

HISTORIC PROPERTY INVENTORY FORM

IDENTIFICATION SECTION

Field Site No. 34-32 OAHHP No. _____ Date Recorded 2/26/85 revised 8/87
 Site Name Historic Miller-Brewer House
 Common Brewer House
 Field Recorder ss/tc
 Owner's Name Department of Wildlife
 Address 905 East Heron
 City/State/Zip Code Aberdeen, WA 98520

Status

- Survey/Inventory
- National Register
- State Register
- Determined Eligible
- Determined Not Eligible
- Other (HABS, HAER, NHL)
- Local Designation

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography Neg. No. 3-5,6
 (Roll No. & Frame No.)
 View of NW, NE Corner
 Date 2/26/85

Classification District Site Building Structure Object

District Status NR SR LR INV

Contributing Non-Contributing

District/Thematic Nomination Name Historic Resources of Unincorporated Thurston County

DESCRIPTION SECTION

Materials & Features/Structural Types

Building Type Domestic/Residence
 Plan Rectangular
 Structural System Wood plank
 No. of Stories one and one-half

Cladding (Exterior Wall Surfaces)

- Log
- Horizontal Wood Siding
 - Rustic/Drop
 - Clapboard
- Wood Shingle
- Board and Batten
- Vertical Board
- Asbestos/Asphalt
- Brick
- Stone
- Stucco
- Terra Cotta
- Concrete/Concrete Block
- Vinyl/Aluminum Siding
- Metal (specify) _____
- Other (specify) _____

Roof Type

- Gable Hip
- Flat Pyramidal
- Monitor Other (specify) _____
- Gambrel
- Shed

Roof Material

- Wood Shingle
- Wood Shake
- Composition
- Slate
- Tar/Built-Up
- Tile
- Metal (specify) _____
- Other (specify) _____
- Not visible

Foundation

- Log
- Post & Pier
- Stone
- Brick
- Not visible
- Concrete
 - Block
 - Poured
 - Other (specify) _____

Integrity (Include detailed description in Description of Physical Appearance)

	Intact	Slight	Moderate	Extensive
Changes to plan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Changes to windows	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Changes to original cladding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Changes to interior	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

LOCATION SECTION

Address 17915 Guava
 City/Town/County/Zip Code Rochester vicinity/Thurston/98579
 Twp. 16N Range 3W Section 36 ¼ Section SW ¼ Section NW
 Tax No./Parcel No. 091700010000 Acreage less than one
 Quadrangle or map name Rochester 15
 UTM References Zone 10 Easting 499620 Northing 5185850
 Plat/Block/Lot See Verbal Boundary Description
 Supplemental Map(s) NA

Verbal Boundary Description: The nominated property is located on legal parcel No. 091700010000 and is described thusly: beginning at the end of the west extension of Guava Road in the Scatter Creek Game Preserve, proceed westerly approximately 150 feet, then proceed northerly 150 feet, then proceed easterly 150 feet, then proceed southerly to point of beginning, said parcel located on the D.F. Byles Donation Land Claim, NW¼, SW¼, Section 36, Township 16N, Range 3W.

Verbal Boundary Justification: The nominated parcel includes the Miller-Brewer House and surrounding lawn and no other portion of the game preserve, which has no significant association with Miller or Brewer.

Contributing Resources: One building
 Noncontributing Resources: 0

High Styles/Forms (check one or more of the following)

- Greek Revival
- Gothic Revival
- Italianate
- Second Empire
- Romanesque Revival
- Stick Style
- Queen Anne
- Shingle Style
- Colonial Revival
- Beaux Arts/Neoclassical
- Chicago/Commercial Style
- American Foursquare
- Mission Revival
- Spanish Colonial Revival/Mediterranean
- Tudor Revival
- Craftsman/Arts & Crafts
- Bungalow
- Prairie Style
- Art Deco/Art Moderne
- Rustic Style
- International Style
- Northwest Style
- Commercial Vernacular
- Residential Vernacular (see below)
- Other (specify) _____

Vernacular House Types

- Gable front
- Gable front and wing
- Side gable
- Cross gable
- Pyramidal/Hipped
- Other (specify) _____

NARRATIVE SECTION

Study Unit Themes (check one or more of the following)

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Politics/Government/Law |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture/Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arts | <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment/Recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> Science & Engineering |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Ethnic Heritage (specify) _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Movements/Organizations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Health/Medicine | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Planning/Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Manufacturing/Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____ |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Study Unit Sub-Theme(s) (specify) <u>Exploration/</u>
<u>Settlement</u> |

Statement of Significance

Date of Construction 1860 Architect/Engineer/Builder George Miller Level of Significance: local
 In the opinion of the surveyor, this property appears to meet the criteria of the National Register of Historic Places Period of Significance: 1860-1909

In the opinion of the surveyor, this property is located in a potential historic district (National and/or local).

The Brewer House is one of the few extant early Greek Revival houses of the early settlement period in Thurston County. Located along Scatter Creek in an area of natural prairie, the house retains its historic features and setting and is closely associated with Reese Brewer, a prominent territorial and county politician. The house also served as a post office in the 1880s.

The house was built c. 1860 by George Miller, a territorial representative and farmer who operated a stock ranch on the property. In 1872, Reese Brewer purchased the property. Brewer came from Arkansas in 1852 to the Willamette Valley and then journeyed north to the Grand Mound area. He was a member of the Territorial Legislature in 1871, Justice of the Peace at Grand Mound for 10 years, and postmaster from 1884 to 1888 (during which time the house served as the Grand Mound post office). He was also elected a Thurston County Commissioner in 1888 and 1890. The house and adjoining farm were owned by members of the Brewer family until 1962 when the State of Washington purchased the property for a game preserve. The house is currently a rental residence.

Description of Physical Appearance

The Brewer House is set on native open prairie land adjacent to Scatter Creek, shaded by a grove of native oak trees. The house is a one and one-half story structure of cedar wood plank construction in the vernacular Greek Revival Style. The house has a steep gable roof which lessens in pitch over the rear half of the house. Walls are clad with clapboards and cornerboards with wide cornice boards and frieze boards at the roof line. Vertical boards skirt the foundation. A one story porch spans the front (south) and east facades. The east porch extension was added in 1912. The porch has a hip roof and is supported by turned posts. The porch floor and pillars have been replaced in the original configuration. The present turned pillars replace the original square posts.

Windows are double-hung sash with six-over-six lights, with narrow mullions and plain surrounds and head moldings. The panelled front door is offset to the east. A small gabled dormer with six-paned window is centered on the main roof above the front porch.

Originally, the house (which apparently was built as a double residence) had two front doors; the Department of Game removed one and covered the opening with clapboards in the 1960s. The interior retains original back-to-back local sandstone fireplaces in the front rooms and two steep stairways leading to the second floor from the two sections of the house. Some of the other interior spaces, including the kitchen, have been altered. A hand-dug well is still outside the back porch which has also been altered.

Major Bibliographic References

- Blankenship, Mrs. George E., ed. and comp. Early History of Thurston County, Washington, Olympia, 1914.
Interview with Wilbert Brewer, former resident of the house and descendant of Reese Brewer.
Ramsey, Guy Reed. "Postmarked Thurston County," manuscript in Washington State Library.
Rathbun, J.C. History of Thurston County, Washington, Olympia, 1895.