

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received 10 29 84
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Rush - Miller House

and or common

2. Location

street & number On south side of West Virginia Highway #45, 2 1/2 miles
east of Martinsburg, W.Va. not for publication

city, town Smoketown X vicinity of

state West Virginia code 54 county Berkeley code 003

3. 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"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. James S. Dailey, jr.

street & number 100 N. Louisiana Avenue

city, town Martinsburg, state West Virginia

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Berkeley County Courthouse

street & number 100 West King Street

city, town Martinsburg, state West Virginia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

M-25 Berkeley County Historic
title Landmarks Commission Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date July 1984 federal state county local

depository for survey records Berkeley County Courthouse

city, town Martinsburg, state West Virginia

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	N/A
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Rush-Miller House is located on West Virginia Highway #45, two-and-one-half miles east of Martinsburg, West Virginia, near the village of Smoketown. The complex of buildings consists of a two story, "L" shaped stone dwelling house with gable roof, stone bank barn, stone and frame smokehouse, and stone springhouse. The property is situated well back from the road on the crest of a gently sloping hill beneath which is Hensell Run. It is a pastoral and unspoiled setting.

The dwelling house was constructed in two sections, both of coursed rubble limestone with interior end chimneys, and measures forty-six feet wide by sixty-two feet deep. The rear section, the ell, was constructed first, ca. 1810, as a Federal three bay, two story, gable roofed house with interior end chimneys. The entrance door is a six-panel door set in panelled jambs with a four-light transom. Windows are predominantly 6/6 double hung sash (some are 2/2, ca. 1873) set in panelled jambs with quirked ovolo exterior backband molding topped by rough cut slab stone lintels. A two tiered porch with pantries was constructed on the front ca. 1873 when the front two story section was added. The rear facade of the Federal period section is three bays with an offset landing window over a one story, one bay, gable roofed entrance porch. Beaded cornice boards extend across both the front and rear facades.

The central hall has a four flight open-well stair with beaded edge handrail, two square-in-section spindles per step, plain newels with rounded tops pinned to the handrail, and decorative scrolls on the step-ends. There are three fireplaces, two with period Federal mantels. The dining room mantel has a shallow shelf supported by bed moldings over panelled end blocks and pilasters. The frieze is plain. The second floor mantel extends beyond one end of the chimney to house a small panelled door cupboard. This is a nice feature. The mantel has a molded edge shelf with bed moldings and projections over the plain central tablet, end blocks, and pilasters. The newer mantel is in the kitchen and dates ca. 1873. It has a plain shelf with rounded corners over an ogee frieze and plain pilasters. A beaded edge chair rail is in each room and original flooring is throughout. All doors are six-panel. The roof is supported by wooden pegged rafters marked with Roman numerals.

The front five bay, two story section was constructed ca. 1873 of coursed rubble limestone with interior end chimneys and is Romanesque in style. Because of the use of like building material, the two sections blend well together though they are of two different periods and designs. There is a fantastic use of exterior moldings on this section, very repetitive and delightful. The three bay, one story, hip roofed entrance porch is supported by square-in-section chamfered posts topped with elaborate scroll brackets and has a lyre balustrade. The porch cornice has a crown

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Continuation sheet Rush-Miller

Item number 7

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molding with a plain fascia and dentils decorate the frieze which ends with a running rope molding. All the window and door heads are corniced and highlighted with a rope molding and the same treatment is repeated on the corniced gable ends which are again decorated with the running rope mold and returns. The continuity of design is charming. Basement ventilation is provided by decorative iron grills placed under a brick relieving arch. The four panel entrance door is corniced and has a wide transom and side lights. The mullions are decorated with applied moldings as are the jambs. Windows have 2/2 double hung sash.

The floor plan of this section is again central hall, one room each side. The two-flight, open-well staircase begins with a large turned newel and two turned balusters are on each step. The staircase is impressive for its size and scale. All the doors are four-panel with box locks and porcelain knobs. The door trim is highlighted by a heavy backband molding and curves around the top of the door in a depressed arch. Window trim is the same but is square cornered with splayed jambs.

There are two fireplaces and one blind mantel. The parlor fireplace mantel is marbelized and of typical Romanesque design with an arched opening, panelled spandrels, and a decorative cartouche. The second floor bedroom fireplace mantel is of marbelized wood with a depressed arch opening. The blind mantel is in the other ground floor room and is placed on a chimney wall but there is no evidence of a firebox. It has a round cornered molded edge shelf over a frieze decorated with applied molding with like pilasters. The frieze and pilasters are chamfered and the mantel is marbelized.

The baseboard is tall with a cap molding and original floors and hardware are throughout. This is a handsome and impressive house.

Outbuildings include the stone bank barn built in 1909, the stone and frame smokehouse and stone springhouse which both date from the Federal period. All buildings are in good condition except the smokehouse which is in need of repair.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input 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 1810/1872

Builder/Architect William Rush/Jacob Miller

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Rush-Miller House is historically significant for its associations with the Rush and Miller families, both of which made contributions to the development of the area. The dwelling house itself is significant for being an excellent representation of two distinct building periods in American architecture, ca. 1810 and 1872, built in the stone medium, both sections largely intact. Architectural significance is enhanced by there being a complex of period stone farm buildings.

Leonard Rush purchased 287 acres on Hensell Run in 1773, and this land was owned by generations of the same family, i.e., Rush, Mason, and Miller, until 1919, a total of one hundred forty-six years. Leonard Rush furnished grain for the American Army during the Revolutionary War. His son William owned the property from 1788 to 1820 and built the present rear section of the house as his home. William owned three farms totalling six hundred eighty-two acres and the Smoketown grist mill. Captain James Mason, who led the Riflemen's Company, 5th Regiment, Virginia Militia, during the War of 1812, had married William Rush's daughter Mary in 1809 and this farm was their home. Captain Mason was in charge of Berkeley County Riflemen from 1811 through 1814, according to the Martinsburg Gazette. Captain Mason died in 1848.

Jacob Miller, who married successively two daughters of Captain Mason, Eveline and Eliza, had received a share of the smoketown farm but purchased the farmhouse lot in 1871 from Mason's son James and built the front section of the stone dwelling the following year. Miller was a very civic minded person and deeded land for minimal fees off his farm for the establishment of the first United Brethren Church in Berkeley County in 1859, and for the Smoketown Cemetery in 1869, and again for the establishment of the Smoketown School in 1879. Miller served as receiver of the Berkeley County Court for six years. His daughter's husband James Billmyre was a Lieutenant in the Confederate Army. Jacob Rush, Eliza Mason Rush Miller's son from her previous marriage, and her brother James Mason, from whom the Millers purchased the farmhouse lot, also served in the Confederate Army.

Through successive generations, this family was actively concerned with area civic affairs and served their country through military service.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Anne Waller Reddy, West Virginia Revolutionary Soldier, Balt. Gen. Pub, 1979
National Archives, (War of 1812), Washington, D.C.
Martinsburg Gazette, Vol. 12, for April 1811 and June 1814.
Berkeley County Deed Books 1, 40, 67, and 137; Will Books 1 and 6; Complete Records Book 2; Land Books 1820 and 1873.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 4 acres

Quadrangle name Martinsburg

Quadrangle scale 1 : 24,000

UTM References

A

1	8	2	5	0	2	6	0	4	3	7	0	9	8	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

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D

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification Beginning 100' E of the house, thence SW 200', thence S 200', thence W 150', thence N 650', thence including the small pond NE 160', thence E 150', thence along the driveway S 400' to the beginning (See map).

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

state	N/A	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Frances D. Ruth, Administrator

organization Berkeley County Historic Landmarks Commission date September 30, 1984

street & number Rt #2, Box 320 telephone (304) 754-7097

city or town Martinsburg, state West Virginia

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

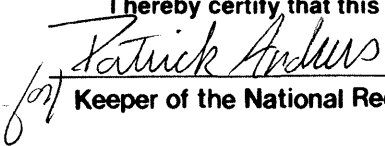
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title State Historic Preservation Officer date May 2, 1985

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

 date 7/8/85
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet Rush-Miller House Item number 8 Page 2

The house is architecturally significant for being an excellent representation of two distinct periods of American architecture, Federal ca. 1810 and Romanesque vernacular 1872. The total farmhouse is representative of the vernacular Berkeley County limestone farmhouse in a rural area. It is a large and comfortable house and the front section is somewhat fancy. Few houses have two examples of generous central halls and open-well staircases. The period charm is retained in both sections in the original floors, hardware, mantels, trim, doors, and windows. The early section was altered slightly when the 1872 section was built. The plain kitchen mantel was removed and one with an ogee frieze put in its place. Windows that needed repair were replaced with 2/2 sash, but largely they are 6/6 in the older section. The front section is rather grand with high ceilings, tall doors, and large scale stairway. The exterior trim on the rear section is intact and that on the front section is an absolute delight with cornices and rope molding on everything possible. The original three bay, one story entrance porch is intact and adds charmingly to the house.

The two sections together form a delightful house. Jacob Miller was wise when he expanded the house to continue the use of stone. Brick building was much more frequent, easier, and cheaper at this time and consequently Victorian period stone houses are rather rare in Berkeley County, but Miller obviously wanted the sections to look well together, and they do.

Supporting the house architecturally are the stone bank barn built in 1909, and the Federal period smokehouse and springhouse. The setting of the complex is lovely, rural and unspoiled.

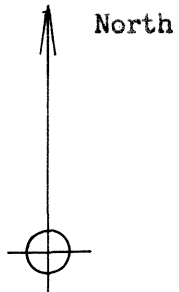
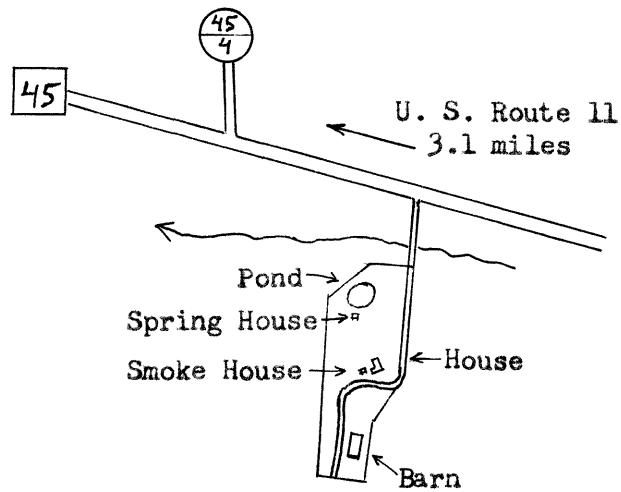
RUSH - MILLER HOUSE

M-25

Martinsburg Quadrangle

Berkeley County, West Virginia

Area 4 acres



SCALE 1 : 7,920

Copied September 1984 from
photo AGS-41-03, 24 Nov 1937
by Galtjo L. Geertsema