NAME
HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON
Baker Farm

LOCATION
Lane extending north of Maryland Route 34,
north of Keedysville

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

STATE
Maryland

CLASSIFICATION
CATEGORY
PLANT
OWNERSHIP
PRIVATE

STATUS
X OCCUPIED

PRESENT USE
X AGRICULTURE

OWNER OF PROPERTY
NAME
United States Steel Corporation

STREET & NUMBER
600 Grant Street, Room 2644

CITY, TOWN
Pittsburgh

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Washington County Courthouse

STATE
Pennsylvania

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE

DATE

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

STATE
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. 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

\[\text{see continuation sheet #1}\]
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.
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."
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 25 acres

UTM REFERENCES

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

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

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Paula Stoner Dickey

ORGANIZATION

Washington County Historical Sites Survey

DATE

33 West Washington Street (301) 791-3065

CITY OR TOWN

Hagerstown

STATE Maryland

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

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

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
ABSTRACT
WA-II-293
Baker Farm
Keedysville Vicinity
private

Late 18th Century

This stone farmhouse probably dating from the last quarter of the 18th century and its surrounding buildings are primarily significant for their architecture. Having received few alterations, the house reflects many characteristics of late 18th century construction in Western Maryland and the Cumberland Valley. Operating as a farm since the late 18th century, the property is also important for its contribution to Washington County's history.

agricultural
INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME
   HISTORIC
   AND/OR COMMON
   Baker Farm

2 LOCATION
   STREET & NUMBER
   Lane extending north of State route 34, north of Keeedysville
   CITY, TOWN
   VICINITY OF Keeedysville
   CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
   STATE
   Maryland
   COUNTY
   Washington

3 CLASSIFICATION
   CATEGORY
      DISTRICT
      BUILDING(S)
      STRUCTURE
      SITE
      OBJECT
   OWNERSHIP
      PUBLIC
      PRIVATE
      BOTH
   STATUS
      OCCUPIED
      UNOCCUPIED
      WORK IN PROGRESS
      ACCESSIBLE
      YES, RESTRICTED
      YES, UNRESTRICTED
      IN PROCESS
      BEING CONSIDERED
   PRESENT USE
      AGRICULTURE
      COMMERCIAL
      PARK
      EDUCATIONAL
      PRIVATE RESIDENCE
      ENTERTAINMENT
      RELIGIOUS
      GOVERNMENT
      SCIENTIFIC
      INDUSTRIAL
      TRANSPORTATION
      MILITARY
      OTHER
   INDUSTRIAL USE
   PENDING

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY
   NAME
   United States Steel Corp. C/O Mr. J. V. S. Good, Tax Div.
   Telephone #:
   STREET & NUMBER
   600 Grant Street
   CITY, TOWN
   Pittsburgh
   VICINITY OF
   STATE, zip code
   Pennsylvania 15230

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
   COURTHOUSE
   Registry of Deeds, etc.
   Washington County Court House
   STREET & NUMBER
   West Washington Street
   CITY, TOWN
   Hagerstown
   STATE
   Maryland
   STATE, zip code
   Maryland 21404

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
   TITLE
   Maryland Historical Trust Survey # 1041
   DATE
   Summer 1967
   DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
   Maryland Historical Trust
   CITY, TOWN
   Annapolis
   STATE
   Maryland
   STATE, zip code
   Maryland 21404
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CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438
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 or 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. The buildings are in deteriorated to fair condition and are located on a tract containing 117.53 acres.
WA-II-293  ROUGH SKETCH OF FLOOR PLAN  → North
SKETCH MAP OF BUILDING LOCATIONS

WA-II-294

ROUTE OF ABANDONED COUNTY ROAD TO PRESENT WHEELER & COFFMAN ROADS.

STONE END BARN

BRICK HOUSE & OUTBUILDING

FRAME OUTBUILDINGS

FRAME BARN & OUTBUILDINGS

STONE HOUSE

SPRING RUN

LIME KILN

TO MD. ROUTE 341 & KEEDYSVILLE
WA II 293
N.E.
March, 1976

Paula Stoner Dickey
Consultant, Washington Co
Historical Sites Survey
WA II-293
Barr S.W.
March, 1976

PAULA STONER Dickey
Consultant, Washington Co.
Historical Sites Survey
Interior, 2nd story S.E. Room
March, 1976

PAULA STONER Dickey
Consultant, Washington Co.
Historical Sites Survey
WA II-293

Interior detail
S.E. Room 2nd story

March, 1976

PAULA STONER DICKEY
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY
WA-2-793

Interior, S.E. Room, 2nd Story

March, 1976

PAULA STONER DICKEY
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY