

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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 Henry Miller house

and/or common Miller house

2. Location

street & number 1314 Grand Avenue \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Wausau \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district Seventh

state Wisconsin code 55 county Marathon code 073

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

4. Owner of Property

name Preservation Properties, c/o Mr. Richard Beckman

street & number 8606 Scenic Drive

city, town Scotfield \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state Wisconsin 54476

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Marathon County Courthouse

street & number Forest Street

city, town Wausau \_\_\_\_\_ state Wisconsin

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Wisconsin Inventory of  
title Historic Places has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1978 \_\_\_\_\_ federal  state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ local

depository for survey records State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 816 State Street

city, town Madison \_\_\_\_\_ state Wisconsin 53706

## 7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>December 9, 1981</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Henry Miller house is a two story frame Queen Anne-style structure with a polygonal turret with iron finial and an irregular roof (now asbestos, originally wood shingles) facing gables on all four facings. Windows are double hung with small colored glass lights in the upper sash. A stained glass transom tops the large window in the bay under the turret. Bargeboards in the "Eastlake" style hang from three gables which cover pierced wood canopies over second story corner windows. Fish scale shingles decorate the gables and part of the turret. The front and side porches retain the original balusters, posts and porch skirt - a wood lattice infill in the brick foundation. In the 1950's an enclosed stairway to the second floor was added to the back of the house, and a second story porch was probably enclosed.

The floor plan of the Miller house is irregular with a small vestibule opening into the staircase hall. The oak stairway has dome-topped newel posts with classical garlands and the original balusters. Oak doorways and windows with flower motifs are repeated throughout the first floor. Sliding doors separate the parlor and sitting room. The stained glass transom window in the corner window dominates the parlor while the sitting room behind it features an elaborate fireplace with Ionic columns and classical garlands. Floors of the parlor and sitting room are maple. The 1950 remodeling of the second floor into an apartment caused new walls to be constructed and doorways to be moved. It appears that originally there were four bedrooms and a bathroom. Woodwork is pine and has been painted.

In June, 1981 the Miller house which stood at 1210 Grand Avenue (and had been vacant and in a deteriorating state for four years) was sold to a Wausau real estate developer who planned to raze the house for an apartment complex. The developer refused suggestions to incorporate the house into his building plans, but offered the house to anyone who would move it. Several individuals and groups drew up plans for relocation and use. In September, within hours of demolition, Natural Concepts, a construction company with interests in energy efficiency and preservation, announced it would move and restore the Henry Miller house. The new owner is Preservation Properties, an investment group which will use the structure as commercial property. On December 9, 1981, the Henry Miller house was moved 350 feet south of its original site on Grand Avenue. Restoration will begin in January, 1982 with completion scheduled for July, 1982. Plans are to create three prestige office units retaining the architectural integrity of the house.

The original location of the Henry Miller house was a choice residential site of the late Victorian period. During the 1890' and into the twentieth century wealthy lumbermen and merchants built Italianate, Queen Anne and Neo-Classical Revival houses on and near Grand Avenue. With the widening of the street in the 1960's, Grand Avenue began to lose its residential character. Today it is mixed commercial and residential, both single and multiple housing. The Miller house is presently situated between a Bible Church and Sturgeon Bluff Apartments, a senior

(continued)

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

HENRY MILLER HOUSE, Wausau, Marathon County, WI

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 2

citizen complex, formerly Wausau Memorial Hospital; closer to the street than neighboring buildings, the house's corner tower is visually prominent from north and south approaches.

## 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
				<u>association with significant person</u>

Specific dates 1894<sup>1</sup> - 1920 Builder/Architect John A. Drisko<sup>2</sup>

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Henry Miller house, built in 1894, is significant for its association with a highly respected Marathon County judge and politician. A prime example of its period of construction and one of few remaining architecturally significant homes on a street (Grand Avenue) once lined with Victorian-era residences, the house is of sufficient significance to merit listing despite its recent relocation.

### Architecture

The Henry Miller house is a classic example of Queen Anne domestic design of 1894. The two story clapboard structure is decoratively rich with its original bargeboards, colored glass, fish scale shingles and classical details. The turret, gables, open porches and irregularity of plan provide the picturesque silhouette of the style.

Although the architect of the Miller house is unknown, it is known that John A. Drisko was the builder. He was a mill wright at a Schofield saw mill and built other Queen Anne houses, notable the John Smith house, 625 Franklin and probably the Henry McEachron house at 802 Franklin. Drisko died in 1894 at about age sixty before the Miller house was completely finished.<sup>3</sup>

### Association with a Significant Person

Henry Miller was born in 1849 in Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany, an area from which many early Wausau settlers came.<sup>4</sup> After immigrating with his brother at age nineteen, Miller lived for four years in Belfast, New York.<sup>5</sup> In 1872 Henry Miller moved to Wausau where he clerked in a general store, taught school in rural Marathon County and edited Waechter am Wisconsin (Watchman on the Wisconsin), a German weekly newspaper which supported the Greenback party.<sup>6</sup>

After serving elected terms as clerk of the city of Wausau and clerk of Marathon County, Miller was elected to the state assembly. In 1892 he was elected a municipal judge and two years later was appointed to a county judgeship, maintaining both judicial positions until his 1910 retirement.<sup>6</sup> Judge Miller was considered an expert on Probate Law of Wisconsin. His death in 1920 "caused profound sorrow throughout our city and county", according to a Wausau newspaper.<sup>8</sup>

Henry Miller purchased the house in 1898 from the builder's widow, Cassie Drisko, who had moved into the unfinished house in 1895 and lived in it during its completion. Miller resided there until his death in 1920, and his widow Helena continued to live in the house until her death in 1924 when the Miller heirs sold it to John L. Sell, a Wausau hardware merchant.

(continued)

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Marchetti, Louis. History of Marathon County. Chicago: Richmond-Arnold Publishing Co., 1913.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Wausau East, Wisconsin

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 

1	6	2	93	2	50	4	9	79	9	20
Zone		Easting				Northing				

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing				

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing				

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing				

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing				

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing				

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing				

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing				

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The property is an irregular lot 140' by 200' by 184.4' by 204.87'. It is bounded on the east by Grand Avenue, the south by Sturgeon Bluff Apartments, the west by a parking lot and the north by Wausau Bible Church.

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 Maryanne Norton, Librarian

organization Marathon County Historical Society date December 28, 1981

street & number 403 McIndoe Street telephone (715) 848-6143

city or town Wausau

state Wisconsin

# 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 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Richard Henry

title Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin date 4/19/82

For HCERS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>Alma Byrne</u> Keeper of the National Register	Entered in the National Register date <u>6/14/82</u>
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

HENRY MILLER HOUSE, Wausau, Marthon County, WI



Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 1

Inclusion of Exempted Properties

A fine example of Queen Anne design, the Henry Miller House is of additional local significance as one of few remaining vestiges of Wausau's once Grand Avenue, a prime residential neighborhood. Relocation to a site several hundred feet south of the original, also on the Avenue, preserves its association with that historic thoroughfare. The recent move, necessary for preservation of the structure, had added benefit in that the house is more visually prominent in its new location (see Description). Both the justification and the result of relocation, then, would merit waiver of the customary prohibition.

The new site of the Miller House was the location of the Lund House until 1978, when that house was demolished. Until 1960, the rear of the site contained the greenhouses of the Lund Floral Company. (Both the house and greenhouses had been constructed in 1895.) Thus, moving the Henry Miller House destroyed no existing historically significant properties. Given that the site had been developed previously, probably no archaeological artifacts would have remained to destroy.

---

<sup>1</sup>Wausau Pilot. Obituary for John Driski. June 19, 1894.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid.

<sup>4</sup>Louis Marchetti. History of Marathon County. Chicago: Richmond-Arnold Publishing Co., 1913, p. 641.

<sup>5</sup>George Martin. Wausau in 1900. Wausau, December 25, 1900.

<sup>6</sup>Wausau Pilot. Obituary of Henry Miller. May 20, 1920.

<sup>7</sup>Ibid.

<sup>8</sup>Ibid.