

STATE: Pennsylvania
COUNTY: Washington
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE NOV 19 1974

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**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 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"/> Other (Specify)

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

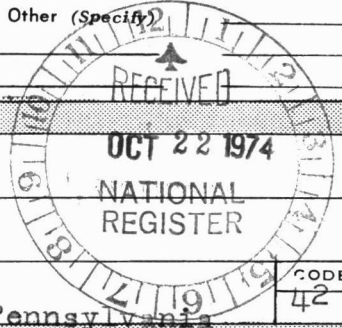
OWNER'S NAME:  
Raymond Boyer

STREET AND NUMBER:  
(113 Cherry Avenue) RDr 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

STATE: Pa.

COUNTY: Washington

ENTRY NUMBER: NOV 19 1974

FOR NPS USE ONLY

DATE:

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	<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 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)

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

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

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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

HB  
 17/591880  
 4430390

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
NW	° ' "	° ' "	40°	01'	15"
NE	° ' "	° ' "	79°	55'	24"
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
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

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*  
**WILLIAM J. WEWER**

Title: Executive Director  
**Pa. Historical & Museum Commission**

Date: 10/17/74

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

*A. Mortensen*  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 11/19/74

ATTEST:

*Charles H. Hays*  
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 11.14.74

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Pennsylvania	
COUNTY Washington	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	NOV 19 1974

(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.







Dorsey House, Waverly, Va.

FORM 10-301 A  
(6/72)

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 <b>Joseph Dorsey House</b>	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE <i>(Assigned by NPS)</i> <b>NOV 19 1974</b>
2. LOCATION		
STATE <b>Pennsylvania</b>	COUNTY <b>Washington</b>	TOWN <b>West Brownsville</b>
STREET AND NUMBER <b>113 Cherry Avenue</b>		
3. PHOTO REFERENCE		
PHOTO CREDIT <b>Washington Co. History &amp; Landmarks Foundation</b>	DATE <b>Summer, 1973</b>	NEGATIVE FILED AT <b>Washington Co. History &amp; Landmarks Foundation</b>
4. IDENTIFICATION		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.		

**View of southeast facade and southwest  
side.**

**#182**

GPO 932-009

**PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER**

**DORSEY HOUSE, WASHINGTON CO., PA.**



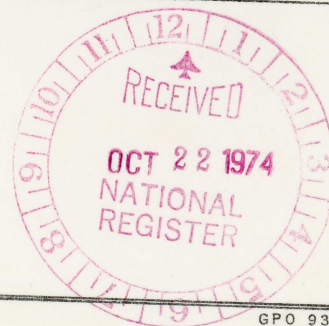
FORM 10-301 A  
(6/72)

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	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
<b>Joseph Dorsey House</b>		<b>NOV 19 1974</b>
2. LOCATION		
STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
<b>Pennsylvania</b>	<b>Washington</b>	<b>West Brownsville</b>
STREET AND NUMBER		
<b>113 Cherry Avenue</b>		
3. PHOTO REFERENCE		
PHOTO CREDIT	DATE	NEGATIVE FILED AT
<b>Washington Co. History &amp; Landmarks Foundation</b>	<b>Summer, 1973</b>	<b>Washington Co. History &amp; Landmarks Foundation</b>
4. IDENTIFICATION		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.		

View of Back Elevation.



GPO 932-009

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

#2082

#2 DORSEY - WASHINGTON

23

**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)*

NOV 19 1974

**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

1969

SCALE

1:24000

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

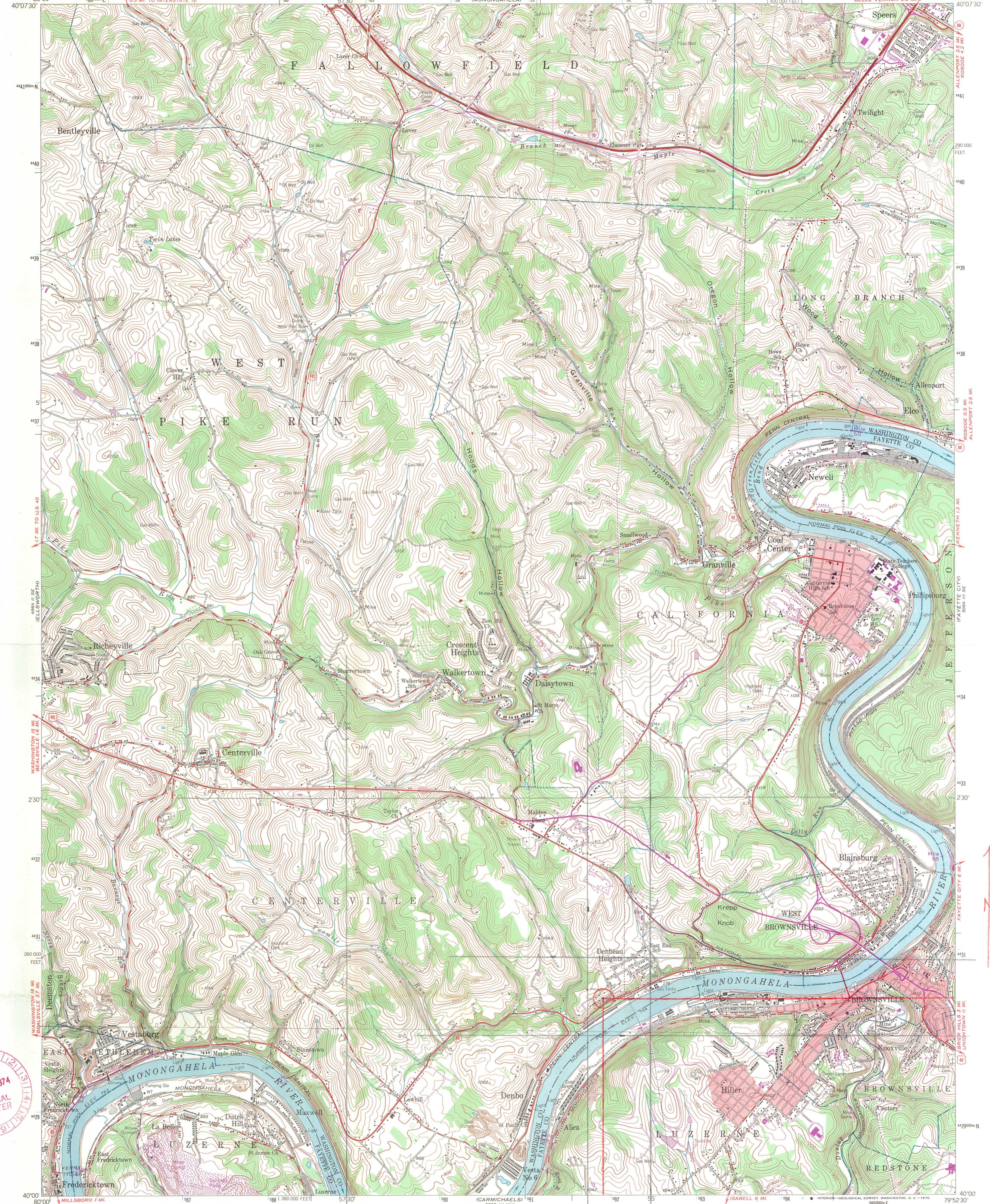


Joseph Dorsey House

Lat. 40° 01' 15" Long. 79° 55' 24"

CALIFORNIA QUADRANGLE PENNSYLVANIA 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

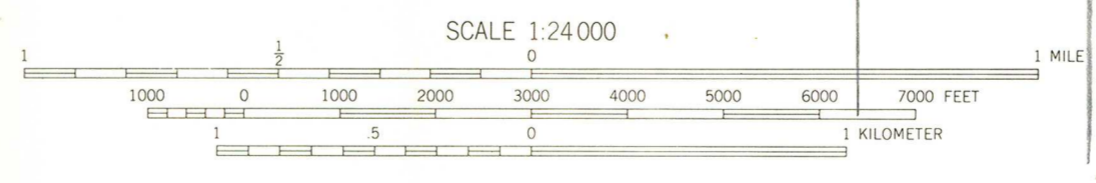
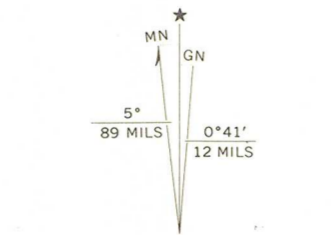
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



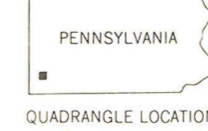
HB  
17/591820  
4430390



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and USC&GS  
Topography from aerial photographs by multiple methods  
Aerial photographs taken 1952. Field check 1954  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Pennsylvania coordinate system, south zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 17,  
shown in blue  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown  
Broken contours in strip mine areas indicate mining  
since photography  
Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with  
State of Pennsylvania agencies from aerial photographs taken 1969  
This information not field checked



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET  
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL



ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———  
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———  
U.S. Route ——— State Route ———  
Interstate Route ———

CALIFORNIA, PA.  
SW 1/4 BROWNSVILLE 15 QUADRANGLE  
N4000—W7952.5/7.5  
1954  
PHOTOREVISED 1969  
AMS 5064 III SW—SERIES V83

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE **PENNSYLVANIA**

Date Entered **NOV 19 1974**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
<b>Dorsey, Joseph, House</b>	<b>West Brownsville Washington County</b>

Also Notified

**Hon. Hugh Scott**  
**Hon. Richard S. Schweiker**  
**Hon. Thomas E. Morgan**  
**Regional Director, Mid-Atlantic  
Region**

PR MMott:cm 12/7/74

**State Historic Preservation Officer**  
**Mr. William J. Wewer, Executive Director**  
**Pennsylvania Historical and Museum  
Commission**  
**Box 1026**  
**Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120**