

1484

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

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1. Name of Property

=====

historic name: BROWN, DANFORTH HOUSE

other name/site number: OLD WORRELL FARM

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2. Location

=====

street & number: 555 Washington Pike, U.S. 27

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Wellsburg

vicinity: X

state: WV county: Brooke

code: 009

zip code: 26070

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3. Classification

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Ownership of Property: PRIVATE

Category of Property: BUILDINGS

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
---	---	sites
---	---	structures
---	---	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related property listing: N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this

nomination

request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property

meets

does not meet

the National Register Criteria.  See continuation sheet.

*William G. Luman*  
Signature of Certifying Official

*9/23/92*  
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property

meets

does not meet

the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Date

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

~~Entered in the National Register~~

entered in the National Register  
 See continuation sheet.

*William G. Luman* *10/29/92*

determined eligible for the National Register

See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain):

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

=====  
6. Function or Use  
=====

Historic: Domestic: single dwelling Sub: Domestic: single dwelling

Current : Domestic: single dwelling Sub: Domestic: single dwelling

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7. Description  
=====

Architectural Classification:

LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Other Description: I-house

Materials: foundation Stone roof Asphalt shingle  
walls Brick/Wood other \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

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B. Statement of Significance  
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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: local.

Applicable National Register Criteria: A & B

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : N/A

Areas of Significance: Transportation

Period(s) of Significance: 1823 to 1862

Significant Dates: \_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person(s): Brown, Danforth

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above. X See continuation sheet.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.  X

Previous documentation on file (NPS):  N/A

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

previously listed in the National Register  
previously determined eligible by the National Register  
designated a National Historic Landmark  
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_  
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data:  N/A

State historic preservation office  
Other state agency  
Federal agency  
Local government  
University  
Other -- Specify Repository: \_\_\_\_\_

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property:  .74 acres

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing    Zone Easting Northing  
 17 534810 4457360

Verbal Boundary Description:  X  See continuation sheet.

Beginning at a point at the southwest corner of the property as it meets the north side of Washington Pike; thence 220' east along the north side of Washington Pike; thence north 137' to the north boundary; thence west 220' to the west boundary line; thence south 137' to the place of beginning.

Boundary Justification:  X  See continuation sheet.

The property boundaries reflect the boundaries historically associated with the Danforth Brown House.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title:  Mr. & Mrs. David Cost   
Organization:  Owners  Date:  4 August 1992   
Street & Number:  555 Washington Pike  Telephone:  (304) 737-0592   
City or Town:  Wellsburg  State:  WV  ZIP:  26070

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DANFORTH BROWN HOUSE

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The Danforth Brown Residence is an early Brooke County home along Washington Pike one mile east of Wellsburg, West Virginia. The home was built just as the turnpike from Washington, PA, to Wellsburg was laid out in 1822. The house is of frame and brick construction with some details from the later part of the nineteenth century, postdating a fire in the 1870's. Today the home would be considered Italianate in character. The original springhouse contributes to the property and rests at the southeast corner of the property.

The Brown home sits on a high bluff on the north side of Washington Pike. There is a fieldstone wall, constructed in the dry-wall method, acting as a retaining wall across the front property line with a center set of concrete steps. The original land grant once had over 300 acres but the plat for the Brown House has been reduced to one acre around the farmhouse. The driveway to the property is along the west property line until it bends to the east to the rear garage bays.

The front or south facade has five bays and is beveled clapboard. The house is an I-house form with two stories, a center hall with a room to each side and end chimneys on the gable roof. The rear ell is of brick with a tan mortar. The center door has a large pane of glass with panels below. All the window openings on the frame section of the house have a pedimented window hoods and a 2/2 double-hung opening. There is a center shed roof porch with four turned support posts and two back pilasters. There is scrollwork in the corners made by the supports. The porch has a wooden deck with sandstone pier supports.

The sandstone foundation is visible on the southeast corner of the house with the cellar trap door on the east elevation. The front projecting section of the house has one window on the right side of the first floor with the rest of the facade having plain siding and a brick chimney at the roof peak. To the right on the east facade the house recedes back to the rear ell. There is a frame addition attached to the front section of the house filling in part of the L-shape floor plan for a bathroom. To the right of the addition is an open shed porch with turned posts and a wooden deck. The openings on the rear brick ell have segmental arch openings with voussoirs. The second floor has four bays with 2/2 double-hung windows, one shortened for a bathroom. The first floor has two openings, one being an exit door from the kitchen. A later concrete block garage has been attached to the north end of the rear ell and has two openings on each facade. The double garage doors are on the west facade. The framing for the gabled asphalt roof used timbers from the old barn which was removed for a neighboring modern home.

The west facade has the one story garage to the left and the two story brick ell attached to the right. The west gable end of the front frame section is to the far right. The center brick ell has four bays on the first floor and three on the second floor. The exit door opens onto a

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shed porch with turned posts, and a cement floor. There is a center chimney on the north end of the rear ell. The front gable end of the house has plain beveled siding with no openings. The chimney flue has been removed from the roof peak.

The interior of the home has an original heart pine floor set in random widths on the front portion of the home, with later white pine boards in the brick ell. The heart pine is not found in West Virginia and is thought to have been shipped up the Ohio River to Wellsburg when the house was built. The fire in the 1870's mainly affected the portion of the house that now has a brick ell, which accounts for the segmental window openings and narrow width flooring. The second floor rooms also have the narrow white pine floors. Many of the rooms have wooden mantels with cast iron inserts, possibly from Bridgeport, Ohio. The hearths on the first floor have narrow rectangular tile with those on the second floor being a heavy metal. Round holes in some of the second floor and kitchen flues suggest iron heating and cooking stoves. The front stairway is also white pine with spindled rails and carved newel post.

On the east side of the house is a cement slab covering a cistern for the farm. Grape vines have been planted on the hillside. Trees mark the front corners of the property. At the southeast corner of the front bluff is a contributing springhouse set at a diagonal, which dates to 1822. The spring bubbles forth from the hillside under an open gable roofed overhang. It then runs under the floor of the rusticated stone block portion of the springhouse that was used to store milk and other perishables. There are two doors to the springhouse, one from the north facade and one under the open overhang. The overhang rests on the top of a flagstone wall set into the hillside with the spring at the bottom.

The Brown residence is recognized locally as an early Brooke County farmhouse built at a time when the new Washington Pike was opening the area for development. While the main core of the house and foundation is the early 1823 home, later additions after the fire in the 1870's changed the appearance of the home to Italianate. This is mainly reflected on the exterior by the segmental and Italianate window hoods and door openings.

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The Danforth Brown House is being nominated under National Register Criterion A for its association with the development of the Washington Pike, and Criterion B for its association with Danforth Brown, a noted land developer who helped to promote the Washington Pike area in Brooke County. The period of significance extends from the time Brown built his home in 1823 to take advantage of the Washington Pike, to his death in 1862.

The Washington Pike was proposed to connect the Ohio River port of Wellsburg, West Virginia (then Virginia), with Washington, Pennsylvania, in the early years of the nineteenth century. The passage had been suggested in 1808 as the final link in the National Road which was the first federally funded highway that was to connect the east coast with the Ohio River. The route was vetoed, however, in favor of the course to Wheeling, which is approximately 15 miles to the south. Still in need of the primary route to the east if the port of Wellsburg was to continue to develop, the local men met to plan a road through the hills east of town.

The commissioners set aside \$15,000 worth of stock in the road to be sold in shares of \$50 each and any excess of profit over 15 percent was to be used to pay back the stock. Nothing more was done on the Washington Pike until again there was a chance for it to be a part of the National Road. The section of the National Road from Washington to Wheeling was in very poor shape. Rather than repair it, the route over the Washington Pike was again offered in the early 1820's. The road was laid out in 1822 and in 1825 the route was surveyed and work was begun. Again, the route was turned down mainly because of the Panther Hill, which was a very long grade. At the beginning of this hill is where the Danforth Brown house was built, maybe in hopes of seeing a profit helping the wagons over Panther Hill. Work on the road slowed but was finished in 1835.

Although the route was not a part of the National Road, it was very important because it was the only road in this section of the country to points east. It helped the Wellsburg area to develop and prosper. Also it gave the western part of Pennsylvania a trade and shipping route to the river and made Wellsburg a main river shipping port of the time.

Danforth Brown was a leading business man and industrial leader in the early town of Charles Town, which was later renamed Wellsburg. He first worked for a time as a bank cashier from 1813 to 1816, before moving into land speculation. He also developed a fourth interest in the Duval Glass Company in Wellsburg which operated from 1813 to 1838. Danforth became a very prosperous man, well respected in the community. He was generous with the contribution for the construction of a meeting house for the Protestant Episcopal Church in Wellsburg, along with his brother John. He was also elected to the education board of the Brooke Academy just before his death. He was the son of Captain Oliver Brown, a Revolutionary War veteran and local political figure who served on the board of commissioners which determined the route of the turnpike in 1822. Danforth

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was like many others of the developing west who located their homes along the new highways settling the land and promoting development.

Anticipating the planned route that the road would take through Brooke County, Danforth purchased the former Worrell Farm in 1820. Originally received as a military land grant by Major William Mahan in 1786 as part of his service in the Revolutionary War, the 180 acre farm passed to his wife, Ann Mahan, upon the Major's death in 1797. His widow later married Edward Worrell who sold the farm to Danforth Brown. While in residence, Brown used the home as the base for his business which was land speculation. Brooke County was growing at this time and Danforth had a hand in the exchange of property.

Danforth Brown and his brother, John, bought and sold land in Wellsburg and also owned property in other counties. Either by himself or with his brother, Danforth owned 86 lots at one time or another in Wellsburg. On these lots his will shows at least three houses that he rented in town. Danforth owned 468 acres outside the city in Brooke County, renting one farm to Bazel Wells which was known as the Narrows farm. He also owned and rented two farms in both Mason and Jackson Counties of Virginia, now West Virginia.

It was two years after purchasing the Worrell property that Danforth Brown built his home on the bluff overlooking the route of the Washington Pike that was to pass its front door. The frame residence was constructed in the I-house form with a central hall and a room to each side on the two floors. The floors of the first floor of the home have been found to be heart pine which was not naturally available in the wooded area at the time of construction. It has been suggested that the lumber was transported by way of the Ohio River from either Tennessee or North Carolina and then moved over the future turnpike to the farm site. The house did suffer a fire in the rear ell of the home in the 1870's, but this did not damage the front interiors of the rooms constructed by Danforth Brown. This coincides with the physical evidence found in the change of the materials used on the new rear brick ell. This section of the house has the later segmental arch windows and doorways. White pine flooring has been used on the rear rooms of the ell on both the first and second story, suggesting that the fire damaged only these portions of the house. The front window hoods on the frame section of the facade were probably altered at this time to the then popular Italianate fashion that is found on a few late nineteenth century homes along the Washington Pike. It is unknown if this change took place while Danforth's nephew owned the property, inheriting upon Brown's death in 1862.

On his own 180-acre farm in Brooke County, Danforth led a single life raising sheep for wool as many of the neighboring farms did at this time. When the farm was sold in the 1870's by his nephew, the buyers were wool



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merchants who continued to raise sheep. There was also a small coal mine on the farm that Danforth and his neighbor Samuel Jacob operated.

The Washington Pike played an important role in the development of Brooke County and was a major transportation link with Washington, PA, and other eastern cities. Danforth Brown sited his home to take advantage of this new highway which allowed development along the route. His home is one of a handful still standing from the early days of Brooke County. Although the window hoods were altered in the later days of the nineteenth century, the core of the house, its siting on the bluff, and the original springhouse still represent the 1823 farm site that Danforth developed.

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DANFORTH BROWN HOUSE

PHOTO INFORMATION

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PROPERTY NAME: Danforth Brown House

LOCATION: 555 Washington Pike  
Wellsburg, WV  
Brooke County

PHOTO CREDIT: Doris Reed

DATE OF PHOTO: May 1992

NEGATIVE FILED: Department of Culture & History, Historic Preservation  
Unit, The Cultural Center, 1900 Kanawha Blvd East,  
Charleston, WV 25305-0300

Photo 1 of 10: Front - South Elevation  
Camera facing north

Photo 2 of 10: Front Elevation and Steps  
Camera facing north

Photo 3 of 10: South and West Elevations  
Camera facing northeast

Photo 4 of 10: South and East Elevation of House and South and East  
Elevation of Springhouse  
Camera facing northwest

Photo 5 of 10: Front Porch and Doorway  
Camera facing north

Photo 6 of 10: South and West Elevation  
Camera facing northeast

Photo 7 of 10: West Elevation  
Camera facing east

Photo 8 of 10: East Elevation  
Camera facing west

Photo 9 of 10: Springhouse - North Elevation  
Camera facing south

Photo 10 of 10: Spring under Springhouse roof  
Camera facing south

DANFORTH BROWN HOUSE  
 Sketch Plan/Photo Map  
 Map taken from Brooke Co. Tax Assessor Office

RAFTED AT 1" = 400'

SEE CC-17



KEY

- A Danforth Brown House
- B Springhouse

