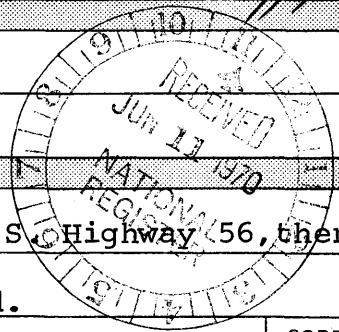


**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: New Mexico	
COUNTY: Colfax	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70-9-30-0007	DATE 9/4



1. NAME

COMMON:
Dorsey Mansion

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Four miles east of Abbott, New Mexico, on U.S. Highway 56, then

CITY OR TOWN:
eleven miles north on an unpaved county road.

STATE New Mexico	CODE 30	COUNTY: Colfax	CODE 007
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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:
Mr. and Mrs. K. E. Deaton

STREET AND NUMBER:
Chico Route, Box 42

CITY OR TOWN: Raton	STATE: New Mexico	CODE: 87740
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
County Clerk's Office, Colfax County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
P. O. Box 159

CITY OR TOWN: Raton	STATE: New Mexico	CODE: 87740
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
New Mexico Cultural Properties Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1968 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
State Planning Office

STREET AND NUMBER:
State Capitol

CITY OR TOWN: Santa Fe	STATE: New Mexico	CODE: 87501
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: N. M.
COUNTY: COLFAX
ENTRY NUMBER 70-9-30-0007
DATE 9/4

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 type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The mansion consists of two distinct but connected elements, one with squared and chinked log walls and a wooden shingled roof, and the other with hewn sandstone walls and a composition roof. Both portions of the dwelling are two-storied, and both are built over stone-walled basements. The L-shaped log portion, which is the older of the two, is characterized by exceptionally fine workmanship in the joining of the beams that form its walls. The tapering fieldstone fireplace chimney stretching up the outside of the log wing's west wall is also notable in design and execution.

Although the older structure is excellent looking in its own right, it is overshadowed by the formality and ostentation of the sandstone section, which commands the eye with its octagonal tower featuring sculptured portraits of the builder, his wife, and his brother. In addition, protruding from the tower above the portraits are an eagle and two gargoyles representing Senator Dorsey's enemy, James Blaine. A veranda stretches around this tower at the level of the first story.

The two sections together contain thirty-six rooms with seven fireplaces, one of onyx and one of marble. There are six stairways, the main one constructed of cherry wood imported from England. In its heyday the mansion's dining room sat fifty people comfortably, and when not at dinner the guests could enjoy the art gallery that occupied one end of the house, or the well-stocked library or the celebrated billiard room. The upstairs was fitted with bedrooms and servants' quarters. The substantial iron door in the basement once guarded the wine cellar.

The mansion was originally surrounded by grounds as lavishly laid out as the building itself. Fruit and shade trees grew on a lawn that covered nearly an acre, and under the trees were three fountains. Two of these are cast iron French imports, while the third, much larger, fountain, carved from the same sandstone as the house, has a bowl some twenty feet in diameter decorated with gargoyles, and a central pillar surmounted by a bobcat holding a rattlesnake in its mouth. Just outside the yard proper Senator Dorsey built a 150 x 750 foot lake around three islands, one of which with a six-sided gazebo.

Auxiliary buildings on the estate included a large barn, bath house, smoke house, carriage house, greenhouse, and a commissary or general store which catered to the needs of the workers and the surrounding ranches.

At the present time, the mansion and grounds show the debilitating effects of time and neglect, although the present owners have committed themselves to the laborious task of restoration, and are working with restraint and devotion. The wooden shingles on the log portion are in sad repair, and much of the

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
New Mexico	
COUNTY	
Colfax	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
70-9-30-0007	9/4

(Number all entries)

THE DORSEY MANSION

7. (continued)

interior plaster has fallen. The owners have for the most part been concerned with the house itself, and so the lake, fountains, existing outbuildings, and landscaping remain in varying degrees of disrepair. The handsome stone commissary, distinguished by a cupola in the center of its roof, needs minor restoration to put it back into good condition.

8. (continued)

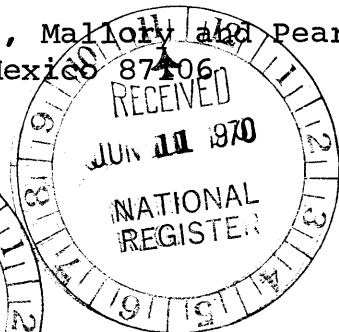
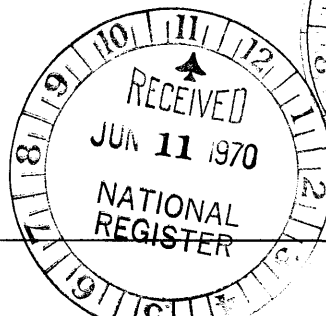
elaborate double entrance doors, and the formal stair hall, made it an unprecedented structure, certainly unique in New Mexico, and perhaps even in the nation.

The stone portion, which may be described as an example of the simplified Gothic Revival style or, perhaps better, as an offshoot of the Victorian Italian villa tradition, sets precedents of its own. Its definite eastern flavor was again unique in the New Mexico of the times, and the use of sophisticated sculptors and designers for domestic buildings was an innovation in the Territory. Using stone quarried nearby, and sculpting on the site, the craftsmen created an excellent facade. The marble and onyx mantels, which incorporate local motifs, are also superbly done, as are the hand-fashioned ceiling ornaments around the lighting fixtures which involve family portraits. As an example of the mansion's scale, the dining room was the largest in the west Texas, New Mexico, Arizona area in that period. Even the basements are remarkable, not only because of their extent, but also because they were, and indeed still are, rare in New Mexico. The lake, or lily pond, which predates the stone section, is also exceptional as an extremely early example of romantic, informal landscape treatment.

Taken as a whole, the house and grounds demand critical appreciation because of their excellent design, skilled construction, and lavish scale. They combine to form an estate that at the time of its completion added a totally new prospect to the New Mexico landscape.

11. (continued)

George Clayton Pearl AIA; Ferguson, Stevens, Malloy and Pearl; 115 Amherst Drive, S.E., Albuquerque, New Mexico



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) 1878-79, 1883-1884

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

Senator Stephen W. Dorsey, the builder and first occupant of the mansion that bears his name, was a man whose early years were marked by dizzying success: during the Civil War he rose from private to Colonel; then he served successively as President of two corporations; and finally, in 1872, gained a seat in the United States Senate--all before the age of thirty-one. Changes in the political climate of his adopted Arkansas soon after his election made it obvious to him that his political opportunities there were bleak, and so for some reason he began buying land in New Mexico and finally built the log half of his home at Chico Springs in 1878-79. Soon afterwards, he gained prominence of an entirely different sort when he was tried for his alleged role in the Star Mail Route contract frauds which had shaken the country in the 1870's. He engaged the well-known attorney, Robert Ingersoll, to handle the defense, and the fee was substantial enough to cause Dorsey to deed land near his own house to Ingersoll in payment. The two became neighbors and later business partners. Although he was acquitted in 1883, Dorsey's career as a public figure was over, and he returned to New Mexico to begin the construction of the sandstone portion of his mansion. He completed it in 1884 at the cost of \$50,000, and from it directed the operations of a large-scale and successful working ranch.

With his energies now confined to the far off and undeveloped southwest, he built not only a well-landscaped mansion, but a schoolhouse for the children in the new settlement of Chico Springs which had grown up nearby due to the activity at the Dorsey Ranch. By 1893, however, Dorsey's fortunes met with such reverses that the ranch and mansion were sold at a foreclosure sale, and he moved from the Territory. While Stephen Dorsey's ambition and wealth made the mansion a reality, its importance goes beyond the personal history of its builder.

The log portion (which can by no means be dismissed as a simple cabin) is the achievement of a combination of primitive technique and sophisticated design. The quality of its overall workmanship, combined with the tall, elegant windows, the

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Alvis, Berry Newton, "History of Union County, N.M.", New Mexico Historical Review, Vol. XXII, No. 3, July 1957
 Keleher, William A., Maxwell Land Grant, Santa Fe, The Rydal Press, 1942
 Stanley, F., "New Mexico's Fabulous Dorsey", New Mexico Historical Review, Vol. XXV, No. 3, May 1950
 Thompson, Albert W., They Were Open Range Days, Denver, The World Press, Inc., 1946

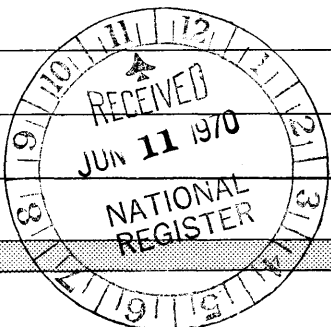
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	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	°	'	"	°	'	"	36°	29'	12"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	104°	11'	28"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **5 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



NO
 W/M
 C

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Samuel Larcombe, Planning Technician

ORGANIZATION: **State Planning Office** DATE: **June 3, 1970**

STREET AND NUMBER:
State Capitol

CITY OR TOWN: **Santa Fe** STATE: **New Mexico** CODE: **87501**

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 *Elo S. DeLuca*

Title State Liaison Officer

Date June 3, 1970

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

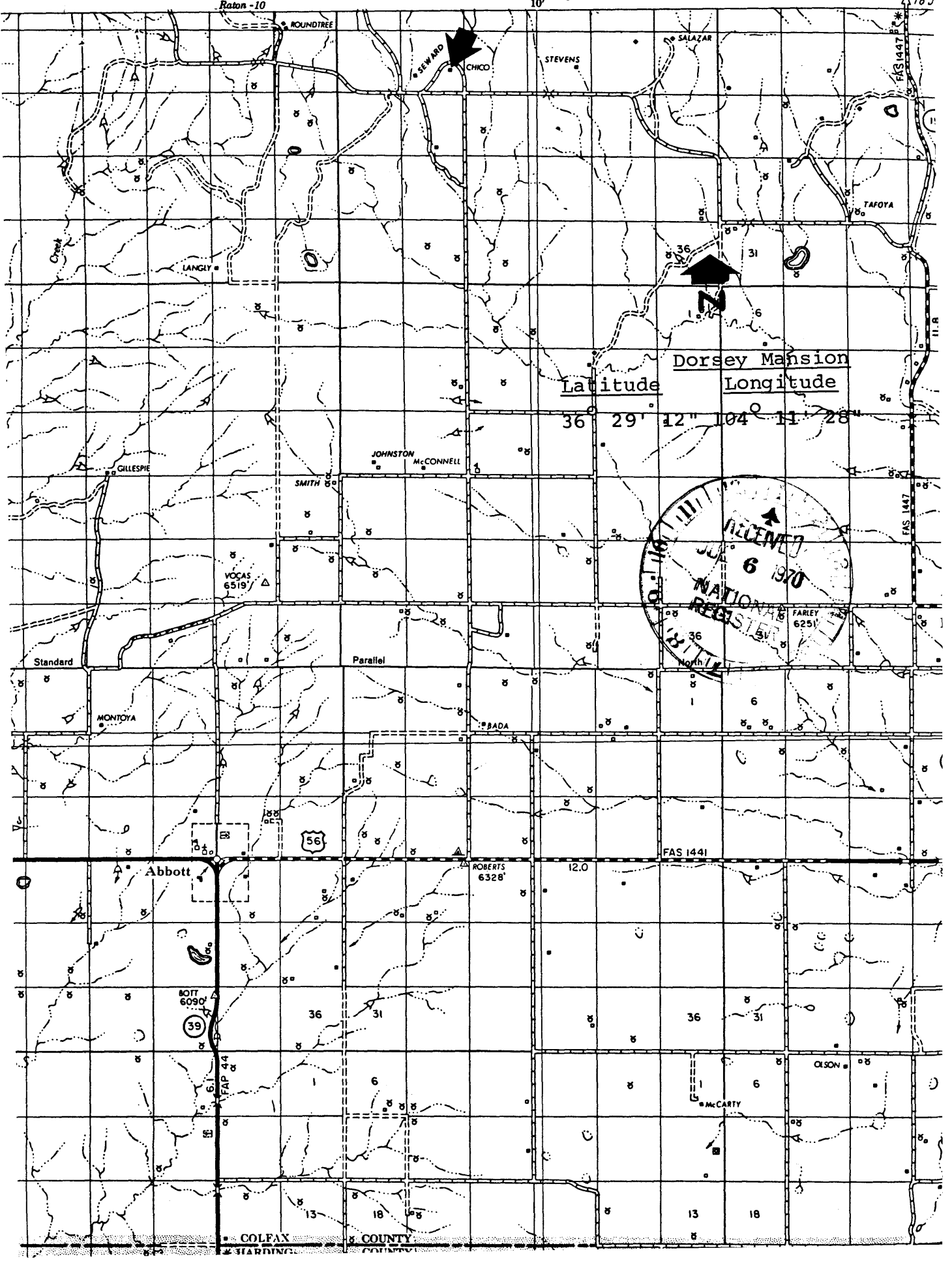
Ernest Allen Connally
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date SEP 4 1970

ATTEST:

William J. Ventresca
 Keeper of The National Register

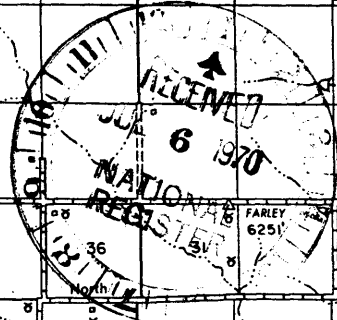
Date JUL 20 1970



Dorsey Mansion

Latitude Longitude

36° 29' 12" 104° 11' 28"



56

Abbott

ROBERTS 6328'

FAS 1441

MOTT 6090'

39

36

31

36

31

1

6

MCCARTY

OLSON

13

18

13

18