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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

NOV 30 2000

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1. Name of Property:

historic name: William M. Miller Farm (Name Change and Boundary Increase)

other names/site number: MA-130

2. Location:

street & number: 1099 Parrish Road

city or town: Richmond state: Kentucky code: KY county: Madison

code: 151 zip code: 40475

vicinity: X not for publication: NA

3. State/Federal Agency Certification:

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ___ nationally ___ statewide X locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

David L. Morgan / 11-16-00

Signature of Certifying Official Date
David L. Morgan, SHPO and Executive Director

Kentucky Heritage Council / State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal Agency and Bureau Date

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

_____/_____
Signature of Commenting or Other Official Date

_____/_____
State or Federal Agency and Bureau Date

4. National Park Service Certification:

I, hereby certify that this property is: Bar
Signature of the Keeper/Date:

William M. Miller House. Madison County, Kentucky

- Entered in the National Register.
- 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):

Elson H. Beall
1/4/01

5. Classification

Ownership of Property:

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property:

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>5</u>		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>	total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 3

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

6. Function or Use:

Historic Functions:

Agriculture/Field

Funerary/Cemetery

Transportation/Road

Current Function:

Agriculture/Field

Funerary/cemetery

Transportation/Road

William M. Miller House. Madison County, Kentucky.

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

NA for expansion area

Materials:

foundation: NA for expansion area

roof: NA

walls: NA

other: NA

Narrative Description: **See Continuation pg. 7-1.**

8. Statement of Significance:

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations:

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or a grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

William M. Miller House. Madison County, Kentucky.

Areas of Significance:

Agriculture

Period of Significance:

1836-1889

Significant Dates: **NA**

Significant Person: **William M. Miller**

Cultural Affiliation: **NA**

Architect/Builder: **Unknown**

Narrative Statement of Significance:

See Continuation pg. 8-1.

9. Major Bibliographical References:

See Continuation pg. 9-1.

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 # _____.

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Local government
- Other State agency
- University
- Federal agency

William M. Miller House. Madison County, Kentucky.

10. Geographical Data:

Acreage of Property 150 acres

UTM References: **Richmond South Quad**

Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>16 738740</u>	<u>4173160</u>
2	<u>16 73⁹²⁶⁰</u>	<u>4172960</u>
3	<u>16 738700</u>	<u>4171990</u>
4	<u>16 738280</u>	<u>4172480</u>

Verbal Boundary Description: **See Continuation pg. 10-1.**

Boundary Justification: **See Continuation pg. 10-1.**

11. Form Prepared By:

name/title **Karen E. Hudson** organization **KEH Preservation Services** street & number **876 Lynn Drive** telephone **(606) 278-3919**
city or town **Lexington** state **KY** zip code **40504**

Property Owner:

name: **Malcolm M. Conlee**
street & number: **316 East Lee Street** telephone: **(256)232-7450** city or town: **Athens** state: **AL** zip code: **35611**

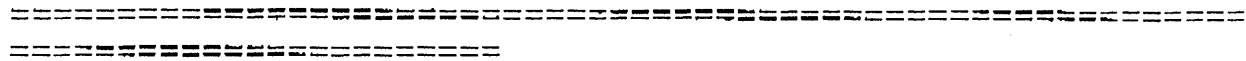
name: **Mrs. Malcolm M. Conlee**
street & number: **702 West Main Street** telephone: **(606) 623-3208** city or town: **Richmond** state: **KY** zip code: **40475**

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

**William M. Miller House
Madison County, Kentucky**



NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The William M. Miller House (MA-130) and approximately six acres, including two barns, were listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979. This is an amendment to the original nomination. There are two parts to the amendment. First, the boundaries are increased to include an area which better conveys the life and work of William Malcolm Miller. Second, the name of the nomination is changed from the "William M. Miller Home" to the "William M. Miller Farm" to better describe the nomination after the boundary expansion.

The William M. Miller farm (MA-130) is located in Madison County approximately seven miles south of Richmond, Kentucky. The farm is situated on the west fork of Harts Fork Creek. The original nomination included three contributing resources, the house, and two barns. The boundary expansion will include seven additional contributing resources and no noncontributing resources. The resources added because of the amendment include: a cemetery, site of a springhouse, a pond, an historic roadbed, the site of an ice house and remnants of pastures, fences, and tree lines that illustrate historic land use patterns.

Today, the William M. Miller house sits back approximately 1000 yards from Parrish Road. Historically, however, it fronted a road which led from Duncanon to the road leading to Crookville (Beers 1876). The long drive(A)which leads from Parrish road to the Miller house today, is the old roadbed. The roadbed was not included in the original nomination. Its location and reference to the house contribute to our understanding of the Miller farm and thus should be included in the boundaries.

The Miller house (B) is a two-story, five-bay, central-passage plan Greek Revival structure with pedimented cross gable and rear ell. The portico is supported by

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**William M. Miller House
Madison County, Kentucky**

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Ionic and square columns. The facade's brickwork is laid in Flemish bond, whereas the sides and rear elevation are common bond.

Inside, the central passage plan features eight rooms, all but one of which has a fireplace. Two parlors are entered from the central hall, and in one of these molded cupboards flank the interior chimney. Original walnut and popular woodwork as well as wood graining remains intact throughout the home.

A second residence (C), a two-story, V-notched, log structure, is now located inside a frame barn. While the first nomination did not indicate the original function of this structure, a number of characteristics, such as the form, openings, and floor, indicate that it was originally built for domestic purposes. In fact, it appears that this was the first home of William M. Miller and that it was not relegated to agricultural functions until after the large brick home was constructed in about 1841.

The Miller family cemetery (D) in which William and Hannah Miller, the first Millers to live on the farm, are buried, is located on a high point of the farm, just across an intermittent creek. The cemetery, which reveals important information about the history of the farm, was not included in the original nomination.

The home is located near two springs. In the "Bluegrass Cultural Landscape Historic Context," Chris Amos demonstrated how the location of springs were one of the most important factors in the siting of settlement period farms. While the springs were not included in the original nomination, their presence and relationship to the home can provide important information about this aspect of Kentucky's settlement history.

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Section 7 Page 3

**William M. Miller House
Madison County, Kentucky**

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The depression, where an icehouse (E) was originally located, can still be detected near the Miller home. Ice houses were built to store large quantities of ice over the spring and summer seasons. They typically consisted of a large circular pit with brick or stone walls that rose to the ground level. The structure was often topped by a conical roof covered with wood shingles. The empty icehouse floor was first covered with sawdust or straw. Then ice, gathered from frozen ponds, was loaded into the house. When it was full, another layer of sawdust or straw was placed on top of the ice. According to Kennedy and Macintire, icehouses were only common on wealthy Kentucky farms (17) and few survive today. The presence of the icehouse attests to Miller's success and lends to our understanding of the operation of his farm. The site of the icehouse, which was not included in the original nomination, is located within the boundary expansion.

The William Malcolm Miller farm has undergone little alteration. There has, for example, been little change in the land use immediately surrounding the domestic yard. As a result, remnants of pastures, fences, and tree lines that illustrate historic land use can still be easily observed. These resources contribute to our understanding of the operation of the Miller farm and should be included in the nomination.

Finally, Miller was a substantial slaveholder, owning 27 slaves in 1860. We know little about the lives of the African American members of the farm--where they slept, ate, or worked, for example. Though their location is presently unknown, it is likely that there were a number of slave houses on the farm. Considering that little disturbance has taken place at the Miller farm it is likely that the archaeological sites associated with the slave houses, once located and analyzed, would yield important information about the life and work of the Miller slaves. It is uncertain if these important archaeological sites would be located within the present six acre National Register boundary. It is probable, however, that they would be encompassed within the proposed boundary expansion.

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Section 8 Page 1

**William M. Miller House
Madison County, Kentucky**

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The William M. Miller House and approximately six acres, including two barns, were listed on the National Register of Historic Places on July 16, 1979. This document proposes an expansion to the original nomination. There are two parts to the proposal. First, the boundaries would increase to include an area which better conveys the life and work of William Malcolm Miller. Second, the name of the nomination would change from the "William M. Miller House" to the "William M. Miller Farm," in order to better define the nomination after the boundary expansion.

The William Malcolm Miller Farm is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion B, for its ability to convey the life and work of William Malcolm Miller, a Kentucky Representative (1855-57) and a highly successful Madison County agriculturalist.

Col. John Miller (1750-1806) was born in Virginia in 1750. He married Jane Delaney in 1776 and they moved to Kentucky in about 1784. He accumulated large land holdings in Madison County; erected the first house in what is today Richmond; was proprietor of the first hotel and tavern; was one of the first three delegates sent from Kentucky County to the Virginia Legislature; and one of the first to represent Madison County in the Kentucky Legislature.

John and Jane's second son William Miller(1776-1841) was born in Virginia in 1776. He married Hannah Lackey (1783-1814). He was known as "Old Town Billy" because he first settled at Milford or Old Town, the original choice for the

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William M. Miller House
Madison County, Kentucky

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Madison County seat and the general area of the property being nominated. This area was originally obtained by his father as part of a large Revolutionary war land grant. William and Hannah Miller are buried in the cemetery located in the area proposed for the boundary expansion; the cemetery was not included in the original nomination. Hannah died in 1814. Thus it appears that William and Hannah Miller were living on the farm, which is the subject of this nomination, before 1814.

One of William and Hannah's son, William Malcolm Miller, was born in 1801. Tax records indicate that he was living on his father's farm, in a separate household, by 1836. Miller M. Miller married Mary Jane Patterson in 1839. In 1841, soon after his fathers death, he purchased a 530 acre tract from his two sisters Dorcas and Eliza (Deed BK2/203 and 2/243). The deed states that this was the "tract of land on which the said William Miller lived and died." While it appears that William Malcolm Miller was living in a separate household on his father's farm by 1836 and certainly by the time he married in 1839, it is unlikely that he built the large two-story brick home, already listed on the National Register, before he legally purchased the property in 1841. It appears, rather, that the log structure now located inside a frame barn was his original home.

William Malcolm Miller was a member of the Kentucky House of Representatives from 1855 to 1857. He is best know, however, for his large land holdings and his highly successful farming operation.

Historians have dubbed the period between 1820 and the Civil War "the farmers age," and Kentucky, with roughly 90% of the population living in rural areas, enjoyed its position as one of the premier agricultural states in the nation. It was during this period that Bluegrass stockgrowers established a national reputation for the finest blooded stock horses, cattle, sheep, swine, and mules. It was also

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**William M. Miller House
Madison County, Kentucky**

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during this period that Miller distinguished himself as one of the leaders among the Bluegrass farmers.

When the census was enumerated in 1860, Miller's farm consisted of 620 acres. While there were 1,039 farms in Madison County at the time, only 75 consisted of over 500 acres. Thus, Miller was in the top 7% of landholders in Madison County in 1860 (Table 1). During the same year, the average value of a Madison County farm was \$7,017, Miller's farm was valued at \$38,000 (Table 2). Finally, Table 3 illustrates that, with the exception of hemp, Miller's 1860 livestock and primary crop production far outnumbered the average Bluegrass farm.

During the antebellum period, slave holding was also a means to measure the economic standing of agriculturalists. In 1860, Miller owned 27 slaves. The white population of Madison County in 1860 was 11,025, but only 877, or less than 1%, were actually slaveholders. Of those that were slaveholders, only 58, one being Miller, owned over 20 slaves.

One of the most critical issues faced by the Commonwealth and the nation during the antebellum period concerned slavery. Although Kentucky ranked third nationally in numbers of slaveowners, due to the State's non-plantation agricultural system, the majority of slaveowners owned less than five slaves. Emotional debates concerning the moral, political, and economic reasons for and against slavery split Kentucky, and ultimately, the nation.

No where in the state was the debate more heated than in Madison County. At the time, Berea was the home of a number abolitionist. The debate became heated in the winter of 1859 when a group of twenty-eight Madison County citizens established the "Vigilance Committee." One of the committee members was William M. Miller. According to Ellis, the men on the committee consisted of "the most prominent, wealthy, influential families in Madison County (150)."

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**William M. Miller House
Madison County, Kentucky**

Table 1
Average Size of Bluegrass Farms
1860 Census

COUNTY	<50 ACRES	50-100 ACRES	100-500 ACRES	>500 ACRES
Anderson	.32	.31	.35	.03
Bourbon	.04	.13	.68	.14
Boyle	.15	.19	.58	.07
Clark	.12	.19	.60	.08
Fayette	.11	.13	.65	.11
Franklin	.28	.26	.42	.03
Garrard	.16	.20	.56	.08
Harrison	.23	.30	.45	.02
Jessamine	.42	.19	.37	.02
Madison	.18	.21	.53	.07
Mercer	.24	.38	.36	.02
Scott	.21	.20	.54	.05
Woodford	.14	.13	.68	.05
State Average	.39	.29	.29	.01
W.M. Miller				620 acres

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William M. Miller House
Madison County, Kentucky

Table 2
Average Value of Bluegrass Farms and Equipment
1860 Census

COUNTY	# OF FARMS	AVERAGE VALUE OF FARM	AVERAGE VALUE OF EQUIPMENT PER FARM
Anderson	558	3,223	93
Bourbon	628	20,759	227
Boyle	408	8,394	190
Clark	725	9,088	129
Fayette	691	19,438	201
Franklin	648	3,973	98
Garrard	576	6,700	113
Harrison	1,247	4,517	109
Jessamine	737	7,188	129
Madison	1,039	7,017	101
Mercer	77	5,632	133
Scott	943	7,204	127
Woodford	512	12,973	302
State Average	766	3,490	89
<i>W.M. Miller</i>		<i>38,000</i>	<i>500</i>

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William M. Miller House
Madison County, Kentucky

Table 3
Average Production of Livestock and Major Crops
On Bluegrass Farms
1860 census

COUNTY	HORSES	MULES	CATTLE	SHEEP	HOGS	WHEAT	CORN	HEMP
Anderson	6	2	4	10	38	95	868	0
Bourbon	12	14	20	27	40	467	2127	1.35
Boyle	9	9	12	21	52	222	1817	1.25
Clark	10	6	15	19	41	128	1457	.77
Fayette	6	6	16	22	44	319	2131	2.18
Franklin	6	2	5	9	30	130	880	.20
Garrard	9	6	9	14	56	151	1437	55.10
Harrison	6	2	5	12	23	155	1603	0
Jessamine	7	2	6	11	25	258	950	.79
Madison	9	5	10	14	43	90	1303	0
Mercer	7	3	6	14	41	149	1080	.36
Scott	7	4	7	13	27	170	1173	.26
Woodford	11	4	11	23	45	357	1480	2.36
<i>W.M. Miller</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>67</i>	<i>46</i>	<i>70</i>	<i>150</i>	<i>500</i>	<i>4000</i>	<i>0</i>

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**William M. Miller House
Madison County, Kentucky**

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According to the same scholar, the committee were "men of property, social standing, wealth, prominence, education--respectable men, well-known and, in some cases, popular in the community (161)."

While the committee expanded, the characteristics of the new members varied little from the founders. For example, in 1860 slightly over 100 individuals in Madison County owned as many as fifteen slaves or more; 24 of those slaveholders were themselves committee members. At least 26 more were people closely related to committee members, so that the committee of 1859 represented the prominent Madison County slaveholders very directly. Ellis, estimated that more than half of the total number of slaves in Madison County were owned by the committee men and their relatives (161).

In conclusion, according to Ellis, membership in the "Vigilance Committee", of which Miller was one of the twenty-eight original founders, was a sure sign of political and economic success. However, Ellis, also reported that only one of Miller's thirty slaves (Moses) remained with him through emancipation, many of them enlisting in the Federal army (203). While there is no doubt that the Civil War and the subsequent loss of his slave labor had a negative effect on Miller's farming operation, he continued to expand his farm so that by the time of his death in 1889 it included 660 acres. His obituary noted that "he was a prominent man of considerable property." He left 300 acres of the farm to his son Malcolm M. Miller (Will BK1/437). The will read "I hereby devise to my son Malcolm M. Miller.... the following portion of my farm situated in Madison County, Kentucky upon which I now reside all of which is situated on the west side of Harts Fork Creek and upon which is situated the dwelling house and other buildings...." He referred to the parcel as the "house tract." He left the remainder of his farm, 360 acres, to his other son, John C. Miller.

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William M. Miller House
Madison County, Kentucky

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At the time of his death, Miller's farm consisted of 660 acres. His will referred to 300 acres as the "house tract." The 155 acres being proposed for listing in the National Register is the portion of the "house tract" that has both historic significance and integrity. Areas of the original "house tract" located outside the proposed boundaries have lost integrity due to the addition of buildings after the period of significance and change in land use. Criteria for defining boundaries of rural historic landscapes offered in National Register Bulletin 30: Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes were employed to determine the proposed boundaries. The criteria used were boundary demarcations, right-of-way, natural features, edges of new development, current legal boundaries and long-standing vegetation (26). The boundary expansion includes a number of contributing resources that were eliminated from the original boundary--old road bed, cemetery, location of icehouse and springs, pastures, and boundary demarcations. In addition the boundary expansion is large enough that it will likely encompass the archaeological sites of slave housing which has yet to be identified. Finally, the boundary expansion is the area which best conveys the life and work of William M. Miller.

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William M. Miller House
Madison County, Kentucky

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Madison County Deed Books

Madison County Will Books

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William M. Miller House
Madison County, Kentucky

Miller, William Harris

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U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service

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1024-0018
(8-86)

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Section 10 Page 1

William M. Miller House. Madison County, KY

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Madison County PVA Map 58, Parcel 6 and 6A.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

At the time of Miller's death, his farm consisted of 660 acres. His will referred to 300 acres as the "house tract." The 155 acres being proposed for listing in the National Register is the portion of the "house tract" that has both historic significance and integrity.. This is the area which today best conveys the life and work of William M. Miller.

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**William M. Miller Farm
Madison County, Kentucky**

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PHOTOGRAPHS (pg.1)

Photo 1

Karen E. Hudson

April 10, 2000

Kentucky Heritage Council

Driveway from Parrish Road to Miller house, original road bed, showing pastures surrounding home.

Photo 2

Karen E. Hudson

April 10, 2000

Kentucky Heritage Council

William M. Miller house facade

Photo 3

Karen E. Hudson

April 10, 2000

Kentucky Heritage Council

Rear ell of William M. Miller House.

Photo 4

Karen E. Hudson

April 10, 2000

Kentucky Heritage Council

Frame barn surrounding log house.

Photo 5

Karen E. Hudson

April 10, 2000

Kentucky Heritage Council

Log house inside frame barn

Photo 6

Karen E. Hudson

April 10, 2000

Kentucky Heritage Council

Depression at site of icehouse