United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 D. A. Dorsey House

and or common D. A. Dorsey House

2. Location

street & number 250 N. W. 9th Street

city, town Miami

state Florida 33136 code FL county Dade code FL 025

3. Classification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Ownership</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Present Use</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>structure</td>
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<td>commercial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>site</td>
<td>both</td>
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<td>object</td>
<td>Public Acquisition</td>
<td>Accessible</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>being considered</td>
<td>yes: unrestricted</td>
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<td>no</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>other:</td>
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</table>

4. Owner of Property

name Dor-Gha, Inc.

street & number 1790 N. W. 59th Street

city, town Miami

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dade County Courthouse

street & number 75 W. Flagler Street

city, town Miami

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

FMSF-Miami Multiple Resource

Historic Preservation Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date June, 1985

depository for survey records Bureau of Historic Preservation

city, town Tallahassee

state Florida 32399-0250
7. Description

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>unaltered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>good</td>
<td>ruins</td>
<td>altered</td>
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<tr>
<td>fair</td>
<td>unexposed</td>
<td>original site</td>
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<tr>
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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance
DESCRIPTION:

Condition: Deteriorated

The D. A. Dorsey House is a two-story rectangular frame structure constructed prior to 1914.1 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.2 There are indications there may have been a projecting gable dormer within the center bay of the second floor.3

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.4 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.5
8. Significance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Areas of Significance—Check and justify below</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>--- prehistoric</td>
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<td>--- archeology-historic --- conservation --- law --- science</td>
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<tr>
<td>1500–1599</td>
<td>--- agriculture --- economics --- literature --- sculpture</td>
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<td>--- architecture --- education --- military --- social/humanitarian</td>
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<tr>
<td>1800–1849</td>
<td>--- commerce --- exploration/settlement --- philosophy --- theater</td>
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<tr>
<td>1900–</td>
<td>--- communications --- industry --- politics/government --- transportation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specific dates</td>
<td>Builder/Architect</td>
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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.6 The D. A. Dorsey House is the most important structure associated with Dorsey's productive life in Miami.7

Dana A. Dorsey was born in Quitman, Georgia in 1872. He moved to Miami circa 1896 to engage in truck farming.8 He purchased lots for $25 each in the vicinity of the old Seaboard Station and soon amassed large parcels of real estate.9 D. A. Dorsey advertised himself as the "only colored licensed real estate dealer in the city."10 In 1918, Dorsey went on to acquire Elliot Key and Fisher Island for the purposes of setting up a resort for blacks.11 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.12

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.13 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
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.
8. See note 6 above.
9. See note 6 above.
12. See note 7 above.
13. See note 7 above.
9. Major Bibliographical References

Please see Bibliography for Cover Nomination

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property: less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name: Miami

UTM References

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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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>state</th>
<th>code</th>
<th>county</th>
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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
- [X] local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-666), 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: [Signature]

date: [Date]

For NPS use only

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

date: [Date]

Keeper of the National Register: [Signature]

date: [Date]

Chief of Registration: [Signature]

date: 5
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 Date Listed: 1/4/99
Dorsey, D.A., House Dade FL
Property Name County State

Downtown Miami Multiple Resource Area
Multiple Name

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.

[Signature] 1/4/99
Signature of the Keeper 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.

DISTRIBUTION:
National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)
D. A. DORSEY HOUSE
250 N.W. 9 STREET

location

site plan