

PH0351091

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED APR 19 1976

DATE ENTERED JUN 8 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC



The (Norris Miller) House

AND/OR COMMON

The Stovewood House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

118 North Mill Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Decorah

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Iowa

CODE

19

COUNTY

Winneshiek

CODE

191

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

☒ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED

☒ UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

☒ NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Norwegian-American Historical Museum

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Decorah

VICINITY OF

STATE

Iowa

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Recordors Office, Winneshiek County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Decorah

STATE

Iowa

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT

☒ GOOD

☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED

☐ RUINS

☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED

☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☐ ORIGINAL SITE

☒ MOVED

DATE 1976

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Miller Stovewood House is a simple one and one-half story dwelling with a vernacular Classical cornice and exterior window and door trim. The original portion of the house measures 22 x 26 feet and has a gable roof. The gabled end of the house presents a symmetrical appearance with a door flanked by two windows on the ground floor and a window above the door for the second floor. There are also two windows on either side of the house. The house has a full basement with walls of native limestone. The structure is of oak split in the manner of stovewood laid up with a mortar composed of ash and lime. The exterior walls are furred and covered with clapboards. They range from 16 to 18 inches in thickness.

The interior of the house is simple. There are four rooms on the first floor with simple cut wood floors and six over six double hung sash windows for light. A steep narrow stair leads to the second floor which has two rooms. The interior walls are of a traditional frame construction. The house was originally heated by wood stoves vented to a central chimney. The chimney is still extant below the roof line.

There are two additions to the house: both of frame construction. One to the rear of the house and the other to the rear portion of the south side.

The Stovewood House was moved in April of 1976 to the grounds of the Norwegian-American Historical Museum where it will be restored as a museum and house of the mid 1800's. The move was the only way to preserve the building after a developer began construction of a series of condominiums on the original site.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
☐ PREHISTORIC	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	☐ RELIGION
☐ 1400-1499	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	☐ CONSERVATION	☐ LAW	☐ SCIENCE
☐ 1500-1599	☐ AGRICULTURE	☐ ECONOMICS	☐ LITERATURE	☐ SCULPTURE
☐ 1600-1699	☒ ARCHITECTURE	☐ EDUCATION	☐ MILITARY	☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
☐ 1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER
☒ 1800-1899	☐ COMMERCE	☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☐ INDUSTRY	☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)
		☐ INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1856

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Norris Miller

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Miller Stovewood House is one of three known dwellings of this type in the United States. At one point there were two other known houses of similar construction in Decorah, one was torn down twenty years ago, the other little over a year ago. The other two existing dwellings are located in Wisconsin.

Norris Miller, a carpenter, came to Decorah from Ohio in 1855 and purchased a townlot. A year later he built his house of stovewood. Miller's choice of oak stovewood as a building material is understandable. One hundred and twenty years ago large forests of oak surrounded Decorah, and oak stovewood was probably much more readily available and certainly less expensive than sawed boards. The existence of at least two other houses of similar construction built roughly at the same time, perhaps by Norris Miller, tends to confirm this.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

United States Census, manuscript schedules for 1860 and 1870.

Kniffen, Fred and Henry H. Glassie, "Wood Construction in the Eastern United States: A Time-Place Perspective," Geographical Review, 56:1 (January, 1966).

Title abstract (Security Bank Decorah) for Block 17, lot 3, West Decorah
~~Telephone interview with Henry Glassie, Yale Univ., New Haven, Conn., April 9, 1976.~~

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	5	5	9	0	7	9	0	4	7	9	0	5	0	0
ZONE			EASTING				NORTHING							

B

ZONE			EASTING				NORTHING							

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Darrell D. Henning

ORGANIZATION

Norwegian-American Museum

STREET & NUMBER

DATE

319 382 3856

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Decorah

STATE

Iowa

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ☒

STATE ☐

LOCAL ☐

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Adrian D. Anderson

TITLE

Dredger, N.Y. of Historic Preservation

DATE

April 14, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Acting

William J. Smutney

DATE

6/8/76

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

Charles H. Smith

DATE

6-8-76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Property

Miller, Norris House

State

Iowa

Working Number 4.19.76.3093

Winneshiek

76000814

TECHNICAL

Photos 2Maps 1*UTM appears incorrect
map precise acreage*

CONTROL

4.26.76

*Although moved and altered, I feel this house
is acceptable for its embodiment of distinctive
characteristics of a type of construction that has
almost disappeared.*

HISTORIAN

*Accept**E. Smith**4-27-76*

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

*Accept**S. Odham**5/4/76*

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

*Accept**COLE**5-5-76*

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

*Must be virtually
unique.**HC**Am**Hemington
for Mustang
6.8.76*

National Register Write-up _____

Federal Register Entry

7-6-76

Send-back _____

Re-submit _____

Entered

JUN 8 1976

INT:2106-74



The Norris Miller House

118 N. Mill St

Decorah, Iowa

Photography Darrell Henning
Negative at: Norwegian American Historical Museum
Decorah, Iowa

Wanneshiek Co.

Dec 618/76

View looking north-east

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



The Norris Miller House

118 N. Mill St.

Decorah, Iowa

Photo by: Darrell Henning

Negative at: Norwegian American Historical Museum

Decorah, Iowa

Winneshiek Co.

Doc- 6/8/76

Detail of South wall.

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED APR 19 1976

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Norris Miller House

AND/OR COMMON

The Stovewood House

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Decorah

VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Winneshieck

STATE Iowa

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE Army Map Service, LaCrosse, Wisconsin

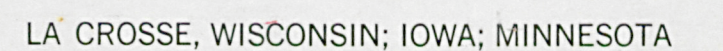
SCALE 1:250,000

DATE 1958

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES



STATE HISTORICAL DEPARTMENT OF IOWA
DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ADRIAN D. ANDERSON, DIRECTOR
HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

Date: 14 April 1976

Dr. William J. Murtagh
Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Washington, D.C.



Dear Mr. Murtagh:

Having received approval by Iowa's State Nominations Review Committee,
please find enclosed completed National Register nomination forms
for the following historic property:

Norris Miller House, 118 North Mill, Decorah, Iowa

This is submitted for review by your staff in accordance with procedures
for entering properties in the National Register of Historic Places.
Attached is a copy of the procedures used by this Division to meet
requirements pertaining to public notification and comment as requested
by the National Park Service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Adrian D. Anderson".

Adrian D. Anderson, Director

STATE HISTORICAL DEPARTMENT OF IOWA
DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ADRIAN D. ANDERSON, DIRECTOR
HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

SUBJECT: Procedures Concerning Nominations of Historic Properties to the National Register of Historic Places.

1. Nomination forms submitted to Division.
2. Division staff edits nomination forms to prepare them for consideration at quarterly meetings of State Nomination Review Committee.
3. Public notification of meeting in paper of greatest circulation (Des Moines Register) 10 days prior to meeting. Property owners notified of meeting date and opportunity to comment approximately 10 days prior to meeting date. Copies of nomination forms forwarded to Review Committee members approximately 10 days prior to scheduled quarterly meeting date.
4. Nomination Review Committee reviews nominations and comments received, and recommends approval or rejection of nominations. Property owners notified of Committee's decision and given an opportunity to comment (20 days).
5. Twenty days after notification of owner concerning the Committee's decision, the State Historic Preservation Officer shall sign nomination forms for State and transmit them to the National Register of Historic Places.
6. N.R. staff review nominations and approves or rejects; federal register will publish notification and opportunity for comment.
7. National Register will notify State Historic Preservation Officer of its decision, and SHPO will notify Board and Property owner and person nominating the property.

DATE 430-76

TELEPHONE REPORT

TIME OF CALL 9:30

AM
PM

1. CALL ☐ TO: ☒ FROM (Name)

Todd Mozingo

2. ADDRESS (Tel. No. if needed)

IOWA

3. SUBJECT, PROJECT NO., ETC.

Miller, NORRIS House, WINNESTIEK County, IA

4. DETAILS OF DISCUSSION

Todd called in response to a question from "someone" ^{Soldheim}
here concerning bibliographical sources supporting their claim
that the Miller House is 1 of 3 Known remaining structures
of stovewood construction.

In the Wisconsin Academic Review, Vxx, #3, 1974
There is an article "Wisconsin Stovewood Architecture"
in which the Author Richard W.E. Terrin states
that there are 2 Known stovewood structures—both in
WI. So when Iowa found theirs, they added
1 to 2 + got 3. Thus—1 of 3—

NAME OF PERSON PLACING/RECEIVING CALL

TITLE

OFFICE

Macy -

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE IOWA

Date Entered JUN 8 1976

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Miller, Norris, House	Decorah Winnebago County

Also Notified

Hon. Richard C. Clark
Hon. John C. Culver
Hon. Michael T. Blouin
Regional Director, Midwest Region

✓ PR:M Mott: 6/10/76

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. Adrian Anderson
Director, State Historical Department
Division of Historic Preservation
B 13 McLean Hall
Iowa City, Iowa 52242

NR Data Sheet

DATE: 4-27-76
 Reviewer: INITIALS: EAL
 NR DOE JUN 8 1976
 6-

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER:

Miller, Norris, House
 Norris Miller House

OTHER NAMES:

The Stovewood House (sec)

LOCATION:

STREET & NUMBER

118 North Mill Street

CITY, TOWN

Decorah

STATE

Iowa

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

COUNTY

Winneshiek

code

191

OWNER OF PROPERTY:

(Circle)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

ADMINISTRATOR (underline)

FEDERAL (AGENCY NAME):

NPS REGION: (CIRCLE)

N. ATLANTIC

MID ATLANTIC

SOUTHEAST

MIDWEST

SOUTHWEST ROCKY MOUNTAIN

WEST

PACIFIC NORTHWEST

FEATURES:

INTERIOR

Substantially intact-1

unknown - 4

not applicable - 7

EXTERIOR

Substantially intact-2

unknown - 5

not applicable - 8

ENVIRONS

Substantially intact-3

unknown - 6

Not applicable-9

Interior, exterior, environs not intact-0

CONDITION -

EXCELLENT

GOOD

FAIR

DETERIORATED

RUINS

UNEXPOSED

Unexcavated

UNALTERED

ALTERED

Reconstructed

Excavated

ORIGINAL SITE

MOVED 1976

Unknown

ACCESS -

Yes-restricted

Yes-unrestricted

No access

Unknown

historic district?

YES

NO

WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT?

YES

NO

IF YES, NAME:

WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK?

YES

NO

IF YES, NAME:

ADAPTIVE USE:

YES

NO

Saved?

YES

NO

FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words)

then-

Residence

now-

Museum

SIGNIFICANCE:

ARCHAEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC

ARCHAEOLOGY-HISTORIC

AGRICULTURE

ART

COMMERCE

COMMUNICATIONS

CONSERVATION

ECONOMICS

EDUCATION

ENGINEERING

EXPLORATION

INDUSTRY

INVENTION

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

LAW/Gov't/politics

LITERATURE

MILITARY

MUSIC

PHILOSOPHY

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

RELIGION

SCIENCE

SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER (SPECIFY)

entertainment

health

recreation

settlement

socio/cultural

urban & commun

planning

Claims

"first"

YES

NO

"oldest"

YES

NO

"only"

YES

NO

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:

architect/m⁽²⁾builder: Norris Miller engineer:

landscape/garden designer:

artist/artisan:

interior decorator:

builder/contractor:

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES:

(label role
&
appropriate date)

personal Norris Miller 1856.

events ~~Only one event~~

Vernacular architecture in Iowa 1856.

institutional

DATES:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century): 1856

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS: Unknown moved, 1976

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S): 1856 - Present

SOURCE:

(OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE:

(to nearest tenth of an acre)

.5

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here)

Frame with ^{oak} stovewood infill, clapboarding; 1 1/2 stories, modified L shape, gabled roof, ^{gable end} center entrance ~~in gable end~~ with projecting gabled hood on braces; rear and side additions; 14

SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences)

This house built by carpenter Norris Miller; ~~the~~ one of very few extant dwellings of stovewood construction in the United States.
U.S.