

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

PROPERTY NAME: Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta--Birmingham Branch

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ALABAMA, Jefferson

DATE RECEIVED: 9/21/13 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 11/07/13
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 03000230

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 11.7.13 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Additional Documentation Approved

RECOM./CRITERIA accept
REVIEWER Gordon Beall DISCIPLINE Historian
TELEPHONE _____ DATE 11.7.13

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta Birmingham Branch
Name of Property Jefferson, AL
County and State N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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1. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide X local
Applicable National Register Criteria:
 X A B X C D

	Executive Director	September 13, 2013
Signature of certifying official/Title:		Date
<u>Alabama Historical Commission</u>		
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government		

In my opinion, the property <u> </u> meets <u> </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.	

Signature of commenting official:	Date

Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
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Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta
Birmingham Branch

Name of Property
Jefferson, AL

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Update of the Period of Significance

The Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, Birmingham Branch, was listed in the National Register in 2003. The nomination documented the period of significance for the resource as 1926 to 1952. This amendment expands that period until 1958, the year in which a major addition to the original 1926 building was completed.

The nomination appears to have anticipated the potential for a subsequent reevaluation of the period of significance once the 50-year milestone for the addition was reached. The description of the building begins:

The present Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta in downtown Birmingham (recently vacated for new suburban quarters) is comprised of the original building completed in late 1926 and the later addition completed in late 1958. Whereas the original building and its addition are architecturally very different, in terms of bank operations and mechanical systems they formed a functional whole, necessitated at that time in the Bank's development by vastly expanded post-War responsibilities. In visual terms, the contrast between the two structures is enhanced by the 15-foot setback of the 1958 building along the 5th Avenue North facade.

The nomination's justification of the period of significance continues:

Birmingham's expansion period began in 1952 with purchase of the lot to its east. This latter year, therefore, was chosen to end the period because it represents the beginning of the building's plans for a modernized plant and condition.

The addition was completed in September 1958. While the architectural significance of the addition is not established by the nomination, the functional and historical relationship of the addition is clearly recognized both by the historical narrative and in the selection of the ending date for the period of significance.

The nomination continues:

The 1958 addition is typical of those built by the Fed throughout the region around this time and does not possess architectural significance, nor does it have a sufficiently distinctive history to justify a less-than-50-years argument for significance.

The addition is now fifty-five years old and therefore it is no longer required to meet the more rigid test of significance for buildings less than fifty years old. It was clearly built to continue and to expand the historical function of the 1926 building and the original nomination established that plans to modernize the building were part of the building's significance. Accordingly, now that the fifty-year milestone has been reached, the addition represents the physical expression of that expansion and modernization planning.

1958 is justified as the end of the period of significance for the resource as it represents the completion date of the addition and pre-dates a subsequent separate remodeling of the 1926

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Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta
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building that commenced in 1959 and that compromised its architectural character by altering its historic storefront. The original architectural appearance of the 1926 building served as the basis for its architectural significance as documented in the nomination. According to the nomination, the 1926 building's architectural significance is "based on the building's embodiment of 20th-century classicism combined with Art Deco style, a modern synthesis that maintained Classicism's expressive ideal of safe money and good government." The alterations made to the 1926 building in 1959 and afterward were not documented by the nomination as being related to the architectural significance of the building. Rather, the "removal of some of the bank's more classical decorative elements such as the in antis columns, the bronze doors and the window grills, has detracted from but not destroyed the quality of the building" rendered the building "a good deal less triumphant, than previously."

Therefore, 1958 represents an appropriate cut-off for the period of significance, as no exterior changes were made to the 1958 addition after that date and it predates the incompatible alterations to the 1926 building.