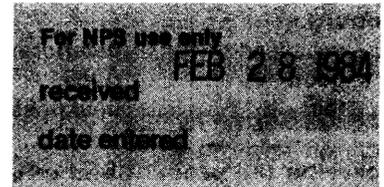


**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**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 Buchanan, James House

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number 2910 Elm Hill Pike N/A not for publication

city, town Nashville N/A vicinity of

state Tennessee code 047 county Davidson code 037

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Barry and Virginia Greer

street & number 2910 Elm Hill Pike

city, town Nashville N/A vicinity of state Tennessee 37214

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register's Office of Davidson County

street & number Public Square

city, town Nashville state Tennessee 37201

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date N/A N/A federal state county local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A state N/A

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The James Buchanan House is a two-story log house with a one-and-one-half-story log addition, and a one-story board and batten rear shed addition, built ca. 1800 and exhibiting construction techniques typical of log houses built on the Tennessee frontier. The house, located in a residential section of Elm Hill Pike, shows an evolutionary change from an early single pen log house with a hall and parlor floor plan to a double pen log saddle bag configuration with a later one-story frame shed addition that extends along the rear elevation. Resting on a solid limestone foundation, the half dovetail notched house is covered by a standing seam metal gable roof. Surviving examples of two-story log houses are rare in Middle Tennessee, and the Buchanan House may be the second oldest example of this house type in Davidson County next to the Fredrick Stump House (NR 4/2/73).

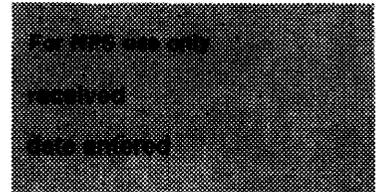
Situated on a small knoll approximately seven miles east of downtown Nashville and surrounded by chestnut rail fencing and large magnolia trees, the James Buchanan House is one of the oldest log structures in Middle Tennessee and one of the best examples of two-story log construction. Built ca. 1800, the original two-story single log pen measures 26'x18' and originally had a hall and parlor floor plan. Resting on a solid unmortared limestone foundation, the half dovetail notched logs are chestnut, oak, and yellow poplar. A shed porch supported by square boxed columns covers the facade. The single pen originally had exterior gable end limestone chimneys flanked by 6/6 light double hung sash windows and covered by a cedar shake roof. The rafters are 4"x4" squared poplar that are one-half lapped and pegged and attached to the plate with blind mortise and tenon joints. Perhaps the most interesting feature of the roof system in this section of the house is a full dovetailed purlin that travels the full length of the two-story section. The windows are 6/6 light double hung sash on the first floor and 1/1 light double hung sash on the second floor. All the windows have vertical board shutters on the facade. The front entryway came from the Chandler House built ca. 1830 on Central Pike. It was added to the Buchanan House in 1978 and has a glass transom, sidelights, and a double door with two vertical raised panels.

As the Buchanan family increased to sixteen children, a one-and-one-half-story single pen log addition was constructed ca. 1820. This 16'x18' addition created a saddlebag type house (the interior chimney was removed ca. 1970 and replaced with the present staircase.) This one-and-one-half-story addition has an exterior gable end limestone chimney, continues the half dovetail notching arrangement, and has a pair of 6/6 light double hung sash windows with vertical board shutters on the facade. The rafters in this section differ from the two-story section in that they are 4 inch round cedar poles one-half lapped and pegged, but without a purlin and jointed to the plate by a through mortise and tenon joint. A standing seam metal gable roof covers both sections.

The rear elevation has a one-story framed board and batten shed addition built ca. 1900 that rests on a concrete block foundation. A bay window, with 6/6 light double hung sash windows added in 1978, projects from the west elevation of this addition. The north

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Continuation sheet James Buchanan House Item number 7 Page 2

elevation has a 15 light panel door with four 6/6 light double hung sash windows.

The interior of the original two-story log section has a 10' ceiling with exposed beaded poplar floor joists. The fireplace on the second floor has an unusual limestone arched lintel with an incised keystone. The incising consists of a large circle that is divided into eight equal pie-shaped parts. Adjoining the large circle on the top and bottom are smaller semicircles, and to the upper right and left of the large circle are two smaller full circles.

The interior of the 1900 rear shed addition was remodeled in 1978 by removing the low ceiling to create a vaulted ceiling, and removing the dry wall to expose the log walls.

Two log outbuildings are located at the rear of the property. While not original to the house, these outbuildings complement the house and serve a very useful purpose. A one-story single pen half dovetail notched log rectangular shaped shed has a metal gable roof and a large vertical board doorway on the gable end. This shed was moved from the Chandler property on Central Pike in 1975. Additionally, a small one-story single pen half dovetail notched log building serves as the owner's office. This building has a central vertical board door flanked by 2/2 light casement windows, a low pitched metal gable roof with a small shed porch supported by square 6"x6" columns. This building was moved from Brick Church Pike in 1975.

There is a recent wooden gazebo situated to the west of the house.

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates ca. 1800, ca.1820 **Builder/Architect** James Buchanan

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) ca. 1900

Nominated under National Register criteria B and C, the James Buchanan House is a two-story log house constructed ca. 1800. The house is significant under criterion B due to its historical association with James Buchanan, a pioneer settler in Davidson County, Judge Thomas N. Frazier, an important figure in Reconstruction politics, and his son James B. Frazier, Governor of Tennessee from 1903-1905. Under criterion C, the house derives further significance as one of the oldest two-story log structures in Middle Tennessee.

Born in Virginia on July 16, 1763, James Buchanan was the son of Archibald and Agnes Bowen Buchanan. The Buchanan family moved to Nashville in 1785 from Augusta County, Virginia and settled on a 640 acre tract of land called Clover Bottom. Archibald Buchanan built a large two-story brick house, named Old Blue Brick, which served as a mustering point for General Andrew Jackson's Tennessee Militia before the Battle of New Orleans. With the passing of his father in 1806, James inherited half of his father's lands. About 1800, James started construction of his two-story log house. He married Lucinda East ca. 1810 and as their family increased to 16 children, 10 daughters and 6 sons, a one-and-one-half-story log pen was added to the house.

James Buchanan operated a modest, yet successful farm. By 1850 the farm was 260 acres and valued at \$5500. Buchanan, with the help of 14 slaves, grew wheat and corn and raised a variety of livestock.

Buchanan died on February 14, 1841, and management of the farm was entrusted to Buchanan's wife Lucinda and son Addison. With Lucinda's death on April 15, 1865, the farm was sold to Judge Thomas N. Frazier. Born in East Tennessee in 1810, the son of Abner and Mary Edmondson Frazier, Thomas Neil Frazier was a graduate of Greeneville College. He read law and was admitted to the bar at Washington, Tennessee. Frazier became Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Bledsoe County and was an important political figure in Bledsoe County until 1863 when he moved to Rutherford County to accept the appointment of Criminal Court Judge for Rutherford and Davidson counties.

While living in the Buchanan House, Judge Frazier became embroiled in one of the most bitter and partisan chapters in Tennessee's Reconstruction history which resulted in his impeachment as judge by the Tennessee legislature. The major issue was the state ratification of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Federal Constitution, and the power struggle that resulted between the Radical and Conservative Republicans. The Conservative Republicans did not have enough votes to defeat the amendment; however, by not attending the legislative session, a quorum was not obtained. In order to vote on the amendment, the Radical Republican had A. J. Martin and Pleasant Williams, two members of the Conservative Republicans, arrested and brought to the legislative chamber. Once in chambers, a quorum was obtained, and the amendment ratified. The two reluctant conservative legislators

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1.1 acres

Quadrangle name Nashville East, Tennessee

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 16 530840 3999850
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries for the Buchanan House follow the property lines on this 1.1 acre tract; being Elm Hill Pike on the south, Hurt Drive on the east, and adjoining property lines on the west and north. This is the remaining land currently conveyed with the house.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Stephen T. Rogers, Cultural Resource Surveyor

organization Tennessee Historical Commission date October 1983

street & number 701 Broadway telephone (615) 742-6716

city or town Nashville state Tennessee 37203

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

 national state X 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.

Deputy
State Historic Preservation Officer signature Herbert L. Hays

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission date 2/21/84

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 3/29/84

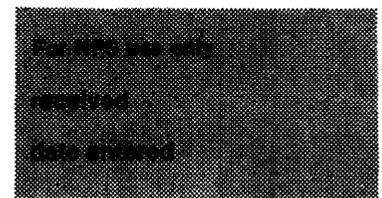
for Allores Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet James Buchanan House Item number 8 Page 2

petitioned Judge Frazier to free them from illegal arrest and detention. Frazier issued a writ of habeas corpus demanding that Sergeant-at-Arms Heydt produce the bodies of Martin and Williams and show cause for their incarceration (Ewing 1957:328). The House of Representatives passed a resolution claiming the writ was an unwarranted interference into the discipline and organization of the House of Representatives (Proceedings of the High Court of Impeachment in the Case of the People of the State of Tennessee vs. Thomas N. Frazier, Judge). Judge Frazier did not acknowledge the legislative resolution as sufficient reason for Williams' detention and ordered the sheriff of Davidson County to arrest Heydt for contempt of court and to free Williams from his illegal incarceration (Ewing 1957: 329).

Frazier was impeached by the House of Representatives on February 11, 1867, and tried by the Senate. The Senate trial was very unorthodox and heated; due to the fact that Judge Frazier's brother, Beriah, was a Senator and in an unprecedented legal maneuver not allowed to participate in the trial. Judge Frazier was found guilty by the Radical Republican dominated Senate and removed from office.

Judge Frazier's importance to the political and judicial history of Tennessee did not end with his impeachment. During the Constitutional Convention in 1870, the Conservative Republicans held power and due to the Frazier conviction, inserted into the new Constitution in Article 5, Section 4 the following: "The legislature now has, and shall continue to have, power to relieve from penalties imposed any person disqualified from holding office by judgment of a court of impeachment." With the passage of the new Constitution, Judge Frazier was returned to office as Judge of the Criminal Court of Davidson County.

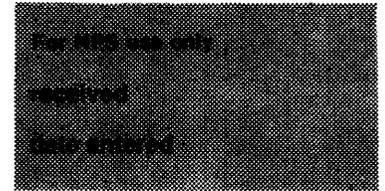
Added political significance of the Buchanan House is gained through the association of Judge Frazier's son, James Beriah Frazier. Born on October 18, 1856, James Frazier spent his teen-age years living in the Buchanan house. He attended Franklin College near Nashville and graduated from the University of Tennessee in 1878 (White 1972:178). Frazier was admitted to the bar in 1880, and moved to Chattanooga to practice law. His swift mind and formidable forensic skills lead him to a successful legal and political career. In 1902, he was nominated for governor by acclamation at the State Democratic Convention and was elected by the largest majority of any gubernatorial candidate since the War Between the States (White 1972:179). A fiscal conservative, Frazier's administration was responsible for reducing the state debt while increasing funds to public education and improving mining conditions.

Nominated for a second term, Frazier easily won re-election but did not serve his full term. On March 9, 1905, U. S. Senator William Bate died and Governor Frazier was elected to fill Bate's seat. Frazier served in the U. S. Senate until March 3, 1911.

Ownership of the house remained in the Frazier family until the death of Judge Frazier's wife Margaret ca. 1910. About 1912, the land was divided into lots and sold to various individuals. Throughout the years, the Buchanan House has seen several owners. The current owners purchased the property in 1973 and have sought to restore the Buchanan House.

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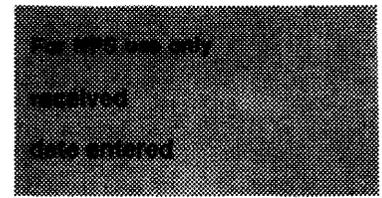


Continuation sheet James Buchanan House Item number 8 Page 3

The Buchanan House is architecturally significant as one of the oldest two-story log houses in Davidson County. Typical of construction techniques from the frontier period, the soundly built house displays a high level of craftsmanship and is in a very good state of preservation. The presence of a full dovetail purlin in the roof system is a very unusual feature not typically found in Tennessee.

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