

FOR NPS USE ONLY

 NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
 INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

HISTORIC

George H. Miller House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

405 W. Market

CITY, TOWN

Bloomington

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Illinois

CODE

COUNTY

McLean

CODE

3 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 type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESID
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Larry Knuth

STREET & NUMBER

810 W. Market

CITY, TOWN

Bloomington

VICINITY OF

STATE

Illinois

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

McLean

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Bloomington

STATE

Illinois

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYSTITLE Illinois Historic Structures Survey in ^{Bloomington} ~~McLean~~ County

DATE

October 1974

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Illinois Department of Conservation

CITY, TOWN

Springfield

STATE

IL.

DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The building is a detached rectangular house of two stories. It is a frame building. The south part of the house, that side facing Market Street, is surfaced below with red brick and on the second floor with wooden shingles. The north, or rear, part of the house is surfaced in wood. The south part of the house has a modified hip roof with a gable on the west side. The north part of the house has a single pitch gable roof running north and south. At the southeast corner of the house a tower rises from a circular base at the first floor level to a hexagonal shape above the roofline. The tower is capped by a convex cone rising to a spire. Above the front porch is a brick arch supported by stone columns. There are recessed areas on the south and east sides of the second floor. The house has a great many stained glass windows including a large circular window on the west side and a rectangular window above the south entrance with the word Miller surrounded by blue glass. There is a good deal of decorative woodwork in the interior, particularly in the main entryway. In the southeast room on the lower floor is a fireplace surrounded by blue tile.

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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1890 BUILDER/ARCHITECT George H. Miller

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This building is the home built by George Miller soon after his marriage. He lived here from 1890 until his death in 1927. Miller was the first architect to practice for any sustained period in Bloomington. He designed many public buildings, churches, office buildings, and private homes in Bloomington, the surrounding area and throughout the midwest.

George H. Miller's parents were born in Germany. They came to this country and settled in Bloomington in 1855. George was born the following year.

When he was fifteen Miller entered the architectural offices of Richter and Bunting where he worked as a draftsman. In 1874 he worked briefly in Ohio, returning in 1875 to work in the Chicago offices of F. & E. Baumann, noted builders and architects. After six months in Chicago he went to work for Henry A. Miner, a Bloomington businessman. While working for Miner, Miller's first important public building was the McLean County Jail which was finished in 1880. In 1883 he became treasurer of the city of Bloomington. Two years later he opened his own architectural offices at 101 W. Front. Among his designs of this period

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Griffith, Evelyn S. The Architecture of George H. Miller.
 Unpublished Honors Research Project, Illinois
 Wesleyan University, 1975.

Portrait and Biographical Album of McLean County, Ill.
 Chicago: Chapman Brothers, 1887.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A

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 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

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 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

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 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

William D. Walters, Jr. Assistant Professor of Geography

ORGANIZATION

Illinois State University

DATE

November 23, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

309 829-2026

CITY OR TOWN

Normal,

STATE

Illinois

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

were the German Lutheran Church, Turner's Hall, the German Methodist Church, the German Catholic Church, First Baptist Church, Moses Montefiore Synagogue and Withers Library.

In 1894 Miller was appointed Superintendent of U.S. Buildings. Although the full scope of his duties is not clear, he traveled throughout the Midwest designing and supervising the construction of Federal buildings. It was probably in this period that he designed several as yet unidentified buildings in St. Louis. In 1897 he traveled to Saginaw, Michigan to supervise the construction of the Federal Building which he had designed for that city. Miller's McLean County buildings in the 1890's include Cook Hall on what is now the Illinois State University campus, First Presbyterian Church in Bloomington, the Holy Trinity Church Rectory in Bloomington, and the Simeon West home in Le Roy.

In June of 1900 a fire destroyed much of downtown Bloomington. Miller designed many of the buildings which replaced burned structures. His buildings of the early twentieth century include the Corn Belt Bank, McLean County Bank, the B.S. Green building, the George Brand Building, the Evans Building, the Durley Block, Klemm's wholesale

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

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building, the Livingston Building, the Metropole Hotel, the Thompson Marble Building, the McClure home on Franklin Square, the Hyneman house in Lexington, Illinois, and the A.E. DeMange home in Bloomington. The pavilion which George Miller designed for Miller Park in Bloomington has recently been restored.

Although no complete catalogue of Miller's works has yet been compiled it seems safe to say that between 1880 and 1910 he had a greater impact on the appearance of Bloomington than any other single individual.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Griffith, Evelyn S. The Architecture of George H. Miller.
 Unpublished Honors Research Project, Illinois
 Wesleyan University, 1975.

Portrait and Biographical Album of McLean County, Ill.
 Chicago: Chapman Brothers, 1887.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	16	3	30	750	44	82	000	B							
	ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING				ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING		
C								D							

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

West 25 feet of lot 8, all of 9, the east 1/3 of 7 and 10 in
 block 28 of Allin, Gridley and Prickett's addition to the city of
 Bloomington.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

William D. Walters, Jr. Assistant Professor of Geography

ORGANIZATION

Illinois State University

DATE

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STREET & NUMBER

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CITY OR TOWN

Normal,

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NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

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STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

[Signature]

TITLE

Director, Ill. Dept. of Conservation

DATE

3/27/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ILLINOIS

Date Entered JUL 20 1978

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Miller, George H., House	Bloomington McLean County

Also Notified

Honorable Charles H. Percy
Honorable Adlai E. Stevenson
Honorable Edward R. Madigan

COPY OF CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION

NAME OF SITE: George H. Miller Home (~~MT H-286~~).

NR

LOCATION: 407 W. Market, Bloomington

OWNER: Larry Knuth
810 W. Market
Phone: 828-4591

POINTS OF INTEREST: Home designed for himself for noted Bloomington architect.

DATE: 1890

BUILDER: George H. Miller's father John George Miller was born in Würtemberg in 1826. After five years service in a cavalry regiment he left Germany for New York City where he stayed briefly before coming to Bloomington in 1855. In 1856 George H. Miller was born. For the first eleven years of his life George grew up on his father's farm, then, in 1867 the family moved to 318 S. Madison in Bloomington where the elder Miller took a job in a saloon in the basement at 220 N. Center.

At the age of fifteen George entered the architectural offices of Richter and Bunting. George W. Bunting soon left the firm and became one of the most successful architects in Springfield. Rudolph Richter then took on John T. Harris as Junior partner. In the 1872-73 city directory they listed themselves as, "....architects, ventilating engineers

superintendents of building, 208 N. Centre, west of Court House." (p. 274). George H. Miller listed himself as "draughtsman." When business slumped in 1874, John Harris left Bloomington and Miller went with him to Columbus, Ohio, as his draftsman, but returned to Bloomington in less than a year.

In 1875 Miller took a job as draftsman with "F. and E. Baumann" in Chicago. F. Baumann was probably Frederick H. Baumann whose Theory of Isolated Pier Foundations, published in 1873 marked a radical change in thinking about large building construction and helped pave the way for the Chicago School of architecture. He stayed with the Baumanns only six months before returning to work for Bloomington businessman Henry A. Miner, a manufacturer of wood products and house contractor. From this period date Miller's earliest designs, including the 1876 Pantagraph building.

George H. Miller's first important public building was the county jail erected in 1880. He soon became involved in local politics; beginning in 1883 Miller, although only twenty-seven, became treasurer of the city of Bloomington. In 1885 he opened his own architectural offices at 101 W. Front Street and from that date until he retired in 1923 did more than any other singular individual to alter the face of Bloomington. Among his creations of the 1880's were the German Lutheran Church, Turner's

Hall, the German Methodist Episcopal Church, the German Catholic Church, First Baptist Church, the Moses Montefiore Synagogue, Withers Library, and numerous private homes.

He continued to be active in politics. In 1886 he was elected to the city council as alderman from the third ward and was reelected the following year. In 1895 he ran for mayor and was defeated in a close three cornered race. By 1908 he was back in politics again and once more elected alderman from the third ward.

In the 1890's Miller's scope widened. He designed homes throughout McLean and the adjoining counties. In 1894 he took on the post of Superintendent of U.S. Government Buildings and traveled throughout the midwest designing and supervising the construction of Federal buildings. It is probably in this period that he designed several as yet unidentified structures in St. Louis. In February of 1897 he and his family left for Saganaw, Michigan, where Miller was responsible for the construction of the Federal Building there. At home he built during the 1890's Cook Hall on what is now the Illinois State University campus, First Presbyterian Church, and the large romanesque rectory for Holy Trinity Catholic Church.

June 1900 saw the great fire which destroyed most of downtown Bloomington and offered Miller the

greatest outlet for his talents. Among his creations were the Corn Belt Bank building, the McLean County Bank building, the Evens Building, the George Brand Building, the Livingston Building and the Metropole Hotel. Indeed, much of the present character of the court house square is due to George H. Miller designs. In 1905 the Bloomington city council contracted with George H. Miller to design the pavilion at Miller Park, a structure which has recently been restored.

In the following years, until his retirement in 1923, Miller continued to design public buildings, business blocks and numerous private dwellings. There is as yet no full catalogue of Miller's works, but it seems safe to say that he did more to alter the appearance of Bloomington between 1880 and 1920 than any other single person.

STRUCTURE: In 1887 when George H. Miller married the daughter of his fellow alderman William Stautz, the brides parents gave the young couple a lot on W. Market Street. On this lot Miller designed and constructed a home which has attracted the attention of every following generation of Bloomingtonians. It was completed in 1890 and Miller lived here for the remainder of his life.

Beyond the general label of Victorian Gothic the home does not rest well in any formal category.

It is in a very real sense an expression of the architect's own personality, eclectic in detail but unified in overall conception. At first site it is Miller's use of stained glass which attracts the greatest attention; he worked it into shallow arches beneath the shingled cone of the southeast tower, he used it on the south front of the same tower, he created a lovely pannel with his name on it for over the front door, and he built a very large circular stained glass window into the west wall of the dining room. Miller also made good use of recessed porches on both the south and east sides of the home. In the design he blended classical features, like the columns on either side of the porch, with purely gothic elements like the conical tower roofs and held the design together with the extensive use of wooden shingles.

After several years of neglect the home is now being repaired and restored.

REFERENCES

Evelyn S. Griffith, The Architecture of George H. Miller (Unpublished Honors Research Project, Illinois Wesleyan University, 1975). This is a very complete document and by far the best source for anything concerning Miller.

P. & B., 1887, p. 351.





