| I, h         | nereby certify that this property is:                   | OD NI D. 1                              | n 11. La                 |
|--------------|---|---|--------------------------|
|              | entered in the National Register                        | Tosson 14. "Del                         | 4/25/0                   |
|              | See continuation sheet. determined eligible for the     |   |                          |
|              | National Register                                       |   |                          |
|              | See continuation sheet. determined not eligible for the |   |                          |
|              | National Register                                       |   | <del>.</del> <del></del> |
|              | _ removed from the National Register                    |   |                          |
|              | other (explain):  | 1                                       |                          |
|              |   | 1 04                                    |                          |
|              |   | Signature of Keeper                     | Date                     |
|              |   | <i>U</i>                                | of Action                |
| 5.           |   |   |                          |
| ====<br>Owne | ership of Property (Check as many boxes                 | as apply)                               | .========                |
|              | private public-local public-St                          |   |                          |
| Cate         | egory of Property (Check only one box)                  |   |                          |
|              | building(s) district                                    |   |                          |
| s            | site structure object                                   |   |                          |
| Numb         | per of Resources within Property:                       |   |                          |
|              | Contributing Noncontributing                            |   |                          |
|              | buildings sites   |   |                          |
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|              | objects<br>Total  |   |                          |
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|              | ber of contributing resources previousl<br>ister:0      | y listed in the National                |                          |
| _            |   |   |                          |
| Name         | e of related multiple property listing:                 | N/A                                     |                          |
| _===         |   |   | ========                 |
|              | Function or  Use<br>                                    | ======================================= |                          |
| Hist         | toric Functions (Enter categories from                  | instructions)                           |                          |
| Cat:         | : <u>DOMESTIC</u> Su                                    | b: <u>single dwelling</u>               |                          |
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Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

| Cat: <u>DOM</u>     | STIC                            | Sub: _  | single dwelling                |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
|                     |                                 |   |                                |
| 7. Descripti        | on                              |   |                                |
|                     | l Classification<br>ional Style |   |                                |
| Materials:          | foundation roof walls           | <pre>poured concrete built-up concrete block;</pre> | vertical tongue and groove fir |
|                     | other                           | siding  |                                |
| Narrative De        | scription                       |   |                                |
| Describe pre sheet. | sent and historio               | c physical appeara                                  | ance. X See continuation       |

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Description

Henry F. Miller House, Orange New Haven County, CT 7-1

### Narrative Description

The Henry F. Miller House is an International Style structure built in 1949 and located on a wooded hillside in the town of Orange, Connecticut. The house's 2.5-acre lot adjoins property owned by the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority to the east, Derby Avenue (Connecticut Route 34) to the north, a house lot on the west, and undeveloped wetlands to the south.

The house, a rectangular structure of post-and-beam construction, has a flat, built-up roof that overhangs the walls on the southeast, southwest, and part of the northwest sides. A three-inch curb allows the roof to be flooded to cool the house (Figure 1). There is a low chimney of red brick.

One end wall and one intermediate wall are of concrete block painted gray. The remainder of the exterior is either glass or vertical tongue-and-groove fir siding with wood trim. The siding has a natural finish, while the trim is painted. The original portion of the house measures 23 by 42 feet; in 1959 it was extended to the north with an 18-by-30-foot addition. The addition was designed by the same architect to harmonize with the original house (Photograph 2).

The house is set into the hillside, which slopes away from the road, so that the west side, the principal entry side, is one story tall. The south and east sides are two stories tall, and the north side slopes from one to two stories. On the west (entry) side, the roof shelters the front door, which is flanked by a full-height fixed pane window (Photograph 6). The door itself is flush and painted red. To its right, a continuous row of transom windows lights a storage room, a bathroom, and a bedroom (Photograph 5). The overhanging roof projects forward to form a carport, which is screened from the front door by vertical wooden slats. To the left of the door, the wall steps forward nearly the depth of the overhang, with another ribbon of windows for the master bath and the study. Beneath the ribbon windows the wall is covered with vertical tongue-and-groove fir siding. At the southern end of the house, stairs lead up to the balcony and down to the kitchen door.

The north wall is of concrete block and has no openings. The south and west sides of the house are primarily of glass, with continuous rows of wood horizontally sliding or awning windows or fixed sheets of glass lighting the rooms (Photographs 1,3). The lower-level windows are nearly full height; those on the upper level begin about three feet above floor level. A vertical window, two stories high, interrupts the rows on the southeast side, indicating the stair hall within. A wooden balcony wraps around the upper level along the southwest side and the southeast side as far as the staircase window; its railing consists of wooden posts and top

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Description

Henry F. Miller House, Orange New Haven County, CT 7-2

rail with panels of metal screening between the posts. On the lower level are a terrace of irregular flagstones and a wooden deck with wooden railings, all stained brown.

To the south of the house stands a shed of wood frame construction, with a flat roof, flush vertical siding, and clerestory windows (Photograph 4). The shed is tied to the house by a slatted screen (like the one on the carport), which screens the kitchen entrance from the terrace and dining area.

Inside, entry is to a foyer that contains the stair (Figure 2). A corridor runs to the right connecting to the bedrooms and a door opens in the concrete-block wall to the left (the original end wall of the house), giving access to the master bedroom, master bathroom, and study. The ceilings are of unpainted tongue-and-groove ponderosa pine boards. On the right side of the corridor are a storage room and a compartmented bathroom. On the left are two bedrooms and two more bedrooms are at the end. The partitions between the bedrooms are moveable storage units containing both cupboards and drawers (Photograph 10). Nonmoveable interior partitions are stud walls clad with fir plywood, vertical or horizontal tongue-and-groove fir siding, or sheetrock. Each bedroom has a full wall of windows and a door giving onto the balcony.

In the master bedroom a low (4-foot) wall screens the bed from the door and divides the room into separate areas for sitting and sleeping. The study has shelves on wall brackets and walls painted in bright yellow with bold, angular patterns in red and blue.

From the entry hall, a stair with open treads of Southern pine on solid steel stringers and a handrail of red-painted, bent steel pipe descends to a flagstone landing and, from there, by four flagstone steps, to the public rooms on the lower level (Photograph 7). A planting bed enclosed by a low fieldstone wall abuts the stair landing; the curving line of its front is continued in a similar planting bed immediately outside.

The living/dining room is a long room lined with windows on its southeast and southwest sides (Photograph 8). Windows go up to the ceiling and down nearly to the floor; the balcony above shades the glass in the summer. Glazed doors mid-way down the long side and at the end lead outdoors. The long wall facing the windows is sided in natural-finish, horizontal tongue-and-groove fir. A brick fireplace projects slightly from the wall and is flanked by built-in bookcases and a bin for firewood. A small opening above the bookcases serves as a pass-through to the kitchen. Near the stair, a door leads to a storage and utility room; another door, under the stair, leads to a playroom, part of the 1959 addition.

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Description

Henry F. Miller House, Orange New Haven County, CT

7-3

At the southern end of the living room is an area used for dining (Photograph 9). The kitchen is to one side, separated from the dining room by a wall of plywood with applied laths forming square panels and pierced by a door and a pass-through. The galley-type kitchen and adjacent pantry have counters on both sides, with white metal cabinets or open shelves

Many of the furnishings are original to the house. Produced by such designers as Knoll Associates, Charles and Ray Eames, Eero Saarinen, and George Nelson, they reflect the taste of the time.

| ======================================  |
|---|
| Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: <a href="local">local</a> .   |
| Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)  |
| A . Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.  |
| B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.  |
| X C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction. |
| D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.  |
| Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)   |
| A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.  |
| B removed from its original location.   |
| C a birthplace or a grave.  |
| D a cemetery.   |
| E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.   |
| F a commemorative property.   |
| G . less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.  |
| Areas of Significance: <u>Architecture</u>  |
|   |
|   |
|   |
| Period of Significance: 1949; 1959  |
|   |

Henry F. Miller House, Orange New Haven County, Connecticut

| Significant Dates:   | <u> 1949</u>               |
|--|----------------------------|
|  |                            |
|  |                            |
| Significant Person(s):   | N/A                        |
| Cultural Affiliation:  | N/A                        |
| Architect/Builder:   | Henry F. Miller, architect |
|  | Anthony Concelmo, builder  |
| Narrative Statement of Son one or more continuation X See continuation |                            |

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Significance Henry F. Miller House, Orange New Haven County, CT

8-1

### Summary

One of the New Haven area's first Modern houses when it was built in 1949, the Henry F. Miller House illustrates the adaptation of International Style modernism to single-family suburban houses in the United States in the period immediately after World War II. Originally developed in Europe as a new system of building that took advantage of modern technological advances and embraced an unornamented, machine-made aesthetic transcending regional or national characteristics, the International Style absorbed some natural materials and regional features in the years just before and after the war. The Miller house embodies many planning, constructional, and aesthetic characteristics of the International Style, including open plan, flat roof, inclusion of modern conveniences, careful attention to environmental and functional considerations, avoidance of superfluous ornament, and extensive use of glass.

The Miller house not only illustrates the spread of Modern architecture in Connecticut, and the United States, it also played a part in that process. Henry F. Miller designed the house as a Master's thesis project while he was a student in Yale University's School of Architecture. Yale was one of the leading architecture schools in promoting the Modern movement, and its faculty and students made the New Haven area a center of post-war Modernism in Connecticut and the United States. The house was published in a national magazine, House Beautiful, as part of a series on "The New American Style." Locally, it received extensive coverage in the New Haven Register and was opened to the public in 1949 for a charity benefit. An estimated 25,000 people visited the house; for many this was their first up-close exposure to Modern architecture.

### Modernism: Origins and Introduction to the United States

The International Style had its origins in Europe in the 1920s, when avant-garde architects attempting to rebuild after the devastation of World War I began to experiment with ways of applying new technological advances to building. They were influenced as well by artistic philosophies that favored abstraction and simplification. These architects promoted an architecture that used modern materials and techniques, that sought to ameliorate social conditions, and that eliminated ornament. Their stated aim was to break free from historic influences to create an entirely new architecture that would express and serve the radical changes occurring in 20th-century life and society.

This new architecture was reported on in American architectural publications, but it remained almost completely a European phenomenon until the early 1930s. The first widespread recognition of Modernism in the

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Significance

Henry F. Miller House, Orange New Haven County, CT 8-2

United States came in 1932, when the newly established Museum of Modern Art in New York City mounted an exhibition on the new architecture. An accompanying book was prepared by Philip Johnson and Henry-Russell Hitchcock, who coined the term "International Style" to describe the new movement's rejection of national traditions.

Adolf Hitler's rise to power in Germany gave an impetus to the spread of the International Style to the United States. Hitler thought of modern art and architecture as decadent and attempted to stamp them out, prompting three of the movement's leaders, Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, Walter Gropius and Marcel Breuer, to leave Germany for the United States. There they took posts at American schools of architecture, Mies at the Armour Technical Institute in Chicago, and Gropius and Breuer at Harvard.

### The Post-War Architectural Scene

During World War II, almost nothing was built in the United States that was not directly related to the war effort. Education continued, however, and the European refugees and their followers effected a drastic change in the shape of architectural education. In less than ten years, the nation's leading schools of architecture abandoned traditional curricula in favor of Modernism.

The major architectural periodicals continued publication through the war as well, and they document the change in architectural culture that took place during those years of enforced idleness. One periodical, *Progressive Architecture* (which had changed its name from *Pencil Points* in 1943), summarized the change in its January, 1946, issue with an article called "Pearl Harbor to Nagasaki: A Review of Architectural Progress During the War Years." The article points out that in 1940 the International Style had been presented as one option, along with traditional styles. By 1945, Modernism enjoyed a near-monopoly of the architectural press. As wartime restrictions lifted and materials became available, a vast building boom began, fueled by demand for housing and other building after nearly 20 years of Depression and war. There was a mood of progress, and plenty of work for young architects.

Postwar modernism looked different from the International Style of the early 1930s. Between the wars, European modernism focused on social goals (such as worker housing), and was characterized by a hard-edged, machine-made aesthetic utilizing smooth, precise materials, most characteristically stucco, metal, and glass. This began to change in the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Progressive Architecture 27,1 (January 1946): 42ff.

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Significance

Henry F. Miller House, Orange New Haven County, CT 8-3

later 1930s, particularly in work of Breuer, Gropius, and the Finnish architect Alvar Aalto, who began experimenting with rough-cut stone and wooden siding. This trend continued and increased during the war and after. In the United States, where wood was often used for both framing and cladding, Modern wooden houses were compared in architectural literature to Colonial buildings, seen as straightforward and "honest." The types of buildings the Modernists erected in postwar America were different, too: instead of blocks of workers' housing, the most important commissions were for corporate offices and single-family houses. The American preference for suburban living, combined with VA benefits and planning policies that encouraged suburbanization, created a boom in residential construction. Though the vast majority of houses built were traditional in style, the situation offered significant opportunities to Modernist architects. In many cases, it was easier to build Modern houses than other types of buildings: the outlay was relatively modest and the architect only had to convince one family, rather than a corporate board, to experiment with an unfamiliar style. Building houses for themselves or relatives provided architects with an opportunity to gain experience and to create demonstration projects that they could use to sell potential clients on Modern architecture.

Some popular magazines promoted Modernism, too. In 1950, House Beautiful launched a series on what it called "The New American Style." The series was not solely Modern in its aesthetics, but it included several Modern houses (among them the Miller house) and discussed even traditional-looking houses in terms of planning and functionality, terms that came from the Modern movement. According to House Beautiful, this new style was characterized by the following:

Its design should be agreeable fitted to its purpose....

Its materials should be honestly and appropriately used....

It should take advantage of our numerous technologies...

It should have no superfluous ornament....<sup>2</sup>

### Modernism in Connecticut

One characteristic of the spread of Modernism was that activity tended to occur in pockets.  $^{3}$  The clustering reflected the fact that Modernism,

<sup>2&</sup>quot;How to Recognize the American Style," House Beautiful 92, 5 (May 1950): 158.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>William H. Jordy, The Impact of European Modernism in the Mid-Twentieth Century; American Buildings and Their Architects, vol. 5 (New York: Oxford

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Significance

Henry F. Miller House, Orange New Haven County, CT 8 - 4

while increasing in popularity, remained very much a minority taste. Modernist architects tended to band together for morale and then produced works where they lived. The atmosphere within these clusters was one of exhilaration—the excitement of being on the cutting edge. One of the best known pockets was in New Canaan, where a group of Modernist architects came to live between 1946 and 1949. Five had known each other at Harvard: Marcel Breuer (who left the faculty in 1946 for private practice in New York), Philip Johnson, Eliot Noyes, John Johansen, and Landis Gores. Their works in New Canaan, including at least one house per architect, were widely published and widely influential. By January, 1953, the town boasted more than 30 Modern houses, prompting House & Home magazine to publish an article that asked "What Is Going on in New Canaan?"

Another such pocket developed in New Haven. Yale's School of Architecture had, like almost all major schools, gone over to Modernism. The Dean in the late 1940s was George Howe, an early American convert to the International Style. Other faculty members included Philip Johnson, Louis Kahn, Eliot Noyes, Eero Saarinen, and G.E. Kidder Smith. They were supplemented by visiting instructors and part-time critics and guest lecturers who included such prominent architects and critics as Frank Lloyd Wright, Richard Neutra, Le Corbusier, Harwell Hamilton Harris, Marcel Breuer, Alvar Aalto, Carl Koch, Oscar Niemeyer, and Lazlo Moholy-Nagy. One of Yale's most prominent Modernists was not an architect: Vincent Scully, who earned his Ph.D. in Art History at Yale in 1949 and joined the faculty, rapidly gained a reputation as one of the nation's most articulatae and influential promoters of Modern architecture.

### The Henry F. Miller House: Historical Background

Henry F. Miller was a student in Yale's School of Architecture when he chose to design a house for his thesis project. As his starting point Miller took the house of some friends, a typical postwar Cape with living room, dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms, and a bathroom. He decided to design a Modern house of about the same size, "to show that there was another kind of house that could be built for the typical family." Miller and his wife, Maria, bought a parcel of land on the outskirts of New Haven and he designed the house specifically to fit its topography. Upon

University Press, 1972), 171.

<sup>4&</sup>quot;What is Going on in New Canaan?" House & Home III, 1 (January 1953):132-139.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup>Interview, 10 March 2000.

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Significance

Henry F. Miller House, Orange New Haven County, CT 8-5

graduating, Miller taught at Yale while building the house, intending to sell it when the family left New Haven. When the house was completed, the Miller family occupied it for the remainder of the school year. Then Miller found employment in a local firm and the house unexpectedly became their permanent residence. "I guess we were typical," he commented. As their family grew, the Millers added a new master bedroom, study, and playroom in 1959, but the addition carefully followed the lines and style of the original. There have been no other major changes to the house.

Only one International-Style house from before World War II has been identified in the New Haven area: the house of George Kreye, completed in 1935 and located very near to the lot that the Millers would buy. A professor in Yale's German department, Kreye had discovered the Bauhaus while studying in Germany. He largely designed the house himself, with the assistance of the local firm Schilling and Goldbecker. The Kreye house exhibits the stucco cladding, pipe railings, metal casement windows, and streamlined lines typical of the early International Style.<sup>7</sup>

Of the postwar houses, the Miller house was one of the first, but others soon joined it. Also in Orange was the Clark house, designed by Marcel Breuer and completed in 1951, utilizing the rough fieldstone and binuclear plan that were typical of Breuer's work at that time. In other New Haven suburbs, Modern houses were built by young architects like Peter Hale, Carlton Granbery, and Robert Coolidge or by established architects like Douglas Orr who adopted Modernism. Vincent Scully designed his own house in Woodbridge.

The Miller house attracted attention within and beyond the architectural community. Because of Miller's connection with Yale, faculty members and visiting architects were brought to see the house. On Sunday, 15 May 1949, the New Haven Register published a special section on the house, calling it "The Register's House of Tomorrow." Articles and numerous photographs in the twelve-page section describe the house's features and the ideas behind them, stressing its economy, flexibility, and technological innovations. The opening piece refers to "an ultra-modern house that has no counterpart in this area." This section appeared in conjunction with public tours of the house held from 15 to 29 May as a benefit for the New Haven Boys' Club. During that period, the house was open every day 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and drew an estimated 25,000

7 American Architect & Architecture (August 1935): 49.

<sup>6</sup> ibid.

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Significance

Henry F. Miller House, Orange New Haven County, CT 8-6

visitors. For years thereafter, people would identify the Millers as "the people who live in that Modern house."  $^8$ 

One year later, *House Beautiful* published an article on the Miller house as part of that magazine's ongoing coverage of what it called "the New American Style." Again the article stressed economy and technology in addition to aesthetics. Its opening also suggests the difficulty of convincing average Americans to consider Modern architecture:

The American Dream: -as much luxury as possible -for as little money as possible. Like all dreams, this one won't come true by just wishing. You have to do what this Connecticut family did--work at it. They parked their prejudices, studied all the advanced techniques in home building, and applied them. Result: 2,152 sq. ft. of luxury for \$25,000<sup>10</sup>

At about the same time, the *New Haven Register* followed up with a full-page article reporting on the Millers' reactions after living in the house for a year. A quote from Maria Miller summarized the article: "`We love it [the house], and it works!'"11

In 1985, the Miller house was included in an exhibition at the Yale School of Architecture called "Ten Years Out." The exhibition showed buildings designed by alumni of the school in their first ten years after graduation. The Miller house was the earliest work in the show.

### Miller house: International Style

The Miller house embodies many distinctive characteristics of postwar International-Style architecture:

post and beam frame: creates flexible interior and frees structure from cladding. Makes possible large expanses of glass, since the walls do not support the structure.

<u>extensive use of glass</u> in large fixed sheets, operable windows, and glazed doors--to make the interior light and airy and to provide visual connection to outdoors.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup>Interview, 10 March 2000. House tours for charity became a common way of popularizing Modern houses--similar tours were held in New Canaan, New Haven, and Guilford in the early 1950s.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup>Laura Tanner, "The American Dream: As Much Luxury as Possible--for as Little Money as Possible," House Beautiful 92, 6 (June 1950): 126ff. 10*ibid.*, 126.

<sup>11&</sup>quot;The House of Tomorrow -- One Year Later," New Haven Register, 28 May 1950.

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Significance

Henry F. Miller House, Orange New Haven County, CT 8-7

simple, geometric shapes, including a flat roof.

open floor plan: living and dining room in one, to provide greater flexibility; openings to kitchen and pantry. Movable partitions between bedrooms. Master bedroom divided into sitting and sleeping areas.

untraditional plan based on analysis of client's needs and nature of site: main living spaces on lower level to take advantage of hillside location and allow easy access to terraces. Bathroom divided into three compartments—for tub, toilet, and sink—to allow simultaneous use by more than one person. Planning for privacy: few, small windows toward street; orientation to rear of lot (different from conventional plans, which faced living room toward street).

integration of structure and site: house is sited on small buildable portion of lot, on brink of hill leading down to wetlands. Living spaces open to terrace and deck for outdoor living; on upper level, balcony provides further outdoor spaces. Large windows provide sense of connection between interior and exterior as does design of planting bed at foor of stairs. Fences and dividers screen carport from guests' entry and service yard from living spaces. Existing vegetation saved wherever possible and other landscaping executed in naturalistic style to blend with surroundings.

planning to take advantage of climate: windows face south, with shading computed to allow sunlight into the house in winter, but not in summer. Solid or nearly solid walls facing north, to provide protection from winter winds. Placement of windows and doors to allow cross-ventilation. The roof has a parapet that allows it to be flooded in the summer, providing additional cooling.

<u>extensive storage space</u>, often designed with specific uses in mind. Examples include shallow shelves for cans in kitchen and movable storage walls containing drawers as well as hanging space, which double as room dividers.

innovative technology: built-in watering system for indoor planting bed. Intercom between kitchen and front door, with electric latch that allows front door to be opened without coming upstairs. Radiant heating in the floor, eliminating radiators in the lower level.

<u>aesthetics</u>: a sense of openness and space achieved by the use of large windows, open plan, and simple forms. The stair, with its large window, open stairwell, open treads, and light rail, contributes to the sense of openness. Superfluous moldings and ornament are eliminated.

# **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

| ENTARY LISTING RECORD  Date Listed: 0                 | 04/25/2001   |
|---|--|
|   | 04/25/2001   |
| Now House   |  |
| <u>New Haven</u><br>County                            | <u>CT</u><br>State   |
| included in the nomination docum $\mathcal{U}$ . Date | s, or amendments, notwithstanding  |
| 1040 (1 1 1 4 6 4 4 4                                 | 14050  |
| 1747, the date of construction, an                    | nu 1757 is removed.  |
| h<br>i  | Register of Historic Places in according following exceptions, exclusion included in the nomination document $\frac{\mathcal{U}}{\text{Date}}$ |

**Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)** 

Ppr

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

| historic name: Miller, Henry F., House  |   |
|---|---|
| other names/site number: N/A  |   |
| 2. Location   |   |
| street & number: <u>30 Derby Avenue</u> city or town: <u>Orange</u> state <u>Connecticut</u> code <u>CT</u> county <u>New Haven</u>   | vicinity: N/A code 009 zip code 06477   |
| 3. State/Federal Agency Certification   |   |
| 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this <u>x</u> redetermination of eligibility meets the documentation properties in the National Register of Historic Place and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Paproperty <u>x</u> meets <u>does not meet the National recommend that this property be considered significations.</u> | n standards for registering<br>ces and meets the procedural<br>art 60. In my opinion, the<br>Register Criteria. I |
| statewide <u>x</u> locally. ( See continuation sheet  |   |
| John W Shangahan, Director  Description Sheet   | March 15, 2001  The meet the National Register  |
| John W Shannahan, Director  Connecticut Historical Commission  In my opinion, the property meets does not criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional   | March 15, 2001  The meet the National Register  |

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Significance

Henry F. Miller House, Orange New Haven County, CT 8-8

### Architect: Henry F. Miller

Henry F. Miller was born in 1916 in South Dartmouth, Massachusetts, and grew up in New York City. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Yale University in 1938. After serving in the Army in World War II, he returned to Yale, graduating with a Bachelor of Architecture in January of 1948.

Miller taught at Yale for a year, and then joined the firm of Harold H. Davis, a New Haven architect. In 1956 the firm became Davis, Cochran & Miller and in 1969 Davis Cochran Miller Baerman Noyes, Architects, A.I.A. Over the years the firm worked on a wide variety of projects, particularly school and university buildings, public facilities such as libraries, skating rinks, swimming pools, maintenance garages, and auditoriums, as well as businesses, banks, and churches. The firm also pioneered in the field of computerized specifications-writing, applying this technique beginning in 1969 to its own commissions and furnishing the service, on a consulting basis, to other architectural firms in Connecticut. In 1974 Miller left Davis Cochran Miller Baerman Noyes to serve as Associate Director of Facilities Planning for Yale University. He retired in 1990.

Miller became a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects in 1972. Historic preservation became a special interest, and he served as Connecticut State Preservation Coordinator on the national AIA Historic Resources Committee. In addition, Miller was a member of the boards of the New Haven Colony Historical Society, the New Haven Preservation Trust and the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation, and served on the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Board.

| 9. Major Bibliographical References  |
|--|
| <u>x</u> See continuation sheet  |
| 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 #   |
|  |
| Primary Location of Additional Data  |
| State Historic Preservation Office   |
| Other State agency   |
| Federal agency   |
| Local government   |
| University   |
| <u>x</u> Other<br>Name of repository: c/o Henry F. Miller, 30 Derby Avenue, Orange, CT 06477 |
| 10. Geographical Data  |
| Acreage of Property2.5   |
| UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)                     |
| Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing  |
| 1 <u>18 668500 4573850</u> 3   |
| 2 4  |
| See continuation sheet.  |

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

- Bibliography Henry F. Miller House, Orange 9-1 New Haven County, Connecticut
- Bangs, Jean Murray. "What is a truly American House?" House Beautiful 92,9 (September 1950): 82ff.
- Brown, Elizabeth Mills. New Haven: A Guide to Architecture and Urban Design. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1975.
- Creighton, Thomas A. "Pearl Harbor to Nagasaki: A Review of Architectural Progress During the War Years." Progressive Architecture 27,1 (January 1946): 42ff.
- "Davis Cochran Miller Baerman Noyes Architects AIA." Unpublished booklet describing firm's members and works. Collection of Henry F. Miller. Draft copy, undated [internal evidence indicates after 1970].
- Ford, Katherine Morrow, and Thomas Creighton, The American House of Today. 1951.
- "The House of Tomorrow." Special section, New Haven Register 15 May 1949.
- "The House of Tomorrow -- One Year Later." New Haven Register, 29 May 1950.
- "How to Recognize the American Style." House Beautiful, 92,5 (May 1950): 158.
- Jordy, William H. The Impact of European Modernism in the Mid-Twentieth Century. American Buildings and Their Architects, vol. 5. New York: Oxford University Press, 1972.
- Miller, Henry F. Correspondence and architectural files. Collection of Henry F. Miller.
- [Miller, Henry F.] "The Register's House of Tomorrow." Pamphlet. Collection of Henry F. Miller. n.d. [1949].
- Miller, Henry F., and Maria B. Miller. Interview by Christopher Wigren, 10 March 2000.
- "The Register's 'House Of Tomorrow' Intrigues Throngs on Opening Day." New Haven Register, 16 May 1949.

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Bibliography Henry F. Miller House, Orange New Haven County, Connecticut 9-2

- Nelson, George, and Henry Wright. Tomorrow's House: A Complete Guide for the Home-Builder. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1945.
- Tanner, Laura. "The American Dream: As Much Luxury as Possible -- for as Little Money as Possible." House Beautiful 92,6 (June, 1950):126ff.
- "What Is Going on in New Canaan?" House & Home III,1 (January 1953): 132-139.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

The boundaries for the property are those currently established for 30 Derby Avenue in the Town of Orange, shown on Orange Town Assessor's Map as lot number 93-4-2.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

The boundaries described above include the property as acquired by Henry F. and Maria B. Miller in 1948 and other parcels acquired later. The additional parcels were bought to preserve the house's setting and views and have not been significantly altered from their appearance in 1949.

| 11. Form Prepared By  |
|---|
| name/title: <u>Christopher Wigren, Architectural Historian</u> reviewed by John Herzan, Connecticut Historical Commission |
| organization: N/A date 4 March 2001   |
| street & number: 360 Bellevue Road telephone: 203.624.2063  |
| city or town: <u>New Haven</u> state: <u>Connecticut</u> zip code: <u>06511</u>   |
| Additional Documentation  |
| Submit the following items with the completed form:   |
| Continuation Sheets   |
| Maps  |

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

| Property Owner   |
|--|
| (Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)                      |
| name: <u>Henry F. and Maria B. Miller</u>                                    |
| street & number: 30 Derby Avenue telephone: 203.387.5787                     |
| city or town: <u>Orange</u> state: <u>Connecticut</u> zip code: <u>06477</u> |
|  |

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Photographs Henry F. Miller House, Orange New Haven County, CT

1 of 1

All photographs taken by Henry F. Miller, July, 2000. Negatives on file with the Connecticut Historical Commission

- 1. East (rear) facade. Camera facing northwest.
- 2. East (rear) facade, showing 1959 addition. Camera facing northwest.
- 3. South facade. Camera facing northeast.
- 4. View under balcony past corner of living/dining room, toward shed. Camera facing southwest.
- 5. West (entry) facade. Camera facing east.
- 6. Front door. Camera facing east.
- 7. Stairwell. Camera facing southeast.
- 8. Living/dining room. Camera facing north.
- 9. Living/dining room. Camera facing south.
- 10. Movable storage partition.

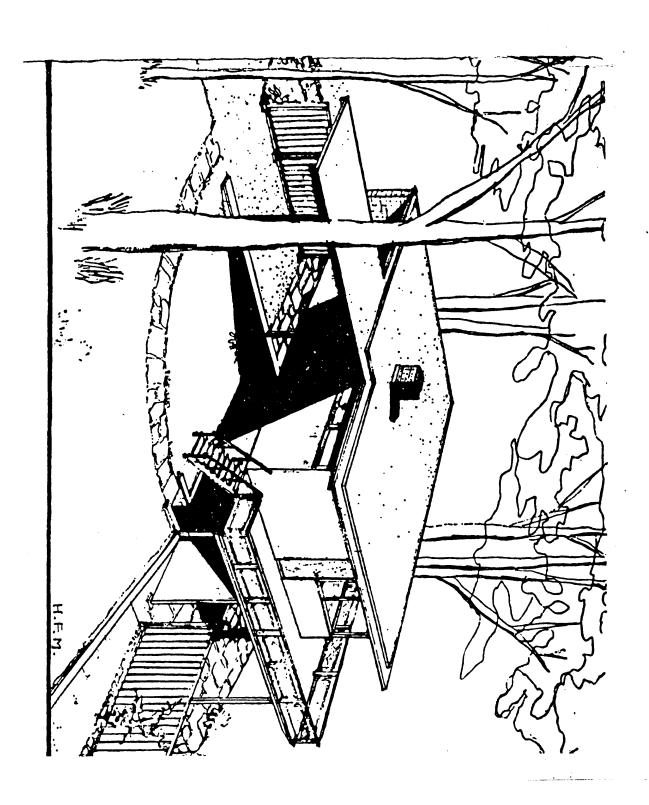


Figure 2. Floor plans, Miller house, by Henry F. Miller, 2000.

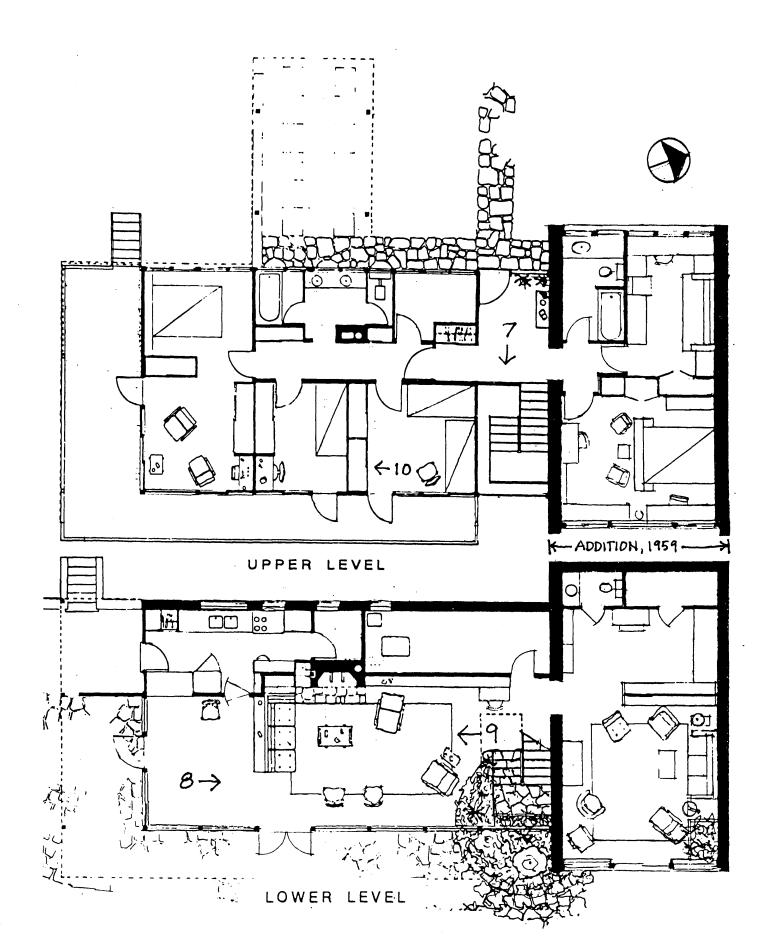
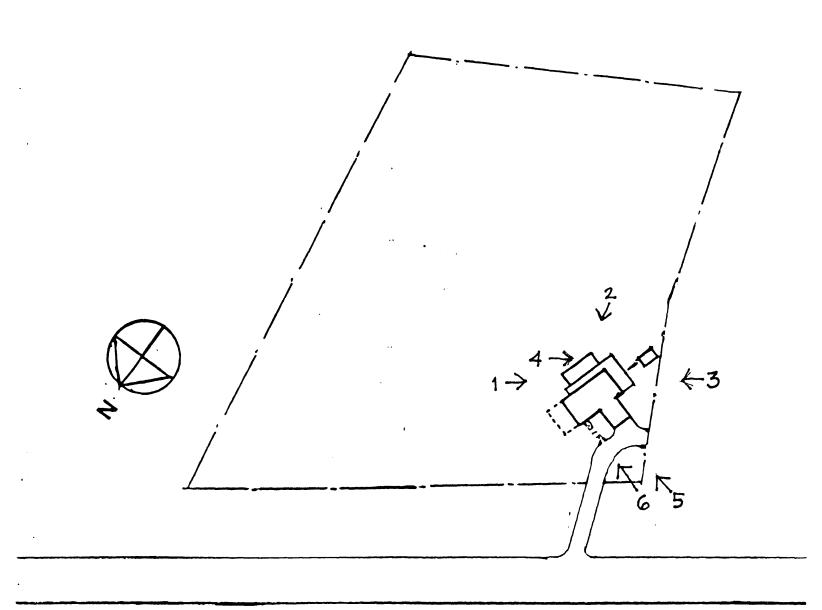


Figure 3. Site plan, Miller house, by Henry F. Miller, 2000



DERBY AVENUE (CT ROUTE 34)

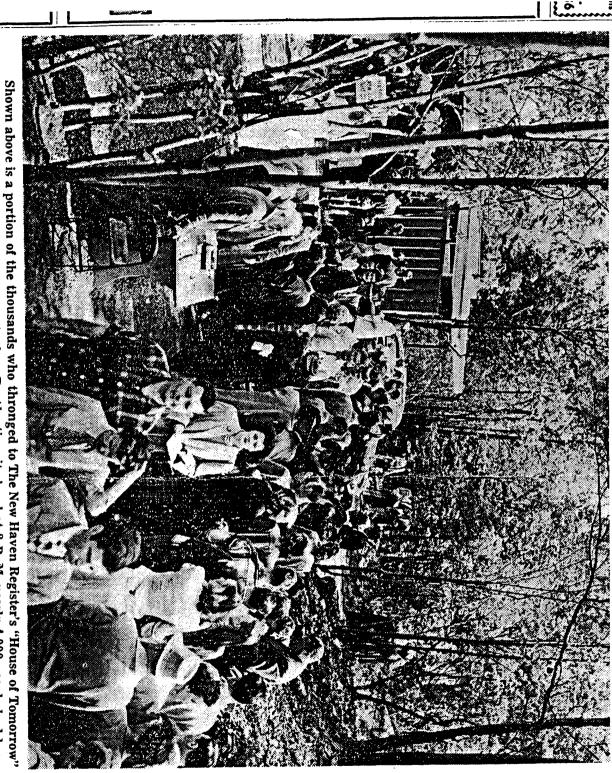
Figure 4.

Of "Throngs Inspect Register's 'House New Haven Evening Register, Tomorrow" On Opening Day," 16 May 1949, page 3.

# Throngs Inspect Register's 'House Of Tomorrow' On Opening Day

Reupholsterin

NEW HAVEN EVENING REGISTER, MONDAY, MAY 16, 1949



234 WHALLEY AVEN

shown through the building and had inspected the grounds Capt. Herbert Body Of Man Found Hartford, May 16-(P)-The body apparently due Under Hartford Dock since Saturday and that death was

when it opened to the public in Orange yesterday. By the time it closed at 8 P. M. nearly 4,000 people had been

Medical Examiner Walter B. Weisto natural causes

> **₩OULD ≥** Z

SEE The New! KITCHEN?

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"HOUSE of