

VLR-7/17/73 NRHP-10/3/73

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virginia
COUNTY: Rockingham
FOR NPS USE ONLY
(ENTR) DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
The Baxter House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Route 42, North of Edom

CITY OR TOWN:

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Seventh; J. Kenneth Robinson

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51 COUNTY: Rockingham CODE: 165

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" 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
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Mhor (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mr. Leonard Myers

STREET AND NUMBER:
Route 3

CITY OR TOWN:
Broadway

STATE:
Virginia

CODE:
51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Rockingham County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Harrisonburg

STATE:
Virginia

CODE:
51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE OF SURVEY: 1973 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Room 1116, 9th Street State Office Building

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Richmond

STATE:
Virginia

CODE:
51

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia

COUNTY: Rockingham

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Baxter House, a fine example of an eighteenth century Valley log house, was until recently sheathed with mid-nineteenth century board and batten siding. Now that the siding has been removed, the excellently preserved log construction is clearly evident.

The single pile, double-pen dwelling consists of two abuted two-bay two-story log structures set on limestone foundation. A frame board-and-batten shed addition covers the north side. The house's eastern section or pen is roughly-squared hewn log with half dovetail notching and rock-and-daub chinking. The western pen, however, is of carefully finished logs with full dovetail notching. The logs are closely fitted so as to need no chinking. The logs of the western newer section are spliced into the side wall of the older portion. A four bay porch shelters part of the south facade. The chimney of dressed, coursed, native limestone has curved tapered shoulders. Wooden double-hung windows have six-over-six sash and are surrounded by simple frames. The door frames are plain; the western pen door has two panels, the eastern pen door has a large square light. Galvanized metal covers the gable roof.

Each pen consists of a single room with a door leading from the exterior in each room and the north shed addition is divided into two rooms. The enclosed stair ascends in the southwest corner of the eastern pen.

The Baxter House is set just west of Route 42 in the rolling hills of the Linville Creek area. The house faces south, down the creek, and is shaded by several sizable trees.

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8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

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 Baxter House exhibits some of the finest log construction to be found in Virginia. The later west section of the double-pen dwelling has rare full dovetail corner notching fitted with a precision usually reserved for fine furniture. The logs themselves are so uniformly dressed and fitted that no chinking is required. Tradition has it that this finely crafted portion of the house was built with the aid of nearby German craftsmen.

The original or east section is more typical of the log houses built by the Scotch-Irish settlers in the Valley. Although well constructed it has half-dovetail corner notching and bands of chinking between the logs. The curve-tapered limestone chimney, however, is an outstanding example of early Valley masonry. Another unusual feature is the abutting of the two sections with spliced logs.

The original portion of the house was probably built in the late eighteenth century by George Baxter, a Scottish immigrant, with the west section added a few years later. County records show that Baxter owned as much as 1196 acres around the house in 1789. The family became prominent in the Valley. George Baxter's son, George A. Baxter, served as President of Washington College, now Washington and Lee University, from 1799 to 1829.

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Royster C. Lyle, Jr. "Log Construction in the Valley of Virginia", Discovery, APVA Vol. III, No 2. (Fall 1971).

Archives - Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission.

Fred Kniffer, "On Corner Timbering" Pioneer America, Vol. 1, No. 1, (January, 1969).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	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	
NW	0 . "	0 . "		38° 33' 20"	78° 50' 09"	
NE	0 . "	0 . "				
SE	0 . "	0 . "				
SW	0 . "	0 . "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than ten acres.

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission DATE: July, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:
Room 1116, Ninth Street Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond, STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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 Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Director
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

Title _____

Date _____

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 _____

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