

STATE: Pennsylvania
 COUNTY: Blair
 FOR NPS USE ONLY
 ENTRY DATE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME
 COMMON: Baker Mansion
 AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION
 STREET AND NUMBER: 3500 Baker Boulevard
 CITY OR TOWN: Altoona CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 9th
 STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 42 COUNTY: Blair CODE: 013

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
 OWNER'S NAME: Blair County Historical Society
 STREET AND NUMBER: P. O. Box 1083
 CITY OR TOWN: Altoona 16603 STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 42

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
 COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Blair County Courthouse
 STREET AND NUMBER: 423 Allegheny Street
 CITY OR TOWN: Hollidaysburg 16648 STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 42

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
 TITLE OF SURVEY: Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places
 DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: William Penn Memorial Museum
 STREET AND NUMBER: Box #1026
 CITY OR TOWN: Harrisburg STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 42

STATE: Penna.
 COUNTY: Blair
 ENTRY NUMBER
 DATE
 FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Baker Mansion is a three story structure constructed between 1844 and 1848. The house is Greek Revival style, 50 feet 10 inches by 75 feet 6 inches, constructed of dressed stone.

The south or front facade is five bays wide with six fluted Ionic columns rising to the entablature. The west elevation is five bays wide with a first floor entrance located in the center bay. Located in the frieze and aligned with each bay is a Greek key or fret. In order to preserve the symmetry of this facade two of the first floor windows are false, closed shutters being used to conceal the psuedo opening. The east facade is four bays wide with a false window and like the west elevation has a Greek key and the frieze is aligned with each bay. The north or rear elevation is four bays wide, with six square columns rising to the entablature. A second floor balcony extends from the face of the wall to the pillars.

The capitals, bases, and lower sections of both front and rear columns are cast iron, while the upper two thirds of each shaft were constructed of brick with the fluting in the front columns molded over it in stucco. All the windows and door frames are also made of cast iron. Lead strips were used to seal the joints in the exterior masonry.

The interior of the house is constructed with dividing walls of brick approximately nine inches thick. On the main floor a hall divides the house down the center. A long parlor (with a sliding door divider) and a library are on one side; on the other, a dining room and kitchen, with stairs and side entrance between them. Seven chambers and a bath comprise the second floor while on the third floor there are four large rooms.

The original architect for Baker's Mansion was Robert Carey Long Jr., whose offices were located in Baltimore. Long was later dismissed because of procrastination in preparing the final plans. Baker then hired a Bellefonte Pennsylvania contractor, Charles Callahan, who supervised the completion of the mansion. The total cost of the structure was \$75,000.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

5. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1844-1848

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The three story, Greek Revival Baker Mansion was constructed between 1844 and 1848 by the Elias Baker family. The Bakers migrated to Central Pennsylvania from Lancaster County in 1836. The move was made after Baker along with his nephew-partner Rolland Deller purchased Allegheny Iron Furnace. In 1844, Elias Baker bought out his partners share of the Allegheny Furnace and as though to display his new prosperity he embarked on construction of the mansion.

The mansion is significant in several areas. Its very location represents Pennsylvania's growing transportation systems in the mid-nineteenth century. Baker's mansion is situated close to what was once the main line of the Pennsylvania Canal at the eastern terminus of the portage railroad opened in 1834. Hence roofing slate was ordered from Peach Bottom in York County, Pennsylvania, copper was transported from Baltimore, sheet lead from Philadelphia, and cement for plastering the interior from Johnstown west of the Allegheny's.

Baker Mansion also exhibits several interesting construction techniques. The use of iron cast at Bakers Allegheny Furnace for door and window frames, as well as sections of the columns, this is quite unusual for rural Pennsylvania in 1844. Also the use of lead strips to seal the exterior masonry joints is most unique.

Architecturally, the Elias Baker Mansion now a museum and home of the Blair County Historical Society, is one of the most impressive existing Greek Revival buildings in Central Pennsylvania.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dickson, Harold E. "Past & Present" Bulletin by Blair County Historical Society. Issue #8. Summer, 1966. Pages one to twenty-four

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "	40° 29' 21"	78° 24' 31"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "	Easting		Northing
SE	° ' "	° ' "	Zone 17	718 220	4485 660
SW	° ' "	° ' "		719 660	4485 220

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Mr. David C. Stacks/Historic Preservation

ORGANIZATION

Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

DATE

1-16-75

STREET AND NUMBER:

Box #1026

CITY OR TOWN:

Harrisburg

STATE

Pennsylvania

CODE

12

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name

WILLIAM J. WEWER

Title Executive Director

PA Historical & Museum Commission

Date

4/15/75

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

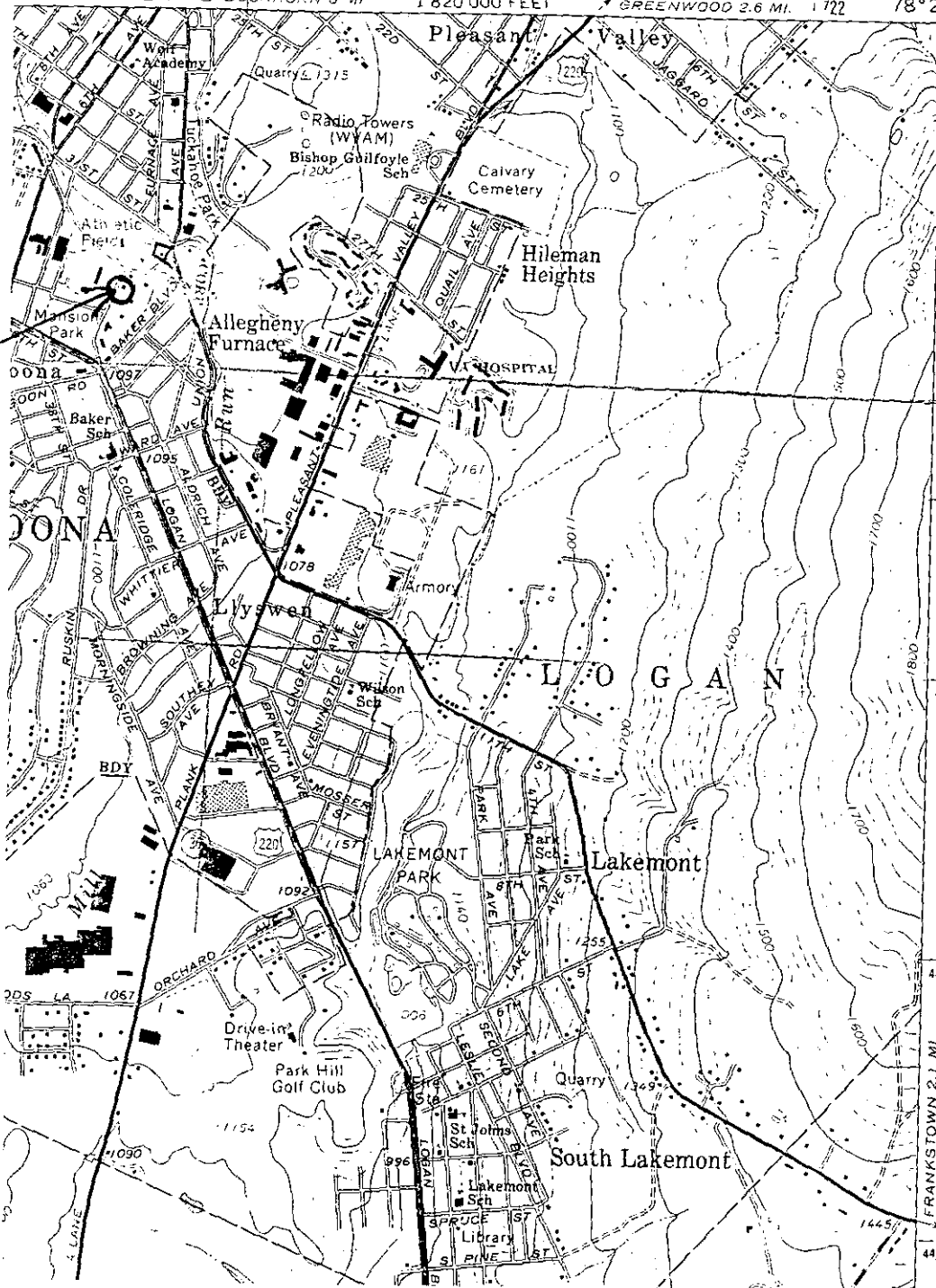
Parker
Manscos

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

HOLLIDAYSBURG QUADRANGLE,
 PENNSYLVANIA—BLAIR CO
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

5965 III SE
 (BELLWOOD)

TO U.S. 220 PATTON 17 MI. BUCKHORN 6 MI. 1 820 000 FEET TYRONE 16 MI. GREENWOOD 2.6 MI. 1722 78°22'30" 40°30'



4486
 ALLEGHENY RIVER
 BLAIR COUNTY
 HOLLIDAYSBURG
 ZONE 17
 E 719750
 N 4485410

4485
 420 000
 FEET

4484

4483

4482

