

PH0002194

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Florida
COUNTY: Hillsborough
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE JUL 23 1974

HZ
E 358560
217 N 3066140

1. NAME

COMMON:
Ruskin Women's Club

AND/OR HISTORIC:
George McA. Miller, House *use this name*

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
508 Tamiami Trail

CITY OR TOWN:
Ruskin

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Sixth

STATE:
Florida

CODE:
12

COUNTY:
Hillsborough

CODE:
057

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	Women's Club	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Ruskin Women's Club

STREET AND NUMBER:
508 Tamiami Trail

CITY OR TOWN:
Ruskin

STATE:
Florida

CODE:
12

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Hillsborough County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Tampa

CITY OR TOWN:
Tampa

STATE:
Florida

CODE:
12

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
N/A

DATE OF SURVEY:
 Federal State Local

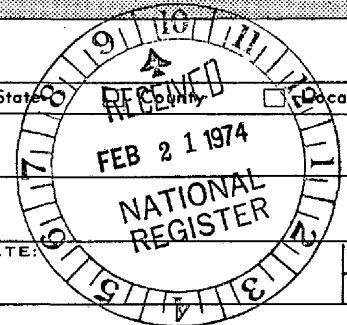
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:



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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<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)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

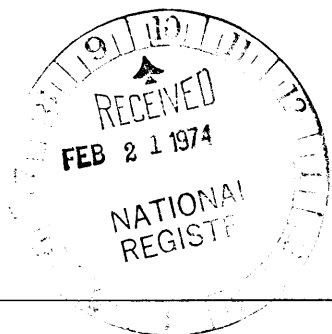
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Constructed in 1914, this building served as the residence for the President of Ruskin College, McA. Miller. The President's wife, Adaline Miller, designed the house as a conscious attempt at a "Swiss-style chalet"; it also seems to have been influenced by the Bungalowoid mode, but the result remains original. The plan of the three-story main mass is a large square with two two-story wings projecting from the rear. Of wood frame construction, the exterior walls are stuccoed and punctuated by masonry accents. The main facade is an asymmetrical composition, three bays wide. The bay at the left projects, slightly, forming a pavilion; at the second floor level of this pavilion there is a balustraded balcony in antis, open on two sides. The middle bay also carries a balcony in antis, but this time at the third floor level. A masonry string course supported by plain pilasters surrounds the entire building. Seven risers of masonry steps ascend to the entrance at the right of the main facade; the entrance has French doors, a transom and is flanked by masonry pilasters. The main mass is covered by a gently pitched roof with extremely broad eaves and sturdy wood brackets.

A two-story, semi-detached pavilion projects from the rear and to the right side of the house. On the first floor, each of its four walls is pierced by a single central window. The stuccoed wall continues half way up the second story; above this the pavilion is screened on all sides and is topped by a hipped roof. A two-story veranda, covered by a subsidiary pitched roof extends from the left rear of the building. The first floor veranda is enclosed by lattice work, while the veranda at the second floor is open. All openings in the structure have heavy masonry surrounds. Windows are a mixture of double-hung sash and casement with transoms over some, and fenestration is irregular. Two tall, brick chimneys are visible.

The asymmetrical plan and elevations are given coherence in a number of ways. The weight and solidity of the structure overshadow what might otherwise be an erratic and rambling impression. This solidity is relieved in various points by frequent interpenetration of interior and exterior space. The overall order of the house derives more from exterior expression of interior spaces and functions than from formal conceptions of balance and symmetry.



5. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1914**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

This building is all that remains of Ruskin College, an unusual communal and educational enterprise on the east side of Tampa Bay. In 1907, George McA. Miller bought 12,000 acres from Florida Naval Stores in order to establish a cooperative community and college modelled on the philosophy of British social thinker, John Ruskin. By 1909, Miller's family was joined by those of his wife's three brothers, A.P., N.E., and L.L. Dickman, more acreage was added, and organization of the community of Ruskin began.

The Millers and Dickmans used the sale of land as the first step in their cooperative system. A certain percentage of funds was reserved from all land sales to finance community services, among them the proposed college. As well, for each acre sold, a certain portion of land was set aside for the "common good" of the community. Landless residents could acquire "common good" land through service to the community. These "common good" lands also served as backing for Ruskin's locally issued currency. "Common good" script was paid for work on roads and other community projects, and during times of financial panic when other sources dried up, this script remained in circulation.

Miller had operated two other Ruskinian colleges in Trenton, Missouri (1899) and Glen Ellyn, Illinois (1905). Ruskin College opened in 1912 as a coeducational industrial and liberal arts college offering three years of preparatory work and four years of college studies. By 1918 the school had 300 students who attended classes in the morning and in the afternoons worked on the 20-acre farm, in a weaving shop, laundry, leatherworking shop or woodworking shop. In this manner maintenance costs were held down, revenue was gained from the products made by the students, and indigent students could "work their way" through. Furthermore, Miller attached a transcendent value to physical labor: abstract intellectual endeavor was to be aided and informed by manual work, constantly returning the scholar to the realities of life.

(con't.)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hillsborough County Courthouse, Tampa, Florida. Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court. Hillsborough County Records. (Subgroup: deeds).
 Robshaw, Walt. "Ruskin Days Mark 50th Anniversary," The Tampa Times, March 1, 1960.
 "Two-Day Program To Mark Ruskin 50th Anniversary," The Tampa Tribune, March 24, 1960.

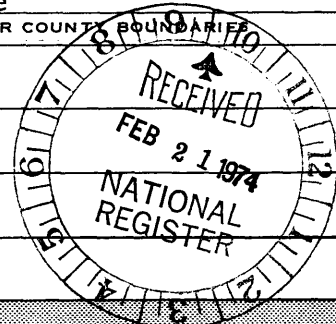
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		N27° 42' 50"	W82° 26' 05"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Diane D. Greer, Historic Sites Specialist

ORGANIZATION: **Div. of Archives, History and Records Management** DATE: **July, 1973**

STREET AND NUMBER:
Department of State, The Capitol

CITY OR TOWN: **Tallahassee** STATE: **Florida** CODE: **12**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: *Robert Williams*

Title: Historic Preservation Officer

Date: February 6, 1974

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

A.R. Winters
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 7/23/74

ATTEST:
Wm. Handberg
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 7.19.74

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Florida	
COUNTY Hillsborough	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUL 23 1974

(Number all entries) 8. Significance

-2-

Dr. Miller died in 1918, and the loss of many students to the Army during World War I brought an end to the college's operation. In 1919 all the original buildings except the President's home (now the Ruskin Women's Club) burned. The building derives some architectural interest from the originality of its treatment; it also remains as a symbol to an historically conscious community of its utopian beginnings.

