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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

AUG 21 1990

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

Ala. Historical **NATIONAL REGISTER**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Fearn, George House

other names/site number Century 21 Building

2. Location

street & number 1806 Airport Blvd.

Not for publication

city, town Mobile

Vicinity

state Al code Al county Mobile

code 093 zip code 36660

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

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

Category of Property

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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
	<u>0</u> sites
	<u>0</u> structures
	<u>0</u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

Spanish Revival Residences in Mobile, 1904-1929

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

*[Handwritten Signature]*

5-22-91

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.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. 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:)

**National Register**

*[Handwritten Signature]*

7/12/91

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling  

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/business  

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival  

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Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concretewalls Stuccoroof Ceramic tileother iron  

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**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

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This impressive Spanish Revival mansion sits on a large lot in the Loop area of Mobile. It lies just west of the Dauphinway Historic District, on tree lined Old Government Street (now Airport Blvd.). The house sits over fifty feet off the street and is delineated from the sidewalk by a hedge and stucco gateway.

Designed by Mobile architect George Rogers, the Fearn House-Century 21 Building displays a high degree of style. It is a two story, stucco, 3x6 bay Mission Revival structure with hip ceramic tile roof and Mission parapet at the center of the facade. This distinctive parapet features coping and a narrow round top louvered vent, three round top french doors with an iron balcony at the second story and an inset entrance below with a broad arched opening, multi-light door with transom and stained glass sidelights. The building features a stone water table, casement windows in the east and west bays, with stucco flower boxes at the second floor. The wide bracketed eaves feature exposed rafters. There are four interior chimneys and a one story flat roof porch at each side elevation. A two story rear porch has been filled for extra space.

The building's interior includes a central entrance with a stairway up the rear wall of the front room. An operable square elevator cage remains intact at the top of the stairs. The entrance room and flanking rooms have darkly stained boxed ceiling beams, hardwood floor, original square heating grates in the floor and original doors and hardware. There are two art glass windows in the stairway and the sidelights are stained glass as well. The east front room has a highly decorative Neo-Classical mantel and the west front room has a blue tile mantel. The rear conference room is entered from the east front room through a pair of old english barn doors with art glass transoms. The round top kitchen door has art glass. The side porches, now filled with glass, have brick floors.

The upstairs plan features a lateral hall, east and west rooms and a center room. The upstairs mantels are simple but the rooms have dental crown molding. The attic includes an all cedar room for storage of clothes.

**Integrity**

The house retains a high degree of interior and exterior integrity. The original fabric awnings are long gone and the side and rear porches have been filled with glass. These are the only exterior alterations. The interior changes include carpeting and a new kitchen.  See continuation sheet  
The original hardware, art glass and light and bath fixtures contribute significantly.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1904

Significant Dates

1904

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Rogers, George

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

CRITERION C: ARCHITECTURE

The Fearn House-Century 21 Building is significant under National Register Criterion C as one of the earliest high style Spanish Revival houses in Mobile and for its association with Mobile architect George Rogers. Built in 1904, the house is further significant for its high degree of interior and exterior integrity. The original art glass, light fixtures, bath fixtures and mantels are all intact.

\* \* \* \* \*

Mobile architecture at the turn of the century was dominated by the Victorian and Neo-Classical styles. But as the city expanded to the west, new suburbs and developments offered new stylistic opportunities to home builders. As the area known as the Loop began to develop around 1900, the houses constructed along major thoroughfares such as Government Street were done in the latest styles.

When George Fearn bought his lot in 1904 the deed placed certain restrictions on the property, namely that the house must have a value of at least \$2500 and be at least fifty feet from the street. These restrictions were to help insure impressive architecture and Fearn's architect, George Rogers, worked within them to design one of mobile's first Spanish Revival homes. Rogers used quality materials and techniques, including heavy concrete supports, double support walls and inlaid floors. That this house influenced later Mobile architecture is evident both from Rogers' subsequent career and the later boom in Spanish style housing.

Just four years later, in 1908, Rogers designed the Government Street Methodist Church in high Curriqueresque style and the same year, the Gulf Mobile and Ohio Railroad Depot was erected in the Spanish style as the city's official gateway.

Fearn sold his house in 1910 and it passed through a number of subsequent owners. Interestingly, during the 1920s Fearn and his son developed several of Mobile's new suburbs, including Florence Place, which featured the Spanish Revival style prominently.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Elizabeth B. Gould From Fort to Port. University: University of Alabama Press. 1988.  
Alan Gowans. The Comfortable House. Cambridge, Mass.: The MIT Press. 1986.

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Mobile Historic Development Commission

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property App. 1

UTM References

A 

1	6	3	9	16	3	12	10	3	3	9	4	2	6	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

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B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Begin at a point on the N side of Old Government Street (Airport Blvd.) 136' W of the NW corner of Houston and Government Street. Thence proceed W 139' to a point, thence N 225' to a point, thence E 163' to a point and thence S 225' to the point of beginning.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries conform to the present legal dimensions of the lot.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title John Sledge/Architectural Historian; Steven Kay/AHC Reviewer  
organization MHDC date October 1, 1990  
street & number P O Box 1827 telephone (205)438-7281  
city or town Mobile state Al zip code 36633

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number photo-graphs Page 1 George Fearn House

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1. Fearn House-Century 21 Building  
1806 Airport Blvd.
2. Mobile, Mobile County, Alabama
3. John Sledge, photographer
4. February, 1990
5. MHDC Negative File=MB #177

Photo #	Description (Frame #)
1.	General, camera facing NW (15)
2.	Facade, camera facing N (12)
3.	Side elevation, camera facing W (17)
4.	Rear, camera facing S (18)
5.	Interior, entrance, camera facing S (1)
6.	East front room, camera facing N (5)
7.	Mantel detail, east front room, camera facing E (4)
8.	Conference room, rear, camera facing W (6)