

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0682713

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	AUG 22 1978
DATE ENTERED	DEC 8 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 Miller House
AND/OR COMMON Jevon

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Raleigh-La Grange Road NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CITY, TOWN Elba Community VICINITY OF Sixth CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
STATE Tennessee CODE 47 COUNTY Fayette CODE 047

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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Dr. W. B. Cleveland
STREET & NUMBER 2522 Norfolk
CITY, TOWN Cleveland VICINITY OF Ohio STATE

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Fayette County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER Court Square
CITY, TOWN Somerville STATE Tennessee

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Historical and Architectural Survey
DATE July 1973 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Tennessee Historical Commission
CITY, TOWN Nashville STATE Tennessee

7 DESCRIPTION

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

The Miller House is located in southwestern Fayette County, approximately five miles northwest of Rossville. It stands in the Elba community near the old Memphis-La Grange road. The main house of a large plantation, of which twenty acres remain, it stands today in a clearing which is approached by a private drive through a wooded area.

This two-story, vernacular house, with a story-and-a-half ell, which is essentially Federal in style with some interior Greek Revival details, was built ca. 1840 for William Miller. A framed building cased with weatherboards, it originally had a brick pier foundation which was recently replaced by a perimeter concrete block foundation faced with old brick. The wooden shingles which originally covered the gable roof have been replaced with composition shingles. The three brick exterior gable chimneys (two flanking the main section and one on the ell) were recently rebuilt incorporating modern flues.

The center bay of the five-bay symmetrical facade (north elevation) features a Palladian motif entrance, which includes a fan light, side lights, and double-leaf, paneled doors. A one-story pedimented portico supported by four square pillars shelters the entrance. Rudimentary pilasters, reflecting the pillars, flank the entrance treatment which is further delineated by flush siding. The original louvered shutters have been removed and are presently stored. A simple box cornice crowns the facade. Later windows, which were opened in the east and west elevations, are being removed in a restoration now underway.

A one-story, ell-shaped, open porch, with tapered square pillars, is attached to the east side of the ell and the south side of the main part of the house. A corresponding porch on the west side of the ell was enclosed in 1975. At the same date, an open, covered passageway connecting the ell to a separate kitchen was enclosed. A small shed addition has been attached to the south end of the ell.

In plan, the house consists of two rooms separated by a center passage with an open stairway. A two-room ell projects from the rear of the west room. An open porch is attached to the east side of the ell and the south side of the main block of the house. On the west side a formerly open porch and passageway connect with the kitchen.

Five dependencies stand south of the house in a line parallel to its longitudinal axis. They were (from east to west) the carriage house with tack room, two servants houses, commissary, and farm outbuilding. In addition, a nineteenth-century shed and well house remain and stand east of the house, and a log and frame barn, constructed during the same period, is located west of the house.

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

SPECIFIC DATES

ca. 1840

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Southwestern Tennessee, including all or part of the counties of Fayette, Shelby, Hardeman, Tipton, and Haywood, was known during the antebellum period as the "Black Belt." This name derived in part from the large slave population living there and in part due to the richness of the soil. The more than 1.4 million acres bounded by the Big Hatchie, Wolf, and Mississippi rivers was considered the most productive cotton land in the nation in the nineteenth century. Large plantations dotted the Fayette County landscape during the last century and a few of the large houses remain. It is rare, however, for the supporting plantation buildings to survive. The Miller House is unusual in the county because it retains many, if not most, of its original outbuildings. Moreover, the general plantation layout may still be discerned; these features include the road to the quarters of the field hands and to other farm buildings and the tree-shaded approach road to the main house; even the nearby tiny community of Elba has remained essentially unchanged.

The Miller House, one of the oldest in this section of the county, is a typical example of rural vernacular architecture of Tennessee of the mid-nineteenth century. This basic vernacular form, popular throughout this period in the state, was kept fashionable by the application of various architectural details as successive styles became current in Tennessee. The rural parts of the state usually lagged in adopting new styles, and the Miller House illustrates this practice. Federal details, such as the entrance treatment, have been retained while some interior trim in the current Greek Revival style shows an awareness of current architectural fashion.

The Miller House has survived in such remarkably original condition more from neglect than care. It was deserted and endangered in 1975 when it came into the hands of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene C. Church, who leased the property from the owner. They have stabilized the building and have begun a careful and sympathetic restoration program, which includes the underpinning and leveling of the house and rebuilding the collapsing chimneys using the original bricks.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Information provided by Eugene C. Church, Rossville, Tennessee

J. B. Killebrew and J. M. Safford. Introduction to the Resources of Tennessee, Nashville: Tavel, Eastman & Howell, 1874.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 6.5

QUADRANGLE NAME Rossville

QUADRANGLE SCALE _____

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 | 265280 | 38880300

B 16 | 265280 | 3887940

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C 16 | 265010 | 3887940

D 16 | 265010 | 3888040

E _____

F _____

G _____

H _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION The property nominated is a rectangular lot which measures approximately 360' by 800' and is bounded as follows: beginning at Point A; thence west approximately 800' to Point B; thence south approximately 360' to Point C; thence east approximately 800' to Point D; thence north approximately 360' to the beginning.

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 Barbara Hume Church, Architectural Historian
Robert E. Dalton, Director of Field Services

ORGANIZATION Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE June 1978

STREET & NUMBER 170 Second Avenue North

TELEPHONE (615) 741-2371

CITY OR TOWN Nashville

STATE Tennessee

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

Herbert E. Hays

TITLE Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE 8/16/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

John Charles Adams
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 12-8-78

ATTEST: *Jann H. Gilmore*
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 12/6/78