

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: REMOVAL

PROPERTY NAME: Buford, Spencer, House

MULTIPLE NAME: Williamson County MRA

STATE & COUNTY: TENNESSEE, Williamson

DATE RECEIVED: 10/09/15      DATE OF PENDING LIST:  
DATE OF 16TH DAY:      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 11/24/15  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 88000346

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT     RETURN     REJECT    11-19-2015 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

The property has been altered with large additions that subsume much of the original house. It has lost integrity of Design & Feeling and diminished integrity of Materials & Workmanship.

RECOM./CRITERIA Remorse 11-19-2015

REVIEWER Jon Jolly

DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

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RECEIVED 2280

OCT - 9 2015

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The Spencer Buford House, commonly referred to as Roderick Place, was listed on the National Register on April 13, 1988 under the Historic Resources of Williamson County Multiple Property Form. This ca. 1820, Federal style-influenced, two-story, brick side passage plan house was listed under Criterion C for its local significance in architecture. The house has been drastically altered with large, unsympathetic additions resulting in the loss of the character-defining features of the ca. 1820 house as explained in the following passage from the *Historic Architecture Survey for the State Industrial Access (SIA) Project Serving Mars Petcare* report conducted by the Tennessee Department of Transportation dated April 15, 2015:

*Facing north on a hilltop overlooking the surrounding countryside, the farmhouse was constructed of bricks kilned on the farm by slaves. The side gable roof is covered with slate shingles. The two-story dwelling originally featured a side-hall plan with three rooms on the lower floor and three rooms on the upper floor. Exterior end fireplaces served a total of six fireplaces. A shallow projecting bay on the main façade features the main entrance with an eight-panel door surmounted by an elliptical fanlight transom. The ornate Federal-style surround features engaged Doric motif colonettes, beaded molding, garland and swag designs, floral decoration, bead and reel moldings, medallions, dentils, and drop pendants (Oden 2002; Thomason 1988)*

*The solid brick walls are constructed with a five-course Common bond on the east and north elevations and Flemish bond on the south and west elevations. A limestone foundation with a basement cellar supports the house. According to family history, the basement contained a wine cellar during the Antebellum period. The original windows have been replaced with replica six-over-nine and nine-over-nine windows. The house was renovated and enlarged around 1937 with a rear addition and a side porch served by flanking French doors. Around 1977, a two-story garage and guest house was constructed at the rear and attached by a covered walkway (Oden 2002; Thomason 1988)*

*In 2000, the house underwent a major renovation and enlargement in order to convert the Federal-style dwelling into commercial use as a conference center and upscale restaurant with a central conservatory. At that time, the 1937 rear addition and 1977 garage were demolished. The original single-family residence was enlarged with a new three-story rear wing and a two-story side wing. The new wings added approximately 7,500 square feet of additional living space to the original 2,500-square foot home. The renovation resulted in the removal of most of the original interior architectural elements, including fireplace mantels, doors, windows, an open staircase, and trim. Original windows were also replaced and doors were constructed on the east elevation, leading to a new porch. In addition, a detached three-story garage and support building containing around 16,000 square feet of living space*

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*was constructed south of the house and connected to the main house with landscaping and exterior patios. The renovation project, however, was never completed and the house has been vacant since 2000.*

*The original Federal-style home and circa 1937 rear wing contained some 5,000 square feet of living space. The 2000 renovation demolished the circa 1937 wing and added approximately 23,500 square feet of new living space. This means that only about ten percent of the dwelling's total square footage dates from the circa 1813-1937 period. In addition, most of the original Federal-style interior elements have been removed, leaving only the brick walls, structural elements, wainscoting, and the main entrance with the ornate exterior door surround. In sum total, the consultant estimates that approximately five percent of the current house is original and dates from the circa 1813-1937 period.*

*During the 2000 renovation, the circa 1977 garage was demolished. Attached to the house with a covered walkway, this three-car garage was included as a noncontributing building in the 1988 NRHP nomination. The 6.4-acre NRHP boundaries also contain an original log kitchen converted into a caretaker's residence, a formal garden and gazebo, a garden tool shed, and a circa 1925 entrance gate as well as a nineteenth-century rock wall and antebellum cemetery located along the main highway. Sections of the rock wall were altered in the 1920s as well as in recent years. Besides the circa 1977 garage, none of these outbuildings or landscape elements were identified as contributing or noncontributing in the 1988 NRHP nomination.*

As a result, the Spencer Buford House has lost the significance for which it was listed and no longer retains integrity of setting, design, materials, workmanship and feeling. Therefore, the Spencer Buford House should be removed from the National Register.

Claudette Stager, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Date

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Figure 1: Façade of the Spencer Buford House in 1988 at the time of National Register listing.



Figure 2: Façade of the Spencer Buford House in 2015.

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Figure 3: Main Entry of the Spencer Buford House in 2015

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Figure 4: East Elevation of the Spencer Buford House beneath the porch.

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Figure 5: North façade and west elevation of the Spencer Buford House in 2015.

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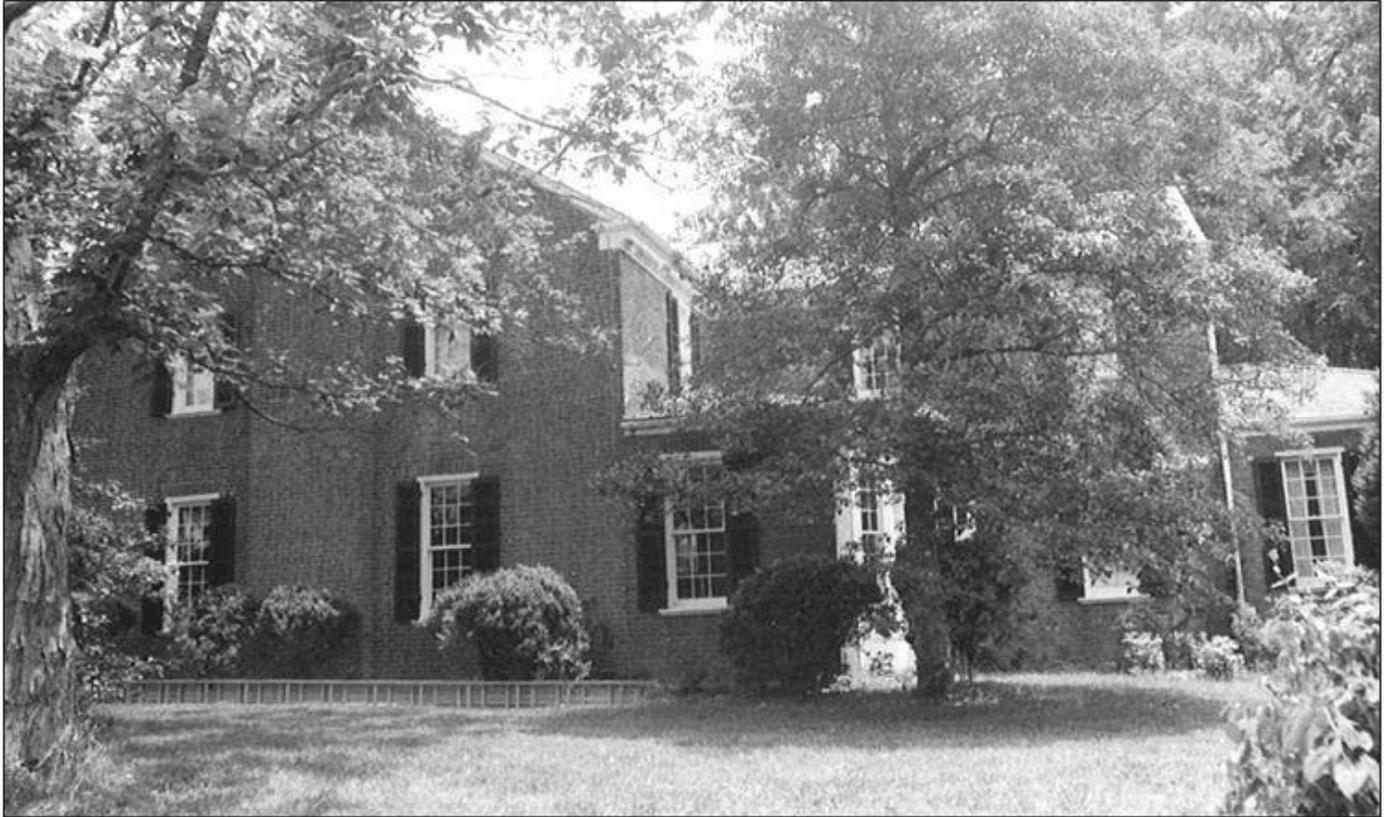


Figure 6: West Elevation in 1988 at the time of National Register listing.

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Figure 7: West Elevation in 2015.

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Figure 8: West and south elevations in 2015.

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Figure 9: South and east elevations in 2015.

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Figure 10: South elevation in 2015.

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Figure 11: West elevation of the three-car garage in 1988 at the time of National Register listing.

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Figure 12: North elevation of the building located on the site of the three-car garage in 2015.



Figure 13: South elevation of the building located on the site of the three-car garage.

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Figure 14: West elevation of the building located on the site of the three-car garage.

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Figure 15: Old gate and a portion of the rock wall in 2015. View to the north and west.

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Figure 16: A portion of the rock wall and the cemetery in 2015. View to the east.

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Figure 17: New brick gate, gateposts and sections of the rock wall in 2015. View to the south.

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Figure 18: New brick gate and gateposts in 2015. View to the east.

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Figure 19: 2015 Overall view to the northeast showing the house, building on the site of the three car garage, a tenant house and the Roderick Horse statue.