

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

For HCRS use only

received

DEC 16 1983

date entered

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

## 1. Name

historic John, David, and Jacob Rees House

and/or common LeFevre Farm

## 2. Location

street & number 1.6 miles west on West Virginia Secondary Route 24/1 (Sam Mason Road),  
off of U.S. Route #11; south 0.5 mile down lane. \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Bunker Hill vic.  vicinity of congressional district

state West Virginia code 54 county Berkeley code 003

## 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
		<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 Mr. and Mrs. Lucien D. LeFevre

street & number Route #1, Box 690

city, town Bunker Hill  vicinity of state West Virginia

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Berkeley County Courthouse

street & number 100 West King Street

city, town Martinsburg state West Virginia

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title G-17 Berkeley County Historic Landmarks Commission Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1973 - 1983  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Berkeley County Courthouse

city, town Martinsburg state West Virginia

## 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 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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

The Rees house is located on a 232 acre farm at the end of a half mile driveway and is situated in a large yard with many old trees and a small stream. The house is "L" shaped and is forty-five feet (45') wide by seventy feet (70') long. It consists of three separate sections built at three separate times using log, stone, and brick, all on a stone foundation.

The two story, three bay log section, twenty-one feet (21') wide by sixteen feet (16') deep, was built first, ca. 1760, as a settler's small dwelling house. Room partitions are the vertical, hand-planed, beaded board walls. A stone fireplace is on the west wall as is the large exterior two story stone chimney. The steep winder stair is enclosed and has a board and batten door. On the second story, the loft is accessible by ladder. This section is representative of permanent settler housing. When the stone section was constructed, ca. 1795, the log house was attached to be used as the kitchen and was covered with beaded weatherboard. These two sections comprise the ell.

The two story, three bay coursed rubble stone house is Federal and measures twenty-seven feet (27') wide by twenty-four feet (24') deep. The four flight open-well stairway has a beaded stringer course and ornamental scrolls as step-end decoration and leads to a small plastered room under the eaves on the third floor. Window and exterior door jambs are panelled and facings are symmetrically molded with rondel corner blocks. The two fireplaces are quite handsome with very decorative Federal mantels having pilasters and end blocks of symmetrical moldings. Exterior moldings are the quirked ovalo of the period and exterior doors are heavy board and batten on strap hinges with small four-light windows near the top.

The Greek-Revival front section of this "L" shaped house was constructed ca, 1855 of brick in five row common bond on a stone foundation. Forty-five feet (45') wide and twenty-two feet (22') deep, it is a full two-and-a-half stories and five bays with inside end chimneys on a gently sloping gable roof. All fenestration is trabeated with white, wooden lintels. Windows are 6/6 double hung sash except for the third floor which has six light casement sash. Brick dentil cornices extend across the front and rear of the building.

The entrance door has a diamond-light transom and shouldered trim. The stairway in the central hall is magnificent and is a four-flight, oval open-well stair with simple brackets as step-end decoration. All four mantels are nearly identical with a heavily molded rectangular frieze over like pilasters. Parlor windows are set over panels. Other windows have the same beaded back-band trim, including the casement windows on the third floor. All doors are period four-panel doors with original hardware.

A small stone springhouse, seventeen feet (17') by thirteen feet (13'), in the rear yard and the log barn are included.

# 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 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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** 1761, 1791, ca. 1855 **Builder/Architect** John Rees, David Rees, Jacob Rees

## Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Rees house is significant for its historical associations with the Rees family, an early settler family in Berkeley County, West Virginia (then Frederick County, Virginia). It is also significant for being a wonderful collection of American architectural history representing three distinct periods and three types of construction, and it was entirely built by three generations of the same family.

On September 7, 1761, John Rees and his wife and children transferred their membership in the Quaker Meeting House at Sadsbury (Lancaster County), Pennsylvania to Hopewell in Frederick County, Virginia. The log house was constructed at approximately this time as a permanent dwelling for this settler's family. The house had five rooms and a large stone cooking fireplace with oven. It is constructed entirely of hand-hewn logs and beams and hand-planed interior board walls. Interestingly, John Rees was disowned at Hopewell Meeting House because he "Neglected attending the meetings" on October 1, 1781.

The house and farm of 300 acres in 1791 went to son David who constructed the Federal stone house and sided the log house. The contrast in workmanship is very apparent as sawn lumber was used for the joists and although board wall partitions were again used, the boards are not as wide. The mantels and stairway in particular are very fine period work.

David's grandson, Jacob, built the brick house, ca. 1855, which is an exceptionally fine late Greek Revival dwelling. The exterior with its handsome brick façade of trabeated fenestration has definite classical overtones. No expense was spared in finishing the house with its sweeping staircase and well trimmed large rooms. Unfortunately, and probably because of the expense of building the brick house, the property was sold for debt in 1857. Finally, in 1873, it was sold to the LeFevres, a family who again have owned it through successive generations.

The Rees house is significant for being a representation in Berkeley County of vernacular architectural development and of the changing fortunes of one of the early settler families and their successive generations.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Hopewell Friends History, 1734-1934, Frederick County, Virginia by a Joint Committee of Hopewell Friends, Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., Baltimore, Md. 1975.  
The Berkeley Journal, Issue Eight 1979, published by the Berkeley County County Historical Society.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 3 acres

Quadrangle name Inwood, WV

Quadrangle scale 1 : 24,000

### UMT References

A 

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4	3	5	5	3	3	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

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**Verbal boundary description and justification** Nominated property includes roughly 100' on each side of the house and buildings and runs down to Sylvan Run (see map).

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Frances D. Ruth - Chairperson		
organization	Berkeley County Historic Landmarks Commission	date	September 30, 1983
street & number	Route #2, Box 320	telephone	(304) 754 - 7097
city or town	Martinsburg,	state	West Virginia

## 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Commissioner, WV Department of Culture and History date November 18, 1983

For HCRS use only

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

date 1/12/84

*for Allous Byers*  
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

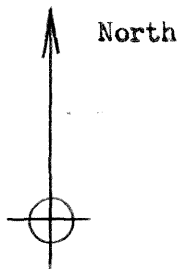
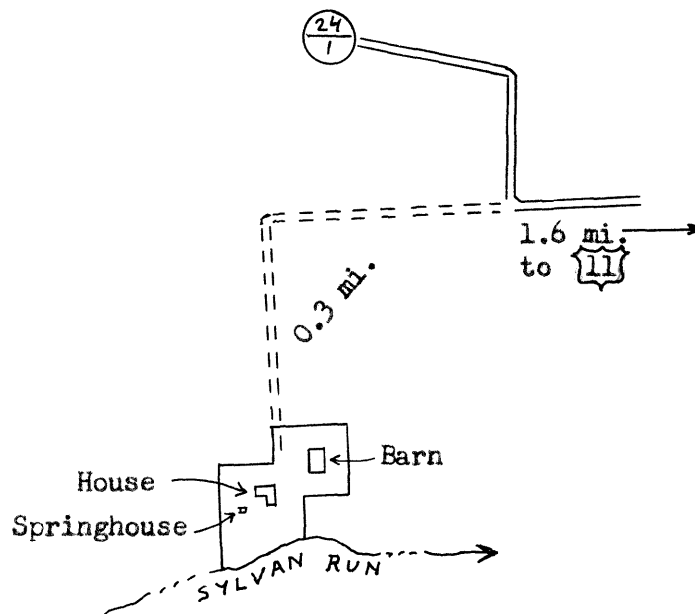
JOHN, DAVID, and JACOB REES HOUSE

G-17

Inwood Quadrangle

Berkeley County, West Virginia

Area 3 acres



SCALE 1 : 7,920

Copied September 1983 from  
photo AGS-90-39, Apr 23, 1938  
by Galtjo L. Geertsema