

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED APR 26 1978	DATA SHEET
DATE ENTERED	OCT 19 1978

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Baker Farm

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER Lane extending north of Maryland Route 34,  
north of Keedysville

---NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
Sixth

CITY, TOWN

Keedysville  VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

CODE  
24

COUNTY

Washington

CODE  
043

**CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME United States Steel Corporation c/o Mr. B.J. Peterson  
Real Estate Department

industrial use  
pending

STREET & NUMBER  
600 Grant Street, Room 2644

CITY, TOWN  
Pittsburgh

--- VICINITY OF

STATE  
Pennsylvania 15230

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Washington County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER  
West Washington Street

CITY, TOWN  
Hagerstown

STATE  
Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

---FEDERAL ---STATE ---COUNTY ---LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input 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 50%	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This house is located at the end of a long private lane extending in a northwesterly direction from Maryland Route 34 at Keedysville in Washington County, Maryland. It is situated on rolling limestone ground and faces south. The lane leading to the farm is an abandoned county road which ran from Keedysville to what are now Wheeler and Coffman Roads.

The dwelling is a two-story, four-bay stone structure with a two-story, four-bay addition also of stone attached to its east gable end. The walls of both sections of the house are constructed of coursed local limestone with more careful masonry evident in the main or older portion of the house. The house is built into a slight slope with its front elevation being of greater height. Evident near the bottom of the side and front elevations is a stone water table. Set high in the west gable is a rectangular tablet which apparently carried a date at one time. It has deteriorated to the point that the date can no longer be read from ground level [although according to one witness it reads 179(?)]. A porch extends along the first story of the front elevation of the main section, while a double porch shelters the entire front wall of the addition. The porch on the addition, which appears to be original, is supported by square posts linked by a plain balustrade at the second story level and by board railings at the first story. Portions of the stone walls under the porches have been painted white. No decorative stone masonry is associated with the window and door openings. Variations in the appearance of the exterior masonry suggest that a simplified belt course is present between the first and second stories of the main section. The masonry in the addition changes abruptly at the second story level and toward its east end suggesting that the addition may not have been built at one time.

Windows appear to have been spaced evenly in the front wall of the main section. Wide, pegged frames trimmed with quarter round hold 12-over-12 light sash at the first story and nine-over-six pane sash at the second story level. The window frames appear to be original or early. Frames in the addition are quite narrow and hold six-over-six pane sash at both stories.

The main entrance to the older section is located in the third bay from its west gable end. It is framed similarly to the windows and includes a four-light transom. Entrances in the addition are located in the center bays of the front elevation. Other doors provide access to the upper level of the double porch. One door is located in the rear of the addition and evidence of alterations to the masonry around one window suggests that a second door in this elevation was removed.

Sheet metal sheaths the roofs of both sections of the house. A large, brick chimney which shows evidence of having been rebuilt is located inside the west gable end of the main section. A smaller brick flue with several courses of corbeling at its top is located inside the east gable end. Smaller brick chimneys project from inside the east end of the addition and from its interior. The eaves of the main section are finished with plain boxing terminating with deep returns. A course of simple cornice molding finishes the eaves. Barge boards are set directly against the end walls.

The interior of the main section is divided into three rooms and a stair hall which runs parallel to the rear or north elevation of the house. The main entrance

see continuation sheet #1

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Baker Farm  
Washington County  
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET

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leads into a room which is now, and probably was originally, a kitchen. This room has a diagonally set fireplace with plain trim. West of the kitchen are two rooms with fireplaces set against the west wall. In these rooms, too, the woodwork is quite plain. At the second story level the floor plan is similar; however, the treatment of the rooms is much more elaborate. Fireplace mantels are trimmed with dentil molding set above decorative panels. In the southeast room at the second story level, built into the wall beside the fireplace, is a corner cupboard with a round arched top broken with a wooden keystone form of cartouche. Its lower section is trimmed with fluted pilasters, while its upper portion displays molding similar to that employed throughout the house. The shelves in the upper part of the Cupboard, which can be seen through the multi-paned door, are decorated with scroll cut ends.

East of the house is a large frame bank barn and other buildings related to agricultural use.

## 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 type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input checked="" 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 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house and its surrounding buildings are primarily significant for their architecture. Operating as a farm since the 18th century, the property is important for its contribution to Washington County's agricultural history.

According to a former owner of the farm, the datestone set in the gable of the house indicated that it was built during the 1780's. Although the building date has not been firmly established, the house does display characteristics of late 18th century construction. Among these are the massive pegged window frames, the multi-paned sash, and the use of diagonal fireplaces, as well as the general style of masonry and interior and exterior wood trim. Relatively few 18th century dwellings remain in Washington County and thus efforts should be made to recognize and preserve those that do. This example has had very few alterations.

The history of ownership of this house is unclear. Presumably it was held by members of the Hess family during the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Jacob Hess was an influential citizen of early Keedysville who established a mill there during the last quarter of the 18th century.

Deeds for this farm can be traced only as far back as May 5, 1823, when David Hess, who appears to have been Jacob's son or grandson, sold 83 1/2 acres to Amos Eakle (GG/270). The property remained in the Eakle family until 1843 when John D. Eakle sold it to Samuel Wagner (22/929). At that time, the farm contained slightly more than 145 acres. In 1894 the farm was purchased by Otho W. Miller (101/628), who in 1916 conveyed it to his daughter, Nora Miller Baker (150/100). It was held by her until 1959 when it was sold to the United States Steel Corporation.

The property includes parts of the grants, "Dear Bought," "If You Please," "Addition to Burrell's Choice," "I Have Got It" and "Hills and Dales and the Vineyard."

# BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Washington County Land Records  
 Washington County Probate Records  
 Washington County Road Records

## GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 25 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,8	26,8	6,3,0	4,3	7,5	2,2,0	B	1,8	26,8	3,4,0	4,3	7,5	0,0,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING
C	1,8	26,7	9,1,0	4,3	7,5	3,7,0	D	1,8	26,8	1,8,0	4,3	7,5	6,4,0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point on the driveway leading to the Baker Farm 1,200 feet N.W. of Maryland Route 34, then following the driveway N.W. 1,800 feet, then moving N.E. 1,200 feet to a point, then S.E. 2,000 feet to a point, then S.W. 1,200 feet to the point of the beginning.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Paula Stoner Dickey

pmj

ORGANIZATION

Washington County Historical Sites Survey

DATE  
May 1976

STREET & NUMBER

33 West Washington Street

TELEPHONE  
(301) 791-3065

CITY OR TOWN

Hagerstown

STATE  
Maryland 21740

## 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

*John N. Pearce* 4/21/77  
SHPO

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*William L. Lohmeyer*

DATE

10/19/78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*William Lohmeyer*

DATE

Oct 16, 1978