

NR Listed 1-4-89

DA 1654  
MULT LIST = 8DA5123  
OMB No. 1024-0018  
Expires 10-31-87

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic D. A. Dorsey House

and or common D. A. Dorsey House

2. Location

street & number 250 N. W. 9th Street

not for publication

city, town Miami

vicinity of

state Florida 33136 code FL county Dade

code FL 025

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 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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 checked="" 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 Dor-Cha, Inc.

street & number 1790 N. W. 59th Street

city, town Miami

vicinity of

state Florida 33142

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dade County Courthouse

street & number 75 W. Flagler Street

city, town Miami

state Florida 33130

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

FMSF-Miami Multiple Resource  
title Historic Preservation Survey

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date June, 1985

federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Bureau of Historic Preservation

city, town Tallahassee

state Florida 32399-0250

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## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input 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

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1 D. A. Dorsey House

DESCRIPTION:

Condition: Deteriorated

The D. A. Dorsey House is a two-story rectangular frame structure constructed prior to 1914.<sup>1</sup> The rectangular plan building is divided into three bays across the street elevation. Fronting to the north, the house is covered with "shiplap" siding and topped with a hip roof covered with composition roll roofing. The facade of the house features an open one-story front porch supported by three square posts and capped with a hip roof. The present porch, added during the 1940s, replaced the original porch which featured finely turned wooden balusters and columns.<sup>2</sup> There are indications there may have been a projecting gable dormer within the center bay of the second floor.<sup>3</sup>

The building sits on concrete block piers. The house originally fronted directly on the sidewalk but was moved approximately 50 feet back on the same lot around 1950 to accommodate a wider right-of-way and retains the identical orientation.<sup>4</sup> All the windows and doors throughout the building feature plain wood surrounds; however, all openings are presently boarded up making the interior spaces inaccessible. Although the building is deteriorated, the house retains its architectural and structural integrity and can be rehabilitated.

A one-story concrete block garage that does not contribute of the significance of the property is located directly west of the house on the lot. When the D. A. Dorsey House was originally constructed, two one-story frame dwellings were located behind the main house.<sup>5</sup>

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## 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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)		

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Specific Date: circa 1914

Architect: Unknown

The D. A. Dorsey House is significant for its associations with one of Miami's most prominent black businessmen. Dana A. Dorsey (1872-1940) was a pioneer citizen and developer of early "Colored Town," and is generally recognized as Miami's most famous black resident.<sup>6</sup> The D. A. Dorsey House is the most important structure associated with Dorsey's productive life in Miami.<sup>7</sup> Dana A. Dorsey was born in Quitman, Georgia in 1872. He moved to Miami circa 1896 to engage in truck farming.<sup>8</sup> He purchased lots for \$25 each in the vicinity of the old Seaboard Station and soon amassed large parcels of real estate.<sup>9</sup> D. A. Dorsey advertised himself as the "only colored licensed real estate dealer in the city."<sup>10</sup> In 1918, Dorsey went on to acquire Elliot Key and Fisher Island for the purposes of setting up a resort for blacks.<sup>11</sup> It is probable that Dorsey amassed the largest real estate holdings ever owned by a black man in the history of Dade County.

Dorsey suggested and helped organize South Florida's first black bank, the Mutual Industrial Benefit and Saving Association. He also served as chairman of the Colored Advisory Committee to the Dade County School Board and as registrar for black men in Dade County during World War I.<sup>12</sup>

Dorsey probably built the present house for his second wife, Rebecca Livingston. The Dorseys lived in the house until 1940. D. A. Dorsey died on 29 February 1940, and his wife died three months later.<sup>13</sup> Dorsey's daughter, Dana Albert Susie Chapman, inherited the house and has recently agreed to have the house rehabilitated by the Black Archives, History and Research Foundation of South, Florida, Inc. The architect for the D. A. Dorsey House has not been identified, although it is said that Dorsey designed and built the house himself.

NOTES

1. Sanborn Map Company, Insurance Maps of Miami, Dade County, Florida (New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1914).
2. Metropolitan Dade County, Office of Community and Economic Development, Historic Preservation Division, From Wilderness to Metropolis: The History and Architecture of Dade County, Florida (1825-1940) (Miami: Metropolitan Dade County, 1982), p. 38.
3. See note 1 above.
4. Interview: Dorothy J. Fields (Founder and Chief Archivist, Black Archives, History and Research Foundation of South Florida, Inc.) by Heriberto J. Brito, Miami, 28 July 1986.
5. See note 1 above.
6. "Dana A. Dorsey Was Shrewd Businessman," Miami Times, 4 November 1982, p. 17.
7. Sarah E. Eaton, "D. A. Dorsey House Designation Report" (prepared for the City of Miami Heritage Conservation Board, 14 January 1983).
8. See note 6 above.
9. See note 6 above.
10. R. L. Polk, R. L. Polk and Company's Miami City Directory (Jacksonville, Florida: R. L. Polk and Company, 1916).
11. "Island Opposite Miami Sold for Colored Resort," Miami Metropolis, 1 May 1918.
12. See note 7 above.
13. See note 7 above.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Please see Bibliography for Cover Nomination

## 10. Geographical Data

53S/41E/37

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Miami

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 

117	5181031310	21851680
Zone	Easting	Northing

B 

Zone	Easting	Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Miami, Lot 7 of Block 35 of the plat of MIAMI NORTH (PB B-41)

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sarah Eaton / Vicki L. Welcher, Historic Sites Specialist

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date October, 1988

street & number 500 South Bronough Street telephone (904) 487-2333

city or town Tallahassee, Florida state Florida 32399-0250

## 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 *George M. King*

title State Historic Preservation Officer date

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

### SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 88002966  
Dorsey, D.A., House  
Property Name

Date Listed: 1/4/89  
Dade FL  
County State

Downtown Miami Multiple Resource Area  
Multiple Name

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

*Wm. Schlager*  
Signature of the Keeper

*1/4/89*  
Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

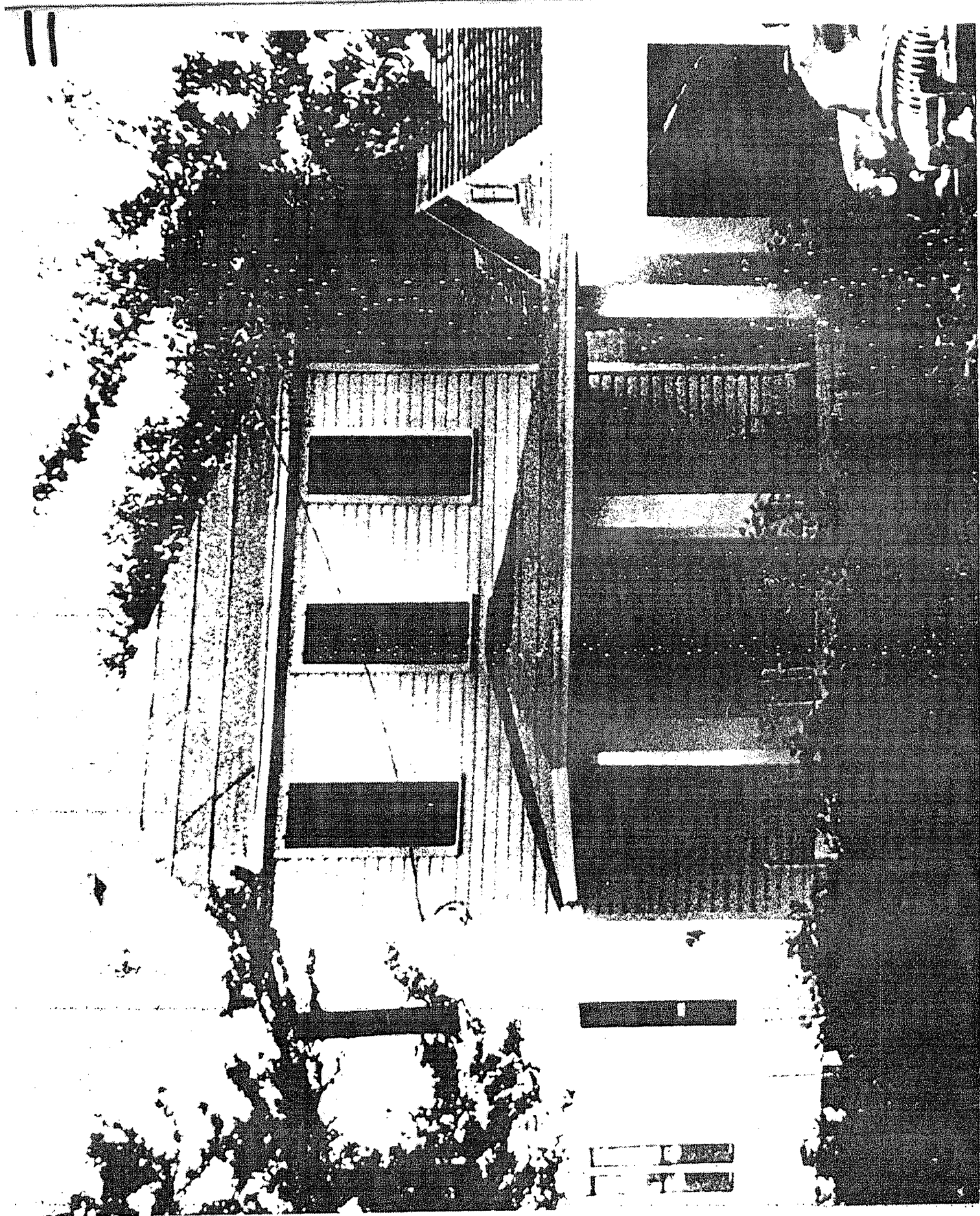
The blanks at the top of Section 7 and Section 8 were not completed. The condition is fair, and unaltered, moved 50 feet on the lot in 1950. The period should be checked as 1900-on, the areas as Commerce and Ethnic Heritage-Black, the specific dates as c. 1914-1940 (year of Dorsey's death), and an unknown architect.

Discussed and concurred in by the Florida SHPO.

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DISTRIBUTION:

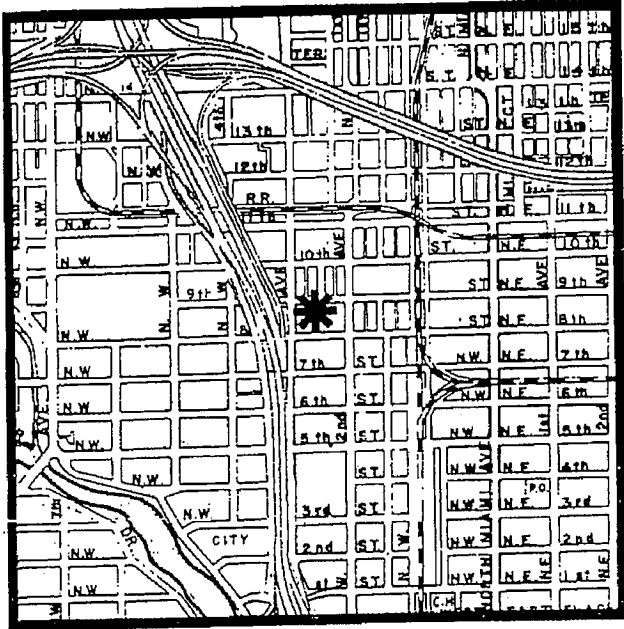
- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)



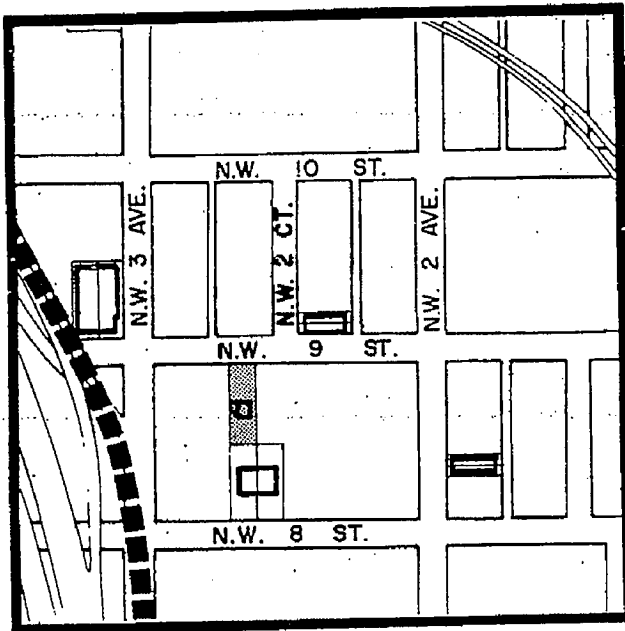


# D. A. DORSEY HOUSE

250 N.W. 9 STREET



location



site plan