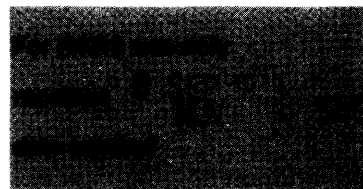


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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



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

1. Name

historic Caldwell-Milner Building

and/or common MetroBank

2. Location

street & number 2015 First Avenue, North _____ not for publication

city, town Birmingham _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district 6

state Alabama code 01 county Jefferson code 073

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input 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	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
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name MetroBank

street & number P.O. Box 37

city, town Birmingham _____ vicinity of _____ state Alabama

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jefferson County Courthouse

street & number 210 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

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

This is a four-story Renaissance Revival style building with a projecting central pavilion that has rusticated quoins. It is actually two buildings behind a unified facade, a common technique that gave the city's early Victorian buildings a more prominent appearance. The date of construction (1887) and the developers' initials ("C" for Henry M. Caldwell and "M" for Willis J. Milner) are incorporated in the facade ornamentation. Architrave-framed windows at the second floor are capped by alternating triangular and segmental pediments and at the third floor by cornice window heads; in the pavilion these forms are repeated, enlarged, over narrow paired windows. The formality of the facade becomes freer at the fourth floor, where round-headed windows with winged cherub heads as keystones alternate with paired pilasters, which correspond to paired foliated consoles above them. A Frieze with inset panels and festoons and a modillioned cornice complete the entablature. Recent rehabilitation by a local architectural firm for use by a local bank restored the architectural dignity of the structure and successfully incorporated drive-in facilities at the much remodelled street level. None of the interior features have survived.

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/		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)		

Specific dates 1887 **Builder/Architect** builder: Henry Allen, London, England

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Built at the height of the city's first boom by two officers of the Elyton Land Company, the Caldwell-Milner Building is the finest example of the Victorian Renaissance Revival style left in the city. Constructed by a London-born contractor, Henry M. Allen, it was a premier office building, the first in Birmingham to have elevators and steam heat. Intended to house realtors and insurance agents when it was built around the corner from the Elyton Land Company Office, it has since served as a lumber company, drug and feed store, savings and loan firm, office supply company, and now as a full service bank. The Caldwell-Milner Building and the adjacent McAdory Building, both built before the industrial city was 20 years old, testify to the rapid growth in wealth and sophistication that gained Birmingham the title Magic City. The two buildings (being concurrently nominated) are enhanced by one another and suggest the character of the commercial district in the late 1880s.

9. Major Bibliographical References

see continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Birmingham North 7.5

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

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

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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Verbal boundary description and justification

NE $\frac{1}{4}$ 36 Township 17 South Range 3 West -- New Bl(44) P(5,6).

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

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Alice M. Bowsher, Marjorie L. White, Tom Bast Ellen Mertins (AHC)

organization Birmingham Historical Society date August 24, 1979

street & number 1425 22nd Street, South telephone (205) 254-2495

city or town Birmingham 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Miss B. Howard, Jr.

title SHPO Alabama date August 27, 1979

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>Carol D Stahl</u>	date <u>11-8-79</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest: <u>Wesley A. Dunbar</u>	date <u>11/7/79</u>
Chief of Registration	

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED . 6 SEP 1979

DATE ENTERED

NOV 8 1979

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

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