National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page ____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 98000370

Miller Block Property Name Date Listed: 5/4/98

<u>Spokane</u> County <u>WA</u> State

<u>N/A</u>

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Signature Keeper <u>ché</u>

of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Period of Significance:

The period of significance is revised to add: 1914. [The dates mark the date of construction and the date of significant alterations.]

This information was confirmed with L. McCroskey of the WA SHPO.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

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_____Miller Block

Spokane County, WA

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number o (Do not inclu	f Resou de previou	rces within Pro	perty in the cou	nt.)	
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(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See Continuation Sheets 7, pages 1 through 3::

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8. Statement of Significance

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.
- ☑ 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.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or 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 (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1890

Significant Dates

1890, 1914

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

William J. Carpenter, Architect

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.) See Continuation Sheets Section 8, pages 1-4.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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
- Other

Name of repository:

Spokane City/County Historic Preservation Office

Miller Bloc	k	Spokane	<u>e County</u> , WA	-
Name of Property		County and	State	• • •
10. Geographical D)ata		·	
Acreage of Propert	yless than one (1) acre			
UTM References (Place additional UTM re	ferences on a continuation sheet.)			
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	tion to Spokane Falls, Lot 11 ion ries were selected on a continuation sheet.)	, Block 23, Parce	l Number 35183.0614	
11. Form Prepared	Ву			
name/title	Linda Yeömans			-
organization	Consultant	date	1 December 1997	-
street & number	501 West 27th Avenue	telephone _	509-456-3828	
city or town	Spokane	stateWA	zip code 99203	-
Additional Docume				
Submit the following item	is with the completed form:		•	
Continuation Sheet	8			
Maps				
A USGS ma	p (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating th	e property's location.		
A Sketch m	ap for historic districts and properties ha	aving 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				
	request of SHPO or FPO.)	• • • •		
name	Joseph M. Dinnison			
street & number	6205 South Ferrall Court	telephone _ 509-4	43-9365	
city or town	Spokane	stateWA zi	code <u>99223-7244</u>	

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Peperwork 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 say.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7, Page 1

The Miller Block Spokane County, WA

Narrative Description

Summary Statement

Built in 1890, the Miller Block is one of Spokane's oldest and finest commercial buildings embracing the Romanesque Revival style. The prominent parapet, projecting ornamental colonettes, sandstone voussoirs and terra cotta rinceau facade detail establish the Miller Block as an excellent example of the Romanesque Revival style and the architect's creative adaptation of architectural elements. Unlike more staid examples of the Romanesque Revival style in Spokane, the detail on the Miller Block reflects prevailing design trends appearing in Chicago before the turn of the century. These design trends led to Romanesque styling with broader, arched windows applied to commercial buildings that became one of the hallmarks of the early Chicago style. Above street-level, the Miller Block's decorative and unique facade is well-preserved and retains good integrity.

1997 - Present Appearance and Condition

The four-story Miller Block is located within Spokane's central business district and stands on Lot 11 of Block 23 in the Spokane Falls Resurvey Addition. Sandwiched among three, four and five-story commercial buildings along the north side of Sprague Avenue at West 808, the narrow Miller Block faces south. It comprises a footprint measuring 50 feet wide and 85 feet deep with 4250 square feet on each floor. A thick basalt foundation supports the building and houses a full basement. The taller, five-story Whitten Block, built in 1890, is attached to the Miller Building's east wall. A narrow alleyway abuts the Miller Block to the north, and an open courtyard and garage ramp border the building to the west. In 1996, the Miller Block was rehabilitated with the installation of original wood sash windows on the fourth floor facade and a contemporary-compatible storefront at street-level thereby returning the building to eligible status for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Exterior

The four-story Miller Block rises nearly 65 feet to a corbelled parapet that conceals a flat roof of built-up tar. The parapet is accentuated by a slightly taller center section and consists of a narrow foliated sandstone course, a frieze band of recessed panels, a decorative course of corbelled brick, and sandstone coping. Behind the parapet, the roof slopes slightly toward the rear and supports an elevator-stairwell tower, an additional exit at the northeast corner of the roof, mechanical and air conditioning shafts and two enclosed, vented skylights. Red bricks laid in a common bond measure sixteen to twenty inches thick and form the building's structural, brick-bearing walls. The north, east and west elevations are clad in red brick veneer while the building's facade is covered with decorative buff-colored pressed brick veneer. Found in Spokane only on the Miller Block, the narrow, elongated buff-colored bricks are an unusual size measuring one and threequarters inches high by thirteen inches long. The facade of the Miller Building is divided

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7, Page 2

The Miller Block Spokane County, WA

symmetrically into three vertical bays by varying fenestration and projecting ornamental colonettes. The second and third floor windows are vertical, rectangular-shaped, one-over-one, double-hung wood-sash units. The fourth floor window openings form semicircular arches and feature voussoirs of rock-faced limestone. Curved molded brick reveals frame the recessed one-over-one, double-hung wood-sash windows. Curved buff-colored bricks are also used to create narrow, double pilasters (or colonettes) that rise from the third floor and continue up through the roofline. The pilasters are decorated with carved, foliated caps and supports. The second and third floors are separated by a deep, continuous band of rinceau sculpted in sandstone. The terra cotta rinceau rests on a stringcourse of rock-faced sandstone that forms lintels over second-floor windows. A narrower stone stringcourse runs above the rinceau and creates third-floor window sills. Recessed foliated panels separate third and fourth-floor window openings. The street-level facade of the Miller Building features a centrally placed canted bay with contemporary-compatible storefront design incorporating plate glass windows, wood-paneled bulkheads, transom lights and arched double-entry doors.

The west elevation of the Miller Building is clad in red brick veneer laid in a stretcher bond with paired corbelled wall projections at the first and second floor juncture, and supports three rectangular, one-over-one, double-hung wood-sash windows at each level on the second, third and fourth floors. A brick bridge controlled by the adjacent underground parking facility and designed to hold fluorescent signage is attached to the west wall and joins the Miller Block to the three-story building to the west. The rear, north elevation of the Miller Block faces a narrow alleyway and consists of symmetrically placed one-overone, aluminum-clad, wood-sash windows at the second, third and fourth levels. The ground-floor windows are fixed multi-paned metal units with wire safety-glass panes.

Interior

The interior of the Miller Building was removed in 1914, again during the 1980s, and was rebuilt as a hotel during 1996-1997. Contemporary-compatible treatment features a first-floor lobby, lounge, office and meeting room. The original stairwell and elevator shaft anchored on the east wall have been renovated and rendered functional. A corridor leads through the Miller Block's east wall and opens to the attached Whitten Block--an 1890 five-story building also renovated for use as a hotel in concert with the Miller Block. The second, third and fourth floors of the Miller Building are exact duplicates of each other and contain six hotel suites each along with the elevator shaft, stairwell and corridors that link each floor with the adjacent Whitten Block. Corresponding to the original measurements, ceiling heights in the first-floor lobby and upstairs hotel rooms exceed twelve feet. The basement is finished with meeting rooms, enclosed mechanical-heating-electrical areas, the stairwell and elevator shaft, and a corridor that leads to the Whitten Block.

Section 7, Page 3

The Miller Block Spokane County, WA

1890, 1914, 1916, 1929 - Historic Appearance and Alterations

Built in 1890, the Miller Block was originally wood-framed and finished in oak. The building held street-level commercial space and upper-floor hotel rooms. One-over-one double-hung, wood-sash windows opened from the west and north elevations. The building's south facade was lit by large windows with semicircular arches on the fourth floor and rectangular, vertical windows on the second and third levels. The windows were all plain, one-over-one, double-hung, wood-sash units. In 1914, the Miller Building's support system and interior were rebuilt. In an effort to strengthen, fireproof and preserve the building, the interior was completely removed to accommodate the installation of concrete-covered steel columns, concrete beams and concrete floors. The upper floors were converted from hotel to commercial space, the basement was deepened and finished, and the interior was retrimmed in mahogany. Early drawings and photographs from 1890, 1914, 1916, and 1929 depict the original storefront with a central canted entry framed by display windows, bulkheads, transoms and a cast-iron lintel supported by square cast-iron columns. A circa 1916 photograph shows transom lights composed of prism glass and shaded by scalloped, striped awnings.

1973 to 1997 - Appearance, Alterations and Condition

In 1973, a two-story brick building attached to the Miller Building at the west elevation was demolished and an open courtyard and garage ramp were installed. The west elevation of the Miller Building was clad in new red-brick veneer embellished with paired street-level corbelled projections. A bridge designed to hold fluorescent signage was installed and secured to the west elevation of the Miller Building. Spanning the courtyard and garage ramp, the bridge is also secured to the three-story building to the west of the Miller Block. In the 1980s, the interior of the Miller Building was entirely removed leaving only the building's shell consisting of masonry walls, concrete columns, concrete floors, an empty elevator shaft and an open, unfinished, metal stairway on the east wall. The facade's iron fire escape assembly, attached signage and first-floor window awnings were removed; however, the arched fourth-floor facade windows and ceiling skylights were retained. The original street-level commercial bays, transom space and canted entrance were covered with brown-brick veneer, arched windows and a central entryway flush with the In 1996-1997, sensitive contemporary-compatible renovation and building's facade. restoration work was initiated resulting in the building's return to its original use as a hotel. The original elevator shaft, east-wall stairway and arched fourth-floor facade windows were renovated and restored. Although not presently used, the two original skylights of the Miller Block were repaired, vented and secured with a protective aluminum covering designed to preserve them for future use. A new contemporary-compatible first-floor storefront with a canted entry was rebuilt and mimics the historic facade of the Miller Block as seen in turn-of-the-century drawings and photographs of the building. Even though extensive interior and exterior alterations have been made to the Miller Block, the building's facade above street-level retains good integrity conveying the architect's personal artistic imprint and interpretation of the Romanesque Revival style.

Section 8, Page 1

The Miller Block Spokane County, WA

Narrative Statement of Significance Summary Statement

Built in 1890, the Miller Block is one of the finest examples of the Romanesque Revival style seen on commercial buildings erected immediately after the Great Fire of 1889 in Spokane. The Miller Block's decorative facade--embellished with finely molded brick and stonework and intricate rinceau rarely seen in Spokane--bespeaks the artistic skill and creativity of the building's architect, William J. Carpenter. Eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C, the Miller Block is significant for its unique use of architectural details and embodies the creative excellence of an accomplished architect. The Miller Block was built for Spokane entrepreneur Stanley Miller, and was later owned and operated for over 80 years by the Leonard-Ryan family and Anna Leonard Ryan--an early Spokane businesswoman who achieved success in turn-of-the-century Spokane at a time when the business world was dominated by men.

Historical Context

Early Spokane

Founded in 1873, the settlement of Spokane Falls consisted of a sawmill, a trading post and a series of unharnessed waterfalls. Initially named for the Spokane Indians who regarded the falls as an important fishing site, Spokane was also named for the cascading waterfalls spilling forth from the Spokane River. By the late 1870s, railroad routes linking Spokane to the Eastern United States were being laid, and significant gold and silver lodes were discovered in the Coeur d'Alene mining area north of the Spokane. The town was officially designated in 1881 by the Territorial Legislature and expansion was rapid during the decade of 1880-1890. Settlers arrived continuously and businesses multiplied in Spokane's downtown core. The community grew and gained increasing recognition as a center for mining, lumber, agriculture, and rail transport. The area's economic climate, along with nationally improved financial conditions, led to a bustling building boom, and by the summer of 1889, frame structures were being replaced with more permanent and imposing brick "blocks." On Sunday afternoon 4 August 1899, a huge fire devastated the town destroying 32 blocks of the city's business center. The tragedy gave rise to a frenetic and unparalleled period of building, and embarked the city on a 30-year cycle of growth and prosperity. The Miller Block is one of the few remaining structures from Spokane's immediate post-fire building surge and symbolizes the explosive rebirth of the city.

Stanley Miller and the Miller Block

The Miller Block stands just three blocks south and two blocks west of the intersection of Howard and Front Streets (renamed Spokane Falls Boulevard)--the site of Spokane's first buildings. Stanley Miller, a co-proprietor of the Spokane Ice Company, purchased Lot 11

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8, Page 2

The Miller Block Spokane County, WA

on Block 23 in 1887. He built a two-story frame structure with rooming units over a firstfloor shop. A handful of frame dwellings surrounded Miller's shop and rooming house including Leydford Whitten's stores to the east, the Northern Pacific Livery Stable to the west and the Falls City Opera House to the northeast. In 1889, Spokane's Great Fire spread through the city's downtown core and destroyed Stanley Miller's two-story frame building, his neighbor's businesses and nearly the entire downtown central business district.

Caught up in Spokane's post-fire expansion, Stanley Miller invested \$26,000 in the rebuilding on his new Miller Block. Located on one of the city's busiest streets directly across from the world-famous and lavishly appointed Davenport Hotel, the Miller Block was erected in 1890--just one year after the Great Fire of 1889. Three years later, Miller succumbed to the economic depression of 1893 and lost his mortgaged Miller Block. The Dutch-owned Hypotheek Bank assumed title to the property until Daniel Drumheller, one of Spokane's early mayors, purchased it in 1903 for \$35,000. Eight months later, Drumheller sold the Miller Block to Spokane mining industrialist James Leonard.

In 1906, the Sherman Clay Music Company, a business specializing in pianos, moved into the ground-floor commercial space of the Miller Block. The upper three floors continued to operate successfully as a hotel variously called the New Jersey, the Comfort and the Vernon. In 1914, the Miller Block was redesigned by noted Spokane architect Albert Held and rebuilt converting the entire structure, except for the west end of the ground floor, for use by the Sherman Clay Music Company. A 21 June 1914 Spokesman-Review article notes the building was strengthened with steel and concrete construction and the basement was deepened. Sound-proof record and piano rooms, piano and Victrola display areas, and an auditorium designed to accommodate 200 people were built on the first, second and third floors. The first three floors were finished with mahogany while the fourth floor was equipped with a piano repair and refinishing plant. In 1924, after an 18-year leasehold, the music company relocated to West Riverside Avenue and the Miller Block's commercial space was then occupied by Western Union Telegraph, Spokane Northern Telegraph and District Telegraph companies. With telegraph offices linked to Chicago, Milwaukee and Saint Paul located next door in the Whitten Block, and the star-studded Davenport Hotel across the street, the West 800 block of Sprague Avenue and the Miller Building teemed with activity--from businessmen and travelers to uniformed messengers and bicyclists. Second-floor tenants in the Miller Building have included labor unions, the Arthur Murray Dance Studio, the Business and Professional Women's Club and the Canadian Legion.

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Anna Leonard Ryan

James Leonard bought the Miller Block in 1903 and died seven years later in 1910. He was survived by his wife Anna and their three young children. In addition to her allconsuming duties and responsibilities as a new single-parent and family bread-winner, Anna Leonard established herself as a successful and prominent Spokane businesswoman-an incomparable accomplishment in early Spokane where men dominated the business world. She continued to raise her three children, assumed her husband's proprietorship role for the Miller Building, successfully managed its tenants and gradually amassed substantial wealth in real estate. After 20 years of widowhood, Anna Leonard remarried in 1930. Her second husband, Edward P. Ryan, was a noted Spokane businessman and Old National Bank board member. Anna's children achieved prominence as well. Her daughter, Margaret Rose, married Robert Paterson who followed his father as president of Spokane's Crescent Department Store. Her two sons, James and William, worked in the mining industry, owned a mining and mortgage investment company and served as mining board presidents. The Leonard family retained ownership of the Miller Building for over 80 years and sold it in the mid-1980s. Until recently, the Miller Block had enjoyed continuous business for nearly a century. It remains a tangible reminder of Spokane's significant economic growth and the tremendous building boom that commenced after the Great Fire of 1889.

Architectural Significance (Criterion C)

The Miller Block is one of Spokane's finest examples of the Romanesque Revival style of architecture popular throughout the United States from the 1870s to 1900. The block's exquisitely detailed facade reveals design rarely seen in early Spokane buildings and reflects the trend-setting artistry of the architect. Designed by William J. Carpenter, the Miller Block is significant as the most extant Carpenter-designed commercial building remaining in Spokane.

William J. Carpenter and the Miller Block

William J. Carpenter was born in England and practiced architecture in Spokane for less than two years from 1889 through 1890. Although he worked in Spokane for a short time, Carpenter designed several prominent buildings. Of Carpenter's remaining commercial buildings, only the Miller Block's facade retains good integrity above street-level. The sixstory Hyde Block on West Riverside Avenue was the largest post-fire building he designed, but was demolished in 1979. Another landmark building designed by Carpenter is the Loewenburg Brothers Mercantile on the southeast corner of Spokane Falls Boulevard and Howard Street. The building was converted to the Coeur d'Alene Hotel in 1910 and has been altered substantially since then. Another greatly altered building designed by Carpenter is the Wilson-Clark Building. Located on the southwest corner of Sprague Avenue and Post Street, this hastily constructed two-story building was erected after the

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Fire of 1889 and purchased by Louis Davenport. In 1903, Davenport rebuilt Carpenter's Wilson-Clark Block and created the Mission style Davenport Restaurant-Pennington Hotel wing of the Davenport Hotel. In addition to commercial buildings, Carpenter designed six residential homes in Spokane and is perhaps best-known for his design of the high-style landmark Loewenburg Mansion in Browne's Addition. The Queen Anne style house employs Romanesque Revival style arches and stone lintels similar to the Miller Block's decorative facade, and is one of Spokane's finest residential buildings. Of the other five residential homes, only the turreted Currie-Forrest House near Corbin Park remains.

Stylistically, Carpenter's buildings demonstrate a familiarity with the Romanesque Revival style and a skill for introducing variety and detail rarely seen in post-fire Spokane buildings. Of the post-Victorian building styles that emerged in downtown Spokane on Riverside, Main and Sprague Avenues after the Great Fire of 1889, the dominant style was Romanesque Revival. Larger buildings on Riverside were generally plain except for towers, parapet details and heavy window surrounds. Within this context, the Miller Block was singular with its intricate terra cotta rinceau and finely molded buff-colored brick. Only the Review Building--designed by Chauncey Seaton and completed one year after the Miller Block--exhibits scroll work of comparable design. In summary, the Miller Block is architecturally significant for its unique adaptation of the Romanesque Revival style and the creative use of artistic details. Of the nine commercial buildings designed by Carpenter, six were destroyed and two were extensively altered. The Miller Block, retaining good facade integrity above street-level and conveying the architect's original expression, is the best example of a commercial building designed by William Carpenter remaining in Spokane.

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The Miller Block Spokane County, WA

Geographical Data Verbal Boundary Description Parcel Number 35183.0614 Resurvey and Addition to Spokane Falls, Lot 11, Block 23

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the entire parcel and urban legal description which contains the Miller Block.

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Maps

USGS Map including the property's location and UTM references.

Photographs and Drawings Eighteen (18) black and white photographs to include:

photograph number	date of photo	photographer	negative location	description
1	1890	drawing	SFR 5 Aug.1890	south facade
2 3	1916	unknown	WWP, Spokane	south facade
3	1997	L. Yeomans	L. Yeomans	southwest
				corner and
				facade
4	1997	L. Yeomans	L. Yeomans	south facade
5	1997	L. Yeomans	L. Yeomans	south facade
6	1997	L. Yeomans	L. Yeomans	south
				storefront
7	1997	L. Yeomans	L. Yeomans	south facade
8	1997	L. Yeomans	L. Yeomans	south
				storefront
9	1997	L. Yeomans	L. Yeomans	interior, front
				lobby entry
10	1997	L. Yeomans	L. Yeomans	interior, first
				floor elevator
11	1997	L. Yeomans	L. Yeomans	interior, first
				floor lobby
12	1997	L. Yeomans	L. Yeomans	interior, first
				floor lobby
13	1997	L. Yeomans	L. Yeomans	interior, fourth
				floor south
				wall window
14	1997	L. Yeomans	L. Yeomans	interior, fourth
				floor closet
15	1997	L. Yeomans	L. Yeomans	interior, fourth
				floor hallway
16	1997	L. Yeomans	L. Yeomans	interior, fourth
				floor west wall
17	1997	L. Yeomans	L. Yeomans	interior,
				stairwell
18	1997	L. Yeomans	L. Yeomans	basement
				mechanical
				room

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The Miller Block Spokane County, WA

Photograph Number 1: Drawing of the Miller Block from 1890, south facade



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Photograph Number 2: Miller Block, south facade from 1916



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The Miller Block Spokane County, WA

Photograph Number 3:
Photograph Number 4:Southwest corner of Miller Block, 1997 photo
South facade





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Photograph Number 5: Photograph Number 6: Southwest facade, 1997 photo South facade, street-level storefront detail



Section Additional Information, Page 6

The Miller Block Spokane County, WA

Photograph Number 7: Photograph Number 8: South facade upper-level detail, 1997 photo South facade street-level storefront detail



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The Miller Block Spokane County, WA

Photograph Number 9:
Photograph Number 10:Front lobby, south wall, first floor, 1997 photo
Front lobby, east wall, first floor elevator, 1997 photo



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Photograph Number 11: Photograph Number 12: First floor, lobby looking south, 1997 photo First floor, lobby, 1997 photo





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The Miller Block Spokane County, WA

Photograph Number 13:Fourth floor hotel room, south wall and windowPhotograph Number 14:Fourth floor hotel room, southwest corner





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The Miller Block Spokane County, WA

Photograph Number 15: Photograph Number 16: Fourth floor hallway Fourth floor hotel room, west wall and window



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The Miller Block Spokane County, WA

Photograph Number 17:	Stairwell, east wall, photo 1997
Photograph Number 18:	Basement mechanical room, photo 1997



