

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUL 31 1975
DATE ENTERED	OCT 14 1975

**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

CITY, TOWN Irwin

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
21

STATE Pa.

VICINITY OF
CODE 42

COUNTY, CODE
Westmoreland 129

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

(displayed on special tours)

NAME Arthur Edward La Salle

STREET & NUMBER 651 Brush Hill Rd.

CITY, TOWN Irwin

VICINITY OF

STATE Pa.

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, 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		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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 bear. 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 Irwin's 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

330 440
 A 17 1611440 44164330
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 C

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 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
 DATE
 STREET & NUMBER 651 Brush Hill Road
 TELEPHONE
 CITY OR TOWN Irwin, Pa.
 STATE Pa.

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL X

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 *William J. Stewart*
 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	
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	DATE <u>10/14/75</u>
ATTEST: <u>Ronald M. Greenberg</u>	DATE <u>10/14/75</u>
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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DATE ENTERED OCT 14 1975

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Bibliographical References:

- Bothwell, Margaret Pearson, research article "The Sculls and Irwins-Pillars of Pennsylvania," published in the western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine, vol 46, No. 1, Jan 1963, pages 57, 58, 60, 61, 62, 63, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 75.
- Altman, Gail Platt and Agnew, Dr. Thomas, "Tales from Tinker Run," local historical research pamphlet, printed Nov. 1971, pages 12 and 13, available through the Westmoreland Co. Historical Society; Irwin Chamber of Commerce; private library of Arthur E. La Salle, Brush Hill.
- Roth, Bernard B., editor, and others, 10 Score 1773-1973, BiCentennial publication for North Huntingdon Township; reference article by Worbois, Lois E., "Sculls and Irwins of Brush Hill," pages 24-25; available through Norwin Public Library; Westmoreland County Historical Society; Private library of Arthur E. La Salle, Brush Hill.
- Unpublished work: Scull, Gideon, Family Genealogy; copy now available through Isabell Scull Sensenich, Irwin; private library of Arthur E. La Salle, Brush Hill.

Property Brush Hill

75001677
Westmorland

State PA.

Working Number 7.31.75.1486

TECHNICAL

UTM incorrect Needs turning around

CONTROL

Photos 4

Maps 1

OK

cm
8.1.75

A classic case of checking every box.
-It is eligible though -

HISTORIAN

Accept
W. R. Luce
9/16/75

MOST AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE DESIGNATED
ARE NOT JUSTIFIED.
BUT ADEQUATE FOR ARCHITECTURE.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ACCEPT
LEBOVICH
8-11-75

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept
Cole
9-12-75

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

Acq.
R Greenberg
10/14/75

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back _____

Entered OCT 14 1975

Federal Register Entry 12-2-75

Re-submit _____

INT:2106-74



NPS Number 10/14/75

Title: Brush Hill

Loc. Westmoreland Co, PA

View of main facade

A

BRUSH HILL

IRWIN, PA.

1974

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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HISTORIC

Brush Hill

AND/OR COMMON

Old Scull House

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Irwin

— VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Westmoreland

STATE

Pennsylvania

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

A. E. La Salle

DATE OF PHOTO

1974

NEGATIVE FILED AT

651 Brush Hill Road, Irwin, Pa.

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

View of main facade

PHOTO NO.

1 of 4



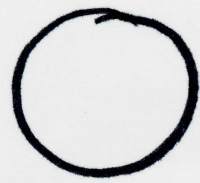
PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

NPS Number 10/14/75

Title: Brush Hill

Loc. Westmoreland Co, PA

detail of upper
staircase



BRUSH HILL
IRWIN, PA.

1974

UPPER STAIRCASE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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AND/OR COMMON

Old Scull House

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Irwin

___ VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Westmoreland

STATE

Pennsylvania

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

William Metzger

DATE OF PHOTO

1974

NEGATIVE FILED AT

651 Brush Hill Road, Irwin, Pa.

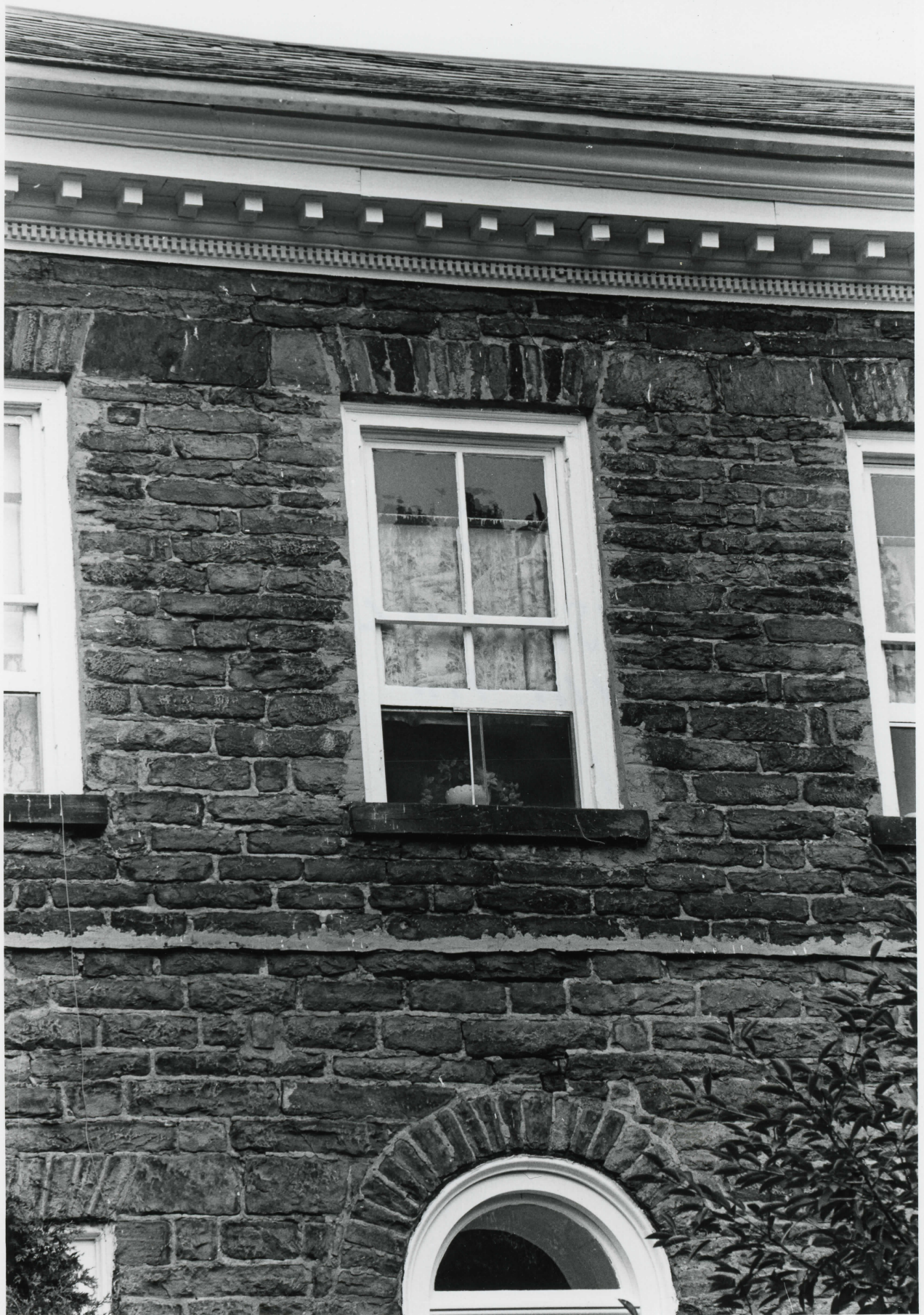
4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO.

2074

Detail of upper Staircase



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

3 of 4

NPS Number 10/14/75

Title: Brush Hill

Westmoreland Co, PA

Loc. detail of main

facade & cornice

D

BRUSH HILL
IRWIN, PA.

1974

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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HISTORIC

Brush Hill

AND/OR COMMON

Old Scull House

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Irwin

— VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Westmoreland

STATE

Pennsylvania

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

William Metzger

DATE OF PHOTO

1974

NEGATIVE FILED AT

651 Brush Hill Rd, Irwin Pa.

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO. 3074

Detail of main facade and cornice



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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HISTORIC Brush Hill

AND/OR COMMON

Old Scull House

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Irwin

VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Westmoreland

STATE

Pennsylvanian

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT McKeesport Daily News

DATE OF PHOTO 1950

NEGATIVE FILED AT McKeesport, Pa.

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

View of main facade - 1950

16

PHOTO NO.

4084

PA 15

INT: 2983-75

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC Brush Hill

AND/OR COMMON

Old Scull House

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Irwin

___ VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Westmoreland

STATE

Pennsylvania

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE

U.S.C.&.G. Survey Map Irwin Quadrangle

SCALE

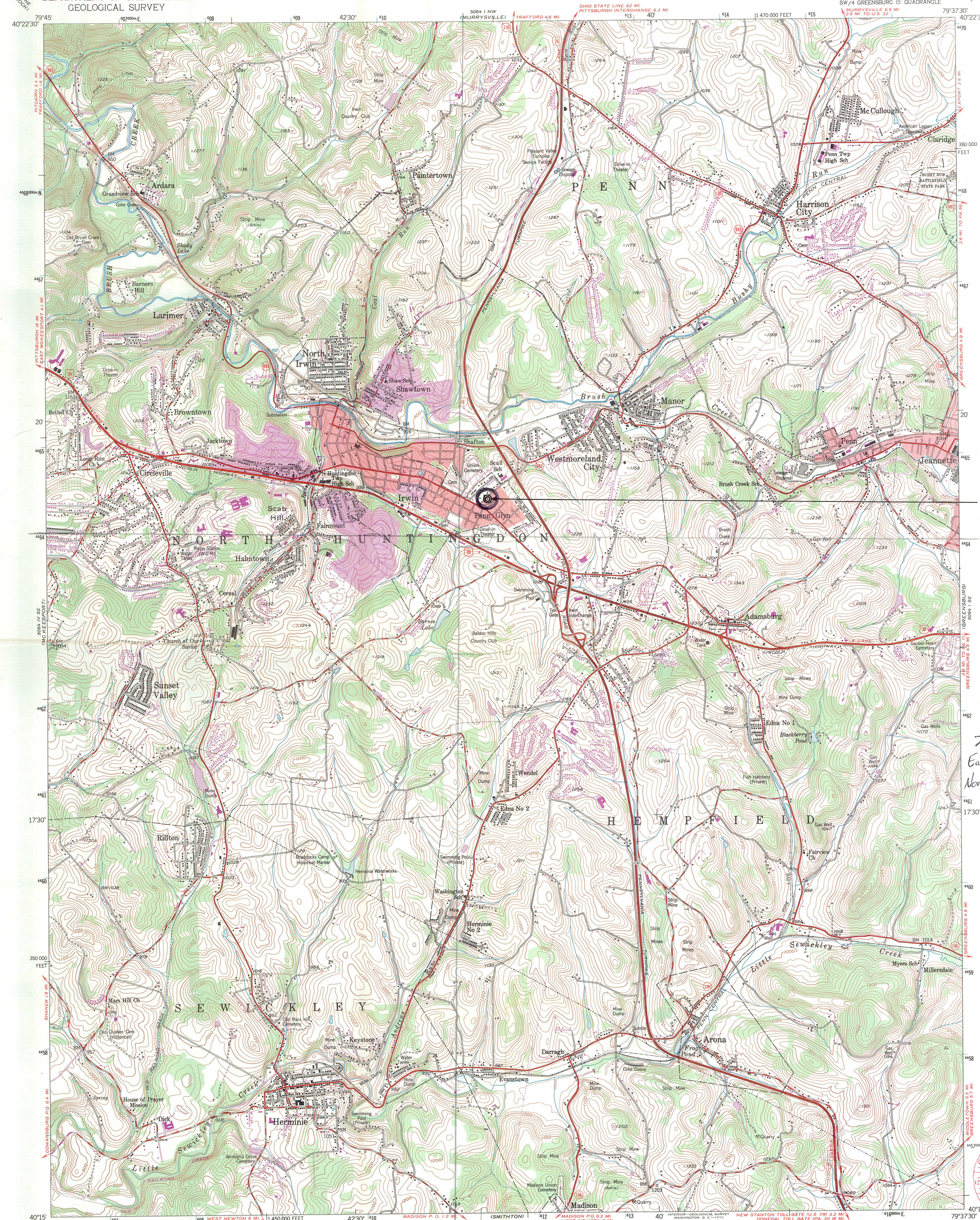
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DATE 1953, photorevised 1969

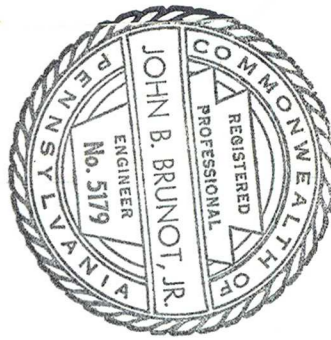
4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES



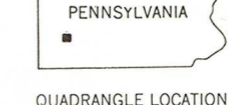
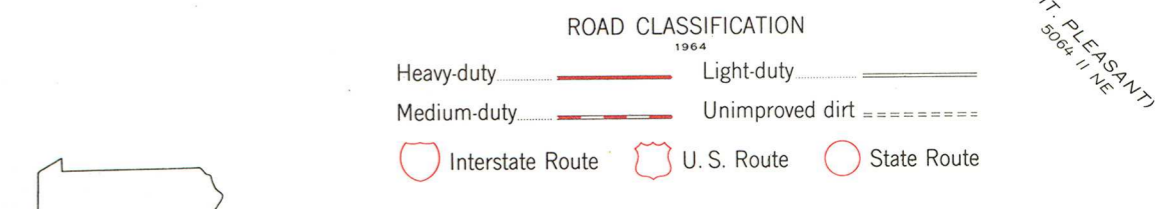
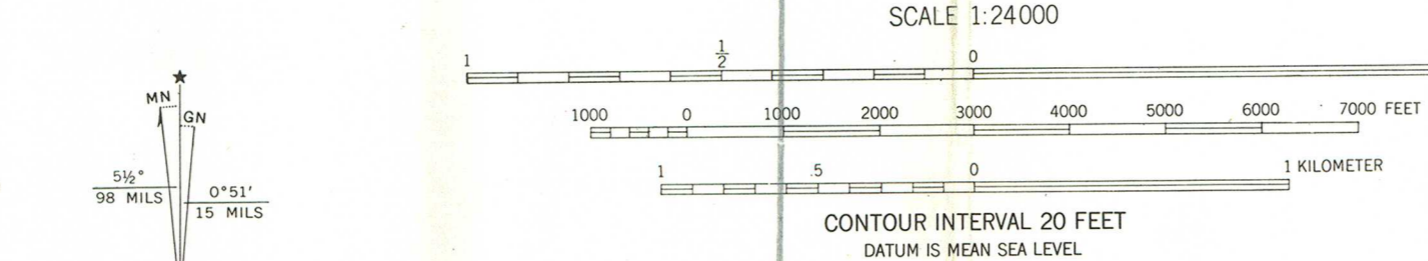
LOCATION OF HOUSE
651 Brush Hill Rd.
Irwin, Pa. 15642
Latitude: 40° - 19' - 38"
Longitude: 79° - 41' - 23"



UTM
Zone 17
Easting 611440
Northing 4461330



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography from aerial photographs by multiplex methods
Aerial photographs taken 1952. Field check 1953
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
Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with
State of Pennsylvania agencies from aerial photographs taken 1969
This information not field checked
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



IRWIN, PA.
SW/4 GREENSBURG 15' QUADRANGLE
N4015—W7937.5/7.5
1953
PHOTO REVISIED 1969
AMS 5064 1 SW—SERIES V831

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



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION
WILLIAM PENN MEMORIAL MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES BUILDING
BOX 1026
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120

July 29, 1975



Dr. William J. Murtagh, Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
18th and C Streets, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Dr. Murtagh:

Enclosed for your review and consideration are nominations to the National Register of Historic Places for the following properties:

Harrisburg Historic District

Brush Hill

Should you have any questions regarding these nominations, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Ed Weintraub, Director
Office of Historic Preservation

Enclosure

EW/pjs

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE PENNSYLVANIA

Date Entered OCT 14 1975

Name

Location

Brush Hill

**Irwin
Westmoreland County**

Also Notified

**Hon. Hugh Scott
Hon. Richard S. Schweiker
Hon. John H. Dent**

**Regional Director, Mid-Atlantic
Region**

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

AB

NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

B

1 NAME as it appears on federal register: Brush Hill 2 OTHER NAMES: Brush Hill / Old Scull House (see) 3 date of entry: 10-14-75 4 county code: 129

5 LOCATION street & number 651 Brush Hill Rd city / town Irwin vicinity of PA state PA county Westmoreland 6 NPS REGION: Mid Atlantic

7 OWNER PRIVATE STATE MUNICIPAL COUNTY MULTIPLE FEDERAL (agency name) 8 ADMINISTRATOR: PA Hist + Museum Comm

9 EXISTING SURVEYS HABS HAER NHL 10 FUNDED? YES NO 11 CONGRESS. DISTRICT 21 12 SOURCE OF NOMINATION STATE FEDERAL 13 WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES NO 14 WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES NO 15 ACREAGE 1 16 date when prepared form: PA LOCAL PRIVATE ORGANIZATION

16 CONDITION deteriorated altered original site excellent ruins unaltered moved good unexposed reconstructed unknown fair unexcavated excavated

17 features: INTERIOR SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1 NOT INTACT-0 UNKNOWN-4 NOT APPLICABLE-7 EXTERIOR SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2 NOT INTACT-0 UNKNOWN-5 NOT APPLICABLE-8 ENVIRONS SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3 NOT INTACT-0 UNKNOWN-6 NOT APPLICABLE-9

18 ACCESS YES - Restricted YES - Unrestricted No Access Unknown 19 ADAPTIVE USE YES NO 20 SAVED? YES NO IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT? yes no

21 AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: ARCHEOLOGY - prehistoric-2 COMMERCE-6 ARCHEOLOGY - historic-1 COMMUNICATIONS-7 AGRICULTURE-3 ARCHITECTURE-4 ART-5 ENGINEERING-11 ENTERTAINMENT-26 EXPLORATION-12 HEALTH-27 INDUSTRY-13 EDUCATION-10 LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15 LAW-16 LITERATURE-17 MILITARY-18 MUSIC-19 PHILOSOPHY-20 POLITICS / GOVT.-21 RELIGION-22 SCIENCE-23 SOCIAL / HUMANITARIAN-24 SOCIAL / CULTURAL-30 TRANSPORTATION-25 RECREATION-28 SETTLEMENT-29 URBAN PLANNING-31 OTHER (SPECIFY)

22 CLAIMS: explain 'first' 'oldest' 'only'

23 functions WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: House CURRENTLY: House 24 dates of initial construction: 1798 major alterations: 1886-1955, rear wing added + removed historic events: 1975 - restoration underway 25 ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION

26 architectural style(s): Georgian and Federal elements 27 architect: 28 master builder: 29 engineer:

30 landscape architect / garden designer: 31 interior decorator: 32 artist: 33 artisan: 34 builder/contractor:

35 NAMES give role & date PERSONAL: Colonel John Irwin, orig. owner, prominent local resident John Scull, inherited property from Irwin, his father-in-law, founded Pittsburgh Gazette EVENTS: INSTITUTIONAL:

36 NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP

✓ Brick, 2½ stories, rectangular, gabled roof, interior end chimneys, denticulated modillion boxed cornice with end returns; original front entrance ^{altered} removed, c. 1886. Georgian and Federal elements. Built as home of Colonel John Irwin, for whose family the town is named; inherited by the family of John Scull, Irwin's son-in-law and founder of the Pittsburgh Gazette, the first newspaper west of the Alleghenies.