

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Arthur Miller House
other names/site number 253 East Market Guesthouse

2. Location

street & number 253 E. Market Street not for publication
city, town Nappanee vicinity
state IN code IN county Elkhart code 039 zip code 46550

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: na
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Patrick R. Raber 2-3-92
Signature of certifying official Indiana Department of Natural Resources Date
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register. Patrick Andrews 4/2/92
 See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other, (explain:)
Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)
DOMESTIC: single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
DOMESTIC: hotel

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: limestone
walls BRICK

roof ASPHALT

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1922

Significant Dates

1922

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Frazier, Clarence E., Architect

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of property less than one acre

UTM References

A

1	6
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5	8	3	6	0	0
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4	5	8	8	1	6	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

C

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B

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 Zone Easting Northing

D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Lot 38 of the original town of Nappanee.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

This is the original and existing boundary for the property.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Laura Thayer, Historic Preservation Consultant
 organization N/A date May 29, 1989
 street & number 3905 N. 500 W. telephone 812/372-6806
 city or town Columbus state IN zip code 47201

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Section No. 7 Page 1 Arthur Miller House

The Miller House is located on Market Street in Nappanee. The commercial district of the city of about 4,700 people is located two blocks to the west. The house is located on the southwest corner of Madison and Market Streets. U.S. 6 runs through Nappanee on Market Street.

The Miller House is located in a residential neighborhood of late 19th and early 20th century houses. The lot on which the house is located is 66 feet wide (Market Street side) by 132 feet deep (Madison Street side).

The two-and-a-half story brick house is rectangular in plan, and has a side gable roof. The foundation is faced in limestone. The house, which faces north, is three bays (main facade) by two bays wide. There is a one story, gable roof sun room on the east side of the house (photo 2).

The principal entry is located in the center of the main facade (photo 5). There is a one story portico at this entrance, with Ionic columns supporting an elliptical archway, surmounted by a pedimented gable. The portico rests on a front stoop of brick. There is a brick walkway leading to the stoop. The door itself is a wood panel door with sidelights and an elliptical fanlight.

Most of the windows in the house are multi-light, double-hung, wood sash windows, with wood shutters (photos 1, 2, 3). On the main facade, there are four windows on the first story, two each on each side of the entry, three windows on the second story, and three gable roof dormer windows. First story windows, have six lights in each sash, stone sills, and splayed brick lintels with stone keystones. Second story window openings are located just below the building's entablature. These have stone sills.

Other types of windows in the house include a round window in the gable of the sun room (photo 3), and a Palladian-like, stained-glass window (photos 3, 6) in the center of the second story of the rear (south side) of the house. The windows of the sun room are grouped (photo 3), giving the room an almost continuous band of windows on three sides. There is also an exterior door in this room of the house, on the north side (photo 2). It is a multi-light, wood and glass door with sidelights.

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There are two plain brick chimneys, both exterior chimneys: a large one near the east end of the south side of the house, and a smaller one toward the west end of the south side (photo 3).

Other decorative features include a vertical brick band around the house at the water table (photo 1), and an entablature across the top of the front and rear of the house that returns at the gable ends (photos 1, 2, 3). Down spouts on the front of the house, one each at each end, resemble pilasters, with Doric capitals at the top (photos 1, 2).

The interior of the house has an arrangement typical of the Colonial Revival style, with a large entry hall (photo 4), living room to the east (background of photo 4), and dining room to the west. The kitchen, located south of the dining room, is accessed through a butler's pantry. The sun room is accessed through the French doors on the east side of the living room.

The U-shaped stairway, located in the entry hall, starts on the west side of the hall. The Palladian-like, stained glass window, located on the landing (photo 6), is a focal point for the second floor. There are four bedrooms, two on each side of the central upstairs hall, and a bath at the front of the house. A stairway located between the two bedrooms on the east side, leads up to an open attic. Half-baths have been installed in closets in each bedroom.

The interior (photos 4, 6) exhibits many decorative elements of the Colonial Revival style. There are elaborate baseboards and crown moldings (photo 4); French doors between the entry hall and the dining room, and between the living room and the sun room (photo 4); multi-panel, solid wood doors (photo 6); and a banister with turned spindles and a molded railing (photo 6).

One of the few alterations to the house is the addition of a small screened-in porch and a garage on the rear (photo 3). The garage, constructed in 1981, is a sympathetic addition, with details from the house such as the vertical brick band at the water table, and a keystone over the door.

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The Arthur Miller House, significant under criterion C for its architecture, is the finest example of the Colonial Revival style in Nappanee. Both the exterior and interior are virtually unaltered from their original appearance.

The Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory, updated for Nappanee in 1987, gave the building a rating of "outstanding." It was the only one of ten Colonial Revival buildings identified in Nappanee which was given this rating. The style, developed in the late 19th century in the eastern United States, was initially seen in large, grand houses. It was embraced by a fashion conscious, socially elite class. As it grew in popularity, a variety of versions of the style emerged, to accommodate economic classes ranging from wealthy to working class. The style was popular in Indiana from about 1890 to 1940.

In many ways, the Miller House is typical of the Colonial Revival style of the period between about 1910 and 1930. Houses of the style during this time were generally two-story, rectangular blocks, with side-gabled roofs, similar to the Miller House. Among other typical features seen in the house are a main facade with an odd number of bays; a central entry with a columned portico; and grouped windows with multi-light sashes. In Indiana, most houses of the style were built from designs in pattern books. Few were designed by architects. The Miller House, was designed by Chicago Architect Clarence Elbert Frazier (1882-1942). The hand of the architect can be seen in detailing and accouterments which transcend the ordinary Colonial Revival. Among these are the elliptically-arched, columned portico (photo 5), the butler's pantry, the sun room (photos 2, 3), the dormer windows (photos 1, 2), distinctive interior moldings (photos 4, 6), and the Palladian-like, stained glass window (photo 4), features usually seen only on high style versions. In a small, conservative town like Nappanee, the Miller House was one of the grandest houses of the early 20th century.

At the time the house was constructed, in 1922, the population of Nappanee was about 2,700. The city was, as it is now, composed of a small commercial area, surrounded

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on four sides by residential districts. The majority of the houses were modest. Most early 20th century houses are bungalows, American foursquares, or vernacular houses.

The two houses of the Colonial Revival style which are most comparable to the Miller House are located at 458 E. Van Buren Street, and 251 E. Market Street. The Van Buren Street house, constructed in 1937, was given a rating of "notable" in the survey. It is like the Miller House in form and material and has a similar portico. It lacks many of the distinctive features of the Miller House, however, such as dormer windows and a sun room. The House at 251 E. Market Street, built around 1925, also received a rating of "notable." A two story brick house with a hipped roof, it is very simple representation of the style, defined mainly by a columned porch. The integrity of this house has been diminished by the addition of an aluminum soffit.

Clarence Frazier, architect of the Miller House, was the son of local architect Henry Frazier, with whom he did his early training. A biography of the younger Frazier, in Biographical Dictionary of American Architects, Deceased, (H. and E. Withey, 1952) states that he studied mechanical engineering in Chicago, and later worked in the office of Worthman and Steinbach. According to the biography, Frazier's works include the Observatory at Loyola University; homes in Glencoe, Winnetka, Evanston, and other suburban cities; and several small manufacturing plants in Chicago. (Historical groups in these cities were contacted, but none of the houses or manufacturing plants designed by Frazier could be identified.)

The Miller House was constructed for Arthur Miller, founder of Miller Lumber and Coal. Miller was born in Nappanee in 1877. He had previously worked at Nappanee Lumber and Manufacturing, but, in about 1910, started his own business, located in the building at 303 S. Main, which is extant. Miller continued to be involved in the business until about 1955. Since the founding of the town, in 1874, Nappanee's economy was based on wood. Products included lumber, furniture, and kitchen cabinets.

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The wealth of the town was concentrated in the hands of a few industrialists. This may account for a comparatively small number of high style houses. Among those that survive with a high degree of integrity are the Queen Anne style Frank and Katharine Coppes House at 302 E. Market Street (listed on the National Register of Historic Places), and Prairie style houses at 352 E. Market Street and 408 N. Madison Street.

The Miller family occupied the house until 1960. It has been a bed and breakfast since 1988.

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Photographs Page 1 Arthur Miller House - 1/1

The following information is the same for all photographs:

1. Arthur Miller House
2. Nappanee, Indiana
3. Laura Thayer
5. 3905 N. 500 W., Columbus, IN 47201

Other information is as follows:

Photo 1

4. January 1989
6. camera facing southeast
7. 1 of 6

Photo 2

4. January 1989
6. camera facing southwest
7. 2 of 6

Photo 3

4. January 1989
6. camera facing northwest
7. 3 of 6

Photo 4

4. January 1989
6. camera facing southeast
7. 4 of 6

Photo 5

4. June 1991
6. camera facing south
7. 5 of 6

Photo 6

4. June 1991
6. camera facing southeast
7. 6 of 6

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