

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received JAN 17 1986
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic John Milne House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 804 Park Avenue S. W. not for publication

city, town Albuquerque vicinity of

state New Mexico code 35 county Bernalillo code 001

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. Chris Key

street & number 211 Twelfth Street N. W.

city, town Albuquerque vicinity of state New Mexico 87102

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Courthouse Annex

street & number 505 Central Avenue N. W.

city, town Albuquerque state New Mexico 87102

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Landmarks Survey of Albuquerque has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date October, 1979 federal state county local

depository for survey records Economic Development Dept., 600 Second St., N. W.

city, town Albuquerque state New Mexico 87102

7. Description

Condition excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered**Check one** original site moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Milne House is located just west of downtown Albuquerque, a remnant of an early 20th century residential neighborhood on Park Avenue. The structure is a two-story simplified Prairie Style, single-family residence of frame/stucco construction; it is basically a square with a rear two-story extension. The broad, hip roof (recently reshingled with fiberglass shingles) has a three-foot overhang supported by carved brackets. A large open front porch under a low hip roof faces toward Park Avenue and Robinson Park--the City's oldest public park--across Central Avenue to the north.

(See continuation sheets)

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Three-over-one wood sash windows are used throughout. On the front second story are paired windows placed at the extreme east and west ends of the north front, accenting the horizontality of the design; a matching pair of windows accents the north corners of the east and west walls. Triple windows on a broad projecting bay look out on the front porch. The front entry, a wood single leaf door with a single large door light, is recessed at the left side of the bay. The porch displays long, low stuccoed arches and a low, capped stuccoed balustrade. Its original tongue and groove wood ceiling is intact as are its carved roof brackets which match those on the house roof. A multi-windowed sleeping porch is located on the south wall above an enclosed kitchen-service area.

The only significant alteration to the original structure appears to be the recent addition of a steel staircase on the east side to a former window which has been converted to a door (attached photo, taken in 1979, was taken before staircase was added). The owner plans to restore the structure to the original window and remove the steel staircase.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates building permit 1917 Builder/Architect J. W. McQuade

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Milne House is of state significance as the home of John Milne, one of New Mexico's leading educators. Milne had the house built in 1917, six years after he was named Superintendent of Schools for the Albuquerque School District. For the following 39 years until his death in 1956, Milne lived in the house while directing the growth of one of the largest schools districts in the country. During his tenure as Superintendent--at 45 years a national record for such service--Milne initiated and/or encouraged many innovations in State education. He developed an integrated school system in which neither race nor special learning problems were allowed to isolate or handicap any student. Spanish-speaking children were encouraged to look upon their language as an asset rather than as a liability. He also integrated use of the media into educational programs. Albuquerque's phenomenal growth, during this time, placed extraordinary demands on its school system. Milne guided this expansion from five to 67 schools with a student population of over 40,000 while providing for future growth with farsighted purchase of school sites. Called "Mr. Education" by many New Mexicans, John Milne was eulogized by the Albuquerque papers as "one of its most valuable citizens. . . . It was through his diligence and foresight that the school system was able to keep pace with the phenomenal growth of the City."

(See continuation sheets)

9. Major Bibliographical References

1. A Boy's Albuquerque, Kenneth Balcomb
2. The Albuquerque Public Schools, E. P. Harrington, 1963
3. History of New Mexico, Frank Reaves
4. "History of the Public Schools in Albuquerque", Tom Wiley

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Albuquerque west

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	3	3	4	9	0	1	0	3	8	8	3	5	3	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property is located on Lots 5 and 6 of Block 45 of the NEW MEXICO TOWN COMPANIES ORIGINAL TOWNSITE; the lot dimensions are approximately 50' x 125'

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state N/A code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Chris Key, Owner, with the assistance of Mary Davis, City of ABQ

organization date September 5, 1985

street & number 211 Twelfth Street N. W. telephone (505) 242-9097

city or town Albuquerque state New Mexico

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 1-8-86

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 2-13-86

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Milne was born August 4, 1880, to Thomas and Catherine Milne of Scotland. He attended State Normal School at Milwaukee, Wisconsin. His first teaching experiences were in the Midwest from 1899-1901, where he served as principal for one year in Milford, Wisconsin.

He came to Albuquerque in 1905, continuing his education at the University of New Mexico and receiving a degree of Bachelor of Science. He also completed a Masters of Arts Degree from Columbia University in New York. In 1956 he received an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws from the University of New Mexico.

John Milne joined the Albuquerque Public Schools in 1907 as principal of the Third Ward Elementary School. The next fall he became a principal, coach, and a teacher of mathematics at Albuquerque High School. He remained principal until 1911, when he was named Superintendent of Schools for the Albuquerque School District.

As Superintendent, he saw the number of schools in Albuquerque grow from five to 67 in which 40,000 pupils were enrolled. Milne foresaw the dramatic growth which was to occur in Albuquerque and overcame opposition to his plans for expansion. The school system in Albuquerque can thank the foresight of John Milne for the many valuable tracts of land which it currently owns.

John Milne wanted to develop one of the best school systems in the Southwest. He applied himself to increase teachers' salaries and improve fringe benefits.

He was chiefly responsible for the Emergency Act of 1935 which now brings the State school system twelve million dollars per year from a special sales tax.

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During the expansion of the Albuquerque School System, Mr. Milne faced a problem with racial integration. In 1939 an article in Time magazine cited John Milne's attitude towards this problem:

. . . When some towns in Eastern New Mexico began to segregate schools, Milne sought out negro parents, helped them find homes and jobs in Albuquerque, placed their children in his own non-segregated schools. Though he also refused to segregate handicapped children, he saw to it that his brighter students got all the extra encouragement possible. As a result, Albuquerque has chalked up something of a record in turning out young scientists and mathematicians. The number of high school students now taking these subjects is more than ten times the national average¹

Mr. Milne also insisted that the "language handicap" of the Spanish-speaking children was actually an asset and developed a curriculum that provided a better education for children of all racial backgrounds. An FM radio education program was also pioneered during Milne's administration; this program continues to this day and is now supplemented by the use of television.

John Milne was a member of the New Mexico State Board of Education from 1928 to 1931 and again from 1944 to 1956. He was president of the New Mexico Education Association. Throughout his lifetime he was active in the National Education Association; he was sectional chairman, member of the resolutions committee and vice president. He was state director of the American Association of School Administrators and was a member and past president of the New Mexico Schoolmasters' Club.

Mr. Milne founded the New Mexico School Review, a periodical that serves the State's educators; he continued contributing his work to the Review throughout his Superintendency. He was a lifetime member of the Bernalillo County Council of the Parent Teachers Association.

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The tokens of appreciation and recognition he received praised his efforts of service towards the development of the New Mexico Education System. In 1953, he was named Albuquerque Optimist of the Year. The Albuquerque Classroom Teachers Association gave him a citation in 1955. The Kiwanis Club of Albuquerque acknowledged him in 1956 by the Distinguished Service Award for outstanding service in the field of education. Also, in 1956 he received a certificate of recognition from the National Conference of Christians and Jews and an honorary life membership from the Albuquerque Board of Realtors.

Mr. Milne's notable career in education ended in his death in California September 5, 1956. His death was commented on in an editorial of one of Albuquerque's papers:

. . . Albuquerque has lost one of its most valuable citizens . . . when death came to John Milne. For almost 50 years John Milne had served the Albuquerque Public Schools System. . . . It was through his diligence and foresight that the school system was able to keep pace with the phenomenal growth of the City.

Known throughout the State and far beyond its borders as a wise school administrator, John Milne lived to see his dreams of a great metropolitan school system come true. . . . The fine school system we enjoy today is a monument to John Milne.

¹ quoted in History of New Mexico, Frank Reaves, at P. 68.