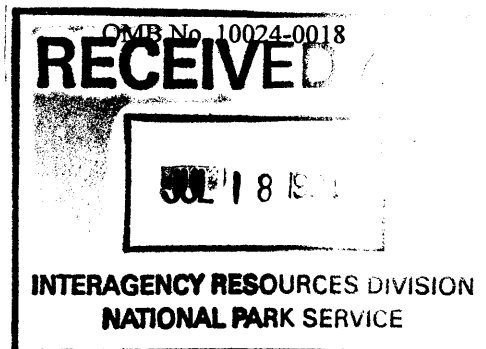


NPS Form 10-900
(January 1992)



**United States Department of Interior
National Park Service**

**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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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 sub-categories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900A). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name H.S. Miller Bank

other names/site number Prescott City Hall

2. Location

street & number 223 Broad Street N/A not for publication

city or town Prescott N/A vicinity

state Wisconsin code WI county Pierce code 093 zip code 54021

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 nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 7/8/94
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
State Historic Preservation Officer-WI

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State of Federal agency and bureau

H.S. Miller Bank
Name of Property

Prescott, Pierce County, WI
County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:
 entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
 removed from the National Register.
 other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper Edson H. Beall Date of Action 9-19-94
Entered in the National Register.

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (check as many boxes as apply)
 private
 public-local
 public-state
 public-federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)
 building(s)
 district
 site
 structure
 object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
None

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
COMMERCE/TRADE/Financial Institution

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
Vacant/Not In Use

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)
Romanesque
Italianate

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
foundation Limestone
walls Brick
roof Synthetic/Rubber
other Wood

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

H.S. Miller Bank
Name of Property

Prescott, Pierce County, WI
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 the 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.)

- 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 achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1885-1910

Significant Dates

1885¹

c. 1910²

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

H.S. Miller Bank
Name of Property

Prescott, Pierce County, WI
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 #

Primary location of additional data:
 State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State Agency
 Federal Agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property

Less than 1 acre.

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>1/5 5/1/5/6/5/0</u> Zone Easting	<u>4/9/5/4/9/5/0</u> Northing	3	<u>/ / / / / / / / / / / / / / / /</u> Zone Easting	<u>/ / / / / / / / / / / / / / / /</u> Northing
2	<u>/ / / / / / / / / / / / / / / /</u> Zone Easting	<u>/ / / / / / / / / / / / / / / /</u> Northing	4	<u>/ / / / / / / / / / / / / / / /</u> Zone Easting	<u>/ / / / / / / / / / / / / / / /</u> Northing

_ see continuation sheet

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

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ann Ohl and Barbara Wyatt; edited by Jim Draeger, Division of Historic Preservation
organization Prescott Historic Preservation Committee date 2/28/94
street & number 800 Borner Street North telephone _____
city or town Prescott state WI zip code 54021

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.

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

Property Owner

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

name City of Prescott
street & number 800 Borner Street telephone (715) 262-5544
city or town Prescott state Wisconsin zip code 54021

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including 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.

NPS Form 10-900-a
(Rev. 8-86)
Wisconsin Word Processing Format
(Approved 1/92)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 1

H. S. Miller Bank
Prescott, Pierce County, Wisconsin

The H.S Miller Bank is located in the heart of downtown Prescott which is situated at the junction of the St. Croix and Mississippi rivers. The building stands on the west side of Broad Street approximately sixty feet southeast of the intersection of U.S.H. 10 and Broad Street. The main elevation faces northeast. The sixty foot area north of the building is a city park. The lot to the south contains a restaurant that was constructed in 1992; the previous structure was destroyed by fire.

The building consists of two sections; the original 1885 bank building and a 1910 addition. A circa 1944 brick addition, once attached to the north side of the building, was removed in 1991 and the area is now part of the city park.

The earliest portion of the building is a one-story, brick, three bay commercial building which rests on a stone foundation. It is symmetrical in design and consists of a central entrance flanked by large windows. The main entrance is through a broad arched opening with an arched transom. It is likely that the entrance once contained double doors. It has been filled to accommodate a single flush wooden door with a small two light window. The door surround and transom appear to be original. The windows are also broad and both contain a double arched tracery topped by an ocular tracery, a detail typical of Romanesque style architecture. The window sills are stone. Casement storm windows with a rectangular eight-light mullion pattern have been installed on the interior of these windows.

This portion of the building is topped by a metal cornice. The cornice is comprised of a shallow entablature ornamented with four evenly spaced scroll brackets, two on each end of the cornice and two centered above the doorway. A dentil course runs the full length of the cornice and also fills an arched raised parapet located above the doorway. The tympanum of the arch contains the date, 1885. The arch is topped with an ornate metal finial.

NPS Form 10-900-a
(Rev. 8-86)
Wisconsin Word Processing Format
(Approved 1/92)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 2

H. S. Miller Bank
Prescott, Pierce County, Wisconsin

A 1910 addition roughly doubled the size of the original structure. No attempt was made to match the original design of the building, although it was sympathetic in materials, size, and scale. It is largely undistinguished, but its details reflect a vernacular adaptation of the Italianate style. The most distinctive feature is a corbelled brick cornice consisting of a series of triangular bracket like corbels broken in the center and terminated by doubled corbelled consisting of stacked header bricks. The top of the cornice is detailed with a course of dog-tooth brick. This wing is approximately one foot lower than the original section, but is of about the same width. The red brick facade is four bays wide and has four symmetrical, segmental arched window and door openings with doubled header brick lintels.

The addition contains two separate entrance doors in the center flanked by windows. The door to the left (south) is a flush door with a single light. It is not original and is wider than the original opening. The door to the right (north) has been replaced and converted to a display case. Both doors are white painted wood with different sized, rectangular glass windows. The windows are four-over-four double-hung arched sash, a treatment usually found in late-nineteenth century commercial architecture.

The northwest wall of the building was once a party wall for the 1944 addition, but after the demolition of the addition is now an exterior wall. A small entrance door is located near the street on this facade. The southeast wall abuts a contemporary two story commercial building. The rear elevation faces the Mississippi River and is utilitarian in nature.

The current appearance and historic integrity of the interior is unknown.

NPS Form 10-900-a
(Rev. 8-86)
Wisconsin Word Processing Format
(Approved 1/92)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 3

H. S. Miller Bank
Prescott, Pierce County, Wisconsin

Four other buildings in Prescott, all on Broad Street have been identified in the Division of Historic Preservation's Architectural and Historical inventory as having some significant late 19th century architectural features, but none appear to have been so elaborate originally as the Miller bank. Only one retains a similar degree of historic integrity. The building at 206 N. Broad Street has the best integrity of the four. On the first floor, it also has three large, arched openings with a doorway in the center opening. The window openings do not reach to the ground, but rather stop about two feet above the ground. Identified on the inventory card as Romanesque Revival, this building is two stories high with very modest arch window lintels on the second floor windows and a modest corbelled cornice design with little projection. Dark trim is used for accent.

125 Broad Street is a three story, rectangular building with a complete loss of integrity on the first (storefront) level. The second and third floors, which may have been offices or apartments, feature bands of windows, with recessed window openings, and moderate arches. The cornice has a modest decorative pattern in the brick. This building was identified on the inventory card as commercial vernacular.

Two other buildings have prominent architectural details on their upper floors. These buildings are 106-112 Broad Street. Both buildings have tall narrow windows on the second story. The window openings are strongly etched wood, painted white, with a prominent "keystone" at the top. Above the dental office, the third floor windows are similar, but not so prominently delineated. Both buildings have linear cornice design with a pattern inset into the brick beneath it. These buildings were identified on the inventory card as Romanesque Revival.

The H. S. Miller Bank served as the Prescott City Hall from 1944 to 1991. Work is in progress to establish the site as the offices for the Prescott Historic Preservation Committee, Prescott Historical Society and the Prescott Chamber of Commerce.

NPS Form 10-900-a
(Rev. 8-86)
Wisconsin Word Processing Format
(Approved 1/92)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 1

H. S. Miller Bank
Prescott, Pierce County, Wisconsin

The 1885 H.S. Miller Bank (Prescott City Hall) is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as a modest local example of a small scale Romanesque Revival commercial building. The building is typical, in both size and style, of turn-of-the-century small town bank buildings. It reflects the popularity of Romanesque style for bank design before its replacement by the Neoclassical style after the turn of the century. Due to its sympathetic design, the 1910 addition contributes to the buildings architectural character.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In 1827 a group of United States officers from Fort Snelling (located in the vicinity of present day Minneapolis, Minnesota) were sent to survey the area east of the St. Croix and Mississippi rivers. Among these officers was an Indian interpreter, Philander Prescott. In 1841 a claim of 160 acres at the junction of the St. Croix and Mississippi rivers was granted to Prescott and the first settler arrived in what is presently Prescott, Wisconsin. Families soon arrived to settle in the village and the Town of Prescott was platted. Due to its good agricultural location and access to river travel, Prescott flourished and it was made the county seat in 1853. Prescott remained the county seat until 1861 when voters elected to have it moved to Ellsworth.³

The first bank was established May 28, 1858, organized and chartered under the state laws of Wisconsin and was known as the "City Bank of Prescott". Charles Miller was President and W.P. Westfall was the cashier. The bank continued to operate under the same title and ownership until the spring of 1867. At this time, an act was passed taxing state banks and the bank succumbed to the pressure and closed the doors. In June 1867, the doors re-opened under the title of "Miller and Westfall Bank" by H.S. Miller and W.P. Westfall who were doing banking and general exchange business.⁴ By 1877, the bank became known as the H.S. Miller Bank and continued operation to 1904.

NPS Form 10-900-a
(Rev. 8-86)
Wisconsin Word Processing Format
(Approved 1/92)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 2

H. S. Miller Bank
Prescott, Pierce County, Wisconsin

The obituary of Henry Silkman Miller notes he was the oldest son of Griffen H. Miller and he was born at Bedford, Westchester county, New York, November 1, 1845. At eleven years of age he came to Prescott with his parents who moved there from New York state. He spent his boyhood as a student in the Prescott schools and at the age of sixteen he entered the employ of bankers Charles Miller and W.P. Westfall. In 1877 he opened a private bank which he conducted until 1904. In June, 1875 he was married to Eliza R. Miller. H.S. Miller died in 1914 and it was noted in his obituary that "In his active life, which was spent in our city, he was noted for his strong support of all temperance work as a consistent member of the M.E. Church."⁵

H.S. Miller bought the empty lot between A.T. Carroll's building and the Pierce County Plaindealer office in mid-1885. His intent all along seems to have been to construct a one-story brick building to be used as a bank. Construction was well underway in August, although some delay was caused by a lack of cut stone for the foundation. The building was finished in October, and Miller moved in.⁶

Prescott tax records reveal the following owners of the Miller bank building after H.S. Miller's death: 1915 Eliza Miller (widow of H.S. Miller); 1928 Eliza R. Miller estate; 1944, City of Prescott. One cannot accurately document the use of the building between 1914 and 1944. It is quite evident from the tax record evaluations that a brick addition was made to the north of the 1885 bank, circa 1910. The Prescott Journal newspaper of July 11, 1944 states that the contents of the city hall were moved into the new city hall, the "new city hall" being the H.S. Miller building.⁷

NPS Form 10-900-a
(Rev. 8-86)
Wisconsin Word Processing Format
(Approved 1/92)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 3

H. S. Miller Bank
Prescott, Pierce County, Wisconsin

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The H.S. Miller Bank is the only one-story Romanesque Revival building in the city. As with many small town banks, the Miller building is one-story, forgoing the residential or professional office spaces which characterize the majority of turn-of-the-century commercial buildings. The Romanesque Revival style was typically used for commercial banking architecture before 1900. The classical roots of the style conveyed a sense of monumentality and permanence that was an appropriate image to suggest the security and stability of banking institutions. In larger communities in Wisconsin, Romanesque Revival banks of this period were massive stone or masonry edifices such as the Farmers and Merchants Bank in Mineral Point or the Batavian Bank of LaCrosse.

The H.S. Miller Bank is a significant local example of Romanesque Revival. The Miller Bank expresses the distinctive characteristics of Romanesque Revival commercial design, albeit in a modest sense, in the broad arched openings with paired sash, symmetrical composition and ornamentation concentrated on the windows, doors and cornice. The circa 1910 addition is an interesting compliment to the original building since it appears to draw its design from typical circa 1870s vernacular commercial design in which the Italianate cornice is suggested by the use of corbelled brick courses in the parapet. This vernacular building form was clearly anachronistic by the time this addition was constructed. The use of this detailing may indicate a conscious effort on the part of the builder to design a compatible, although simpler, addition that would not overwhelm the 1885 bank, but rather be visually and stylistically subordinate to it. The building is distinctive in its local context as the most intact turn-of-the-century building group in downtown Prescott.

The period of significance was chosen to encompass the construction dates of the two sections.

NPS Form 10-900-a
(Rev. 8-86)
Wisconsin Word Processing Format
(Approved 1/92)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 1

H. S. Miller Bank
Prescott, Pierce County, Wisconsin

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Blumenson, John H.-G. Identifying American Architecture-A Pictorial Guide To Style and Times, 1600-1944. Nashville: American Association for State and Local History, 1977.

History of Northern Wisconsin. Chicago: Western Historical Company, 1881.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984.

Poppelies, John; S. Allen Chambers; Nancy B. Swartz. What Style Is It? A Guide to American Architecture. Washington D.C.: The Preservation Press, 1983.

The History of Washington County and the St.Croix Valley. Minneapolis: North Star Publishing Co., 1881

Wyatt, Barbara, ed., Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin. State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, 1986.

Pierce County Plaindealer, June 5, August 14, and October 23, 1885.

Pierce County Tax Records, Pierce County Register of Deeds, 1910.

Prescott Journal, July 11, 1944, December 28, 1867.

Abstract of Prescott, Book 36, p. 51.

NPS Form 10-900-a
(Rev. 8-86)
Wisconsin Word Processing Format
(Approved 1/92)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 2

H. S. Miller Bank
Prescott, Pierce County, Wisconsin

H.S. Miller Bank File, Prescott Historic Preservation; Prescott Area Historical Society.

Obituary clipping, River Falls: Area Research Center, University of Wisconsin, River Falls, Vol. 2, No. 234.

NPS Form 10-900-a
(Rev. 8-86)
Wisconsin Word Processing Format
(Approved 1/92)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 10 Page 1

H. S. Miller Bank
Prescott, Pierce County, Wisconsin

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The general area is a rectangle, approximately 130' x 125', whose long center axis is paralleled to Broad Street.

The N.W. of Lot 6 in Blk "C" in the Original Plat of the Village (now city) of Prescott, including the stone and brick wall standing on the ctr L of Lot 6. Also a strip of land 6" wide off the SE side of Lot 5 in Blk "C" in the Original Plat of the Village (now city) of Prescott, to include the brick wall now situated on the SE side of Lot 5.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary includes the entire parcel currently associated with the subject property and is the legal description of the property.

NPS Form 10-900-a
(Rev. 8-86)
Wisconsin Word Processing Format
(Approved 1/92)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section Photos Page 1

H. S. Miller Bank
Prescott, Pierce County, Wisconsin

PHOTO DOCUMENTATION

H.S. Miller Bank
223 Broad Street
Prescott, Pierce County
Photos by Barbara E. Wyatt
Negatives at State Historical Society of Wisconsin
November, 1992

Photo #1 of 3	View to West Southwest
Photo #2 of 3	View to West Southwest
Photo #3 of 3	View to South Southeast

¹ Pierce County Plaindealer, June 5, August 14, and October 23, 1885..

² Interpretation of tax record.

³ History of Northern Wisconsin, (Chicago: Western Historical Company, 1881), 716.

⁴ The History of Washington County and the St. Croix Valley, (Minneapolis Northstar Publishing Co. 1881), 261 and Prescott Journal, December, 28, 1867, p. 1.

⁵ Obituary, Henry Silkman Miller. Newspaper unidentified. (Archives, University of Wisconsin, River Falls.) Vol 2, #234.

⁶ There was a stone wall on the lot when Miller bought it. Abstract of Prescott, Book 36, p.51; File H.S. Miller Bank, Prescott Area Historical Society, Prescott City Hall; Pierce County Plaindealer, June 5, August 14, October 23, 1885.

⁷ Prescott Journal, (Prescott, WI: Stirrat Annotated Volumes), Vol.5, # 418.