**Form No. 10-200 (Rev. 10-74)**

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**
**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

**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
John Drinker House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**
STREET & NUMBER
Sam Mason Road

VICINITY OF Bunker Hill

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE
West Virginia

CODE
50

COUNTY
Berkeley

CODE
003

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

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<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>OWNERSHIP</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
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<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
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<td>OCCUPIED</td>
<td>AGRICULTURE</td>
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<td>UNOCCUPIED</td>
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<td>BOTH</td>
<td>WORK IN PROGRESS</td>
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<td>ACCESSIBLE</td>
<td>EDUCATIONAL</td>
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<td>ENTERTAINMENT</td>
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<td>BEING CONSIDERED</td>
<td>YES: UNRESTRICTED</td>
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<td>TRANSPORTATION</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME
Mr. & Mrs. Peter A. Baker

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Bunker Hill, WV 25413

STATE

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE
Berkeley County
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Martinsburg, W 25401

STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE
G-60, Berkeley County Historical Society & Berkeley County Historical Landmarks Commission Survey

DATE
1973-78

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Berkeley County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN
Martinsburg, WV 25401

STATE
The layout of the Drinker house is central block with one wing. The main part of the house was built in 1815, the Federal period. It is a 5 bay, 2 story house constructed of limestone with a gable roof and large inside and chimneys. The coursed rubble limestone walls are finished with beautiful quoins. The outstanding feature of this house is the arched main entrance of gauged stone. It is beautiful work and has no peer in Berkeley County. The house features a central hall floor plan with one or two rooms each side. The staircase is an open string stair of 2 flights to the second floor. The house is a ruin and the mantel pieces are gone. Only the chair rail remains in some of the rooms. The fireboxes have plastered surrounds. Off the south side is the first floor ruins of a one and one half story, 3 bay log house. The whitewashed roof outline on the stone house reveals a tall recessed porch. This house is attached to the stone house by a board wall that has a door to a breezeway between the two houses. The log house probably predates the stone mansion. Just off the log house is a separate stone smokehouse also in ruins. Located to the north of the house is the ruins of the slave quarters. It is constructed of at least four separate stone buildings all grouped together part of which are standing. It was of an unusual type of stone construction and has no known rival in Berkeley County. Also included is a dump pile.
AREA OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

- Archeology-Prehistoric
- Archeology-Historic
- Agriculture
- Architecture
- Art
- Commerce
- Communications
- Community Planning
- Conservation
- Economics
- Education
- Engineering
- Exploration/Settlement
- Industry
- Invention
- Landscape Architecture
- Law
- Literature
- Military
- Music
- Philosophy
- Politics/Government
- Religion
- Science
- Sculpture
- Social/Humanitarian
- Theater
- Transportation
- Other (Specify)

SPECIFIC DATES

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The house and other ruins on the property are very significant for their architecture and association with John Drinker, an early Quaker portrait artist. The house had outstanding features such as the beautiful arched main entrance of gauged stone. The quality of workmanship displayed in the stone work ranks as one of Berkeley County's finer. The house in general was one of Berkeley County's finest. John Drinker was a Philadelphia portrait artist. He purchased land in Berkeley County in 1797. He married Elizabeth Peppers of Berkeley County the same year. He purchased a 213 acre tract of land where the house is located in 1808. Then he built the beautiful stone mansion in ca. 1815. It is known that he was an artist from 1787 to 1802. Among known portraits of the Berkeley County area are Mrs. John Briscoe, Dr. John Briscoe, Jr., Sarah Darke Rutherford, John Drinker died in the 1820s. His widow remained a resident of the house until 1858. Both are buried at the Morgan Chapel cemetery. He was a member of the Society of Friends. The Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, owns some of his work.
The ruins of the JohnDrinker house should be listed on The National Register of Historic Places and Sites because of the fine workmanship still evident in the building and because of the historic associations with John Drinker, an early Quaker portrait artist. Of particular interest are the portraits of Dr. and Mrs. John Briscoe, the builder of "Piedmont" in Jefferson County. These portraits were recently purchased by The Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. The house was a large Federal period structure of stone with a gauged stone main entrance, the only example of this work in Berkeley County. Elsewhere on the property are the ruins of outbuildings. This was a 213 tract of land. The 2 acres with mansions and dependencies ruins is an extremely portant historic archeology resource.

John Drinker, a Quaker artist from New York, was born on March 12, 1760, died February 16, 1825, childless, leaving his estate to his widow, Elizabeth Pepper, who married in Berkeley County April 12, 1797. Traditionally it is aimed that his widow ran an underground slave train.

Elizabeth Drinker's will written Oct 1, 1856 clearly shows her concern for the freedom of black people. To David and Elizabeth Wright she left "the services of my Negro boy until he shall attain the age of twenty five." To Mary Jane Pepper "the services of negro girl Mary and her children." At the death of Mary Jane, Mary and all her issue are to receive their freedom. All her other slaves except Betsy and Sally, the afflicted e, when they were old enough to be hired out to "good master" for two years "and the net proceeds of said servants after paying all expenses incident to them selves are to be applied to their removal beyond the limits of the State of Virginia." She put up her creek Valley Farm for the support of "old servant Betsy and the afflicted one Sally d such of the smaller servants as are too small to earn their support until they arrive such an age that they can be hired out and earn their support and the expenses of which charge my lands lying on Back Creek in Berkeley Co Va. and at the expiration of two years the parents of these children including their entire family wish their freedom and are the State of Virginia it is my wish for them to do so."

There is supposed to be an underground tunnel which lead from the basement of the Drinker house (ruins). This well also had a place where you could go down so far and stand. This tunnel has been for cleaning or used for hiding.

Though considerable has been written on the underground railroad, verification of stops and dates is difficult. The Quakers were basically opposed to slavery and operated many of the stations. John Drinker was a Quaker who had come from New York and would have had many connections for help in setting up an underground railroad. In the book "Underground Railroad from Slavery to Freedom" by Wilbur H. Seibert, much information about the underground routes discussed. Any information that could be uncovered in reference to the Drinker underground railroad stop would contribute much to history.

The Drinker property has another historic archeology significance in providing material for study of an 18th century Quaker artist's life.
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY
UTM REFERENCES

ZONE EASTING NORTHING
A 17 751 73.0
B 17 175 79.5
C 15 519 7.9
D 17 175 79.5

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at Sylvan Ave, thence W crossing a road and along a fence 300 ft. thence along
ence N 300 ft., thence along fence E 200 ft. thence along fence back of slave quarters
30 ft. thence with fence to Sylvan Ave, thence up the run S 400 ft. to the beginning.

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

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE Don C. Wood, Genealogist, Historian, Historic Archaeologist

ORGANIZATION President, Berkeley County Historical Society

Chairman, Berkeley County Historical Landmarks Commission

STREET & NUMBER Route 3, Box 79

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN Martinsburg, W 25401

STATE

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DATE
Mansion House—all four main walls standing, outstanding stone work, part cut stone (limestone), roof and interior of house caved in.

Log House Ruins—was two story, now one, no roof, part of south wall was replaced with boards.
Smokehouse—stone, roof gone (section of wall was plastered inside).
Slave quarters—stone, 3/4 walls down, looks like in 4 sections, west side added at later date.
Corn Crib—in good shape, open slat