

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 instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

Historic name Miller, Henry, House

Other names/site number N/A

Name of related Multiple Property Listing N/A

2. Location

Street & number 106 Cape Road

N/A	not for publication
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City or town Bloomfield

N/A	vicinity
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State Missouri Code MO County Stoddard Code 099 Zip code 63825

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 at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria: A B C D



Signature of certifying official/Title JP

Date 03/26/18

Missouri Department of Natural Resources

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Miller, Henry, House
Name of Property

Stoddard, MO
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5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

<input type="checkbox"/>	private
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

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.)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Other: 1 house

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: BRICK

walls: WOOD: Weatherboard

roof: ASPHALT

other:

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION ON CONTINUATION PAGES

Miller, Henry, House
Name of Property

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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.

Areas of Significance

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

c. 1843
1910

Significant Dates

1910

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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Miller, Henry

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE ON CONTINUATION PAGES

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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 # _____
- ___ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than 1 acre

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1 36.889167 -89.9257958 3 _____
Latitude: Longitude: Latitude: Longitude:

2 _____ 4 _____
Latitude: Longitude: Latitude: Longitude:

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

_____ NAD 1927 or _____ NAD 1983

1 _____ 3 _____
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

2 _____ 4 _____
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (On continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification (On continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Christopher Kinder, Meghan Day, Paul Arnold, and Steven J. Hoffman

organization Southeast Missouri State University HP program date November 6, 2017

street & number One University Plaza telephone 573-651-2808

city or town Cape Girardeau state MO zip code 63701

e-mail shoffman@semo.edu

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Photographs**
- **Owner Name and Contact Information**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

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. 460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Miller, Henry, House

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Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log:

Name of Property: Henry Miller House

City or Vicinity: Bloomfield

County: Stoddard State: Missouri

Photographer: Steven J. Hoffman

Date

Photographed: September 5, 2017

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 12: North façade and east elevation, facing south-west

2 of 12: West elevation and south elevation), facing north-east

3 of 12: Interior of 1st floor east room, facing west

4 of 12: South elevation (two-story portion), facing north-east

5 of 12: West elevation of ell, facing north-east

6 of 12: Rear porch, facing east

7 of 12: South elevation (ell), facing north

8 of 12: Interior north wall of 1st floor west room, facing north

9 of 12: Interior south wall of 1st floor west room, facing south

10 of 12: Interior of 1st floor east room, facing east

11 of 12: Interior of 2nd floor west room, facing south-west

12 of 12: Interior of cellar, facing south-east

Figure Log:

Include figures on continuation pages at the end of the nomination.

Figure 1: Henry Miller House floor plan

Figure 2: Photo Key

Figure 3: Henry Miller House, with front porch partially collapsed, April 2011

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Figure 4: Henry Miller House, with front porch partially intact, April 2012

Figure 5: Henry Miller House, eastern elevation, February 2014

Figure 6: Henry Miller House, west and south elevations, February 2014

Figure 7: Vesuvius Furnace, HABS Photo, 1938

Figure 8: Vesuvius Furnace, 1988

Figure 9: 202 Idalia Road, Bloomfield, MO

Figure 10: 507 W. Shawnee, Bloomfield, MO

Figure 11: 704 S. Prairie, Bloomfield, MO

Figure 12: Location Map

Figure 13: Contextual Map

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Miller, Henry, House
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N/A
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Summary:

The Henry Miller House, circa 1843, is a two story, side gabled, wood frame I house with a one-story ell creating an “L” shaped footprint. Located at 106 Cape Road, Bloomfield, Missouri, the house has a medium pitch asphalt shingle roof with an exterior chimney on the east elevation and five evenly spaced windows on the second level of the façade (north elevation). The first level of the façade has seven openings; five windows located directly below the windows on the second level, and a door located between the first two windows on both the east and west ends of the façade. The original wood windows and doors on both levels of the north elevation are intact behind the plywood coverings. The house was used as a residence continually from the time it was constructed until approximately 1979 and has been vacant ever since. An addition extending the original one-story ell portion of the home was constructed in approximately 1910. The house was wired for electricity during this time and the current wood clapboard siding was added as well. Originally, the house sat on piers with an open foundation. Currently the house has an enclosed brick foundation, added during the mid-1950s. The interior of the house retains much of its original material. The house has fallen into disrepair due to lack of use and neglect, resulting in some missing siding, water damage to small portions of the structure, and a collapsing front porch, which was removed in 2012. The Miller House sits on a hill, facing north, and is set back approximately 30 yards from Cape Road, just inside the city limits of Bloomfield. During the era in which the home was built, the road was the main route that linked Cape Girardeau and Bloomfield, Missouri. Despite its missing porch and deteriorated condition, the Miller House retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

Setting:

The land on which the Henry Miller house is located was originally part of a farm of approximately 36 acres in the northeast corner of what would become Bloomfield, Missouri (see Figures 12 and 13).¹ It originally included numerous outbuildings and a large barn, which are no longer extant. A detached kitchen was also located adjacent to the southwest portion of the house. Foundations for many of these buildings have been located and marked using ground penetrating radar. Currently the lot for the home is less than 1 acre, and is located in a residential area of Bloomfield. The western portion of the lot has a number of mature trees and slopes to Miller Street. To the east of the current property line a portion of the hill the house sits on was removed and leveled in order to construct a small subdivision; the barn would have been located in that region. When it was built, the house would have been a rather imposing structure for such a rural setting. Situated atop a hill adjacent to such a vital travel route, the house would have displayed the status and wealth of Henry Miller. Despite the existence of several nearby residential buildings and the loss of the house’s outbuildings, the current setting of the Miller

¹ James R. Mayo, “History of Henry Miller House,” unpublished manuscript in author’s possession, p. 1.

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House, with its mature trees and large front yard, still evokes the feeling of its original rural location, particularly when viewed from the public right of way.

Exterior:

The house is built with a combination of heavy timber and balloon framing methods. The trim is plain with no ornamentation. The original materials of the 1840s portion of the house appear to be cypress, likely harvested from the local area, and the structural beams were hand hewn. The main portion of the house, without the ell, is approximately 50 feet in length and approximately 20 feet wide. The ell is approximately 18 feet wide and 36 feet long and extends southward from the eastern portion of the main house, creating an “L” shaped footprint (see Figure 1). The home has a medium pitched gabled end roof with asphalt shingles on both the main section of the house and the ell. Originally, wood shakes were used as the roofing material, although much of it remains beneath several layers of asphalt shingles.

There are seven openings across the first level of the north façade (see photo 1). Five of the openings are six-over-six original wood sash windows and two original wood doors, one located at the eastern end and one located on the western end. On the second level of the façade, there are five window openings, containing original six-over-six wood sash windows. Currently, all façade openings are covered with plywood (see photo 8). Originally, a porch ran across the length of the north façade of the house with a small set of stairs at the eastern end. The porch rested on masonry piers constructed of modern brick with Portland cement mortar, likely added during changes to the foundation which occurred in the 1950s. The remainder of the porch was wood with a hipped roof supported by simple square pillars. The porch was removed in 2012 after the western end collapsed due to significant moisture damage (see Figures 3 and 4).²

An external chimney is located on the eastern elevation of the main house (see photo 1 and Figure 5). There are three openings on the eastern elevation of the main house. One is located on the first floor on the south side of the chimney, and two are located on the second floor on either side of the chimney. Plywood currently covers the openings, but the original six-over-six wood sash window frames remain underneath. The eastern elevation of the ell is flush with the east elevation of the front portion of the home. The eastern elevation of the ell portion of the house contains four openings including three historic wood six-over-six sash windows, covered with plywood, on the north end of the elevation and a historic wood door on the south end.

² Erin Ragan, “Students work to preserve, document local buildings,” *Southeast Missourian*, February 13, 2012; Historic Preservation Association, Southeast Missouri State University, “Miller House November 17, 2012,” *Facebook*, November 17, 2012, <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=oa.10152275377080315&type=3> accessed December 16, 2017, and Historic Preservation Association, Southeast Missouri State University, “November 17, 2012 Miller House,” November 17, 2012, <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=oa.10152275369445315&type=3>, accessed December 16, 2017.

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The western elevation of the main portion of the house contains no openings (see photo 2 and Figure 6). Evidence on the interior wall suggests an exterior chimney was likely located on this elevation as well, but it was removed at an unknown date (see photo 3). The 1910s remodeling is a likely alteration date because the exterior wood clapboard siding installed at that time is continuous across the western elevation³. Also located on the western elevation is a modern 1950s era Portland concrete entrance to a historic brick cellar (see photos 2 and 12).

The first level of the southern elevation of the main house is similar to the north façade, with the difference being the ell portion of the home is located on the east end (see photo 2 and Figure 6). There are five openings on the first floor (see photo 4). There are three historic wood six-over-six sash windows. There are two historic wood doors. One is located on the western end, between the two western most window placements, and one door is located in the center of the first floor and leads to a wood staircase to the second floor of the home (see figure 1). The second floor contains two historic wood six-over-six sash windows, one of which is partially covered by plywood.

The western elevation of the ell portion of the home contains four openings (see photo 5). Two historic wood six-over-six sash windows are located in the center of the elevation. There is one original wood door located at the northern end in the original portion of the ell, a second door is located at the southern end, which opens to the kitchen added in circa 1910.

The ell portion of the house is only one story and is attached at the eastern end of the south elevation of the main portion of the house. It is approximately 36 feet in length and 18 feet deep. Originally the ell was only half as long as its current dimension with a chimney attached to the southern elevation. There had also been a detached kitchen. It is believed that the kitchen was demolished around 1910 when the ell was extended.

An “L” shaped porch is located on the rear of the house and, based on evidence collected prior to removal of the front porch in 2012, is of similar construction with simple trim and square pillars (see photo 6). Based on structural analysis, local folklore, and similarity of construction materials and design, local historians believe both front and rear porches were constructed around 1910 when the addition was added to the ell and when the current wood siding was installed. The porch roof attached to the main house portion is medium pitched with a hip on the western end. The porch along the western elevation of the ell extends the length of the ell and has a medium pitched roof.

The exterior is in a substantial state of disrepair. Siding is missing in several locations, most prominently on the southern elevation of the ell portion (see photo 7). The mortar in the brick

³ The 1910 alteration date is based on local oral tradition supported by evidence found during physical inspection of the property. Chris Kinder, email message to Steven Hoffman, September 25, 2017.

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foundation has eroded in some locations and there are missing bricks. The front porch was removed in 2012 after the western end collapsed, threatening the house's façade. The back porch remains intact, however, the brick masonry piers and the wood pillars are in significant disrepair (see photo 6).

Interior:

The interior of the home can be accessed using the two front entrances or via five entrances located on the rear of the house (see Figures 1 and 2). Much of the interior of the house is in its original condition, with some exceptions. The front portion of the house is one room deep. There are two large rooms located at the eastern and western ends of the house, with a small room connecting the two larger parlors. There is an additional room located just off the eastern parlor, which also contains an entrance to the stairway to the second floor. All of the doors, exterior and interior, are original, many containing original hardware and hinges, and are in excellent condition (see photo 8). The second floor mirrors the first. On the southern wall of the eastern bedroom on the second floor are two small wood doors, one leading to the attic of the ell portion of the home and one opening to a small closet. The stairway is accessed through a door located on the rear of the house, or through a doorway in the small room just off the eastern parlor.

Each of the rooms, with the exception of one, has minimal decoration or ornamentation. The walls are not plastered, but are instead ship-lap poplar planks nailed to hand hewn cypress studs; the ceilings were constructed similarly (see photo 9). The ceilings have evidence of being painted green, or possibly blue, at some point, but the walls reveal no evidence of having ever been painted. The east room on the first level is the only room with any significant ornamentation. There is quite a large amount of original, hand stenciled wallpaper remaining on each wall of this room. This room also contains the only remaining fireplace in the house (see photo 10). The fireplace is constructed of modern brick, more than likely being replaced in the 1950s. One remaining historic mantel, with simple ornamentation, also remains. The two main upstairs rooms, as well as the western room on the first floor, have large rectangular patches on the wall where fireplaces would have once been. The western rooms on the first and second levels also contain mid-20th century wood burning stoves with an interior brick chimney (see photos 3 and 11). The wide plank wood flooring is original as well, with the exception of the eastern room on the first level, where a floor was added atop the original at an unknown date.

The ell is comprised of the original room, and the room added to the south as part of the 1910s extension. The original ell was a single room accessed through a door on the south wall of the eastern room of the main house, or via a door on its western wall. This room also shows little evidence of having ever been painted. There was some modern wallpaper added sometime during the mid-20th century, but it was removed at an unknown date. There is also a large rectangular patch where a large fireplace was once located. A modern closet was added in the southeast portion of the room at unknown date. The 1910 addition is accessed through this room. The

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added room contains some old kitchen cabinetry and appliances from the early to mid-20th century. A bathroom is located in the southeast corner of this room; it is unknown when the bathroom was added, but the existing bathtub suggests early to mid-twentieth century.

Some of the original 1910 wiring and electrical fixtures remain in the house, most notably in the western parlor of the front portion. The interior of the house is in good condition, with some limited exceptions where water damage has occurred.

The cellar is constructed of brick and is original to the house (see photo 12). The entrance to the cellar, located on the western elevation of the house, was replaced most likely in the 1950s. The cellar is approximately 12 feet by 12 feet and 6 ½ feet high and has two openings for windows on both the north and south walls. The openings suggest that the original foundation to the house was open, which would allow the cellar to be properly ventilated. There are also remnants of brick flooring. There is some damage to the cellar: a large hole in the eastern wall and the southern wall has buckled. The original hand hewn cypress floor joists are visible from the cellar and are in excellent condition.

Integrity:

Although some aspects of its larger setting have changed over the years, the mature trees and landscaping on the property preserve the look and feel of a home in a rural setting. The house itself has had relatively few changes since it was built in the 1840s. Around 1910 the original ell was extended to include a kitchen, replacing an outdoor kitchen likely demolished around the same time. The house was sided in clapboard at the same time, front and rear porches were added or updated, and an external chimney was removed from the western elevation. In the 1950s, a brick foundation for the house and masonry piers to support the front and rear porches were installed, a new cement entrance to the historic cellar was added to the western elevation, and the chimney on the eastern elevation was replaced. At some point in the early to mid-twentieth century a small bathroom was added to the southeast corner of the kitchen addition in the ell. The house is currently in dilapidated condition. The front porch partially collapsed and was removed in 2012. Despite these changes, the Henry Miller House maintains the majority of its historic building fabric, including original windows and doors and one original mantel. It retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association, and is able to convey effectively its significance as an antebellum I house.

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Miller, Henry, House
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Statement of Significance:

The Henry Miller house, at 106 Cape Road in Bloomfield, Stoddard County, Missouri is locally significant, under criteria C, in the area of Architecture. Constructed circa 1843, it is an important example of a Missouri vernacular farmhouse of the I house type from the pre-Civil War era. Situated atop a hill overlooking the main route between Cape Girardeau and Bloomfield, Missouri, the home was built by Henry Miller as a symbol of his wealth and status and reflects the traditional building patterns of the region's settler families. The migration of the Miller family from North Carolina around 1804 to southeast Missouri brought southern cultural traditions and building styles to the region, which are reflected in the house's distinctive construction. One of the oldest surviving I houses in Stoddard County, the Miller house embodies the rural southern vernacular building traditions of the pre-Civil War era in Southeast Missouri. The periods of significance for the house are c. 1843, its year of construction, and 1910, the date of a major remodeling.

Miller Family History:

The Miller family was among the earliest settlers to come to southeast Missouri from North Carolina in 1804, shortly after the Louisiana Purchase. The family initially settled in the area around the White Water River west of Cape Girardeau, Missouri.⁴ In 1808, Henry Miller was born to Jacob and Sophia Miller.⁵ Eventually the family moved approximately thirty miles to the west near Spring Hill, renamed Picketon, in Pike Township, Stoddard County.⁶ Here the Millers established themselves as one of the pioneering families of what would become Stoddard County.⁷

Henry Miller established himself as a pioneer in his own right. After marrying his wife Bellona, he became a merchant, opening a mercantile store in the town of Spring Hill. During this time, Miller purchased a plot of land near the center of Stoddard County, surrounded on the east and west by the dense and nearly uninhabitable swampland. The land was located on what would become the main route from Cape Girardeau, known as the Cape-Bloomfield Road. There he established a farm and continued making a name for himself as a leading member of the

⁴ United States, General Land Office, *Missouri Land Claims: report from the Commissioner of the General Land Office with final reports from the Board of Commissioners at St. Louis, under the Act of the 9th July 1832* (New Orleans: Polyanthos, 1976, 1835), 89-90; Louis Houck, *A History of Missouri from the earliest explorations and settlements until the admission of the state into the union, Vol. II* (Chicago: R.R. Donnelly & Sons, Co., 1908), 187-189.

⁵ Mayo, "History of Henry Miller House," 1.

⁶ "Stoddard County Place Names, 1928-1945," The State Historical Society of Missouri, http://shsmo.org/manuscripts/ramsay/ramsay_stoddard.html (accessed October 3, 2017).

⁷ Robert Sidney Douglass, *History of Southeast Missouri: A Narrative Account of Its Historical Progress, Its People and Its Principal Interests* (Lewis Publishing: Chicago, 1912), 79, 117.

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growing community that would become Bloomfield.⁸ In 1836, Henry Miller was listed as a member of the first Grand Jury of Stoddard County. In the mid-1840s, he opened a new mercantile business, having built his new home in approximately 1843, an impressive I house situated atop a hill that overlooked the Cape-Bloomfield road with a commanding view to the north.⁹ The Miller home became a symbol of his status in Bloomfield. In 1846, he was elected county treasurer, and in 1849 was appointed commissioner for the Bloomfield School District, and in addition served as a trustee of the Bloomfield Educational Society in 1853.¹⁰

Bloomfield was a strategic crossroads for Union and Confederate forces during the Civil War. Five roads intersected at Bloomfield making it a hub for transporting men and material throughout southeast Missouri. The town changed hands several times during the war and experienced heavy damage due to artillery fire and the need for materials to build fortifications. The most prominent road that traveled through Bloomfield was the Cape Girardeau Road that followed Crowley's Ridge from Cape Girardeau to the Missouri and Arkansas border at Chalk Bluff. Bloomfield was the halfway point for troops that patrolled from Cape Girardeau to Chalk Bluff. Henry Miller's home was located on the Cape Road just north of town on a prominent ridge.¹¹

On April 28, 1863, Confederate General (later governor of Missouri), John S. Marmaduke placed his battle line consisting of over 5,000 cavalymen in a line that started to the east of the Miller house and extended west into the town of Bloomfield. The Miller home was located at the center of this line and afforded an open view of Union soldiers as they approached from the north along the Cape Girardeau Road. Late on the afternoon on April 28, 1863 Union forces skirmished with Confederates and lobbed artillery shells into Bloomfield and the awaiting Confederates. Several Union and Confederate soldiers were killed during the fight and many homes were damaged from the exploding artillery shells, luckily the Miller home was spared.¹²

The patriarch of the Miller family, Henry, served as the Missouri State Guard commissary officer early in the war until the local state guard unit disbanded, most of whom entered official Confederate service. Three of Henry Miller's sons joined the Confederate army and fought in the Trans-Mississippi theater. Henry's son, Joseph, was home on medical leave recovering from a wound he received fighting near Jonesboro, Arkansas when Union and Confederate forces clashed on April 28, 1863. According to the 1860 census, there were only 215 slaves counted among the 7,874 inhabitants of Stoddard County, or less than three percent of the county's

⁸ *Bloomfield Vindicator*, June 21, 1889; Christopher Kinder, "The Early Efforts of Henry Miller in the Development of Southeast Missouri's Swampland," *Helix: A Journal of Interdisciplinary Research* (Volume XI 2013), pp. 71-93.

⁹ Mayo, "History of Henry Miller House," 1.

¹⁰ Goodspeed's Publishing Company, *Goodspeed's History of Southeast Missouri* [Ramfre Press: Cape Girardeau, MO, (1888) 1955], 470-471.

¹¹ Cletis R. Ellinghouse, *Mingo: Southeast Missouri's Ancient Swamp and the Countryside Surrounding It* (Xlibris, 2008).

¹² U.S. War Dept., *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, 70 vols. In 128 pts. (1880-1901; rpt. National Historical Society, Gettysburg, 1972), Series I, Part II, Vol. 22: 291, 258; Stanton, Bergnist, and Bowers, eds., *The Civil War Reminiscences of General M. Jeff Thompson* (Morningside House, 1988), 194.

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population. There were sixty-two slave owners in the county including Henry Miller who owned eight slaves that lived in one cabin on the property (no longer extant). The largest slave owner in Stoddard County owned sixteen slaves, while the average number of slaves owned in the county was three; this made the Miller family one of the largest slave owners in the county, and unique among the general population.¹³

After the war, Henry Miller continued to be a prominent citizen in the community and often boarded prominent visitors to the community in his home, where his wife Bellona was known as a “fine cook and manager.”¹⁴ One of the guests in the Miller household during this time was Louis Houck, often considered the “Father of Southeast Missouri,” who first stayed at the Miller home in 1868. Houck was a new arrival to the southeast Missouri region and, at the time, was a young attorney traveling the court circuit. Solomon Kitchen and H.H. Bedford were also on hand during this encounter and there, by the “tremendous fireplace” in Miller’s home, they recounted their efforts in swampland reclamation and the attempt to construct a railroad directly through the swamps.¹⁵ Houck would visit Miller on other occasions, though he never wrote of their conversations. Of that first visit, though, Houck wrote of his feelings the next morning, saying that, “The world certainly looked bright and cheerful to me that morning.”¹⁶ Henry Miller died in May 1872, but his house remains as a testament to the accomplishments of this early pioneer.

After Miller’s wife, Bellona, died in 1889, the house was purchased by Miller’s son-in-law, John L. Buck, who deeded the home to his daughter Alice Buck Horner in 1901. She and her husband, Dr. Horner, lived in the home until she died in 1949. Her heirs sold the home in 1955 to Jesse Bennett, who in turn sold it to Mrs. Horner’s daughter Margaret Ford, returning it to family ownership. Ford used the home as a weekend and vacation home until she died suddenly in 1979 and the home was sold to Jim and Margarett Evans.¹⁷ Over the years, the house has had several different owners and has fallen into disrepair.¹⁸ The home is now owned by the Industrial Development Authority of Stoddard County which has plans to restore the home.

¹³ James R. Mayo, ed., *Stoddard Grays: Confederate Soldiers of Stoddard County, Missouri, 1861-1865* (Two Trails Publishing, 1995), 2-4.

¹⁴ Louis Houck, *Some Reminiscences of Louis Houck*, unpublished, original typed manuscript in possession of Andy & Jeanette Juden., 32.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Houck, *Reminiscences*, 108.

¹⁷ “This Old House’ is the Historic Miller home,” *Bloomfield Vindicator*, June 30, 1982.

¹⁸ Sheila Perry, “The Miller House Question: Where do we go from here?” *The North Stoddard Countian*, August 27, 2003.

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Architectural Significance (Criteria C):

By the 19th century, the I house, more than any other building type, came to represent agricultural prosperity and success throughout the upland South and Midwest.¹⁹ Originating in Elizabethan England, the house form was brought to the American colonies in the early 18th century and diffused south and west from New England and the Mid-Atlantic States through the Upper South and Midwest.²⁰ The essential features that constitute the I house form include gables to the side, two or more rooms wide, one room deep, and a full two stories.²¹ The name is believed to derive from two sources: the form was initially identified and named by a geographer who found large concentrations of them in Indiana, Illinois and Iowa, all states beginning with the letter “I,” and the house form viewed from the gable end looks like a capital “I.”²² Architectural historians widely consider the I house to be among the most significant folk dwellings in the US due to its persistence and wide distribution.²³ One of the reasons for its widespread adoption is because, as cultural geographer Fred Kniffen notes, “early in its movement southward the I house became symbolic of economic attainment by agriculturalists and remained so associated throughout the Upland South and its peripheral extensions,” including Southeast Missouri.²⁴

Typical for Missouri I houses, the basic plan of the Miller House is one room deep and a full two stories, with an ell wing on the eastern end of the southern elevation. Historian Howard Marshall notes that, like the Miller House, “there is almost always—in Missouri—a ‘T’ or ‘L’ or ‘shed’ addition to the rear of the building.”²⁵ In addition, like many Missouri I houses, there is evidence that the house originally had two exterior end chimneys, although only one remains.²⁶ The room arrangement of the two story section of the Miller House—two rooms of roughly equal size separated by a central hall—is also typical of the I house form.²⁷

¹⁹ Fred B. Kniffen, “Folk Housing: Key to Diffusion,” in *Common Places: Readings in American Vernacular Architecture*, eds. Dell Upton and John Michael Vlach. (Athens, Georgia: University of Georgia Press, 1986), 9; James O’Malley, “Functional Aspects of Folk Housing: A Case for the ‘I’ House, Union County, Tennessee,” *Tennessee Folklore Society Bulletin* (vol. 38, Issue 1) 1972, pages 1-4.

²⁰ Fred W. Peterson, “Tradition, Style and Structure: The Anglo-American I-House,” *Nebraska History* (December 2001): 152.

²¹ Kniffen, p. 8; Virginia Savage McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses: The Definitive Guide to Identifying and Understanding America’s Domestic Architecture* (Knopf, May 12, 1984), 142.

²² Peterson, “Tradition, Style and Structure,” 152; Kniffen, 7-8 and fn 9.

²³ Allen G. Noble, *Wood, Brick, and Stone: The North American Settlement Landscape: Barns and Other Farm Structures* (Amherst: The University of Massachusetts Press, October 1984), 55.

²⁴ Kniffen, pp. 8-9; Howard W. Marshall, *Folk Architecture in Little Dixie: A Regional Culture in Missouri* (The University of Missouri Press, September 1981), 32-33.

²⁵ Marshall, 30; “I” houses in Iowa similarly almost all have the one story kitchen ell included as part of the original floorplan. Fred W. Peterson, “Tradition and Change in Nineteenth-Century Iowa Farmhouses,” *The Annals of Iowa* 52, no. 3 (Summer 1993): 252.

²⁶ Marshall, *Folk Architecture in Little Dixie*, 30-34; Howard W. Marshall, *Vernacular Architecture in Rural and Small Town Missouri: An Introduction* (The University of Missouri Press, 1994), 30.

²⁷ John A. Jakle, Robert W. Bastian, and Douglas K. Meyer, *Common Houses in America’s Small Towns; the Atlantic Seaboard to the Mississippi Valley* (Athens, GA: The University of Georgia Press, 1989), 120-122.

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While the Miller House has many of the characteristics of the I house, it also exhibits some unique characteristics. Unlike many I houses in Missouri there are the seven bays across the façade instead of the typical three or five, and there is no central doorway. Alternatively, the Miller House has two front entrances located at the eastern and western ends of the façade, more typical of the saddle-bag subtype but without the central chimney.²⁸ As a result, there is no door opening to a central hallway. Instead there are two large parlors, one at the eastern end and one at the western end, with a small passageway connecting them. There is a small central room, accessible only from the east parlor, where there is a doorway that leads to the stairs. The second floor mirrors the first.²⁹

In some ways, the distinctive characteristics of the Miller House connect it to the vernacular building traditions of the migrants and their region of origin. Although when Henry Miller built his home in the 1840s he was a generation removed from his family's original roots in Lincoln County, North Carolina, his home shares characteristics with homes built in that area prior to his family's migration. His parents, Jacob & Sophia Miller migrated from North Carolina around 1804 as part of a large migratory movement of people from the Catawba region of North Carolina to southeast Missouri led by Sophia Miller's uncle, Colonel George Frederick Bollinger.³⁰ Like vernacular builders everywhere, they brought with them their culture, including building styles and construction methods.

The Miller House bears a striking resemblance to Vesuvius Furnace, a house built nearly fifty years earlier in the region from which the Millers migrated. Several years prior to the Miller's departure from North Carolina General Joseph Graham constructed a prominent home in Lincoln County. General Graham began construction of the house in 1792, and is believed to have constructed the home in two sections. When completed it was an impressive structure, with many characteristics of the I house form.³¹ Like the Miller House, though, Vesuvius Furnace has two doorways on either end of the façade and the fenestration pattern on the façade is similar (See Figure 7). Vesuvius Furnace is also dissimilar to other I houses because it does not have a central doorway, much like the Miller House. Originally Vesuvius Furnace had a porch similar to the one on the Miller House, but it was replaced in the 1950s by a two story, Mt. Vernon Style veranda porch (See Figure 8).³²

Although we have no documents connecting the Millers and Graham, vernacular architecture studies are replete with examples of vernacular builders perpetuating traditional

²⁸ The saddle-bag subtype is a two-room, central chimney house, often the result of adding a room onto a single room log home. The central location of the chimney would preclude a central doorway. Noble, 115, 52-55; Marshall, *Folk Architecture in Little Dixie*, 48-49.

²⁹ Marshall, *Vernacular Architecture*, 30; Jean Sizemore, *Ozark Vernacular Houses: A Study of Rural Homeplaces in the Arkansas Ozarks, 1830-1930* (Fayetteville, AR: University of Arkansas Press, 1994), 74.

³⁰ *Missouri Land Claims*, 89-90.

³¹ Division of Archives and History, "Vesuvius Furnace," National Register of Historic Places Inventory/Nomination Form, July 1974.

³² *Ibid.*

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house types in both plan and elevation.³³ Given its similarity to this North Carolina home, and differences from more typical Missouri I house examples, such as the Byrd House, built in nearby Cape Girardeau County by migrants from Virginia, it is not unreasonable to see the persistence of North Carolina culture and building traditions so characteristic of vernacular building.³⁴

Regardless of its possible connections to North Carolina, however, the Henry Miller House is the oldest known I house in Stoddard County and one of the few pre-Civil War buildings in the area.³⁵ Recognized early for its historical significance, the Miller House was the only building from Stoddard County listed in *Missouri Historic Sites Catalogue* when it was published in 1963.³⁶ Much of the town of Bloomfield was burned during the Civil War, and according to local historian Robert Douglass, “on the close of the war the town had practically ceased to exist.”³⁷ A windshield survey of Bloomfield identified only three additional I houses, all of which appear to be built in the post-Civil War period. In addition, all three I houses are either three or five bays and have centered doors, distinguishing them from the Miller House (see Figures 9, 10 and 11). 202 Idalia Road, Bloomfield, Missouri, known locally as the Mauphin House (see Figure 9), was built in approximately 1910, has five bays, a centered door and a full façade porch.³⁸ The classical detailing around the front entry and its symmetrical façade distinguish it from the Miller House. 507 W. Shawnee Street, Bloomfield (see Figure 10), circa 1870, presents a more Victorian-era façade with a centered cross gable extending over a two story porch with turned posts on the second level and spindle-work in the apex of the gable.³⁹ The first level of the porch has been enclosed, and the windows on the front elevation have been replaced. These features, plus the two wall dormers on the front façade, distinguish this I house from the antebellum simplicity of the Miller House. 704 S. Prairie, Bloomfield (see Figure 11), circa 1900, has three bays with a central entry and a one-story wrap around porch with turned posts and spindle-work balusters.⁴⁰ Viewed from the right-of-way, the house appears to have been re-sided with vinyl siding. In terms of age, form and decorative detailing, the Miller House stands out as an exemplary example of a pre-Civil War I house in Bloomfield, Missouri.

³³ Dell Upton and John Vlach, eds., *Common Places: Readings in American Vernacular Architecture* (The University of Georgia Press, January 1986); Thomas Carter and Elizabeth Collins Cromley, *Invitation to Vernacular Architecture: A Guide to the Study of Ordinary Buildings and Landscapes* (Knoxville: The University of Tennessee Press, 2005).

³⁴ Terri Foley, “Abraham Byrd House, National Register of Historic Places Inventory/Nomination Form, June 21, 2007.

³⁵ Janice VanMatre, “Future of Miller House project remains unsettled,” *North Stoddard Countian*, July 2003.

³⁶ Dorothy J. Caldwell, *Missouri Historic Sites Catalogue* (The State Historical Society of Missouri, 1963), 186.

³⁷ Douglass, *History of Southeast Missouri*, 296; *Vindicator*, April 30, 1897.

³⁸ James R. Mayo (local historian), telephone interview with author, September 5, 2017.

³⁹ Ibid.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

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Miller, Henry, House
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Conclusion

The Miller House is an important local example of a popular vernacular house form symbolizing agricultural success and prosperity brought to Missouri by early Anglo-American settlers from the upper South and it is locally significant in the history and development of Bloomfield, Missouri. The house was a significant structure for its time and was a symbol of Henry Miller's substantial wealth and influence within the region. As a unique example of an early I house in Southeast Missouri, its features reveal links to a similar home in Lincoln County, North Carolina, where the Miller family originated. This transference of architectural style is also a representation of how culture and traditions migrated west along with settlers and is a hallmark of the vernacular building process. Furthermore, with many of the original features still in place, the house retains the integrity of workmanship, materials, design, feeling and setting which makes it an excellent representation of its periods of significance, c. 1843 and 1910, and is locally significant, under criteria C, in the area of Architecture.

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Verbal Boundary Description:

The parcel of land upon which the Miller house is located is 0.505 acres and is part of the SW1/4 of the SW1/4 of Section 13 & Part of the NW1/4 of Section 24, Township 24 N, Range 10 E.

Verbal Boundary Justification:

Although Henry Miller originally owned a much larger parcel of land associated with the home, the chosen boundaries reflect what remains of that property that still retains historic integrity. It also coincides with the current property parcel map.

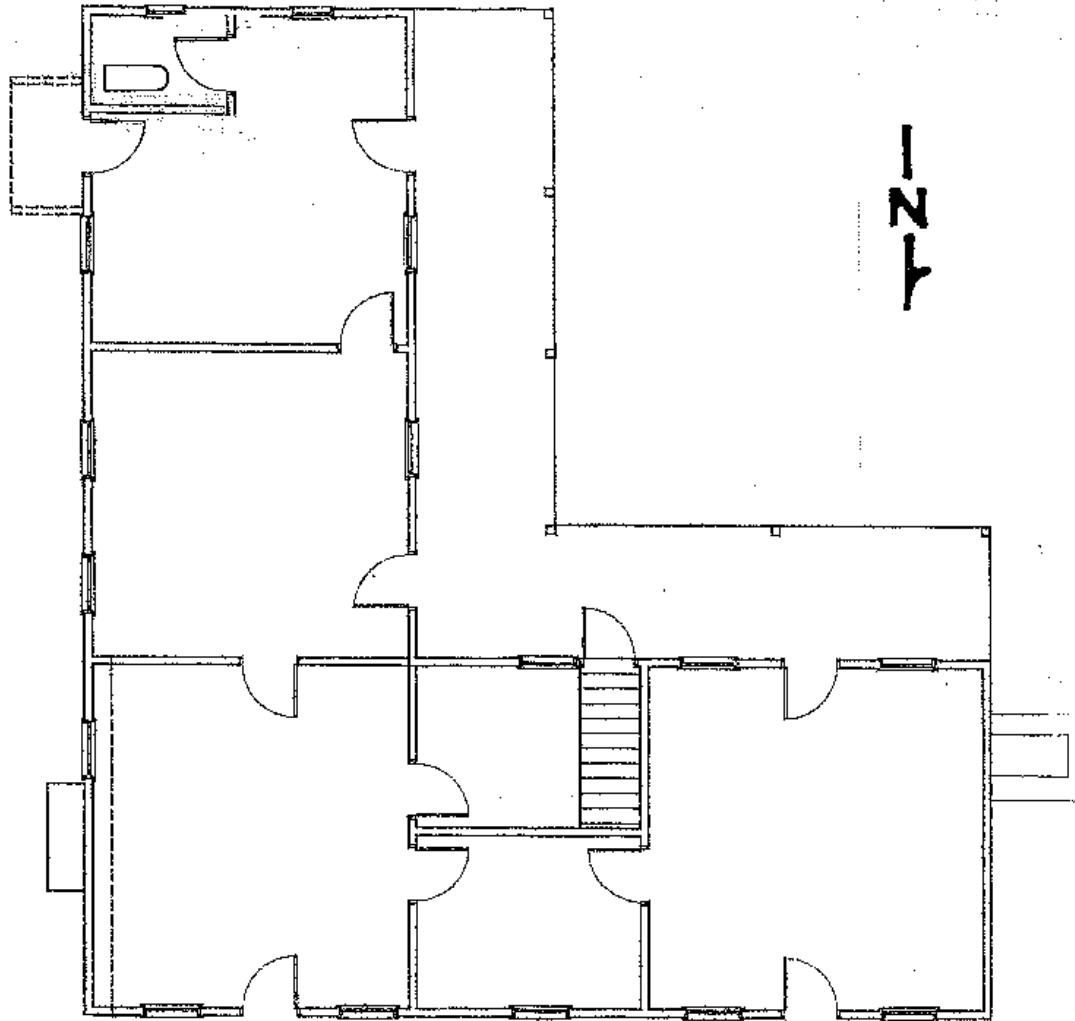
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Miller, Henry, House
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Figure 1

Floor Plan



Henry Miller House – Bloomfield, Missouri

--Not to scale--

Source: Original drawing by Jeffrey Brambila, June 24, 2010; updated and edited by Steven Hoffman, December 17, 2017

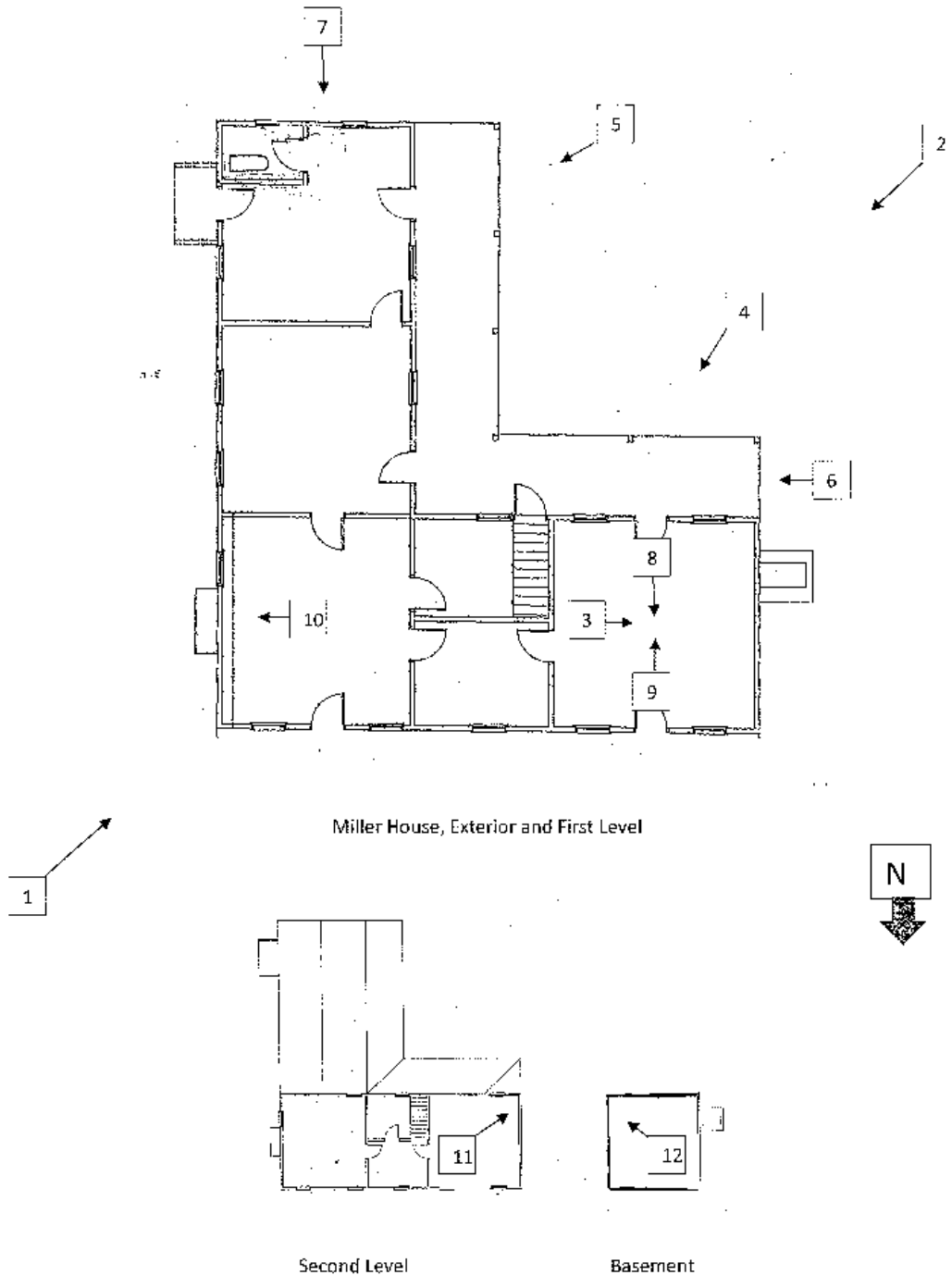
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Figure 2

Photo Key



Source: Original drawings by Jeffrey Brambila, June 24, 2010; updated and edited by Steven Hoffman, December 17, 2017

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Figure 3

Henry Miller House, with front porch partially collapsed, April 2011



Photo by Chris Kinder, April 2011

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Figure 4

Henry Miller House, with front porch partially intact, April 2012



Photo by Chris Kinder, April 2012

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Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 5

Henry Miller House, eastern elevation, February 2014



Photo by Chris Kinder, February 12, 2014. Note: No changes to the house have occurred since 2014, with the exception of the landscaping becoming overgrown and obscuring the view (see Photo 1).

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Figure 6

Henry Miller House, west and south elevations, February 2014



Photo by Chris Kinder, February 12, 2014. Note: No changes to the house have occurred since 2014, with the exception of the landscaping becoming overgrown and obscuring the view (see Photo 2).

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Figure 7

Vesuvius Furnace, HABS Photo, 1938



Source: <http://cdn.loc.gov/service/pnp/csas/02800/02827v.jpg> (accessed October 29, 2017)

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Figure 8

Vesuvius Furnace, 1988



Source: Preservation North Carolina Historic Architecture Slide Collection, 1965-2005 (PNC slides), Preservation North Carolina, 1988

<https://iiif.lib.ncsu.edu/iiif/bh1249pnc001/full/1000,677/0/default.jpg> (accessed October 29, 2017)

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Figure 9

202 Idalia Road, Bloomfield, MO



Photo by Steven Hoffman, August 2016

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Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 10

507 W. Shawnee, Bloomfield, MO



Photo by Steven Hoffman, August 2016

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Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 11

704 S. Prairie, Bloomfield, MO



Photo by Steven Hoffman, August 2016

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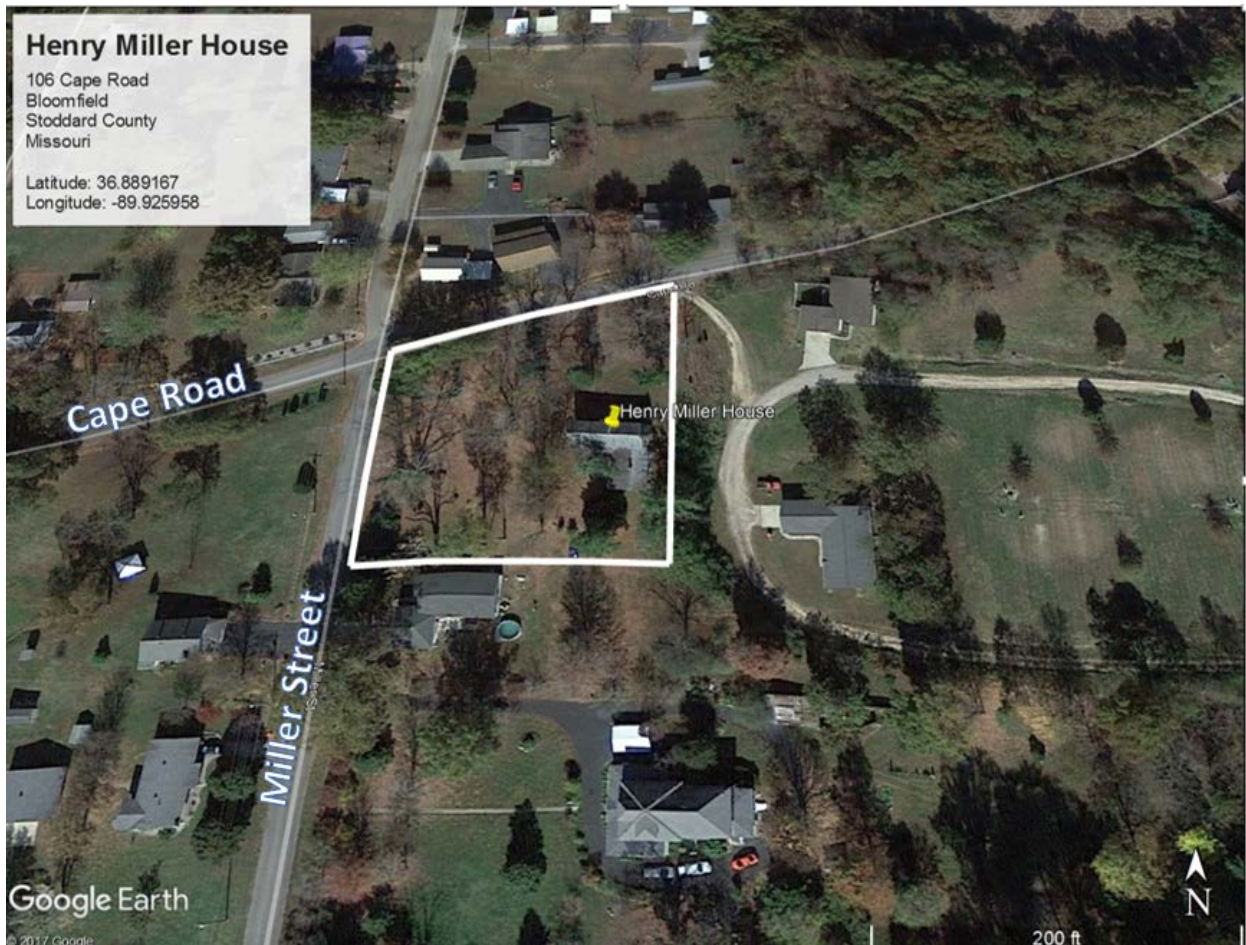
Name of Property
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County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 12

Henry Miller House Location Map



36.889167 -89.925958
Latitude: Longitude:

Source: Google Earth, accessed December 18, 2017.

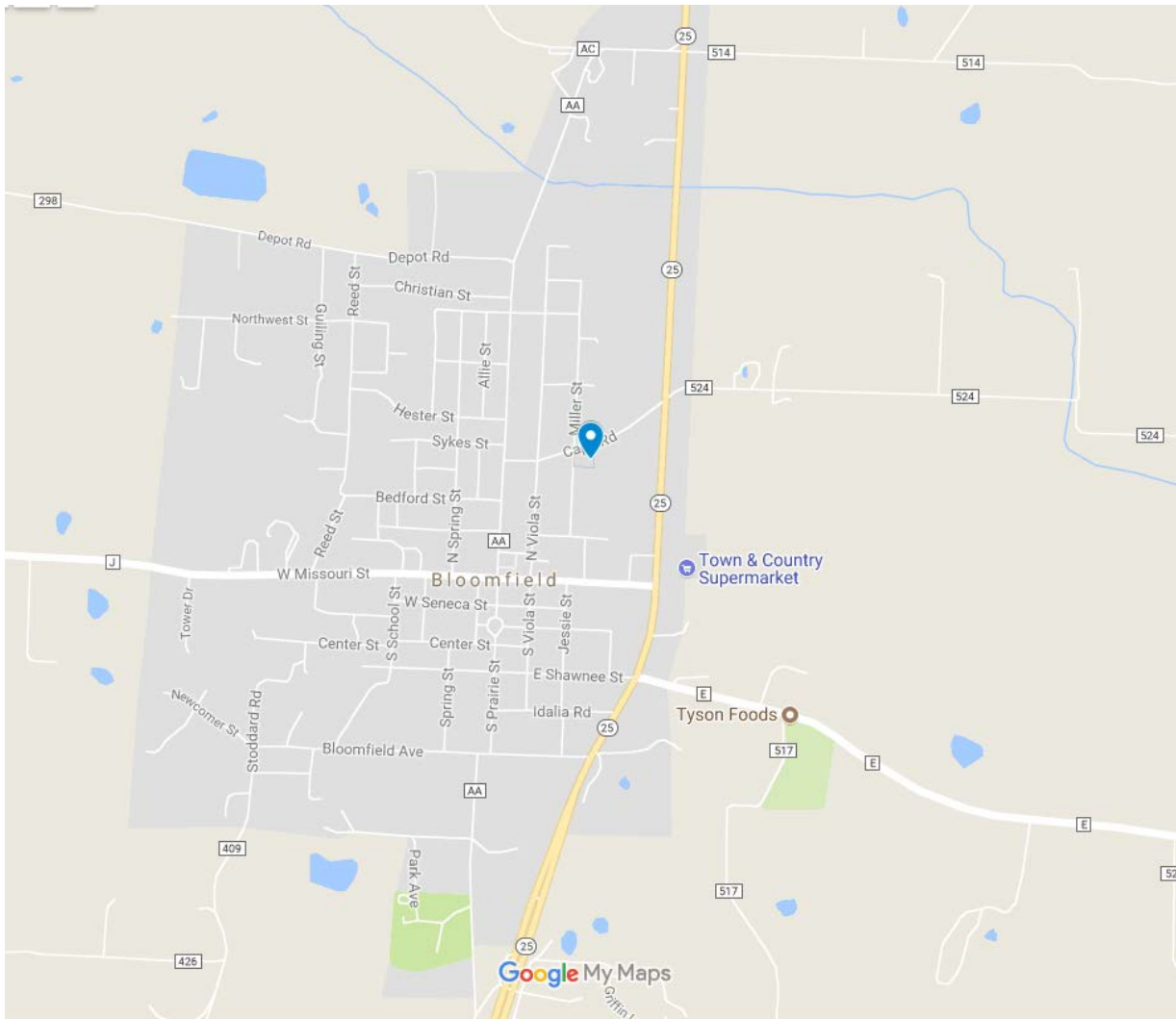
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Figure 13

Henry Miller House Contextual Map



Source: Google Maps, accessed December 18, 2017.























