

BA-840B

Horst K. Schirmer House  
East side of Falls Road south of  
Miller Road  
Not accessible  
1930

Constructed in 1930 as one of two gatehouse for a large estate owned by C. Wilbur Miller, this dwelling is in the English Tudor style with steep slate roof and brick walls relieved by half-timber work.

Miller's mansion, Pleasant Hill, was erected in the 1920's and was the scene of much lavish entertaining for prominent guests and members of royalty. During the 1929 stock market crash, Mr. Miller, president of the Davison Chemical Company, declared bankruptcy and sold the 2000 acre estate. The mansion was never occupied again and fell into a state of ruin. The two Tudor-style gatehouses survive as private homes. The architects were the office of Joseph Evans Sperry with James R. Edmunds, Jr. as the partner in charge.

BA-340B

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

proj 03084-5804

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC  
Home of Dr. and Mrs. Horst K. Schirmer

AND/OR COMMON  
Home of Dr. and Mrs. Horst K. Schirmer

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
Falls Road

CITY, TOWN  
Butler

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
8

STATE  
Maryland

COUNTY  
Baltimore

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>OWNERSHIP</b>	<b>STATUS</b>	<b>PRESENT USE</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
Horst K. Schirmer, MD

Telephone #: 666-0664

STREET & NUMBER  
Falls Road

CITY, TOWN  
Butler

STATE, zip code  
Maryland 21023

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC  
Baltimore County Courthouse

Liber #: 5242  
Folio #: 511

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
None

DATE

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

—FEDERAL —STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

**7 DESCRIPTION**

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

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

Built originally in 1930 as a gatehouse for a large estate, this dwelling is in the English Tudor style with steep slate roof and brick walls relieved by half-timber work. Recent additions, including a garage unit and connecting walls, have been tastefully carried out in the same manner. The architects were the office of Joseph Evans Sperry, with James R. Edmunds, Jr. as the partner in charge.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" 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      1930                                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT    James R. Edmunds, Jr.

---

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Schirmer home is one of two gatehouses which are all that remains of the C. Wilbur Miller mansion, Pleasant Hill, on the east side of Falls Road south of Miller Road. The Tudor-style mansion stood on property originally owned by Abraham Scott III. Erected in the 1920's by Mr. Miller who was president of the Davison Chemical Company, Pleasant Hill contained fifty rooms and twenty-two bathrooms. It was the scene of much lavish entertaining for prominent guests and members of royalty.

During the 1929 Stock Market Crash, Mr. Miller declared bankruptcy and in 1935 abandoned his two thousand acre estate. The house was sold at auction, but, unfortunately, the purchasers never occupied it and it is now in ruins. The two Tudor-style gatehouses survive as private homes.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Kimelman, Donald and Steven M. Luxenberg, "The Balley - Part III in The Sun, Tuesday, July 22, 1975.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 18 +

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Catherine F. Black and James T. Wollon, Jr. AIA

ORGANIZATION

For Valleys Historical District Project

DATE

September, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

1114 Bellemore Road

TELEPHONE

323-3798

CITY OR TOWN

Baltimore

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438