city, town

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Roseburg

received SEP 2 7 1984

date entered

state Oregon 97470

OCT 25 1984

Type all entries—complete applicable sections Name historic Miller's Mountain House and/or common Roberts Mountain House Location street & number 1195 Roberts Mountain Road . N/A not for publication Roseburg vic. MA vicinity of Fourth Congressional District city, town Oregon 41 Douglas **code** 019 state code county Classification Category Ownership Status **Present Use** district public X occupied agriculture ___ museum X private $\frac{X}{x}$ building(s) __ unoccupied commercial _ park structure both work in progress educational _X_ private residence site **Public Acquisition** Accessible entertainment _ religious N/A in process _ object X yes: restricted government __ scientific N/A being considered ____ yes: unrestricted ____ industrial __ transportation ____ military __ no _ other: **Owner of Property** name Daniel D. and Shirley K. Grimes street & number 1195 Roberts Mountain Road city, town Roseburg N/A vicinity of state Oregon 97470 **Location of Legal Description** courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Douglas County Courthouse N/A street & number city, town Roseburg state Oregon 97470 Representation in Existing Surveys Cultural and Historic Resources has this property been determined eligible? title state X county _ date Volume 2, 1982 federal depository for survey records Douglas County Planning Department

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
excellent _X_ good	deteriorated ruins	unaltered X altered	_X original site moved date	N/A
fair	unexposed			•

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Situated northwest of the peak of Roberts Mountain, the Miller's Mountain House was built as a residence and served early in its history as a stop for the stagecoach freight lines. The structure is a story-and-a-half double plan house and was erected circa 1860. The original architect is unknown. The house is in good condition and is the primary residence of the owners. A vernacular type reflecting French building traditions, the house exhibits Classical Revival finish work.

The property is located in Section 23, Township 28 South, Range 6 West, Williamette Meridian, in Douglas County, Oregon. The Tax Lot is 900, and is located on parcel 2 and includes 1.66 acres which are described as follows:

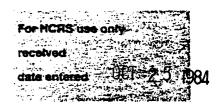
Beginning at 5/8" iron rod on the Westerly right of way line of the Roberts Mountain County Road, from which the Northwest corner of the Jesse Roberts DLC No. 46, Township 28 South, Range 6 West, W.M., bears N 73°00'37" E 662.94 feet and N 30°40'22" E 840.94 feet and N 56°05'08" E 5812.48 feet; thence along said Roberts Mountain County Road right of way S 51°08'48" W 92.46 feet to a 5/8" iron rod, S 15°19'18" W 75.69 feet to a 5/8" iron rod and S 9°14' 32" E 150.08 feet to a 5/8" iron rod; thence leaving said County Road right of way N 89°36'24" W 270.53 feet to a 5/8" iron rod; thence N 0°23'35" E 285.50 feet to a 5/8" iron rod; thence S 89°36'24" E 146.50 feet to a 5/8" iron rod; thence S 39°56'39" E 47.06 feet to a 1/2" iron rod; thence N 79°45'23" E 162.34 feet to the point of beginning.

The house faces east in a rural landscape and is located approximately 80 feet from the road in the rolling foothills at the base of Roberts Mountain. The neighboring landscape consists of larger ranches devoted to raising sheep. This pastoral setting is punctuated by the Southern Pacific railroad line of 1882 which runs in a southwesterly direction approximately 100 feet from the northwest corner of the property.

The 1.66 acres contains the hosue, pumphouse and garage with attached shed. There are several noteworthy old plantings in various locations around the structures. At the southeast corner of the main house is located a delicate moss rose bush and 12 feet directly south of that is a pear tree which is of a variety that does not ripen easily and the fruit stores well for the winter. Ten feet south of the southwest corner of the house is a large black walnut tree and 25 feet southwest of the same corner is a large old apple tree. At the northwest corner of the house is located a large wisteria vine with a root base circumference of 10 inches. Approximately 30 feet northeast of the northeast corner of the house is a locust tree whose branches appear in the circa 1935 photograph. Also in that photograph are shown the lilacs located on the north side of the pumphouse. The two cottonwood trees which appear on the east side of the house in that photograph were removed in the 1950s.

The double plan house is located approximately 80 feet from the road on the northern half of the property frontage. The floor system has a hand hewn perimeter sill with a post and beam substructure. The joists run east to west approximately 2 feet on center and are a mix of milled lumber and logs flattened on the top by an adze. The perimeter sill now rests on a concrete block stem wall built on poured concrete footings which were installed some time during the 1960s. The exterior perimeter measures 36 feet 6 inches long by 26 feet 6 inches deep.

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The walls of the box construction house are 2 x 12 inch vertical boards over which the horizontal 1 x 8 inch shiplap siding is directly nailed. The one-and-a-half story house is topped by a double pitched roof whose ridge runs the length of the rectangular structure. Both the east and west elevations of the roof have approximately a 30° pitch on the lower portions and a 60° pitch on the upper portions. The roof is supported on 2 x 4 inch rafters, 2 feet on center. The change in pitch of the east half of the roof occurs behind the support of the 2 x 12 inch plank wall which terminates at the underside of the rafter. The slightly different pitch on lengths of the west half of the roof has the change in pitch occurring over the west 2 x 12 inch plank wall. The original roofing material was cedar shingles over random width spaced sheathing. The current roofing is three tab asphalt shingles on plywood which was attached over the spaced sheathing.

A double flue brick chimney penetrates the ridge of the roof slightly to the north of center. The chimney is the original and has had plaster applied to the exterior The chimney is an early type, having a straight shaft and projecting brick drip ledges on the east and west sides.

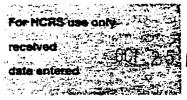
The front porch extends the length of the east facade and originally had a wooden floor and seven columns. The current lowered porch floor is concrete and the five 6 inch square hollow columns are replacements. The two extra columns in the original design were placed to the right and to the left of the center column. These two columns were paired closely with the next two columns and they framed the two entry doors. The columns were removed prior to 1935 and the original columns were replaced before 1952.

There are two entry doors and two six-over-six double-hung windows located on the east facade. The staircase was originally located where the small four-pane casement window is now placed. The date for the removal of this staircase which was the only access to the second floor is not known but it was before 1935. All fenestrations on the east side have a plain 1×5 inch vertical casing topped by a simple pediment. Above each pediment is a plain torus drip molding. The porch ceiling is constructed of the same 1×8 inch shiplap siding as the exterior walls of the house.

Two original six-over-six double-hung windows with a simple square drip molding are located on the north elevation. An original six-over-six double-hung window has been changed from a vertical to a horizontal position at the west end of this side. This alteration was performed before 1952. The south side of the house has two six-over-six original double-hung windows placed directly opposite the two on the north side and there is a small four-pane casement window near the west end of the south wall. The casement window is not original but is an early alteration. The drip moldings are missing from the two first floor windows.

A 1 x 12 inch plain frieze is placed on the gabled ends of the house under the 8 inch overhang which consists of a 1 x 12 inch board running with the slope of the roof. A plain 1 x 3 inch barge board caps the outer edge of the overhang. A molding consisting of a fillet, a scotia, and a torus is located at the junction of the frieze and the overhang. The plain frieze board terminates at its lower edge with a horizontal 1 x 5 inch board which has a drip molding placed between it and the frieze board.

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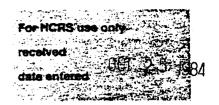
The west side of the house has a glassed-in porch addition 20'10" long and 5' wide, which is 2 x 4 inch frame construction with 1 x 5 inch horizontal shiplap siding. The porch has seven 2 x 4-foot tall single pane stationary windows. The rear wall of the main body of the house is sided with clapboards. This wall which is not original, contains two doors which open onto the porch, two six-over-six double-hung windows and one six-pane casement window. When the house was built, it had a rear west porch 9×10 inches deep extending the length of the west elevation. Evidence for this can be found under the house where the change in substructure shows joists running north to south and 1 x 4 inch tongue and groove flooring running perpendicular to the original rear wall of the house. The ceiling in this area of the house is shiplap which matches the front porch ceiling.

The first floor of the house contains a 16' deep x 17'9" long room on the south side which is now used as a living room. The room has a ceiling of 1 x 8 inch flat tongue and groove boards which are unpainted and are original. The walls are papered and have a 1 \times 6 inch plain baseboard with a 3/4 inch quarter round at the junction of the floor. The floor covering is a 1×2 inch oak flooring, the installation date is unknown. A staircase to the second floor is located in the northwest corner of the room and dates pre-1935. The original brick fireplace and fir mantel has simple Doric wood pilasters on each side of the segmental arch painted brick opening. An original door is centered on the west wall and originally would have opened onto the rear porch. The east entry door is original and is a four panel cedar door with separate moldings holding the panels in place. The casings around the doors and windows are a plain 1×4 inch board. A 3 foot wide hallway is located at the northeast corner of the room and passes into the north dining room. This hallway occupies the space where the original staircase entered the house from the front porch.

The ceiling in the dining room is the original 1 x 8 inch flat tongue and groove unpainted boards. The floor in the dining room and adjacent kitchen is a recently installed 1 x 6 inch oak plank flooring. The original rear wall of the house was removed between the dining room and kitchen prior to 1952, and adds a 9'10" area which was part of the open back porch. The dining room measures 16 x 14 feet 3 inches and has an 8'3" high ceiling as opposed to the 6'6" ceiling of the original porch area. The east entry door located in the dining room is original and matches the east and west doors in the living The walls in both these rooms are papered. The baseboard, window and door casings in the dining room and kitchen match those in the living room. The fireplace facing is not original in the dining room.

To the south of the kitchen is the bathroom, installed before 1952. It measures 7 \times 9'10". Off the bath is a small pantry which is tucked under the current staircase. To the south of the bath, on what is the remainder of the originally open porch, is an 18'2" x 9'10" bedroom. The ceiling is the exterior shiplap which matches the front porch and runs through the bath and kitchen on a north to south axis. This ceiling is painted. The flooring of the bedroom is a recently installed 1 x 2 inch oak floorcovering and the walls are papered. At a point 7'4" from the south wall of the bedroom, there is a heavy paint line indicating that the south end of the rear open porch may have originally been closed in as a room.

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There are two be rooms upstairs. The south bedroom measures 12' wide x 17'9" long. There is a flat panelled ceiling, sloping sides following the roof rafters and approximately 4' high knee walls. All of the walls are papered and the floor is the original 1 x 6 inch planks which are painted. The north bedroom is $14'3" \times 12'$ and the walls and flooring are of the same materials and coverings. The south bedroom has a closet on the north wall which is placed over where the original staircase penetrated the floor.

The pumphouse is located approximately 16' due north of the house and measures 10' x 12' x 6". It is a one story structure with a hip roof which was originally covered with cedar shingles over spaced sheathing. It is currently covered with three tab asphalt shingles. The eaves are boxed in and have a 6" overhang around the perimeter below which is an 8" plain frieze. The walls are 2 x 4 inch studs, 2 feet on center and the siding is 1 x 5 inch horizontal shiplap. The siding covers the entire north side and half of each of the east and west sides. The rest of the structure was originally covered with a wood diagonal lattice forming 8" squares. The current owners have enclosed the rest of the west side and all of the south side with windows and a door, but have left the lattice on the east front side. The lattice fence between the pumphouse and the house is made of the original wood lattice and is a continuation of the east lattice wall. The structure still serves its original purpose as a pumphouse but it also is used as an artist's studio. The pumphouse was built prior to 1935 and it contains the currently used well which replaced an earlier one that was located on the east side of the house.

The garage is a front facing gable frame structure which measures 20' wide \times 40' long and is located 14'6" north of the pumphouse. The older east 20×20 foot bay is of 2×4 inch stud construction 2 feet on center and is sided with vertical batt and boards over 1×12 inch spaced diagonal sheathing. The rear 20×20 foot section has the same framing but is sided with 1×5 inch horizontal shiplap attached directly to the studs. The continuous structure has open rafter tails on the sides with a 6" overhang but no fascia board. The front and rear gables have no overhang. Neither of these structures appear in a 1935 photograph of the property.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below							
1400–1499 1500–1599	archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic X agriculture X architecture	conservation economics	landscape architecture law literature military music philosophy politics/government	re religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theaterX transportation other (specify)				

Specific dates c. 1860

Builder/Architect Unknown
Located at 1195 Millers Mountain Road in
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Roseburg, Douglas County, Oregon,

the Miller's Mountain House is significant because of its architectural form and stylistic idioms. The property, located along an early military road, contributed to the early stagecoach transportation system. The land was used for ranching and agricultural production early in the development of Oregon. Thus, the property can be evaluated under Criteria "a" and "c".

The construction date of circa 1860 for Miller's Mountain House is identified by a newspaper article found attached to the east wall that frames the brick fireplace. The article reports the attack onFort Sumpter by the Confederacy which occurred in 1861. The article is not dated but it appears to have been a current report of the incident.

The shape and stylistic idioms of the structure are not typical of contemporary Oregon houses. The house does not follow the Greek Revival style, so prevalent in Oregon at the time of its construction, and it does not reflect many aspects of later stylistic developments. Rather, it exhibits Classical Revival characteristics.

The double pitched roof with the ridge running the length of the rectangular hosue and its placement being parallel to the road, is reminiscent of the French influences on southern architecture in the United States. The double plan, the porches extending the length of the structure, and the front porch, serving as a gallery, for circulation to the second floor further emphasizes the French influence which is not typically evident in many Oregon structures.

The use of an early 1 x 8 inch shiplap siding, the pedimented window casements, and the installation of frieze boards, casings, and corner boards over the siding at their junction, rather than being butt joined, indicates either an early installation of this type or is evidence of subsequent early alterations. No visible indication of the latter speculation is evident. The siding was installed before the common use of wire cut nails. The nails fastening the siding to the house are 2" machine cut square tapering nails with square tapered heads.

The back-to-back fireplaces, while reminiscent of a hall and parlor house, extend the chimney through the roof at the center of the ridge. This feature, and the projecting brick drip ledges on the east and west sides are typical of circa 1860 construction. The original brick fireplace opening and fir surround with mantel in the living room is a rarity and of a particularly nice quality. The hearth is of a single limestone block which was quarried in Douglas County:

The box structural system of the house, with its 2×12 " plank walls and absence of corner posts, is an excellent example of this type of construction. The planks are nailed directly to the perimeter sill without resting on a ledger board or being placed in a notch. The tops of the walls are held together on the east and west sides by a 1×6 " ribbon board.

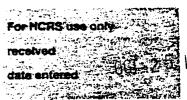
The property was originally part of a Donation Land Claim settled by John A. Liggett in July or October of 1854. Liggett was born in Loward County, Missouri, moved to Oregon in 1853 and he died in September, 1900, in Polk County, Oregon. The size of the original

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Ge	ograp	hical Data						
Acreage of non Quadrangle na UTM Reference	me Rosebui	ty <u>1.66 acres</u> rg, Oregon		Quad	rangle scale 1:62500			
	6 ₁ 9 0 ₁ 2 ₁ 5	4 17 7 14 0 15 10 Northing	B Zone	Easting	Northing			
C			D F H					
Verbal bound	ary descript	ion and justification						
See continuation sheet								
List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries								
state	None	code	county		code			
state	None	code	county		code			
11. Fo	rm Pre	epared By						
name/title organization		raus ity of Oregon c Preservation Pr	rogram	date Marc	h, 15, 1984			
street & numbe	r 1654 Hi	gh Street		telephone (503) 343-2419			
city or town	Eugene			state Oreg	on 97401			
12. Sta	ate His	storic Pres	ervation	Officer	Certification			
The evaluated s	significance of	this property within the	e state is:	\bigcap				
	national	state	_X_local					
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Ristoric 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								
title	Donuty Sta	to Uistonia Dusse		dat	e ,			
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer August 31, 1984 For NPS use only								
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register Entered In the								
Keeper of the National Register Register Company Company								
Attest:				dat	e e			
Chief of Reg	gistration							

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claim was 320 acres. Sometime between 1854 and 1862, the property was transfered to William Rash and his wife, Mary Jane. No recorded deed could be found of this transaction. William Rash, a miller, was born in New York. His wife was born in Alabama and together they moved to Oregon between 1850 and 1852, where five of their six children were born.

The recorded deed from Rash to Alanson Miller is dated April 5, 1862. At this time, the property included the original Liggett claim and another 160 acres in Section 24 that lies east of the Umpqua River. This makes the total size of the property 480 acres. Alanson Miller was born in Pennsylvania. He married his first wife in 1830 and she died while crossing the plains in 1853. He married Susan McBee Miller, from Ohio, in January, 1859, and "settled on the farm at Roberts Mountain in the spring of 1860 where he resided. . . " until his death in April 1877. Miller had seven children by his first wife. The third child was born in Missouri and the rest were born in Illinois. He had no children_by his second wife, Susan, but she had two children by her first marriage to McBee.⁵

The original builder of the house is unconfirmed, however, certain evidence leads to the speculation that it was Alanson Miller rather than William Rash. The 1860 census lists Miller as living in the Myrtle Creek Precinct where the house is located and Rash is listed in the Roseburg precinct. This fact gives creedence to Miller's obituary notice which stated that he settled at Roberts Mountain in the spring of 1860. The discrepancy of the 1862 date on the recorded deed may be the fact that the deed was not recorded for two years, a common occurance at this time period.

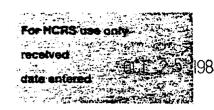
The location of Miller's Mountain House on Roberts Mountain Road is significant to its history. The road existed as early as 1854 and is part of the original military road between Scottsburg and Myrtle Creek. The road was completed, as a passable all season road, in 1859 by Colonel Joe Hooker. The first Oregon-California Stage Company stagecoach ran passed the house in July, 1860. The driver was Stoten Jones. The last stagecoach, driven by Tom Burnett ran on August 12, 1882 / when the Southern Pacific railroad line was completed running south out of Roseburg.

While no documentation of a payment to Alanson Miller could be found among surviving papers of the Oregon-California Stage Company or among the Henry Corbett papers, documentation, other than local lore, can be found in a newspaper column called 'Ramblings' by Paul Jenkins. In an interview with Billy Vinson, who freighted good from the railhead at Roseburg as far south as Ashland, the article states:

"The old Mountain House on the Roberts Hill Road back of Carnes station. . . was a favorite stopping place of freighters in the early days and well remembered by them. Billy Vinson speaks lovingly of the grub, to this day, and of the good spring water there."8

Alanson Miller legally owned the property from 1862 until the probate settlement of his estate in 1879. Since this time period was the heyday of stagecoaching and freighting, it is evident that Miller was the major figure who operated the house as a stage station. Because of the small size of the house and its proximity to better lodging in Roseburg,

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it is doubtful that the passenger lines ever stopped there for lodging. Situated six miles south of Roseburg and at the base of the steep ascent or decline of Roberts Mountain, Miller's Mountain House would have been a logical place to change or water horses. There was an old large notched and pegged horse barn situated northwest of the house until the 1950s.

Miller lists himself as a farmer in both the 1860 and 1870 census. Between the profit made from serving the stagecoach lines and his success with crops and livestock, Miller left an estate valued at over five thousand dollars when he died. During the fifteen years he owned the property, he bought another 160 acres of land making his total property holdings 640 acres by his death in 1877. His estate included an inventory of livestock which lists 458 head of sheep, 60 lambs, 5 horses, 5 yearlings, 1 sow, 1 piglet, 1 bull, 4 dry cows, 5 cows with calves and 3 two year old cattle. The crops listed were 22 bushels of oats and 40 bushels of wheat. The house was furnished with 5 bedsteads, 3 tables, 18 yards of carpeting, 14 chairs, 1 cupboard, 1 stove and numerous other items. 10

The property was sold in 1879 to William Freidlander and in 1883, it is deeded to S. Marks and H. Wallenberg. The latter two men were prominent businessmen and real estate financiers in Roseburg. In the same year, they sold the property to Cyrus Smith who held it until 1888 when John S. Miller, who is believed to be the eldest son of Alanson Miller, bought it. The property remained with the Miller family until 1904. The property passed through several owners but was held by the C. J. Perrine family from 1907 until 1916 and by the F. Curtis Calkins family from 1930 until 1943. The original property lines of the land sold to Alanson Miller in 1862 remained intact until 1971, when the 1.66 acres, currently considered for this nomination, was sold as a separate piece.

Oregon Donation Land Claims, compiled by the Oregon State Archives, Oregon State Library.

² United States Census - Douglas County, 1860, p. 19.

³ Obituary Notice, <u>Roseburg Plaindealer</u>, April 14, 1877, p. 2.

⁴ <u>United States Census</u> - Douglas County, 1860, p. 19.

⁵ Ibid. p. 19 and <u>United States Census</u> - Douglas County, 1880, p. 97.

⁶ Preston's Sectional and County Map of Oregon and Washington, 1856.

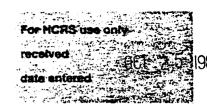
⁷ Paul Jenkins, "Ramblings," <u>Roseburg News Review</u>, August 11, 1937.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Phone conversation with Frank Stringer on 3/10/84. Stringer owned the property from 1952 until 1971 and he demolished the barn.

¹⁰ Probate records of Alanson Miller, Douglas County Courthouse, Roseburg, Oregon.

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Oregon Donation Land Claims, Oregon State Archives, Oregon State Library, Salem.

United States Census, Douglas County, 1860 and 1880.

Roseburg Plaindealer, April 14, 1877, p. 2.

Roseburg News Review, August 11, 1937.

Preston's Sectional and County Map of Oregon and Washington, 1856.

Douglas County probate records.

Frank Stringer, Personal communication.

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age

Miller's Mountain House is located in Section 23, Township 28 South, Range 6 West of the Willamette Meridian, Douglas County, Oregon and is further described as follows:

Beginning at the 5/8" iron rod on the Westerly right of way line of the Roberts Mountain County Road, from which the Northwest corner of the Jesse Roberts DLC No. 46, Township 28 South, Range 6 West, W.M., bears N $73^{0}00'37"$ E 662.94 feet and N $30^{0}40'22"$ E 840.94 feet and N $56^{0}05'$ 08" E 5812.48 feet; thence along said Roberts Mountain County Road right of way S $51^{0}08'48"$ W 92.46 feet to a 5/8" iron rod, S $15^{0}19'18"$ W 75.69 feet to a 5/8" iron rod and S $9^{0}14'32"$ E 150.08 feet to a 5/8" iron rod; thence leaving said County Road right of way N $89^{0}36'24"$ W 270.53 feet to a 5/8" iron rod; thence N $0^{0}23'35"$ E 285.50 feet to a 5/8" iron rod; thence S $89^{0}36'24"$ E 146.50 feet to a 5/8" iron rod; thence S $39^{0}56'39"$ E 47.06 feet to a 1/2" iron rod; thence N $79^{0}45'23"$ E 162.34 feet to the point of beginning.

Douglas County Tax Assessor's Office SEE MAR Section 23, Township 28S, Range 6W. W.M. 15 Miller's Mountain House 1199 Roberts Mountain Road Roseburg, Douglas County, Oregon 21 4001 SEC 500 0.63Ap SEE 700 4652Ac 700 MAP 1000 **L.**