

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

For HCRS 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 Miller, Joseph, House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Buckhart Road (9.5E, 3.5S) RR#1 not for publication

city, town Rochester vicinity of congressional district 20th

state Illinois code 012 county Sangamon code 167

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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Wilson J. and June G. Park

street & number P.O. Box 193

city, town Rochester vicinity of state Illinois

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Sangamon County Recorder of Deeds

street & number County Building, 800 East Monroe

city, town Springfield, state IL

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Centennial Farm has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date designated in 1972 federal state county local

depository for survey records Illinois Department of Agriculture

city, town Springfield state Illinois

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Miller House is situated on a low bluff overlooking the flood plain of the Sangamon River. The house is square in shape with brick bearing walls about 12 inches thick. The south facade has a small front entrance porch with elliptical arch framing and a long verandah extends the length of the west side of the house. The original porch ballustrades were removed many years ago and current plans call for their restoration. A small kitchen with a sloping roof protrudes from the center of the rear facade.

The bricks used were made by hand at a nearby site, and the limestone used in the foundation was hauled from a place then known as Cold Springs, about five miles east of the residence.

The fenestration is symmetrical. Windows are six over six, double hung with thin muntins, and topped with single course brick segmental relieving arches. Approximately 2/3 of the lights are original to the house. The original shutters have been replaced. The main entrance on the south facade contains a single door framed by sidelights and a transome.

The house has a pyramidal roof with a pair of symmetrical interior chimneys. The original shingle roof was replaced by a rolled asphalt roof several years ago. There is a wide freize at the roofline.

Inside, the home is simple in decor. It has one modest fireplace, with the other rooms containing mantels and flues to accomodate wood burning stoves. There is a solid walnut curving staircase in the front hall, and a smaller back stairway. First floor interior architrave trim is of walnut, while the trim on the second floor is pine.

Outbuildings include a root cellar and a wooden pegged barn. The summer kitchen and smoke house are no longer extant.

When the current owners purchased the home from the surviving heir, it was much deteriorated and the porches were all practically rotted off. Only the original consoles on the west verandah remained in good condition. The house itself was structurally sound and it had been unaltered from the original 1867 design. A picture of the home taken four years after it was built has been used as a basis for the restoration. While some progress has been made in restoration, some work remains to be done.

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 checked="" 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/		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)		

Specific dates 1867 Builder/Architect unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Miller House is one of the oldest unaltered homes in the community, and it is the earliest dwelling still standing that is associated with the prominent Miller family. The house is a good example of a simple Federal style farm house, and represents the influence of the family's Virginia antecedents. The land around it continues to be farmed by members of the Miller family, who have lived in Sangamon County since 1835

HISTORY

Christian Miller brought his family to Sangamon County from London County, Virginia in 1835. He proceeded to become one of the largest land owners in the County. Land could be purchased only with gold or silver at \$1.25 per acre, and Christian Miller purchased or entered 2100 acres. This included the purchase of an entire section of close to 600 acres, which an examination of the Federal Tract Book for Sangamon County shows to be a rare occurrence at that time. The family continued to clear and farm the land, and after Christian Miller's death in 1842, his son Joseph handled the family holdings. It was Joseph Miller who built the house in 1867, a few yards from the first Miller home. (This first home no longer exists). Descendants of Christian and Joseph Miller continue to farm the surrounding land, and remain one of the most prominent families in rural Sangamon County.

The house itself has remained virtually unchanged from the time it was built. A photograph taken four years after it was built has assisted the current owners in restoring such features as the shutters and porches. Traces of the Miller family's Southern origins are represented by the wide side verandah and the rear kitchen addition. The brick was handmade and the limestone for the foundation was quarried nearby.

The Millers' contribution to the development of agriculture in the State is represented by their effort in slowly and laboriously clearing a vast amount of land and turning it into productive farm land, land which for the most part was cleared using teams of oxen and horses. Today that land is still being farmed by descendants of Christian and Joseph Miller.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Atlas of Sangamon County, 1874

Powers, John, Early Settlers of Sangamon County, 1876

History of B.F. Springer and the Trinity Lutheran Church in Springfield, Ill., K.K.Klemmer, researcher,

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name MECHANICSBURG, IL.

Quadrangle scale _____

UMT References - UTM'S - NOT AVAILABLE

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Part of the Southwest fractional quarter of Section 7, township 15, range 3 west of the third principal meridian

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title June G. Park

organization _____ date April-August, 1980

street & number P.O. Box 193 telephone 217/498-7865

city or town Rochester, 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title Director date 9/17/80

For HCRS use only
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date _____

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet Joseph Miller House

Item number 9

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Bibliography (continued)

United States Census of Agriculture, 1850 for Sangamon County
Illinois State Archives, Springfield, Illinois
Federal Tract Book #695, page 74
Illinois State Archives, Springfield, Illinois
(documents land sales and purchases for Sangamon County)

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ILLINOIS

STATE

Date Entered NOV 24 1990

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Miller, Joseph, House	Rochester vicinity Sangamon County
Willits, Ward Winfield, House	Highland Park Lake County
St. Paulus Evangelisch Lutherischen Gemeinde	Jonesboro vicinity Union County
Campton Town Hall	Wasco vicinity Kane County
Halderman, Nathaniel, House	Mount Carroll Carroll County

Also Notified

Honorable Charles H. Percy
Honorable Adlai E. Stevenson
Honorable Paul Findley
Honorable Philip M. Crane
Honorable Paul Simon
Honorable Robert McClory
Honorable Tom Railsback

COPY OF CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.