

GEORGE MILLER HOUSE  
12 NORTH CHURCH STREET

Built around 1876 by George Miller, whose family then owned several lots and houses between the City limits and the cemetery, 12 North Church Street displays both the strength of the local vernacular architecture as well as the changes and variations that were allowed in the form in the late 19th Century. The traditional aspects of the building include its common bond brick walls, and its side hall double parlor plan, and its massing, as it consists of two two-story two-bay by three-bay gable roof perpendicular sections. However, the sense of freedom to add personal variations is found in the segmental arched windows on the principal facade as well as in a similar formed transom over the main entrance door. The eaves treatment, i.e., a fine molded two part entablature on the principal facade and the five step corbelling that runs about the two side facades, is also noteworthy.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC George Miller House  
AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 12 North Church Street  
CITY, TOWN Westminster VICINITY OF CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 7  
STATE Maryland COUNTY Carroll

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input 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 Hazel A. Gartrell Telephone #: 848-2612  
STREET & NUMBER 12 North Church Street  
CITY, TOWN Westminster VICINITY OF STATE, zip code Maryland 21157

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, LIBER #: 549  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Folio #: 715  
Carroll County Office Building  
STREET & NUMBER Center Street  
CITY, TOWN Westminster STATE Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE None  
DATE  
—FEDERAL —STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
CITY, TOWN STATE

**7 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"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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

The George Miller House, 12 North Church Street, is a fine late example of the local building tradition. It consists of two perpendicular two-bay by three-bay gable roofed sections each two stories tall resting above high water tabled stone foundations. The principal (east) facade displays certain freedoms which represent the loosening of the power of the old style. One such variation is evident in the segmental arches that top all five windows and the entrance door's transom. The door is a half-wood panel and glass double door sheltered by a small one bay wide pedimental roofed porch. The porch is supported by fine wood Doric columns. The five windows that regularly pierce the common bond brick facade (three on the second floor, two to the south of the door on the ground floor) are all double-hung sash windows with two over two panes. Windows are flanked by black louvered wooden shutters which are cut at the top in a special way, so that, when closed, their segmental arch will exactly match the windows'. A very thick molded white wooden cornice tops the two part entablature.

The south facade fronting Winter's Alley gives the impression of being largely glass. There are six regularly placed and fully aligned 2/2 windows on each of the two full stories. Windows are topped by three coursed gauged flat arches and are all flanked by black louvered shutters. Two small 2/2 windows are placed within the front section's gable end to light the attic. The wall moves into the rolled tin covered roof by means of a five step corbelled row. Massive corbel-capped brick chimneys rises flush with the interior wall at the roof's peak. Opposite, the north facade of the principal section is blind except for a small casement window on the ground story to the rear. This is doubtless due to the hall-and-parlor arrangement of the building. Beyond, the rear section probably once had a two story porch, which has been filled in and covered over by clapboard. There is a two story shed roofed one bay deep addition running across the west (rear) facade of the building. The addition has a second story screened in porch which can be approached from the exterior by a steep single flight of wooden steps.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**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 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 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

c. 1875

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built around 1876 by George Miller, whose family then owned several lots and houses between the City limits and the cemetery, 12 North Church Street displays both the strength of the local vernacular architecture as well as the changes and variations that were allowed in the form in the late 19th Century. The traditional aspects of the building include its common bond brick walls, and its side hall double parlor plan, and its massing, as it consists of two two-story two-bay by three-bay gable roof perpendicular sections. However, the sense of freedom to add personal variations is found in the segmental arched windows on the principal facade as well as in a similar formed transom over the main entrance door. The eaves treatment, i.e., a fine molded two part entablature on the principal facade and the five step corbelling that runs about the two side facades, is also noteworthy.

On May 30, 1871 John Miller made a Deed of Trust to William Miller and George W. Miller to pay off his bills (Carroll County Deed Book 39, Page 542). On January 17, 1876, sole title to the house at 12 North Court Street was vested in George W. Miller; he paid \$380 (46/56). Either the house was already existing or it was built soon afterwards as it was shown on the 1876 plat of the City, and Miller is listed as living on Court Street in the 1881 City Directory. The house stayed in the Miller family until July 24, 1928, when George A. Miller sold to Harry E. Sullivan (151/97). Sullivan sold two months later to Keefer Brandenburg (151/173) who sold four years later to George E. Fornwalt (151/499). Fornwalt sold the house to John Hymiller on March 12, 1945 (186/72); it then passed back and forth between Hymiller and David I. Welliver until Welliver sold to Alan Q. Ott on July 5, 1966 (276/561, 308/412, and 408/465). Quinn sold to the present owner on August 3, 1973.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

Being a lot of approximately  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an acre situated at the northeast corner of the intersection of Church Street and Winter's Alley in Westminster, as shown on an 1876 plat of the City.

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

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Christopher Weeks, Consultant

November, 1977

ORGANIZATION

Westminster Historical Sites Survey

DATE

STREET &amp; NUMBER

c/o City Hall - Public Works Department

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Westminster

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

590/6



CARR-508  
GEORGE MILLER HOUSE  
12 N. CHURCH ST.  
WESTMINSTER

577

A-32



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