

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

AUG 2 1984

date entered

AUG 30 1984

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

1. Name

historic

and/or common South Perry Street Historic District

2. Location

roughly Perry St. between Washington St. and Dexter Ave.

South Perry 10, 14-16, 18, 19, 21-26, 28-33, 36;

street & number Dexter Ave. 78; NE corner S.Perry & Washington

NA not for publication

city, town Montgomery

NA vicinity of

congressional district 2

state Alabama

code 01

county Montgomery

code 101

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	NA	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Private

street & number

city, town

_____ vicinity of

state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Courthouse

street & number 142 Washington Avenue

city, town Montgomery

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

7. Description

Condition excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered**Check one** original site moved

date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The commercial storefronts along both sides of South Perry Street are a collective representation of the historical architectural development of downtown Montgomery. These fifteen buildings, ranging in dates from c. 1836 to c. 1925, exhibit the evolution of taste and style in architecture during that ninety-year period. Included in the district are examples from the Federal, late Victorian, Queen Anne, Neoclassical and Art Deco genre.

All of the contributing building facades in the South Perry Street District are in relatively original condition with the exception of modern renovations to most first floor entries. These renovations range from general removal of original fabric to only cosmetic treatment applied to existing early building materials. One of the buildings, the Confederate Post Office, is currently undergoing an extensive renovation which includes a restoration of the original facade.

Some of the buildings in the district exhibit consistent general characteristics of specific styles. Numbers 14 and 24 South Perry, for example, are good representations of the late Victorian period; number 36 is a good interpretation of the Neoclassical style; and number 33 is a very fine example of the Queen Anne. On the other hand, certain buildings in the district cannot be attributed as a whole to any specific style but rather impart only a few suggestive details of a style. Numbers 19-23 and 30-32 South Perry, for instance, have fairly nondescript, traditional brick facades which are accentuated only by decorative, bas relief, Art Deco-like motifs. Despite the varying degrees of stylistic quality, all of the buildings in the district contribute collectively to a remarkable continuity of proportion, scale and historic content which makes this street unique in downtown Montgomery.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) politics/medicine
<input type="checkbox"/> invention				

Specific dates 1836-1925 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Architecture: Criterion C

The South Perry Street Historic District is architecturally significant collection of buildings which embody the distinctive characteristics of five types and periods of architecture from c. 1836 through c. 1925.

Six of these buildings are fine examples of commercial vernacular and Federal architecture prior to 1850 and are perhaps the best such collection in the city. Six others are excellent examples of the late Victorian style. One building has definite Queen Anne elements and yet another is Neoclassical. Definite Art Deco elements appear in the remaining two buildings, one of which is an example of the Commercial Brick style. The contiguous alignment of these excellent examples of various styles and periods within one block makes them a significant architectural unit. The fabric of these buildings, for the most part, is altered only at the first-floor level.

Politics/Medicine: Criterion B

The small scale professional buildings which lined the in-town end of one of the city's main boulevards attracted a large number of prominent tenants from the 1830s until well into the 1900s, and buildings are associated with prominent politicians (William Lowndes Yancey, George C. Wallace, Alexander B. Clitherall) and doctors (J. Marion Sims, William O. Baldwin, Benjamin Baldwin and Charles A. Thigpen).

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1.95 acres

Quadrangle name Montgomery North

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	6	5	6	5	1	6	0	3	5	8	2	2	4	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B

1	6	5	6	5	2	1	0	3	5	8	2	2	4	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

C

1	6	5	6	5	2	1	0	3	5	8	2	1	2	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

D

1	6	5	6	5	1	2	5	3	5	8	2	1	2	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

E

1	6	5	6	5	1	2	5	3	5	8	2	2	4	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

F

Zone	Easting				Northing									

G

Zone	Easting				Northing									

H

Zone	Easting				Northing									

Verbal boundary description and justification

See attached -- line on scale map. Includes all relatively intact 19th and early 20th century buildings.

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

state NA code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Tom Dolan & Ellen Mertins (Marilyn Sullivan, Landmarks Foundation)

organization Alabama Historical Commission

date April, 1984

street & number 725 Monroe Street

telephone 205 261-3184

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 July 26, 1984

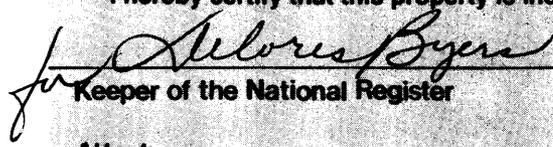
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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date

8/30/84


Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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Contributing Structures

1. Thorington-Sims-Randolph-Lanier Hill Building (also known as the Confederate Post Office), NE corner of Washington and Perry, two buildings joined by a common stairway, eastern building c. 1840, western building c. 1855. This two story, stucco covered, brick structure was probably initially federal in style. Renovations over the years have added a recessed corner entry with canopy, large Richardsonian arched windows on either side of the entry, a crenelated parapet above the cornice and false stucco quoining at the corners.

Currently, this building is undergoing a renovation in which the c. 1840 facade has been demolished and rebuilt in cinder block faced with stucco. The original facade was very symmetrical with a doorway located at either corner with a pair of windows centered between them. On the second floor were four windows aligned with the doors and windows directly below. Above each doorway and window were brick jack arches.

The c. 1855 western end of the building is connected to the earlier part via a stairway which leads from the street to the second floors of both portions of the structure. The windows and door openings in the later part of the building have stone rather than brick lintels.

2. 33 South Perry Street, c. 1894, Queen Anne. The facade of this two story brick structure is a very fine commercial version of the Queen Anne style with an asymmetrical window and door arrangement beneath the metal cornice with a small central pediment. The cornice is embellished with modillions and end brackets with onion dome finials and a sunburst design in the pediment which is topped with a cupola.

The second floor includes a single and a tripartite window both with convoluted pressed metal hoods. The tripartite window has a leaded stained glass insert in the center section as does the transom over the doorway. The first floor window has been replaced with multipaned sash.

4. Old Morris Eye and Ear Infirmary/State Abstract Co. Building, 23-25 South Perry, 1887, Late Victorian. This three bay, brick structure is a good example of a late Victorian commercial storefront. The first floor has undergone display window alterations but the central arched doorway and leaded glass transoms over the display windows appear to be original.

On the second floor a single one-over-one arched window is aligned with the central doorway below. Flanking either side of this window is a tripartite Palladian-like window with each section having one-over-one

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sash. The arches, lintels and sills of all these windows appear to be stone.

Above the second floor windows is a corbeled belt course imitating a cornice with modillions and dentils. Above the belt course is a parapet with a flat roofline.

5. 19-21 South Perry Street, c. 1925. This rather eclectic two story, six bay, tan brick structure is remarkable for its combination of modern and classical design elements. The stone band with palmette design at the roofline is in strong contrast to the solid ashlar lintel spanning all six second story windows which has an Art Deco-like design. Below each second story window is another Art Deco zigzag or chevron motif in ashlar panel insets. Each window, however, is of much more traditional six-over-six sash design. The first floor has been extensively modified with the removal of all original doors, windows and transoms which have been replaced with modern materials. One door opening at the north corner of the building, however, does retain an original shouldered stone lintel.
9. 14 South Perry Street, c. 1895, High Victorian. This very fine example of a late Victorian, commercial, brick building is characterized by four rectangular arched windows on the second floor with cast iron coronas and a heavy bracketed metal cornice topped with a projecting central parapet with onion dome finials. Both above and below the second floor windows is a running band of terra cotta with a geometric design.

The first floor is hidden by a corrugated metal covering with an asymmetrical, modern window and recessed doorways.

10. 16-18 South Perry Street, c. 1840, Federal. Exhibiting simple architectural charm is this restrained, three bay, two story brick, Federal style building. The first floor entry and windows have been recessed with modern plate glass and metal framing. A large wooden panel over the entry may hide an original transom.

The second floor windows have also lost their original sash which has been substituted with aluminum and large panes of plate glass. Above the second floor windows is a corbeled dentil course from which rises a high parapet wall. A fairly recent, narrow, brick stairwell addition can be seen on the north side of the building.

11. 22 South Perry Street, c. 1840, Federal. This simple three bay, two story, brick design is a companion to the building directly adjacent to it on the north. Like its neighbor, the first floor has been heavily

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renovated with modern window glazing and a recessed entry. What appears to be an early entrance on the north corner is sealed. Above the present central entry and spanning the width of the facade is a wide metal panel which may conceal original fabric. The three windows on the second floor have modern metal sash and glazing with corbeled dentil work and parapet above matching the adjoining building.

12. 24 South Perry Street, c. 1895, High Victorian. The eclecticism of this two story, four bay brick storefront is typical of the late Victorian period. The first floor central window has been altered with multipaned colonial style sash. The doorways on either side of this window, however, appear to be original. A large metal sign over the doorways and window may hide additional original decorative fabric.

The second floor windows are well preserved with one-over-one sash and bas relief, Eastlake-like, cast iron coronas. Beneath each window is a narrow decorative band of terra cotta inserts.

The flat roofline is accentuated by a very heavy bracketed pressed metal cornice. Centered above the cornice is a tabernacle parapet breaking the otherwise straight roofline.

13. 26-28 South Perry Street, c. 1895. Like many of the other buildings of this period on Perry Street, the basic four bay, two story, brick form is apparent in this structure, but unlike some of its neighbors, the Victorian detail which has been applied is distinctly restrained. The rather simple pressed metal cornice with small central pediment, for example, is almost stark in contrast to the very richly decorated metal cornices of its neighbors. The four, two-over-two sash windows on the second floor have metal coronas which are classical in design when compared with the rich elaboration of those on other nearby buildings.

Also like its neighbors, the first floor of this building has been altered, although it does retain its basic original design with a doorway on either corner with a large window in the middle. The original window sash, however, has been replaced with colonial style glazing and one of the doors has been replaced with a modern metal frame and plate glass substitute. Extensive refurbishing has occurred between the first and second floors directly over the entries.

14. 30-32 South Perry Street, prior 1884 with c. 1925 facade, Art Deco. The structure behind this tan-yellow brick, two story, five bay facade is late nineteenth century. The front, however, is twentieth century.

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The first floor has been infilled in recent years with ashlar creating a single arched doorway and window. Above the first floor is an ashlar band with an Art Deco chevron and scallop motif. Springing from the band and rising above the second story windows are four corbeled, vertical shafts which terminate in a zigzag design indicative of Art Deco design. At the roofline are a series of single, bright yellow square tiles inlaid between brick headers creating a rhythmical decorative pattern.

15. 36 South Perry Street, c. 1905, Neoclassical. A good example of the reaction against the elaborate eclectism of the late Victorian period can be seen in this more dignified caricature of the classical mode. The modern aluminum and plate glass entry and windows on the first floor are topped by a large scale, ashlar keystone lintel which almost spans the entire width of the building. Above the keystone of the lintel is a plain, rectangular, ashlar insert.

At the second floor level are two blind arches with oversized ashlar keystones. Each of these arches has a pair of narrow, one-over-one sash windows with ashlar sills. Above the arches, at the roofline, is a classical cornice with modillions and dentils which is located between two battlements that rise slightly higher than the cornice on either end of the building.

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Conditional Contributing Structures

3. 29-31 South Perry Street, southern building prior to c. 1850, northern building prior to 1884. Behind the concrete stuccoed facade are a pair of two story, three bay, brick buildings one of which is c. 1850 and the other is late nineteenth century. The entries to both buildings have been recessed and modernized along with the display windows. Some of the original second floor window sash has been replaced but the window openings remain intact behind metal grills.

Woodwork and flooring on the second floor of the north end of the building is all late nineteenth century. The flooring and one door on the second floor of the south wing of the building, however, dates to the mid-nineteenth century. Exposed brickwork at the back of the building also confirms that the south wing is c. 1850 while the north wing is of a later period. The 1850 portion may have been the infirmary of Dr. Marion Sims, father of gynecology in America.

6. 15 South Perry Street, 1920. 15 South Perry Street is a very small one story, brick, alley infill structure. The facade is currently completely covered with aluminum sheathing. The original brick, however, remains intact behind this modern covering. A new plate glass window has replaced the original but what appears to be the original, wooden door is still in place. Above the entry is a modern aluminum canopy. The interior has a very nice, original, coffered wooden ceiling which has been partially covered with accoustical tile.
7. 78 Dexter Avenue c. 1840 Federal. Located on the corner of Dexter Avenue and South Perry Street, this three story brick building appears to be relatively early. Only the second and third floors of the east facade along Perry Street, however, show any of the original brick work with window openings. The remaining fenestration and brick work of the building are hidden behind modern wall coverings. The first floor, modern, corner entry and display windows, for example, are surrounded with marble tile. The second and third floors on the northeast corner above the entry are covered with scored stucco as is the first floor of the southeast facade. A portion of the original corbeled brick cornice may still be seen along the southeast roofline. Above the low pitched roof on the Perry Street side of the building can be seen the tops of four, original, interior chimneys.
8. 10 South Perry, prior 1836. The two story brick building behind the

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

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HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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corrugated metal fascade may be one of the oldest surviving commercial structures in Montgomery. The gable end of the pitched roof can still be seen at the back of the building, although the brick work is completely covered with stucco. The lower floor has been completely renovated with aluminum and plate glass with a modern recessed doorway.

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Books

A History of Montgomery in Pictures. The Society of Pioneers of Montgomery, Inc.

City Directory and History of Montgomery. ed. by Messrs. Beale and Phelan, assisted by M. P. Blue. T. C. Bingham and Co. Printers and Binders, 1878, reprinted 1955 by the Society of Pioneers of Montgomery (again in 1971)

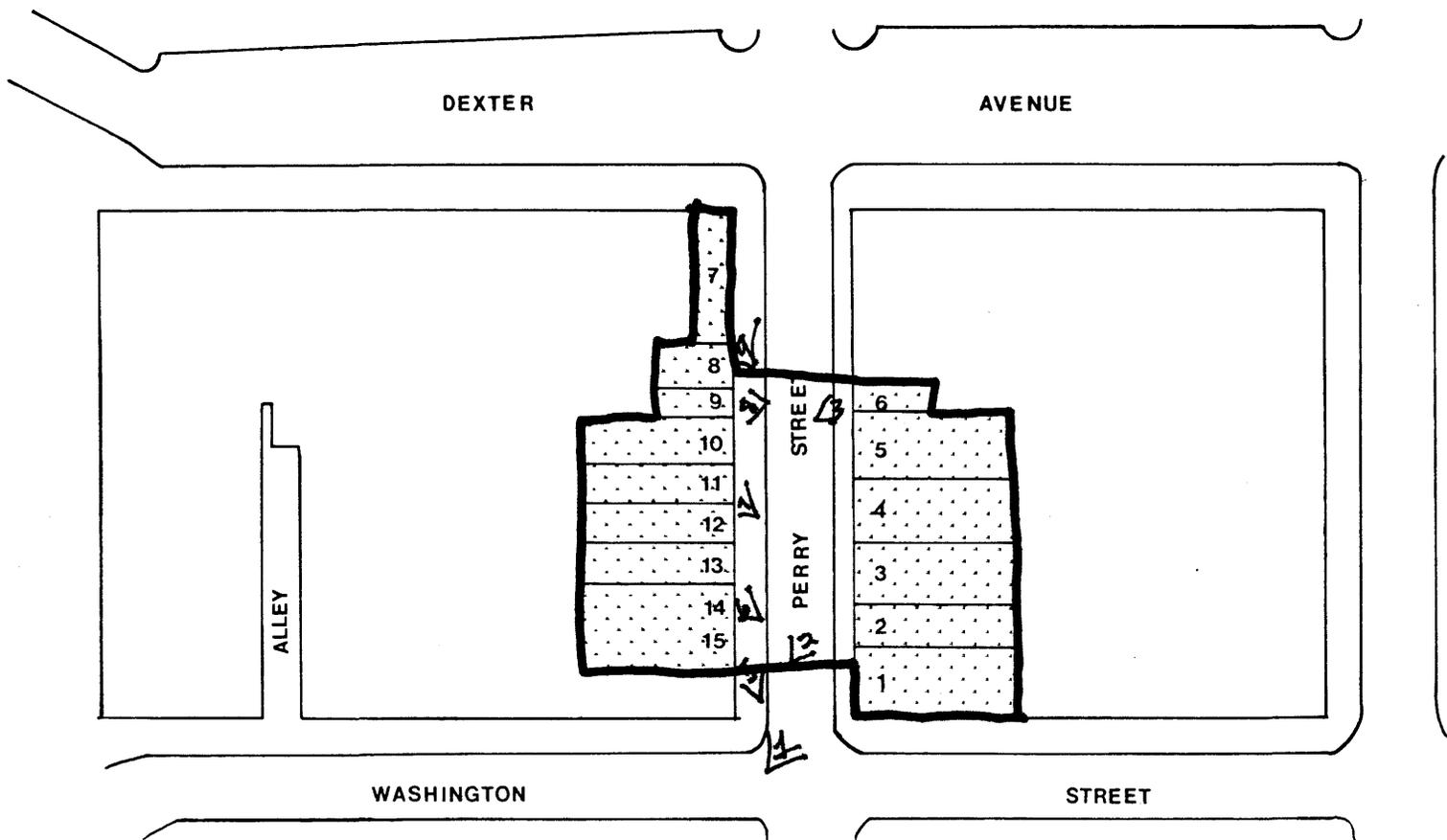
Flynt, Wayne. Montgomery, An Illustrated History. Windsor Publications, Woodland Hills, California, 1980.

Guide to the City of Montgomery. Tintagil Club, 1948.

Owen, Thomas M. History of Alabama and Dictionary of Alabama Biography. Chicago: S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1921.

Sims, J. Marion, M.D. The Story of My Life.

William, Clanton W. The Early History of Montgomery and Incidentally of the State of Alabama. Confederate Publishing Co., University Alabama, 1979.



SOUTH PERRY STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT (III)

Inclusive Street numbers:

South Perry: 10,14-16, 18,19,21-26,28-33,36

Dexter Avenue: 78

Northeast corner S. Perry and Washington