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RECEIVED OCT 31 1977
DATE ENTERED MAY 23 1978

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC William Henry Spencer House

AND/OR COMMON

Spencer House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 745 4th Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Columbus

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

3rd Brinkley

STATE

Georgia

CODE

13

COUNTY

Muscogee

CODE

215

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER: Vacant

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Muscogee County School District

STREET & NUMBER

1200 Bradley Drive

CITY, TOWN

Columbus

VICINITY OF

STATE

Georgia 31906

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Tax Records Department

STREET & NUMBER

Government Center

CITY, TOWN

Columbus

STATE

Georgia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Columbus-Muscogee County 1976 Historic Buildings Survey

DATE

1976

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Historic Preservation Section, Department of Natural Resources

CITY, TOWN

Atlanta

STATE

Georgia

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Spencer House, completed for William Henry Spencer in the fall of 1912, is essentially unchanged from its original appearance of two stories, frame, in the version of Classical Revivalism which became popular in the early 20th Century; its appearance was not the result of an architect's design but the product of a local lumber/contracting company. On the exterior the major classical revival features are Corinthian-column front porch supports which were evidently stock items of the period. The overall exterior appearance is of a two-story weatherboarded cube with a truncated pyramid roof often seen in Columbus from about 1830 until 1915. The full-length front porch with columns is the only projection from the sturdy main block of the house. The windows are two panes over two which were originally shuttered. There are three chimneys of red brick. Inside, Classical Revivalism was most apparent in the millwork, especially, the mantelpieces featuring pilasters and columnettes; and in the plan, which is formal and "academic", though spacious, with rooms opening off the entrance stairhall and into each other through wide, sliding "pocket" doors. There are two downstairs bedrooms and one bath in addition to the large entrance stairhall parlor, dining room and kitchen, and back hall with back stairs. Upstairs there are five bedrooms opening off of a hall with a bathroom at the rear of the hall over the first floor bath.

Still standing out above its near neighbors, which are largely one story and smaller in scale, it is an imposing corner house in an area now largely non-residential and commercial in appearance. Inside and out it has the appearance of a good solid, white frame, two story house of the period with good millwork and features such as the hardwood floors laid in geometrical patterns in the entrance-hall, parlor, and dining room. Outside and inside, the only major change which has been made to the 1912 conception was the enclosure of the southwest corner of the front porch in the 1930's.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1912

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Dudley Lumber Co., Columbus

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In June 1912 William Henry Spencer, a leading black educator in the Columbus public school system had the Dudley Lumber Company of Columbus begin building his two-story frame house. By the fall school term of 1912 the house was complete and the family moved from 515 4th Avenue to this their new house at 745 on the southwest corner of 8th Street and 4th Avenue. The resulting structure, a good example of early 20th Century Classical Revivalism, is not exactly duplicated anywhere in Columbus. Custom-designed for Mr. Spencer and his family: Martha Love Spencer and five children, upstairs there were five bedrooms, one for each child. Architecturally the house is significant because it reflects Spencer's family life and standing in the community.

Built at a time when many black people did not own their own homes, this was a two-story house built exactly to fit the needs of a leading black citizen and his family. A formal and spacious house done in the refined and educated Classical Revival taste of World War I America, it befitted one of Columbus, Georgia's most respected black citizens, the school supervisor and principal, William H. Spencer who was born in Columbus, September 21, 1857. At his death, May 30, 1925, Spencer had served in the Columbus school system his entire adult life having started as a teacher while quite young. His place in the community is not only witnessed by his home, but by the fact that William H. Spencer Senior High is named in his honor.

The property now belongs to the Muscogee County School Board, having been willed by his widow for educational and memorial purposes.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Frazier, Charlotte (Mrs.). Interviewed by Mr. Mitchell, 18 May 1977. (Miss Frazier is chairman of a committee to preserve the Spencer House.)
Mitchell, William R. Personal Inspection, May/June 1977.

Spencer, Miss Ethel Terry. Biographical sketch of her father, June 2, 1977; a typed manuscript. (Miss Spencer is 94 years old, the oldest alumnae of Morris Brown College, Atlanta.) She was interviewed by Mr. Mitchell, June 2, 1977.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre
UTM REFERENCES

A | 1 | 6 | 6 | 8 | 9 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 3 | 0 | 6 | 0 |
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

B | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lot at the southwest corner of 8th Street and 4th Avenue, legally described on deed as: Beginning intersection of the western side of 4th Avenue with the southern side of 8th Street and running thence south along the western side of 4th Avenue, 67 feet 8 inches, thence west 73 feet 11 inches; thence north 67 feet 8 inches to the southern side of 8th Street; thence east along the southern side of 8th Street, 73 feet 11 inches to the point of the beginning.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

William R. Mitchell, Jr., Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Historic Columbus Foundation, Inc.

DATE

June 1977

STREET & NUMBER

700 Broadway

TELEPHONE

1-404-322-0756

CITY OR TOWN

Columbus

STATE

Georgia

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Elizabeth A. Lyon 4/27/78

TITLE

Acting State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

Wallisue Cole

DATE

5-23-78

DATE

5-17-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER