

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FEB 13 1989

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Miller, Joseph S., House

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 748 Beech Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Kenova

N/A vicinity

state West Virginia code WV county Wayne

code 099 zip code 25530

3. 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>1</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register -0-

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

Date 2/6/89

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- 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:)

3/29/89

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Residential/Single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian: Queen Anne - Eastlake

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone: sandstone

walls Shingle, mineral fiber

Shingle

roof Tin

other Asphalt

Wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Politics/Government

Commerce

Period of Significance

1891-1922

Significant Dates

1891

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Miller, Joseph S.

Architect/Builder

Unkown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Atkinson and Gibbens. Prominent Men of West Virginia. Comestock. West Virginia Heritage Encyclopedia, Vol. XV, p. 350.
 Thomson, C.W. History of Ceredo and Kenova.
 Wallace, George S. Cabell County Annals and Families, 1935.
 Whiffen, Marcus. American Architecture Since 1780, pp. 115-126.

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other Owner
 Specify repository: Robert Plymale

748 Beech Street

Kenova, West Virginia 25530

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property .57 Acre; less than 1 acre

UTM References

A

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

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

B

Zone	Easting						Northing							

D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is marked with a cross in red on the enclosed Catlettsburg, Kentucky-Ohio-West Virginia USGS map. This cross constitutes the entire lot trapezoidal in shape: 171' x 167' x 140' x 167' now owned by Robert Plymale. See sketch map attached with boundary marked in red.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated property originally was part of a ten-acre site owned by Joseph I. Doran of Philadelphia. In April, 1891, 57/100th of an acre was sold to Joseph S. Miller and this parcel has remained intact to the present day.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Nancy Hoy, Architectural Historian
 organization _____
 street & number 124 Seneca Drive
 city or town Marietta

date November 20, 1988
 telephone (614) 373-8039
 state Ohio zip code 45750

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Residential/Single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single dwelling**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian: Queen Anne - Eastlake

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone:sandstonewalls Shingle, mineral fiberShingleroof Tinother AsphaltWood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

This Queen Anne house with Eastlake decorative elements was built in 1891 on 57/100th of an acre, part of a ten-acre site owned by Joseph I. Doran of Philadelphia. The two-story frame house rests on a cut sandstone foundation. Exterior walls were of clapboard but are now covered with a mineral fiber shingle applied about 1950. A combination of wood fish scale, diamond and octagon shingles cover the balcony, the west bay and tower sections. The panel and glass front door is framed by a beveled glass transom with one side light and transom to the right. The entrance is protected by a porch that fronts the north and half of the west elevations. Spindles are located along the porch frieze; balusters connected by vertical spindles support the open rail, all intact. Turned posts frame the opening. The porch roof is asphalt shingled. The balcony over the front entrance also has turned posts. At one time French doors opened onto this area from the upstairs hallway.

The presence of mineral fiber shingles on the building's exterior walls does not significantly detract from the overall integrity of those features which make the house significant.

A two-story canted bay graces the north and west elevations. A single story bay faces south. Windows in two bays have been replaced with 9/9 about 1950; windows in the rear bay are original 1/1.

Double scrolled brackets support the raised seam tin roof. A decorated gable tops the northern bay section - a square tower with 1/1 windows on the north and west exposures is crowned by a pyramid roof which adds to the irregular features of this house. There are two incised chimneys with corbelled caps, one on each side of the house to serve the two back-to-back fireplaces. Prior to 1950 there was a sleeping porch on the second level over the bay section to the rear.

The only other structure on this property is a small shed that currently serves as a dog kennel. This non-contributing structure is of more recent construction and is scheduled to be razed by the current owner.

Mr. Miller's German heritage is most evident inside the house. The doorways and windows on both floors are framed by moldings with inset rosettes at the crossings. For the most part they are oak with the exception of the library which is cherry which in turn matches the fireplace in this room. Isinglass

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2 Miller, Joseph S., House, Wayne County, WV

transoms top some interior doors. Pocket doors separate the library from the dining room. There are four fireplaces each with its distinctive mantle. Fireplaces are also present in the bedrooms upstairs. Floors are wooden with narrow boards on the first level - wider boards upstairs. One section in an upstairs bedroom floor is curly poplar, a very rare wood.

The most striking feature of this house is the staircase which rises to the second floor, makes a sharp left turn with the railing continuing to the front of the house, terminating at the door to the attic. In place of the usual balusters are panels of dark oak wood with cut-out quatrefoil and triangular areas to form a pleasing pattern. The newel post and posts at the turning are round balls. The attic has plastered walls.

Structurally this house is sound except for the rear section that has dropped several inches. Speculation is that initially the damage was caused by the Flood of 1937 and little was done to correct the problem by the former owners. The current new owner is a descendant of a family that has resided in the county since the early 1800's. Mr. and Mrs. Plymale plan to restore this fine house to its original condition.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

Architecture

1891-1922

1891

Politics/Government

Commerce

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Architect/Builder

Miller, Joseph S.

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

This house represents the key role that Joseph S. Miller, its owner and builder, played commercially and politically in the development of Kenova during the late nineteenth and early 20th century. Miller was instrumental in securing the Norfolk and Western railroad line for Kenova which was an important hub of the railroad serving West Virginia's coal industry. He was also a civic leader; a highlight of his career was his term as Commissioner of the internal Revenue of the United States. The architectural style of Miller's home symbolizes his political and commercial authority in Kenova during the 1880's-90's.

In the late 19th and early 20th century Kenova was a regionally important rail center. The Norfolk and Western Railroad Company was the second line to come north through Kenova and one of the men who purchased rights-of-way for this railroad was Joseph S. Miller. Born in Barboursville, West Virginia and of German ancestry, Miller was educated at Beach Grove Academy in Kentucky, studied law and admitted to the bar but never practiced. While only 21 years of age, Miller was appointed to complete the unexpired term of William Merritt as Clerk of Cabell County Circuit Court; the following year he was elected for a full four-year term. Two years later he was elected as Clerk of the County Court on a full Democratic ticket. In 1876 Miller was elected as State Auditor and successfully held his office for eight years. It was in this capacity that he attracted the attention of Grover Cleveland. He was appointed Commissioner of Internal Revenue for the United States, a position "almost equal in dignity and patronage to a cabinet position." He served during President Cleveland's first term 1885-89. In 1884, Miller was a Democratic candidate for governor of West Virginia but he withdrew.

Miller built this Queen Anne house in 1891 on Beech Street which parallels the railroad line still in use today and the Ohio River. In 1904, it was the site of the wedding and reception of his only daughter Lavalette, a gala affair according to the account in the local newspaper. At the time of his death in 1922, Miller was President of the National Bank of Kenova.

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 2 Miller, Joseph S., House, Wayne County, WV

Queen Anne in style - Eastlake in ornamentation, this house was a variety of forms set in an asymmetrical composition including the sweeping porch, canted bays and tower. Double asymmetrical scrolled brackets, turned posts, rows of spindles along the porch and varied shingle shapes attest to the popular decorating mode of this historic period.

Alterations to this house have been surprisingly minimal. The kitchen area has been modernized and bathrooms added but exteriorally and interiorally, the integrity of the house is intact. Mineral fiber shingles unfortunately cover the original clapboard but the rich interior woodwork reflecting Miller's German heritage is complete.

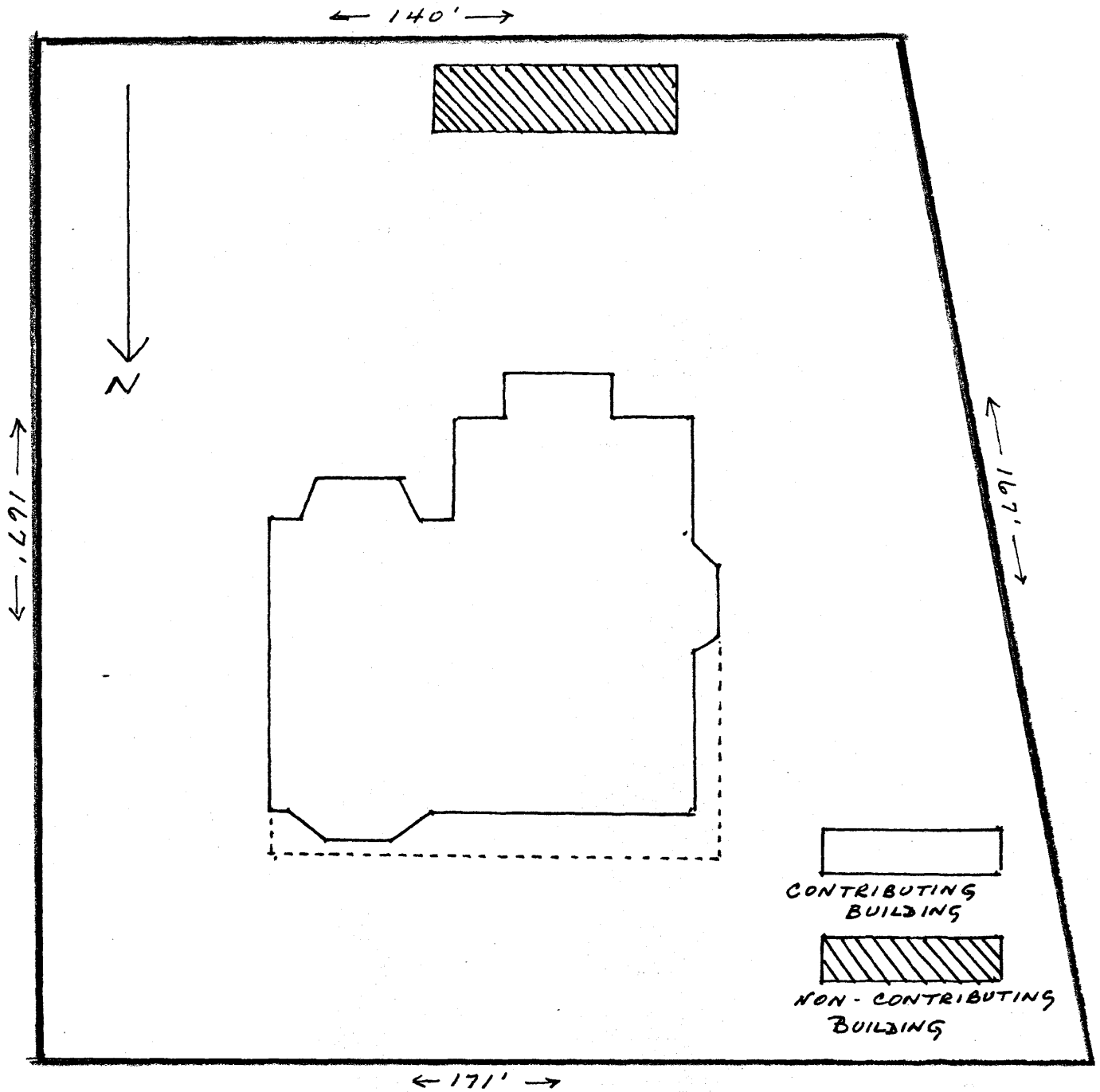
¹ Atkinson and Gibbons, Prominent Men in West Virginia, A.F., p. 834.

The Joseph S. Miller House

748 Beech Street

Kenova

Wayne County, W. Va.



748
BEECH STREET