

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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received FEB 4 1986
date entered MAR 6 1986

**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 George Miller Residence and Millersville Store and Post Office

and/or common Childs Residence (preferred)

2. Location

street & number 1003 Cecil Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Millersville N/A vicinity of Fourth Congressional District

state Maryland code 24 county Anne Arundel code 003

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Isabella W. Childs

street & number 1003 Cecil Avenue

city, town Millersville N/A vicinity of state Maryland 21108

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Anne Arundel County Courthouse

street & number Church Circle

city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Maryland Historical Trust
Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1978 federal state county local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle

city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

7. Description

Condition <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent <input type="checkbox"/> good <input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> ruins <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	Check one <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	Check one <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site <input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u> N/A </u>
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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Number of Resources		Number of previously listed National Register properties included in this nomination: <u> 0 </u>
Contributing	Noncontributing	Original and historic functions and uses: residential, commercial
<u> 3 </u>	<u> 0 </u> buildings	
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u> sites	
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u> structures	
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u> objects	
<u> 3 </u>	<u> 0 </u> Total	

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

The Childs Residence (George Miller Residence and Millersville store and Post Office) is located within the town of Millersville in central Anne Arundel County. It is situated in the southeast corner of the intersection of Cecil Avenue and Millersville Road (Rt. 175) and faces south, toward the abandoned Annapolis & Elkridge Railroad bed. The Childs Residence complex consists of three buildings: (1) a circa 1840 frame dwelling with a large, circa 1852, frame addition; (2) a circa 1840 frame smokehouse/dairy; and (3) a circa 1920 frame store. The dwelling consists of two sections: a circa 1840 one-room plan, 1½ story structure with a rear ell from which extends a larger, circa 1852, two-story central passage, double-pile plan dwelling. The house rests on a low stone foundation, is covered with weatherboard siding, and has a standing seam metal gable roof. Exterior decorative trim is confined to the one-story facade porch. The interior plan and finishings have been maintained with minor alterations. The circa 1840 heavy timber-frame constructed smokehouse has a rosehead nail studded door. A dairy was added in the late 19th century. The store was constructed in 1920 after a fire destroyed an earlier one on the site.

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

The dwelling is composed of two parts. The main block, constructed in circa 1852, is a two-story frame, slightly asymmetrical, central passage, double-pile plan house with a gable roof. At the east gable end, the main block abuts an earlier (circa 1840) one room plan, 1-1/2 story frame house with a slightly lower, 1-1/2 story rear ell. The main block is wider than the earlier wing, creating a broken facade line with the wing set back from the main block. The wing and ell are covered with more steeply pitched gable roofs than the main block.

The house rests on a low stone foundation. The exterior walls are covered with weatherboard siding which is painted white. The gable roofs are covered with standing-seam metal which is painted red. There are four interior gable end brick chimneys in the main block, and two in the east wing--one at the east gable end and another at the north gable end of the ell.

A one-story hip roof porch supported by eight turned posts with jig-sawn brackets runs across the facade of the house, following the broken facade line. The porch rests on a low brick foundation. In addition to the ornate brackets, the porch is embellished further with a dentilled cornice. A louvered screen closes the west end of the porch.

The principal entrance is located on the facade, south elevation, of the main block. It is composed of a six-panel door, flanked by four-pane sidelights. The rear entrance (north elevation) is covered by a door hood supported by diagonal bracing. There is an entrance in the wing on the facade which consists of a late 19th century arched-panel door. There are two entrances into the ell, both on the west elevation. The southernmost has a batten door. Just to the north of this entrance there is evidence of a seam in the wall, suggesting that the north end of the ell which measures two bays, one of which is an entrance, was either originally a separate structure which was later moved and joined to the house, or that it occupies its original site and the ell was extended to connect it with the house.

The windows in the house are predominately 6/6 sash windows with louvered shutters. The first story facade of the main block has large 2/2 sash windows which extend to the floor. The half-story level of the wing has 3/6 sash windows on the facade, and 6 pane casement windows on the remaining elevations.

Interior: The original floor plan of the house and finishings have been maintained, with minor alterations. The central passage of the main block contains the stair which rises along the west partition wall to the second floor.

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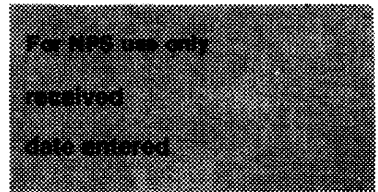
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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

The stair is composed of a mid-19th century slender, tapered newel post and plain, square balusters, two per tread. The east rooms of the main block are joined by a wide opening which was originally closed off by double, six-panel doors. The mantel in the southeast room is a plain mid-19th century wooden mantel, similar to the other mantels in the house, with one exception. The northeast room of the main block has an ornate marbelized slate mantel centered on the east wall. Unfortunately, the center medallion piece is missing. The names of some members of the Cecil family are inscribed into the upper right corner of this mantel and into the windows in this room.

The floors in the main block on the first floor are the original wide pine boards.

There are two interesting pieces of hardware in the main block of the house. They are two Carpenter-type iron rim locks: one on the front door and the other on an interior batten door to the northwest room (now a kitchen). The front door lock is encased in a metal box and has a round brass patent seal which bears the arms of England surrounded by "Carpenter & Tildesley, Manufactures." The other lock is on a wide, beaded batten door which leads from the central passage at the north end into the northwest room. It is a wooden box lock with a similar brass seal which bears the same arms of England motif, but with "John Young, Patent" surrounding it. Two holes on either side of the keyhole indicate where a handle may once have been secured.

The east wing is accessed through a door in the northeast room of the main block. Centered on the east wall of this one-room section of the house is a plain mid-19th century mantel. To the left are built-in cupboards with raised panel doors. The ell is now used for storage. There is an interesting iron latch-lock that survives on the batten door in the ell.

Other buildings associated with this property include the circa 1840 smokehouse/dairy and a circa 1920 store. The smokehouse is a heavy timber frame constructed building which is covered with wide weatherboard siding, some of which appears to be the original riven boards. The building measures 12 feet 5 inches square and rests on a low stone foundation. The gable roof is covered with corrugated metal; a vestigial ventilator survives at the ridge line. The opening to the smokehouse is on the south elevation. It has a batten door covered with rosehead nails, which once added extra security for the meat stored inside. The door is hinged on the inside with metal strap hinges.

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

The east elevation of the smokehouse has an entrance to the dairy. This appears to have been cut in at a later date. Steps lead down to the dairy just inside the door.

The circa 1920 store replaces an earlier one on this site. According to the present owner, the present store was built to look like the earlier one which burned. The present store, now used as an antique store, is a rectangular, 1-1/2 story building with the facade oriented toward the east gable end (toward Cecil Avenue). The facade entrance and one on the north elevation are covered with door hoods supported by diagonal bracing. Windows are 6/6 sash with louvered shutters.

Other outbuildings known to have stood on this property include a tobacco barn, chicken house, summer kitchen and a privy.

1. The Carpenter locks were invented in England by James Carpenter in 1800. An improvement was made with the assistance of John Young and patented in 1830. James Tildesley, the son-in-law of Carpenter, joined the firm in 1844. These locks were manufactured in large numbers by a number of firms in the second half of the 19th century and enjoyed widespread use in this country.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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See Footnotes, Continuation Sheet No. 5

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approx. 3 acres

Quadrangle name Odenton, MD

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	8	3	5	7	3	3	0	4	3	2	4	1	3	0
Zone		Easting						Northing						

B

Zone		Easting						Northing						

C

Zone		Easting						Northing						

D

Zone		Easting						Northing						

E

Zone		Easting						Northing						

F

Zone		Easting						Northing						

G

Zone		Easting						Northing						

H

Zone		Easting						Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification

Boundaries are depicted on the attached map; the nominated property, approximately 3 acres, encompasses all elements of the resource within their immediate setting.

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 Ms. Donna Ware

Anne Arundel County Historic Sites Survey

organization Anne Arundel County Planning & Zon. date 1985

street & number Arundel Center telephone (301) 224-1270

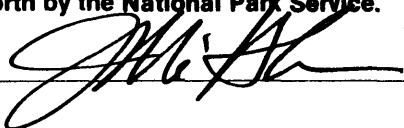
city or town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

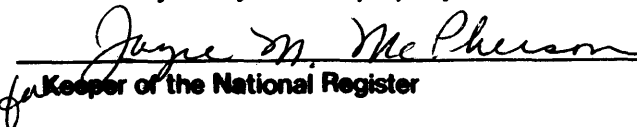
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature  date 1-30-86

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER date

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

 Entered in the National Register date 3/6/86
Keeper of the National Register

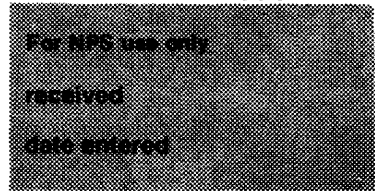
Attest: date

Chief of Registration

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Childs Residence

Continuation sheet Anne Arundel County, MD Item number 8 Page 4

HISTORY AND SUPPORT:

Based on the architectural evidence, construction of the Childs Residence dwelling was begun in circa 1840. In 1839, John Miller of Anne Arundel County purchased 470 acres, parts of "Hammonds Inclosure" and "Abingdon" from Charles and Rebecca Waters, also of Anne Arundel County, for \$7005.00.¹ In 1852, John Miller sold a parcel known as "Millersville," comprising 13 5/8 acres, and including "the buildings erected thereon" to his son, George Miller, for \$3,000.00.²

U.S. population census data for 1840 reveals that John Miller was the head of a household of nine persons and was employed in agriculture. George Miller is listed separately, and was employed in commerce.³

U.S. Postmaster Appointment Records record that George Miller was appointed the first Postmaster of Millersville at the age of 20 on July 24, 1841.⁴ It seems apparent that George Miller constructed a dwelling (the earlier portion of the present Childs Residence) for himself on a portion of his father's land by 1840, and was operating a store, either from this structure or another that no longer survives. The purchase of land by John Miller, the construction of a dwelling, and the opening of George Miller's store coincide with the completion of the Annapolis and Elkridge Railroad in 1840. The dwelling stands just a few feet north of the A&E Railroad bed and proved to be an ideal location.

The frame smokehouse dates from this first construction period.

George Miller is listed in the 1850 census as a storekeeper with real estate valued at \$1,000.⁵ By this time he was married to Harriet R. Miller. Two years later, John Miller sold the "Millersville" parcel to his son, George Miller. Construction of the main block of the dwelling probably dates from this time.

During this period Millersville grew as a commercial center, rivaling the preeminence of Indian Landing on the Severn River as central Anne Arundel County's transportation center. Equity records for many of the surrounding farms cite the close proximity to both Millersville Station on the A&E Railroad and the wharf at Indian Landing. Martenet's map of 1860 shows a blacksmith shop, store and Post Office and George Miller's dwelling all located on Miller's property.

In 1860, after the death of John Miller, 75 acres of his property were conveyed by his children to his son, George Miller.⁶ Nine years later George Miller and his wife sold all of their property to Owen Cecil, a large landholder in the community.⁷ The Millers apparently left the area. Six days after Owen Cecil acquired the Miller property, his son Leonidas Cecil was appointed the Postmaster of Millersville.⁸ Leonidas Cecil received title to this property after his father's death in 1882. Owen Cecil died owning over 1,000 acres of land valued at \$30,000.00.

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HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

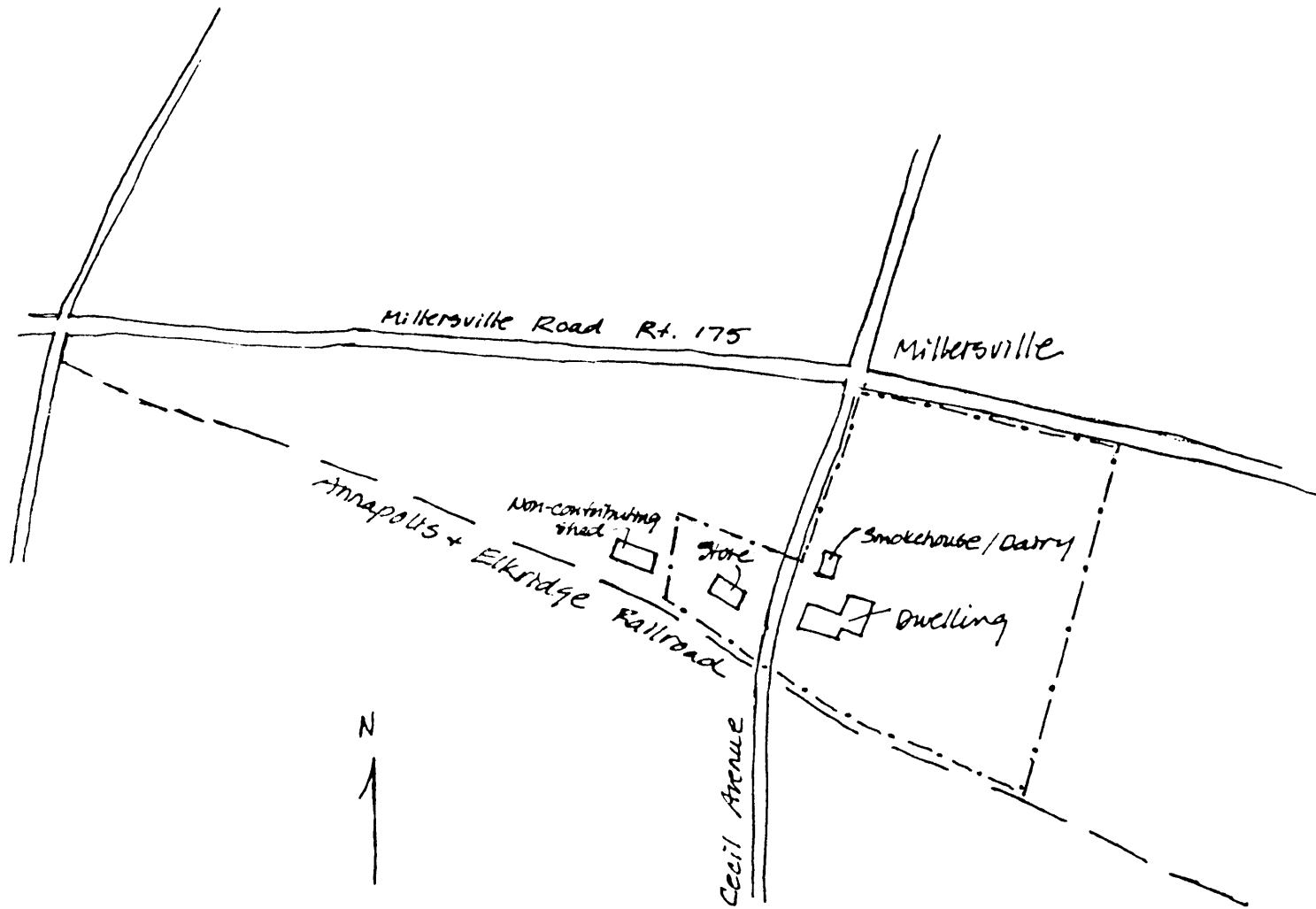
According to the present owner, Leonidas Cecil moved the store from the house and constructed a new building in the late 19th century for the store and Post Office, directly west of the dwelling, across what is now Cecil Avenue.

After Leonidas Cecil's death in 1894, Nathan Childs, the father-in-law of the present owner, became the Postmaster in 1899.¹⁰ Thirteen years later, Helen S. Cecil, widow of Leonidas Cecil, sold the Millersville property to Nathan Childs.¹¹ In circa 1920, the store burned, but was rebuilt on the same site by Child's to resemble the original store built by Cecil.¹²

At Child's death in 1930, his son Nathan W. Childs inherited the property and continued the family tradition as Postmaster of Millersville.¹³ In the 1930s, the store was moved back into the dwelling and occupied the west side of the main block. In the 1940s it was again moved back into the store building across Cecil Avenue. The Childs offered a complete line of merchandise. The store and Post Office continued to operate until the retirement of Nathan W. Childs in 1972. His retirement brought to an end 130 years of continuous mercantile and postal service from this site.

Footnotes:

1. Anne Arundel County Land Records, Liber WSG No. 23, Folio 592.
2. Land Records, Liber NHG No. 1, Folio 101.
3. U.S. Population Census, 1840.
4. Record of Appointment of Postmasters, Vol. 9, 1832-1843, (Washington, D.C.: National Archives & Records Service, 1973).
5. U.S. Population Census, 1850.
6. Land Records, Liber NHG No. 9, Folio 28.
7. Land Records, Liber SH No. 3, Folio 225.
8. Record of Appointment of Postmasters, Vol. 24, 1857-1874.
9. Land Records, Liber SH No. 22, Folio 558; Equity Records #908, Nov. 22, 1883.
10. Record of Appointment of Postmasters, Vol. 62, 1888-1930.
11. Land Records, Liber GW No. 92, Folio 4.
12. Interview with Isabella W. Childs, January 23, 1985.
13. Record of Appointment of Postmasters, Vol. 62, 1888-1930.



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 Childs Residence
 Anne Arundel County, MD
 Scale 1" = 200'

— · — · — National Register Boundary, 1/86

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Childs Residence

Anne Arundel Co., MD

Scale: 1" = 10'

