

Looking Back

How Well Do You Know Huntsville?

Written by Deane Dayton



HMCP

Who am I?

- A. William Burritt
- B. Alexander Erskine
- C. Thomas Fearn
- D. William McDowell



HABS

Where am I?

- A. Adams Street
- B. Franklin Street
- C. Holmes Avenue
- D. Randolph Avenue



HMCP

Where was I?

- A. Big Spring
- B. Brahan Spring
- C. Ditto Landing
- D. Triana

Answers to **How Well Do You Know Huntsville?**

Who am I? C. Thomas Fearn	Dr. Thomas Fearn was a physician who moved to Huntsville in 1810. He was considered one of the most prominent physicians in the South and was widely known for advocating the use of quinine to treat malaria. He played major roles in building the Indian Creek Canal, expanding the city's waterworks through the use of cedar logs and developing the community of Viduta as a health resort on Monte Sano. Some credit him with naming Monte Sano, which means "Mountain of Health" in Spanish. Dr. Fearn was one of twelve prominent Huntsville residents who were imprisoned during the occupation of Huntsville by Federal troops in 1862 and died shortly after his release.
Where am I? B. Franklin Street	This house, located at 517 Franklin Street, was the home of Dr. Fearn and remained in the Fearn family until 1964. Huntsville architect George Steele is believed to have been responsible for the original construction in 1820 and subsequent remodeling in 1849. The home was used by General Stanley as his headquarters during the Union Army's occupation of Huntsville in July of 1863. The picture was taken in 1934 for the Historical American Buildings Survey.
Where was I? A. Big Spring	This picture is of Big Spring, just down the hill from West Side Square. It was taken in 1862 during a flood. The building, which is being demolished, is the pump house for the city waterworks. The canal was used to transport bales of cotton to the Tennessee River on flatboats. Dr. Fearn was largely responsible for the early development of the waterworks and the canal. From the Digital Archives of the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library.

For more information on the history of Huntsville visit the Heritage Room at the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library or the Huntsville History Collection at HuntsvilleHistoryCollection.org.