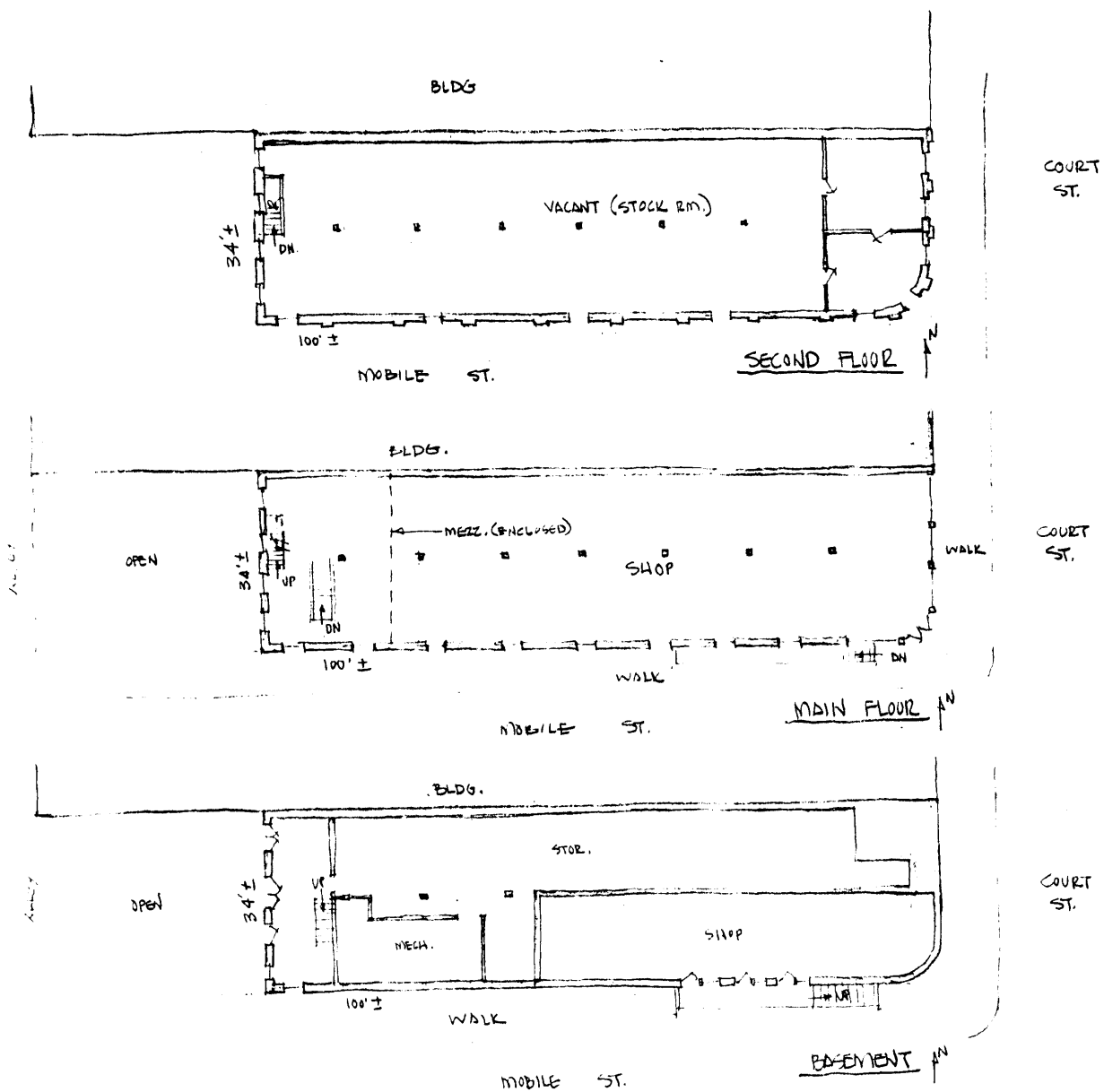
South-M

okall

Building - Florende, N. (proposed work)

LOCATION

July 2020



SOUTHALL BUILDING
 FLORENCE, AL. 23 APRIL '73
 SKETCH PLANS - JONES & HEERIN, ARCH. A.I.A.
 HUNTSVILLE, AL.

