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NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

RECEIVED

RECEIVED 413
CMS No. 1024-0018

FEB 9 1994

JUN 28 1994

Ala. Historical Commission
Ala. Historical Commission

Commission

INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1. Name of Property

historic name Dragonwick

other names/site number Roberts House

2. Location

street & number 3 Wimbledon Drive

not for publication NA

city or town Mobile

vicinity NA

state Alabama code Al county Mobile

code 097 zip code 36608

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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 nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature]

June 21, 1994

Signature of certifying official

Date

Alabama Historical Commission (State Historic Preservation Office)

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register

See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain):

Entered in the
National Register

[Signature] 7/29/94

[Signature] Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply.)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box.)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register NA

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) NA

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic Sub: Single dwelling

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic Sub: Single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)
Tudor Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete
roof Ceramic tile
walls Brick
other NA

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition on continuation sheet/s.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance 1929

Significant Dates 1929

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) NA

Cultural Affiliation NA

Architect/Builder J.F. Pate

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain significance on continuation sheet/s.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Mobile Historic Development Commission

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.3

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>16</u>	<u>389780</u>	<u>3395200</u>	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John Sledge/Architectural Historian

organization Mobile Historic Development Commission

date 10 February 1994

street & number P.O. Box 1827

telephone (205)438-7281

city or town Mobile

state Al

zip code 36633

USDI/NPS Registration Form

Property Name Dragonwick

County and State Mobile County, Alabama

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=====
Additional Documentation
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Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

=====
Property Owner
=====

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name John Roberts

street & number 3 Wimbledon Drive telephone (205)344-8485

city or town Mobile state Al zip code 36608

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Dragonwick
name of property
Mobile County, Alabama
county and State

Dragonwick sits on a large, informally landscaped lot in Country Club Estates, a 1920s suburban development that features a golf course and country club. The house sits on a low rise, and is screened by several live oak trees along Wimbledon Drive.

The house itself is an excellent example of the Tudor Revival style. It is one and a half stories, all brick with a rustic Ludowici tile roof. Typical of the Tudor style, the house is irregularly massed, essentially an ell plan with a pair of staggered gables and chimney at the facade. The center gable features a sweeping eave terminating at the chimney, just a few feet off the ground. The entrance is recessed in this gable, and features a Tudor arch with stone tabs. The doorway itself includes a Tudor arch and vertical wood boards with strap hinges. The chimney includes stone shoulders and three copper flues. Windows throughout are a mixture of metal casement (first floor) and 6/6 sash (second floor). A modern one story wing (c. 1988) has been added off the west rear elevation. This addition is sympathetically done, being of the same materials and design as the main house.

The property includes two historic outbuildings (c. 1930). One is a one story, cinder block, gable roof to the sides guesthouse with casement windows. Its interior features natural finish trusswork and a painting on a Tudor theme by Mobile artist Edmond de Celle, done for the original owner. The second outbuilding is a garage, also one story cinderblock with a gable roof to the sides.

The interior of Dragonwick retains its integrity of style and design. The house is one room deep with an ell. The entrance leads into a central hall with stairway. Open Tudor arches on either side lead into the living room (west side) and dining room (east side). The kitchen is to the rear of the dining room in the ell. The interior includes original hardwood floors, hardware and cabinetry throughout. The entrance door is flanked by coat closets. The dining room features a pair of corner cupboards of colonial design. The living room features a wooden paneled chimney with a fine Tudor fireplace. The upstairs consists of a series of

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Dragonwick
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bedrooms and baths. An original basement houses the central heat and air units. The west addition includes a master bedroom and bath.

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Section 8 Page 3

Dragonwick
name of property
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Statement of Significance

Dragonwick is significant under National Register Criteria C-Architecture as one of the finest Tudor Revival residences in Mobile. The building exhibits many features of the style, including multiple, steeply pitched gables, casement windows, prominent chimney and Tudor arches. The building is further significant for its intact interior which carries on Tudor themes in its doorways, hardware and fireplace.

Historical Summary

During the 1920s a new suburban development was launched at Spring Hill, several miles west of downtown Mobile. Spring Hill had long been a retreat for Mobilians seeking its healthy water supply and two hundred foot elevation. By the 1920s automobiles had made the area more easily accessible to the city, and residential development, previously scattered and sparse, increased. An area south of Old Shell Road was developed as a residential, golf course and country club in 1926. Initially named Wimbledon, the development was subsequently known as Country Club Estates. A Mission Revival clubhouse was constructed (now altered and adapted beyond recognition) and individual lots were sold. Though several houses were constructed, the Depression slowed progress, and today the bulk of the houses are post 1945.

Among the earliest houses was that of John Cochrane, Jr., erected in 1929 by local builder J.F. Pate. Cochrane was only twenty-nine years old at the time, but was the son of a prominent businessman, John Cochrane, Sr., and was vice president of traffic management at the Alabama, Tennessee and Northern Railroad. His father was president of the line.

John Cochrane Jr.'s new house was a mini-estate, with a guesthouse, garage and large lot. He named the property Dragonwick, but despite the settled appearance, sold it in 1934.

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Dragonwick
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The house passed through two other owners before John and Lynn Roberts Jr. acquired it in 1986. The present owners added a wing to the west, and restored the interior. The house stands today as a fine example of the Tudor Revival in its heyday.

Context: Tudor Revival Architecture in Mobile in the early 20th century

A number of other Tudor Revival houses were constructed in Mobile during the early 20th century. Several examples exist in both the Old Dauphin Way and Ashland Place Historic Districts. A Tudor style orphanage, consisting of four two story buildings, was constructed at Spring Hill in 1914 along Old Shell Road. The Episcopal Diocese has not expressed an interest in National Register listing for this complex. The Tudor style was never wildly popular in Mobile. Mission Revival was much more popular during the early 20th century, perhaps because of the city's Latin heritage and semi-tropical climate.

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Section 9 Page 5

Dragonwick

name of property
Mobile County, Alabama

county and State

Major Bibliographical References

Gould, Elizabeth. *From Fort to Port: A History of Mobile Architecture*. Tuscaloosa, 1988.

Gamble, Robert. *The Alabama Catalog: A Guide to the Early Architecture of the State*. Tuscaloosa, 1987.

Mobile City Directories, 1929-1935.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 10 Page 6

Dragonwick
name of property
Mobile County, Alabama
county and State

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at the Northwest corner of Lot 2, Block 5, First Unit of Wimbledon, as per plat recorded in Map Book 2, Pages 4-7, Probate Court Records, Mobile County, Alabama, run thence South $07^{\circ} - 36' - 30''$ West and along the West line of Croydon Estates as per plat recorded in Map Book 29, Page 26 of the aforesaid records a distance of 89.34 feet to the Northwest corner of Lot 2, Croydon Estates, thence North $87^{\circ} - 04' - 25''$ West 8.00 feet to a point, thence South $07^{\circ} - 34' - 30''$ West 91.08 feet to a point, thence South $86^{\circ} - 55' - 15''$ East 8.13 feet to a point, thence South $04^{\circ} - 20'$ West 28.13 feet to a point, thence South $89^{\circ} - 51' - 55''$ West 4.89 feet to a point, thence South $07^{\circ} - 10' - 15''$ West 36.60 feet to a point, thence South $89^{\circ} - 42' - 08''$ West and along the South lines of Lots 27 & 6, Block 5, of the First Unit of Wimbledon 144.80 feet to a point, thence $07^{\circ} - 16'$ West and along the East line of Rawlings Place as per plat recorded in Map Book 28, Page 111 of the aforesaid records a distance of 93.93 feet to a point, thence North $05^{\circ} - 50' - 45''$ West 163.00 feet to a point, thence Eastwardly and along the South line of Wimbledon Drive East 209.68 feet to the point of beginning.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary conforms to the present legal dimensions of the lot.

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PHOTOGRAPHS
Section _____

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Dragonwick
name of property
Mobile County, Alabama
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Dragonwick-Roberts House
3 Wimbledon Drive
Mobile, Mobile County, Alabama
John Sledge, photographer
December 1993
MHDC Negative File: MB #214

1. Facade, camera facing S.
2. General, camera facing SE.
3. General, camera facing SE.
4. General, camera facing SW.
5. Interior, entrance hall, camera facing N.
6. Interior, living room from hall, camera facing W.
7. Interior, living room, fireplace, camera facing N.
8. Interior, dining room, camera facing NW.
9. Interior, upstairs bedroom, camera facing N.
10. Outbuilding, camera facing E.
11. Interior, outbuilding, camera facing E.