

Ref # 76001531

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Ohio
COUNTY: Summit
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE 1-30-76

1. NAME

COMMON: Miller, Lewis, Residence
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 142 King Drive			
CITY OR TOWN: Akron		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 14 - John Seiberling	
STATE: Ohio	CODE: 039	COUNTY: Summit	CODE: 153

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <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 (Specify) _____ _____ _____
		<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____	

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Bill E. Thomas
STREET AND NUMBER: 2056 Brookshire Road
CITY OR TOWN: Akron
STATE: Ohio
CODE: 039

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Summit County Building
STREET AND NUMBER: 72 South High Street
CITY OR TOWN: Akron
STATE: Ohio
CODE: 039

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN:
STATE:
CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Ohio
COUNTY: Summit
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This is a very large brick three-story mansion basically in the High Victorian Italianate style. The great gables on the main elevations have some incised decoration on the gable fascias in the Eastlake idiom. There is a veranda on the east facade. A projecting north bay has curious bowed corners on the second story which are explained on the interior. The main entrance is a large round-arched doorway.

Inside, a main hall runs east-west, and the main stair runs perpendicular to the hall. A second servants' stair winds up from the west end. Many of the room doors are recessed from the corridors in arched vestibules or niches. The ceilings are twelve feet high. The doors and windows are largely segmental-arched, and their woodwork is heavily molded. There are several characteristically Victorian marble mantelpieces intact, but only one fireplace is operable. The third floor servants' quarters are also quite spacious, though most of the rooms are underneath the slanting roofs and some have skylights. There is a large full basement. The roof has a flat deck at its summit, and the original iron cresting is lying there waiting to be put in place.

Around 1900, the center north second-story room was completely remodeled in the prevailing Neo-Classic Revival style, with an Adam revival mantelpiece, an elliptical window with beveled glass, classical columns framing the fireplace inglenook, and plaster relief ceiling ornament in a delicate neo-Adamesque style. The corner windows are bowed outward over the old polygonal bay below.

The house has been divided into some twenty small apartments. In a few cases formerly large rooms have been partitioned. Individual baths and kitchens have been added. Nevertheless, the interior detail is remarkably intact, including interior folding shutters at most of the large first-story windows. At the northwest corner, a grade-level utility structure has been added. Because of the continuous subdivision of the property, the house is now entered from two streets, through both the original main entrance and the old rear entrance.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1870; 1886

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This mansion is primarily significant as the home of the important Akron industrialist Lewis Miller, inventor of the Buckeye Mower and Reaper, co-founder of the Chautauqua Association, and father-in-law of Thomas A. Edison, who was married in this house.

Lewis Miller was born in Greentown, Stark County, in 1829. In 1851 he began working as an apprentice for Bell, Aultman & Company, manufacturers of farm implements. When the plant moved to Canton, Miller became its superintendent. In 1856 he patented the Buckeye Mower and Reaper. A branch plant in Akron was separately incorporated in 1865 as Aultman, Miller & Company and Miller was superintendent for many years. He built this mansion in 1870.

In 1874 Miller and Bishop J. H. Vincent founded the Chautauqua Association, the widely influential Midwestern cultural institution on Lake Chautauqua, New York. He made extensive contributions to several Methodist colleges, especially Mount Union in Alliance, whose first boarding hall, built in 1866 by Western Reserve master builder Simeon Porter, is named after Miller. In 1886 Miller's daughter Mina became the second wife of Thomas Edison. Miller died in 1899, and his son Lewis A. Miller lived in this house until 1917.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE		Ohio
COUNTY		Summit
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	

(Number all entries)

Miller, Lewis, Residence

7. The biography of Lewis Miller states that in 1868 he acquired "some twenty-five acres on a hill in the growing city, completing a house that was in course of construction on the top." There is nothing to indicate that the basic form of the entire house does not date from that period. An old photograph from the nineteenth century shows that there have been relatively few alterations. The apparent blankness of the center bay window on the east facade is original. There was a smaller second-story bay with a flaring roof which has been removed. The gable window was originally a roundel and has been replaced with the rectangular window. The pointed bargeboards of the large gables are not, properly speaking, High Victorian Gothic, but their detail presages Eastlake usage. In fact, it is evident that many details of the entire design are very advanced for their time and location.

8. The advanced anomalies of the home's design are exactly consistent with the character of the owner, who was an inventor and a genuine innovator in industry, religious education and architecture, and the development of socio-cultural institutions. Miller conceived the first building to be erected solely for Sunday school purposes and built in 1868. He created a unique plan to accommodate graded classes, consisting of a semi-circular auditorium arranged as a parterre and gallery, and suggested to him by an outdoor picnic ground and amphitheater. This arrangement came to be known as the "Akron plan," and frequently incorporated a large folding or lifting door to enlarge a conventional sanctuary. This plan gained enormous popularity and spread all over the United States.

9. Ellwood Hendrick, Lewis Miller (New York: Putnam's, 1925), 103-104, 144 ff., and passim.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

William H. Perrin, History of Summit County (Chicago, 1881), 739-740
 Karl H. Grismer, Akron and Summit County (Akron, 1952?), 686.
 Akron City Directories, 1869-1917.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"

41° 05' 04" 81° 31' 23"
 UTM 17 456060 4458060

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Eric Johannesen, Preservationist

ORGANIZATION: Western Reserve Historical Society DATE: August 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:
10825 East Boulevard

CITY OR TOWN: Cleveland STATE: Ohio CODE: 039

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name [Signature]
 State Historic Preservation Officer
 Title Director, Ohio Historical Society

Date July 25, 1975

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Ohio	
COUNTY Summit	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Miller, Lewis, Residence
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 142 King Drive
CITY OR TOWN: Akron
STATE: Ohio CODE: 039 COUNTY: Summit CODE: 153

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE: U.S.G.S. Akron West Quadrangle
SCALE: 1:24,000
DATE: 1967

4. REQUIREMENTS

- TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS
1. Property boundaries where required.
 2. North arrow.
 3. Latitude and longitude reference.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE		Ohio
COUNTY		Summit
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON:		Miller, Lewis, Residence	
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
142 King Drive			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Akron			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Ohio	039		153
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT:		Eric Johannesen	
DATE OF PHOTO:		August 1974	
NEGATIVE FILED AT:		Western Reserve Historical Society	
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
West elevation, looking northeast.			

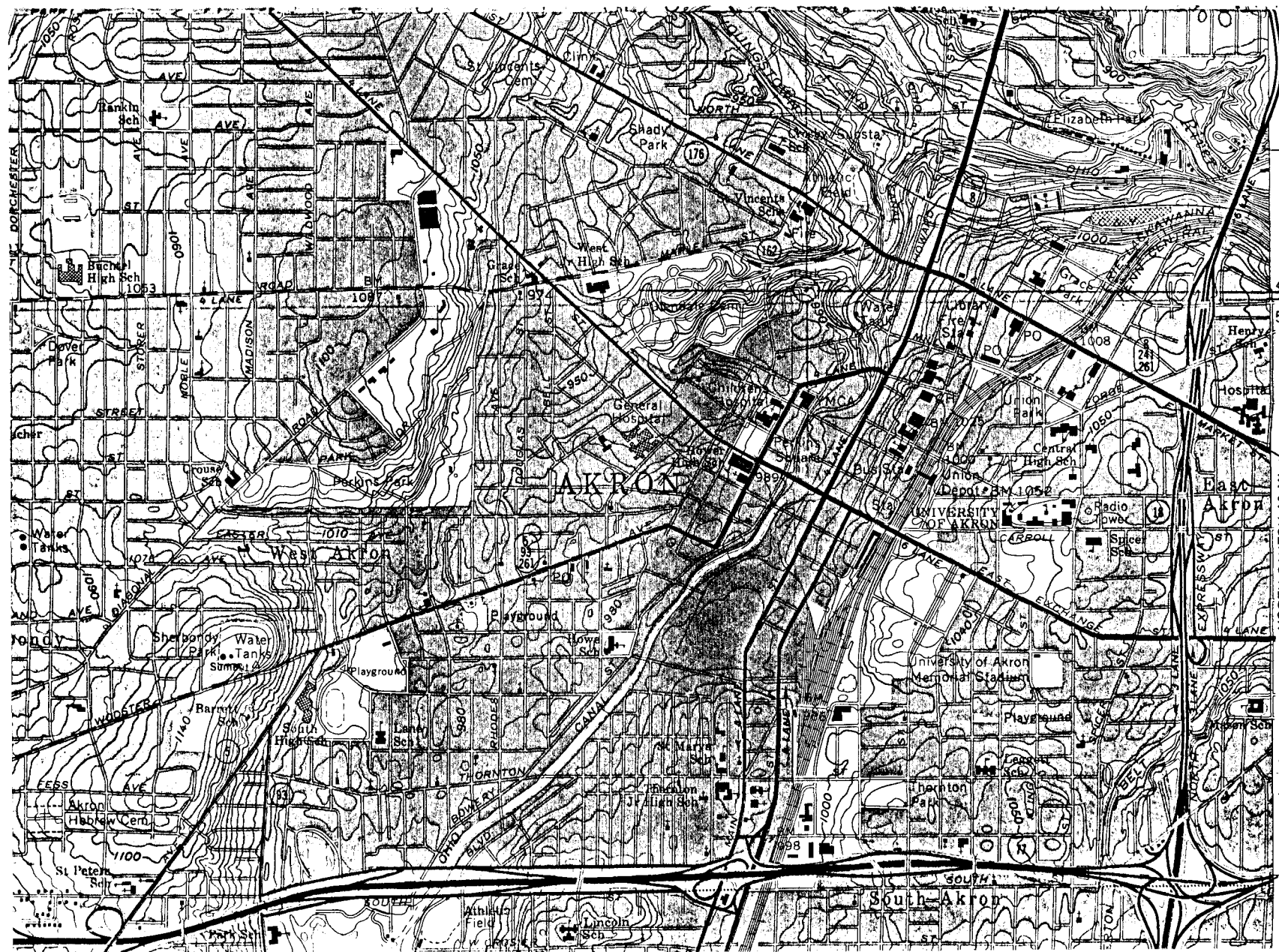
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE		Ohio
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142 King Drive			
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Akron			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Ohio	039	Summit	153
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PHOTO CREDIT:		Eric Johannesen	
DATE OF PHOTO:		August 1974	
NEGATIVE FILED AT:		Western Reserve Historical Society	
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
East facade, looking west.			



Miller, Lewis,
Residence

4548

41° 05' 04"

81° 31' 23"

UTM 17 456060 4458060

NORTH CANTON 16 MI.

4546

(AKRON EAST) T. 2 N.
4766 III SW

YOUNGSTOWN 40 MI.

80s 18

February 19, 1976

Mr. Bill W. Thomas
2056 Brookshire Rd.
Akron, Ohio 44313

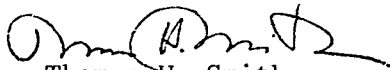
Dear Mr. Thomas:

I am pleased to inform you that the Lewis Miller House, 142 King Drive, has been entered in the National Register of Historic Places by the National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior.

The nomination was made in connection with a state plan to identify and document prehistoric and historic places in Ohio which qualify for National Register status under provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. All nominations are approved by the Ohio Historic Site Preservation Advisory Board.

Enclosed is information explaining the purposes and goals of the National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely,



Thomas H. Smith
Director, Ohio Historical Society
State Historic Preservation Officer

THS;jp
enclosure

X.c: Mayor of Akron
Eric Johannesen, Western Reserve Historical Society

Ohio Historic Preservation Office

National Register of Historic Places File Checklist

The following materials are contained in this file of the National Register form for:

Name: Miller, Lewis, House

County: Summit

Original National Register of Historic Places nomination form

Multiple Property Nomination form

Photograph(s)

Photograph(s) (copies)

USGS map(s)

USGS map(s) (copies)

Sketch map(s)/figure(s)/exhibit(s)

Correspondence

Other news clip

