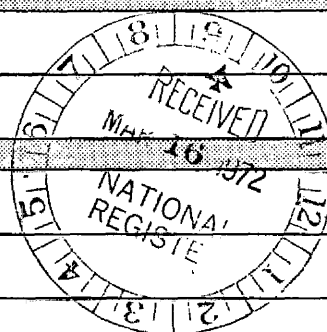


**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: New Jersey	
COUNTY: Union	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
NOV 3	1972

415 E 55th 900  
 2418 N V50/280



**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Miller-Cory House

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Same as above

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
614 Mountain Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:  
Westfield 07090

STATE: New Jersey      CODE: 34      COUNTY: Union      CODE: 039

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <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 (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Mr. & Mrs. D. M. Jones

STREET AND NUMBER:  
P.O. Box 613

CITY OR TOWN:  
Westfield 07090

STATE: New Jersey      CODE: 34

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
Union County Register's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Court House

CITY OR TOWN:  
Elizabeth 07207

STATE: New Jersey      CODE: 34

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:       Federal       State       County       Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:      STATE:      CODE:

STATE: New Jersey  
 COUNTY: Union  
 ENTRY NUMBER: NOV 3 1972  
 FOR NPS USE ONLY

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. Description

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

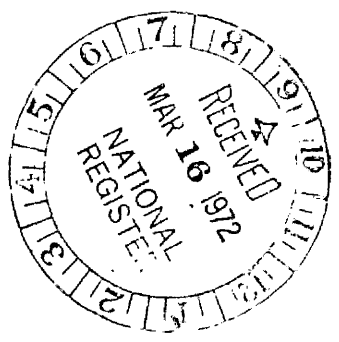
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Early 18th century story and a half clapboard farm house situated facing south on approximately 3/4 of an acre of well-landscaped property. The original part is "half-house" type with a through hall and two rooms downstairs, two corner fire places with a common chimney. There are two rooms up the closed stairway. The outside walls are filled with brick noggin to which plaster is applied directly. The inside partitions are made of rough planks with hand split lathe applied with hand wrought nails, then plastered.

The wing was added, incorporating the original kitchen, probably in the latter part of the 18th century with additional changes made in the 1860's. The former kitchen has been slightly altered, the original fireplace having been removed.

All original wide floorboards, beams and basic structure have been kept intact. The structure was carefully restored by the former owner by removing a 19th century dormer from the front roof, rebuilding the chimneys and replacing the tar-over-slate-over-shingle roof with handsplit cedar shakes, all done in such a manner as to preserve the integrity of the building. Stenciling was found on the walls of two rooms and the hall on the second floor of the early section. A section of this original stenciling has been left visible in one room. The walls with the remaining stenciling were painted over duplicating this stencil.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



8. Significance

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century  
 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	Members of the
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	Miller and Cory
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	families were
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	active in Religious
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	and Civic affairs
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Miller-Cory House is a perfect house for "Colonial Westfield's Colonial House". The town's very beginning is rooted in the Millers and the Corys. Both families were among the first settlers and were related by birth or marriage to most of the other settlers.

The house is an excellent example of an 18th century farmhouse; has not been materially remodeled or changed but remains very much as it was when first the Millers, then the Corys lived in it.

The Samuel Miller who owned this home was born in 1718. He and his wife, Sabra, had eight children. Samuel's sons, William, Clark and Marsh, and nephews fought in the Revolutionary War. He died in 1782 at the age of 64. William Miller (1650-1711), the great grandfather of Samuel, was born in East Hampton, Long Island. Samuel's grandfather, also named Samuel, lived from 1674 to 1759. Both of the above ancestors were "Associates of Elizabethtown" and acquired their land when this area was divided into 100-acre lots and apportioned among the original settlers of Elizabethtown in the Clinker Lot Division of 1699-1700 which was the beginning of Westfield, Union (Connecticut Farms) and Springfield.

Samuel's father, William (1698 to 1782), was a founder of the Presbyterian Church in Westfield, and he and David Robinson in 1734 sold to the church the land on which the church was built. He was a large landowner and long an Alderman of Westfield which was then a borough of Elizabethtown. Samuel's grandfather was a carpenter who owned property here as well as in Elizabethtown and served long on the Town Committee to protect the Associates' rights against the Proprietors. It is highly possible that he owned and built the earliest part of this home in the very first years of the 18th century. However, we do know that Samuel Senior's grandson, Samuel, did live here and probably as early as 1740, which must have been near the date of his marriage. It is stated in his will of 1782 that he leaves to his wife Sabra (among other things) "the privilege of my two middle rooms and the chambers over them, privilege to go up in said chambers through the other rooms, and the privilege of one quarter of my cellar and to go in and out of same when and with what she pleases".

From this, we learn that all the sections of this present house must have been here at that time.

This Samuel Miller Plantation in the 18th century extended from Chestnut Street to Euclid Avenue, and from Mountain Avenue to a line this side of Broad Street. In fact, the Millers were the earliest settlers in this immediate area and owned all the property in this section in colonial days.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Clayton, W. Woodford, History of Union & Middlesex Counties, New Jersey.  
 Everts & Peck, July 26, 1882.  
 Graham, Ester, (MSS) Ancestry & Decendants of George Fleming 1845-1922 and  
 his wife, Ester Ann Green. March 1950, copy in National Society of  
 DAR, Washington, D. C.  
 Hoffman, Robert V. The Olde Towne. 1937, with map and geneologies by  
 Pearson Greaves.  
 McKinney, William K., Philhower, Charles A., and Kniffin, Harry A., Com-  
memorative History of the Presbyterian Church, Westfield, New Jersey  
1728-1928.

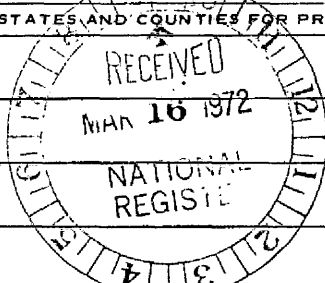
**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		40	39	45
NE	° ' "	° ' "		74	21	03
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 3/4 acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: A.I.A.  
Charles H. Detwiler, Jr., Architect/Mrs. Wm. P. Kinnenmen, State Chairman  
 ORGANIZATION: of Lineage Research (68-71) DAR, & Mr. & Mrs. D. M. Jones DATE: Jan. 20, 1972  
 STREET AND NUMBER: Westfield Historical Society P.O. Box 613  
 CITY OR TOWN: Westfield 07090 STATE: New Jersey CODE: 34

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:  
 National  State  Local   
 Name: Richard J. Sullivan  
 Title: Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection  
 Date: 3-13-1972

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.  
Robert Van Ueley  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
 Date: 11/3/72  
 ATTEST:  
William Muntz  
 Keeper of The National Register  
 Date: 11-1-72

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Form 10-300a  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) (1)

STATE	
New Jersey	
COUNTY	
Union	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
NOV 3	1972

(Number all entries)

Miller-Cory House  
New Jersey Code: 34  
Union Co. Code: 039

Section 8. Continued

According to a family history compiled by Esther Graham, a Miller descendant, "This family became so numerous at one time that a place called Millertown was named in their honor as nearly all the residents were Millers. It was later called Branch Mills. It was one of the earliest parts of Westfield that was settled".

Joseph Cory II (1757-1802), who owned the property after the Millers, acquired it in the latter part of the 18th century. He was a descendant of John Cory who also was an early settler and came to Westfield about the same time as William Miller. The Corys were prominent in the Presbyterian Church and Joseph Cory II was a Revolutionary soldier: served in the 1st Regiment of the Essex County Militia and was wounded in June 1780. His son William lived here with his wife, Charity Baker Cory, and they reared their family here. Levi Cory, his son, was born and died here and this property remained in the Cory family into the 1920's.

The following is a quote from page 92 from the Westfield Church History and records, 1728-1928 - Philhower, which we offer because it may be of possible interest since the Miller-Cory House is on Mountain Avenue, the line of retreat. (Mountain Avenue was also an old Indian path.)

"The advance toward Springfield December 17, 1776 was apparently from three directions, Vauxhall, Connecticut Farms and Westfield in order to rid the territory of all harrassing movements in the rear of an army. The left wing came through Westfield from Rahway and retreated from Springfield by the same route. On the withdrawl from Springfield, Col. Ford's militia pursued the left wing to our town, but could not overtake it. It is with pride that the people of Westfield now, as then, view this first retreat in our state of the British before Continental troops through their town!". Quoting Col. Symmes, the statement reads, \*"This is the first instance in the State of New Jersey when the British troops turned their backs and fled from those they called rebels, and the success, small as the success was, taught the New Jersey Militia that the foe was not invincible". - New Jersey Journal No. 4638.

The line of retreat was undoubtedly over the Springfield Road to what is now Woodland Road thence to Mountain Avenue by the church, through the center of town and out by way of Central Avenue to Rahway.

\* This text represents current emphasis.

Section 9. Continued

New Jersey State Archives - Will of Samuel Miller, dated February 16, 1782.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet) (2)

STATE	
New Jersey	
COUNTY	
Union	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	NOV 3 1972

(Number all entries)

Miller-Cory House  
New Jersey Code: 34  
Union Co. Code: 039

Congressional Representation

Florence P. Dwyer, Congresswoman (12th District)  
Clifford P. Case, U. S. Senator  
Harrison A. Williams, U. S. Senator

