

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED DEC 9 1975
DATE ENTERED MAY 3 1976

**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 Arbuckle, Alexander W., I, House (preferred); (Baker, Michael, House)
AND/OR COMMON Arbuckle, Alexander W., I, House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER *n of Lewisburg*
Arbuckle Lane
CITY, TOWN Lewisburg VICINITY OF Second
STATE West Virginia **CODE** 54 **COUNTY** Greenbrier **CODE** 025

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 type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Lockhart F. Arbuckle
STREET & NUMBER Arbuckle Lane
CITY, TOWN Lewisburg VICINITY OF West Virginia

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Greenbrier County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER Court and Randolph Streets
CITY, TOWN Lewisburg **STATE** West Virginia

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 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 Alex Arbuckle House was built for Michael Baker in 1822 on land which he had acquired in 1801 along the old Lewisburg-Frankford Pike.

This two-story brick building, containing three large rooms and a wide hall on each floor, was built in the shape of a "T" in order that each room would have three outside walls. Each room on both floors is served by one of the three broad chimneys.

A one-story, unattached brick kitchen was built close behind the house. The front of the house is 53 feet wide and the depth, including the front portico and the kitchen, is 72 feet. The walls are 22 inches thick. The roof is ridged but is low and inconspicuous. The attic is extensive, but storage space is small because of the large pegged and morticed support timbers.

The two-storied portico, with four plastered round columns and railings of Chinese Chippendale design at both levels, gives the home a southern colonial appearance. The Greek influence of the house begins with the ornately carved cornice under wide eaves and the classic pediment over the portico.

The front doorway, graceful and lovely, with its circular cornice and pairs of small reeded columns, sets the classic design for the beautifully carved woodwork which is found all through the house.

On the left of the large entrance hall is an exceptionally fine, wide stairway with a curved stairwell extending to the attic. Across the walls of the hall extends a strip of moulding with wooden pegs jutting out at measured intervals to hold coats and hats.

To either side of the hall is an 18 x 18 foot parlor with a high ceiling, large and deep-set 6/6 paned windows, and a large carved mantel which is painted. In the room to the left the mantel is black and the wainscot and door are artistically false-grained.

A door at the rear of the hall leads to the dining room which has the most elaborately carved trim in the house. The mantel is 8 feet wide and, with two flanking ceiling-high walnut china cupboards, fills the rear wall space. In the 1920s one cupboard was removed so that a doorway could be made into the kitchen area. In this room there is wood paneling to the windowsills, reeded columns case all doors and windows and carved panels are above them. A side door of the dining room opened onto the porch which gave a covered way to the outside kitchen.

The rooms and the hall on the upper floor correspond to those on the first floor though their decoration is more subdued. The two front ones are bedrooms and the rear one a combination family-bedroom which has a large built-in, shelved, walnut cabinet on either side of the fireplace. This room was partitioned in the 1930s and is now used as part of an apartment which was built, in 1971, above the kitchen and its porch.

In the northeast angle between the front rooms and the dining room, a two-story frame addition was built before 1900. This space is now used for bath and storage rooms.

All the large brass box locks are still in place and each bears the British coat-of-arms. Of the "dependencies", only the log slave cabin has survived. The "big barn" is very old and contains a good collection of farm tools used by four generations of the Arbuckle family. The few alterations and additions to the house were made for comfort and convenience and have not abused the integrity of this well kept and lovely home.

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 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 1822

BUILDER/ARCHITECT John W. Dunn

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Alexander Arbuckle House is a farm home. Its site is a knoll in the midst of a broad acreage of blue-grass land and faces the Greenbrier Mountain to the east. In the heart of "the Big Levels", a name given to this plateau by the earliest settlers, this farm has served and has been served by four generations of the Arbuckles. They were scouts, soldiers and patriots, noted for their vigor and courage, and among the earliest and most important of the pioneers of the Greenbrier Valley. By occupation they have been stockmen and farmers.

The house in which this branch of the family has lived since 1835, is generally considered to be the "architectural gem" of the region.

About 1783, James Reid acquired by patent a large tract of land along the old Frankford Pike five miles north of Lewisburg. His daughter, Jane, and her husband, Jesse Mays, lived on a 400 acre portion of this land. The Mays' property was bought from the Cuthbert Bullitt estate by Michael Baker in 1801, and he built a house on it in 1822. Baker sold this house and land to Alexander W. Arbuckle, I, in 1835.

The architect-builders of the house were John W. Dunn and associates (David Spotts and Robert White), who built many of the early brick homes in the Lewisburg area. Conrod Burgess, the Valley's famous wood carver, was the decorator of this colonial-designed home.

The bricks were made of the clay at hand and the lumber was from trees cut from the premises. Mr. Dunn, as always, constructed a house that was substantial and of stately beauty.

Behind the two-story, columned classical portico, are the four great rooms with large windows which balance each floor in a symmetrical facade. The doorways on both levels are framed with sidelights and over-door glass. Paint was used in the dark colors fashionable at that time, and large cupboards were built in. The floor plan varies from the Georgian in that it is T-shaped. The dining room was placed directly behind the entrance hall and a detached kitchen was built to the rear of the dining room.

Many kinds of wood were used for the carvings which Conrod Burgess used so lavishly. He is said to have come from Richmond. He worked in Greenbrier and Monroe during the 1820s and '30s. His wife Isabella lived in Lewisburg then and later. This is all that is known of him, but he left his stamp upon the locality through the elaborate and intricate work which he did in many homes.

In this house, at the front entrance, inside, as well as out, and at the second floor portico door, Burgess has a circular cornice extended and supported by pairs of small reeded columns, the over-door fret is a row of balls, and above this is a pointed dentil moulding. The stairwell has paneled wainscoting with rail which follows the curve of the cherry stair rail. The stringers are carved at each step.

The two parlors, right and left off the entrance hall, have large mantels with reeded half-columns and fan and urn designs framed with mouldings. They are painted, the right dark green, the left black. The walls in the south room have paneling to the window sills which is false-grained with black trim. The door, also, has false-

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dayton, Ruth Woods. Greenbrier Pioneers and Their Homes. Charleston, W.Va.: West Virginia Publishing Co., 1942. (p. 168)

_____. Lewisburg Landmarks. Charleston, W.Va.: Education Foundation, Inc., 1957. (p. 44)

Interviews, Mr. and Mrs. Lockhart F. Arbuckle with C.E. Turley, Research Assistant, West Virginia Antiquities Commission, June 8 and July 18, 1975. Information on file with the W.Va. Antiquities Commission, P.O. Box 630, Morgantown, W.Va.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 5 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,7	55,07,20	4,19,04,0,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

C.E. Turley, Research Assistant

ORGANIZATION

West Virginia Antiquities Commission

DATE

August 26, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 630

TELEPHONE

(304) 296-1791

CITY OR TOWN

Morgantown

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

11-25-75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Acting

DATE

5/3/76

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

5/3/76

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE one

SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

grain. The walls are papered.

The carving in the dining room is the most elaborate in the house. Its great mantel has pairs of reeded columns, and three sun-burst designs framed by frets of stars. On either side of the mantel (and occupying the rest of the wall), two, ceiling-high, glass-door china cupboards were built. They are carved cherrywood. The walls have wainscoting with ogee chair rail, and large reeded columns frame the windows and doors of the 20 x 20 foot room. Above the windows and doors are panels carved with tasseled swags, stars and leaves, and there are finials on the corners. In this room the woodwork, as well as the mantel, is painted black.

The arrangement and decoration of the second floor duplicates the first floor except that the carving is subdued. In the room above the dining room are two tall shelved cabinets of finest walnut, carved and paneled.