

Oregon Historic Site Form

Miller, Capt Sebastian, House
 402 McLoughlin Blvd
 Oregon City, Clackamas County

LOCATION AND PROPERTY NAME

address: 402 S McLoughlin Blvd apprx. addr

historic name: Miller, Capt Sebastian, House

Oregon City vcnt Clackamas County

Optional Information
 assoc addresses:
 (former addresses, intersections, etc.)
 location descr:
 (remote sites)

current/
 other names:

block nbr: _____ lot nbr: _____ tax lot nbr: _____
 township: 2S range: 1E section: 36 1/4: _____
 zip: _____

PROPERTY CHARACTERISTICS

resource type: Building height (# stories): 1.5 total # eligible resources: 1 total # ineligible resources: 1

elig. evaluation: eligible/contributing NR status: Listed in Historic District

primary constr date: 1862 (c.) secondary date: _____ (c.)
 (optional--use for major addns) NR date listed: _____ (indiv listed only; see Grouping for hist dist)

primary orig use: Single Dwelling orig use comments: _____

secondary orig use: _____

primary style: MID-19TH & LATE VIC.: Other prim style comments: Classical Revival

secondary style: Vernacular sec style comments: _____

primary siding: Horizontal Board siding comments: _____

secondary siding: Wood:Other/Undefined

plan type: _____

architect: _____

builder: _____

comments/notes:

GROUPINGS / ASSOCIATIONS

survey project name or other grouping name: Canemah Historic District Listed Historic District

Canemah Historic District RLS Survey Update 2007 Survey & Inventory Project

farmstead/cluster name: _____ external site #: _____
 (ID# used in city/agency database)

SHPO INFO FOR THIS PROPERTY

NR date listed: _____ NHD

ILS survey date: _____

RLS survey date: 6/1/2007

Gen File date: _____

106 Project(s)



Northeast facade, looking southwest

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ARCHITECTURAL / PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

(Include expanded description of the building/property, setting, significant landscape features, outbuildings, and alterations)

The house is located at the corner of Hedges and McLoughlin Blvd on a level site. The 1 1/2 story building is of rectangular shape with a front gable steeply pitched roof. It has a narrow, short one story addition centered on the rear wall (believed to date to 1900c) with a 1 1/2 story transverse addition (1970's) at its end directly adjacent to the creek. Both the additions are simply gabled and rectangular. The property is used for commercial purposes.

Exterior Materials: The gable roofs are covered with composition shingles, overhangs are board soffit; the main house has a central brick chimney with corbel at top and a base, while the second addition has one on its north slope; the addition has a small cupola. The front porch is full width and flat roofed with a newer simple balustrade supported on four chamfered posts with scroll brackets enclosed with plain railing and pickets; wood steps to grade; the rear addition has an east facing inset porch supported on three posts similar to those at the front; Narrow horizontal wood lap siding is used on the main house and wider siding at the additions; trim work is plain but windows have a compound head mold; Windows: typically 6/6 wood double hung single units, French doors are installed at the second level front wall and a pair for shop entry at the front porch; foundation is concealed behind skirt boarding (cement board) and may be piers

Alterations: The 1911 Sanborn map indicates a shorter wider house with a long narrow addition and a detached transverse shed; this does not agree well with the existing structure, however the 1925 map is more consistent; It appears that the front portion of the house was rebuilt, enlarged, and possibly setback further from the street between 1911 and 1925 while keeping a portion of the rear porch (likely the oldest portion now). As noted above the second addition is believed to be from the 1970's and has a greater setback from the creek; there is also a non-contributing detached shed to the west. There are some window and door alterations, shutters, railings that are not historic

Landscape: The level site has a small front yard enclosed with a picket fence on three sides with ornamentals and flowering plants; the east side is mostly paved for parking, also at the shed; on the south is the open lined waterway that travels westward and then turns north

HISTORY

(Chronological, descriptive history of the property from its construction through at least the historic period [preferably to the present])

Sebastian Miller, born in 1828 in Ohio, was a prominent citizen of Canemah who had a lifetime career as a steamboat captain, pilot and engineer. As a young man he began his career as an engineer on Mississippi River steamboats. In 1852, he crossed the plains to the west and Oregon, where he found work as an engineer on steamboats based in Canemah. He was known for his ability to pilot steamboats over treacherous falls. He married Sarah Power in 1853, and they had two children.

After seven years as an engineer, he became captain of steamers that ran between Oregon City and Corvallis, and later performed the same work on the Columbia River between Portland and Astoria. According to Hines, Miller was "one of the best informed, most fearless and reliable steamboat men in Oregon." In describing Miller's house in Canemah, Hines stated that "it is surrounded with a fine orchard which produce an abundance of the finest fruit." Sebastian Miller died in early September, 1901 at his home in Canemah, of a stroke at age 73. His obituary stated that the day before his death that "Miller had been carrying pipe (which was) being laid from his home to the springs some distance away." Mrs. Miller died in 1921, age 93, at her daughter's home in Canemah.

In 1976 the Miller house was purchased by Maija Huiras who restored it and opened an antique business. In a 1998 interview with Mrs. Huiras she stated that the house "was originally situated on the Willamette River but was moved when the SPRR tracks were built" (ca 1868). The article also said that the Huiras' "added private living quarters." It appears there has been one significant rebuilding of the front portion and removal of some of the rear wing. According to Mrs. Huiras they also replaced an "ancient apple tree" with a rose garden.

RESEARCH INFORMATION

(Check all of the basic sources consulted and cite specific important sources)

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Title Records | <input type="checkbox"/> Census Records | <input type="checkbox"/> Property Tax Records | <input type="checkbox"/> Local Histories |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sanborn Maps | <input type="checkbox"/> Biographical Sources | <input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Files | <input type="checkbox"/> Interviews |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Obituaries | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Newspapers | <input type="checkbox"/> State Archives | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic Photographs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> City Directories | <input type="checkbox"/> Building Permits | <input type="checkbox"/> State Library | |

Local Library: Museum of the Oregon Territory, Oregon City

University Library: _____

Historical Society: Oregon Historical Society, Portland

Other Repository: _____

Bibliography: Oregon Historical Society scrapbook 38; Hines, Rev. H.K., An Illustrated History of the state of Oregon, p312-313; Wright, E.W., Lewis & Dryden's Marine History of the Pacific Northwest, p45; Oregonian, 9/11/1921 sect.1 p 13; 9/2/1901; Oregon Statesman, 2/12/1853; Canby Herald, 7/22/1998, Sanborn Fire Insurance maps, 1911; 1925.