

PH0507229

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED NOV 16 1977

DATE ENTERED

AUG 10 1978

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Miller Cemetery Church

AND/OR COMMON  
Same

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
Cascade Highway NE

CITY, TOWN

Silverton

VICINITY OF Scotts Mills

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2

STATE

Oregon

CODE

41

COUNTY

Marion

CODE

047

**CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
Miller Cemetery Association, Ted Lorenzen, Chairman

STREET & NUMBER  
17245 Herigstad Rd. NE

CITY, TOWN

Silverton

VICINITY OF

STATE

Oregon 97381

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Marion County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER  
High Street NE

CITY, TOWN

Salem

STATE

Oregon 97301

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
Statewide Inventory of Historic Properties

DATE

1976

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

State Historic Preservation Office

CITY, TOWN

Salem

STATE

Oregon 97310

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT                       DETERIORATED  
 GOOD                                 RUINS  
 FAIR                                  UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Miller Cemetery Church was conceived and built as a non-denominational facility to be used in conjunction with interments in the Miller Cemetery. Built in 1882, the structure was based on the early Meetinghouse type with rudimentary finish details derived from the Classical Revival. It is in very good structural condition, having been repaired and refurbished during the Bicentennial, and it is now used on an occasional basis for weddings, funerals and similar functions.

Miller Cemetery Church is located in the NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 19, T. 6 S., R. 1 E. of the Willamette Meridian. The setting is rural-agricultural. The church is oriented north to south on an elevated parcel of land which slopes to the west, and it is surrounded by a grove of Oregon oaks which pre-date the structure by as much as 150 years. The single-story balloon frame church is rectangular in plan with dimensions of 30x60 feet. It rests upon short piers of local fieldstone which are not screened by any skirtboard. The building has clapboard siding and a gable roof with no steeple or bell tower. All openings have simple hooded lintels. In either side wall, there are four elongated double-hung windows with four-over-four lights, while the rear, or south, wall is blind. There are two entries offset to either side of the north end wall. On the easterly side is a conventional doorway with transoms, while offset to the west is a double-width entry with two-light transom. Located in the apex of the frontal gable is a metal date plate carrying the date of erection (1882). Across the full width of the front of the building is a porch with full-width three-riser stair. A brick stove chimney straddles the roof ridge at the south end. There are no exterior additions or modifications.

Interior spatial organization of the church is particularly adapted to its use as a funeral church. The sanctuary lies at the north end of the structure between the two entries and consists of a raised platform for coffin display and the delivery of eulogies. In addition to the double doors allowing for separate entrance of the bier, the church is distinguished by a sloping floor designed to provide the congregation an unimpaired view of the services. Commencing approximately one-third of the distance back from the entrance wall, the floor reaches a rise of approximately two feet at its junction with the rear wall. The interior is finished with flush horizontal wall boards. Recent interior and exterior painting specifically recreated original coloration. For example, exterior siding and door frames are white; doors are brown.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES erected 1882

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Unknown

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Miller Church, located in historic Miller cemetery, the resting place of many early Oregon pioneers, is unique because it was constructed primarily for use as a burying church, and is a rare example of the type in Oregon. Its style and construction reflect the tastes of the Oregon pioneers. It is dignified in its simple beauty and built in a manner to best qualify its use as a burying church (i.e. a sloping floor, reverse entry, double doors to permit entry of the casket, and a raised platform for the bier). It represents, also, the focal point of the historic Abiqua Creek community where a belief in God was simply a part of life; a place where neighbors gathered together to celebrate both life and death.

Built in 1882, the Miller Church sits upon land which is historically important in Oregon. Richard Miller, early politician, member of the Constitutional Congress for the State of Oregon, Marion County Commission Chairman, and community leader, settled upon the land in 1847. In 1860, he gave a three-acre cemetery parcel to the community with the stipulation that a church be built and that it "be open and free to all religious denominations." When the church was built in 1882, it was erected primarily as a burying church because the distance from other churches to the cemetery had become too great for mourners to walk or ride without great discomfort. The pews of historic Cumberland Church were installed at that time. Cumberland Church, built in 1853, was the church home of many Silverton area pioneers. The church furniture was built in part by Harvey Scott, later to become editor of the Portland Oregonian. It is highly possible that he had a hand in the construction of the pews. The pews are typical construction of the era, being of a simple design and made of large slabs of native wood.

Miller Church led an active life until the 1930s when it gradually fell into disuse. The church continued on, however, as an important element in the surrounding community and was recently restored as a Community Bicentennial project. It is now once again available for weddings, funerals and other special events.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1,800 sq. ft.

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,0 5,2,1,4,0,0 4,9,8,7,1,3,0  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C                    
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B                    
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D                    
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

*see letter/continuation sheet  
LEBOUICH sheet  
8/3/78*

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The area nominated includes the church structure exclusively.

*see letter/continuation sheet  
LEBOUICH sheet*

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Margot Miller, Chairman

ORGANIZATION

Miller Church Board

DATE

November 8, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

1836 NE 116th Place

TELEPHONE

252-6745

CITY OR TOWN

Portland

STATE

Oregon 97220

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL   

STATE   

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*[Handwritten Signature]*

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE October 31, 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

*[Handwritten Signature]*

DATE

*8/10/78*

DATE

*8.7.78*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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RECEIVED	NOV 16 1977
DATE ENTERED	AUG 10 1978

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Down, Robert H. History of the Silverton Country. Berncliff Press, Portland, OR (1927).  
"Oregon Historical Quarterly", Oregon Historical Society, Portland, OR (June 1957).  
Miller, Margot. Richard Miller, A Family Portrait. unbound manuscript of 450 pages,  
may be obtained at Oregon State Library. (1974).  
Portland Journal July 14, 1935. Portland, OR.  
Silverton Appeal Tribune July 2, 1954, April 8, 1976, May 20, 1976, June 24, 1976.  
July 29, 1976, September 9, 1976. Silverton, OR.

N.B. Owner of record of the parcel of land upon which Miller Cemetery Church is situated is the Miller Cemetery Association. However, administrative responsibilities for the church are exercised by the Miller Church Board, an element of the Silverton Country Historical Society, Silverton, Oregon. It is to be understood that the Miller Church only and not the 9.23-acre cemetery is the subject of this nomination. The Miller Cemetery Association is aware of and endorses the church's nomination.

*see  
Continuation  
sheet*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

Miller Cemetery Church, Silverton vicinity, Marion County, Oregon

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

A tract of land located in the northeast quarter of Section 19, Township 6 South, Range 1 East, of the Willamette Meridian, containing 9.23 acres and, more particularly, described as follows:

Parcel I

Commencing at a point on the Territorial road running from Oregon City to Jacob Spores, one rod from the line between Richard Miller and John Patterson; thence along said road on the east side and in a northerly direction 429'; thence easterly 297' to a stake; thence southerly direction 363'; thence westerly 363' to the place of beginning containing three acres, more or less.

Parcel II

Beginning at a point 849.75' west and 15.875' north of the southeast corner of the DLC of Richard Miller and wife, in T. 6 S., R. 1 E., of the Willamette Meridian; thence west 430.65' to the southwest corner of the cemetery; thence north 34° east 429.00' to the northwest corner of the cemetery grounds; thence south 83° 15' east 297.00' to the northeast corner of the cemetery; thence south 17° 30' west 336.60' to the point of beginning, containing 2.89 acres of land.

Parcel III

Beginning at an iron pipe 669.57' west from the southeast corner of the Richard Miller Donation Land Claim, in Township 6 South, Range 1 East, of the Willamette Meridian, in Marion County, Oregon; thence west along the south line of said claim 191.07' to the southeast corner of Miller Cemetery; thence north 17° 30' east along the east line of said cemetery 336.60' to a stone; thence North 83° 15' west along the north line of said cemetery 421.74' to the northwest corner of the same; thence north 31° 6' east along the center of the county road 18.084'; thence south 83° 15' east 399.762' to an iron pipe; thence south 50° 53' east 213.84' to an iron pipe; thence south 17° 30' west 232.98' to the point of beginning, containing 1.40 acres of land. Excepting road right-of-way.

Parcel IV

Beginning at an iron pipe 669.57' west from the southeast corner of the Richard Miller Donation Land Claim in Township 6 South, Range 1 East of the Willamette Meridian, Marion County, Oregon; thence south 89° 45' east along the north right-of-way of a county road 104.71 feet to an iron pipe; thence north 17° 36' east 270.45' to an iron pipe; thence north 50° 38' west 310.70 feet to an iron pipe; thence north 83° 08' west 291.14 feet to a point on the easterly right-of-way of Market Road No. 33; thence south 53° 12' west 144.83 feet to an iron pipe on the northerly boundary of the Miller Cemetery; thence following the boundary thereof south 83° 08' east 366.76' to an iron pipe; thence south 50° 38' east 213.84'; thence south 17° 36' west 233.92' to the point of beginning and containing 1.94 acres.