MANAGEMENT OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON:
Mansard Roof House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
21st Mason Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Fayetteville

STATE:
North Carolina

CODE:
37

COUNTY:
Cumberland

CODE:
051

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)

DISTRICT
SITE
STRUCTURE
OBJECT

PUBLIC
PRIVATE
PRIVATE
PUBLIC

ACQUISITION:

IN PROCESS
BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED
UNOCCUPIED

ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC

YES
RESTRICTED
UNRESTRICTED
NO

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

AGRICULTURAL
COMMERCIAL
EDUCATIONAL
ENTERTAINMENT
GOVERNMENT
INDUSTRIAL
MILITARY
MUSEUM
PARK
PRIVATE RESIDENCE
RELIGIOUS
SCIENTIFIC
TRANSPORTATION

OTHER (SPECIFY)

LAW OFFICE

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Southern Investment Company

STREET AND NUMBER:
216 Mason Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Fayetteville

STATE:
North Carolina

CODE:
37

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COUNTY, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Cumberland County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:
Fayetteville

STATE:
North Carolina

CODE:
37

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:

Federal
State
County
Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:

ENTRY NUMBER:

DATE:
The Mansard Roof House is a small frame dwelling in the Second Empire style, set in a pleasant, well-planted lot near the expanding Fayetteville business district. It is one-and-one-half stories high and rather long and narrow—the main block being three bays wide and six deep, plus a one-bay rear wing. The plain weatherboards of the house and much of the trim have been sandblasted and treated with a preservative, giving a natural grayed wood color and a rough texture that, although distinctly non-Victorian, is rather interesting. Carrying around the house beneath the molded cornice is a plain frieze punctuated with handsome triple-molded brackets with pendants. The mansard roof is covered with diaper-patterned pressed metal. At the top of the roof above a heavy molded cornice is a delicate cast-iron cresting. The cresting consists of a series of vertical members, each topped by a three-part leaf motif and linked by pointed arches, each centering on a lower element that repeats the leaf design. At the outer corners and halfway along each side is a tall pinnacle with curvilinear floral ornament. Two chimneys pierce the shallow hip of the upper roof.

The west two bays of the main (south) facade project several feet and have at the first level two tall segmental-arched windows containing two-over-two sash. They are set in frames ornamented with wooden strips and surmounted by rather heavy cornices. Louvered shutters occur at all first-story windows. The dormer windows are trabeated and contain two-over-two sash. Their frames are also ornamented with applied strips of wood; above each is a heavy molded projecting cornice that repeats the roof cornice design. The east bay of the facade, set further back, contains a double door, each leaf of which has two long octagonal panels outlined by heavy molding; the upper panels are glazed. Between the upper and lower panels, molding outlines a horizontal lozenge centered on a round wooden boss. Smaller bosses accent the outer corners of panels. The soffit and wide, splayed reveals are finished with the same paneling scheme. Filling the corner between the projecting bays and the entrance bay is a porch that extends around to cover the first bay of the east side. It is said to have been added some years after the construction of the main block. Fluted pillars, square in section, support the low hip roof; above each pillar is a double-molded bracket with a pendant. The porch is enclosed by a plain balustrade with a heavy rail.

The sides of the house repeat the fenestration of the front. The west side has six windows at the first level, occurring in three pairs. At the second level a single dormer is centered above each pair. The east side has three openings at each level; a door (altered from a window) is in the front first-floor bay and single windows in the remaining bays. At the rear of the house is a one-bay wing, one story high beneath a shallow hip roof. The windows have simple frames, and the bracketed cornice of the main roof is repeated. To the east, joined to the wing by a sheltered open passage, is a secondary building similar to the wing but slightly larger.

The interior of the main block follows a side-hall plan, three rooms deep, and a fourth room is in the rear wing. The first-floor rooms in the main block are finished with rather wide, molded baseboards and molded chair rails and cornices. The doors have four panels, raised on one side.
and flat with moldings applied on the other. The doors and wooden mantels now have the rough texture of the exterior but are stained dark. The open-string stair rises in one long, gradual flight from front to rear along the west wall of the hall. A heavy molded handrail is supported by handsome turned balusters. The typical Victorian turned newel is octagonal in section. Each tread has a simple wave-pattern bracket.

The front room is the most elaborately finished. The windows are flanked by heavy molded architraves that extend to the baseboard to frame a single panel. The mantel is of gray marbleized stone, with an elliptical-arched opening. Black insets with incised curvilinear designs accent the spandrel and pilaster areas. The other two rooms on the first floor are more simply finished, with plain molded window frames. The wooden mantels are of standard mid-nineteenth century design, with chamfered pilasters supporting a plain frieze whose lower edge is ogee-arched. The room in the wing has walls plastered above a simple baseboard and narrower door and window frames. The mantel has plain pilasters and a plain frieze.

The second-floor rooms are finished like the wing. An interesting feature in each of the front two rooms is a brass gas fixture over each mantel, with incised geometric designs and delicate connecting hinges topped by tiny onion-shaped finials.
The Mansard Roof House in Fayetteville was built by Frank W. Thornton, probably shortly after he acquired the lot on Mason Street in 1883 for $400. It is believed that Thornton, a merchant, built a number of houses for rent or sale, and he may have built the Mansard Roof House as a rental property; however, its rather elaborate detail is perhaps unusual for a rental house. In any case, he sold the house on May 31, 1904, to H. R. Horner and Sons for $1,800. Sallie V. Beasley acquired the house and lot in 1917. In 1966 it was sold to Earl Bandy who undertook preservation of the house, renovating it and adapting it for office use. In 1971 Bandy sold the Mansard Roof House to its present owner, Southern Investment Company. It is now leased to the law firm of Anderson and Sawyer, for use as offices.

The Mansard Roof House is a delightfully diminutive example of the Second Empire style. The exuberant ornament is in perfect proportion to the small scale of the building, and the interesting modern texture and color of the surfaces, while not authentic, enhance the building's stylish and sophisticated charm. The house, an excellent example of adaptive use, is perhaps the finest of the few Victorian dwellings remaining in Fayetteville.
11. FORM PREPARED BY

Survey and Planning Unit Staff
State Department of Archives and History
109 East Jones Street
Raleigh

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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: H. C. Jones
Title: Director, State Department of Archives and History
Date: 14 July 1972
Mansard Roof House
214 Mason Street
Fayetteville, North Carolina

Official map of Fayetteville
by Willis Baker, City Engineer
Scale: 1" : 2000 feet
Date: September, 1941