

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

 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

Brush Hill

AND/OR COMMON

Brush Hill/Old Scull House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

651 Brush Hill Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Irwin

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

21

VICINITY OF

STATE

Pa.

CODE

42

COUNTY

Westmoreland

CODE

129

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

 DISTRICT
 BUILDING(S)
 STRUCTURE
 SITE
 OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

 PUBLIC
 PRIVATE
 BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
 IN PROCESS
 BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

 OCCUPIED
 UNOCCUPIED
 WORK IN PROGRESS
 ACCESSIBLE
 YES: RESTRICTED
 YES: UNRESTRICTED
 NO

PRESENT USE

 AGRICULTURE
 COMMERCIAL
 EDUCATIONAL
 ENTERTAINMENT
 GOVERNMENT
 INDUSTRIAL
 MILITARY
 MUSEUM
 PARK
 PRIVATE RESIDENCE
 RELIGIOUS
 SCIENTIFIC
 TRANSPORTATION
 OTHER
4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

(displayed on special tours)

NAME

~~Arthur Edward La Salle~~

Mr. & Mrs. Donald F. Miller

STREET & NUMBER

651 Brush Hill Rd.

CITY, TOWN

Irwin

VICINITY OF

STATE

Pa.

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Westmoreland County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

North Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Greensburg

STATE

Pa.

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Westmoreland County Historical Sites and Landmarks

DATE

1972-1974

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Residence of Mrs. Helen Smith, 3311 Benden Drive

CITY, TOWN

Murrysville

STATE

Pa.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Brush Hill mansion was constructed by Col. John Irwin in 1798. The Federal style home is a two story fieldstone structure. A program has been underway to restore Brush Hill to its original appearance. The removal of the Victorian front porch, restoration of white paint to the cornice and woodwork, and the loss of the rear wing (added in 1886, removed in 1955) have all contributed to this recent similarity to the original appearance.

The mansion has a Georgian floor plan. The central staircase rises three flights to a large, floored attic. A living room, dining room, bedroom, and library are found on the first floor. The second floor has four bedrooms and a dressing room and bath which were constructed in the old sewing room in 1955. Much more of the original interior work remains on the second floor than does on the first. However, during the current restoration, some alterations are being made. For example, the cherry wood doors are being recovered from basement storage for all lower floor doorways. The attic has an unusual roof support of pegged, hand-hewn beams.

The mansion's exterior is symmetrical and has a central main entranceway whose double staircase is a pyramid-tiered shale-stone arrangement with an iron railing that runs parallel to the house. The wood panel door has an arched surround which has radiating voussoirs and originally held a fanlight. All the windows are rectangular and identical in size; and they all have voussoirs, moulded frames, and four panes. The first floor has three windows on either side of the front door and two on each side gable. The second floor has the same window arrangement with the addition of one window over the main door. The boxed cornice with return is original and is decorated with modillions and dentils. The medium gable roof has a large single straddle stone chimney and two smaller attic windows at each side gable.

The original front entrance was removed by George R. Scull during his major remodeling project about 1886. This was the same time at which he erected the large two storey rear wing. By the 1950's the carriage house, barn, and other dependencies were gone. Restoration plans include the removal of false ceilings, a more formal driveway, and general period landscaping.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		Urban planning finance

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Brush Hill was the home of Colonel John Irwin (1739-1822) whose family^{of} the town and area fear. The house is importance architecturally because it is one of the earliest "mansion-scale" houses west of the Appalachians. Brush Hill was the largest of Irwins three plantations. Irwin and his relatives and descendents were prominent in the political, social, and economic growth of the area. Col. Irwin rendered important services to the cause of the American Revolution.

The John Scull family became the inheritors of the Brush Hill Estate through marriage. The Scull family is noted in history on both sides of the Atlantic. John Skull, Col. Irwin's son-in-law, founded the Pittsburg Gazette, the first newspaper west of the Alleghenies. Another important contribution of the Skull-Irwin relationship was the construction of the turnpike in western Pennsylvania.

The Brush Hill Estate was gradually subdivided into the surrounding community. During the late 1940's the mansion passed from the family of Col. Irwin's descendents. Much of the early leadership in many important fields relating to the growth of Western Pennsylvania had its beginnings within the Brush Hill mansion.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Jordan, John W. LL. D; History of Westmoreland County, Pa. Genealogical Memoirs; Lewis Publishing Co., New York, 1906; pages 353, 354, 507 (vol. II and III)
 Albert, George Dallas; History of the County of Westmoreland, Pa. L. H. Evarts and Co., Philadelphia, 1882; pages 553, 558, 559, 279.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY one

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,7	16,1,14,40	44,16,4,33,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Patricia Maureen LaSalle/ Leilani Stewart
 (Student Aide PHMC)

ORGANIZATION Wm. Penn Museum Box 1026 Harrisburg, Pa. (717) 787-4363
 STREET & NUMBER 651 Brush Hill Road
 CITY OR TOWN Irwin, Pa. Pa.

12 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE



TITLE Executive Director
 Pa. Historical Museum Commission

DATE 7/29/75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST: DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

