

The Miller House
Valhalla, N. Y.

HABS No. NY-4113

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District No. 4
New York State

Historic American Buildings Survey
Wakefield Worcester, District Officer
25 West 44th Street, New York, N. Y.

HABS
N.Y.

60-VAL.V.

THE MILLER HOUSE
West Lake Drive
Valhalla, Westchester County, N. Y.

Owner:

House - Mr. Charles Miller
Farm - Mr. Charles Miller 1/3 interest
" Mr. Daniel S. Miller " "
" Mrs. May Miller O'Rourke, 1/3 interest

Date of Erection:

Unknown

Architect:

Unknown

Builder:

Unknown

Present Condition:

Good

Number of Stories:

High basement and two stories

MATERIALS OF CONSTRUCTION:

Exterior walls - frame

Interior walls - plaster

Floors - wood

Roof - shingle

Other Existing Records:

None

Additional Data:

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Record:</u>	<u>Reference:</u>
1620 to 1680	Prior to 1680, this land was owned by the Indians of this section of Westchester Co.	Bolton of Scharf
1680	April 1. Frederick Philipse acquired the property from the Indians. It formed part of his landed estate covered by the Manor grant bestowed by James, Duke of York and Albany, on this day. Edmund Andros, who was Governor of the Province, represented the King.	Liber A (Early Grants), pp. 150-152, in County Register's Offices, White Plains
1702	November 6. Frederick Philipse, first Lord of the Manor of Philipsburgh, died.	Bolton, I:512
1779	This property remained in possession of the Philipse family until this year, when New York State seized all the property of the Royalist Frederick Philipse, the son of the first owner of that name, and whose adherence to the Crown caused his attainder.	"Commissioners of Forfeitures Book," in County Register's Office, White Plains. Bolton, II:523
1785	Zephaniah Birdsell, a tenant of Frederick Philipse, remained in the house.	Data from Gordon B. O'Rourke, Valhalla, N.Y.
1785	April 30. Col. Frederick Philipse died in Chester, England.	Bolton I:524
1785	December 22. Cornelius Ray bought the house and land for £ 1446, 10 shillings, from the Commissioners of Forfeitures of the State of New York. Deed recorded Aug. 15, 1788. The farm consisted of 263 acres. Mr. Gordon B. O'Rourke, whose wife was a Miller, owns the original deed.	"Commissioners of Forfeitures Book," p. 51
1820	February 19. Cornelius Ray, of New York City, disposed of this house and farm by will. The will is not of record in the Surrogate's Office, White Plains.	Data from Mr. O'Rourke
1820 to 1835	At some time between these years, Robert and Richard Ray, it is said, acquired interests in the property through a partition action. There were 211 acres thus divided.	Ibid.
1835	May 1. Joseph Miller, who lived on Worcester Street, New York City, bought	Liber 60 of Deeds, p. 72

Additional Data:

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Record:</u>	<u>Reference:</u>
1835 (cont'd)	this house and farm from Robert Ray, remark- ing that New York was "no place to raise children," and he moved to the country to live.	Liber 60 of Deeds, p. 72
1850	October 30. Joseph Miller lived in this house until his death on this day.	Data from Mr. O'Rourke
1851	January 6. The will of Joseph Miller was probated. The house and farm were given to William Miller, son of Joseph, for his lifetime, subject to a certain legacy and the claims of the widow and others.	Liber 32 of Wills, p. 578
-	The will of William Miller left the house and farm to his children, - namely, Daniel S. Miller, Charles Miller, and Mrs. Mary Miller O'Rourke, wife of Gordon B. O'Rourke.	Data from Mr. O'Rourke
1936	The farm and house are now owned by the three children of William Miller, deceased. They are Daniel S. Miller, Charles Miller, and Mrs. May Miller O'Rourke, wife of Gordon B. O'Rourke. Each has a one-third interest in the farmland, which now consists of 263 acres. Charles Miller owns the house. The property has remained in the Miller family for 101 years.	Ibid.,

Practically all of the foregoing information regarding both the house and the family history was obtained from Mr. Gordon B. O'Rourke, of Valhalla, N. Y.

Architectural Description:

The house is of Dutch-Colonial design, built of wood, with clapboard on the exterior and brick foundation.

When Mr. Miller bought it in 1835, it was badly in need of repairs, which he diligently effected. The hardware throughout the house is old wrought iron, including door-knobs.

The Miller house, which is about 160 years old, commands a wonderful view from a Westchester County hilltop.

Near the house, a storage vault, made of red brick, built in the

ground, presumably for a smoke-house, was erected in 1858.

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Approved:
Wakefield Worcester

Wakefield Worcester, District Officer

It might be noted that the house is placed at right angles to the hillside instead of parallel with it. In this case it is very well handled and shows how effective this arrangement can be.

W.W.

Wakefield Worcester

W.W. *2/27/31*