RESOLVED BY THE LANDMARKS HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION
OF THE CITY OF OMAHA:

WHEREAS, James T. and Bertha W. Calloway are the owners
of the Buford House; and,

WHEREAS, these owners on June 14, 1982, requested that
the Buford House be designated a Landmark under the City of
Omaha's Landmark Heritage Preservation Ordinance; and,

WHEREAS, the Buford House was the residence of Harry
Buford, a well-to-do member of the black community, and
apparently associated with the political organization of
city boss Tom Dennison; and,

WHEREAS, the location of the Buford House on the west
side of 30th Street indicated the status of the Buford family
in Omaha during a time of racial segregation; and,

WHEREAS, the Buford House was built in 1929; and,

WHEREAS, the Buford House is representative of the Period
Revival style of architecture, a style popular in America
during the first forty years of the twentieth century; and,

WHEREAS, the Buford House is a rare example of Period
Revival architecture in North Omaha, as the great majority
of houses of that style were being constructed in the then new
suburban neighborhoods of Country Club, Minnie Lusa and
Twinridge-Morton Meadows; and,

WHEREAS, this case application and supporting data are
attached hereto as exhibits, and incorporated herein by this
reference.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LANDMARKS HERITAGE
PRESERVATION COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF OMAHA:

THAT, the Buford House, 1804 North 30th Street, be
designated as a Landmark of the City of Omaha.
Landmarks Heritage Preservation Commission

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

INSPECTION DATE

12/3/82

REQUEST

- X Landmark Designation
- Landmark Heritage
- District Designation
- Certificate of Approval to Perform Work

CATEGORY

- X District
- X Building
- Structure
- Site
- Object

APPLICANT

Bertha W. Calloway

LOCATION OF PROPOSED DESIGNATION OR WORK

1804 No. 30th St.

PRESENT USE

Residence

CONFORMANCE WITH COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Structure appears to meet criteria for Landmark designation.

CONFORMANCE WITH OTHER MASTER PLANS

In conformance (Master Plan Review Committee, January 14, 1983)

NEIGHBORHOOD CHARACTER

Existing: Located on major (30th) Street in an area of mixed uses, including commercial, semi-public and residential.

Probable future effect on neighborhood if designation is granted or work is approved.

Would probably have little or no effect on immediate surroundings.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Approval

ADDITIONAL DATA
APPLICATION FOR LANDMARK OR LANDMARK-HERITAGE DISTRICT DESIGNATION

NAME OF STRUCTURE
1804 North 30th Street - Omaha, Nebraska
Historic

THE BUFORD HOUSE
and/or Common

LOCATION
Street and Number
North Omaha (1804 North 30th Street)
Omaha, Nebraska 68110

CLASSIFICATION

<table>
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<th>Category</th>
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<th>Status</th>
<th>Present Use</th>
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<td>Object</td>
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<td>Yes: Restricted</td>
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OWNER OF PROPERTY
Name
JAMES T AND BERTHA W. CALLOWAY
Phone Number 345-6817

Street and Number
1804 North 30th Street

City, State and Zip Code
Omaha, Nebraska 68110

Representative

Phone Number

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Lot 15 (15) and the west thirty-four (34) feet of lot sixteen
(16) block three (3) Reed's third addition to the city of Omaha,
Douglas County, Nebraska
DESCRIPTION
Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance.

(See Attached)

There have been no structural or physical changes in the building, but the ground surrounding the building have been divided to include a hill in the rear of the home; after the land was sold the Hinky Dinky Store built on part of the land, and the Ginn Service Station built on the lot to the North of the original home.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE  (See Attached)
Specific Dates  1929
Architect John Latenser and Sons
Builder

Date  6/14/82  Signature of Owner/Representative
Significance

The Harry Buford residence at 1804 No. 30th Street was a symbol of status within the black community and the city in general when constructed in 1929. Its architectural style and location indicated the Buford's social position and relative wealth in a time of strict segregation.

The Buford family resided in Omaha by 1892, with Henry Buford employed as a waiter at the Millard and Paxton Hotels and the Omaha Club throughout his life. The family lived downtown at 1209 Cass Street for a number of years, but had moved out to 3510 Blondo by 1912, when Buford's son, Harry, joined the Police Department as a chauffeur. With the father employed as a waiter and Harry with the police, the Bufords were among the well-to-do of an established black community in Omaha before WWI. In 1910, blacks numbered about 4400 and resided in a variety of locations around the city. Only after the black population doubled during WWI did segregation become rigid and force blacks to concentrate in North Omaha.

Although Omaha had at least two other black police officers in this era, Harry Buford's position was an important one, since there were few blacks in city government. Throughout his life, Buford's police career was the subject of much speculation due to his relationship with political boss Tom Dennison. Dennison controlled city government from the turn of the century into the 1930s by keeping his candidates in selected municipal offices. He maintained contact with various ethnic and social groups in the city through trusted friends such as Harry Buford, who served as Dennison's connection to the black community. As an officer, Buford reached the rank of Detective Lieutenant, the highest held by a black man at that time. Buford had a reputation of being able to locate any wanted man on the Near North Side.

Buford and his mother, Elizabeth, moved to 2227 Miami after Henry Buford's death in 1920, then built their new residence at 1804 No. 30th Street in 1929. From that time on, the residence was the site of social activities and receptions for visiting dignitaries. The Bufords were quite prominent, judging from the comments of a writer in the 1930s who stated that "Officer Buford is reputed to be wealthy," and resided in "The most expensive and pretentious home of the Negro population."

As segregation became established in the 1920s, 30th Street was a fairly strict dividing line between the black population to the east and whites on the west. For the Bufords to purchase property and build their home on the west side of 30th was a bold move and clearly indicated their power within the city and probably documented the connection with Tom Dennison as well. The property was purchased from the estate of pioneer Omahan Byron Reed. Reed's son-in-law Frank Johnson, served as Tom Dennison's liaison to Omaha's wealthy, and might have easily facilitated the sale of family property to another of Dennison's friends.
The Bufords not only had the wealth and power to build outside the boundaries of the black community, but also constructed a residence unlike most dwellings in North Omaha. While most houses in the area are 1½ story cottages, the Buford residence exhibits the Period Revival architecture more common in upper middle class suburbs such as Country Club, Minne Lusa and Twinridge-Morton Meadows.

Period Revival houses were popular during the first forty years of this century and were patterned after structures of various earlier periods of architecture both in America and abroad. Models included American Colonial, English Georgian, English Elizabethan (Tudor), French Norman, Spanish Colonial, and Pueblo buildings. The general picturesqueness and irregular outline of Period Revival houses suggest historic styles in general, rather than by exact imitation, through their massing, proportion, materials and borrowed details. The Buford house alludes to English Tudor architecture through its use of brick and half-timber, while its rambling plan and irregular roofline are more general attributes of the overall Period Revival movement.

Harry Buford resided in the residence until his death in 1951. His second wife, Carrie, later married druggist Milton Johnson, and she continued to live at 1804 No. 30th Street until her death. The current owners, James and Bertha Calloway, purchased it in 1980.

Description

Buford House, 1804 North 30th Street, constructed in 1929 at a cost of $3500; one and one-half story over raised basement; brick veneer construction; rectangular (28' x 34') shape; east elevations and projecting eaves throughout; polygonal tower, with half-timber at second story, and pointed roof at southeast corner; dormers at west and north elevations; brick chimney centered on east elevation; double-hung windows with 6 over 1 lights used throughout main floor and at dormers; basement windows used at second floor; large fixed-pane windows at main level of corner tower, arts and crafts brackets support gable roof over east entry.
Bibliography

Nashville; American Association for State and Local History, 1977.

City of Omaha building permit records.

Douglas County Deeds and Mortgage records.

Minneapolis; University of Minnesota Press, 1977.

Gowens, Alan. Images of America Living, Four Centuries of Architecture and


Lane, Jonathan. "The Period House in the Nineteen Twenties." Journal of the

Nebraska State Historical Society. National Register of Historic Places Nomina-
tion Forms. Mount Emerald and Capitol Additions Historic Residential District-
Lincoln, 1980.

Omaha City Directories.

Omaha World-Herald (Evening) December 27, 1920; January 8, 1951.

Pinkett, Harrison T. "An Historical Sketch of the Omaha Negro." Unpublished,
1937. Manuscript located in WPA files, University of Nebraska at Omaha Library,
Omaha collection.

Telephone interview with Dr. Orville Menard, January 19, 1983.

Telephone interview with Mrs. Leroy Wright, November 24, 1982.


LHPC Case No. H1-83-1, APPLICANT Bertha W. Calloway requests LANDMARK DESIGNATION for 1804 North 30th Street. Area to be designated is shaded. (Buford House)
ORDINANCE NO. 29964

AN ORDINANCE to designate the Buford House, located at 1804 North 30th Street as a Landmark pursuant to the Landmark Heritage Preservation Ordinance of the City of Omaha.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OMAHA:

Section 1. That the Buford House is located at 1804 North 30th Street, which is on the following described land, to wit:

Lot 15 and the west 34 feet of Lot 16, Block 3, Reeds Third Addition to the City of Omaha, Douglas County, Nebraska.

Section 2. That for the reasons recited in Landmarks Heritage Preservation Commission Resolution attached hereto as Exhibit I, and made a part hereof as if fully set forth herein, the architectural characteristics of the Buford House are hereby deemed significant and worthy of preservation.

Section 3. That the Buford House is hereby designated pursuant to Section 24-61 of the Omaha Municipal Code, and hereby subject to all of the provisions of Landmark Heritage Preservation, Ch. 24, Art. II, of the City of Omaha.

Section 4. That this Ordinance shall be in full force and take effect fifteen (15) days from and after the date of its passage.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER

Bev Simm

APPROVED:

Michael Boyle
MAYOR OF THE CITY OF OMAHA
DATE

PASSED APR 12 1983 6-0

ATTEST:

Mary Barry
CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF OMAHA

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

CITY ATTORNEY

PL/8:3C15:19
ORDINANCE NO. 29964

AN ORDINANCE to designate the Buford House located at 1804 North 30th Street as a Landmark pursuant to the Landmark Heritage Preservation Ordinance of the City of Omaha.

PRESENTED TO COUNCIL

1st Reading MAR 22 1983 9/12 - Motion to set Public Hearing + 2nd Reading in 4/5/83 Passed 6-0

Hearing APR 6 1983 95% - Over to 4/12/83

Final Reading APR 12 1983

Passed 6-0