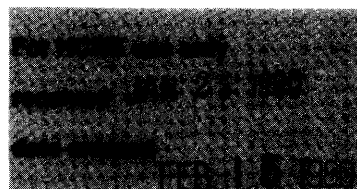


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 First Christian Church Education Building

and/or common First Christian Church Education Building

2. Location

street & number 2100 7th Avenue, North ___ not for publication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 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 checked="" 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 First Christian Church

street & number 2100 7th Avenue, North

city, town Birmingham ___ vicinity of state Alabama 35203

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jefferson County Courthouse

street & number _____

city, town Birmingham state Alabama

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Alabama Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1978-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 First Christian Church Education Building (1924) is a severe, Neo-Classical style structure faced with smooth ashlar and marble columns. It is L-shaped in plan, with the central block, originally used as the sanctuary, on the street, and a wing at the rear. The building is three stories high above a raised basement that serves as a podium. The third story of the central block, however, is only one room deep, with the roof beyond screened on the north and south sides by the exterior wall of the attic story. Current plans for rehabilitation are to enclose the open portion and make the entire third floor functional, as implied from the exterior. A wide flight of steps rises from the street to the main entrance, which is slightly recessed, with three double doors surmounted by large transoms, from which the Roman grillwork has been removed and above them three double-hung windows with large, single-light sashes. The entrance is framed by monumental paired pilasters and articulated in the central portion by engaged Tuscan columns, suggesting a modified in antis effect. Above them is a plain entablature with a broad, projecting cornice. The attic story echoes the motif below, with Tuscan paneled pilasters and single, double-hung windows. The pilasters support a cornice molding capped by a parapet. The ell at the rear of the main building continues the horizontal lines of the main facade and is pierced with sets of paired single-pane, double hung windows.

Much of the interior has been modified. Remaining features of note include the lobby, with its polished stone floor and hanging light fixtures of decorated glass (a few of the fixtures remain elsewhere in the building); the winding stained-oak hand rail and trim of the stairway in the northwest corner of the building; the pilasters and chair rails that remain in a few of the rooms; and the paneled parlor, a handsome space with suspended five-part molded metal light fixtures and a free-standing column.

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" 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 _____ **Builder/Architect** William Leslie Welton

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The First Christian Church Education Building (1924) is important locally for the quality of its Neo-Classical style architecture and for its association with one of Birmingham's pioneer churches. Distinguished by the articulation and proportions of the entrance, the building exemplifies the restrained classicism and expanses of plain wall surface that typify the Neo-Classical style. It is one of only a handful of distinguished Neo-Classical structures dating from the 1920s in downtown Birmingham. It was designed by William Leslie Welton, a major local architect who studied at M.I.T. and the Ecole des Beaux Arts and later worked with McKim, Meade and White.

The church that laid the cornerstone for this building in 1924 was organized in 1874, only three years after the city was founded, making it one of Birmingham's pioneer congregations. After occupying several different sites along 21st Street, the church moved to its present site, then still on the fringes of the downtown residential district. This building was intended to be the education wing (the purpose for which it is now used), but the Depression delayed construction of the church sanctuary, and it served that purpose until the present one was built in 1954.

The building faces the Art Deco style Jefferson County Courthouse (1929-32), part of a complex of municipal and county buildings that surrounds Woodrow Wilson Park. Current plans are for the church to move to a suburban location and the First Christian Church Education Building to be rehabilitated for law offices.

Although a religious property, the building qualifies for the National Register because of the importance of its architecture and historical associations to downtown Birmingham and because of plans to rehabilitate the building for an appropriate non-religious use and retain its architectural character.

9. Major Bibliographical References

see continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1 acre

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle name Birmingham North

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 16 517820 3708920
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

B1 (23) P (13 and 14) (135x110)

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 Ellen Mertins/Alice Bowsher (Birmingham Historical Society)

organization Alabama Historical Commission date January 21, 1980

street & number 725 Monroe Street telephone (205) 832-6621

city or town Montgomery state Alabama 36130

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 Mills B. Howard, Jr.

title SHPO Alabama date Jan. 18, 1980

For HCRS use only

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

Sally G. O'Leary acting Keeper of the National Register date 2/15/80

Attest: Carol A. Duhon date 2/15/80

Chief of Registration

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

FOR HCRS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JAN 23 1980
DATE ENTERED FEB 15 1980

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Satterfield, Carolyn Greene. Historic Sites of Jefferson County, Alabama. Birmingham, Gray Printing Company, Inc., 1976.
White, Marjorie L. Downtown Birmingham-Architectural and Historical Walking Tour Guide. Birmingham Historical Society and The First National Bank of Birmingham, Birmingham Publishing Company, 1977.