

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received DEC 9 1982

date entered

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

1. Name

historic Gadsden Times-News Building

and/or common

2. Location

street & number ~~North Corner~~ Fourth and Chestnut Streets, N/A not for publication

city, town Gadsden N/A vicinity of

state Alabama code 01 county Etowah code 055

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Thirwell M. Nolen, George D. King, Jr. & Burgett H. Mooney, III

street & number P. O. Box 1070

city, town Gadsden N/A vicinity of state Alabama

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Etowah County Courthouse

street & number 800 Forrest Avenue

city, town Gadsden 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

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## 7. Description

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

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

Located on a corner lot, the Times-News Building is a two-story, red-brick, commercial structure with a cast-iron storefront and Italianate styling. The Fourth Street facade is characterized by a cast-iron storefront consisting of slender square pilasters and a deep entablature, tall arched windows on the second floor which create an arcade effect, and a heavily modillioned metal cornice below a low parapet. The most prominent feature of the building is its rounded corner which was emphasized by carrying the feature of the facade around it and raising the cornice at the curve. Originally, a small open beveled topped the corner; it was lost in a storm during the first half of this century. The Chestnut Street elevation is given a simpler treatment with rectangular windows with simple, white sills and lentils.

In 1981, the wooden and glass elements of the storefront were reworked in bronzed colored aluminum and glass and the original divisions of glass were not repeated. The interior was also altered.

# 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 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 checked="" 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**      1904      **Builder/Architect**      \_\_\_\_\_

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

Constructed in 1904 to house the Gadsden Times and News, the building is significant for its 24 year association with Gadsden's principal newspaper and as one of the few early commercial structures remaining in the city. During the first decades of this century, the Gadsden Times was the major sources of news, not only for the city, but for much of the surrounding county as well. Begun as a Democratic paper opposed to Reconstruction, it became a major civic and business booster for the Gadsden area and by 1926 had one of the largest circulations of any daily paper outside the major metropolitan cities.

\*                    \*                    \*                    \*                    \*                    \*                    \*                    \*

The Times was established in 1867, under the proprietorship of Leonidas Grant and T. J. Cox, two Confederate veterans. In 1871, it was purchased by William M. Meeks who continued the strong Democratic, anti-Reconstruction position of the paper and developed it as one of "the most widely read weeklys in North Alabama."<sup>1</sup> During the later years of the century, the paper leaned toward business and civic boosterism and merged in 1887 with the Gadsden News, a seven year rival to the Times. In 1906, after the new building was constructed, the Times-News became the Daily Times-News, to compete with The Gadsden Daily People's Voice, a new rival which it eventually (1924) absorbed. Six months after its conversion to a daily paper, W. M. Meeks died and his son Charles became publisher. During the next 20 years the paper absorbed its major daily rival and returned its name to The Gadsden Times (1924). In 1927, the paper was sold to B. H. Mooney and W. S. Mudd, who moved The Times operation into another building. The Times continues today as the major paper for the city and surrounding county. After the newspaper moved out of the building, it served a variety of commercial uses.

<sup>1</sup> R. M. Hardy. A History of the Gadsden Times. pg. 12

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Gadsden Archives, Gadsden Times, Gadsden, Alabama

Hardy, R. M. "A History of the Gadsden Times." Unpublished paper in files of Gadsden Library, 1970.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Gadsden

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

1	6	5	9	1	9	8	0	3	7	6	3	7	6	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

E 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

F 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

G 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

H 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

### Verbal boundary description and justification

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

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

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title George D. King, Jr. & Ellen Mertins

organization Alabama Historical Commission

date December 17, 1981

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 11-22-82

### For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the National Register

date 1/11/83

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

A tract or parcel of land described as beginning at the intersection of the Northwest line of Fourth Street with the Northeast line of Chestnut Street, said point being also what is commonly called the Southeast corner of Lot No. 166 of the original survey of the City of Gadsden, and from thence running in a Northeasterly direction along the Northwest side of Fourth Street a distance of 50.6 feet; thence in a Northwesterly distance of 75.0 feet; thence in a Southwesterly direction and parallel with the Northwest side of Fourth Street a distance of 50.6 feet to Chestnut Street; thence in a Southeasterly direction along the Northeast side of Chestnut Street a distance of 75.0 feet to the point of beginning; said description embracing a portion of Lot No. 166 of the original survey of the City of Gadsden, and being and lying in the City of Gadsden, Etowah County, Alabama.