

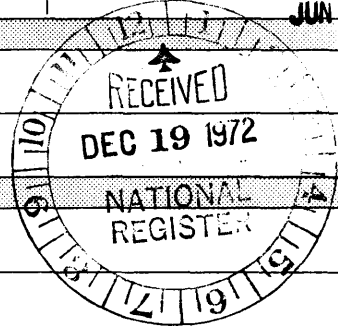
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

PH0012408

N 2370840  
HIS 455680

STATE: Florida	
COUNTY: Nassau	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUN 4 1973



**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Fairbanks House

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Major George R. Fairbanks House

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
227 South Seventh Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Fernandina Beach

STATE Florida	CODE 12	COUNTY: Nassau	CODE 089
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**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
Comments: _____ _____ _____			

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Miss Reba Haile

STREET AND NUMBER:  
227 South Seventh Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Fernandina Beach

STATE:  
Florida

CODE:  
12

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Nassau County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Fernandina Beach

STATE:  
Florida

CODE:  
12

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
N/A

DATE OF SURVEY:  
 Federal  
 State  
 County  
 Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
STATE:  
CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Florida	COUNTY: Nassau	ENTRY NUMBER: JUN 4 1973	DATE
FOR NPS USE ONLY			

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

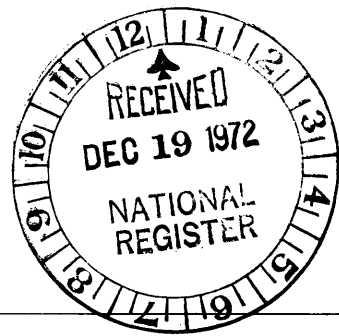
An article in the June 21, 1884 edition of The Florida Mirror stated that during that summer Major George R. Fairbanks would begin construction on his "large, elegant residence" in Fernandina Beach. The article further stated that Mr. R. V. Schuyler, the architect, had the plans nearly completed and the contracts for construction were ready to be given out. A description of the house was included within the text. It stated, "The foundation will be of solid concrete some six feet in height. The building will be of wood, two stories, with an L, and have wide piazzas on the east, south and west sides. The house is to contain from fourteen to sixteen rooms, constructed with an eye solely to comfort".

The Fairbanks residence, completed in 1885, is exactly as described prior to its construction. Although of frame, the house stands as an outstanding example of the Italianate style in domestic architecture. The building has a tower, square in plan, placed slightly off center. The building consists of "well-defined, rectilinear blocks, asymmetrically grouped; although the elevations of the individual blocks are symmetrical". All roofs are of low pitch, hipped and gabled in combination. Eaves of considerable projection are supported on brackets.

The main facade (south elevation) is a complex variety of rounded and flat topped windows in groups of two, three and four. Bays occur on the south and west sides of the house. As was frequently employed in the later, more elaborate versions of this style, pediments and hoodmolds are used over the windows, in addition to exterior louvered shutters. On the south front a balustraded balcony forms a hoodmold for the windows below. Beautiful arched loggias on the south and west sides of the house in combination with the Palladian treatment of the main entrance gives the house a strong feeling of the Italianate.

The house sits in the middle of a large, well landscaped yard, described in the same newspaper article as having been "planted to orange trees, which are all now in a flourishing condition".

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**6. SIGNIFICANCE**

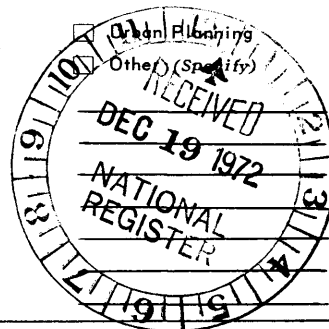
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1885**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

George Rainsford Fairbanks was born in Waterford, New York on July 5, 1820. In 1842, he was admitted to the New York State Bar Association and in that same year he moved to Florida. In 1846, one year after Florida was admitted to the Union, Fairbanks was elected State Senator. Moving from St. Augustine to Fernandina Beach, he assumed editorship of The Florida Mirror, a position which he held from 1879 to 1885. It was during this period that he built "Fairbanks Folly". During the Civil War, he enlisted in the Confederate Army, serving as a Major in the Commissary Department of the Army of Tennessee.

Major Fairbanks, as he was always known, was a historian and scholar very much interested in the history of Florida. He was the author of three books, The Spaniards in Florida, History of the University of the South, and History of Florida. The latter of these was for a long time used for the teaching of Florida history in the public school system. Fairbanks was instrumental in the founding of the University of the South at Sewanee, Tennessee. From 1875 to 1906, he served continuously as a trustee of that institution. In 1866, he built Rebel's Rest, a log dwelling that served for a time as his home and still stands today on the University campus.

At the General Convention of the Episcopal Church which was held in Boston in 1904, Fairbanks was "specially singled out as the oldest representative of that body in attendance for over half a century". Fairbanks died in Sewanee, Tennessee on August 3, 1906.

The Fairbanks House, which stands as a tribute to its builder, is a singularly fine example of the Italianate style of architecture in a domestic dwelling. Dating from the appropriate period, it possesses all the characteristics of the most refined examples of this style in the country and certainly is one of the most important examples in the state.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Guerry, Moultrie. Men Who Made Sewanee. Sewanee, Tenn.: University Press, 1944.  
 Nassau County Courthouse, Fernandina Beach, Florida. Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court. (Subgroup: Deeds). "Reflections". The Florida Mirror. Vol. VI, Issue 30. June 21, 1884.  
 Whiffen, Marcus. American Architecture Since 1780. Cambridge, Massachusetts: The M.I.T. Press, 1969.

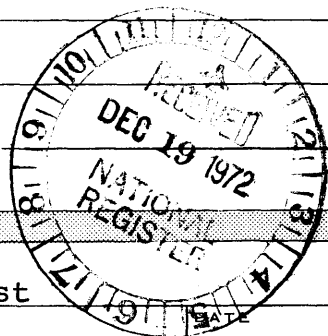
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		N30°	40'	03"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		W81°	27'	39"
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than an acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Diane D. Greer, Historic Sites Specialist

ORGANIZATION: Division of Archives, History, & Records Mgt. DATE: 7/25/72

STREET AND NUMBER: Department of State, The Capitol

CITY OR TOWN: Tallahassee STATE: Florida CODE: 12

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name Robert William

Title State Liaison Officer

Date 12/15/72

Date

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

Robert W. Utley  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 6/4/73

ATTEST:

Robert W. Utley  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 5/31/73