

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

USE THIS COPY
FOR DUPLICATING

1. NAME

COMMON: Dorsey, Joseph House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 113 Cherry Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: West Brownsville CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 26th

STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 42 COUNTY: Washington CODE: 125

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"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress Public Acquisition: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Raymond Boyer

STREET AND NUMBER: (113 Cherry Avenue) RD#2

CITY OR TOWN: Brownsville STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 42

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Office of Recorder of Deeds, Washington County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER: South Main Street

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 42

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Stotz- The Architecture of Western Pennsylvania

DATE OF SURVEY: 1936 Regional Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh

STREET AND NUMBER: 4400 Forbes Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Pittsburgh STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 42

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:	Pa.
COUNTY:	Washington
ENTRY NUMBER	
DATE	

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)				
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins
	(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 Dorsey house is a Maryland house form transplanted to Western Pennsylvania. It is a two-story, four-bay, stone Georgian house, with entrance through the left front bay. The roof is moderately pitched with one low, wide gable chimney.

The walls are irregularly coursed, of random rubble masonry, but the quoins are squared and dressed for added corner strength and to give the illusion of a regularly coursed facade.

The window architraves on the front facade are original to the construction of the house, but the 2-over-2 lights are from the mid-19th Century. The exquisite entrance and cornice are the most distinctive features on this elevation. They are most likely derived from English architectural design books based on early 18th Century English architects' interpretations of Palladian designs. The fluted pilasters and cornices with modillions and dentils are exquisitely executed. The semi-circular fanlight retains most of the original glass. The door is approached by a high stone stoop -- again, original.

The rear facade is three bays, with a door in line with the front portal. It has a transom and simple pedimented canopy; the latter from the 19th Century. The ground story windows are also a later, 19th Century alteration, but the second story 12-over-6 sashes are original to the construction of the house. The front cornice is repeated on the back elevation.

The interior has remained substantially unchanged since it was built. There is not even a bathroom in this section. The fine paneling, wainscoting, mantels and cabinets on both floors still exist in visually perfect condition. Measured drawings of the interior are included in Charles Stotz's book, The Architectural Heritage of Early Western Pennsylvania.

At the southwest end of the house is a one-story and loft brick addition dating from about 1830.

The minor alterations and additions do not conceal or detract from the superb quality of design and execution of the house form and details. The house remains in excellent condition and merits designation as one of the finest 18th Century houses in America.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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) 1787

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/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This is a superb example of what is referred to as the Post Colonial style of architecture found in Western Pennsylvania after the earlier pioneer period log houses and before the Greek Revival. The style defies exact description. It achieves its unique quality and charm from the fact that vernacular builders selectively borrowed Georgian, Roman Classical, Adamesque and other European Renaissance architectural forms, elements and details, and combined them in the builders' own esoteric way. Thus, a particularly characteristic phase of building exists in early Western Pennsylvania architecture. This development provides a contrast to the building traditions found in other parts of the country.

Washington County is fortunate in having several well-preserved stone houses in the Western Pennsylvania Post Colonial architectural style. Among this group is the truly extraordinary Joseph Dorsey house.

The builder was born at Elliott Mills, Maryland. He came to Washington County and settled in East Bethlehem Township, where he built this stone house. He eventually acquired 1,500 acres of land in this section of the county, much of it cultivated by slave labor.

Historically, the house depicts the one-time strong Southern influence in Western Pennsylvania. It was the nucleus of an early Western Pennsylvania plantation, dependent, like its Southern counterparts, upon slave labor. Settlers from Virginia, first, and Maryland, later, migrated across the Alleghenies to settle the Western wilderness and establish farms and plantations.

Architecturally, the Dorsey house is in a remarkable state of preservation, with the exception of mid-19th Century 2-over-2 lights in the front windows, a modern back door and an early 19th Century brick wing, the house is completely intact on both the interior and the exterior.

The front doorway has a delicate fanlight with most of the original glass intact. The pilaster jambs, pedimented portal, and recessed panels on the intrados display excellent, sophisticated craftsmanship.

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Pennsylvania	
COUNTY Washington	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

Dorsey, Joseph House (significance):

The builder of the entrance most likely was brought to this region from the South. Because of its early date of execution, it would have been highly unlikely for a local craftsman to display such skill. This fine workmanship is reiterated in the classically detailed cornice. This, too, remains in perfect condition.

The interior has also remained substantially unchanged since its construction. To this day there is not even a bathroom in the original part of the house. The exquisite paneling, mantels, wainscoting and cabinets on both floors still exist in visually perfect condition.

The Dorsey house transcends its Post Colonial counterparts both in design and execution. It is elegant, dignified and gracious. The house has distinct architectural merit and must be considered one of America's best preserved 18th Century houses.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Stotz, Charles Morse, Early Architecture of Western Pennsylvania, pp. 43-45, 144-145, 52-56, 171; 1936

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	° ' "	° ' "		40 ° 01 ' 12 "	79 ° 55 ' 25 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1 acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: James D. Van Trump, Landmarks Planning, Inc.

ORGANIZATION: Washington County Overall Economic Development Program DATE: Summer 1972

STREET AND NUMBER: One South College Street

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 42

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 _____

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 _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

1. NAME		
COMMON Dorsey, Joseph House	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
2. LOCATION		
STATE Pennsylvania	COUNTY Washington	TOWN West Brownsville
STREET AND NUMBER 113 Cherry Avenue		
3. PHOTO REFERENCE		
PHOTO CREDIT Washington Co. History & Landmarks Foundation	DATE Summer 1973	NEGATIVE FILED AT Washington Co. History & Landmarks Foundation
4. IDENTIFICATION		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.		
1. View of southeast facade and southwest side		
2. back elevation		

GPO 932-009

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

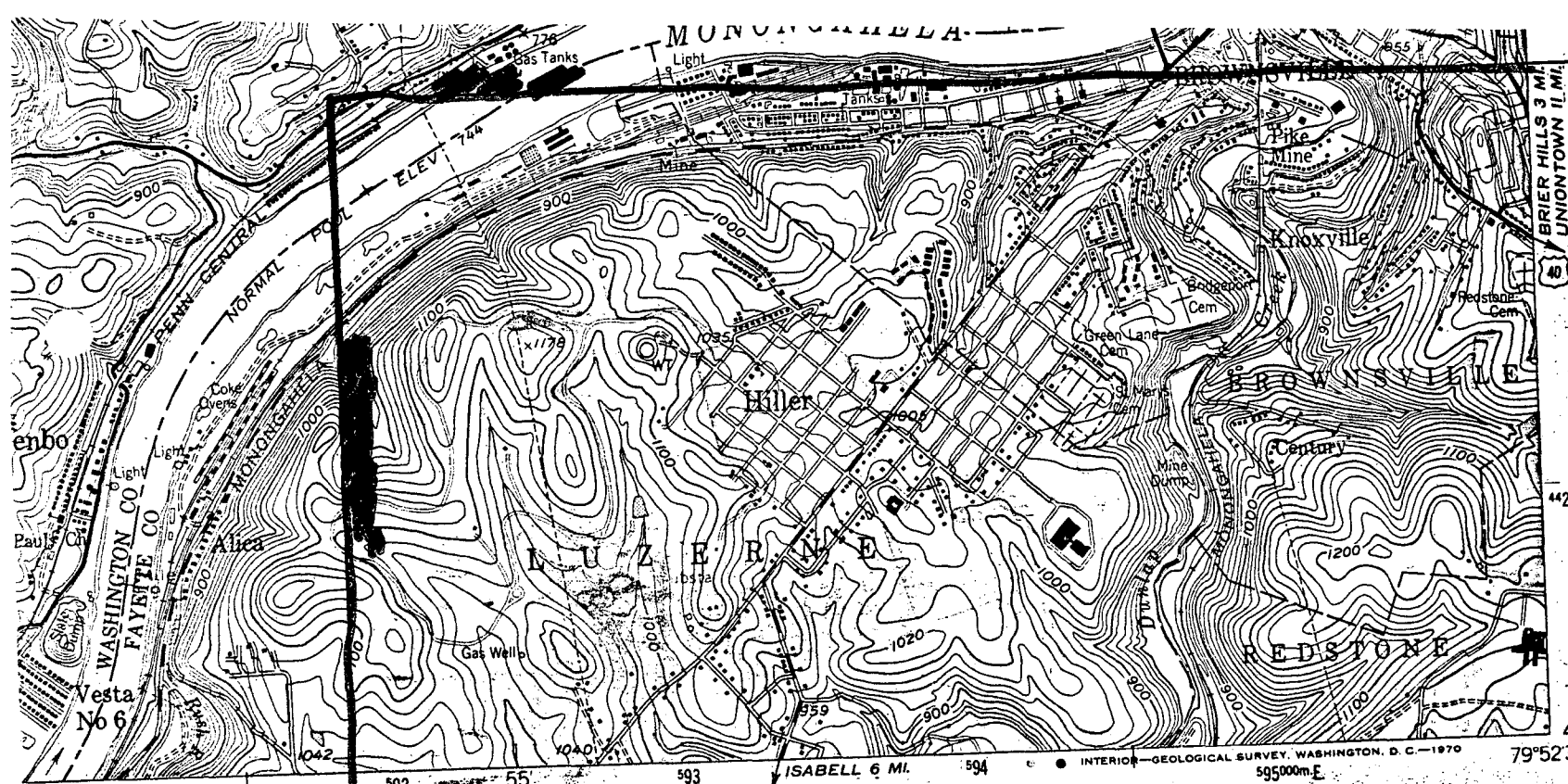
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

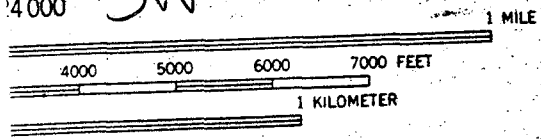
1. NAME		
COMMON Dorsey, Joseph House	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
2. LOCATION		
STATE Pennsylvania	COUNTY Washington	TOWN West Brownsville
STREET AND NUMBER 113 Cherry Avenue		
3. MAP REFERENCE		
SOURCE USGS, 7.5' Series California quad.	DATE 1960	SCALE 1:24,000

REQUIREMENTS: PROPERTY BOUNDARIES, WHERE REQUIRED, AND NORTH ARROW.

GPO 932-010

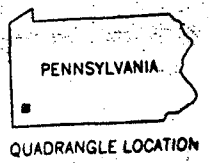


SW



1/4" = 20 FEET
SEA LEVEL

FULL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOLLOW THE SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
NO SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty Light-duty
 Medium-duty Unimproved dirt

U. S. Route State Route
 Interstate Route

CALIFORNIA, PA.
 SW/4 BROWNSVILLE 15 QUADRANGLE
 N4000—W7952.5/7.5

1954
 PHOTOREVISED 1969
 AMS 5064 III SW—SERIES V83

SE
 (NEW SALEM)
 5063 IV NE