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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

RECEIVED 2280

JUN - 5 2015

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Birmingham Wholesale Warehouse Loop (West) Historic District

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: Roughly bounded by the railroads on the NW & W, 14th St. S. on the E, 2nd Ave. S. on the S & I-65 on the W.

City or town: Birmingham State: AL County: Jefferson

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this x nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property x meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A B X C D

<p><u><i>Lee Anne Wofford</i></u></p> <p>Signature of certifying official/</p> <p>Title: Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer</p> <p>_____</p> <p>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>	<p><u>5/28/15</u></p> <p>Date</p>
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<p>In my opinion, the property <u> </u> meets <u> </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.</p>	
<p>_____</p> <p>Signature of commenting official:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>	<p>_____</p> <p>Date</p>

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
 determined eligible for the National Register
 determined not eligible for the National Register
 removed from the National Register
 other (explain:)


Signature of the Keeper

7-21-15
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
Public – Local
Public – State
Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
District
Site
Structure
Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>	
<u>15</u>	<u>3</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>16</u>	<u>3</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE/business
COMMERCE/TRADE/warehouse
INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION/manufacturing facility
INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION/industrial storage
TRANSPORTATION/road-related

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE/business
COMMERCE/TRADE/warehouse
INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION/manufacturing facility
INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION/industrial storage
TRANSPORTATION/road-related

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MODERN MOVEMENT/Moderne
MODERN MOVEMENT/Art Deco

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

BRICK, STONE, GLASS, CONCRETE, METAL, ASPHALT

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

The district contains the following street numbers:

1 st Ave. S.	1143 – 1320
2 nd Ave. S.	1101 – 1230
12 th St. S.	101 – 202
13 th St. S.	8 – 113
14 th St. S.	0 – 112

Summary Paragraph

A distinct district of wholesale and warehouse businesses, known as the Birmingham Wholesale Warehouse Loop, developed between 11th and 18th Streets S. and 1st through 5th Avenues S in the early 20th century. The development of Railroad Park (2020) and Regions Field (2013) between 14th and 16th Streets S. divided the district in two and modern redevelopment associated with the University of Alabama-Birmingham has occurred in the blocks south of 2nd Avenue.

The Birmingham Wholesale Warehouse Loop (West) Historic District consists of an irregularly shaped area within the city of Birmingham that contains approximately 23.5 acres of land. The topography of the district is generally flat. The district is generally bounded to the north by the Birmingham railroad reservation, a wide corridor that bisects the city in a generally southwest to northeast direction; to the west by Interstate 65; to the south by 2nd Avenue S., and to the east by 14th Street S. Streets are laid out in a grid that is oriented along the railroad reservation. The district incorporates a collection of one and two story industrial buildings that typically extend to zero lot lines along their street frontages. Many of the buildings abut one another. Streets are typically lined with sidewalks with minimal landscaping.

Narrative Description

The district includes 19 resources, 16 (84%) of which are contributing and 3 are noncontributing (16%). Contributing resources date from the following periods: 1919-1940, 4; 1941-1945, 1; and 1945-1952, 14. All but one of the contributing resources are industrial buildings. The other resource is a concrete railroad underpass structure. None of the resources were previously listed in the National Register.

All of the noncontributing resources were constructed after the district's period of significance.

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Inventory

- 01 1st Ave. S, 1143 Merchants & Manufacturers Terminal Inc. Warehouses, Unit #3/
A&P Tea Co. Warehouses 1927 Contributing

Large 2-story irregular shaped reinforced concrete warehouse on a raised basement level with a flat roof; faces east along 12th Street S. 6 bays and extends in depth 22 bays to the west; a historic continuous projecting walkway extends across the entire north elevation at the 1st floor level, with a modern off-center 4-bay wide shed canopy (ca. 1980); exterior bays are separated by slightly projecting pilasters that rise to a stylized entablature with raised corner pavilions and a center shaped parapet along the north elevation; windows at north elevation have been infilled with stucco, openings at the upper floors of the east elevation retain large steel industrial windows.

- 02 1st Ave. S, 1143 Garage, Not Named ca. 1985 Noncontributing
Modern irregularly-shaped prefabricated metal garage with a flat roof.

- 03 1st Ave. S, 1209 West Disinfecting Co. 1950 Contributing

T-shaped two-story Post-War Modern style brick veneer warehouse building with a flat roof; faces north; 3-bay front-facing T wing has a central entrance at its 1st floor flanked to either side by double steel awning windows, similar windows in all bays at the 2nd level. 2 cargo openings at the east side of the core and a single large cargo opening flanked by a pedestrian entrance at the west side of the core.

- 04 1st Ave. S, 1227 J.P. Wier Brokerage Company 1950 Contributing

Rectangular one-story Post-War Modern style brick veneer warehouse building with a flat roof; faces north; 5 bay façade with paired off-center cargo openings flanked to the west by a banded window with four steel single windows and to the east by a pedestrian entrance and a banded window with four steel double windows; glass block transom window above the pedestrian entrance.

- 05 1st Ave. S, 1229 Jewel Tea Company Building 1949 Contributing

Rectangular one-story Post-War Modern style brick veneer warehouse building with a flat roof; faces north, 3 by 4 bay core with a large seven-bay deep concrete block warehouse to the rear; 3 bay façade with a recessed central entrance flanked to the west by a double steel window and to the east by a corner double steel window; slightly projecting cast band wraps from the east bay of the façade to the east elevation.

- 06 1st Ave. S, 1301 Warehouse, Not Named ca. 1966 Noncontributing

Modern prefabricated metal warehouse.

- 07 1st Ave. S, 1320 Warehouse, Not Named ca. 1985 Noncontributing

Large modern warehouse with a flat roof.

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08 2nd Ave. S., 1101 Atlas Machine & Supply 1952 Contributing

Rectangular one-story concrete block office building with a side gable composition shingle roof; faces north, 4x1 bay core with a 1x1 bay gable extension to the east; entrance at the west bay of the façade flanked by three single horizontal 2/2 windows; painted stucco exterior walls.

09 2nd Ave. S., 1230 U.S. Mengel Plywood, Inc. 1949 Contributing

Rectangular one-story Post-War Modern style stucco warehouse building with a flat roof; faces east, 9x5 bays; central cargo opening at the east facade flanked to the north by 5 double steel clerestory windows and to the south by a similar window and 2 double steel windows; stucco exterior finish appears to have been applied ca. 1990.

10 12th St .S., 101 B. F. Goodrich 1951 Contributing

Irregular-shaped one-story Post-War Modern style brick (red) veneer warehouse building with a flat roof; faces west, 5x1 bay office core with a rear garage extension; recessed pedestrian entrance and a double steel window at the northern bays of the façade within a rectangular panel of contrasting colored brick (tan), flanked to the south by 3 rectangular window openings that have been infilled with brick (ca. 1985); banded window with 8 double steel awning windows at the north elevation of the core; north elevation of the garage is recessed from the office and has 3 cargo doors in its eastern bays that flank a pedestrian entrance and two small windows to the west.

11 12th St .S., 121 Standard Brands, Inc. 1949 Contributing

Irregular-shaped one-story Post-War Modern style brick veneer warehouse building with a flat roof; faces west, rectangular 11x6 bay office core with an irregularly shaped rear concrete block garage extension; central recessed pedestrian entrance flanked to either side by 5 single steel awning windows; similar windows at the south elevation of the core; south elevation of the garage is recessed from the office and has 4 cargo doors.

12 12th St .S., 202 Matthews Electrical Supply 1952 Contributing

Rectangular one-story Post-War Modern style brick veneer warehouse building with a flat roof; faces east; 8 bay façade with an off-center pedestrian entrance flanked to the north by 3 steel awning windows and to the south by 4 similar windows, entrance is set within a decorative shaped surround and retains an original rounded flat cantilevered aluminum canopy; 2 cargo openings with modern infill (ca. 1975) at the north elevation; cargo dock along the south elevation under a metal shed canopy supported by pipe columns, rear bays enclosed with concrete block

13 13th St .S., 8 Harris Transfer & Warehouse Co.
Warehouses A, B, & F 1929/50 Contributing

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Irregular-shaped one-story 20th Century Commercial style brick veneer warehouse building with a flat roof; faces east, rectangular 6x1 bay rectangular office core, faux buttresses at the corners and separating the bays at the façade, 2nd bay has a center entrance flanked by steel awning windows, remaining bays each have 4 similar windows, irregular shaped warehouse to the rear with an ell wing to the rear/south; side elevations have a series of cargo openings; stepped parapets at the southwest section of the building with a central clerestory, storefront system at the west bay of the south elevation.

- 14 13th St. S., 8 Harris Transfer & Warehouse Co.
Warehouse G 1951 Contributing

Rectangular one-story brick veneer warehouse building with a flat roof; faces east; 6 bay façade with a central pedestrian entrance flanked to the north by a cargo opening and a small window, 3 similar windows to the south; similar windows and a louver at the south elevation.

- 15 13th St. S., 113 Marx Brothers Inc. ca. 1950 Contributing

Rectangular one-story Post-War Modern style brick veneer warehouse building with a flat roof; faces west, rectangular 12x7 bay core; pedestrian entrances at the 2nd and 5th bays (from the north) of the west façade, with large rectangular window openings with cast sills in the 1st, 3rd, and 4th bays (now infilled with brick, ca. 1975), similar smaller window openings infilled with brick at remaining bays, principal entrance at the 5th bay has two similar sidelights and entrances have modern canvas barrel awnings; cargo openings at the 3rd and 6th bays of the south elevation flanked to either side by similar infilled window openings.

- 16 14th St. S., 0 14th Street Underpass 1931 Contributing

Art Deco style cast-in-place reinforced concrete underpass structure that carries railroad tracks across 14th Street S.; four unequal length spans that are supported by concrete abutments at either end and one interior pile bents; sidewalks are pass through each abutment structure and flank 4 lanes of the street, with 2 lanes on either side of the pile bent; decorative entrance surrounds at the sidewalks with cast panels above.

- 17 14th St. S., 10 Elmore, V.J., 5¢, 10¢, \$1.00 Stores Inc.,
Office & Warehouse 1940 Contributing

Rectangular one and two-story Art Moderne style brick veneer warehouse building with a flat roof; faces east, rectangular one story core with a full-width two-story office projection; northern 11-bays of the office have a central entrance bay with a decorative cast surround flanked to either side by 5 windows with glass block at the 1st floor and double 1/1 replacement windows (ca. 1980) at the 2nd floor; the 4 southern bays of the office projection are slightly recessed and have a series of 4 recessed horizontal bands with louvers at each level with patterned brick above and below, a tall chimney-like structure is set within the intersection of the 2 sections of the façade and appears in original photos to have been capped by a tall light fixture; the one-story warehouse has a series of pedestrian and cargo

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doors along its south elevation; a loading bay hyphen connects the building to a large modern concrete block warehouse to the west.

18 14th St. S., 60 National Biscuit Co. 1940 Contributing

Rectangular one-story Art Moderne style brick veneer warehouse building with a flat roof with a recessed sawtooth clerestory structure; faces east, off-center entrance with radiussed reveals at the north end of the facade is set below a long banded industrial window system, a cargo entrance toward the south end has a modern louver above it and the remainder of the elevation is blank; the 9-bay south elevation has a banded industrial window at its east bay, similar window openings at the remaining bays have been infilled with brick (ca. 1980), similar windows are located at all bays of the north elevation.

19 14th St. S., 112 Wade Wood Milling Company Warehouse ca. 1919 Contributing

Rectangular one-story industrial building with a very low pitched built-up roof that is concealed along its east and west elevations by stepped parapets; rectangular core of the building is constructed of brick set in common bond and rests on a raised concrete slab foundation; fronts 5 bays along 14th St. S to the east and 4 bays along 1st Ave. N to the north; rectangular four by one bay brick and concrete block addition (1954) extends from the rear bay of the west elevation.

Archaeology

An archaeological assessment of the study area was not completed as part of this project. However, given the nature of the area's history, there is potential that subsurface remains could provide additional information about the historical development of the area.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

ca. 1919-1952

Significant Dates

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Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Whillden, D.O.

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

(Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Birmingham Wholesale Warehouse Loop (West) Historic District is locally significant under National Register Criterion A in the area of commerce for its contribution to the early to mid-20th century industrial history of Birmingham. The area developed for wholesale, light manufacturing, and warehouse uses during the industrial booms that occurred in the city during World Wars I and II. Situated adjacent to the city's main rail hub, the area served as an excellent location from which to distribute by truck bulk goods arriving by train throughout the city and region. The district is also locally significant under Criterion C for its representative examples of early to mid-20th century warehouse/industrial architecture.

The period of significance for the district extends from 1919, when its earliest surviving contributing resource was constructed, through 1952, when development essentially ceased in the district until the late 1960s.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

Commerce

The Birmingham Wholesale Warehouse Loop (West) Historic District is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with the commercial development of Birmingham. Located south and west of downtown, the district represents the early-20th century redevelopment of former industrial land for use as warehouse, light manufacturing, and wholesale space. With the city's industrial diversification throughout the 20th century, the need for warehouse space and light industries supporting the city's growing population increased. Development within the area followed the city's overall fortunes with new construction occurring in the boom years following World War I, slowing during the Depression, and regaining momentum after World War II. The area also relied on the adjacent railroad for the delivery of bulk goods and trucking to distribute goods within the city and surrounding areas.

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Architecture

The district is also eligible under Criterion C for its collection of relatively modest warehouse and light manufacturing buildings that reflected changes that occurred in utilitarian industrial design during the period. The earliest buildings are reflective of the transition from the more ornamented 19th century styles to the simpler utilitarian character that typified the early 20th century. Other buildings illustrate the evolving industrial design that transitioned early 20th century industrial architecture, with stark expressions of structure and wide expanses of metal windows popularized by architects following the precedents of Louis Kahn, to more ornamented Art Moderne and later, more streamlined, Post War Modern styles.

Historical Development

The nominated area was sparsely developed before the 20th century. The first substantive depiction of the physical development of the area is found on Norris, Wellge, & Co.'s 1887 birds eye map of Birmingham. The Birmingham Rolling Mills are shown to the north of Avenue B (now 2nd Avenue S) and west of 12th Street S. Two small frame commercial buildings are shown at the northeast and northwest corners of the intersection of Avenue B (2nd Avenue S) and 13th Street S, three substantial residences are shown on the east side of 12th Street north of Avenue B, and some scattered smaller dwellings are located along Avenue B (2nd Avenue S) from the intersection of 12th Street S west to 11th Street S. The remainder of the area is undeveloped. The 1891 Sanborn map of Birmingham documents that the Williamson Furnace had been constructed by that time at the northwest corner of Avenue A (now 1st Avenue N) and 14th Street S, but does not show the adjacent blocks. The 1902 edition shows only a portion of the Williamson complex. The block to the south shows saloons along its east side and at its southwest corner, two dwellings, and a "negro tenement." The Birmingham Rolling Mills had expanded closer to 13th Street S and Avenue B (2nd Avenue S) by that time.

Additional industrial development began to occur in the subject blocks by the time the 1911 Sanborn map was compiled. The Williamson complex is again shown, although the Birmingham Rolling Mills was absent from the adjacent block by that time. The earliest portion of the Wood & Crabbe Grain Company Corn Meal Mill (no longer extant) is shown on the south side of Avenue B (2nd Avenue S) and the Birmingham Grain Company had built a large hay and grain warehouse at the southeast corner of the block. Johns Machine Company was operating a small plant immediately to the west of Birmingham Grain. Remaining development on the block included the saloon at the southwest corner and five dwellings to its north. The Moore and Handley Company was operating a large sash and door warehouse on the south side of Avenue B (2nd Avenue S) by that time as well. Wood & Crabbe expanded their facilities with the addition of a one-story brick warehouse circa 1919 (Resource #19, Contributing, Photos #1-left, 6, & 13-left).

The nominated area represents the expansion of the Birmingham Wholesale Warehouse Loop described in a 1923 article in the Birmingham Age-Herald:

Quietly and so slowly that few real estate men have observed it, the wholesale warehouse loop district, comprising 16 square blocks from Avenue A to E and 14th to 18th streets is being bought up as the most valuable site for a specific purpose in the city. Surrounded and interlaced with a half-dozen railroads,

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convenient to the cities retailers and admirably situated in many other respects, the territory now stands with only one entire block for sale and just a few smaller lots. This is what John D. Chichester of Chichester & Company discovered in an investigation, which she has just completed.¹

The article quoted Chichester:

Seven or eight years ago there were no warehouses or wholesale houses of any description there. But beginning about that time a general, steady tendency to move into the locality became known. At the present time there are building materials firms, flour and grain distributors, laundries, coal companies, grocery concerns of the smaller variety; there are six half blocks left and from information I have they will soon be taken. Moore and Handley just completed a new warehouse a half block in size and plans to construct another of similar size beginning January 1. This is the way in which the last plot of land will be taken. The people already know the value of the location are taking advantage of it.

As the Loop identified in the 1923 article filled in, other businesses looked the adjacent blocks to the west and the area expanded. The construction of Railroad Park in 2010 and Regions Field in 2013, the original portion of the Loop

In 1927, Merchants and Manufacturers Terminal Inc. (Resource #1, Contributing, Photos #26, 27, & 29-left) constructed a large warehouse referred to as their Unit #3 warehouse on the west side of 12th Street S opposite the end of 1st Avenue S (formerly Avenue A). The warehouse was served by a spur from the adjacent railroad and consisted of eleven warehouse units in a two story concrete building. The Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company (A&P) was a major tenant in the building for many years and the building is often referred to in historical accounts as the A&P Tea Warehouse. The company was still a major tenant in 1948 when they signed a lease through 1956. By 1968, the Jefferson County Board of Equalization records described the building as follows: "An old warehouse – run down but adequate condition for its use – Now used for storage plywood, paneling – building materials on 1st floor – 2nd floor used for fabricating work & light storage – most stairways are blocked – of 11 freight elevators, only one is operational at this time."

The 1928 city directory also lists a Dunn Construction Company Plant at 101 13th Street S, the Atlas Machinery and Supply Company at 1101 2nd Avenue S, the Perry Supply Company Warehouse at 1205 2nd Avenue S, the Reliable Tin Shop at 1215-1225 2nd Avenue S, and the U.S. Radiator Company at 1430 2nd Avenue S. Four residences along the north side of 2nd Avenue were occupied by African-Americans. None of these buildings are extant.

Buildings A and B of the Harris Transfer & Warehouse Co. (Resource #13, Contributing, Photos #8-right, 9, 11, & 23) were constructed in 1929 on the north side of 1st Avenue S between 12th and 13th Street S. A 1916 advertisement indicates that the company was founded in 1888, incorporated in 1901, and that their main offices were in the ground floor of the Chamber of Commerce Building.² The advertisement described the company business as: "warehousemen,

¹ Warehouse Loop District Grows," Birmingham Age-Herald, 1923 clipping, date and page unknown.

² Illinois Central Magazine, March 1916, p. 5, <http://books.google.com/>.

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forwarding and distribution agents" that paid "special attention to distribution of carloads and less than carload consignments." A 1918 letterhead indicates that the company also packed household goods for storage or shipment and performed theatrical hauling.³ The 1929 Birmingham City Directory lists George C. Harris as President and General Manager and J. J. Cowan as Secretary and Treasurer and notes that they then had warehouses at 2109-2131 6th Avenue S and 610 22nd Street S. An advertisement, however, states that the company's main office was at this address, 8 S. 18th Street, in a "building formerly occupied by A.G.S. freight depot." The Jefferson County Board of Equalization records for this property contain a report from circa 1961 that states this building was "erected in 1929 and was designed as a combination stable and garage."⁴

In 1931, 14th street underpass supporting the railroad lines through the city's "railroad reservation" was replaced with the present concrete structure. Designed by noted architect D.O. Whillden, the Art Deco style structure (Resource #16, Contributing, Photo #5) improved both vehicular and pedestrian access between the district and the downtown area to the northeast.

Through its real estate subsidiary, Loveng Realty Corporation, the National Biscuit Company built a bakery and garage at 60 14th Street S in 1940 (Resource #18, Contributing, Photos #1-right & 2). Loveng purchased the property from Williamson Iron Company in October 1939 and tax assessor's records note: "Building under construction – Balance Vacant – Completed about July 1, 1940."⁵ The National Biscuit Company, makers of the Nabisco brands of food products, was organized in Chicago in 1898 through the merger of three large baking conglomerates and continues to operate to this day. At one time, the company operated 114 plants around the world. The company was a major producer of rations for the U.S. Army during World War II.

The V. J. Elmore 5¢, 10¢, \$1.00 Stores Inc. built a warehouse and office building immediately north of the National Biscuit Company plant in 1941 (Resource #17, Contributing, Photos #3 & 4). The company acquired the property from Williamson Iron Company in June 1940.⁶ V. J. Elmore opened its first store in Greenville, Alabama, in 1934 and the company was incorporated in 1935. The chain grew to encompass seventy stores, became a subsidiary of S.H. Kress Stores in 1963, and was purchased by McCrory stores in 1981.⁷

World War II appears to have temporarily interrupted development within these blocks, but considerable construction took place after the war's end. Nine of the district's resources were constructed between 1949 and 1952: the Jewel Tea Company Building (Resource #5, 1949, Contributing, Photos #8-left, 14-left, & 20); U.S. Mengel Plywood, Inc. (Resource #9, 1949, Contributing, Photos #15-left, 17, & 18-right); Standard Brands, Inc. (Resource #11, 1949, Photos #18-left & 30); West Disinfecting Co. (Resource #3, 1950, Contributing, Photos #14-right, 22, & 24-left); J. P. Wier Brokerage Company (Resource #4, 1950, Contributing, Photos #14-center & 21); B. F. Goodrich (Resource #10, 1951, Contributing, Photos #24-right, 28, & 29-right); Harris Transfer & Warehouse Co. Warehouse G (Resource #14, 1951, Contributing,

³ University of Alabama Libraries, Woodward Collection, Letter from J. J. Cowan, Harris Transfer and Warehouse Company, Birmingham, Alabama D. E. Wilson, Birmingham, Alabama, February 25, 1918, <http://acumen.lib.ua.edu>.

⁴ Jefferson County Board of Equalization Records, Parcel 22 00 35 4 015 001.000, 8 13th St. S, undated letter to the Jefferson County Board of Equalization, circa 1961.

⁵ Deed Book 3025, p. 201; Jefferson County Board of Equalization Records, Parcel 22 00 36 3 042 001.000.

⁶ Deed Book 3191, p. 519.

⁷ "A History of the 5 & 10," <http://mall-hall-of-fame.blogspot.com>

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Photos #7, 8-center, & 19); Atlas Machine & Supply (Resource #8, 1952, Contributing, Photos #32); and Matthews Electrical Supply (Resource #12, 1952, Contributing, Photo #31).

Five of these buildings, Resources #3, #5, #10, #12, and #13, were constructed by the Fies family as commercial rental properties. Tax and deed records for the properties alternately list the Eighth Avenue Realty Company, Aline Fies Hofheimer (1902-1985), her husband Alan Hofheimer (1902-1992), and Aline's cousin Frances Fies Alcus as owners, but the properties were actually developed by Marx Fies (also listed as Max, 1867-1950), who was the principal of Eighth Avenue Realty Company. Marx Fies operated a sales stable at the corner of 16th Street and 2nd Avenue, known as J. Fies and Sons, that had been established by his father, Jacob Fies. He was also a prominent real estate developer who founded multiple real estate companies, including the Eighth Avenue Realty Company, Fies Realty Company (1909), and the Valley View Realty Company (1942). In addition, Marx Fies was involved with the creation of the Debardeleben Coal Corporation, was a principal in the Columbia Coal Company (1927) and the Montgomery Mule Company (1930), and was involved in banking and other business interests. Fies developed more than thirty commercial buildings in the city including a garage for the Greyhound bus company and a facility for the Southern Bell Telephone & Telegraph Company.⁸ Aline Fies was born in Birmingham in 1902 and was the daughter of Marx Fies and his wife Hannah. Aline Fies married Alan J. Hofheimer and the couple resided in Norfolk, Virginia, although they maintained real estate investments in Birmingham

The city's warehouse industry appears to have suffered from increased competition from major regional trucking and warehousing companies by the late 1950s and no other buildings appear to have been constructed in the district until the late 1960s. In its appeal of a tax assessment to the Jefferson County Board of Equalization about 1961, the Harris Warehouse Company wrote:

It is apparent that the congested area in which our property is located is a definite handicap since two large national companies, Chevrolet and General Electric moved their warehousing operations to buildings located in Irondale. Two substantial manufacturing enterprises have also moved their operations outside of the city. Transall, Incorporated moved its operations to Irondale and Anderson Electric Company has moved most of its manufacturing operations to Leeds. There are rumors that Hill Grocery Company is planning to move to Boyles... One big factor in the lack of demand for warehouse buildings in Birmingham is that the large national companies have found that by locating warehouses in Atlanta and Memphis, they are able to ship overnight into the larger cities and towns in Alabama and to give the same type of service to their customers in the areas on the other sides of those cities.⁹

An industrial metal warehouse (Resource #6, Noncontributing, Photos #12-center right & 13-right)) was constructed at the southwest corner of 1st Avenue S and 13th Street S about 1966. Subsequent construction circa 1985 included a warehouse (Resource #2, Noncontributing, Photo #25) adjacent to Merchants & Manufacturers Terminal Inc. Warehouse and a warehouse

⁸ "Marx Fies, 83, Widely Known Real Estate Man, Laid to Rest," Birmingham News, January 3, 1950, p. 13.

⁹ Jefferson County Board of Equalization Records, Parcel 22 00 35 4 015 001.000, 8 13th St. S, undated letter to the Jefferson County Board of Equalization, circa 1961.

Birmingham Wholesale Warehouse Loop (West) Historic District

Jefferson County, AL

Name of Property

County and State

at the former National Biscuit Company plant (Resource #7, Noncontributing, Photo #7 & 12-left).

Buildings within the district continue to be used for light manufacturing and as warehouses.

Architecture

The earliest building in the district, the warehouse for the Wade Wood Milling Company (1919, Resource #19, Contributing, Photos #1-left, 6, & 13-left) is a simple one-story brick warehouse with a low-pitched gable roof that is reflective of the transition from earlier, more adorned, 19th century styles to the simpler utilitarian character that typified the early 20th century. The building that housed the Merchants & Manufacturers Terminal Inc. Warehouses, Unit #3 (1927, Resource #1, Contributing, Photos #26, 27, & 29-left), is more representative of the early 20th century industrial architecture popularized by architects such as Louis Kahn, with its stark expression of its concrete construction and wide expanses of metal windows. While still relatively plain in design, the Harris Transfer & Warehouse Co. Warehouses A, B, & F building (1929, Resource #13, Contributing, Photos #8-right, 9, 11, & 23), reflects somewhat more refined detailing with its use of faux buttresses with cast caps and use of brick veneer. The building is stylistically more similar to the Early-20th Century Commercial style.

The 14th Street Underpass (Resource #16, 1931, Contributing, Photo #5) is unique within the district as its only transportation-related resource. Designed by noted Birmingham architect David O. Whillden (1881-1970) in a high Art Deco style, the structure is one of four underpasses design by Whillden that were constructed that year. The others are located at 18th, 19th and 20th streets. While utilitarian in function, the structure is adorned with decorative relief panels.

Two resources, the National Biscuit Company building (Resource #18, 1940, Contributing, Photos #1-right & 2) and the V.J. Elmore 5¢, 10¢, \$1.00 Stores Inc. Office & Warehouse (Resource #17, 1941, Contributing, Photos #3 & 4) represent the transition from the more stark industrial design popularized by Kahn and others (Resource #18) to the Art Moderne style (Resource #17). Rather than the tall window wall systems and bold expression of structure found in the Merchants & Manufacturers building, windows in the National Biscuit Company building are grouped in a long band along the north end of the east elevation and are separated along the north and south elevations. The banding appears to be both functional and decorative. The recessed 14th Street S entrance also has radiused reveals. The Elmore Building is the district's only relatively high style building and exhibits Art Moderne elements including vertical and horizontal banding motifs, cast ornamentation, and the use of glass block.

The remaining ten contributing resources represent a distinctive collection of Post-War Moderne style warehouse and light manufacturing buildings. All are relatively plain in character but exhibit features like corner windows, banded windows, and the use of simple cast banding.

Birmingham Wholesale Warehouse Loop (West) Historic District
Name of Property

Jefferson County, AL
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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Birmingham, AL. Jefferson County Board of Equalization Records. Birmingham Public Library Archives.

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Ferguson, Hill. Manuscript Collection. Birmingham Public Library, Department of Archives, Birmingham, Alabama.

Illinois Central Magazine, March 1916, p. 5, <http://books.google.com/>.

"Marx Fies, 83, Widely Known Real Estate Man, Laid to Rest," Birmingham News, January 3, 1950, p. 13.

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Satterfield, Carolyn. Historic Sites of Jefferson County. Birmingham, AL: Gray Publishing Company, Inc., 1976.

Stella, Stephen. "National Register Nomination for the Downtown Birmingham Historic District Montgomery, AL: Alabama Historical Commission 1984.

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Warehouse Loop District Grows" Birmingham Age-Herald. 1923 clipping, date and page unknown.

White Marjorie L. Downtown Birmingham Architectural and Historical Walking Tour Guide. Birmingham AL: Birmingham Historical Society, 1977.

_____. The Birmingham District An Industrial History and Guide. Birmingham, AL: Birmingham Historical Society, 1981.

Birmingham Wholesale Warehouse Loop (West) Historic District

Name of Property

Jefferson County, AL

County and State

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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

Birmingham Wholesale Warehouse Loop (West) Historic District
Name of Property

Jefferson County, AL
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 24.3 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 16 | Easting: 517367 | Northing: 3707796 |
| 2. Zone: 16 | Easting: 517484 | Northing: 3707531 |
| 3. Zone: 16 | Easting: 517203 | Northing: 3707230 |
| 4. Zone: 16 | Easting: 516937 | Northing: 3707388 |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundaries of the Birmingham Wholesale Warehouse Loop Historic District are indicated on an accompanying scaled map. The map was based on information obtained from U.S.G.S. topographic maps, county tax assessment records, and Jefferson County G.I.S. mapping.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes the historically related buildings within the City of Birmingham that retain sufficient integrity to convey a sense of the historic time and place for the district.

Birmingham Wholesale Warehouse Loop (West) Historic District
Name of Property

Jefferson County, AL
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: David B. Schneider (reviewed by Susan Enzweiler, AHC NR Coordinator)
organization: Schneider Historic Preservation, LLC
street & number: 411 E. 6th Street
city or town: Anniston state: AL zip code: 36207
e-mail: dbschneider@bellsouth.net
telephone: 256-310-6320
date: October 20, 2014; rev. January 26, 2015

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Birmingham Wholesale Warehouse Loop (West) Historic District

Jefferson County, AL

Name of Property

County and State

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Birmingham Wholesale Loop (West) Historic District

City or Vicinity: Birmingham

County: Jefferson State: AL

Photographer: David B. Schneider

Date Photographed: October 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo #1 (AL_JeffersonCo_BirminghamWhol&W'hseHD__0001.tif)
Streetscape, 1st Ave. S., camera facing southwest from 14th St. S.

Photo #2 (AL_JeffersonCo_BirminghamWhol&W'hseHD__0002.tif)
Resource #18 camera facing south

Photo #3 (AL_JeffersonCo_BirminghamWhol&W'hseHD__0003.tif)
Resource #17, camera facing west

Photo #4 (AL_JeffersonCo_BirminghamWhol&W'hseHD__0004.tif)
Resource #17, camera facing southwest

Photo #5 (AL_JeffersonCo_BirminghamWhol&W'hseHD__0005.tif)
Resource #16, camera facing west

Photo #6 (AL_JeffersonCo_BirminghamWhol&W'hseHD__0006.tif)
Resource #19, camera facing west

Photo #7 (AL_JeffersonCo_BirminghamWhol&W'hseHD__0007.tif)
Streetscape, 1st Ave. S., camera facing west from 14th St. S

Photo #8 (AL_JeffersonCo_BirminghamWhol&W'hseHD__0008.tif)
Streetscape, 13th St. N., west side, camera facing northwest

Photo #9 (AL_JeffersonCo_BirminghamWhol&W'hseHD__0009.tif)

Birmingham Wholesale Warehouse Loop (West) Historic District

Jefferson County, AL

Name of Property

County and State

View along railroad reservation at Resource #13, camera facing southwest

Photo #10 (AL_JeffersonCo_BirminghamWhol&W'hseHD__0010.tif)

View across railroad reservation toward downtown, camera facing northeast

Photo #11 (AL_JeffersonCo_BirminghamWhol&W'hseHD__0011.tif)

Resource #13, camera facing west

Photo #12 (AL_JeffersonCo_BirminghamWhol&W'hseHD__0012.tif)

Streetscape, 13th St. S., east side, camera facing southeast

Photo #13 (AL_JeffersonCo_BirminghamWhol&W'hseHD__0013.tif)

Streetscape, 1st Ave. N., south side, camera facing east from 13th St. S.

Photo #14 (AL_JeffersonCo_BirminghamWhol&W'hseHD__0014.tif)

Streetscape, 1st Ave. N., south side, camera facing southwest from 13th St. S.

Photo #15 (AL_JeffersonCo_BirminghamWhol&W'hseHD__0015.tif)

Streetscape, 13th St. S., camera facing northwest from 2nd Ave. N.

— Photo #16 (AL_JeffersonCo_BirminghamWhol&W'hseHD__0016.tif)

Resource #15, camera facing north

Photo #17 (AL_JeffersonCo_BirminghamWhol&W'hseHD__0017.tif)

Resource #9, camera facing west

Photo #18 (AL_JeffersonCo_BirminghamWhol&W'hseHD__0018.tif)

Streetscape, 2nd Ave. N., north side, camera facing west from 13th St. S.

Photo #19 (AL_JeffersonCo_BirminghamWhol&W'hseHD__0019.tif)

Resource #14, camera facing northwest

Photo #20 (AL_JeffersonCo_BirminghamWhol&W'hseHD__0020.tif)

Resource #5, camera facing south

Photo #21 (AL_JeffersonCo_BirminghamWhol&W'hseHD__0021.tif)

Resource #4, camera facing south

Photo #22 (AL_JeffersonCo_BirminghamWhol&W'hseHD__0022.tif)

Resource #3, camera facing southeast

Photo #23 (AL_JeffersonCo_BirminghamWhol&W'hseHD__0023.tif)

Resource #13, camera facing north

Photo #24 (AL_JeffersonCo_BirminghamWhol&W'hseHD__0024.tif)

Streetscape, 1st Ave. N. (left) & 12th St. S. (right), camera facing east

Photo #25 (AL_JeffersonCo_BirminghamWhol&W'hseHD__0025.tif)

Birmingham Wholesale Warehouse Loop (West) Historic District

Jefferson County, AL
County and State

Name of Property

Resource #2, camera facing west

Photo #26 (AL_JeffersonCo_BirminghamWhol&W'hseHD_0026.tif)

Resource #1, camera facing southwest

Photo #27 (AL_JeffersonCo_BirminghamWhol&W'hseHD_0027.tif)

Resource #1, camera facing west

Photo #28 (AL_JeffersonCo_BirminghamWhol&W'hseHD_0028.tif)

Resource #10, camera facing east

Photo #29 (AL_JeffersonCo_BirminghamWhol&W'hseHD_0029.tif)

Streetscape, 12th St. N., camera facing northwest

Photo #30 (AL_JeffersonCo_BirminghamWhol&W'hseHD_0030.tif)

Resource #11, camera facing north

Photo #31 (AL_JeffersonCo_BirminghamWhol&W'hseHD_0031.tif)

Resource #12, camera facing west

Photo #32 (AL_JeffersonCo_BirminghamWhol&W'hseHD_0032.tif)

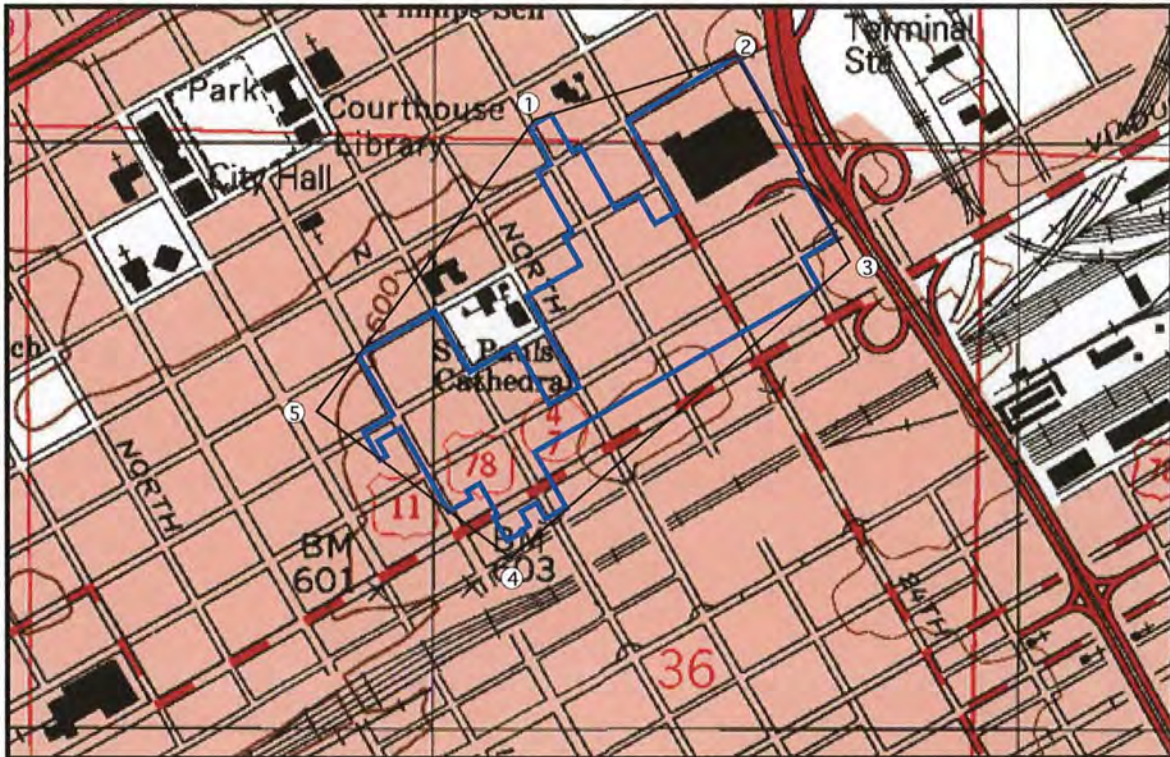
Resource #8, camera facing east

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

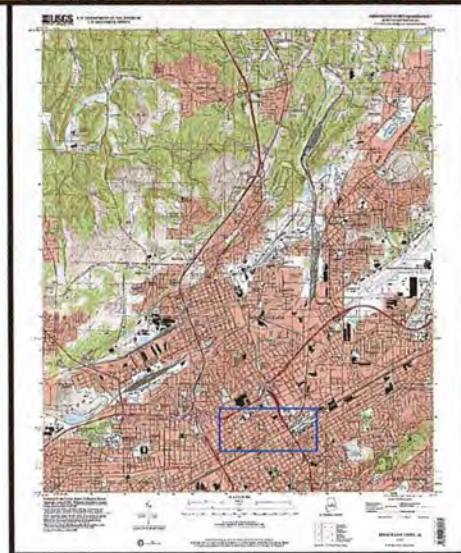
Birmingham Wholesale Warehouse Loop (West) Historic District
 Name of Property

Jefferson County, AL
 County and State






U.S.G.S. Topographic Map
 Birmingham North Quadrangle

#	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	16	518181	3709023
2	16	518508	3709146
3	16	518718	3708786
4	16	518142	3708294
5	16	517806	3708548



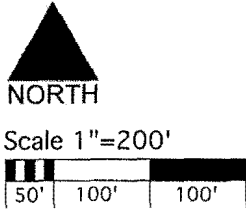
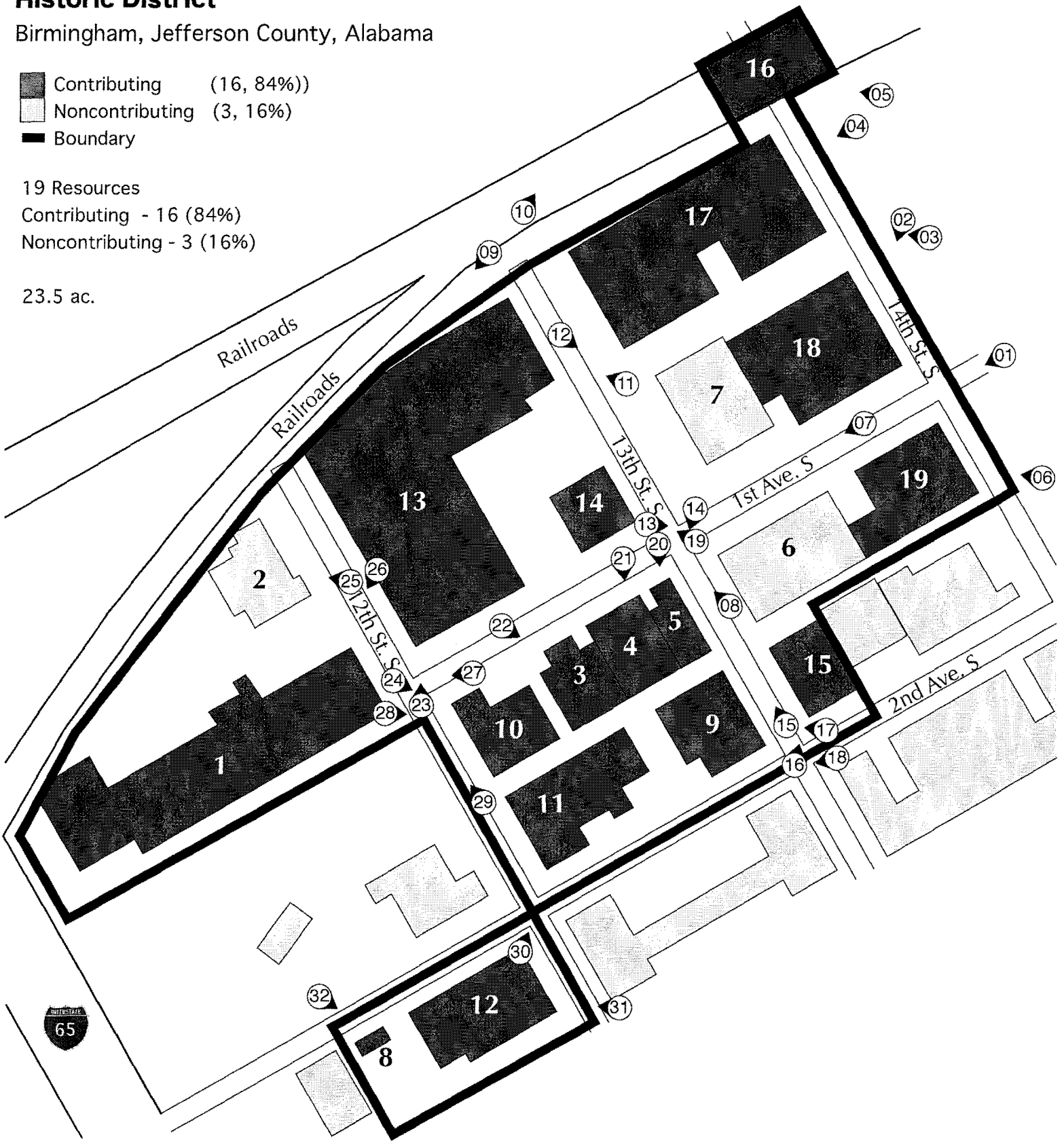
Birmingham Wholesale Warehouse Loop Historic District

Birmingham, Jefferson County, Alabama

-  Contributing (16, 84%)
-  Noncontributing (3, 16%)
-  Boundary




19 Resources
 Contributing - 16 (84%)
 Noncontributing - 3 (16%)

23.5 ac.



Birmingham Wholesale Warehouse Loop Historic District

Birmingham, Jefferson County, Alabama

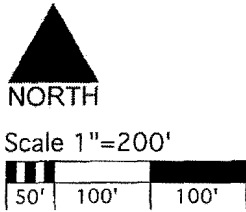
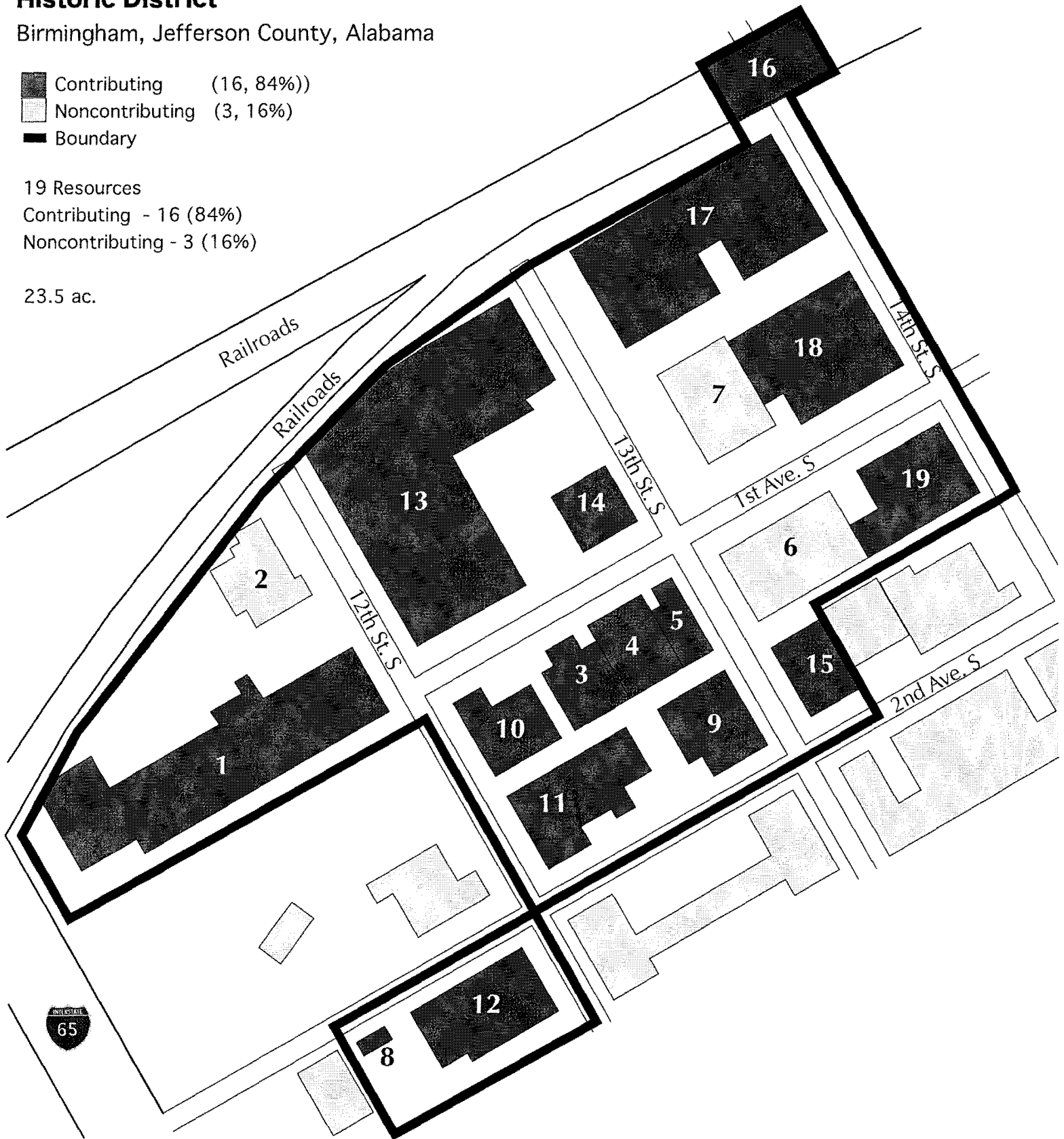
-  Contributing (16, 84%)
-  Noncontributing (3, 16%)
-  Boundary

19 Resources

Contributing - 16 (84%)

Noncontributing - 3 (16%)

23.5 ac.





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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Birmingham Wholesale Warehouse Loop West Historic District

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ALABAMA, Jefferson

DATE RECEIVED: 6/05/15 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 7/07/15
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 7/22/15 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/21/15
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 15000429

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 7.21.15 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF BIRMINGHAM

WILLIAM A. BELL, SR.
MAYOR

March 13, 2015

Ms. Lee Anne Wofford
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Alabama Historical Commission
468 South Perry Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0900

Re: National Register Nomination for the Birmingham Wholesale Warehouse Loop
(West) Historic District
Birmingham, Jefferson County, Alabama

Dear Ms. Wofford:

As Mayor of the City of Birmingham, it gives me great pleasure to support the National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Birmingham Wholesale Warehouse Loop (West) Historic District. In my opinion, the nomination meets the criteria for listing in the National Register.

The area defined by this district is an important part of our local history and heritage. Therefore, I enthusiastically recommend that the proposed Birmingham Wholesale Warehouse Loop (West) Historic District be properly recognized and documented for present and future generations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William A. Bell, Sr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

William A. Bell, Sr.
Mayor



CITY OF BIRMINGHAM

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING, ENGINEERING & PERMITS
710 NORTH 20TH STREET
ROOM 500, CITY HALL
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA 35203

WILLIAM A. BELL, SR.
MAYOR

ANDRÉ V. BITTAS
DIRECTOR

BIRMINGHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION

March 19, 2015

Ms. Lee Anne Wofford
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Alabama Historical Commission
468 South Perry Street
Montgomery, Alabama 35130-0900

Re: National Register Nomination for the Birmingham Wholesale Warehouse Loop
(West) Historic District; Birmingham (Jefferson County), Alabama

Dear Ms. Wofford:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Birmingham Historical Commission, as its Chairman. The Commission has considered the National Register nomination of the proposed Birmingham Wholesale Warehouse Loop (West) Historic District. The Commission has unanimously voted to recommend the registration of the district based upon our opinion that the district meets the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

We are enthusiastic about our recommendation for the inclusion of this listing. Thank you for your careful consideration of this nomination.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Samuel H. Frazier".

Samuel H. Frazier
Chairman, Birmingham Historical Commission



STATE OF ALABAMA
ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION
468 SOUTH PERRY STREET
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130-0900

May 29, 2015

FRANK W. WHITE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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JUN - 5 2015
Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

TEL: 334-242-3184
FAX: 334-240-3477

Ms. Carol Shull
Keeper of the National Register
U. S. Department of the Interior, NPS
Cultural Resources
National Register, History & Education Programs
1201 "I" Street NW (2280)
Washington, D. C. 20005

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find the nomination and supporting documentation to be considered for listing the following Alabama resource in the National Register of Historic Places:

Birmingham Wholesale Warehouse Loop (West) Historic District
Birmingham, Jefferson County, Alabama

Your consideration of the enclosed National Register of Historic Places nomination is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Lee Anne Wofford
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

LAW/sme/nw

Enclosures