

United States Department of the 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~~ 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 subcategories 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 Miller, George Tambling and Ninette Stocker, House

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number S side Elenora St., W of Union Church N/A not for publication

city or town Hillsboro N/A vicinity

state New Mexico code NM county Sierra code 051 zip code 88042

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Mark D. ... Director 12/14/94
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

NM History Preservation Division
State of 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 or Federal agency and bureau

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.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Edson H. Beall Signature of the Keeper
Entered in the National Register 4/20/95 Date of Action

Miller, George Tambling and Ninette Stocker, House Sierra County, NM
Name of Property Sierra County, NM
County and State

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	
2	0	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
2	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
Architectural and Historic Resources of
Hillsboro, NM. Part 1: Domestic Architecture

**Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register**
0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian
Other: Late Victorian Vernacular

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Other: slag block
walls Other: slag block
roof Metal
other Wood

Narrative Description

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

Miller, George Tambling and Ninette Stocker, House

Sierra County, NM

Name of Property

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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Commerce

Art/photography

Period of Significance

1894-1944

Significant Dates

1894

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Miller, George Tambling

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Galles, Peter

Lewis, J. M.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
previously listed in the National Register
previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Primary location of additional data:

- X State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of repository:

Miller, George Tambling and Ninette Stocker, House
Name of Property

Sierra County, NM
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	3	2	5	9	8	4	0	3	6	4	5	0	8	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

2

Zone				Easting				Northing						

3

Zone				Easting				Northing						

4

Zone				Easting				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 Corinne P. Sze, Ph.D.
organization Research Services of Santa Fe date September 1994
street & number 1042 Stagecoach Road telephone (505) 983-5605
city or town Santa Fe state NM zip code 87501

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 _____
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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.

Miller, George Tambling and
Ninette Stocker, House

Sierra County, New Mexico

Name of Property

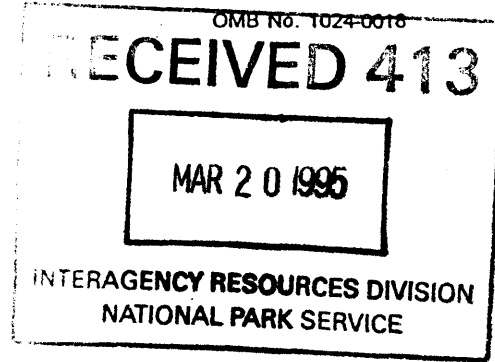
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NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Built in 1894 by George T. Miller, this is a one-story, Late Victorian Vernacular dwelling constructed of locally produced, black slag blocks. Located on the slopes of Elenora Street next to the Union Church, it faces north overlooking the town. The house is T-shaped with a front and intersecting cross-gable, metal-covered roof. The foundation is constructed of the same slag block, laid in the opposite direction from that of the walls. At the rear of the building under a continuation of the gable roof is a kitchen constructed of stuccoed adobe. East of the kitchen is a stuccoed, wood-frame addition with a metal-covered, shed roof created by enclosing a back porch. The property is in excellent condition, has not been significantly altered, and well represents its historic associations.

The gable ends are decorated with fish-scale shingles. Under the front gable is a prominent, decorative window arrangement consisting of a large, fixed pane of plain glass with a narrow casement window on either side. Above these are three fixed windows of corresponding width. The flanking casements and upper row are glazed with original, small, leaded panes of beveled glass. Other windows in the slag-block structure are 2/2 wood sashes. Those in the additions are metal.

The front entrance faces east off an open front porch which wraps around the east side of the building. The porch is supported by chamfered wood posts with decorative wood brackets and has a tongue-and-groove wood floor, a wood rafter ceiling, and a flat roof covered with wood shingles. An iron railing bounds both the porch and the concrete steps which lead to it. The house is set back from the street line which is bordered by a low, stuccoed wall topped by an iron fence. Gates opposite the front steps and across the driveway at the east perimeter of the property repeat the pattern of the fence.

In 1898 the original house was a metal roofed, slag-block L with a shingle-roofed frame addition at the rear. By 1930 the rear frame section is shown as slag block, creating a T-shaped slag structure under a uniformly metal roof. At the back of the

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building were two small wood additions.¹ At unknown dates after 1930 the adobe kitchen replaced one of these and a small frame addition which juts out onto the side porch, the other.

On the main facade at unknown dates, the porch posts were replaced, the iron balustrade was added around the porch where historic photos show no railing, and concrete replaced wooden front steps. In 1991 wood lattice work under the porch was replaced. The porch post brackets were replicated in 1993 following the evidence of historic photographs. The same year the metal fence and low concrete wall were installed at the street line where there had been a picket fence. Most recently the large front window was repaired. Original glass was retained but the frame around the large stationary pane and portions other framing were replaced. A decorative cove was installed over the window in an attempt to deflect water and spindled ornaments placed at the apexes of the gables.

On the interior, in the early 1970s a bathroom was partitioned off in the frame addition at the rear of the house; the outhouse was not torn down until 1992. In 1974 wood paneling was installed on most of the walls, and at an undetermined date acoustical panels were applied to all ceilings. A fireplace originally surrounded by slag block was surrounded with stone after 1974. Windows in the adobe addition were changed to aluminum sliders.

A contributing, open-front, frame garage with a metal roof lies in the southeast corner of the property at the end of the driveway. A frame, composition-roofed building for autos was in the same location on the 1930 Sanborn map. Photographic evidence indicates alteration of the roof. A small frame shed lies at the back of the property on the west.

1. Sanborn Maps 1898, 1930.

Miller, George Tambling and
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SIGNIFICANT PERSON

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SIGNIFICANCE

This building is architecturally significant as an example of the realization, in locally obtainable materials, of an imported style which incorporates elements of siting, form, and decoration characteristic of vernacular building in the Victorian era. In addition to placement back from the street, typical components are the front and cross gables, the large front window with decorative glass, the simply decorated front porch with a side front entrance, and the shingled decoration of the gable ends.

The building is significant under Criterion B for its association with George T. and Ninette S. Miller. Originally involved in mining, George Miller became a prominent businessman as proprietor of Hillsboro's only drug store as well as the postmaster. After her husband's premature death, Ninette Miller continued the business, served as postmistress, and was a community leader in her own right. The Miller drugstore, to which the post office was attached, was an important center of communication. The telephone switchboard was also housed in the back for many years until about 1956.

The Miller House is one of small number of buildings constructed of slag block locally produced from a waste product of the smelting process. The blocks weigh about 130 pounds each and were made by pouring molten slag into metal molds. Today there are two other structures, two partial structures, and a ruin made from these blocks. A public hall of the same material was dismantled in the 1920s and hauled away.²

Two samples of slag, one from the house and one from the smelter slag pile were tested in 1993 by the New Mexico Bureau of Mines & Mineral Resources at the New Mexico Institute of Mining & Technology in Socorro, New Mexico. Analytical results indicated that each sample contained small amounts of lead, copper, and zinc, comprising less than 1% of the slag mass in each case. The remaining more than 99% percent is made up of such compounds as

2. Delores Springer, "George T. Miller House," National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form (draft manuscript, 1993) 5.

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iron silicate which gives rise to the brownish crystalline texture of the material. The presence of copper in relatively high amounts strongly suggests that the samples originated from the Hillsboro smelter, the only copper smelter in the area.³

George Tambling Miller was born in Chicago in 1866, the son of a hardware manufacturer, Albion Miller. The family moved to Minneapolis, Minnesota, shortly after the big Chicago fire, and Miller graduated from Colton (sic) College in Northfield, Minnesota. He married Ninette Stocker in 1891, daughter of Henson County, Minnesota, Judge H. D. Stocker. Two years later the Millers journeyed by train and stage to Hillsboro accompanied by her sister, Harriet, who was the wife of Hillsboro pioneer merchant, Nicholas Galles.⁴

In April of 1894 Miller contracted with Peter Galles and J.M. Lewis to "erect, build and finish the carpenter work on one slag house on lot 3 Block 6 adjoining the Union Church Building Hillsboro, New Mexico." Some of the lumber used in the house came from the Burge Gallery, formerly of Kingston, New Mexico, presumably the photography studio of J. C. Burge. Earlier in the month Ninette Miller had bought the land at a Sheriff's sale for \$3.00. Frank W. Parker, judge and later New Mexico Supreme Court Justice, who defaulted on the land for delinquent taxes, had himself bought the property for back taxes seven years earlier.⁵

At Hillsboro Miller was first associated with the Standard Gold Mining Company of which his father-in-law was the vice-president. After a couple of years, no doubt because of the failure of the mining industry to recover after 1893, he went to

3. Robert W. Eveleth, letter to Delores Springer, 6 April 1993.

4. *Sierra County Advocate* 28 May 1909. George T. Miller, diary, entry dated 20 February 1893 (manuscript, Truth or Consequences, New Mexico: Geronimo Springs Museum). Delores Springer, "George T. Miller House," National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form (draft manuscript, 1993) 6-7.

5. Peter Galles and J. M. Lewis, contract with George T. Miller, 23 April 1894 (Private collection of Delores Springer). *Sierra County Quitclaim Record*, C:6-8. Delores Springer, "George T. Miller House," National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form (draft manuscript, 1993) 7.

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work for the mercantile firm of Keller, Miller & Company. He then entered the drug business and later bought the rival store of C. C. Miller (no relation), Hillsboro's first druggist. The drug store which compounded prescriptions day and night, also advertised stationery, paints, oils, and window glass. In 1898 Miller was appointed postmaster; the post office for many years adjoined the drug store on the west side.⁶

Miller was an avid and accomplished photographer. He noted in his diary pictures taken as he traveled across the country to New Mexico. Soon after his arrival he photographed the Richmond Mill for Messrs Oliver and Underwood.⁷ He acquired negatives of a photo studio that closed about 1893, thought to be that of J. C. Burge and used an 8 x 10 view camera which he purchased from an itinerant photographer to record his home and various local scenes including stage coaches of the Lake Valley-Hillsboro run. About 1908 he photographed the Caballo Road and Palomas Gap areas near Elephant Butte for publication in a land development stock brochure.⁸

In 1909 Miller died suddenly in his early forties following an appendectomy. The funeral took place at his home; all business was suspended at Hillsboro for the duration and a large procession of fellow citizens followed the remains to the cemetery.⁹

6. *Sierra County Advocate* 6 April 1906; 28 May 1909. George B. Anderson, *History of New Mexico: Its Resources and People*, vol. 2 (Los Angeles: Pacific States Publishing Company, 1907) 762. Delores Springer, "George T. Miller House," National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form (draft manuscript, 1993) 7A. *History of Sierra County, New Mexico (Truth or Consequences, New Mexico: Sierra County Historical Society, Inc., 1979) 53.*

7. George T. Miller, diary, entries dated 22 February 1893 and week of 5 March 1893 (manuscript, Truth or Consequences, New Mexico: Geronimo Springs Museum).

8. Delores Springer, "George T. Miller House," National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form (draft manuscript, 1993) 5. Richard Rudisill, *The Photographers of the New Mexico Territory, 1854-1912* (Santa Fe: Museum of New Mexico, 1973) 42.

9. *Sierra County Advocate* 28 May 1909.

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George Miller's widow, Ninette, continued to live in the family home with her young son, George A. Miller, only five years old at the time of his father's death. She took over the family business and was herself appointed postmistress. In the teens she married A. L. Bird and continued to manage the Miller Drug Store until her son took over in the 1930s.¹⁰ For two years after the 1929 crash, she and Mrs. Edward Tittman, wife of a Hillsboro attorney, handled as volunteers all relief problems in Sierra County. Feeling that "government relief...was ruining the morale of [their] town," the women got several of the mine owners to permit out-of-work miners to operate under leases and thereby be self supporting.¹¹ Ninette Miller was also an artist and played the organ every Sunday at the Union Church next door to her home. After her death in 1946,¹² her son inherited the house. Upon his death in 1973, it was willed to the Carrie Tingley Foundation.¹³

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10. New Mexico State Business Directories, various dates.
 11. *The New Mexico Sentinel* 22 December 1937.
 12. *Sierra County Advocate* 8 November 1946.
 13. Delores Springer, "George T. Miller House," National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form (draft manuscript, 1993) 6.

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SOURCES

Anderson, George B. *History of New Mexico: Its Resources and People*. Vol. 2. Los Angeles: Pacific States Publishing Company, 1907.

Eveleth, Robert W. Letter to Delores Springer. 6 April 1993.

Galles, Peter and J. M. Lewis. Contract with George T. Miller. 23 April 1894. Private collection of Delores Springer.

History of Sierra County, New Mexico. Truth or Consequences, New Mexico: Sierra County Historical Society, Inc., 1979.

Miller, George T. Diary. Manuscript. Truth or Consequences, New Mexico: Geronimo Springs Museum.

The New Mexico Sentinel 22 December 1937.

New Mexico State Business Directories, various dates.

Rudisill, Richard. *Photographers of the New Mexico Territory, 1854-1912*. Santa Fe: Museum of New Mexico, 1973.

Sierra County Advocate 6 April 1906; 28 May 1909; 8 November 1946.

Sierra County Deeds.

Springer, Delores. "George T. Miller House." National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form. Draft manuscript, 1993.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Block 5: lot 3. Hillsboro original townsite.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

Lot and block numbers of the historic property as shown on the map filed for the record 14 December 1887 and on the 1930 Sanborn map.

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CONTEMPORARY PHOTOGRAPH.

1. Miller, George Tambling and Ninette Stocker, House
2. Sierra County, New Mexico
3. Corinne P. Sze
4. May 11, 1994
5. Historic Preservation Division
Santa Fe, New Mexico
6. North and partial east facades. Camera facing southwest.
7. Photo #1

HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPH

1. Miller, George Tambling and Ninette Stocker, House
2. Sierra County, New Mexico
3. George T. Miller
4. August 9, 1905.
5. Museum of New Mexico Photo Archives, #76926.
8 x 10 glass negative.
6. North and partial east facades. Camera facing southwest.
7. Photo #2