

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received DEC 30 1982

date entered

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

1. Name

historic Hotel Redmont

and/or common Redmont Hotel

2. Location

street & number 2101 Fifth Avenue North N/A not for publication

city, town Birmingham N/A vicinity of

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
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Stiles Enterprises of Alabama, Inc.

street & number 2101 5th Avenue North

city, town Birmingham N/A vicinity of state Alabama

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 Downtown Birmingham has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1977-80 federal state county local

depository for survey records Birmingham Historical Society

city, town Birmingham state Alabama

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<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 Redmont Hotel is a 13-story Chicago style skyscraper faced in brick and terra cotta. It is organized into the three parts typical of the style: a two-story decorative base at street level, an essentially plain mid-section reflecting the structural skeleton and repetitive nature of the rooms, and a decorative cornice capping the building. The cream-colored terra cotta base is ornamented with classical moldings and such Renaissance motifs as urns, garlands, and griffins in low relief. A metal balcony projects across the five central bays at the second floor level, providing a canopy for the main Fifth Avenue entrance and an open-air promenade or viewing stand off what was originally a private reception room.

The 11 upper floors are faced with light brown brick. The corner piers (designed to look more substantial with only a single window and no spandrell decoration on the north facade and without windows on the west facade) frame seven sets of paired windows at each floor. Plain terra cotta moldings at the third and fourth floors suggest bases for the piers that rise above them. Two stringcourses separate the mid-section from the base and the two stories immediately below the cornice: the lower molding is unornamented; the upper one is decorated with circles in relief. Below the windows between the fourth and eleventh floors, terra cotta panels laid in a diamond pattern give a restrained decorative effect. The twelfth-floor windows are screened with wrought iron false balconies with a shield ornament. The top two stories form a base for the classical entablature that crowns the building. The piers are enriched by brickwork laid to create a textured pattered effect. Above the piers runs a frieze ornamented with sculpted panels, urns, and garlands. Above the frieze is a modillion cornice which was originally surmounted by Greek antefixae; the antefixae apparently have been removed and the fascia covered. The entire frieze and cornice on the west facade have also been removed. On the roof of the building are two huge signs in questionable repair and a penthouse structure that was added in 1947.

On the interior, most of the public and commercial spaces have been altered, although the configuration and paneled piers of the lobby remain intact and the original marble floor may exist under the present carpeting. The lobby and ground floor shops were remodeled regularly. The bedrooms are relatively small and not distinguished beyond the fact that each has a private bath, making the Redmont the first hotel in Birmingham that offered such comprehensive amenities.

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 checked="" 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 1925 **Builder/Architect** G. Lloyd Preacher, Architect
Smallman & Brice, Contractor

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Commerce

The Redmont Hotel is one of only two hotels remaining from Birmingham's "Hotel Row," the six-block stretch of Fifth Avenue that in the early 20th century linked the Terminal Station with the heart of the city. The Redmont symbolizes the rise of big-city hotels that reached a peak throughout the nation in the 1920s, fueled by urban growth, extensive train travel, and the decade's tremendous prosperity. In date, size, central location, and overall design quality, the Redmont clearly illustrates this phenomenon. Standing at a major downtown intersection, the 13-story Redmont was one of the largest of the many hotels that lined Fifth Avenue by the 1920s.

Architecture

The Redmont (named for Red Mountain, the source of Birmingham's mineral wealth) is a good local example of the Chicago style, with particular attention to details that create a restrained decorative effect. It was designed by Atlanta architect G. Lloyd Preacher, described in a 1926 Atlanta newspaper as "Atlanta's hotel architect" and considered a prominent regional architect with offices throughout the Southeast. Except for the loss of part of its cornice, the Redmont's exterior is essentially intact. On the interior, although periodic remodeling has altered the public spaces and original shops, the spatial configuration and wood-paneled piers of the main lobby remain, still suggesting the importance of the public lobby to the hotel and of the hotel to the city. Above the lobby is a space that was originally a private reception room that opened onto a balcony overlooking Fifth Avenue. Despite alterations and recent neglect, its location, spatial configuration, cornice moldings, and pilaster capitals continue to suggest the importance of this and similar hotel spaces for social and business gatherings.

* * * * *

The Redmont, originally run as part of the Atlanta-based Dinkler Hotel interests, was developed by Atlantans Louis J. Dinkler, Carling L. Dinkler, and Henry C. Heinz and Birminghamians Phares Coleman and Frank E. Spain, a prominent local lawyer, civic leader, and philanthropist. Its 250 rooms brought to Birmingham such luxury features as a private bath, circulating ice water, and pushbutton electric fan for every room. The general contractor was Smallman & Brice, one of the city's leading firms in the 1920s and still in business today.

9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .15 acres

Quadrangle name Birmingham North

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	6	5	1	7	9	8	0	3	7	0	8	6	2	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

All of the north 60 feet of lots 8 and 9, the East 6 feet of the South 40 feet of the lot 8 and the east 6 feet of lot 10, all in Block 58, according to the survey of Birmingham by the Elyton Land Company.

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

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Alice M. Bowsher (Kidd, Wheeler & Plosser, Inc) & Ellen Mertins

organization Alabama Historical Commission

date October 20, 1982

street & number 725 Monroe Street

telephone (205) 832-6621

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 12-8-82

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the National Register

date 1/27/83

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

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

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

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1977 Marjorie L. White, Downtown Birmingham (Birmingham: Birmingham Historical Society),
p. 101.

Vertical files, Tutwiler Collection of Southern History, Birmingham Public Library

1981 Atlanta Urban Design Commission, Atlanta Historic Resources Workbook (Atlanta)