

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 Exclusive Furniture Shop

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 704 29th St. S. (S.E. Corner 7th Ave. S. & 29th St.) NA not for publication

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

4. Owner of Property

name Commercial Development Authority of Birmingham - MBLK Ventures  
c/o Mr. Jeffery Bayer

street & number 1130 Financial Center

city, town Birmingham NA vicinity of state Alabama 35203

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. City Hall

street & number 7th Avenue North

city, town Birmingham 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

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

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

The Exclusive Furniture Shop building is located in Birmingham's southside about 8-10 blocks south of the city's core business district. It is a one-and-two-story English Tudor Style building which measures 100' x 90'. The two-story portion is L-shaped and measures 100' x 50', while the one-story segment is 40'. The building has a concrete foundation and the first floor is a concrete slab. The exterior facade is mostly painted brick with half-timber at the gables. The roof is pitched, covered with tile at the perimeter of the building. The bulk of the roof, however, is flat with skylights which have been covered from the interior. Windows are steel casement with eight panes in each paired segment with a fixed eight-pane horizontal section above. The store front fixed glazing has small projected windows in varying styles. The main entranceway is a double wood door with glass panels and fixed transom surrounded by a handsome limestone Tudor arch.

INTERIOR: While the exterior is virtually intact, the interior underwent alterations in the 1960s. The original entry showroom area is separated by four arches that have been covered with sheetrock and dropped ceilings. The original staircase was removed and a new stairway added to the former service entrance on 29th Street. Strip oak flooring has been partially carpeted and ceilings have been lowered. There is remaining, however, one original fireplace. Plans are to uncover skylights, restore the original stairway, and expose as much original architecture and materials as possible.

## 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 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** 1926 **Builder/Architect** Charles H. McCauley

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

#### Architecture - Criterion C

The Exclusive Furniture Shop (1926) is an excellent, early Birmingham example of Tudor style commercial architecture designed by prominent architect Charles H. McCauley, whose Tudor architecture is considered some of the finest in the city. This building was probably McCauley's first Tudor commercial structure, and it served as a prototype for several later commercial designs (i.e. Mountain Brook Village, 1928, English Village ca. 1928) in Birmingham.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Southside-Highlands Survey Report, Birmingham Historical Society 1977  
Charles H. McCauley records; The Office of Charles H. McCauley  
Mr. Pat Vogtle, AIA

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property less than 1

Quadrangle name Birmingham North

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 

1	6	5	1	9	7	0	0	3	7	0	7	8	4	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

Lot 6 in Blk 411 according to Birmingham Survey made by Elyton Land Company, 100' x 90'

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

(Mr. Pat Vogtle, AIA; Pam King, Operation New Birmingham)

name/title Tom Dolan

organization Alabama Historical Commission

date April 17, 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

For NPS use only

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

## Historical Development Exclusive Furniture Shop

Beginning around 1900 the City of Birmingham's first suburbs began to grow. All over the southside area residential enclaves developed to serve the rapidly emerging middle and upper-middle classes. One of these was in the area of Clairmont Avenue, particularly along Twenty-Ninth Street.

By the 1920s, this area which had contained a variety of black, white and immigrant working-class housing to the north of Clairmont, and middle to upper-middle class housing to the south, underwent a major developmental shift. At that time a blanket light industrial zone classification encouraged redevelopment which eventually forced out many residents and welcomed new industrial and commercial structures. One of these was built in 1926 as the Exclusive Furniture Shop Building on the southwest corner of Seventh Avenue and Twenty-Ninth Street South.

In 1926, the Birmingham Realty Company commissioned Charles H. McCauley to build the large, Tudor structure, whose major tenant would be a fine furniture store. It remains one of the only Tudor-style structures in the southside area. McCauley had been a protege of one of Birmingham's most important architects, William L. Welton. In 1925, however, he left Welton to open his own practice and in the same year designed a Tudor Revival home in Forest Park as well as the impressive Birmingham Railway, Light and Power Company building with its wealth of classical details and a white terra cotta facade (NRHP 1980).

By 1927, McCauley was commissioned by prominent businessman/developer Robert Jemison to design buildings for the emerging affluent suburbs of English Village and Mountain Brook Village (see accompanying drawings). The Tudor-style buildings were naturally more refined than the earlier Exclusive Shop Building which served as a prototype not only for McCauley Tudor architecture but for commercial suburban developments which had pushed outside the city limits of Birmingham. In addition to commercial Tudor structures, McCauley designed some fine Tudor-style homes in the affluent areas of Forest Park, Redmont, and Mountain Brook in the late 1920s and 1930s.

Aside from his impressive interpretation of Tudor architecture, McCauley also designed, in the late 20s and early 30s, some of the most prominent buildings in the Five Points District (NRHP 1983). In 1927 he designed the Byzantine-influenced Temple Beth-El; in 1928, the Venetian Renaissance Revival Shepherd-Sloss Building; and in 1930, the Medical Arts Building, the first medical office building of its type in the city.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Ref # 54000626

Exclusive Furniture Shop  
Jefferson County  
ALABAMA

*additional information accepted*

Working No. 25 1985  
Fed. Reg. Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Due: 4/9/85  
Action: ACCEPT 6-10-85  
RETURN \_\_\_\_\_  
REJECT \_\_\_\_\_  
Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

*This material includes documentation that was omitted from the original form clearly identifying the*

Recom./Criteria Accept  
Reviewer H. Schlapack  
Discipline Arch. Hist.  
Date 4/20/85  
see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for:  technical corrections cited below  
 substantive reasons discussed below

*Signify and description of the property*

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category Ownership Status Present Use  
Public Acquisition Accessible

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

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

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

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

For NPS use only

received APR 25 1985

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Exclusive Furniture Shop (revision to original nomination 8/30/84)

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 704 29th St. S. (S.E. corner 7th Ave. S. & 29th St.) NA not for publication

city, town Birmingham NA 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 type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<u>NA</u>	<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 Avon LTD

Attention: Jeffrey Bayer

street & number 1130 Financial Center

city, town Birmingham NA vicinity of state Alabama 35203

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jefferson County Courthouse

street & number 716 21st Street North

city, town Birmingham 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

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

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

The Exclusive Furniture Shop building is located in Birmingham's Southside about a dozen blocks southeast of the city's core business district. It is a one and two-story English Tudor style building constructed in 1926 and 1927. The building has a concrete foundation and the first floor is a concrete slab. The exterior facade is mostly painted brick with half-timber and stucco at the gables. The roof is pitched and covered with tile at the perimeter of the building. The bulk of the roof, however, is flat with skylights which have been covered from the interior. Windows are steel casement with eight panes in each paired segment with a fixed eight-pane horizontal section above. Ground-floor storefronts have been altered with the insertion of doors, holes punched for conduits, filled in transoms, etc. The main entranceway is a double wood door with glass panels and fixed transom surrounded by a handsome limestone Tudor arch.

While the exterior is virtually intact (if somewhat deteriorated) except for storefront alterations, the interior underwent extensive alterations in the 1960s. Arches that originally distinguished the main showroom have been obscured and lost by remodeling, including new partitions and dropped ceilings. The original staircase was removed and a new stairway added to the former service entrance on 29th Street. Strip oak flooring has been partially carpeted and ceilings have been lowered. There is remaining, however, one original fireplace. Extensive water damage from frozen and burst sprinkler pipes occurred throughout the building two years ago. Virtually nothing is left of the section that served as a movie theatre until about 25 years ago. The stage, seats, and original finishes have been removed, and concrete has been poured in a crude attempt to raise the original sloping slab floor. (Parts of the original floor have failed.) Most recently this section has been used as a warehouse.

# 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 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** 1926, 1927      **Builder/Architect** Charles H. McCauley

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

Architecture - Criterion C

The Exclusive Furniture Shop (1926, 1927) is an excellent, early Birmingham example of Tudor-style commercial architecture designed by prominent architect Charles H. McCauley, whose Tudor architecture is considered some of the finest in the city. This building was probably McCauley's first Tudor commercial structure, and it served as a prototype for several later commercial designs (i.e. Mountain Brook Village, 1928, English Village ca. 1928) in Birmingham.

\*                         \*                         \*                         \*                         \*

This is an amendment to the earlier nomination, which inadvertently omitted the section of the building designed as a theatre.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Southside-Highlands Survey Report, Birmingham Historical Society 1981  
Charles H. McCauley records; The Office of Charles H. McCauley  
Mr. Pat Vogtle, AIA

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1

Quadrangle name Birmingham North

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

1	6	5	1	9	7	0	0	3	7	0	7	8	4	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

C 


D 


E 


F 


G 


H 


### Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 6 in Blk 411 according to Birmingham Survey made by Elyton Land Company

### 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

(Mr. Pat Vogtle, AIA; Pam King, Operation New Birmingham; Alice M. Bowsher)

name/title Tom Dolan and Ellen Mertins

organization Alabama Historical Commission date April 17, 1984; February 15, 1985

street & number 725 Monroe Street telephone 205 261-3184

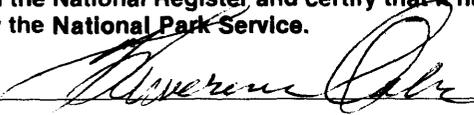
city or town Montgomery state Alabama

# 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.

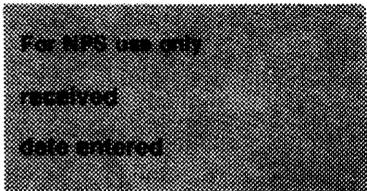
State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 4-10-85

For NPS 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

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

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



Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 1

**HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT**

**Exclusive Furniture Shop**

In the late 19th century, residential enclaves developed south of Birmingham's original "core" (north of Morris Avenue between 17th and 25th Streets). Streetcar lines which supported this development also tended to concentrate commercial enterprises at key intersections, such as the "jog" from 7th to 8th Avenue at 29th Street South. By the 1920s, the area to the north of 8th (also called Clairmont) Avenue, which contained a variety of black, white, and immigrant working-class housing, underwent a major developmental change fostered by the imposition of a light-industrial zone classification that encouraged redevelopment. Prominent Birmingham citizens continued to reside in existing residential neighborhoods to the south.

In 1926, Birmingham Realty Company commissioned Charles H. McCauley to design a large Tudor style structure whose main tenant would be a fine furniture store. The success of the 7th Avenue and 29th Street South location is indicated by the addition a year later of a store and movie theatre. The construction of the building clearly illustrates the changing commercial/light-industrial character of the Southside, as well as the importance of the streetcar line (which led to one of Birmingham Realty's major residential developments in the 1920s, Forest Park). This building remains one of the only Tudor style structures in the Southside area.

McCauley had been a protege of one of Birmingham's most important architects, William Leslie Welton. In 1925, he left Welton to open his own practice and in the same year designed a Tudor Revival home in Forest Park, the Avalon Apartments (NRHP 1985), and Birmingham Railway, Light and Power Company building, with its white terra cotta facade enriched with classical details (NRHP 1980).

By 1927, McCauley was commissioned by prominent developer Robert Jemison, Jr., to design buildings for commercial centers to serve the emerging suburbs of Redmont and Mountain Brook Village to the south. Thus, the Exclusive building can be seen as something of a prototype both for McCauley's subsequent Tudor buildings and also for other suburban commercial developments. In addition to commercial Tudor structures, McCauley designed some fine Tudor style homes in the affluent areas of Forest Park, Redmont, and Mountain Brook in the late 1920s and 1930s.

McCauley also designed, in the late 20s and 30s, some of the most prominent buildings in the Five Points South Historic District (NRHP 1983). In 1927 he designed the Byzantine-influenced Temple Beth-El; in 1928 the Venetian Renaissance Revival Shepherd-Sloss Building; and in 1930 the Medical Arts Building, the first medical office building of its type in the city.