NPS Form 10-900 (Rev. 10-90)

nited States Denartment of the Interior

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

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OMB No. 1024-0018

	A STATE OF THE STA
1. Name of Property	
historic name 305 Jefferson	
other names/site number	
2. Location	
street & number 305 Jefferson Street	not for publication N/A
city or town Huntsville	vicinity N/A
state Alabama code AL county Madison	code <u>089</u> zip code <u>35801</u>
3. State/Federal Agency Certification	
	eservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this
	eets the documentation standards for registering properties in
	edural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part
60. In my opinion, the property ⋈ meets ☐ does not meet	the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property
be considered significant \(\bigcap \) nationally \(\bigcap \) statewide \(\bigcap \) locations	ally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Simullianthon	September 28, 2003
Signature of certifying official/Title	Date
Alabama Historical Commission (State Historic Preservation	n Office)
State or Federal agency and bureau	
In my opinion, the property \square meets \square does not meet t additional comments.)	he National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for
Signature of commenting or other official	Date
State or Federal agency and bureau	
4. National Park Service Certification	2
I, hereby certify that this property is:	$\alpha \wedge A \wedge A \wedge A$
i, hereby certify that this property is.	(C) \/// /\2 \///
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See continuation sheet.	W () ()
determined eligible for the National Register.	
See continuation sheet.	
determined not eligible for the National Register.	
removed from the National Register.	
other (explain):	0.1
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5. CI	assification						
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(Click	private	ces as apply)	building(s)			Contributing	Noncontributing
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	public-S		☐ site				structures
	public-F	ederal	structure				objects
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(Enter	"N/A" if propo	multiple proper erty is not part of a m es of Downtown I	ultiple property listing.)	-	in the Natio	contributing resonant Register:	urces previously listed
6. Fu	nction or U	Jse					
Histo	ric Functio	ons (Enter categor	ies from instruction	s)			
Cat:	Commerce			<u>Business</u>			
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Cat:		rogress		Business			
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	other:						_
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Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Property Name: 305 Jefferson	
County and State: Madison County, Alabama	Page 3
8. Statement of Significance	
Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more Register listing) A Property is associated with events that have made a si B Property is associated with the lives of persons significable. C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or components lack individual distinction. D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information.	gnificant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. cant in our past. a type, period, or method of construction or represents the or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose
Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.) A owned by a religious institution or used for religious removed from its original location. C a birthplace or a grave. D a cemetery. E a reconstructed building, object, or structure. F a commemorative property. G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance with Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions) Commerce Architecture	
Period of Significance 1925-1947	
Significant Dates c. 1925	
Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A	
Cultural Affiliation N/A	
Architect/Builder unknown	
Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance o	f the property on one or more continuation sheets.)
9. Major Bibliographical References	
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form	on one or more continuation sheets.)
Previous documentation on file (NPS): preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested. previously listed in the National Register previously determined eligible by the National Register designated a National Historic Landmark recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #	Primary Location of Additional Data: State Historic Preservation Office Other State agency Federal agency Local government University Other Name of repository: Madison County Library, Heritage Room

USDI/NPS Registration Form Property Name: 305 Jefferson	
County and State: Madison County, Alabama	Page 4
10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of Property ≤1	
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a contin	nuation sheet)
Zone Easting Northing Zone East 1 16 537700 3843300 4	sting Northing
Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the p	property on a continuation sheet.)
Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selec	ted on a continuation sheet.)
11. Form Prepared By	
name/titleSteaphanie Timberlake	
organization	date2002-6-14
street & number 1200 Dale Drive	telephone
city or townHuntsville	stateAL zip code 35801
Additional Documentation	
Submit the following items with the completed form:	
Continuation Sheets	
Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the proper A sketch map for historic districts and properties having larg	
Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.	
Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)	onal items)
Property Owner	
(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.) name	

street & number_______telephone_____

city or town_____ state____ zip code _____

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305 Jefferson a one-story warehouse constructed of brick, erected circa 1925, architect unknown. As identified in the Downtown Huntsville MRA, this type of brick building (called "Commercial Brick" in the MRA) was common in Huntsville. Characteristics of this building type include brick construction of less than five stories; low proportions with horizontal orientation; flat facades are symmetrical; cornices is usually clean cut or consists of a stepped parapet wall with slight corbelling; proportion of glass to brick is small; decoration is restrained and consists primarily of brickwork lad to produce flush patterns on the wall surface. This "Commercial Brick" style achieves its effect from the disposition of its mass, proportion, and fenestration, rather than from the introduction of applied decorative elements. These buildings are generally simple and functional, and 305 Jefferson Street certainly fits into this collection of buildings.

Many of the building's window openings had been bricked in, but have been reopened by the current owner, and replaced with exact replicas of windows found inside the building. The frame of the building is brick in an American Common bond, with six stretcher courses alternating with a single course of headers. The east and west elevations are painted a dark taupe color, the south elevation remains unpainted red brick. Three elevations are exposed and have 2/2 windows and large glass doors openings. The building is typical of a warehouse style of the 1920s, in the business sector of downtown Huntsville. On either side, there are two buildings of similar shape and style, all front Jefferson Street with no setback from the sidewalk. Behind the building there is a large gravel parking lot that encompasses half of the block, which provides parking to businesses that occupy these buildings.

EXTERIOR:

East Elevation/Front Facade

305 Jefferson has undergone many changes in its lifetime, but the exterior is currently being restored to 90% of its original plan. It is unknown what exterior features, such as awnings, lighting or signage, the building had during its period of significance. The front of the building faces east and has two sets of 2/2 windows, the interior stops and hardware of which are original, flanking the restored original double door. Above the windows and door are rows of soldier course brick, and below the windows are rowlock courses. Approximately one foot below the roofline is a step-out of three rows of stretcher courses across the facade. Down from the step-out is a single row of protruding brick also in a stretcher course. This row is divided into thirds, with the middle third, over the door, stepping up a row. On the north is a building of the same size with a slightly altered façade which shares a load bearing brick wall.

South Elevation:

The south elevation of the building has 2 large warehouse door openings, each originally having large wooden sliding doors; both have been replaced with single, glass doors in a fixed casing; however, the warehouse doors are still in place on the interior and functioning. These two glass door openings provide access to the middle suite. A single 2/2 window has been revealed between the two warehouse openings; this window is the sole remaining original window in the building. On the southwest corner there are two, single 2/2 windows approximately 12 feet apart. On the southeast corner are two double sets of 2/2 windows and a single 2/2 window. Of the few existing windows that were found, when the openings were revealed, only one was salvageable. When boards were removed from the window openings, the windows exhibited extensive rot and dry rot damage resulting from water leaking through the boards and being trapped in the opening. The original iron counterweights from the windows were found in the brick walls and have been reused in all of the replicated windows.

The brick on the south facade has been re-pointed where needed, mostly around the window openings. There was a great mortar loss, likely due to when windows were boarded over and the boards were fastened to the brick wall. The brick appears to have been painted at some point, small paint flakes can be seen in areas, but overall it remains in the condition as it was found at purchase.

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West Elevation:

The west elevation, once the main loading area, has a central warehouse opening that now contains double glass doors that serve as security entrance for the business that is projected to occupy the back portion of the building. The wooden warehouse door that once occupied the opening was reused on the South elevation doors to replace deteriorated areas. These doors will be discussed in the Interior description.

Single window openings, bricked in, were revealed on both sides of the door and replaced with single 2/2 windows. The difference in the brick and the mismatched mortar joints were an indication that windows were once in those areas and also revealed how large the windows were. 2/2 windows were also chosen for these openings, based on other windows of the same size found on the south elevation.

The exterior brick walls on the south and north elevations extend up past the roofline and step down twice from east to west, following the slope of the standing seam roof. The roof that existed when the warehouse was purchased was a built composition roof, it is believed the original roof was a standing seam tin roof. The roof and cross beams were removed due to deteriorated condition as a result of water damage and dry rot and replaced with the current Galvalume® material.

INTERIOR:

The interior, once a vast open area with massive wooden columns and knee-braces, is currently divided into three office or business suites. Little is know of the history of the building, but over the years there were many occupants along with many alterations. Dividing walls appeared to have been erected and removed with the changing occupants. This change is evident in the many paint colors found leaving ghost marks of where a wall might have been. Many of the historic details, such as the support columns, bead board ceiling and the headers above the windows are being preserved or replicated. 70% of the bead board ceiling, suffering from severe water damage, was replaced as a result of leaks in the exterior roofing. That portion of the bead board which was in good condition, was reused in the western-most suite of the building, there is a clear delineation between the original and the new. Where possible the original wooden columns with their knee-brackets have been re-enforced with steel columns, and repositioned in their original 12' center location along the central East to West span. Steel columns have been encased with any original wood that was in good condition; any wood that was replaced has been painted and distressed to resemble the age of the older wood.

On the three warehouse openings, two on the south and one on the west, there were sliding wooden double doors that moved on tracks mounted to wooden headers over the doors. The doors are of wooden frames with a crosspiece dividing the door in half horizontally. In each square area, created by the crosspiece, is bead board placed on a diagonal. All three doors exhibited dry rot as a result of the moisture entering the building while vacant. Of the six doors, there remained enough material to remake two sets of the sliding doors; these two sets were placed in the original positions on the interior, disguising the new glass doors from the interior. Original hardware from the warehouse doors is working and is currently used on the functioning doors.

The three hundred block of Jefferson Street, was once comprised of warehouses built for grocery, vegetable and fruit wholesalers, as indicated by the Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from 1928. Surrounded by buildings already listed on the National Registrar of Historic Places, 305 Jefferson is one of a half-dozen remaining buildings, of similar age and architecture. As the only warehouse on the three hundred block, not on the Register, it plays an important role in contributing to the historic integrity of downtown Huntsville, and the continuity of the block of grocery warehouses. Through many changes, it is now in process of returning to what it might have looked like when first constructed. Also adding to the continuity is that the warehouses were built using the same materials. The buildings are all brick structures, with wooden windows, and appear to have had tin roofing; they also all have large doorway openings, indicating their warehouse history.

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Archaeological Component

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Although no formal archaeological testing has been done, the potential for subsurface remains is low. The building occupies much of the parcel on which it is situated and the parking area at the rear has likely been disturbed repeatedly since the building was constructed.

Statement of Significance

The brick warehouse located at 305 Jefferson Street is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A for Commerce and Criterion C for Architecture. The warehouse, while not highly ornamented, represents the "Commercial Brick" style and is consistent with the adjacent warehouses in construction, materials, setback and design, which perpetuates the visual aspects of the streetscape. The warehouse's simple brick ornamentation is repeated in the three other brick warehouses neighboring 305 Jefferson. Halsey Grocery Warehouse (c. 1923) at 301 North Jefferson Street; Kelly Brothers And Row Building (c. 1928) at 307 North Jefferson Street; and the Lombardo Building (c. 1922) at 315 North Jefferson Street were listed as part of the original Huntsville MRA in 1980. Along with the W. L. Halsey Warehouse (c. 1904) located across the street at 300 North Jefferson Street, the addition of 305 Jefferson would complete the listing of historic resources in the 300 block of Jefferson Street ("North" has fallen largely out of usage since the initial listings in 1980). This collection of buildings, in the area once referred to as Grocery Row, represents commercial growth during the 1920s, as the warehouses lie between the train depot and downtown Huntsville. Built by the Halseys, who operated a grocery and dry goods business, the building is a vital component in reflecting the textile and trade commerce of Huntsville's business district. The period of significance of c. 1925-1947 reflects the original construction date and the period which the use of the building for commercial purposes is known before being sold in 1948.

Historical Narrative

Huntsville, developed as a farming city with rich and fertile soil, was first settled in 1805. By the outbreak of the Civil War, Huntsville had flourished into a trade and production town and had developed its own government. In 1859 the Railroad came to Huntsville and proved to be a turning point in the towns' growth and expanded its trade distribution. Although the Tennessee River spurred cotton trade, the Memphis and Charleston Railroad brought a new economy to the city, connecting Huntsville to more cities than the river could. As a result, people were building homes and businesses around the town square, which was home to the Courthouse, although few of these original homes and buildings remain. Unfortunately, the Civil War was on the verge of eruption and while Huntsville survived the war, a great toll was laid on the economy.

Although the city faired well physically, the effects of the Civil War were devastating to business in and around Huntsville. The farmlands were drained, which took a toll on cotton as well as livestock and produce. Following the War, Huntsville gave into Reconstruction, industrial business and the entrepreneurs that came with it. The downtown area began rebuilding and renovating original wooden buildings, in-filling with new brick structures. During the 1880s and 1890s there evolved a new interest in investment and commerce, mostly from Northern investors who saw great potential in an industrially undeveloped community.

In 1890, Charles Halsey and a group of Northern investors formed the North Alabama Improvement Company, and were responsible for bringing new commerce to the area from the 1890s-1920s. Typically Huntsville had been a town populated by small farmers, trades people and influential landowners, but this new group was interested in bringing industry and big business to the area. Because of the rich farmlands, the Alabama Nursery and the Huntsville Wholesale Nurseries were started to help beautify the city and supply trees and plants to other areas. The company also encouraged

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the development of Monte Sano with the building of the resort like Monte Sano Hotel. Other ventures included the Monte Sano Railroad and the opening of the Turnpike across the mountain, which allowed easier access to the outer areas. As a new century dawned, Huntsville was experiencing a time of great commercial development. Cotton was making a comeback in the fields and to capitalize, the North Alabama Improvement Company aimed at building a textile mill to manufacture cotton into fabric. Eventually nine mills would open that gave a new importance in Huntsville's growth; some mills dedicated to cotton and some for wheat and produce. New communities and neighborhoods were created around these mills that attracted people to the area from outer lying towns. Many of the buildings and warehouses downtown were constructed as a result of these new businesses that the North Alabama Improvement Company attracted to Huntsville.

Across the country skyscrapers were emerging as the newest architectural style to contend with. Huntsville was not to be left out. In 1915 the Twickenham Hotel was opened, and in 1930 the Russell Erskine Hotel was completed. These buildings were not only built to prove that Huntsville was a modern and growing city, but also to advertise the city to more investors and their money. It was hoped that by building large structures, it might indicate the popularity of Huntsville and others types of business would become enticed. Downtown Huntsville is filled with a vast mix of architecture as a result of the various businesses that the North Alabama Improvement Company brought to a small southern town in the first three decades of the twentieth century.

Because of the close proximity to the railroad depot, there were many groceries and storage warehouses in this area. There were several groceries on Washington Street, one street east of Jefferson and more groceries along other blocks of Jefferson. Located only a few blocks North of the Big Spring, and one block South of the Railroad Station, 305 Jefferson, was built in the mid-1920s in a vernacular style with simplified adornment found only on the facade. It reflects the general approach in architecture at this time, especially for utilitarian buildings, to rid buildings of Victorian elements and details. In conjunction with the other buildings on the west side of the 300 block of Jefferson, one can imagine how the entire street might have appeared in 1925. These four buildings standing together are a rare find in Huntsville, and have been rehabilitated to reflect their past and to serve their modern uses as converted warehouses. All four of these buildings have been used throughout the decades as storage facilities and divided into multifunctional buildings.

305 Jefferson was constructed c.1925 most likely commissioned by W.L. Halsey. According to the Sanborn Fire Insurance maps of 1921 and 1928, the building located at this site changed, between these years. Halsey owned the property and building and then sometime around 1925 the building structures in that block changed. The first years 301-303 Jefferson Street are listed is 1924-25. The street numbers then jump to 307-311. While the street numbers changed, this building occupied the parcel now identified as 305 Jefferson. Halsey grocery is shown to own 301-303. From an article dated 1968, spotlighting Halsey Grocery, it is known that Halsey grocery occupied several of the buildings in that area. The Halsey family owned the much of the property and earlier buildings located in the 300 block of Jefferson Street and during the 1920s rebuilt the block of buildings into the present-day brick warehouses. According to the city directories, the actual number of 305 Jefferson first appears between 1957-1959. (The Huntsville Public Library does not have 1958 in its collection.) From 1924 to 1957, 301-303 Jefferson is listed as being occupied by Halsey Grocery. At the turn of the century, grocery stores provided the town with more than just food; they sold all kinds of household items. Halsey Grocery was no different and sold a variety of food and dry goods including, "oil cloth, overalls, horseshoe nails, coal oil and whisky by jug or barrel. In 1924 seed potatoes were sold along with horse collars and liniment rub..."

According to the Quigley Maps, Mabel A. and Harry J. Coons were paying taxes on the warehouses located on Lot 6, block 301, (currently known as 305 Jefferson Street) for the years 1948-50. The Halseys' sold the building to the Coons, who then owned the building until 2001 when the current owner purchased the building. From the city directories it appears that the Coons rented the property to various businesses. Beginning in 1959, for a period of 5 years, Turner Beverage Company, beer distributors, occupied the building. It was then vacant for sometime and in the 1970s appears to

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have been sub-divided with three businesses listed as occupants: Salvation Army (warehouse), Calabama Chem and Engineered Maintenance Service. Throughout the 1970s and 1980s American Insulation and Building Materials Co occupied the majority of the building. According to the city directories, the building at 305 Jefferson Street was vacant from 1982 until 2000; however, the warehouse's doors and windows were boarded over and it may have appeared the building was vacant. Prior to purchase, the current owner had knowledge that the building had continued to be leased through the 1980s and 1990s, to various businesses. The last business that used the building was an appliance store, which utilized the space to store old, used appliances and therefore did not need a weather tight area. If a leak occurred, the appliances were relocated to another area in the building.

In the 1980, a National Register multiple resource area listing was done of this area of downtown Huntsville, and four extant warehouses in the 300 block of Jefferson Street were included, 305 Jefferson Street was the sole exclusion. It is unknown why the owners did not participate; however, it proves all that more important to have this building added to this register at this time. The current owner is carefully restoring the warehouse, but if left unprotected the next owner may raze the building and construct a building not in keeping with the surrounding buildings, or worse yet, demolish it for a parking lot. Huntsville retains a generally low skyline interrupted with an occasional modern high-rise looming over the business district. Although the businesses that occupy the area today are different from what was once there, the diverse history is expressed through the buildings that now exist. From the first skyscrapers of brick and marble and modern high-rises of steel and glass, to the smaller buildings of Italianate, Victorian, and "commercial brick" design, Huntsville is rich in architectural history. Today, fully emerged and surrounded by industries of all types, this warehouse is a small reminder of the simple farming life that occupied Huntsville for so many decades.

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References

Chapman, Elizabeth Humes. Changing Huntsville 1890-1899. Historic Huntsville Foundation, Inc. 1989.

Huntsville, Alabama Sesquicentennial 1805-1955. Commemorative Album.

Huntsville City Directories: 1940-present, Huntsville Public Library, Heritage Room, Huntsville, Alabama.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps: Huntsville Public Library, Heritage Room. 1913, 1918. 1921 and 1928 (microfilm reel #8).

Stephens, Elise Hopkins. Historic Huntsville: A City of New Beginnings. Windsor Publications. 1984.

Boundary Description

ALL THAT PART OF BLOCK 301 OF THE QUIGLEY MAP OF THE CITY OF HUNTSVILLE, MADISON COUNTY, ALABAMA, PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS BEGINNING SOUTH 32 DEGREES 03 MINUTES 18 SECONDS EAST 135.00 FEET FROM THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF BLOCK 301 QUIGLEY MAP OF THE CITY OF HUNTSVILLE, SAID POINT IS FURTHER DESCRIBED AS BEING THE INTERSECTION OF THE SOUTH MARGIN OF MONROE STREET WITH THE WEST MARGIN OF JEFFERSON STREET.

THENCE FROM THE PLACE OF TRUE BEGINNING AND CONTINUING SOUTH 32 DEGREES 03 MINUTES 18 SECONDS EAST 49.32 FEET ALONG THE WEST MARGIN OF JEFFERSON STREET.

THENCE LEAVING SAID MARGIN SOUTH 59 DEGREES 30 MINUTES 00 SECONDS WEST 128.70 FEET. THENCE NORTH 31 DEGREES 49 MINUTES 00 SECONDS WEST 9.70 FEET, THENCE SOUTH 59 DEGREES 56 MINUTES 34 SECONDS WEST 107.12 FEET TO A POINT ON THE EAST MARGIN OF GALLATIN STREET. THENCE NORTH 25 DEGREES 10 MINUTES 01 SECONDS WEST ALONG SAID MARGIN 53.37 FEET, THENCE LEAVING SAID MARGIN NORTH 59 DEGREES 41 MINUTES 15 SECONDS EAST 35.52. THENCE SOUTH 26 DEGREES 26 MINUTES 12 SECONDS EAST 14.38 FEET. THENCE NORTH 59 DEGREES 28 MINUTES 18 SECONDS EAST 195.24 FEET TO THE POINT OF TRUE BEGINNING AND CONTAINING 0.25 ACRE MORE OR LESS.

Source of Title: Deed book 1007, Page 719

Boundary Justification

The boundaries conform to the legal boundaries of the parcel on which 305 Jefferson is located.

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Photos

All of the photographs for the 305 Jefferson Nomination were taken by Stephanie Timberlake on October 7, 2002. The original negatives for the photographs remain with her in Huntsville, Alabama.

- 1 View of Front East façade, looking West.
- 2 Streetscape of buildings fronting Jefferson Street, surrounding 305 Jefferson, looking Northwest.
- 3 Looking West, view of Southeast corner.
- 4 Looking East, view of Southwest corner.
- 5 West façade, looking East.
- 6 Exterior view of original 2/2 window on south elevation.
- 7 Exterior view of western most warehouse door on south elevation; serves as entrance to middle suite.
- 8 Interior view of western most warehouse door on south elevation; serves as exit to middle suite.
- 9 View of original interior hardware of western most warehouse door.
- 10 Central interior column support in front eastern suite of building.
- 11 Detail of interior column support.
- 12 Detail of column that has been embedded in new wall in middle suite of building.

