

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 Joe Jalkut 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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OCT - 9 2015

Nat. Register of Historic Places  
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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number     N/A     Page     1     Buford, Spencer House  
Williamson County, Tennessee

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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National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
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Williamson County, Tennessee

*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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National Park Service

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Buford, Spencer House  
Williamson County, Tennessee



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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National Park Service

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Buford, Spencer House  
Williamson County, Tennessee

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

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Buford, Spencer House  
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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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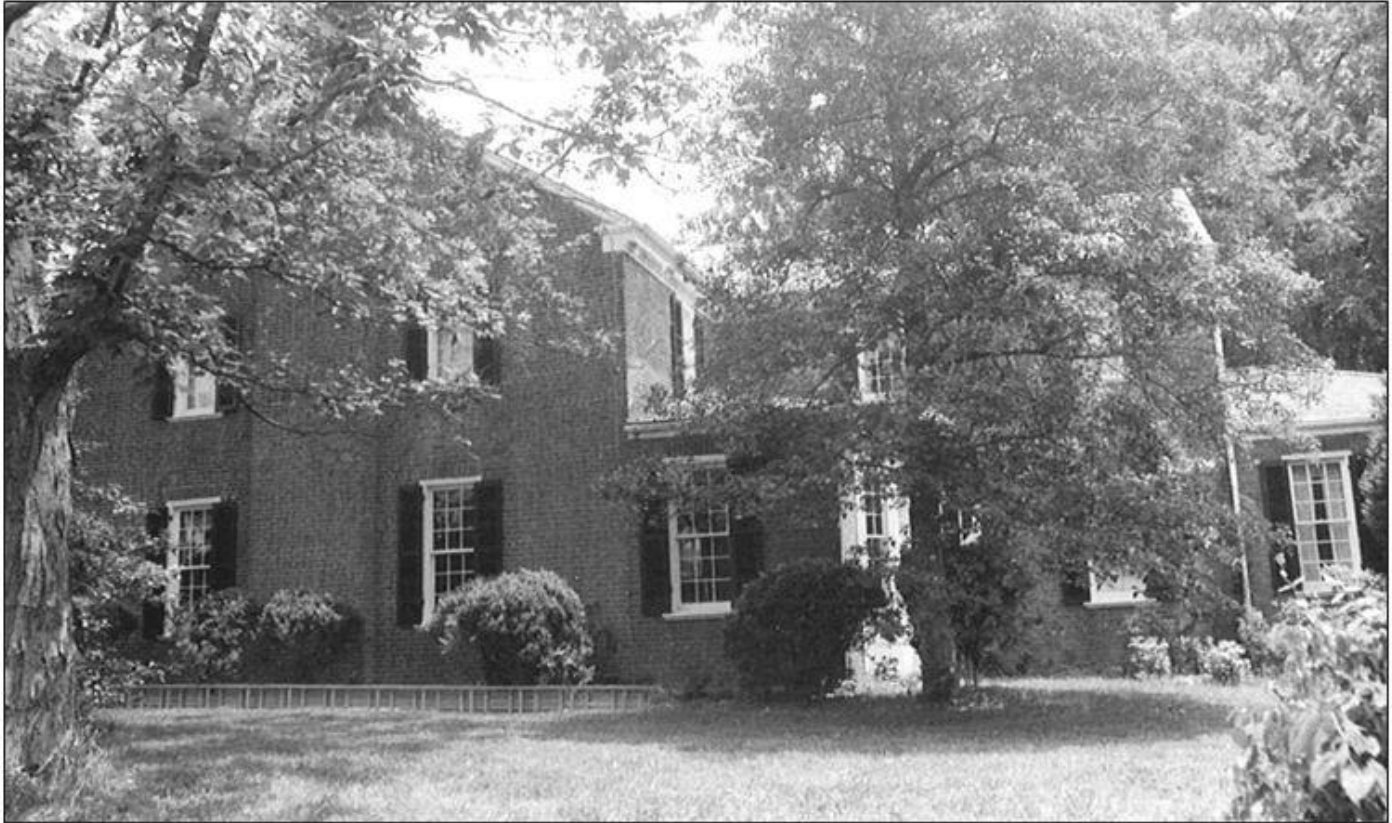


Figure 6: West Elevation in 1988 at the time of National Register listing.



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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.



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NATIONAL  
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## TENNESSEE MULTIPLE PROPERTY FORM

Title: Historic Resources of Williamson CountyHistoric Name: Buford, Spencer, House (WM-732)Common Name: RoderickOwner: Barbara Freeman, Columbia Pike, Thompson Station 37179Location: On Highway 31 one half mile south of Critz Lane junction.Classification: BuildingContributing:

Buildings	1
Structures	0
Sites	0

Non-Contributing:

Buildings	1
Structures	0
Sites	0

Total: 1Total: 1Description:

The Spencer Buford House is a two-story brick side passage plan residence constructed ca.1820. The side passage plan is unusual in the county and the doorway displays excellent Federal detailing. On the main (north) facade is the main entrance which is located in a projecting bay and features one of the finest Federal style doors in the county. The door is of eight panel design with an elliptical fanlight transom. The door surround is ornate with engaged Doric motif colonettes, beaded molding, garland and swag designs, floral decoration, bead and reel moldings, medallions, dentils, and drop pendants.

The windows are both original and replacement nine-over-nine sash on the first floor and six-over-nine sash on the second story. The brick is of five-course common bond on the main and west facades and Flemish bond on the east and north facades. The original section of the house has exterior end brick chimneys. At the rear of the house is a two-story ca.1980 frame addition with weatherboard siding, nine-over-nine sash windows, and multi-light doors. The house rests on a limestone foundation and has a gable roof.

The interior of the house retains original Federal style mantles with fluted moldings. Also on the interior are original chairrails and a simple staircase with square newel post and balusters. There are no significant outbuildings. At the rear of the house is a ca. 1970 brick garage which is connected to the rear addition by an open arcade.

Period of Significance: ca.1820Area of Significance: ArchitectureCriterion: C

The Spencer Buford House is a notable example of a brick ante-bellum Federal influenced side passage plan residence of the early 19th century. The house is the only example of this style in the rural areas of the county. Its doorway is

perhaps the finest example of an Adamesque entrance in the county. Despite additions to the rear of the house the original plan and design of the house remains evident.

Spencer Buford was an early settler of the county and married Elizabeth Giddens in 1801 whose family owned nearby estates. Buford owned several hundred acres and 14 slaves in 1820 when he began construction of this two-story brick residence. Tradition states that he employed an architect from New York to design and help construct the residence. The doorway and side passage plan design are unusual in the county and this assertion appears likely. Before the Civil War the Buford family were prosperous farmers. During the Battle of Thompson Station in 1863, Nathan Bedford Forrest's horse, Roderick, was killed and buried near the house. The house was renamed for the horse in his memory.

Despite alterations to the rear of the house the basic side passage plan remains intact. The doorway is an excellent example of 19th century craftsmanship and is the best Adamesque influenced entrance in the county. The house retains its original site and setting.

Acreage: 6.4 acres

UTM References: Spring Hill Quad/16/509 280/39625 60

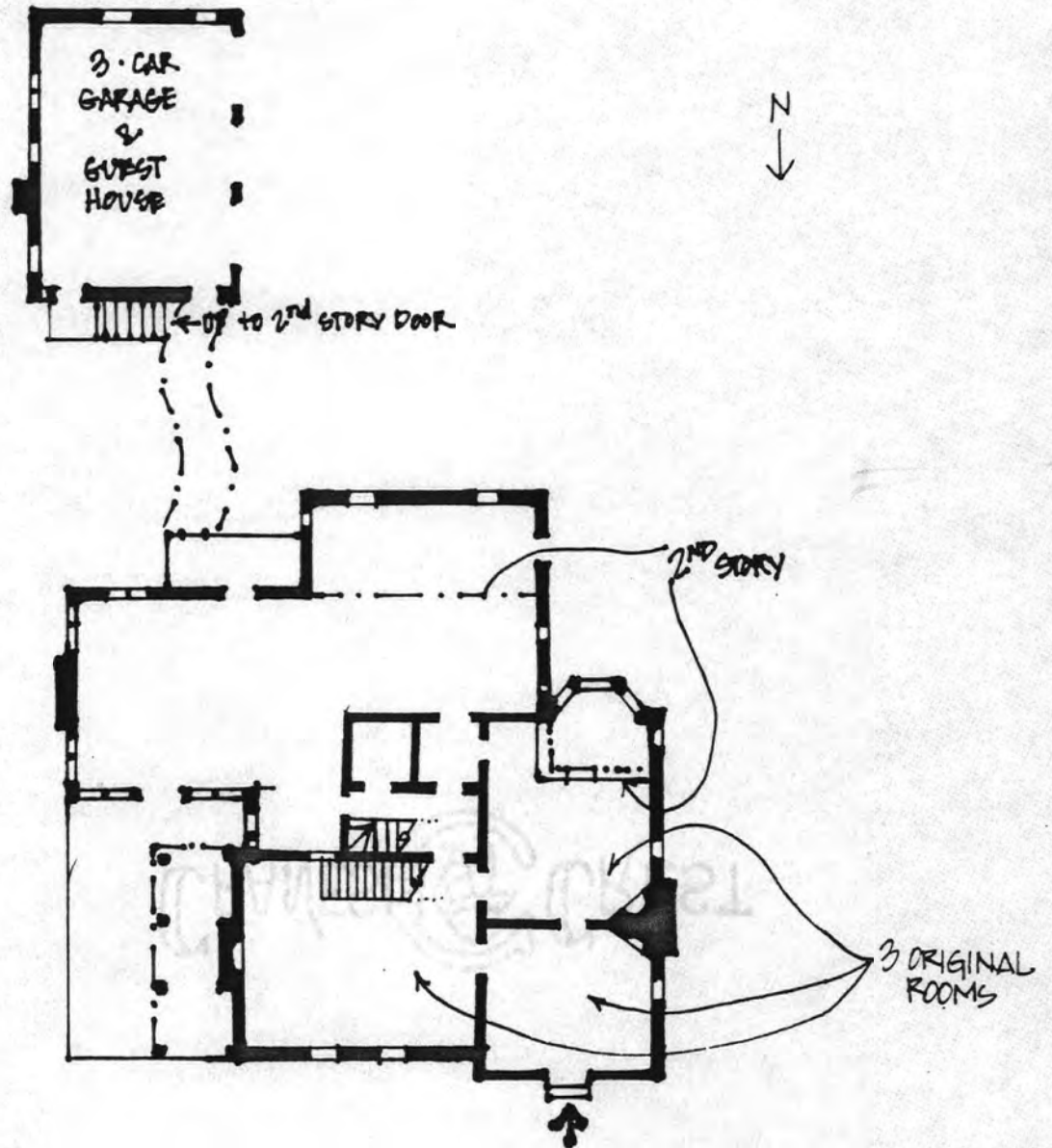
Verbal Boundary Description and Justification: The boundary of the Spencer Buford House is illustrated on accompanying Williamson County tax map 145, lot 15. The boundary is drawn to include the main house and connecting garage and exclude modern outbuildings to the east and south. The boundary is defined by fence lines on the north, east and south and on the west by Highway 31. The boundary is drawn to include sufficient property to protect the historical setting of the site.

Supplemental Bibliographical References:





\* 722 SPENCER - BUFORD HOUSE



\* NOT TO SCALE



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Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Williamson County MRA  
State TENNESSEE

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

21. Boyd, William, House

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 4-13-88

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

22. Buford, Spencer, House

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 4-13-88

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

23. College Grove Methodist Church

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 4-13-88

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

24. Collins, James E., House

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 4-13-88

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

25. Crafton, John, House

Entered in the  
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26. Critz, Jacob, House

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 4-13-88

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

27. Critz, Thomas L., House

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 4-13-88

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28. Crockett, Andrew, House

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 4-13-88

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

29. Elliston, Joseph, House

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 4-13-88

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

30. Forest Hills School

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 4-13-88

Attest \_\_\_\_\_































Please refer to the map in the  
Multiple Property Cover Sheet  
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000824

8800346

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Buford, Spencer, House (Williamson County  
MRA)  
Williamson County  
TENNESSEE

MAR - 3 1988

Working No. \_\_\_\_\_

Fed. Reg. Date: 2/7/89

Date Due: 3/31/88 - 4/17/88

Entered in Action:  ACCEPT 4-13-88

National Register  RETURN \_\_\_\_\_

REJECT \_\_\_\_\_

Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_

Discipline \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: \_\_\_\_\_ technical corrections cited below  
\_\_\_\_\_ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input 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

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection



---

**8. Significance**

Period \_\_\_\_\_ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates \_\_\_\_\_ Builder/Architect \_\_\_\_\_  
Statement of Significance *(in one paragraph)*

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

---

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

---

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_  
Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_  
UTM References \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal boundary description and justification \_\_\_\_\_

---

**11. Form Prepared By**

---

**12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification**

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

\_\_\_\_\_ national \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature \_\_\_\_\_

title \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

---

**13. Other**

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
2941 LEBANON ROAD  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243-0442  
OFFICE: (615) 532-1550

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OCT -9 2015

Nat. Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service

September 29, 2015

J. Paul Loether  
Deputy Keeper and Chief  
National Register and National Historic Landmarks Programs  
National Register of Historic Places  
1201 Eye Street NW  
8<sup>th</sup> floor  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed please find the documentation to remove the Spencer Buford House from the National Register of Historic Places. The building has been drastically altered and has lost the architectural significance and integrity for which it was listed.

If you have any questions or if more information is needed, contact Peggy Nickell at 615/770-1087 or [Peggy.Nickell@tn.gov](mailto:Peggy.Nickell@tn.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Claudette Stager".

Claudette Stager  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Cs:pn

Enclosure