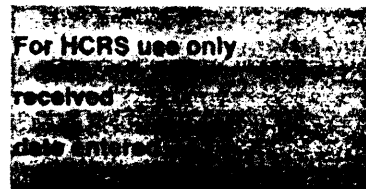


**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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



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

**1. Name**

historic \_\_\_\_\_

and/or common Waters Building

**2. Location**

street & number 209-211 22nd Street North \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Birmingham \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district 6

state Alabama code 01 county Jefferson code 073

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

**4. Owner of Property**

name James H. Waters, Jr.

street & number 209 22nd Street, North

city, town Birmingham \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state Alabama 35203

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jefferson County Courthouse

street & number \_\_\_\_\_

city, town Birmingham \_\_\_\_\_ state Alabama

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

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

date 1978-present \_\_\_\_\_ federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Alabama Historical Commission

city, town Montgomery \_\_\_\_\_ state Alabama

# 7. Description

---

**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered  
interior

**Check one**

original site  
 moved      date \_\_\_\_\_

---

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

This two-story brick Victorian commercial building (40'x70') has a distinctive corbeled, pressed metal cornice ornamented with acanthus leaves. Paired central windows under Italianate hood molds are a prominent organizing feature on the facade. They are flanked on each side by two single windows with hood molds. Slender cast iron columns support a small cornice that delineates the ground floor with its retail orientation. Above it are tall windows with three vertical panes that give major architectural importance to the second floor. A brickwork belt course suggesting a cornice and dentils separates the second and third stories. Recently, the modernized interior was rehabilitated for office space and the exterior carefully restored. The ground floor window and door treatment had been altered and the present fanlight and door treatment was drawn from Victorian copybooks of the period. Originally, the building had three entrances, the one to the south, which originally led to the upper floors, has been replaced with a window.

# 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" 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**            1888                            **Builder/Architect**

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

The Waters Building (1888) is the finest remaining example of the combination retail-residential buildings that sprang up in Birmingham in the late 1880s, during the city's first major boom. The Italianate hood molds, decorative cornices, and general ordering of the facade contribute a sense of style to an essentially modest building and hint at the growing sophistication of the young industrial city that was founded in 1871. Built to sell "Queen's ware" (English earthenware) on the ground floor and to house boarders above, the building is representative of life and architecture in the city during its second decade. Its changing uses reflect the adaptability of such structures in an active central business district -- it has served plumbers, warehouse owners, confectioners, furniture and auto rental dealers, and loan companies; it now provides offices for architects and businessmen. An exterior restoration completed in 1979 revealed the building's fine architectural details and attracted the enthusiastic interest in the community.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

see continuation sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Birmingham North

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 

1	6	5	1	8	2	6	0	3	7	0	8	4	3	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

New BL (29) P(5) 40'x75'

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/Alice Bowsher, Marjorie White, Tom Bast (Birmingham Hist. Society)

organization Alabama Historical Commission

date January 14, 1980

street & number 725 Monroe Street

telephone (205) 832-6621

city or town Montgomery

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title

date

For HCPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest

date

Chief of Registration

HR-8-300A  
11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

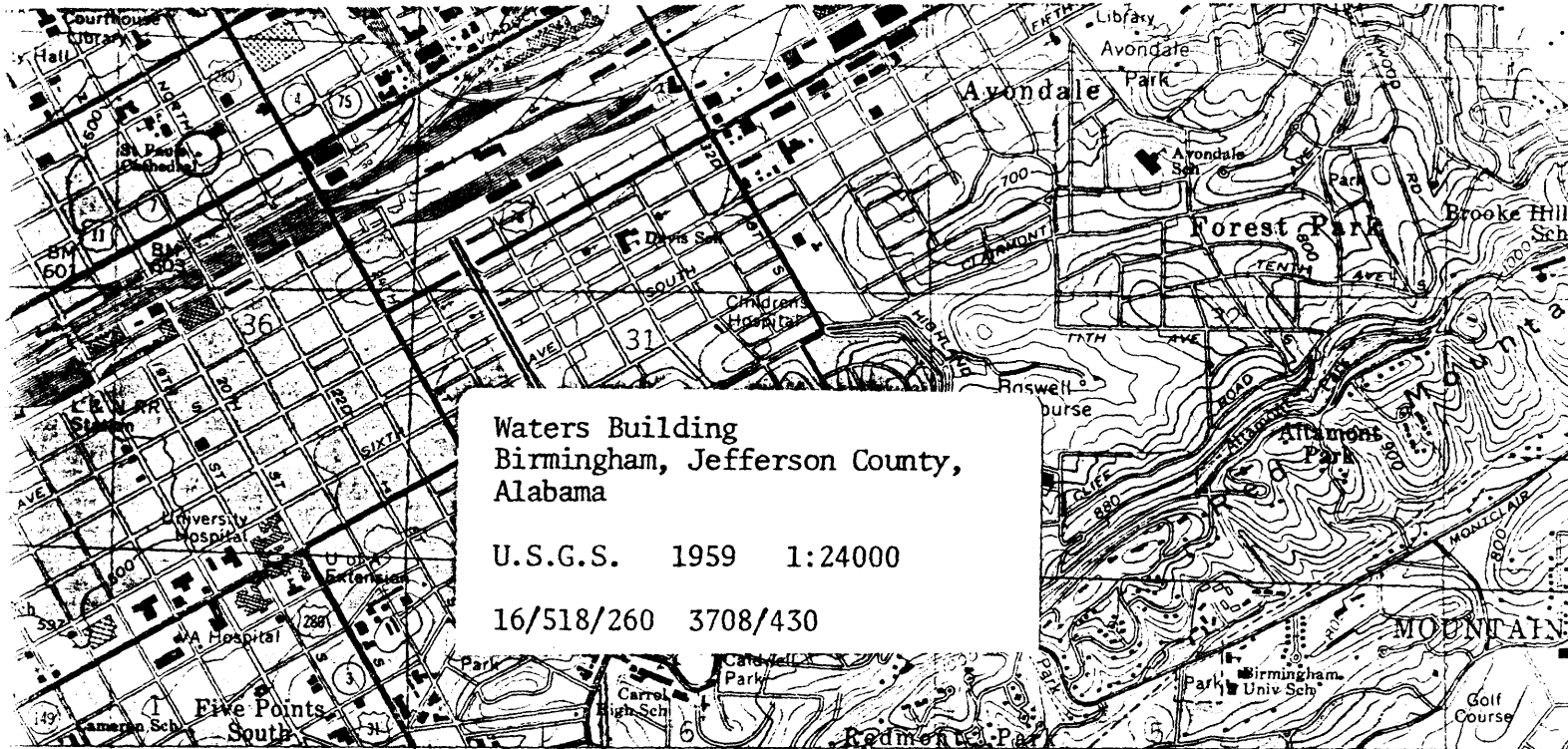
ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 1

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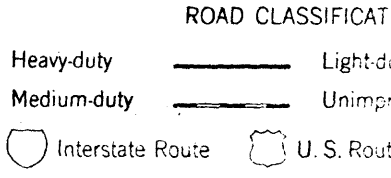
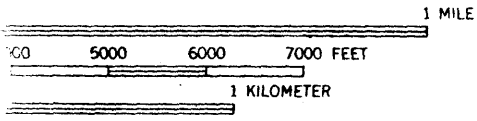
Waters Building  
 Birmingham, Jefferson County,  
 Alabama

U.S.G.S. 1959 1:24000

16/518/260 3708/430

H1 1518 R. 3 W. R. 2 W. 47'30" 25 MI TO ALA 149  
 IV NE HOMWOOD (CITY HALL) 1.8 MI. HARPERSVILLE (U.S. 231) 30 MI.  
 VESTAVIA HILLS 4.7 MI.

INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON



**BIRMINGHAM NORTH**  
 SE/4 BIRMINGHAM COAL DISTRICT  
 N3330—W86

ACCURACY STANDARDS  
 WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242  
 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

1959  
 PHOTOREVISED  
 AMS 3651 III SE-S

