

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAY 11 1977
DATE ENTERED JUN 22 1979

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Troy

AND/OR COMMON

Troy Hill

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 400 feet southeast of the intersection of
I-95 and Maryland Route 176

CITY, TOWN

Dorsey

XX VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Sixth

STATE

Maryland

CODE

24

COUNTY

Howard

CODE

027

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks,
c/o M. Edward Shull

STREET & NUMBER

8950 Route 108, Suite 116

CITY, TOWN

Columbia

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

21045

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Howard County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

8360 Court Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Ellicott City

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" 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

Troy is situated on top of a small ridge approximately 400 feet southeast of the intersection of Interstate 95 and Maryland Route 176 in Howard County, Maryland.

Troy, built during the first quarter of the nineteenth century, is representative of the late Georgian style in Maryland architecture. The house, three bays wide and two deep, is two and one-half stories on the front and sides and three and one-half stories on the rear, where a basement was added to compensate for the ground which falls away at that point.

The walls are constructed of uncoursed local fieldstone that contains large concentrations of oxidized iron, giving the structure an overall dull red hue. Large stones were placed in the front and rear facades, while smaller, more compact stones were employed in the side walls where monumentality and importance were not overlying concerns. The building's stark appearance is broken by decorative masonry that includes the placement of stone quoins at each corner of the building, as well as the use of large rectangular lintels subdivided by a stylized keystone, also of cut stone, shaped either as a normal four-sided keystone or in a more unusual pentagonal form.

Upper and lower windows were vertically aligned within the walls. All windows, originally double hung sash with six over six lights, have been removed and the openings bricked in or boarded over to protect the house from vandals. Small basement windows are also found in the east, west, and north facades. In the east gable end of the building, placed symmetrically between the second story windows near the peak of the roof, a small semi-circular brick arch surmounts a rectangular attic window. A small attic window is also present in the west gable end, but appears without a semi-circular capping arch. As with the other major windows, all original woodwork has been removed.

Entrances are located in the second bay on both front and rear facades. The original front door, now removed, is surmounted by a lintel and four-sided keystone treatment similar to that found in the fenestration. Another doorway found at the northeast end of the building led into what was originally the kitchen space.

The simple gable roof is covered with modern tar paper and terminates with a simple boxed cornice with returns. Two massive brick chimneys with corbeled caps are placed within each gable end. The chimneys in the west end of the gable, as well as the chimney at the southeast end of the building, are identical. The fourth chimney, roughly twice the width of the others, is located in the southwest end of the roof. All the chimneys have common bond

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brickwork, and an overall crispness and shape that suggest they are rebuilding carried out in the early twentieth century. A small dormer is placed in the middle of the rear (north) facade and is also a twentieth century addition.

In plan, the building has a central hall, double pile organization. Because of a fire which destroyed much of the interior of the house in the 1830's, the original paneling was destroyed. The late Federal paneling that replaced the original has finely detailed carving and decoration. Architrave trim surrounding both doors and windows has finely cut fluting and corner blocks both at the top and bottom of the surround. Underneath each window is a dado which is subdivided into three rectangular panels. Further examples of this decorative treatment are found throughout other sections of the house.

The basement remains virtually unchanged. In each of its four rooms stands a massive uncoursed rubble foundation for the large chimneys of the house. In the southeast end of the building, a stair of thirteen stone steps leads to a small fruit cellar. Measuring 10' x 5' x 8', the cellar is constructed of brick and is capped by a semi-circular arch. Small niches remain in its walls into which planking was inserted to form the base for the cellar's drying racks. A small ventilation duct is located at the far (south) end of the construction.

In the upper stories, two bedrooms on each side flank the hallway. These ~~have been~~ ^{were} greatly altered by the building's most recent owner, Only a small amount of original decorative paneling remains intact. → *Pedro del Valle, after 1942.*

Due to the deteriorating condition of the interior, much of the third floor attic framing system is now exposed. Small trees were used as studs and minor framing members in the interior walls. The roof rafters, probably a replacement of the second half of the nineteenth century, are circular-saw cut and are butt-jointed with mortise and tenon joints and secured with treenails. Incised Roman numerals are present on both roof rafters and the plates and girts in the basement, and indicate the use of a traditional "prefabricated" construction technique.

A March 29, 1880 view of Troy Hill,¹ with projected modifications, shows the house as it existed at that time. The house, remodeled in the ten-popular Cottage style, had a cross gable with

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decorative cast iron cresting at its peak. The eave line of the roof was also slightly extended at each end of the building. A one-story porch with balcony spanned the front facade. Window hoods were placed above all front facade windows and were horizontally connected by a projecting fillet. Wooden pilasters were also attached at each corner of the building and extended to the eave line. The drawing is also important as it shows the relationship of the outbuildings to the house. There is no evidence to prove that these extensive alterations were ever undertaken, and it is probable that the view reflects the architect's conjectural "modernization" of the building.

In 1942 Troy was remodeled in the Colonial Revival style. A two story portico, supported by the four simple square piers, was added to the front facade. Large wooden surrounds were added to the windows of the front facade as were sets of exterior blinds. A massive door surround was also added to the front facade. Two large pilasters were added flanking the front door, with raised capital blocks supporting a full projecting entablature. Numerous interior changes and living room areas and in the upper bedrooms. An elliptical arch was placed between the hall and the living room and Italian marble veneer was placed in the upper bedrooms.

The remains of a number of outbuildings are extant near the main house. Nearest, foundation walls are all that remain of two structures, most probably a smokehouse and dairy. Located farther from the main house are the ruins of a large barn, including its stone foundation walls and piers. The walls are of the same local iron-rich fieldstone used in the house. A twentieth century trash pit, possibly with earlier remains, is also located a short distance from the rear of the house.

1. The original drawing was executed by Leon Kopezynski, and is owned by Dr. Brice M. Dorsey, "Hockley-in-the-Hole," Annapolis, Maryland. (A 1940 photograph at the Maryland Historical Society confirms that these modifications were actually carried out. Found by the Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks, Ed Shull.)

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(DESCRIPTION, continued)

ADDENDUM TO DESCRIPTION

A question has been raised regarding the architectural integrity of the present building. As mentioned in the description, many of the changes to the original structure were made by the last owners of the property, Mr. Pedro del Valle. Most of the interior changes on the second floor were done by Mr dell Valle. The original front cornice, which was identical to that still present on the rear facade, was completely removed when the two story portico was built. Much damage to the building's fabric also took place from the time the building was acquired by the State of Maryland (December 16, 1978) for road construction, and the time the property was sold to Howard County in September 1971. An appraisal, done at that time, noted that all mantels had been stripped, the stairway was missing, all window glass was broken, wiring needed to be replaced and the roof needed fixing. From that time to the present, Howard County's Department of Recreation and Parks has stabilized and maintained the building. *Elements extant. Being studied. Will be used per Maryland's SHPO. Same to 1979*

Documentation for the building's architecture features during the period from the early 20th century through the del Valle's ownership exists in numerous local photographers' personal collections.² The Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks is also in the process of recording the building, according to Historic American Building Survey standards. This material will no doubt be utilized by this department in its plans to adaptively re-use the building, outlined below. *Plans have changed. See photo sheet.*

After initial acquisition of the building in 1971, the Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks planned in 1974-1976 to use the structure as part of a recreational facility. In its most recent plan, the 1978 Howard County Parks Recreation and Open Space Master Plan, the county plans to develop Troy as an interpretive center for gardening and horticulture as well as using it for a conference center. It will include an arboretum gardens of many types, walking paths, a greenhouse for instructional purposes, as well as a small working farm. The arboretum will be planted and maintained by local garden groups. The development of Troy is planned to mesh with a new local community park nearby.

Listing of Troy on the National Register of Historic Places would do much to spur the Howard County government into quick and much needed emergency stabilization for the building. It also will spur the above plans into implementation during 1979.

²Photographs are owned by Mr. and Mrs. Dahl and Mrs. Celia Holland, a local Howard County historian.

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	local history
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Troy Hill is a massive stone house built in the Georgian tradition some time after 1798 (the building does not appear on the Federal Direct Tax of 1798 for Anne Arundel County). It is interesting as a late example of this style and one that was executed in stone rather than the more usual brick. The details in the stonework are well done. The lintels have pentagonal keystones and the quoins are neatly set off by stone equivalents of the queen closers in brick masonry. Most of the interior woodwork, (which remains from the 1830's when it replaced the original after a fire) is in a well-crafted late Federal style. The storage cellar in the basement is of interest with its arched ceiling and ventilation system still largely intact.

The Troy land has traditionally been thought of as the home of the Honorable John Dorsey, one of the first generation of Anne Arundel County Dorseys and a man well known in his time. Dorsey served in the Assembly in 1692-1693, 1700-1704, and from 1711 until his death in 1714. He was also Justice of Anne Arundel County in 1694 and 1696, a captain in the Baltimore County militia in 1696, and member of several commissions assigned to carry out civic duties. Dorsey owned extensive lands in Anne Arundel and Baltimore Counties, including the 763 acres patented in 1694 as Troy (Patent B 23/288). It is believed that "shortly before 1700 he moved with his family to his plantation called Troy" (Dorsey/Nimmo, p. 133), at which time he built a house often thought mistakenly to be the present one.

The Honorable John Dorsey died in 1714 leaving his plantation called Troy to his grandson Basil Dorsey (Dorsey/Nimmo, p. 157). In December 1722 Troy was resurveyed for Caleb Dorsey on behalf of his son Basil. This new survey contained 1016 acres (IB/414). Basil died in 1763 and willed "one-third part of lands I now live on, also one-third of lands I hold adjacent" to his wife Sarah and the other two-thirds of each to his son Thomas (Will 31/1007).

Thomas Dorsey was a prominent man in his day and an important figure in Maryland's Revolutionary life. However, his will, probated in 1790, stated that "it pleased God to bestow on me a Liberal Fortune which I have lately lost by my Indiscretion and ill judged Confidence ...". (Anne Arundel County Will Box D/73). Dorsey left all of his estate to his wife and children, but Elizabeth, his widow, had to sell some of it to pay debts. In 1793 she sold "the dwelling plantation whereon

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet No. 6

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY fifty

UTM REFERENCES

A | 1,8 | 3|4,8|0,1,0 | 4,3|4,0|0,8,0 |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 C | 1,8 | 3|4,7|9,5,0 | 4,3|3,9|4,0,0 |

B | 1,8 | 3|4,8|1,6,0 | 4,3|3,9|5,4,0 |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 D | 1,8 | 3|4,7|7,4,0 | 4,3|3,9|3,8,0 |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

E 18/ 347580/ 4339800
 F 18/ 347860/ 4340160

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET # 7

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 Pamela James, Historian
Mark R. Edwards, Historic Sites Survey Coordinator
Mary Warren, Research Assistant
 ORGANIZATION Maryland Historical Trust DATE June, 1976
 STREET & NUMBER 21 State Circle, Shaw House TELEPHONE 267-1438
 CITY OR TOWN Annapolis STATE Maryland 21401

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 M. Pearce DATE 5/9/77
 TITLE SHPO

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 6-22-79
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION [Signature] KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
 ATTEST: Bill Labourer DATE June 20, 1979
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

the said Thomas Dorsey resided" to Samuel Norwood (apparently a son-in-law). This contained "about 100 acres of land" (Deed JG3/197). Norwood deeded this land back to Elizabeth in 1793 and on the Federal tax of 1798 she and three other Dorseys, Archibald, Theodore, and Sarah, each owned parts of Troy. Elizabeth at this time lived in Baltimore and no buildings appear on her part of Troy. Sarah did not live on her portion either, but rented the "1 story dwelling house 18 by 14 wood." Archibald, a son of Thomas, did live on Troy, in a house of the following description: "1 story dwelling house 66 by 20 wood 1 out house 22 by 20 stone 1 d^o 22 by 20 stone 1 d^o 16 by 16 wood 1 d^o 18 by 14 1 d^o 16 by 12." Theodore, another son of Thomas, lived on one of these in a "1 story dwelling house 28 by 16 wood." (Federal Direct Tax Assessment of 1798, Patuxent and Huntington Hundreds, Anne Arundel County, Maryland).

After 1800 Elizabeth Dorsey sold several parts of Troy, as did the others, but the record is at present so complicated that it has been to date impossible to determine on which section of the original tract the present house stands. Further research will be required to determine the builder of the house, although it is traditionally believed to have been a Dorsey. Archibald Dorsey was a doctor in Harford County by 1830, and it is possible that either he or his brother Theodore was responsible for the solid stone structure which remains as a local landmark of their family.

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HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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ADDENDUM TO SIGNIFICANCE

Troy Hill is a large stone house built in the Georgian tradition during the first quarter of the nineteenth century (the building does not appear on the Federal Direct Tax of 1798 for Anne Arundel County). The building, begun in 1808 and erected over the next twenty years, is the finest building of its size and massive proportions constructed in this section of Howard County during this period.¹ It is significant as a late example of this style and one that was executed in stone rather than the more usual brick, an obvious effort to achieve a high level of style for a county becoming increasingly more cosmopolitan. The details in the stoneworks are excellently executed. The lintels have pentagonal keystones and the quoins are neatly set off by stone equivalents of queen closers in brick masonry. Most of the interior woodwork, (which remains from the 1830's when it replaced the original after a fire) is in a well-crafted late Federal style. The storage cellar in the basement is of interest with its arched ceiling and ventilation system still largely intact.

¹According to the Federal Direct Tax of 1798 for Anne Arundel County, only wooden buildings were located on parcel four of the Troy tract. Further, in the Huntington Hundred, there were fewer than a dozen homes constructed of a material other than wood, and they were brick.

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (continued)

PRIMARY SOURCES, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland
Land and Probate Records of Howard County
Tax Assessment of 1783
Federal Direct Tax of 1798
Hopkins' Atlas of Howard County, Maryland, 1878

SECONDARY SOURCES

Dorsey, Maxwell J., Jean M. Dorsey, and Nannie B. Nimmo. The Dorsey Family in Maryland. Privately printed, 1947.

Newman, Harry Wright. Anne Arundel Gentry. Vol. 2.

Stein, Charles F., Jr. The Origin and History of Howard County, Maryland. Baltimore: the author and the Howard County Historical Society, 1972.

Warfield, J.D. Founders of Anne Arundel and Howard Counties. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company, 1973.

PERSONS CONTACTED:

Lt. Gen. Pedro del Valle, Annapolis
Mrs. E. Roderick Shipley, Landover
Mrs. Averil Garner, Linthicum
Mr. Clyde Nitz, Dorsey
Dr. Dorothy Noble, Annapolis
Mrs. Donald Doll, Ellicott City
Mrs. Celia Holland, Hyattsville
Dr. Brice Dorsey, Annapolis
Dr. Caleb Dorsey, Baltimore

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point in the Northeasternmost right of way line and right of way line of through highway of Maryland Route 100 leading from U.S. Route 1 to I95, said point of beginning being the intersection of the aforesaid Northeasternmost right of way line and right of way line of through highway and the line of Division between the property which by deed dated January 16, 1942 and recorded among the Land Records of Howard County in liber B. M. Jr. no. 173, folio 156, was conveyed by John T. Neubauer and Frances K. Neubauer to Pedro A. Del Valle and wife and the property which by deed dated August 22, 1957 and recorded among the Land Records of Howard County in liber R.H.M. no 303, folio 199, was conveyed by Pedro A. Del Valle and wife to Herbert A. Nickel and Emma H. Nickel, wife, said point of beginning being situated 190 feet measured at right angles to the right of Station 71+02+ of the base line of right of way of Maryland Route 100, as said base line of right of way is delineated on the State Highway Administration - State Roads Commission's plat numbered 40390, attached hereto and made a part hereof, running thence and binding along the aforesaid Northeasternmost right of way line and right of way line through highway (Md. Rte. 100) in a Northwesterly direction 202 feet+, thence continuing in a Northwesterly direction 800 feet+, thence continuing in a Northwesterly direction by a curve to the right having a radius of a radius of 653.94 feet for a distance of 551 feet+, thence in a Northeasterly direction 246 feet+, thence continuing in a Northeasterly direction 260 feet+, thence continuing in a Northeasterly direction 40 feet+, thence continuing in a Northeasterly direction by a curve to the right having a radius of 985.92 feet for a distance of 180 feet+, thence continuing in a Northeasterly direction for a distance of 320 feet+, thence continuing in a Northeasterly direction by a curve to the right having a radius of 1045.92 feet for a distance of 102 feet+, thence continuing in a Northeasterly direction by curve to the right having a radius of 2191.83 feet for a distance of 215 feet+, thence leaving the aforesaid Northeasternmost right of way line and right of way line of through highway in a Southeasterly direction 480 feet+, thence in a Southwesterly direction 310 feet+, thence in a Southeasterly direction 1780 feet+, thence in a Southwesterly direction 540 feet+, thence continuing in a Southwesterly direction 330 feet + to intersect the aforementioned line of division, running thence and binding thereon in a Southeasterly direction 90 feet + to the place of beginning.