

PH0020915

Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>ALABAMA</b>	
COUNTY: <b>MOBILE</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
<b>MAR 21 1973</b>	

#### 1. NAME

COMMON:  
**Brisk & Jacobson Store**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

#### 2. LOCATION

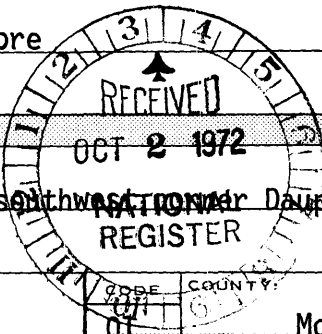
STREET AND NUMBER:  
**51 Dauphin Street, southwest corner Dauphin & Water Streets**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Mobile**

STATE:  
**Alabama**

CODE: **097**

COUNTY:  
**Mobile**



#### 3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <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 (Specify) _____ _____ _____

#### 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
**Gordon Jewelry Co. (Presently listed for sale)**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Houston**

STATE:  
**Texas**

CODE:  
**201**

#### 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Probate Court Records Division**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**S. Royal and Government Streets**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Mobile**

STATE:  
**Alabama**

CODE:  
**01**

#### 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**Historic American Buildings Survey No. Ala.-790**

DATE OF SURVEY: **1966, 1972**  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**Library of Congress**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Washington**

STATE:  
**D. C.**

CODE:  
**08**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	Interior only (Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This is a four-story brick building; trapezoidal in shape, tapering from Dauphin St. to the rear. The north front (45' - 6"), which is entirely sheathed in cast iron, is divided into five bays and the east wall (103' - 11") into fourteen. The north facade is composed of four stories of classical trabeation employing engaged columns of the Corinthian Order and basket handle arched openings on the three upper stories. Five bays in width, the major rhythms of the elevation are established by a gradation in the height of the stories, in the classical manner, and by the pairing of the engaged columns of the end bays on the upper stories, which creates a subtle 1-3-1 rhythm. On the first floor, the simple colonnade is set in antis between rusticated piers that double as quoins and run up the entire facade to the crowning cornice. The second story, or piano nobile, receives the most elegant treatment; resting on a straight entablature, the engaged columns are raised on podia between which are stretched balustrades that act as sills for the windows. A simple rounded moulding springing from slender colonnettes and centered by a small console bracket frames each window. The entire entablatures of the second and third stories break out over the engaged columns and this rhythm is continued by huge foliated console brackets that rise above the colonnade of the fourth story and support a deep crowning cornice. Here, the frieze is panelled, while those of the lower entablatures are plain, and on each story there is a slight variation in the mouldings of the cornices which are often so delicate that the details are not visible to the naked eye from the street below. All windows above the first story are round-headed double-hung wooden sash with three-over-three lights. The bays of the first story have been filled with modern glass blocks; originally, these bays were more open, with large display windows and a deep entrance in the center bay where there is now a modern door. The elevation of the east side is divided into fourteen bays on the ground story by equally-spaced cast-iron pilasters of the Corinthian Order supporting an entablature which is a continuation of that on the north facade. The effect of the north wall podia and balustrades is also repeated by a moulded belt course at the window sill line and by raised panels beneath the windows. Unlike the north elevation, the three upper floors of the east facade are not articulated by orders and the brick wall is treated as a continuous surface. The panelled quoins are also repeated on the east facade and rise to support the crowning entablature which continues that of the north elevation except that here the frieze is plain and the console brackets only occur at either end, above the quoins. Window openings on the three upper floors create a 2-1-2-1-2 rhythm, are roundheaded, and have cast-iron sills and hoods supported on small brackets. The windows are double-hung wooden sash with two-over-two lights. On the first story, there are modern windows with iron guards, but these are in the same location as the originals except that one bay has been filled with glass blocks.

The entire interior of the building has been successively altered and today bears little resemblance to the original; the original cast-iron columns and some original trim do remain, however.

The foundry mark on the base of the cast-iron pilasters reads: "D. D. Badger & Co., N. Y."

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **constructed 1866**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political            | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science              | <u>Use of cast iron</u>                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian  | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater              | _____   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce     | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation       | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |   | _____   |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This is one of the largest and most ornate buildings constructed in the old commercial district of Mobile, and since it was built in 1866, also demonstrates the city's continuing prosperity despite the effects of the Civil War. An excellent example of mid-nineteenth century Classical Revival architecture based on sixteenth-century Venetian palace designs, the entire north front is covered by an exquisitely detailed cast-iron facade, as are the decorative elements of the east side, and this is the only remaining cast-iron facade in Mobile. From 1869 to 1893, the building served as the elegant store of Brisk & Jacobson, wholesale and retail dealers in men's clothing. After 1893, it was occupied by various businesses including carriage and harness sales, a sail manufacturer, and until 1972, served as the retail store of the Gulf Coast Jewelry and Specialty Company. The building is presently listed for sale, and since it is in the Water Street Urban Renewal district, is also in danger of demolition.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hamilton, Peter J., Art Work of Mobile and Vicinity, Mobile, Powers Printing Company, 1930.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES										
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			LATITUDE			LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds			
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	30	°	41	'	32	"			
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"				88	°	02	'	23	"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"									
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"									

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than 1 acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: W. Warner Floyd and Charles A. Herrington, Architectural His. (HABS)

ORGANIZATION: Alabama Historical Commission DATE: August 13, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER: 305 South Lawrence Street

CITY OR TOWN: Montgomery STATE: Alabama CODE: 01

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name Miss B. Howard Jr.

Title SLD

Date September 8, 1972

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Robert H. Utley  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 3/14/73

ATTEST: [Signature]  
Keeper of The National Register

Date 3-7-73

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