

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



144

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name Miller, Romanta T., House
other names/site number Fraser Farm

2. Location

street & number 1089 Bowerman Rd

| | |
|-----|---------------------|
| N/A | not for publication |
| N/A | vicinity |

city or town Wheatland
state New York code NY county Monroe code 055 zip code 14546

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide X local

Ruth A. Purpoint DBAPO 1/31/14
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

Edson H. Beall 4.11.14
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Miller, Romanta T., House
Name of Property

Monroe, NY
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 3 | 0 | buildings |
| 0 | 0 | sites |
| 0 | 1 | structures |
| 0 | 0 | objects |
| 3 | 1 | Total |

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/residence

DOMESTIC/RESIDENCE

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Italianate

foundation: stone
walls: brick

roof: slate
other: _____

Miller, Romanta T., House
Name of Property

Monroe, NY
County and State

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

Built 1869-1870, the Romanta T. Miller House is a two-story Italianate style residence of brick and masonry construction with an early twentieth century Colonial Revival style full-height entrance and sleeping porch and another Colonial Revival era porch on the east side. The house is in its original location near the intersection of South and Bowerman Roads in the town of Wheatland, Monroe County, New York and the setting is still largely rural. The house is sited facing south with the one bay wide entrance projecting south from the building. The north end of the residence has a one and one-half story kitchen wing. Windows in the main block and kitchen addition are evenly spaced and have stone sills and lintels and decorative shutters. The west side of the kitchen addition has a non historic enclosed porch that is compatible in design with the other porches. The foundation is rough cut limestone and the overhanging roof is clad with slate shingles. The house retains a high degree of historic and architectural integrity, which includes its original layout of five rooms on each floor and much of the original fabric, such as plaster walls, wood floors, fireplaces and a curved black walnut staircase in the entrance foyer. The property also includes two contributing buildings: a large U-shaped barn, originally constructed ca. 1870 and expanded in 1940 and a small garden shed/machine shop. A non historic rustic garden pergola is located between the house and the barn.

Narrative Description

Bowerman Road is a main roadway in the town of Wheatland running north to south between Scottsville-Mumford Road and South Road, the latter so named since it parallels the town's south border with the town of Caledonia in Livingston County. The town of Wheatland is in the southwest corner of Monroe County and is bounded by Genesee County on the east, Livingston County on the south, the towns of Riga and Chili on the north and the town of Rush to the east. Scottsville is the largest village in the town and the closest to the Romanta T. Miller House, which is south of the village at the intersection of Bowerman and South Roads. The house is located in the southeast portion of a nearly rectangular lot of approximately four acres and is accessed by a curving drive that extends from Bowerman to South Roads along the east and south sides of the house.

Sited facing South Road, the house is a two-story brick building with a slate clad hipped roof overhanging a wide, undecorated cornice. A two-story entrance projects from the main block that is clearly a later addition, due to differences on the color of the brick and the use of Palladian style windows in the ground level. The main entrance is framed by a Palladian style door surround with engaged columns and pilasters and a slightly projecting arch over the half round transom. The foundation is cut limestone, as is in the rest of the house. Five stone steps lead to the main door. Windows in the second story entrance projection are large rectangular tripartite windows set into deep, wooden surrounds and extend into the cornice. All windows in the entrance have stone sills and the windows in the first story have brick arched lintels with stone keystones. The rest of the windows on this elevation are evenly spaced and consist of two windows in

Miller, Romanta T., House
Name of Property

Monroe, NY
County and State

the basement, first and second levels. Basement windows are fixed sash with iron security bars and the rest of the windows are two over two double-hung sash with stone sills and lintels. All windows in the main body of the house have wooden louvered shutters painted dark green. A small oval metal plaque is to the left of the entrance and contains the incorrect date of construction for the house of 1867, rather than the correct date of 1869.

Continuing on to the west elevation, two double-hung two-over-two windows are in the first level with two more directly above in the second story and two fixed windows below in the basement. Two more windows are in the second story of the south elevation, but attached to this elevation is a one and one-half story kitchen wing. The west side of the wing has a recently installed enclosure, creating a covered walkway along this portion of the building. The enclosure followed the Colonial Revival design of the projecting entrance on the façade (south elevation) and contains a Palladian style door and narrow rectangular windows over narrow wood panels. The enclosure has an asphalt clad shed roof and a wide bulkhead door to the north. The north end of the kitchen addition has a projecting, one bay wide section that contained a privy. It has a wide overhanging roof and a centered keyhole ventilation window in the upper part of the extension. This part of the building no longer functions as a privy, but rather as storage. The original wall of the west side of the addition is through the enclosure and has one double hung window with stone sills and lintels, similar to the main block of the house and a wood paneled door with narrow upper lights and a stone sill and lintel. The north end projection and the main block of the house each have an entrance to the enclosure that has a door set into a stone sill and lintel. A small fixed window is visible above the shed roof in the center of the exterior of the addition. The remaining elevations of the addition each have two double hung windows with stone sills and lintels and are evenly spaced over basement windows. The east elevation has one smaller window in the center just below the cornice.

When viewing the east side of the house, the kitchen addition slightly projects on the east beyond the main block of the house. A three-bay, single height porch with a copper roof extends to this projection and provides cover for a wood paneled door into the kitchen addition. The porch has a cut stone foundation and steps supporting a tile floor and a substantial porch railing with box beam ends and heavy turned balusters. Paired Doric order columns support the shed-style roof with a denticulated cornice. When looking past the porch, it is clear that this elevation alters the rhythm seen in the remainder of the house by having irregular fenestration and additional entrances. Two double hung windows are in the first story with two directly above, but a smaller one-over-one window is placed in the north end of the second floor and a narrow one-over-one round arched window is in the south end slightly lower than the other second floor windows in order to provide natural light for the main interior staircase. This narrow window also has a stone sill and a rounded stone lintel, while the rest of the windows have the sills and lintels matching the rest of the house. The two doors in the east elevation are off of the porch and consist of wood and glass doors with two light transoms that can be opened for ventilation.

Entrances on each side of the main block provide access to the interior, but the main or formal entrance is on the south through a Palladian style door that enters into an enclosed space large enough to be a porch or seasonal sitting area. The main door has two narrow upper lights and two lower wood panels, is deeply set into a wide molding and rests on a large stone sill. This door enters into a narrow foyer that has a curved stair to the right and a modern bath underneath the

Miller, Romanta T., House
Name of Property

Monroe, NY
County and State

staircase. The staircase is of dark stained wood and has a heavy turned newel post with a curved rail and turned balusters. The treads and risers gradually decrease in size to allow for the curve of the stairs. The wall string has a molded edge and is painted white to match the treads and risers (also painted white). A doorway by the base of the stair leads into a sitting room and another door to the left opens into a formal parlor.

As a formal space, the parlor is the largest of the rooms in the main block of the house and has the most features from the initial period of construction. The room has high ceilings, original wall and wide baseboard moldings, decorative panels below the windows and wide window moldings. The east side of the room features a large, black marble fireplace with narrow tiles in the outer hearth floor. Walls and ceiling are plaster and the floor is of original medium-width wood boards. Two doors in the north end of the room lead into the dining area and a library. All doors are original with wood panels, brass hardware and porcelain door knobs. The library contains non historic built-in bookshelves/cabinets across the west wall. The dining room has beadboard wainscoting below wallpaper covered plaster walls and a door by the library entrance that with a concealed a period built-in cabinet. The dining room contains two additional doors: one to the east porch and the other in the south wall that connects to the sitting area. Smaller in size than the parlor, the sitting room has similar decorative windows as the formal parlor and also has a door to the east porch. Except for the dining room, all wall surfaces in the first floor of the main house are painted plaster. All floors are the original wood and have historic metal floor grates for the heating system.

Rooms in the second floor consist of four bedrooms, two full bathrooms and a sleeping porch off the staircase landing on the south end of the house. A wide hallway separates the rooms into two bedrooms and one bath on the east and west sides of the floor. Part of the bedroom on the northeast side of the house was made into a modern (non historic) bathroom and is the only bathroom accessible from the hallway. The other bathroom is accessed through the northwest bedroom and another half bath is in the southeast bedroom. The hallway features original wood floors, doors, moldings and historic early twentieth century electric light fixtures. Walls are plaster covered with non historic wall paper. Bedrooms also have wallpaper over plaster except for the northeast bedroom, which was used as an office and has painted plaster walls. Windows in all rooms have wood paneling and moldings similar to that of the first floor, just slightly smaller in size. Windows in the sleeping porch are inward opening casement style windows with clear, leaded lights and the door is a French door painted white to match the windows sills and moldings.

Another large room is located in the north end of the house in the upper part of the kitchen wing and is used for general purposes. The floor and walls are original, as are the built-in cabinets and a sink on the north end. An enclosed stair case on the south side of the room leads to the kitchen below. A historic balustrade provides some protection from the kitchen woodstove pipe that connects to the chimney flu in the south wall of the main house. An unfinished attic in the main house is accessed from this room via a hatch and ladder. The first floor kitchen space has seen some updating but retains its original wood flooring, vertical board wainscoting and plaster walls. A small enclosed pantry is in the northwest corner of the room. Windows, doors and moldings are also original.

Miller, Romanta T., House
Name of Property

Monroe, NY
County and State

To the west of the kitchen wing is a brick patio that leads to a non historic garden and some mature trees that basically provide screening from the adjacent property. The east side of the garden has a rustic pergola covered with wisteria and is considered non contributing since it was constructed after the period of significance. North of the pergola is a one room workshop, noted in town tax records as being built in 1868, but the surviving fabric points to a later construction date. The exterior of the building is novelty or shiplap siding and the end gabled roof is metal on wood. The entrance is on the east side and consists of a vertical board door. The interior is unfinished and the walls are lined with open shelving except for the space below the windows, which contains a large wooden workbench and vice. Two small square windows on the south side provide light and ventilation. Another window is to the left of the entrance.

Northeast of the workshop is a large, L-shaped barn complex, with the oldest portion constructed around 1870 and newer sections added around 1940 according to town tax records. The south barn section is the more recent construction and has tall vertical boards attached to framing and a large vertical sliding door on the west end. A shed-roofed lean-to portion is on the northeast side. The east end of the barn contains a garage and has been refinished to contain workshops and offices for the current owner's former large animal veterinary practice. Extending from the east end is the older barn section, which is essentially a stand-alone gable-roofed barn on a tall foundation with two openings on the east side, creating an open basement. A large sliding door is in the upper part of the wall between the two openings. A smaller gable roofed barn section is attached on the northeast. The west side has another large sliding entrance and allows access at ground level from a sloping grass covered ramp.

Miller, Romanta T., House
Name of Property

Monroe, NY
County and State

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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1869-1914

Significant Dates

1869, 1914

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Isaac Loomis (house)

Claude Bragdon (1914 porches)

Period of Significance (justification)

The period 1869 to 1914 begins with the planning and construction of the house to the final addition of a Colonial Revival entrance and porches designed by Rochester architect Claude Bragdon.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary) N/A

Miller, Romanta T., House
Name of Property

Monroe, NY
County and State

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

Significant under Criterion C for its design, the Romanta T. Miller house was built for Miller and his family on land that was inherited by his wife, Etta Fraser Miller, and was the result of early estate development in the town of Wheatland, Monroe County, New York. The house was the second residence constructed on the property and was a statement of a family's evolution from its pioneer beginnings in the early nineteenth century to that of wealthy estate owners by the turn of the twentieth century. The Romanta T. Miller house also reflected Miller's wealth as a gentleman farmer, status as a veteran of the Union Army, a founding member and chaplain of the Genesee Grange and as a town assessor. Surviving records from architect Isaac Loomis revealed that the Millers had enough resources to afford a large, fashionable house as indicated by the type of materials, shipping costs and amounts paid to laborers. Loomis was a well known Rochester architect who designed a two-story brick Italianate style house with cut stone details for the Millers. The Miller family was also able to hire another well known Rochester architect, Claude Bragdon, to design two porches in the Colonial Revival style that were built in 1914. One of them became a new two-story entrance that extended the brick block form of the house on the south elevation, while admitting light and air through the use of large Palladian windows in the first level and large tri-partite casement windows in the upper level, creating a sleeping porch. After Miller's death, the house was used as a summer residence by four of his children: son Romanta Jr., who was a wealthy businessman and philanthropist living in Chicago, and his sisters Jeanette, Laura and Ruth. Both Ruth and Jeanette were educators, living and working in Flushing and Yonkers, respectively. Years prior to Romanta Miller's death in 1928, the land was being leased for farming and part of it was sold to a neighboring farmer. By the mid twentieth century, all the siblings were retired, living in Florida and spending summers at the Wheatland estate. The house remained in the family until 1974 when it was sold to the current owner, who used it for his home and the outbuildings on the property for his equine veterinary practice. The owners recognized the historic and architectural significance of the house and the importance of the Miller family, restoring when necessary and requiring that any new work be compatible with the historic fabric. Their careful maintenance of the house earned a certificate of recognition from the Landmark Society of Western New York in 1995.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

In the 1790s, land companies began securing the rights to large holdings in Western New York, intended for sale to farmers and other settlers from the eastern states. These lands were designated as Ontario County, which encompassed most of the territory west of Seneca Lake, bordered on the north by Lake Ontario and on the south by Pennsylvania. In 1803, the county was literally cut in half when Genesee County was created with the lands west of the Genesee River. It was further divided in 1821 when two additional counties known as Monroe and Livingston were created. Two towns in this region, Wheatland in Monroe County and Caledonia in Livingston County, were often referred to as "the Scottish Settlement" due to the large numbers of Scottish immigrant families settling in the region, after being pushed out of their

Miller, Romanta T., House
Name of Property

Monroe, NY
County and State

homelands by soaring land values and the enclosure of fields and grazing lands that were once held in common. The first immigrants left Broadalbin, Scotland in 1798, sailing for New York harbor and the Hudson River.

With promises of land for three dollars per acre, many Scottish immigrants continued on to the Genesee region, establishing settlements in Caledonia and Inverness, later named Wheatland. William Fraser was one of these immigrants, arriving in the region in 1804 and eventually settling on a farm in the southeast portion of Wheatland near the village of Scottsville in 1826. In 1843, the farm passed to his son James Fraser, and after his death in 1862, was inherited by James's seventeen year old daughter, Etta (1845-1927). Four years later, she married Romanta Tillotson Miller (1843-1928) and the two lived in the village of Scottsville while their new house was under construction on the Fraser Farm property.

Romanta Miller's parents, Elijah Talcott Miller and Ruth Tillotson Miller moved from Connecticut, settling on a farm in the village of Scottsville in 1827. In addition to farming, Elijah Miller operated a grist mill, a store and manufactured bricks that were used to build a number of houses in the village. Scottsville was one of the oldest villages in the Genesee region, established around 1790 when Isaac Scott purchased 150 acres of land from the Wadsworth family, one of the largest landholders in western New York at the time. The land Scott purchased formed the core of a village that was named Scottsville, in his honor. Scott had the good fortune of purchasing land along a creek, which led to a number of grist mills being established. By the time the Millers relocated to Scottsville, it was a thriving village with several businesses and a post office. In 1840, the Genesee Valley Canal connected the village to Rochester, a major milling center and Erie Canal port to the north. This in turn led a flour milling industry to develop in the village along the creek and a number of warehouses were also built along the canal.

By the mid 1850s, Elijah's son Myron Miller took over his father's business interests, even though the census listed his occupation as a farmer. His younger brother Romanta lived with his brother in the village and, according to the 1860 census, was also a farmer. At age 18, Romanta enlisted in the 4th Regiment of the New York Heavy Artillery in 1861 and remained with the regiment until the late summer of 1864, when he was wounded, captured and eventually paroled. His parole coincided with the end of his terms of enlistment and after being mustered out of service, he returned to Scottsville to continue his recuperation. In 1866, he married Etta Fraser and they lived in a house on Rochester Street in the village (still extant) while their new residence was being constructed on farmland south of the village that was inherited by Etta. In 1870, the Millers and their two young children, Romanta Jr. and Laura, moved into the house. Over the next several years, six more children were born to the Millers with a total of four boys and four girls.

Romanta Miller was listed in census records as a farmer, but to what extent he was involved in the farm was unknown. Wounds he received during the war caused him to be permanently visually impaired, according to pension records, but he was apparently involved enough in agriculture to be one of the founders of the Genesee Grange in 1898, serving as its

Miller, Romanta T., House
Name of Property

Monroe, NY
County and State

chaplain until his death in 1928.¹ After 1900, Miller was recorded in the census as either being retired or having his own income, giving support to existing documentation that he leased out the majority of the farm lands. Earlier in 1880, a large portion of the north end of the property was sold to Thomas Stokoe, a neighboring farmer, but Etta Miller remained the owner of a little over 100 acres of land, which was inherited by her children in 1928. Census records indicated that the family was well off enough to have a farm hand and a domestic servant. Romanta Miller also had sufficient resources to send three of his sons to Oberlin College. His son Royal continued on to the Harvard School of Divinity, becoming an Episcopal priest. After Oberlin and graduate work at Harvard, his oldest son, Romanta Jr., moved to Chicago, where he founded a highly successful correspondence business school. His daughters also attended college and all of them became educators. Daughter Sophia was the only child that remained in the area, teaching at the Quaker School near the Miller farm and later teaching at the Rochester School for the Deaf. She gave up teaching to take care of her ailing parents and, after their deaths, "stayed to keep the home open for brothers and sisters as they came and went."² She was the last of the Miller children to survive into old age and after her death in 1971, the house and farm were inherited by two nephews who sold off the bulk of the farmlands in 1977. Prior to disposing of the farm, they sold the house, outbuildings and the surrounding four acres of land to the current owners in 1974.

Criterion C: Architecture

Another indication of Romanta Miller's financial resources was the ability to hire an architect and have a large brick house built on the old Fraser farm. Well known Rochester architect Isaac Loomis (1807-1894) was hired to design and oversee the construction of the house in 1869. Loomis began building houses with his father Daniel, who was considered to be Rochester's first architect, moving to Rochester from New England in 1820. In 1838, Isaac Loomis moved to Marshall, Michigan, where he became active in politics while continuing his architectural practice. In 1847, Loomis returned to Rochester, where he remained active in designing buildings until his death in 1894. He lived in the Third Ward and was credited with building several of the homes in that section of the city. His own house was located on Atkinson Street and was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1974 as part of the Third Ward Historic District.

Loomis's design for the Miller house revealed that he kept informed on the latest trends in buildings, especially residences. By 1860, popular taste rapidly replaced the older Greek and Gothic Revival designs with a new, modern "Tuscan" style copied from villas in Italy and promoted by widely read authors such as Andrew Jackson Downing. Peaked roofs, prominent gables, large columns and elaborate transoms were replaced by flat or low hipped roofs with wide overhangs, tall windows and single height verandas with decorative square columns and bracketed cornices. These popular designs were also described as what was proper for a person's position in life and included designs that ranged from simple cottages for laborers and country parsons to ornately decorated villas for well-to-do farmers and professionals. As described by one local author, "As a whole, the post-Civil War period is popularly characterized by an opulence that sometimes surpassed propriety and became ostentation. This change in taste reflected a basic change in

¹ United States Civil War and Pension Index 1861-1917, National Archives and Records Administration, 25 February 1907. Also, online at www.familysearch.org.

Miller, Romanta T., House

Monroe, NY

Name of Property

County and State

the economy, the society, and the culture of the time. Only a few decades earlier the county [Monroe] had been rural; it had looked to well established models and values, largely agrarian of the eighteenth century. Suddenly this was transformed. Developing resources of power, population, and transportation, new commerce and industry created new wealth.”³

Loomis provided a fashionable, but less ostentatious and perhaps, more conservative design for the house for Romanta and Etta Miller, who were in the process of moving from a thriving village to an active agricultural area. Loomis’s own house in Rochester was a two-story brick Gothic Revival building with a cross gabled roof and decorative verge board. His house was confined to a narrow city lot and now Loomis had the chance to design a house without the confines of a small space. The house he designed for the Millers consisted of two brick blocks with the main body of the house being two stories and the north end kitchen block being one and one-half stories and slightly projecting east of the main section. The wide overhanging roof had a wide plain molded cornice and the windows had large stone sills that were reminiscent of the earlier Greek Revival but were now incorporated into Loomis’s overall plan for the house. Windows were tall, evenly spaced, most with shutters. Loomis limited the decorative elements to details such as elaborate brick work in the chimneys, and wood cornices and posts in the porches. One exception was a narrow window in the southeast end of the house that had a curved stone lintel. The main entrance on the south had a projecting half-round porch with large turned columns on square bases and decorative brackets supporting a flat roof. Another porch on the east side of the house provided protection from the elements for the doors into the dining room and kitchen wing. This porch was less elaborate with square posts supporting a shed-style roof.

Account books kept by Loomis (now in the collection of the Rochester Museum and Science Center) indicated an initial estimate for the construction of the house to be around \$6,000, but when costs were finalized, the amount was slightly more than \$7,000. The records also indicated that the stone was quarried in Albion, New York and brought to Scottsville by the Erie and Genesee Valley canals. Miller agreed to unload and cart the stone to the building site. In spite of the Miller family being brick manufacturers, the brick for the house was made in Rochester, sent by the canal and also carted by Miller to the work site. The account books included information on details such as the Egyptian marble mantel for the parlor and details for finishing the garret space over the kitchen, which included a separate stair. This section of the house was referred to as the addition and the account books recorded that the walls were to be four inches less thick than in the rest of the house. Loomis also mentioned a “compromise.” Apparently his original plans for the first story were to make it higher than the nine feet, eight inches that was eventually agreed upon.

In 1914, the Miller family once again turned to a well-known Rochester architect for some updates to the house. The architect hired was Claude Bragdon (1866-1946), who began his career as a draftsman in the office of Charles Ellis where he met and became friends with Charles’s brother, the designer Harvey Ellis. After working briefly in New York City and Buffalo, he left for Europe in 1895 with the goal of self educating himself in classical architecture. He returned to Rochester in 1896 where he formed a partnership with Edwin Gordon and William Orchard. It was during this period that

² “Miss Sophia Miller.” *Caledonia Advertiser*. 15 April, 1971, 7-1.

Miller, Romanta T., House

Monroe, NY

Name of Property

County and State

the work of Harvey Ellis and Louis Sullivan caught Bragdon's attention and he came to the conclusion that the classicism he saw in Europe was ill suited to America. Like others searching for what was truly American, he embraced the colonial period of American history and became a practitioner of Colonial Revival architecture.

One of the popular design elements of the Colonial Revival in America was the use of classical Palladian style windows. Bragdon took the Palladian window one step further by turning it into a large entry door for the new south porch on the Miller house. The old, rounded porch was removed and a large, two story square projecting entrance was built in its place. The first floor entry door had a large multi-light door set into a wooden frame that was surrounded by narrow casement windows with eight rectangular lights. Over the door was a glass and metal half round transom. The entire entrance was enframed with Doric order columns and pilasters and a large projecting classical blind arch over the transom. Two additional large Palladian windows were on the east and west sides of the entrance and three large tripartite casement windows were on all elevations in the second story, creating a sleeping porch. For the east porch, Bragdon kept it the same size as the old porch, but gave it a substantial cornice with dentil molding and paired Doric order columns and a turned wood balustrade.

With the porch updates in 1914, the Millers had a house that emphasized the success of the family and Romanta's status as a town assessor and chaplain of the local grange. Bragdon's porches were the last major changes made to the house, although some modern updates were made to the interior. Electricity was added in the early twentieth century (two of the period lights are still extant in the upper hall) and some of the second floor closets were turned into bathrooms. After Etta and Romanta Miller died (1927 and 1928), the house became the permanent residence of daughter Sophia and a summer retreat for her sisters Laura, Ruth and Jeanette and her brothers Romanta Jr. and Oliver. Romanta Jr. continued to lease out the adjacent farm property, but the property immediately around the house was used by Sophia for her flower gardens.

When Etta Fraser married Romanta Miller in 1866, it was necessary for a new house to be built if the two wanted to live on the farmland inherited by Etta. The two-story brick residence was the result of the married couple combining their acquired resources to build a home and raise a family. The house became the childhood home for the eight Miller children, and as adults, four of them returned to spend summers with their parents and sister Sophia. The house was also a collaboration between the architect and owner, not only in some issues regarding the design, but also on details regarding the building process. The records of Isaac Loomis give a rare glimpse into this process and warrant further study, especially in documenting the architect's work.

³ Paul Malo, *Landmarks of Rochester and Monroe County* (Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 1974), 12.

Miller, Romanta T., House
Name of Property

Monroe, NY
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

- American Agriculturalist. *Farm Directory and Reference Book: Monroe and Livingston Counties, New York, 1917*. New York: Orange Judd Company, 1917.
- Carver, Elbert H. "The Village of Scottsville." *Scottsville News*, 6 May 1971, 8-3 &4.
- Costa, Erville. "Claude F. Bragdon, Architect, Stage Designer, and Mystic." *Rochester History*, vol. XXIX, no. 4, (October 1967), 1-24.
- Farm Journal Illustrated. *Rural Directory of Monroe County, New York, 1923*. Philadelphia, PA: Wilmer Atkinson Company, 1923.
- "Grange History Recalled by Installation Officers." *Caledonia Advertiser*, 25 January 1923, Scottsville Section.
- Howk, Cynthia. "Romanta T. Miller House." *Historic Preservation Report, Landmark Society of Western New York, Inc.*, Rochester, NY, 2003.
- Isaac Loomis Records & Architectural Notes, BMS numbers 38 & 39. Rochester Museum & Science Center Archives, Rochester, New York.
- "Isaac Scott was Founder of Scottsville." *Caledonia Advertiser*, 18 February 1937, 6-3.
- Malo, Paul. *Landmarks of Rochester and Monroe County*. Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press, 1974.
- "Miss Sophia Miller." *Scottsville News*, 15 April 1971, 8.
- "Mrs. Romanta T. Miller." *Caledonia Advertiser*, 10 March 1927, 6-2.
- "Oliver C. Miller." *Caledonia Advertiser*, 1 May 1941, 7-3.
- "Old Mansions were Marvels in Their Days." *Rochester Daily Record*, 6 May 1931.
- Peck, William F. *Landmarks of Monroe County, New York*. Boston, MA: The Boston History Company, Publishers, 1895.
- "R. T. Miller, Ex-Textbook Publisher." *Buffalo Courier Express*, 29 July 1958, 21-4.
- "R. T. Miller, Jr." *The Book of Chicagoans*. Chicago: A. N. Marquis & Co., 1911.
- "Romanta T. Miller, Sr." *Caledonia Advertiser*, 27 September, 1928, 6-3.
- "Royal R. Miller Dies in France." *Caledonia Advertiser*, 11 November 1937, 6-2.
- "Ruth T. Miller." *Caledonia Advertiser*, 7 August 1952, 6-2.
- Slocum, George E. *Wheatland, Monroe County, New York: A Brief Sketch of its history*. Scottsville, NY: Isaac Van Hooser, 1908.

Miller, Romanta T., House
Name of Property

Monroe, NY
County and State

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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: Landmark Society of WNY, Rochester (NY)

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 4.4 acres
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

| | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|---|---|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| 1 | <u>18N</u> Zone | <u>274373</u> Easting | <u>4763542</u> Northing | 3 | <u> </u> Zone | <u> </u> Easting | <u> </u> Northing |
| 2 | <u> </u> Zone | <u> </u> Easting | <u> </u> Northing | 4 | <u> </u> Zone | <u> </u> Easting | <u> </u> Northing |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary is indicated by a heavy line on the enclosed map with scale.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nominated property of 4.4 acres is the remaining acreage of lot 51, which contained roughly 120 acres that was inherited by Etta Fraser, who married Romanta Miller in 1866. In 1880, part of the land was sold, retaining possession of 101 acres. In 1928, the property passed to their children. After the last surviving child died in 1971, the property containing the house and outbuildings and remaining acreage was inherited by other family members who subsequently subdivided and sold the land out of the family to neighboring farmers, except for the 4.4 acre plot of land that included the house and outbuildings. It was sold in 1972 for use as a residence and business and is the amount of the acreage included in the nominated boundary. This parcel contains all contributing buildings that were historically part of the Fraser-Miller farm.

Miller, Romanta T., House
Name of Property

Monroe, NY
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Virginia L Bartos, Ph. D., Historic Preservation Program Analyst
organization NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation date 5 December 2013
street & number Peebles Island State Park-- PO Box 189 telephone 518-237-8643
city or town Waterford state NY zip code 12188
e-mail virginia.bartos@parks.ny.gov

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Romanta T. Miller House

City or Vicinity: Town of Wheatland

County: Monroe State: NY

Photographer: Robert Pierson (Photos 0001-0003); Virginia L. Bartos (Photos 0004-0017)

Date Photographed: 3 August 2010 (0001-0003); 20 May 2013 (0004-0017)

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

- 0001 of 0017. West and south (façade) elevations of house, view looking northeast.
0002 of 0017. Barns and drive (north end of property), view looking northwest from Bowerman Road.
0003 of 0017. East elevation viewed looking west from Bowerman Road.
0004 of 0017. West elevation showing prominent 1914 entrance, view looking northeast.
0005 of 0017. East elevation, view looking northwest.
0006 of 0017. North end of kitchen addition, view looking south.
0007 of 0017. Non historic porch enclosure (west side of kitchen addition), view looking east.
0008 of 0017. Workshop/shed, northwest of kitchen addition.
0009 of 0017. Main staircase opposite of formal/main entrance (south side of house).
0010 of 0017. Formal parlor, view looking toward southwest corner of house.
0011 of 0017. Marble fireplace, west wall of formal parlor.

Miller, Romanta T., House
Name of Property

Monroe, NY
County and State

- 0012 of 0017. View from dining room showing parlor (left) and library (right).
0013 of 0017. View from kitchen addition into dining room.
0014 of 0017. Second floor hallway looking north toward kitchen addition.
0015 of 0017. Northwest bedroom (second floor).
0016 of 0017. Southwest bedroom (second floor).
0017 of 0017. East window and view from second floor sleeping porch.

Property Owner:

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Robert H. & Nancy J. Pierson
street & number 1089 Bowerman Rd telephone N/A
city or town Scottsville state NY zip code 14546

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

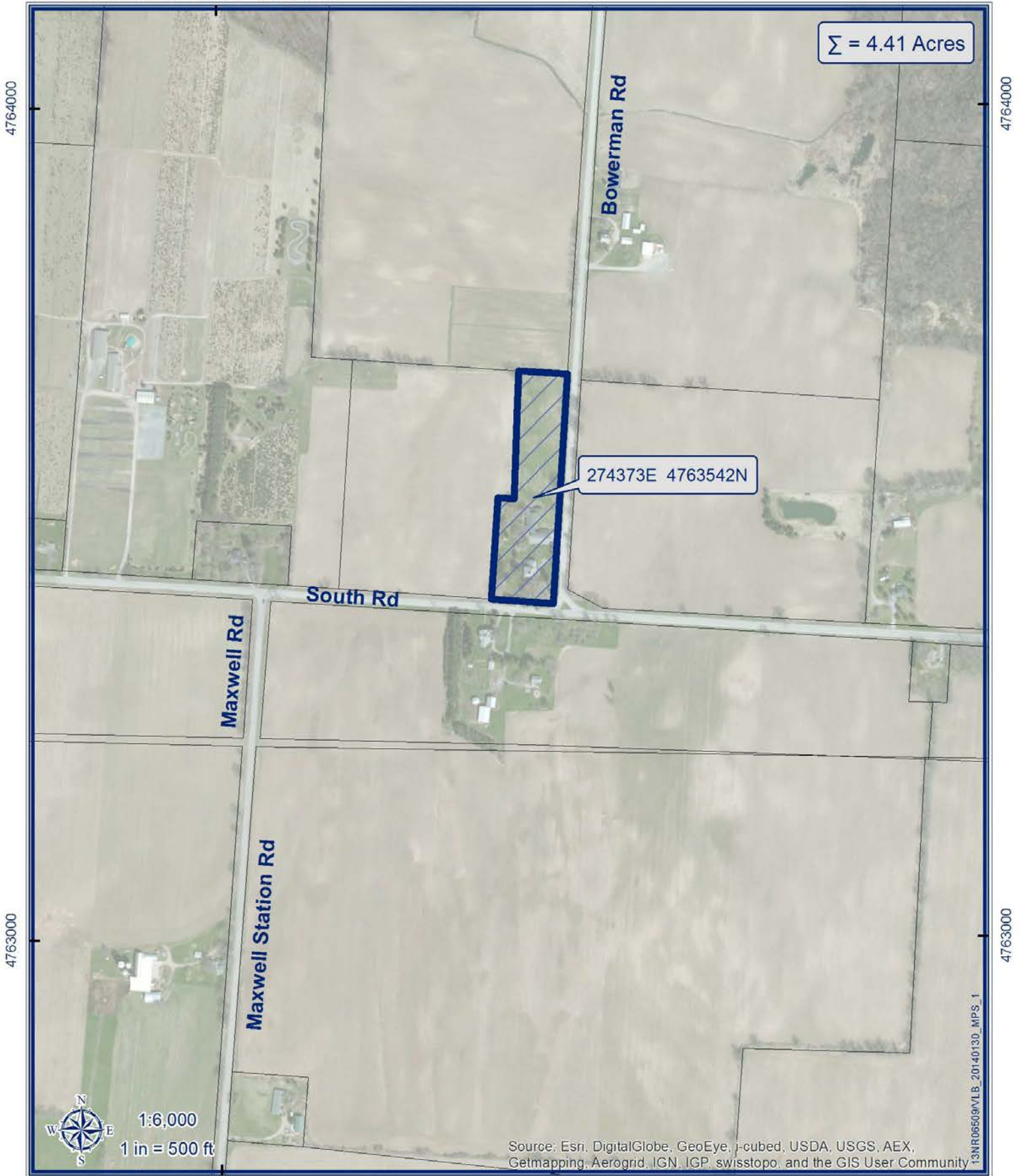
Miller, Romanta House, Wheatfield, Monroe County New York



House & Family ca. 1885



The Miller Family about 1898
Back row: James, R.T.Sr., Sophia, Etta, Jeanette
Front row: Royal, R.T. Jr., Laura, Ruth, Oliver



274000

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter



Tax Parcel Data:
Monroe Co. RPS
monroecounty.gov/gis-index



Caledonia, NY
Quadrangle



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter



 Miller House

Tax Parcel Data:
Monroe Co. RPS
monroecounty.gov/gis-index





































UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Miller, Romanta T., House

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, Monroe

DATE RECEIVED: 2/24/14 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 3/27/14
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 4/11/14 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 4/12/14
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 14000144

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 4.11.14 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

Division for Historic Preservation
P.O. Box 189, Waterford, New York 12188-0189
518-237-8643



Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor

Rose Harvey
Commissioner

20 February 2014

Alexis Abernathy
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye St. NW, 8th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005

Re: National Register Nominations

Dear Ms. Abernathy:

I am pleased to enclose the following two National Register nominations, both on disc, to be considered for listing by the Keeper of the National Register:

First Presbyterian Church, Niagara County
Romanta T. Miller House, Monroe County

Please feel free to call me at 518.237.8643 x 3261 if you have any questions.

Sincerely:

Kathleen LaFrank
National Register Coordinator
New York State Historic Preservation Office

STATEMENT OF OWNER SUPPORT

Before an individual nomination proposal will be reviewed or nominated, the owner(s) of record must sign and date the following statement:

I, ROBERT H. PIERSON & NANCY J. PIERSON am the owner of the property at
(print or type owner name)

1089 BOWERMAN RD., SCOTTSVILLE, N.Y. 14546
(street number and name, city, village or town, state of nominated property)

I support its consideration and inclusion in the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

Robert H. Pierson 3/5/12

Nancy J. Pierson 3/5/12
(signature and date)

1089 BOWERMAN RD.
SCOTTSVILLE, NY 14546

(mailing address)