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The Architectural Legacy of Wallace A. Rayfield: Pioneer Black Architect of Birmingham, Alabama

By Allen R. Dorough

The University of Alabama Press. Hardback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, The Architectural Legacy of Wallace A. Rayfield: Pioneer Black Architect of Birmingham, Alabama, Allen R. Dorough, In the early 1990s, while cleaning out the barn on his property in Bessemer, Alabama, Allen Dorough discovered the remnants of the lifework of African American architect Wallace A. Rayfield, including several hundred of Rayfield's drawings, floor plans, business advertisements, family portraits, and graphic art pieces. This book gathers that priceless material legacy into a cohesive whole, reproducing 159 illustrations that document Rayfield's life and work on two continents. Born in Macon, Georgia, in 1873, Rayfield apprenticed as a young man with the noted architectural firm A. B. Mullet and Company in Washington, DC, before attending Howard University, Pratt Polytechnic Institute, and ultimately graduating with a bachelor of architecture degree from Columbia University. He returned south to teach at the Tuskegee Institute and then to establish W. A. Rayfield & Co., Architects, in Birmingham, Alabama. From there he designed buildings for construction across the south (many by mail order) and even in Africa. Rayfield specialised in church architecture, and many of his designs were for black congregations within the state, most notably the...



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