

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED JAN 30 1976  
MAY 24 1976  
DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC *Price* \*  
MILLER HOUSE  
AND/OR COMMON  
MILLER HOUSE

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER  
131-135 West Washington Street  
CITY, TOWN  
Hagerstown  
STATE  
Maryland  
VICINITY OF  
Third  
COUNTY  
Washington  
CODE  
24  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
043  
NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Library, Offices

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME  
Washington County Historical Society, Inc.  
STREET & NUMBER  
135 West Washington Street  
CITY, TOWN  
Hagerstown  
STATE  
Maryland 21740  
VICINITY OF

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Washington County Courthouse  
STREET & NUMBER  
95 West Washington Street  
CITY, TOWN  
Hagerstown  
STATE  
Maryland 21740

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE  
DATE  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
CITY, TOWN  
STATE  
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE _____

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located at 131-135 West Washington Street in Hagerstown, Washington County, the Miller House stands on the south side of the street near the center of the block formed by Summit Avenue and Prospect Street.

The Miller House is a circa 1820's brick neoclassical style townhouse which is two and one-half storeys in height and rests on a high cut stone foundation. The house is basically rectangular in shape with an ell or wing projecting from the back or south side and a one bay addition, built circa 1915, attached to the east side. The main section of the house has a metal-covered gable roof which extends over the east addition and internal double-end chimneys on the east and west walls. The west wall extends above the roofline forming a parapet.

The principal or street facade (north side) has four bays, counting the east addition, and a narrow cornice of wood molding. The addition is slightly recessed but otherwise matches the original facade fairly well. The main entranceway is located in the west end bay and is reached by a stone, probably marble, stoop with iron railing. The basement has two windows in line with those of the upper levels in the original house and a window and door in the addition. The basement door is reached by a small flight of steps with iron railing matching that of the steps leading to the main entrance.

The first and second floor windows have double-hung wooden sashes with six-over-six lights and narrow frames molded in an ovolo or convex manner. Each of these windows have stone, probably marble, sills and lintels and are flanked by exterior shutters. The shutters on the first floor windows have three solid panels each while those of the second story windows are louvered. The basement windows have double-hung wooden sashes with three-over-three lights.

The main entranceway has a molded stone, probably marble, lintel, a rectangular transom with geometric tracery, and double wooden doors with three panels each.

The back or south side of the main section has a tripartite window on the first floor looking onto the garden. The wing, which abuts the west property line, has a shed roof sloping downward in an easterly direction. A portion of the wing is thought by many to date from an earlier period. The east wall of the wing has a series of double-hung wooden sash windows with nine-over-six lights and narrow frames with a bead.

Regarding the interior of the Miller House, the floor plan is essentially the same on the first and second floors. The main section of the house has two rooms and a passage on each level. The woodwork of the principal rooms is double-faced architrave molding with a pronounced round bead at the outer edge. Most of the doors have six raised panels. Each of the two parlors on the first floor has dark marble mantels with little embellishment other than reeding and fluting.

The most elaborate interior area is the entrance hall which has a cantilevered, rounded staircase which is open to the top floor. The staircase has open-string stairs and scroll brackets. The balustrade consists of a round handrail and round baluster and terminates in a twist around the newel. The hall is divided into two sections by an archway with fluted round pilasters. Entrance to the second story of the wing is gained by a small set of steps rising from the rounded section of the main staircase.

(See continuation sheet 1)

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Miller House is a circa 1820's neoclassical style townhouse which presently serves as the headquarters of the Washington County Historical Society. The house is a fine example of the type of urban dwelling that was built in western Maryland and south central Pennsylvania in the first third of the nineteenth century.

The main portion of the house is believed to have been built for William Price (17 -1868), a prominent attorney who purchased the property in 1823. (Deed Book GG, p. 173). Price twice served in the Maryland Legislature and was appointed a U.S. District Attorney by President Lincoln. (Williams, p. 426.) In 1825, he was elected to the State Senate from Washington County. Forty years later, he returned to the Legislature, representing the Baltimore area. A native of Washington County, Price moved to Cumberland, Allegany County, about 1842 and later to Baltimore. He was the father of the noted late nineteenth century architect Bruce Price (1845-1903) and the grandfather of Emily Price Post (1873-1960), the late author and etiquette authority.

Price sold the house in 1844 to Alexander Neil, Jr. (1808-c. 1863), a lawyer and President of the Hagerstown Bank. (Deed Book O.H.W. No. 2, p. 491.) Subsequently, the property was acquired by Neil's son, Alexander Neil, III (1844-1911), who was a member of the Maryland House of Delegates in 1870 and served as auditor of the Washington County Court in 1876. (Scharf, p. 1043.)

The house was enlarged in about 1915 when a one-bay addition was attached to the east end of the main portion. The addition was built to house the medical offices of Victor D. Miller, Jr. (1875-1955), a prominent physician who purchased the property in 1912 from the heirs of Alexander Neil, III. (Deed Book 138, p. 102). Miller is also responsible for restoring the original front doors which had been replaced in the late nineteenth century.

The Washington County Historical Society acquired the house in 1966 from the Miller family through donation and purchase. Named in honor of Dr. Miller, the Miller House is now used by the Society for its office, library, and museum.

The house stands on the westerly half of Lot No. 91 of the original plat of Hagerstown. Peter Bell purchased the half-lot in 1802 for £300. (Deed Book O, p. 481.) Bell and his sons operated a pottery on this site well into the first quarter of the 1800's when the property was sold for payment of debts. It is traditionally said that a section of the Bell House is included in the present back wing of the Miller House.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Graybill, Samuel H., Jr. "Bruce Price, American Architect, 1845-1903," dissertation. Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, 1957.  
 Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Western Maryland, 2 vols. Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts, 1882.  
 Thomas, James W. and T.J.C. Williams. History of Allegany County, Maryland, 2 vols. n.p.: Titsworth Publishing Company, 1928. (See continuation sheet 1)

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 60'x200'  
 UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>1, 8</u>	<u>2, 6, 6</u> <u>2, 6, 0</u>	<u>4, 3, 9, 1</u> <u>5, 0, 0</u>	B	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	D	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Ronald L. Andrews, Historic Preservation Consultant

ORGANIZATION

City of Hagerstown

DATE

September, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

City Hall

TELEPHONE

731-3200, Ext. 6885

CITY OR TOWN

Hagerstown

STATE

Maryland 21740

# 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

*John N. Pearce* 12/22/75

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Acting*

*Sergio P. Aguirre*  
*Charles A. ...*

DATE

5/29/76

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

5-21-76

*Acting*  
 ...KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Washington County  
Maryland 7 & 9

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE 1

7. Description Continued:

The woodwork in the back wing is generally of the single-faced type, although not as wide as that in the front section. The mantel in the room now furnished as a dining room is early nineteenth century in design. Immediately behind the entrance hall is a smaller hall with an enclosed staircase on the west end and a large doorway with sidelights and a semi-elliptical transom. This doorway leads onto a porch and is at right angles to the tripartite window of the main section. Both the mantel piece and the doorway described here may not be original to the house as their decorative detailing is not quite the same as that in the rest of the wing.

An early twentieth century photograph of the house, owned by the Historical Society and identified as the house when Dr. Miller purchased it in 1912, shows that the principal or street facade has been changed little except for the alterations noted above. Another area of possible alteration is the flooring of the principal interior rooms which are covered with narrow boards.

9. Major Bibliographical References, continued

Washington County Historical Society, files. Miller House, Hagerstown, Maryland.

Washington County Land Records, Courthouse, Hagerstown, Maryland.

Williams, Thomas J.C. A History of Washington County, Maryland. 2 vols. Hagerstown, Maryland: John M. Runk and L. R. Titsworth, 1906.