

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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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 LEWIS MILLER COTTAGE

AND/OR COMMON Lewis Miller Cottage

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Chautauqua Institution

CITY, TOWN Chautauqua NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 39

STATE New York VICINITY OF CODE 36 COUNTY Chautauqua CODE 13

3 CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | PRESENT USE | |
|---|---|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT | <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE | <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SITE | PUBLIC ACQUISITION | ACCESSIBLE | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT | <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS | <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: |

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mrs. Nancy Arnn

STREET & NUMBER 2525 Scorpio Drive

CITY, TOWN Colorado Springs VICINITY OF STATE Colorado

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY COURTHOUSE
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Mayville STATE New York

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE None

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION | | CHECK ONE | CHECK ONE |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED (minor) | <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The permanent home of the Chautauqua Institution is located on the western shore of Lake Chautauqua, New York. This sizeable community consists of a large number of residences as well as many educational, religious, social and other public facilities. Especially during the summer, the settlement is filled with families who enjoy both the educational opportunities and the natural beauties of the area.

The Lewis Miller cottage, one of the earliest and most historic buildings at Chautauqua, is located at the intersection of Vincent Avenue and Asbury Avenue, and fronts on Miller Park, overlooking the lake. Lewis Miller, the co-founder of Chautauqua, brought the prefabricated cottage from Akron, Ohio, and erected it on its present site in 1875. In addition to living there with his family of eleven children for many years, Miller entertained many prominent visitors to Chautauqua, President Ulysses S. Grant being one of them.

Resembling a Swiss chalet, the cottage is a two-story, gabled roof, wooden building that is painted grey, with green trim. A front porch with a low railing is complemented by a second-story balcony. On the first floor, a wide front door is balanced by a high window on either side. Double windows sit above those windows. A wing projects off to the right as one faces the house.

When remodelled in 1922, some alterations occurred both outside and inside. The balcony, which originally carried around on a side, was removed, except for the section in front and a small section on the south side. Inside, the first floor's several rooms were made into one large room. Upstairs, several bedrooms were created out of what had been used as a women's dormitory. Also, some contiguous buildings on the outside were torn down and gardens were created in their stead.

The house is now used, primarily as a summer residence, by the descendants of Lewis Miller.

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 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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input checked="" 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 checked="" 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

1874

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The American thirst for education was dramatically revealed by the rapid rise and widespread influence of the Chautauqua Institution. Inaugurated as a Methodist Sunday School Teachers Assembly by Lewis Miller and the Reverend John Vincent in 1874, the Institution rapidly secularized and expanded its curriculum, and soon became a year-round activity. By 1900, the success of the Chautauqua Institution had inspired some two hundred imitators, most of which were traveling tent shows.

The Institution's popularity has waned with the rise of mass media and improved transportation, but it still presents an annual summer educational program.

The Lewis Miller Cottage, an early prefabricated house, was erected on the Institution grounds on the west shore of Lake Chautauqua, New York, in 1875. It is still maintained as a private residence by Miller's descendants.

HISTORY

Two men, one a Methodist minister and the other a pious business man, created Chautauqua. The minister, John Heyl Vincent, had become a licensed Methodist preacher at 18 and an elder in the church at 25. Vincent's duties soon made him aware of the inadequacies of Sunday school teaching. And as he believed that the basis of a religious life rested on what one learned as a child, he determined to improve the quality of Sunday schools.

Miller, a very religious individual and a Sunday school teacher, also appreciated the value of education in general. He believed that all knowledge, Godly and secular, should be put to the benefit of the American democracy. The restriction of learning to a minority disturbed him because he believed that every individual should have the opportunity to learn.

Miller and Vincent thus collaborated in 1874 to inaugurate Chautauqua. Miller, a trustee of a defunct Methodist camp meeting at Fair Port, on Lake Chautauqua, New York, suggested that the school be held there. Furthermore, he would spend his vacation supervising the students. Vincent demurred at first, not wanting to have anything to do with the camp revival idea. But he finally accepted Miller's suggestion, and the Sunday School Teachers' Assembly opened on August 12, 1874. The assembly lasted for 16 days, numbered 40 young women and men as participants, and charged each student \$6 for the course. The success of the initial session inspired subsequent schools at the same site and the expansion of the curriculum.

(continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

James Truslow Adams. Frontier of American Culture, (New York, 1941).
 Victoria and Robert O. Case. We Called It Culture: The Story of Chautauqua (New York, 1948)
 Merle Curti. The Growth of American Thought, (New York, 1943).
 Harry Harrison and Karl Detzer. Culture Under Canvas, The Story of Tent Chautauqua
 (New York, 1958).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|------|---------|---------|----------|------|---------|---|------|---------|--|----------|--|--|
| A | 1, 7 | 6, 2, 6 | 6, 6, 0 | 4, 6 | 7, 4 | 0, 6, 0 | B | | | | | | |
| | ZONE | EASTING | | NORTHING | | | | ZONE | EASTING | | NORTHING | | |
| C | | | | | | | D | | | | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Lewis Miller Cottage national historic landmark boundaries are coterminus with those of the parcel of land upon which the cottage stands. This parcel consists of all of Lots 16 and 17, and a portion of Asbury Avenue as is indicated on the enclosed Boundary and Location Survey, combining surveys made by Findlay in 1956 and E.H. Coleman in 1968, and as is recorded in the office of the Clerk of Chautauqua County, Mayville, New York, under the date of April 25, 1939, Cabinet #2, Section E, Map # 159.

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

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |

11 FORM PREPARED BY

| | | |
|-----------------|---|------------------------|
| NAME / TITLE | S. Sydney Bradford, Staff historian | |
| | Boundary information added by Richard Greenwood | |
| ORGANIZATION | Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service | DATE 1/7/75 |
| STREET & NUMBER | 1100 L Street | TELEPHONE 202-523-5464 |
| CITY OR TOWN | Washington | STATE D.C. 20240 |

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS.

NATIONAL ___ STATE ___ LOCAL ___

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act (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.

Boundary Certified:
 [Signature]
 DATE July 20, 1978

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

| | |
|--|--------------|
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER | |
| DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION | DATE 7/21/78 |
| ATTEST: | DATE |
| KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER | |

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The curriculum, as time passed, became increasingly secular. Chautauqua also lost its denominational character as the courses offered rapidly multiplied and as speakers, orthodox or not, appeared with increasing frequency. The broader its point-of-view, the more popular Chautauqua became and the two weeks gradually expanded into two months. Numerous buildings were erected to house those who flocked to the Lake to enjoy a happy combination of learning and leisure.

Vincent soon transformed Chautauqua from just a summer program into a year-round activity. He organized the Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle in 1878, a four-year course in home study. Further developments followed rapidly, the State chartering the Chautauqua School of Theology in 1881, and authorizing Chautauqua University to issue diplomas and award degrees in 1883. Vincent created the Chautauqua Press and the 1885 catalog included 93 titles. The volumes issued by the press were paperbacks, probably the first in the country.

Miller and Vincent's amazingly successful innovation inspired a legion of imitators. Most of the spawn were "Tent Chautauquas," presenting their literary and learned fare in one town and then moving to the next village. Around 1900, some 200 imitators existed.

The development of the automobile, the expansion of academic opportunity, and the rise of radio contributed to the demise of the broad Chautauqua movement. But the original Chautauqua persists, although the institution's educational program is now restricted to the summer. Nevertheless, Chautauqua remains a significant landmark in the growth of educational opportunity in America.