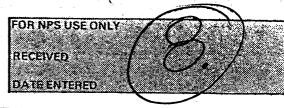
## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM



SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS

TYPE ALL ENTRIES COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS	• .
NAME John Drinker House HISTORIC	
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Sam Mason RoadNOTFOR PUBLICATION	
vicinity of Bunker, Hill & Area and Carlotte	15°C
West Virginia Code Berkeley 003	îns.
CATEGORY OWNERSHIP  LOSSIFICT PUBLIC OCCUPIED  LAGRICULTURE MUSEUM  STRUCTURE BOTH WORK IN PROGRESS SITE PUBLIC ACQUISITION ACCESSIBLE ENTERTAINMENT RELIGIOUS  OBJECT IN PROCESS YES: RESTRICTED GOVERNMENT SCIENTIFIC  BEING CONSIDERED X YES: UNRESTRICTED INDUSTRIAL TRANSPORT  NO MILITARY OTHER:  OWNER OF PROPERTY  NAME Mr. & Mrs. Peter A. Baker  STREET & NUMBER  CITY, TOWN  Banker Hill, W25413 VICINITY OF	SIDENCE
5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION	
COURTHOUSE. Berkeley County REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.	
STREET & NUMBER	
CITY. TOWN Martinsburg, WV 25401	-
6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS  TITLE G-60, Berkeley County Historical Society & Berkeley County Historical Landmarks Commission Survey	
DATE 1973-78FEDERALSTATE _XCOUNTYLOCAL	
	<del></del>
SURVEY RECORDS Berkeley County Courthouse	

## 7 DESCRIPTION

\_\_EXCELLENT

\_\_GOOD

\_\_FAIR

#### CONDITION

\_\_DETERIORATED
\_XRUINS
\_\_UNEXPOSED

With OC 110

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XORIGINAL SITE

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\_\_MOVED DATE

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

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, 3 story house constructed of limestone with a gable roof and lare inside end 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 runs 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 constucted 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.

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### 8 SIGNIFICANCE

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SPECIFIC DATES

### **BUILDER/ARCHITECT**

#### 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 portriat 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 portrats of the Berkeley County area are Mrs. John Briscoe, Dr. John Briscoe, Jr., John 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 Miseum of Early Southern Decorative Arts, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, owns some of his work.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR ERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

# ATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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nn Drinker House

**CONTINUATION SHEET** 

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE

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re ruins of the JohnDrinker house should be listed on The National Register of Historic aces and Sites because of the fine workmanship still evident in the building and because historic associations with John Drinker, an early Quaker portriat artist. Of particular terest are the portraits of Dr. and Mrs. JohnBriscoe, the builder of "Piedmont" in fferson County. These portraits were recently purchased by The Museum of Early Southern corative Arts in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. The house was a large Federal period ructure of stone with a gauged stone main entrance, the only example of this work in rkeley County. Elsewhere on the property are the ruins of outbuildings. This was a 213 retract 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 rn March 12, 1760, died February 16, 1825, childless, leaving his estate to his widow izabeth Pepper, who he married in Berkeley County April 12, 1797. Tranditionally it is aimed that his widow ran an underground save train.

jabeth Drinker's will written Oct 1, 1356 clearly shows her concern for the freedom of black people. To David and Elizabeth Wright she left "the services of my Negro boy i 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 re 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 oceeds of said servants after paying all expenses incident to them selves are to be plied to their removal beyond the limits of the State of Virginia." She put up her ck 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 ave the State of Virginia it is my wish for them to do so."

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

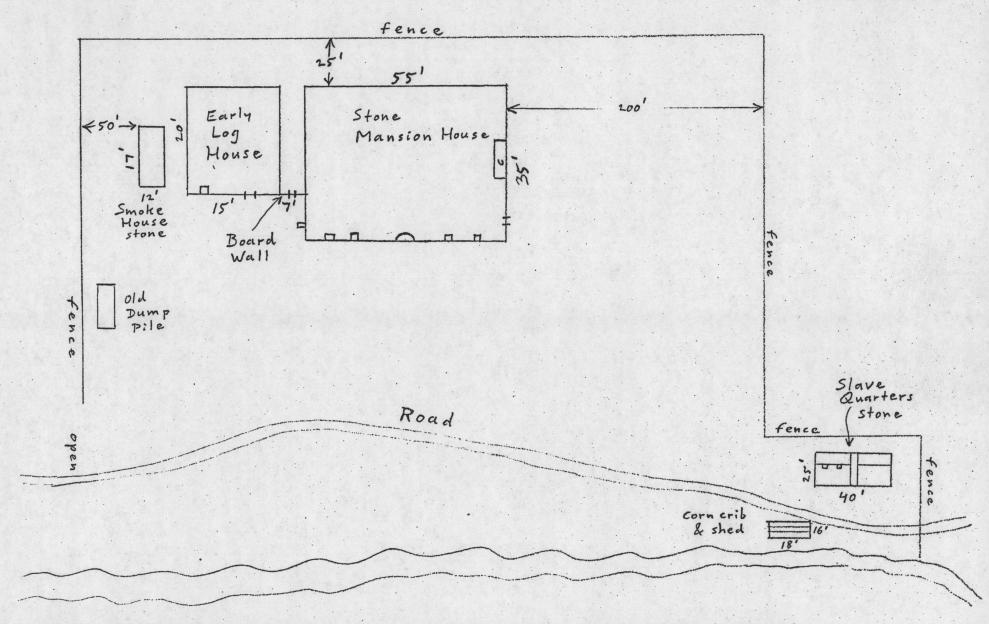
ough considerable has been written on the underground railroad, verification of stops and utes is difficult. The Guakers were basically opposed to slavery and operated many of the ations. JohnDrinker was a Quaker who had come from New York and would have had many conctions for help in setting up an underground railroad. In the book "Underground Railroad om 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 undergound railroad stop would contribute much to history.

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

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Letter from Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts

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Mansion House-all four mail 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