

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Miller, John Hickman House

and/or common The Shingle Style House

2. Location

street & number 3506 Cedar Springs _____ not for publication

city, town Dallas _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district _____

state Texas _____ code _____ county Dallas _____ code _____

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input 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 Pearlstone-Casey Agency, Inc.

street & number 3624 Oak Lawn Suite 110

city, town Dallas _____ vicinity of _____ state Texas

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dallas County Records Building

street & number Records Building

city, town Dallas _____ state Texas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Dallas Historic Landmark Survey

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1974, revised 1978 _____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records Urban Planning Department, City Hall, Dallas, Texas

city, town Dallas _____ state Texas

7. Description

Condition
 excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one
 unaltered
 altered

Check one
 original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The John H. Miller House located in the Oak Lawn area of Dallas is representative of the later period of Shingle Style architecture. The house was built in 1904, just a few years after the Oak Lawn area was opened up for development. Many prominent families lived in this area of Dallas, such as Mayor Adieu, Sheppard King, Sr., and J.C. Tenison. Dallas received its architectural influence from the Midwest and by 1900, the architectural style which was coming into vogue was the Prairie style. Therefore Dallas seemingly skipped from the Victorian style to the Prairie style without much transition in between.

This large rectangular house contains more than 6,000 square feet, including the attic, the first and second floors and a 700 square foot basement. The basement and the foundation are of brick. The exterior walls are covered by shingles and across the midsection of the house is weather boarding. The roof is gabled which is a typical feature of the Shingle Style as is the veranda which extends along the front (south) and east sides of the house. The veranda also extends out far enough south to form a covered area for a buggy or a car to drive under. The columns for the porch are covered with shingles. In the middle of the porch is the main entrance. The door was wood on the bottom half and clear leaded glass on the top half. The side lights on either wide of the door were double hung with clear leaded glass on the upper half of the sidelight. The transom was divided into three equal parts above the door and the two sidelights. On the first floor there are twelve windows. The two on the front (south) side of the house are large single pane windows with a rectangular transom which extends to the roof of the porch. On the west side of the house the bay window has four sections of nine over one double hung windows. Above each section of bay window is a transom which had stained glass in it. On the upper floor in the front (south side) is a large palladian window which had clear leaded glass. There are two small windows set in the small gables on either side of the palladian window. The other windows on the second floor are, on each side of the house, three nine over one double hung windows set together. Those windows are, as all the windows in the house are, symmetrically placed. The roof is typical of the Shingle Style in that it is broad pitched gable roof. There is a single unifying broad pitched

gable. There are three chimneys: one for the gas fire place in the entryway, one for the stove in the kitchen and one for the coal furnace in the basement.

The interior of the house displays the openness and flow of a Shingle Style. The front entryway extends all the way to the back of the house. There is a gas fireplace in the entryway which once had a large mantelpiece over it. The pallor to the left of the entryway has sliding doors which can be opened up to include the entryway as a larger living area. This pallor has the only molding in it. There is a dining room behind the pallor that has a beautiful bay window. Behind the dining room is situated the kitchen and beside the kitchen there is an enclosed porch where the large walk in ice box once stood. An elaborate cistern with pipes running from the roof into the ground then into the cistern was located near the ice box. To the left of the entryway there is another smaller pallor. Behind that pallor is a dressing room and then a bedroom. Back by the porch is located the downstairs bathroom which was added about five to ten years after the house was built. The only stairway to the second floor is located near the back of the house. The upstairs consists of three bedrooms, one which covers half the upstairs and two smaller ones, a wardrobe and a bathroom which was put in the same time as the bathroom downstairs. There is an attic area and a basement. It is unusual to have a basement due to the soil conditions in Dallas. The fact that the house sits on a hill maybe the reason a brick basement could be built. The basement measures 700 square feet. The floors are all a softwood, pine, instead of hardwood.

The house sat on almost an acre of land when built in 1904. There is a servants quarters which is now extremely dilapidated, and a garage that was built in the 1920's also on the land. However, the garage was torn down about ten years ago. The house itself has had only minor alterations since it was built in 1904. The bathrooms were added between five to ten years after the house was built and the back porch was enclosed around the same time. The house was piped for gas when it was first built. Electricity was added later at an unknown date. Mrs. Miller lived in the house from 1905 until her death in 1969. The house was then sold out of the family and used as a dance studio and theater for ten years. During the

Last ten years a great deal of vandalism has occurred. All of the leaded glass has been stripped from the house as well as the mantelpiece over the fireplace in the entryway and the molding in the main pallor. The present owner, Pearlstone - Casey Insurance Agency, intends to restore the house to as close to original as possible. A recently uncovered period picture showing the detail of the beautiful leaded glass front door and sidelights will help to ensure proper restoration of that part of the house.

John H. Miller built this house as a wedding present for his wife, Katherine Melone. The Millers moved into the house in January 1905. John Miller, the son of William Brown Miller, a large landowner in Dallas, was partner in the firm of Fife and Miller, a buggy and farm implement business. It is not known how Miller decided on the Shingle Style or who the architect of the house was. Speculation has been that the idea for the house came from a pattern book of the period. This house resembles many of the later Shingle Style houses such as the William Low House, Bristol, Rhode Island, by McKim, Mead and White. The Miller house has a similar Palladian window and single broad front gable as does the Frank Lloyd Wright House at Oak Park, Illinois. The Issac Bell House, Newport, Rhode Island, by McKim, Mead and White displays similar use of a bay window as the Miller House does. This style began to move west to Chicago, in the late 1880's and then eventually to California, Colorado, and Wyoming. However, this style never flourished in Texas. The Colonel House in Austin, was one of the best examples of the Shingle Style built in Texas. Since the demolition of the House in 1967, the representative houses of this style are very few in number. The Miller House in Dallas, is one of the few remaining examples of this style in Texas.

The Oak Lawn area in Dallas, where the house was built, began to be developed in 1900. Many of the prestigious families in Dallas built in this area. Sheppard King, Sr., a wealthy cotton broker, Mayor Adieu, and J.C. Tenison, a prominent Dallasite, all lived in this area. John Miller bought his acre lot in 1904, from real estate promoter, Thomas Field, for \$3,000. It probably cost him between \$3,000 and \$5,000 to build his house. John Miller died in 1933, but his wife, Katherine continued to live in the house until her death in 1969. During 1905 and 1969, the only changes made to the house were the additions of two bathrooms, one upstairs and one downstairs, and the enclosing of the back porch area. The house was sold in 1970, to Howard Sluyter who rented the house as a dance studio and theater. He sold the house in 1979, to Blanchard, Scherer and Koller who planned to tear it down and replace it with condominiums. Pearlstone-Casey Insurance Company purchased the house but were not able to purchase the rest of the acre lot. The house still retains much of its original character although it has been vandalized in the past ten years.