

VLR-9/17/85

NRHP-12/19/85

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Burks-Guy-Hagan House (DHL File # 141-27)

and or common same

2. Location

street & number 520 Peaks Street N/A not for publication

city, town ~~XXX~~ Bedford N/A vicinity of

state Virginia code 51 county ~~XXXX~~ (in city) code 515

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                   | <b>Public Acquisition</b>                   | <b>Accessible</b>                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object                 | <input type="checkbox"/> in process         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government                   |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered   | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted          | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial                   |
|   | <u>N/A</u>                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> no                         | <input type="checkbox"/> military                     |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> museum                       |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> park                         |
|   |   |   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> religious                    |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific                   |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation               |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> other:                       |

4. Owner of Property

name Charles T. Hagan, Jr. and Mrs. Barbara H. Norris

street & number 401 Sunset Drive

city, town Greensboro N/A vicinity of state North Carolina 27408

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Bedford County Courthouse

street & number N/A

city, town Bedford state Virginia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

1) DHL Survey #141-27  
title 2) Bedford H.D. Survey #141-73 has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1) 1974; 2) 1984  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Division of Historic Landmarks, 221 Governor Street

city, town Richmond, state Virginia 23219

## 7. Description

|   |                                       |   |   |                             |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|-----------------------------|
| <b>Condition</b>                              |                                       | <b>Check one</b>                            | <b>Check one</b>                                  |                             |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site |                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good                 | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved                    | date <u>      N/A      </u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair                 | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed    |   |   |                             |

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

### SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Situated on a knoll on the northern edge of Bedford's Historic District, the Burks-Guy-Hagan house is an informally massed 1884 Victorian house set in spacious romantically landscaped grounds. Framed by large shade trees, the house forms a classic image of what the mid-19th century architect Andrew Jackson Downing termed a villa. The house is carefully sited to take advantage of a panoramic view northward of the Peaks of Otter situated some ten miles away. Although the property is near the geographic center of the modern city of Bedford, the view, framed by the woods and meadow of the rear half of the nine-acre tract, remains undisturbed by modern intrusions. Both the house and grounds are maintained in excellent condition. The house has undergone some modifications, including the replacement of the original front porch and later additions on the rear; however, the integrity of its original design is intact. The property consists of the house, three contributing outbuildings and one noncontributing outbuilding.

### ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

The Burkes-Guy-Hagan House is a typical mid-Victorian type; it is characterized by its irregular plan and silhouette with a central, three-level square tower in the re-entrant angle formed by a gabled wing projecting from the main body of the structure. The wall construction is red brick laid in stretcher bond on the facade and common bond with Flemish variant on the secondary walls. Topping the principal openings are lintels and keystones of what appear to be a ceramic or cast-stone material. The roofs of the various parts of the house are covered with slate. Lending visual distinction to the projecting facade wing is a complex bracketed wooden gable with a hood or "apron" supported on brackets extending from the face of the gable. The gable also is decorated with diagonal wood sheathing and paired louvred vents. Gables of similar composition are found on the east and west sides of the house. All had lost their original finials through time but copies of the originals have recently been installed. Between the first and second floors of the center bay of the wing is a ceramic or cast-stone panel framing the date 1884, the house's construction date.

The main entrance to the house is located in the first-floor level of the tower. The second level of the tower is marked by pairs of narrow windows, while the third level contains even narrower windows grouped in threes. The tower has a shallow concave mansard roof topped by a small pyramidal cap. A finial originally projected from the cap but has disappeared.

In the original design of the house a small wooden porch extended across the first floor to the east of the tower. The porch was supported on slender square posts with curved wooden spandrels. Between the posts was an Eastlake wooden railing. A balustrade crowned the porch's roof. Access to the porch was through a door on the east side of the tower. The appearance of the porch is recorded in an old photograph in the possession of the present owners. This photograph also shows that above the main entrance was a small balustraded balcony supported on consoles. The porch and balcony were removed in 1920 and replaced by the present plainer porch with brick piers. Deeper than the original, this

(see continuation sheet #1)

# 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 checked="" 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/<br>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 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 1884 Builder/Architect unknown

## Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

At the northern edge of the Bedford Historic District on one of the highest points of the city, the architecturally fanciful Burks-Guy-Hagan house, with its romantically landscaped grounds and wood-bordered rear meadow, forms a classic image of a Victorian suburban villa. As defined by the 19th-century architectural writer Andrew Jackson Downing, the villa was "the most refined house of America -- the home of its most leisurely and educated class of citizens."<sup>1</sup> A villa was to be sited "amid the serenity and peace of sylvan scenes, surrounded by the perennial freshness of nature."<sup>2</sup> Like many of the villa designs published by Downing, Calverly Vaux, and other architects of the period, the Burks-Guy-Hagan house has a picturesque silhouette accented by a central tower and a variety of architectural ornaments. It was sited to take advantage of a panoramic view of the famous Peaks of Otter, two of the highest points in the state, located about ten miles to the north. The house was built in 1884 for Judge Martin P. Burks who later served as dean of the Washington and Lee University School of Law and justice of the Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals. Burks was also the author of Burks' Pleading and Practice and other legal treatises.

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In his widely popular architectural treatise, The Architecture of Country Houses, Andrew Jackson Downing asserted that it was in our villas that America must hope to give the best and most complete manifestation of domestic architecture. Downing gave a prescription for a typical villa which can be almost directly applied to Bedford's Burks-Guy-Hagan house:

The villa should indeed be a private house, where beauty, taste, and moral culture are at home. In the fine outlines of the whole edifice, either dignified, graceful or picturesque, in the spacious or varied verandas, arcades, and windows, in the select form of windows, chimney-tops, cornices, the artistic knowledge and feeling has full play: while in the arrangement of spacious apartments, especially in the devotion of a part to a library or cabinet sacred to books, and in that elevated order and system of the whole plan, indicative of the inner domestic life, we find the development of the intellectual and moral<sup>3</sup> nature which characterizes the most cultivated families in their country houses.

Villas such as those promoted by Downing, Calverly Vaux, and other mid-19th-century architects became popular throughout the country in the second half of the 19th century. The most elaborate ones were built in the northeast and midwest states. While popular in the south as well, good examples of villas are comparatively scarce because of the economic setback resulting from the Civil War and Reconstruction.

(see continuation sheet #2)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Bryson, W. Hamilton. Legal Education in Virginia, 1779-1979. Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1982.  
Division of Historic Landmarks Survey Form, File #141-27, 1974 & File #141-73, 1984.  
Downing, A.J. The Architecture of Country Houses. 1850.  
Bedford County Historical Society. Bedford County Historic Pilgrimage. May, 1972.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 9  
Quadrangle name Bedford, VA Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UTM References

|   |      |             |               |   |      |         |          |
|---|------|-------------|---------------|---|------|---------|----------|
| A | 1 7  | 6 3 0 8 1 0 | 4 1 3 3 3 3 0 | B |      |         |          |
|   | Zone | Easting     | Northing      |   | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| C |      |             |               | D |      |         |          |
| E |      |             |               | F |      |         |          |
| G |      |             |               | H |      |         |          |

### Verbal boundary description and justification (see continuation sheet #3)

Description: Beginning at a point on the N side of VA 43 (Peaks Street) approximately 350' NW of intersection of said route with US 460; thence approximately 300' NW following N side of VA 43; thence approximately 850' NNW; thence approximately 400' E; thence

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

|       |     |      |        |     |      |
|-------|-----|------|--------|-----|------|
| state | N/A | code | county | N/A | code |
| state | N/A | code | county | N/A | code |

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Division of Historic Landmarks Staff  
organization Division of Historic Landmarks date 1985  
street & number 221 Governor Street telephone 804-786-3143  
city or town Richmond state Virginia 23219

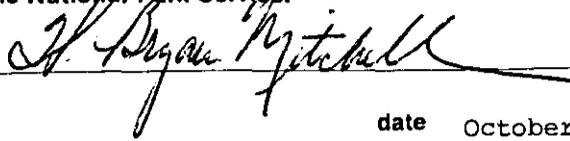
## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

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



H. Bryan Mitchell, Director  
Division of Historic Landmarks

date October 31, 1985

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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Burks-Guy - Hagan House, Bedford, VA.

Continuation sheet #1

Item number 7

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ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS (continued)

porch projects from the eastern corner of the house across the first floor of the tower.

The windows throughout the house are various shapes and sizes, a typical characteristic of an 1880s house. All, however, have one-over-one double-hung sashes. Louvred blinds are employed on the front window above the porch and on the windows on the east and west sides. The window frames throughout are plain with mitered corners.

Alterations to the exterior other than the front porch include the 1925 addition of a two-story bedroom wing projecting from the eastern half of the rear elevation. This addition included a basement room and resulted in the removal of an original rear gallery. At the same time as this addition was constructed two open brick porches were added to the rear, one over the kitchen and the other projecting from the first floor immediately below. The upper brick porch was enclosed with glass windows in the 1950s. The lower porch was modified and enclosed with glass doors and windows in the 1970s. In 1984 the design of the original gables was reproduced for the gable of the bedroom wing addition.

The interior of the Burks-Guy-Hagan house, has survived with few architectural alterations although no original decorative textiles such as carpeting, curtains, or wallpaper remain intact. The front door, and also the original front porch door immediately adjacent are both topped by etched-glass transoms and open into a small, square vestibule. The vestibule floor has alternating dark and light wood floorboards giving the striped effect popular in the period. The front door preserves its original hardware including a fancy brass doorbell. Beyond the vestibule is a narrow central passage containing the original stair. Curving at the bottom, the stair, itself quite narrow, has a typical mid-Victorian heavy turned newel, wide walnut handrail, and turned balusters. The parlor, entered from the entrance vestibule through a door opposite the porch door, is lighted by the three-part bay. It has no special embellishments other than a Federal mantel with stop-fluted pilasters. Installed in the 1920s, the mantel was taken from an old house in the region. The room's original somewhat elaborate marbled slate mantel was placed in the first-floor bedroom of the 1920s bedroom wing addition. The dining room, located on the west side of the house behind the parlor, preserves its original parlor mantel. The room is lighted by a projecting bay containing five narrow windows. On the east side of the house is the library which also has a decorated slate mantel. The woodwork in the original first-floor portion is standard late-Italianate woodwork with moldings typical of the period. The crown moldings in the first-floor principal rooms are modern additions. Now painted light colors, the woodwork likely had a natural or dark-stained finish similar to that which is intact in the second-floor tower room.

The second-floor plan follows that of the first floor. The woodwork is similar in character to that below but is more simple. As noted earlier, the second-floor tower room, now serving as a very small bedroom, retains its unpainted woodwork as well as interior louvered shutters. The rest of the shutters throughout the house have been painted. The shutters, installed in the house as part of the original construction, were removed in the 1930s

(see continuation sheet #2)

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Burks-Guy-Hagan House, Bedford, VA.

Continuation sheet #2

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ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS (continued)

but were saved and put back in the early 1970s.

The house stands at the head of a broad lawn and is approached by a long, sweeping front walk. Framing the house and dotting the grounds is a variety of large shade trees. Of the original Victorian-era trees, a large ash, three lindens, a mulberry tree, and a tall holly remain. Virginia creeper has been allowed to grow on portions of the walls since the early 20th century both for cooling and decoration. On the grounds to the northeast of the house are three outbuildings. Closest to the house is a one-story brick structure, probably a kitchen/laundry, now used as a game room. Immediately to the north is a weather-boarded smokehouse with a pyramidal roof. To the north of it is a log corn crib in deteriorated condition but which is being preserved. A modern wooden outbuilding north of the corn crib serves as a tool house.

The property included with the Burks-Guy-Hagan house is a long, narrow parcel of approximately nine acres. It slopes down sharply into a grassy meadow behind the house and has a thick line of trees on the east and north property lines. Although situated near the geographical center of town, the property preserves a pastoral quality. Both grounds and house are maintained in excellent condition.

CL

8. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND (continued)

Although comparatively sophisticated in design, no architect has been associated with the Burks-Guy-Hagan house. Possibly it was designed by a Lynchburg architect or builder since that nearby city was experiencing prosperity in the 1880s and saw the construction of several houses of similar style and quality. It is also possible that the house is a product of a local builder drawing inspiration from the many published designs available at the time. According to a tradition in the family of the present owners, Judge Burks employed a landscape architect to design the front lawn with its sweeping front walk and small terrace (since removed). The landscape architect selected the trees which were planted near the borders of the lawn, several of which remain.

Martin P. Burks was born on January 23, 1851 in Bedford where his father, Edward C. Burks maintained a successful law practice. Burks graduated from Washington College in 1870 and obtained an LL.B. from the University of Virginia School of Law in 1872. Upon graduation, Burks began his law practice in Bedford and in 1899 joined the law faculty of Washington and Lee where he was appointed dean in 1903. In 1917 Burks was appointed to the Supreme Court of Appeals. He died in 1928 and is buried in Bedford.

In 1907 the property was purchased by James R. Guy, grandfather of the present owners. Guy served as the first principal of the first public school in Liberty (now Bedford) in

(see continuation sheet #3)

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Burks-Guy-Hagan House, Bedford, VA.

Continuation sheet #3

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HISTORICAL BACKGROUND (continued)

1872. He served as principal of Belmont Seminary, a Presbyterian school, from 1890 until its closing in the depression of 1898, and thereafter he served as the first principal of Bedford High School until shortly before his death in 1919. Guy was married to Anne Steptoe Foster, a great-granddaughter of James "Jemmy" Steptoe, longtime clerk of Bedford County.

The Burks-Guy-Hagan house is the best representative of late Victorian domestic architecture in the city of Bedford and its grounds constitute one of the city's principal open spaces.

<sup>1</sup>Downing, A.J., The Architecture of Country Houses. (1850), pp. 257-258.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., p. 258.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid., p. 259.

CL

10. VERBAL BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries have been drawn to include the house and nine acres. The entire property has been included in the nomination as it forms a historically significant landscape setting for the house.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

approximately 400' SSE; thence approximately 600" SSW to point of origin.

5158 IV NW  
(SEDALIA)

SE/4 PEAKS OF OTTER 15' QUADRANGLE

