

STREET ADDRESS: 212 Fifteenth Street, SW
MAP & PARCEL: 11-129
VDHR FILE NUMBER:
CITY FILE NUMBER:
PRESENT ZONING: R-3
ORIGINAL OWNER: Robert Buckner
ORIGINAL USE: Residence
PRESENT USE: Vacant
PRESENT OWNER: Rector & Board of Visitors of U. Va.
ADDRESS:

HISTORIC NAME: Buckner House
DATE/PERIOD: c. 1870-79 @ Dem. 1998
STYLE: Vernacular
HEIGHT IN STORIES: Two stories
DIMENSIONS AND LAND AREA: 51' x 328.5' (16,754 sq. ft.)
CONDITION: Poor
SURVEYOR: Bibb
DATE OF SURVEY: 1998
SOURCES: City & County records
Sanborn Map Co. - 1920, 1927-57
Ch'ville City Directories

In its original form, this was a small, 1½-story duplex, set on a high basement. Each unit had one room on each level. A single central chimney served both units. ~~It~~ ^{The house} was enlarged to a full two stories at some point, and eventually, the two units were combined into one.

⊙ In its final form, the house, ~~is~~ ⁱⁿ two stories tall, two bays wide, & single pile. Walls and foundation ~~are~~ ^{was} faced with stucco. The medium-pitched ^{gabled} roof is covered with composition shingles.

The stuccoing was done after the roof was raised, but dismantling of the interior walls revealed structural evidence of ~~the~~ ^{the old} roofline. Windows are double-cash, 6-over-6 light, with plain trim. The facade originally had two ~~two~~ windows at each level, plus a door at each end of the facade. The southern door, with a simple frieze, remains; but the northern door ~~one~~ has been removed, its location ^{now} marked by a crack in the stucco.

A one-story veranda once covered the facade. Its roof has been removed (again, a mark on the stucco), but the concrete floor, ~~with~~ ^{with} ~~the~~ ^{the} basement extended under it, remains. This latter arrangement probably dates from the early 1950's.

Hist Descr

In 1870, only five years after the Civil War, Anthony Buckner purchased a one-acre lot on an as-yet unnamed street near the University (ACDB 65-87). He sold the northern half to Robert Buckner in 1878 (ACDB 73-485). The selling price would seem to indicate that there was no house there at that time, but it is possible that he might have built a house before receiving his deed. An 1885 deed states that Robert Buckner was then residing on the property (ACDB 84-349).

In 1909, after Buckner's death, the house was sold (ACDB 142-1). Nelson Johnston bought it in 1910 (ACDB 143-114) and deeded it to Laura Tyler and her children (ACDB 145-296).

City real estate records do not indicate when the house was enlarged from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to two stories, ~~but~~ but the 1920 Sanborn map shows it as a two-story duplex. It very likely was stuccoed at the same time. The house became rental property after the Tylers sold it in 1942 (City DB 113-84) and has remained so, except for a brief period in the early ~~1950s~~ 1950s.

City Directories did not cover 15th Street before 1950. The 1950 Directory shows this house as a duplex, and the 1951-52 Directory seems to show it as a single-family house.

~~There is~~

Thomas E. Bryant bought it in 1952
(DB 168-285) and lived there for several
years before selling to Charlie R. Flora in
1955 (DB 187-82).

The concrete porch floor probably dates from
the early 1950s when 15th Street was widened.
It was sometime after that that the porch
roof and one front door were removed.
The house had been vacant for several years
when Flora sold it to U. Va. in 1997 (DB 697-514).
It was demolished in 1998 to make way for
a parking garage.