

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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

For NPS use only
received AUG 15 1984
date entered SEP 13 1984

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

1. Name

historic Quinlan Castle

and/or common Royal Arms Apartments

2. Location

street & number 2030 9th Ave. Sp.

NA not for publication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 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	NA	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
			<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Royal Arms, Ltd.

street & number 202 N. Foster

city, town Dothan

NA vicinity of

state Alabama

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jefferson County Courthouse

street & number 716 North 21st Street

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		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input 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 Royal Arms Apartments (originally named the Quinlan Castle) is located at 2030 Ninth Avenue, South in the Five Points Area of Birmingham. The complex has two connected buildings of three floors and a basement in each. These buildings are separated by a courtyard and together contain 72 apartment units. Built c. 1927, it is a rough stone and stucco structure of a pseudo-medieval castle design. Exterior features include heavy wood entrance doors with decorative iron hinges, a battlemented parapet, and four octagonal turrets. Most of the building's original casement windows have been replaced with inappropriate aluminum windows of a plain design.

Interior corridors feature the original tile floors, in good condition, stairways with iron and wood handrails, and rough finished plaster walls and ceilings. Portions of the walls and ceilings are moisture damaged and deteriorating. Corridors are dingy and lighting is poor. Some corridors are used as laundry areas with dryers vented through the windows.

Apartment interiors are modest and without any elaborate wood trim. Walls and ceilings are plaster. Walls in many apartments have paneling over the plaster. Floors are hardwood, but carpet has been installed. Bathrooms feature tile walls and floors, but along with the kitchens, need significant upgrading. Heating and cooling is provided through window units.

The Royal Arms has undergone no significant renovations and is structurally sound.

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 c. 1926

Builder/Architect William Leslie Welton (?)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Architecture, Criterion C

Quinlan Castle is an exceptional example of a 1920's Romantic Revival building. The Romantic Revival period glorified historic European architectural styles, and the medieval castellated design of this building represents the movement at its fanciful best. In addition to its unique style, Quinlan Castle is also exceptional as an example of an early, large, multilevel apartment complex. Such apartment buildings became widely popular for the first time during the late teens and twenties, and the Quinlan Castle complex is certainly one of Alabama's best examples of that period.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Southside-Highlands Survey Report, 1981: Birmingham Historical Society
Ann Burkhardt, Town Within a City: The Five Points South Neighborhood 1880-1930:
Birmingham Historical Society, 1982.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 110' x 150'

Quadrangle name Birmingham North

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

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

Beginning at Int. of N R/W of 9th Ave., E South and W R/W of 21st Street So.
Th N-150 SW-110 Ft SE-150' NE 110' to Subdivision B'ham res. Blk 762

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 Pamela Sterne King, Historic Preservationist, & Tom Dolan

organization Alabama Historical Commission/Operation date 6-02-83
New Birmingham

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 8-8-84

For NPS use only

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


Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date

9-13-84

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration