



ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORICAL COMPONENT FORM

**IMPORTANT:** USE IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE GREEN INVENTORY RECORD FORM FOR RECORDING HISTORIC STRUCTURES AND DISTRICTS. USE SEPARATELY FOR RECORDING STRUCTURES LOCATED WITHIN DISTRICT BOUNDARIES.

1) Resource No. \_\_\_\_\_ 2) Temp No. 6 3) Name Miller House  
4) Address 409 E. Cleveland, Lafayette 5) District Name Lafayette Coal Mining Era Buildings

I. INTEGRITY: 6) Condition: Good  Fair  Deteriorated

7) Original Use residence 8) Present Use residence

9) Original Site  Moved  Date(s) of Move: \_\_\_\_\_

10) Unaltered  Altered  Explain: 1902-addition to rear; 1973-chicken coop east of garage removed; 1977-vinyl siding applied, porch rebuilt, east side porch added, stained glass windows removed on east side replaced by sliding glass doors, metal chimney installed, aluminum frame windows replace earlier style.

II. DESCRIPTION: 11) Building Materials wood

12) Construction Date 1888-89 13) Architect/Builder unknown --

14) Architectural Style(s) vernacular

15) Special Features/Surroundings: The Miller House is a one-story house with end gables and a central gable on the front of the house. A porch with a shed roof, and also with a central gable, extends across most of the front facade. The rear addition is of nearly square shape with a truncated hip roof. The exterior material is wide board siding. There are bay windows on the east and west sides, with another porch at the northeast

16) Archaeological Potential: Yes  No  Unknown  Explain: continued

III. CULTURAL ACTIVITIES: Key the resource type (ie: house, barn, shed, school, church, etc) to the cultural activity theme and sub-theme category associated with it.

	AREA OF SIGNIFICANCE		
17) THEME	industry		
18) SUB-THEME	coal		
19) TYPES	housing		

(Attach Photographs)

Frame Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Roll Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Facade Orientation \_\_\_\_\_

31A, 32A, 33A, 34A

L 1

S, E, N, S

**IV. SIGNIFICANCE:** Assess whether or not the resource has any historical or architectural merit by checking appropriate categories and justifying below. Include any relevant historical data.

20) Architectural Significance:

21) Historical Significance:

- Represents work of a master
- Possesses high artistic values
- Represents a type, period, or method of construction

*see  
 cover  
 with  
 8/23/83*

- Associated with significant persons
- Associated with significant events or patterns
- Contributes to the significance of an historic district

The Miller House is significant by its association with Mary Miller, founder of Lafayette. Without her foresight that coal was a valuable asset and should be extracted, her division of the family farm into a townsite, and her charitable donations to the town and coal mining families, the community would not exist. Mary Miller died in 1921, her home remaining as a testament to her vision for the coal town of Lafayette.

Lafayette and Mary Miller, arriving in Colorado in 1863 from Iowa, homesteaded 160 acres near Burlington. By the following year, he purchased a stage station along the Overland Trail which served as the main link between Denver and Cheyenne. The Millers operated the station for seven years, moving to the present site of Lafayette in 1871. Here the couple began an agricultural operation, only to move again, this time to the city of Boulder in 1874. Four years later, Lafayette died and was buried at his farm.

Returning to agricultural pursuits, Mary Miller soon became interested in the possibility of coal deposits on her property. Since 1859, coal had been mined at Marshall and it was assumed by many that the veins of the black mineral ran throughout the area. In 1884, continued

22) List Any Associated Cultural Group: n/a

**V. REFERENCES:**

1. Lafayette News, 24 March 1902, Vol. 4, #203.
2. Anne Cramer, "Founder of Lafayette," Lafayette News, 1 October 1980, Vol. 7, #28
3. Interview with Mel Roberts (owner), 19 January 1982.
4. Interview with Ralph Miller (grandson), 20 January 1982.

15. continued

corner of the east side of the building. Window openings are a variety of rectangular shapes and are metal framed sliders. A barn with narrow wooden clapboard siding is located at the northwest corner of the site, and a metal shed is directly adjacent to the south. Lyons sandstone walkways are located on the property.

20. continued

a 14-foot vein was encountered on the Miller farm which by this time numbered 1280 acres and was considered one of the best farms in the county. Under a lease agreement with John Simpson in 1887, the first shaft was sunk on the Miller land and mining commenced in the area.

Being an enterprising individual, Miller recognized the need for homes for the future coal miners and in 1888 platted a 150-acre townsite called Lafayette, after her late husband. The following year, the community was surveyed, and in 1890, incorporated. During these years, the late 1880s, she erected her home at 409 Cleveland, approximately in the center of her future community.

Miller was a strong leader. Her abhorrence of alcohol led to a clause in every deed forbidding the sale of spirits east of Highway 287. She contributed heavily to the fund which established the congregational Church. She was also responsible for the Lafayette Bank, or Miller Bank as it was commonly called, and was the only woman bank president in the United States in 1902. The bank's eventual failure in 1914 was partially due to her support of the striking mines.

Despite the application of siding, the house retains its original form and detailing. As the residence of the founder of the community, who was also responsible as well for the development of the coal industry in Lafayette, the house has tremendous historical significance for the town.

INVENTORY RECORD

NOT FOR FIELD USE <input type="checkbox"/> DET. ELIG. <input type="checkbox"/> DET. NOT ELIG. <input type="checkbox"/> NOMINATED LISTED, DATE _____
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IMPORTANT: COMPLETE THIS SHEET FOR EACH RESOURCE PLUS EITHER AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL OR HISTORICAL/ARCHITECTURAL COMPONENT FORM.

I. IDENTIFICATION: 1)Resource No. \_\_\_\_\_ 2)Temp. No. 6

3)Resource Name Miller House 4)Project Name Lafayette Thematic District

Thematic

5)Category: Arch. Site   , Hist./Archit. Structure X, Hist./~~Structure~~ District X.

6)(For Arch. site)In a District:yes    no   ; Name NA

II. LOCATION: 7)Township 15; Range 69W; NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of SW  $\frac{1}{4}$  of

Section 2; P.M. 6th. 8)County Boulder

9)USGS QUAD Lafayette, Colorado; 7.5 x 15; Date 1965 (71) Attach photocopy portion of Quad. Clearly show site. 10)Other maps NA

11)Dimensions    mX    m 12)Area    sq.m(+4047=) less than 1 acres

13)UTM Reference: (One UTM centered on resource may be given for resource under 10 acres.)

A. 13; 49,27,0,0 mE; 44,2,7,2,8,0 mN. B.   ;    mE;    mN.

C.   ;    mE;    mN. D.   ;    mE;    mN.

14)Address 408 East Cleveland, Lafayette, Colorado Lot 11, Block K Addition     
12

III. MANAGEMENT DATA: 15)Field Assessment: Eligible X Not Eligible    Need Data   

16)Owner/Address Mel Roberts, 409 East Cleveland, Lafayette, Colorado

17)Gov't Involvement: County    State    Federal    Private   : Agency NA

18)Disturbance: none    light X moderate    heavy    total   ; Explain Some minor alterations have been made over the years.

19)Threats to Resource: Water Erosion    Wind Erosion    Animal Activity    Neglect    Vandalism     
Recreation    Construction   ; Comments NA

20)Management Recommendations Follow the Secretary's Standards for Rehabilitation.

V. REFERENCE: 21)State/Fed. Permit Nos. NA

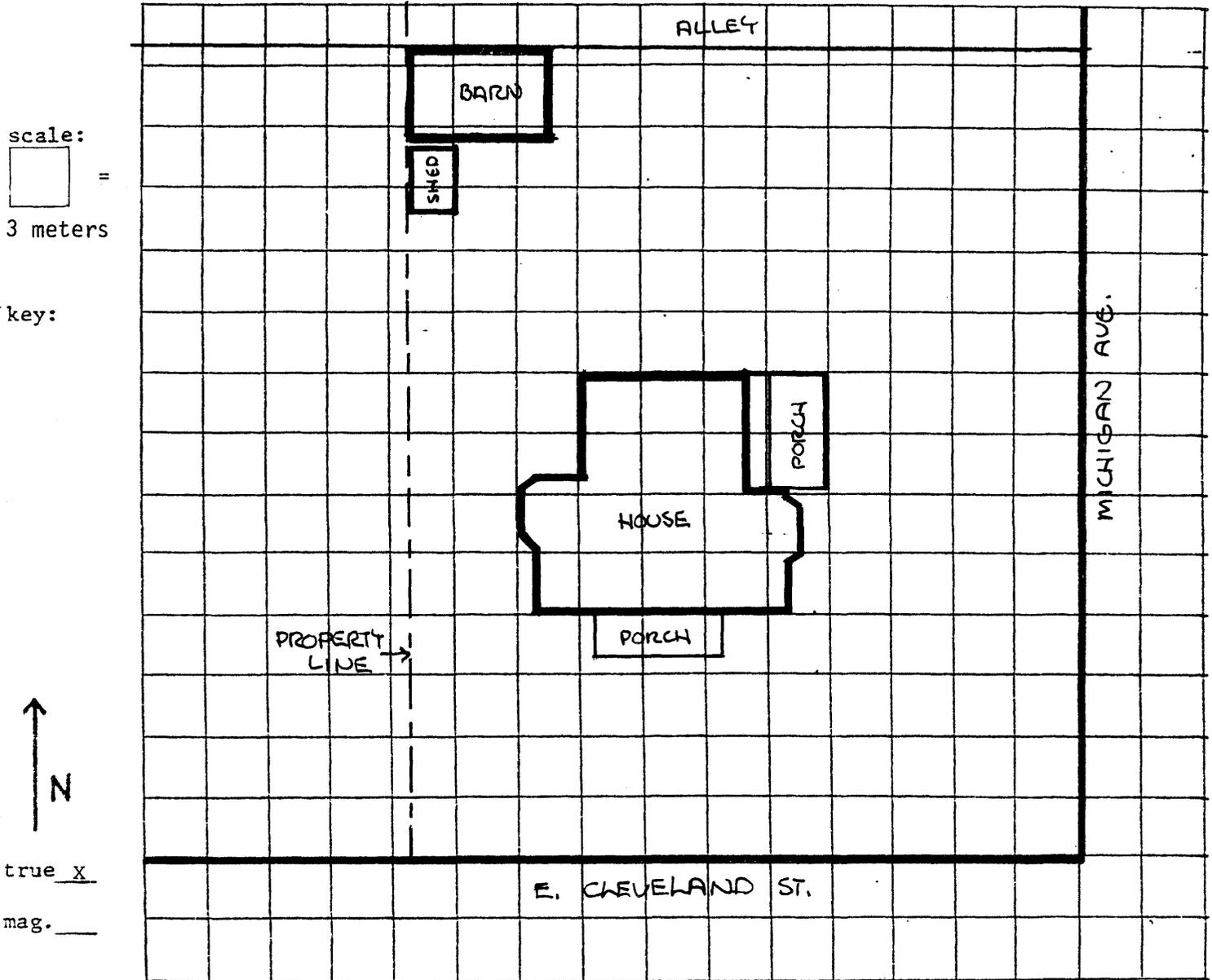
22)Photo Nos. L1-31A, 32A, 33A, 34A, on file at Colorado Historical Society

23)Report Title NA

24)Recorder Manuel M. Weiss 25)Recording Date 23 January 1982

26)Recorder Affiliation Community Services Collaborative 27)Phone No. 303-442-3601

V. SKETCH MAP: Map all features and show the boundaries of the resources. Show all major topographic features, permanent modern features, and vegetation zones as appropriate. Give names of features, streets and addresses if known. Provide scale, key and direction.



28) Location/Access: From the intersection of Highway 287 and East Cleveland, drive east four blocks. The structure is situated on the northwest corner.

29) Boundary Description: Lots 11 and 12, Block K, Lafayette, Colorado

30) Boundary Justification: Limited to the extent of the lots occupied by the structure.

