

PH 0509736

DATA SHEET WFL/TKK

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED DEC 5 1977  
DATE ENTERED APR 15 1978

# 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 **\*\***  
Stone house, Leitersburg Pike

AND/OR COMMON  
Dorsey - Palmer House *Use this*

## LOCATION

*N of Hagerstown on MD 60*  
STREET & NUMBER North side of Leitersburg Pike, .2 mile southwest of  
its junction with Long Meadow Road

CITY, TOWN Vicinity of Hagerstown VICINITY OF \_\_\_\_\_  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Sixth

STATE Maryland CODE 24 COUNTY Washington CODE 043

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

## OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME  
Rudolf M. Palmer

STREET & NUMBER  
Route 5, Box 465

CITY, TOWN Hagerstown VICINITY OF \_\_\_\_\_ STATE Maryland 21740

## LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Washington County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER West Washington Street

CITY, TOWN Hagerstown STATE Maryland 21740

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT                     DETERIORATED  
 GOOD                             RUINS  
 FAIR                             UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED - 50%

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This house is located northwest of the Leitersburg Pike, Maryland Route 64, just southeast of Long Meadow Road in Washington County, Maryland. It is situated near the road and faces south.

The structure is a two-story, five bay stone dwelling with a two-story, four-bay el extending to the rear or north. The entire building is constructed of roughly coursed local fieldstone with particular care reflected in the masonry at the front elevation of the house. No vertical seam is evident in the masonry between the front and rear sections. There is no decorative stone work associated with the window or door openings.

The windows appear to be spaced symmetrically at the front elevation of the house. Moderately wide frames are joined with wooden pegs and are trimmed with ogee molding. Nine-over-six light, double-hung sash are present at the first story of the front section while all other major windows have nine-over-six light sash. Pairs of four-over-two pane sash illuminate the attic. Several pairs of louvered shutters are present.

The main entrance is located in the center bay of the south or front elevation. The opening is framed similarly to the windows with an unusual transom, two panes in height and four in width. The four-panel door does not appear to be original. A second-story door is located directly over the main entrance. Three entrances are located in the rear elevation of the front or main section, while four are to be found in the east elevation of the wing. Several of the rear entrance doors have six raised panels as do the interior doors.

A double porch framed under the main roof span extends along the entire front elevation. It is supported by square posts trimmed with Victorian period carved brackets. A second double porch extends along the east elevation of the wing. It is supported by chamfered posts without trim. The roof structure is covered with sheet metal and extends beyond the end walls. The eaves are finished with boxing trimmed with simple moldings. Brick chimneys, moderate in size, rise from inside each gable end.

The interior of this house retains much of its original woodwork. The front section is bisected by an entrance and stair hall. The stair case which has decorative applied trim at the ends of its risers is open to the attic. The rear el is divided into two rooms at each story. Interior doors throughout the house have six raised panels. Original exterior doors are hung on long strap hinges. Fireplaces are present in each room, with a large service or kitchen fireplace located in the north end wall of the el.

# 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 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 type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house is primarily significant for its architecture. It derives secondary importance from its use, according to tradition, as the residence and office of an early Washington County doctor.

Architecturally, the house is an example of a five-bay, center-hall plan dwelling with an extension to the rear. Vaguely Georgian in form, it is representative of a major architectural group in the Cumberland Valley with examples dating from the late eighteenth through the first half of the nineteenth century. Much of the interior woodwork appears original and suggests, along with the exterior appearance of the structure, a circa 1800 or early nineteenth century building date. An unusual feature of this house is the double porch extending across the front elevation. Such porches at the front elevation are not common among Georgian-inspired houses in Washington County. Another unusual feature of this house is the use of large transoms over entrances in the front elevation.

In 1819 the property on which this house stands, containing 294 1/2 acres, was purchased by Frederick Dorsey from George Beltzhoover for \$23,760. Frederick Dorsey, a noted physician in Washington County, was born in Anne Arundel County in 1776. He settled in Washington County in 1795, studying medicine with Doctor Richard Pindell and residing in Hagerstown where he died in 1858. At the time of his death, Doctor Dorsey was engaged in the practice of medicine with his son, John Claggett Dorsey (born 1805), and his grandson, Frederick Dorsey, Jr. Although the senior Doctor Dorsey is said to have resided in Hagerstown, his son or grandson may have lived in this house and possibly maintained an office here. The presence of a door in the east bay of the north elevation of the main section could suggest that an office with a separate entrance was located in a portion of the house. The property on which the house stands was owned by Frederick Dorsey, Sr. when it was sold to Emanuel Synder in 1866.

A color and extensive biography of Doctor Dorsey is published in Thomas Scharf's History of Western Maryland, as well as in Thomas Williams' History of Washington County.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Scharf, Thomas J. History of Western Maryland. Volume II. Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts, 1882.  
 Washington County Land Records  
 Williams, Thomas J. History of Washington County. Hagerstown: Mail Publishing Company, 1906.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2.47  
 UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	8	2	6	9	8	12	10	4	3	9	5	2	6	10
ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

B 

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING					

C 

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING					

D 

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING					

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  
 Paula Stoner Dickey, Consultant sdh

ORGANIZATION  
 Washington County Historical Sites Survey DATE  
 June, 1975

STREET & NUMBER  
 Court House Annex TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN  
 Hagerstown STATE  
 Maryland 21740

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL  STATE  LOCAL

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 John D. Pearce DATE  
 11/30/77

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
<u>W. M. ...</u>	DATE <u>4/15/78</u>
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
ATTEST: <u>William H. Cole</u>	DATE <u>4-12-78</u>
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	