

# Oregon Historic Site Form

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

## LOCATION AND PROPERTY NAME

address: <u>402 S McLoughlin Blvd</u> <input type="checkbox"/> apprx. addr	historic name: <u>Miller, Capt Sebastian, House</u>
<u>Oregon City</u> <input type="checkbox"/> vcnty <u>Clackamas County</u>	current/ other names:
Optional Information assoc addresses: (former addresses, intersections, etc.)  location descr: (remote sites)	block nbr: _____ lot nbr: _____ tax lot nbr: _____ township: <u>2 S</u> range: <u>1 E</u> section: <u>36</u> 1/4: _____ zip: _____

## PROPERTY CHARACTERISTICS

resource type: <u>Building</u> height (# stories): <u>1.5</u>	total # eligible resources: <u>1</u> total # ineligible resources: <u>1</u>
elig. evaluation: <u>eligible/contributing</u>	NR status: <u>Listed in Historic District</u> (indiv listed only; see Grouping for hist dist)
primary constr date: <u>1862</u> (c.) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> secondary date: _____ (c.) <input type="checkbox"/> (optional--use for major addns)	NR date listed: _____
primary orig use: <u>Single Dwelling</u>	orig use comments: _____
secondary orig use: <u>COMMERCIAL: General</u>	prim style comments: <u>Classical Revival</u>
primary style: <u>Classical Revival: other</u>	sec style comments: _____
secondary style: <u>Vernacular</u>	siding comments: <u>horizontal lapped board siding</u>
primary siding: <u>Horizontal Board</u>	architect: _____
secondary siding: <u>Wood:Other/Undefined</u>	builder: _____
plan type: <u>Side Passage/Entry</u>	
comments/notes: <u>Large rear addition. Six-over-six sash with simple surrounds; narrow paired doors to upper porch. Porch updated/alterd, particularly upper rail. Brick chimney centered on ridge of original volume.</u>	

## GROUPINGS / ASSOCIATIONS

survey project name or other grouping name	Canemah Historic District , Listed on 10/11/1978	Listed Historic District
	Canemah Historic District RLS Survey Update, 2007	Survey & Inventory Project
	Settlement-era Dwellings, Barns & Farm Groups the the Willamette Valley, Orego	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: 1/9/2013

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 produces 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.