United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property
   Historic name: Miller, George and Margaret, House
   Other names/site number: N/A
   Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
   (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location
   Street & number: 1300 South 8th Street
   City or town: Ponca City                State: OK          County: Kay
   Not For Publication:                Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification
   As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
   I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
   In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:
   ___national   ___statewide       X_local
   Applicable National Register Criteria:
   ___A   ___B   X_C   ___D

   Signature of certifying official/Title:   Date
   ____________________________________________
   State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

   In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

   Signature of commenting official:   Date
   ____________________________________________
   Title: State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government
4. National Park Service Certification
I hereby certify that this property is:
   __ entered in the National Register
   __ determined eligible for the National Register
   __ determined not eligible for the National Register
   __ removed from the National Register
   __ other (explain:) ____________________

   _________________________________  ________________________________
   Signature of the Keeper           Date of Action

5. Classification
Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:  __
Public – Local  __
Public – State  __
Public – Federal  __

   X
Category of Property
(Check only one box.)

Building(s)  __
District  __
Site  __
Structure  __
Object  __
Miller, George and Margaret, House

Name of Property

Kay County, OK

County and State

**Number of Resources within Property**
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

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Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6. **Function or Use**

**Historic Functions** (Enter categories from instructions.)

**DOMESTIC: single dwelling**

________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________

**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions.)

**DOMESTIC: single dwelling**

________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________
Miller, George and Margaret, House
Name of Property

Kay County, OK
County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions.)

French Eclectic

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)
Principal exterior materials of the property: Brick

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a summary paragraph that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph
The George and Margaret Miller House, located in Ponca City, Kay County, Oklahoma, was built in 1923 for Colonel George L. Miller, one of the famed three brothers associated with the 101 Ranch (NRIS #73001560, also a National Historic Landmark) near Ponca City with the first occupants of the house at 1300 South 8th Street being Miller’s nephew and wife, George W. and Margaret Miller. The two-story with a basement, brick, French Eclectic style building has an asphalt-covered, steep-pitched, hipped roof and a brick foundation. The roofline around the house is ornamented with multiple through-the-cornice gables, as well as two brick chimneys. The front partial porch is uncovered, as is the east side patio and the second floor east side balconies. Some of the brick columns on the east side patio remain in place but the patio has been repaired with a non-historic wood sidewall braced by metal poles on the east side and wood stairs on the south side. There is an integral single car garage on the west side of the north (front) facade that has a non-original paneled overhead door. A metal ramp has been added to the rear partial porch that extends along the west elevation. The front door is wood paneled with a modern storm door. The replacement vinyl windows are one-over-one, hung. The original windows were multi-light, wood, double hung. The three additional lots that were added to the property in 1947, and contain the non-historic metal yard building, are not included within the boundary due to a lack of historic association. The house retains a good degree of integrity with the primary changes being the replacement of the windows, the repair work on the east porch and the addition of the accessibility ramp on the west porch.
Narrative Description

The George and Margaret Miller House is located on top of a small rise on the southwest corner of the intersection of South 8th Street and East Alma Avenue. Although the house is addressed off of South 8th Street, it properly faces north to East Alma Avenue. The other three houses at the intersection all front to South 8th Street, possibly accounting for why the Miller House is addressed on South 8th Street but faces East Alma Avenue. There is a gentle roll to the area with the house to the west on higher ground than the house on the east side of South 8th Street.

Originally erected on three lots, the fourth and first non-Miller owner added three additional lots on the south side in 1947. The lots added in 1947 are not included in the boundaries for the George and Margaret Miller House because the land was not associated with the property during the period of significance. With the front yard taking up Lot 1 and the house sitting on Lots 2 and 3, the original property is framed by bushes along the front and trees along the sides and back. The excluded property contains a small metal non-historic outbuilding and a few bushes and wood-outlined landscape beds but otherwise is empty, open, grass-covered yard.

In the front yard, towards the northwest, is a metal, three-light, yard lamp fixture. The fixture does not appear in the 1958 photograph of the house that appeared in an advertisement for the sale of the property in The Ponca City News. Due to the minor scale of the light, the fixture is not counted separately.

The George and Margaret Miller House has a steep-pitched, asphalt-covered roof with a painted metal roof ridge crest and flared open eaves ornamented with exposed rafter tails. The majority of the through-the-cornice dormers around the building have steep-pitched, front-gabled roofs ornamented with decorative verge boards. Each of the dormers corresponds to a window set within the brick wall. The gabled wall area inside the dormers is clad with wood shingles. As with the other trim on the building, the wood shingles and verge boards of the dormers are painted sage green. Also penetrating the roof on the east side is a brick, exterior, gable wall chimney. Barely visible, there is another interior, brick chimney on the west side with a lighter-colored brick cap matching the east side chimney.

NORTH FAÇADE (photographs 0001, 0002 and 0009): The front (north) façade of the Miller House is symmetrical with the setback integral garage section on the west side balanced by the second-story balcony on the east side. Although the lower portion of the east section is flush with the main section, the balcony creates a setback on the second floor that provides a dividing line. The main section of the façade is divided into four equal sections by the four light-colored downspouts. Centrally located on the facade is the main entry. With a lower set of concrete steps, marked by three metal poles, off the sidewalk, the main partial porch is uncovered and has a wide set of concrete block steps with elaborately wrought iron railings. Two concrete benches are set adjacent to the railings on the top landing of the porch. Separating the two sets of steps is a concrete landing which widens as it gets closer to the partial porch. The elaborate door surround is round arched with the arches springing from a Classical wood entablature supported by double, Classical, wood pilasters on wide square bases. The inner arch is wood and consists of
three bands. The outer arch is composed of soldier bricks that match the headers on the windows and garage door. Suspended above the wood paneled door with two upper rectangular lites and a modern storm door is a pendant light.

To each side of the entry on the first floor is a set of double windows. The replacement, vinyl, one-over-one, hung windows have continuous soldier brick headers and rowlock brick sills. Below the west set of first floor windows on the front façade, there is a rectangular metal awning basement window. To the front of the window, adjacent to the porch, there is a brick-lined landscape bed. There does not appear to be a matching basement window on the east side, although it may be obscured by the yard fountain and vegetation in the landscape bed.

To the east of the east set of first floor windows, there is a wrought iron panel set up against the wall. There are no openings on the first floor of the east section of the façade. To the west of the west set of first floor windows is the non-original, paneled, overhead, garage door. The garage is accessed by a concrete and grass driveway consisting of concrete runners with a low curb on the outside and a grassy middle section. The garage door has a soldier brick header. Above the header is a metal light.

On the second floor of the main section of the front façade, there are three symmetrical windows aligned with the first floor windows. The two outside second floor windows are slightly wider than the first floor windows and longer than the center second floor window. All of the second floor windows are replacement, vinyl, one-over-one, hung with soldier brick headers and rowlock brick sills.

Above the garage door in the west section of the façade, there is a single window that matches the size and materials of the center window in the main section. The west section second floor window also has a soldier brick header and a rowlock brick sill. In the east section of the second floor of the front façade is an uncovered balcony. The balcony has a cast stone cap above a course of soldier bricks. Set back towards the south, on the north wall of the second floor balcony, there is a single window beneath a through-the-cornice dormer. The narrow second floor window is replacement, vinyl, one-over-one, hung. The window also has a soldier brick header and a rowlock brick sill.

WEST ELEVATION (photographs 0002 through 0004): The west elevation consists of two sections, a narrow portion of two-story wall adjacent to the garage and the main west elevation wall. On the north side of the west elevation, set within the west facing two-story wall separating the main and garage sections of the façade are two single windows on each level. The narrow, replacement, vinyl, one-over-one, hung windows have soldier brick headers and rowlock brick sills. Above the second floor window is a small through-the-cornice dormer that is squeezed into the available space so the dormer is smaller and lower than the dormers on the north elevation.

The wider center (main) section of the west elevation is symmetrically divided by three metal downspouts. In the main section of the west elevation, there are two equally spaced, single windows on the first floor. The first floor windows are narrow, replacement, vinyl, one-over-one, hung with soldier brick headers and rowlock brick sills. To the south of the south window, near
the south downspout, are some electrical boxes and wiring. The second floor of the center section contains three windows, two small narrow windows on the north side and one regular window on the south side. The south second floor window is wider than the first floor window. All of the second floor windows are replacement, vinyl, one-over-one, hung with soldier brick headers and rowlock brick sills. To accommodate the double windows on the north side of the second floor, the through-the-cornice dormer has a hipped roof and is larger than the other gabled dormers, including the one over the south side window on the second floor in the main section of the west elevation.

SOUTH ELEVATION (photographs 0004 through 0007): The south elevation of the George and Margaret Miller House is the most complex related to the wing that extends off the west side of the principal section of the house. The south elevation also features a second floor ribbon window with an arched transom.

On the west side wing of the south elevation, is the one-story, hipped-roof, enclosed, rear porch which appears on the 1931 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map. The hipped roof features a metal ridge cresting and flared open eaves ornamented with exposed rafter tails. The paneled door on the west side is centrally located with a narrow, one-over-one, hung, vinyl window immediately adjacent on the south side. The wood landing off the west side of the porch has a lattice wall with a metal accessibility ramp that extends to the west before turning north to extend along the main section of the west elevation. The metal ramp is temporary in nature and is readily distinguished as modern due to its materials and design. On the south wall of the porch, there is a small, vinyl, one-over-one, hung window located towards the far west side. Centrally located on the east side of the porch is a matching narrow window to the other windows in the porch.

Above the porch on the second floor in the west wing of the rear elevation, there are two windows on the second floor. Dividing the windows is a metal downspout with a second downspout located towards the east side. On the west side of this second floor section of the south elevation, there is an original, nine-over-nine, hung, wood window. The east side window is a replacement, vinyl, one-over-one, hung window. Both windows have soldier brick headers and rowlock brick sills. Above each window is a gabled through-the-cornice dormer.

Like the other elevations, the main wall of the south elevation is symmetrically divided by two downspouts. On the first floor of the main wall of the south elevation, there is a small window on the west side with two sets of symmetrically placed, standard sized, double windows to the east of this. All of the first floor windows are replacement, vinyl, one-over-one, hung with soldier brick headers and rowlock brick sills.

On the west side of the second floor in the main section of the south elevation, is the ribbon window with an arched transom. The fixed ribbon window retains its historic decorative paneled multi-lite windows consisting of two narrow windows flanking a standard sized window. The transom window is also multi-light with the same three-part configuration. The ribbon window has a continuous arched soldier brick header and rowlock brick sill. There is no gabled dormer above the ribbon window.
Located higher in the wall than the ribbon window, the remaining second floor window is centrally located with a gabled through-the-cornice dormer above it. The replacement, vinyl, one-over-one, hung window has a soldier brick header and rowlock brick sills. To the east of the center window is the second floor balcony on the east elevation.

EAST ELEVATION (photographs 0006 through 0009): The east elevation has multiple planes with a south section consisting of the west side wing, the center section consisting of the main wall and the two recessed sections created from the two second floor balconies which flank the center section. The rear section of the east elevation, forming the east wall of the west side wing, has two windows on the first floor. The north window is narrower than the south window on the first floor. Both windows are replacement, vinyl, one-over-one, hung with soldier brick headers and rowlock brick sills. The matching second floor window is wider than the south first floor window, matching the other second floor windows. Above the window is a gabled through-the-cornice dormer.

On the main section of the east elevation, the downspouts are located on the outside edges, although the upper part of the downspouts connect to the rain gutter on the north and south sides of the balconies. On the first floor of the main section, there are two sets of wood, French, multi-light doors with matching two-part metal screen doors that flank the exterior, decorative brickwork, chimney. The doors are topped by soldier brick headers. The brick on the headers matches the decorative rowlock brick on the chimney.

Flanking the chimney on the second floor are the two separate balconies. On the east wall of the south side balcony, there is a single, one-over-one, hung, vinyl window topped by a gabled through-the-cornice dormer. While there is a matching gabled through-the-cornice dormer on the north side balcony, there does not appear to be a window on the east wall.

Off the main section of the east elevation is a full-width, uncovered, patio area. While the brick piers remain in place on the north side, the brick has been overlaid by wood and a vertical wood wall added to the east side with wood stairs providing access on the south side. A wrought iron panel matching the panels on the east side of the façade has been added to the center of the wood wall on the east side. Because the brick piers remains in place and the new materials are easily differentiated, the modifications to the patio area are readily discernible.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS:

The only addition to the George and Margaret Miller House is a metal accessibility ramp on the rear porch. Although the ramp wraps around the west elevation, due to its metal construction, the ramp is easily understandable as new and does not interfere with the overall design, materials or workmanship of the property. All but two windows in the house have been replaced with vinyl, one-over-one, hung windows. This type of modification is common and as the window size and basic configuration remain unchanged, has marginal impact on the ability of the house to convey its significance. The modifications to the east side patio left in place the brick piers, allowing a more sensitive repair hopefully in the future. Overall, the George and Margaret Miller House
Miller, George and Margaret, House
Name of Property

Kay County, OK
County and State

retains its integrity of location, setting, design, workmanship, materials, feeling and association to convey its historic architectural significance.
Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark “x” in all the boxes that apply.)

A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes

B. Removed from its original location

C. A birthplace or grave

D. A cemetery

E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure

F. A commemorative property

G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years
Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance
1923

Significant Dates

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Unknown
Miller, George and Margaret, House
Kay County, OK

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The George and Margaret Miller House is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for its architectural significance as an excellent local example of the French Eclectic style. The period of significance for the property is 1923, corresponding to its date of construction. The name of the property reflects the original ownership by Colonel George L. Miller, who was responsible for the house’s construction, and the original occupancy of the house by Miller’s nephew, also named George but with a middle initial of W. and his wife Margaret, as well as the continued Miller family ownership through 1941 by George L. Miller’s daughter, also named Margaret Miller. Thus, the name reflects the first four owners (George L. Miller, George W. and Margaret Miller, and Margaret Miller) and the first two occupants (George W. and Margaret Miller) of the house. Colonel George L. Miller was one of the three brothers that operated the famed 101 Ranch, and the associated 101 Ranch Wild West Shows, during the 1900s-1930s. George W. Miller, son of George L. Miller’s older brother Colonel Joseph Miller, worked in the family business and then was the longtime city attorney for Ponca City.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

PONCA CITY BACKGROUND:

The city of Ponca City originated in 1893, following the Cherokee Outlet land run on September 16th of that year which opened the area to non-Native American settlement. The land comprising the Cherokee Outlet in what is now northwestern Oklahoma, excluding the panhandle, was given to the Cherokee tribe in 1828 by the federal government. Following the Civil War, as part of the Reconstruction Treaty of 1866, the Cherokee Nation conveyed the eastern one-third of the Outlet to the federal government for the purposes of relocating various other Native American tribes. The Cherokee tribe retained control of nearly six million acres of prime grassland in the remaining portion of the Outlet. This grassland became popular with cattlemen during the 1870s and 1880s for grazing purposes. The Cherokee tribe quickly began collecting grazing fees, allowing the Outlet to become a major economic support for the Cherokee government.1

Despite the encroachment by cattlemen and others seeking to benefit from the area’s natural resources, the Cherokee Nation retained ownership of the Cherokee Outlet until the early 1890s. In 1889, the Jerome Commission, a federally-authorized committee, began to negotiate with the various Native American tribes holding “surplus” lands in what is now western Oklahoma. Typically, the government considered as surplus any land remaining after each man, woman and child of the tribe received an allotment of 160 acres. After much discussion, the Cherokee tribe

finally agreed to cede ownership of the six million acres of surplus land in the Outlet in exchange for $8.5 million. This action paved the way for the Cherokee Outlet land run of September 16, 1893.\(^2\)

Prior to the Cherokee Strip land run, Burton Seymour (B.S.) Barnes organized the Ponca Townsite Company in July 1893, after exploring the area and noting the presence of a natural spring and proximity to the existing railroad line. Making the run in a two-seater buggy, Barnes arrived at his anticipated townsite to find several people already on site. Securing their agreement to divide their claims into town lots, Barnes was successful in establishing a townsite. Within four days of the land run, the new townsite was surveyed and on September 21, 1893, the drawing for town lots began. With over 2,300 certificates sold, the drawing took two days. After the drawing, a mass meeting elected B.S. Barnes as mayor and W.E. McGuire as town clerk. Within sixty days of the land run, the town boasted a new two-room schoolhouse and one church.\(^3\)

Two other communities existed in the vicinity of the Ponca Townsite Company’s new townsite, aptly called “New Ponca.” Located about three miles north was the federal government townsite of Cross and, to the south, the Ponca Indian Agency, called Ponca by the federal government and White Eagle by locals. With a convenient ford across the Arkansas River, New Ponca quickly attracted many residents. Signifying its permanence, a post office for New Ponca was established on January 12, 1894. The post office officially changed the name of the community to “Ponca” on July 7, 1898 as the original Ponca post office, established in 1879 at the Ponca Indian Agency, changed its name to Whiteagle. On October 23, 1913, the name “Ponca City” was formally approved for the community by the United States Post Office.\(^4\)

By September 1894, New Ponca secured a rail connection from the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe (Santa Fe) Railway Company, which previously only serviced the nearby community of Cross and the Ponca Indian Agency. This connection quickly spelled the doom for Cross as residents were induced to move to the thriving community of New Ponca. Cross continued to exist in some form until 1927 when the area was incorporated into the city limits of Ponca City.\(^5\)

In 1900, New Ponca’s population stood at 2,528 residents. By the time of Oklahoma’s statehood in 1907, the number of citizens had grown by just one, bringing the total population to 2,529. Three years later, the official census recorded 2,521 citizens, a loss of eight persons. Related to oil developments, Ponca City’s population shot to 7,051 by 1920 and more than doubled to reach 16,136 in 1930. Growth slowed but did not halt during the turbulent years of the 1930s so that in 1940, the number of residents in the community reached 16,794. The war years also resulted in a


\(^5\) *Souvenir Program*, 8-12. See also *WPA Guide*, 356.
notable increase in new citizens for the city. Reaching 20,180 in 1950, the population again flourished during the 1950s with a twenty-one percent population increase bringing the 1960 population to 24,441. Growth stabilized during the next two decades with the number of Ponca City residents reaching 26,238 in 1980.6

Until about 1910, Ponca City was economically dependent on the surrounding agricultural community. For years, the famed 101 Ranch operated nine miles south of Ponca City. Established by George Washington Miller in about 1881, the ranch continued to flourish after Miller’s 1903 death under the control of his wife, Molly, and three sons, Joe, Zack and George L. Miller. Covering 110,000 acres, the ranch was home to the renowned 101 Ranch Wild West Show which continued to operate until the late 1920s. Even after 1910 and the discovery of oil in the area, Ponca City served as an “important grain and flour shipping point.” Through the early 1940s, the Ponca City Milling Company, owned by the Donahoe family, was considered one of the city’s largest industries.7

Oil production in the area around Ponca City began prior to 1909 with discoveries on the Ponca Indian Reservation south of town and, to the east, on the Osage lands. This attracted the attention of several Pennsylvania oilmen, most notably E.W. Marland and L. H. (Lew) Wentz. Both of these oilmen enhanced Ponca City by providing numerous employment opportunities and financing various civic improvements, such as Marland’s Pioneer Woman Statue and Lew Wentz’s Ponca City Educational camp. With large oil fields in the vicinity, including the Ponca, Burbank and Shidler fields, and many oil-related industries in the area, Ponca City has continued to thrive for decades.8

One of the large oil-related developments in Ponca City of lasting economic importance was the location of E.W. Marland’s immense refinery. The Marland Refining Company was taken over by the Continental Oil Company in 1929 when Marland’s oil prowess hit the skids. By 1941, the Continental Oil Company employed 2,500 workers in Ponca City and the refinery was characterized as “the largest in the state and one of the most modern in the world.” The name of the refinery had been changed to Conoco by that time, which operates today as Conoco-Phillips. By the mid-1930s, the Empire Oil and Refining Company, one of Henry L. Doherty plants, also operated a refinery in Ponca City, in addition to a host of smaller related industries.9

GEORGE AND MARGARET MILLER HOUSE:

In 1919, Ira L. and Geneva B. Edwards filed the plat for the Edwards Addition, then located south of Ponca City and east of the Shaffer and Wiker additions. In mid-March 1920, the city council “voted to take the Edwards addition into the corporate limits.” The addition of the Edwards Addition added ten blocks to the city’s total area. Shortly after the addition was added

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to the city limits, the Sellars Sales Company launched “one of the largest real estate campaigns ever staged in Ponca City” by combining “four of the largest addition ever made to Ponca City.” The four additions were the England, Wiker, Nonnemaker and Edwards additions. Within days, nine homes in the area were built or in process of being constructed with the combined neighborhood having gas connections and telephone, light, water and sewer “advantages” in process.10

Four years after the Edwards Addition opened to development, Colonel George L. Miller, of the famed 101 Ranch, purchased Lots 1, 2 and 3 of Block 9 of the Edwards Addition from Ira L. and Geneva B. Edwards. The July 1923 purchase price of the three lots was $2,000. It is unlikely that George L. Miller ever intended to reside at the house as he had a home at the 101 Ranch and he “preferred to stay close to the White House so he could oversee the various family ventures, including lucrative holdings in the oil patch.”11

On Christmas Day 1923, George L. Miller signed a warranty deed transferring ownership of the house at 1300 South 8th Street to his nephew, George W. Miller. At the time, George W. Miller was not married; it was not until October 7, 1924 that George W. Miller married Margaret Craddock. While the 1923 purchase price of the property was not disclosed on the warranty deed, the description of the property specified that the land included “the brick house thereon, together with all furniture and fixtures.” This affirms that the house was constructed in 1923 prior to the sale of the property by George L. Miller to George W. Miller.12

In early April 1924, the Long Bell Lumber Company filed a petition against both George L. Miller and George W. Miller for foreclosure of a lien and recovery of money against Lots 1, 2 and 3 of Block 9 of the Edwards Addition. Nothing more was included in the legal news about the foreclosure at the time. In 1941, when the property was sold out of the Miller family for the first time, Margaret Miller had to quiet the title to the land in district court in a suit against E. C. Parsons. It is unclear if the 1941 issue was related to the 1924 action.13

In February 1929, Colonel George L. Miller died in a car accident on an icy road between Ponca City and the 101 Ranch. In his will, George L. Miller specified that his “executors and trustees…pay all public charges, improvements, et cetra (sic) on any “Home Property” held in trust for Margaret Miller by George W. Miller.” While the will does not identify the address for the “Home Property,” it was not likely a coincidence that George W. Miller, along with his wife Margaret C. Miller, executed a warranty deed granting title of 1300 South 8th Street to Margaret

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10 *The Ponca City (Oklahoma) News*, April 23, 1919; May 15, 1919; March 17, 1920; March 27, 1920; March 30, 1920; and, April 14, 1920.

11 Warranty Deed, Ira L. Edwards to George L. Miller, July 9, 1923, filed for record at the County Clerk’s Office, Kay County Courthouse, Newkirk, Oklahoma. See also Michael Wallis, *The Real Wild West: The 101 Ranch and the Creation of the American West* (New York: St. Martin’s Griffin, 1999), 461.

12 Warranty Deed, George L. Miller to George W. Miller, December 25, 1923, filed for record at the County Clerk’s Office, Kay County Courthouse, Newkirk, Oklahoma. See also Oklahoma, County Marriage Records, 1890-1995, Margaret Craddock, available *Ancestry*.

Miller in late February 1930. Although not filed at the courthouse until March 18, 1930, the warranty deed was dated February 25, 1930, Margaret Miller’s 18th birthday.14

George W. and Margaret C. Miller were no longer residing at 1300 South 8th Street when they conveyed the property to Margaret Miller and probably had not been for several years prior. The couple purchased property at 160 Whitworth Avenue in 1927, which is the address identified for George W. and Margaret C. Miller in the 1930 federal census and for years afterward. Margaret Miller, who evidently never married, did not reside in Ponca City on a permanent basis but instead apparently used the property for rental income. According to the 1930 federal census, Tom C. Wilson and family were then renting 1300 South 8th Street. This was confirmed by the 1930 city directory for Ponca City. From roughly 1932 through about 1939, Alf and Mabel Cocks lived in the house at 1300 South 8th Street. With the 1940 city directory listing the house as vacant, Margaret Miller sold the property to Mrs. Jessie J. Benkendorf in May 1941. The Benkendorfs continued to reside at 1300 South 8th Street until about 1958 when the property was advertised for sale. It was the Benkendorfs in 1947 that purchased the additional three lots behind the house to expand their property.15

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

As related in More Historic Homes of Ponca City and Kay County, the George and Margaret Miller House’s unusual style was supposedly due to the contractor ordering the wrong house plans. However, the book premised the construction of the house on it being built for George L. Miller and his wife as the family “dream home.” According to The Real Wild West, George L. and May Porter Miller’s marriage lasted less than five years with the couple divorcing “shortly after their only child, Margaret, was born, in 1912.” May Miller evidently moved to New York following the divorce, which is where Margaret Miller also resided according to the 1941 deed. George L. Miller never remarried.16

The French Eclectic style emerged after World War I and enjoyed a quiet popularity through the 1930s. By 1925, nearly five percent of new houses constructed in America used the French Eclectic style “according to a study of houses published in architectural journals that year.” Although not as popular as the Tudor Revival or Spanish-influenced styles, the French Eclectic

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15 Warranty Deed, Robert E. Clark to George W. Miller, August 27, 1927, filed for record at the County Clerk’s Office, Kay County Courthouse, Newkirk, Oklahoma. See also U.S. Federal Census, 1930, George W. and Margaret C. Miller, available Ancestry; City Directory, Ponca City, 1930 and 1932 (available Ponca City Public Library, Ponca City, Oklahoma) and 1936-1958 (available Ancestry); Warranty Deed, Margaret Miller to Jessie J. Benkendorf, May 23, 1941, filed for record at the County Clerk’s Office, Kay County Courthouse, Newkirk, Oklahoma; and, Warranty Deed, Arthur L. Bogan, Jr., and Myrtle G. Bogan to Jessie J. Benkendorf, September 8, 1947, filed for record at the County Clerk’s Office, Kay County Courthouse, Newkirk, Oklahoma.

The identifying features of the French Eclectic style visible on the George and Margaret Miller House include a tall, steeply pitched, hipped roof without a front-facing cross gable, flared eaves at the roof-wall junction, brick wall material and gabled through-the-cornice dormers. The Miller House is an example of the symmetrical subtype with a wing added to the west side of the main block. The symmetrical façade has a centered entry that is Classically inspired with double pilasters supporting a round arch.

Although the French Eclectic style enjoyed a certain popularity, it was not a highly prolific style. The French Eclectic style also shared many similarities, including specific features, with the Tudor Revival style. Determining a specific style for many homes is further compounded by the common mixing and matching of stylistic features on residential architecture, as well as changes over time which often mute the original style. Within Ponca City itself, the house that George W. and Margaret C. Miller had built in 1927 at 160 Whitworth Avenue is more Tudor Revival in style, due to largely to the prominent front cross gable. The house on Whitworth is noted as being the first home in Ponca City designed by William Caton, a prolific Winfield, Kansas, architect. Notably, Caton did not open his architecture practice until 1924, after 1300 South 8th Street was constructed.18 However, there is a compatibility between 160 Whitworth Avenue and 1300 South 8th Street that suggests the style of 1300 South 8th Street was not an accident.

Other examples of similar style homes to the George and Margaret Miller House in Ponca City include the 1940 “Second Burns House at 1606 East Central.” Although having a prominent front gabled wing that could place the stone house in the Tudor Revival style, the second Burns house included the through-the-cornice dormers similar to the Miller House. Another example of a French Eclectic style house in Ponca City is the brick and stucco G. B. Wittmer House at 820 Spring Road that was built around a silo. The Wittmer House was constructed in 1947 around the silo that had been converted to an English dovecote in the early 1920s for E. W. Marland. The silo provided the house with a prominent tower commonly found on French Eclectic style residences. The 1923 Seward Sheldon house at 9 Hillcrest is more likely a Tudor Revival style house. However, the brick residence merits consideration in comparison to the George and Margaret Miller House because of the through-the-cornice dormers and the prominent recessed arched door.19

Although the above-mentioned houses share similarities to the George and Margaret Miller House, the Miller house remains noteworthy as an excellent local example of the French Eclectic

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Miller, George and Margaret, House
Name of Property

Kay County, OK
County and State

style. Each of the homes is unique in its own way with the brick Miller house being distinguished by its distinctive expression of the French Eclectic style. As succinctly noted in 1999 during the fieldwork for the intensive level survey of the neighborhood, the Miller House is “very unusual.” Accordingly, the house merits recognition for its architectural significance as an example of the French Eclectic style in Ponca City.
9. Major Bibliographical References

*Blackwell (Oklahoma) Morning Tribune.* April 1, 1924; July 14, 1931; and, June 23 1934.


Moore, (No First Name). “Ponca City.” Available Ponca City Vertical File, Oklahoma Historical Society, Research Library, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, n.d.


*The Perry (Oklahoma) Republican.* December 10, 1908.

*The Ponca City (Oklahoma) News.* April 23, 1919; May 15, 1919; March 17, 1920; March 27, 1920; March 30 1920; April 14, 1920; May 11, 1947; and, March 16, 1958.


*Souvenir Program: Ponca City, Oklahoma, Cherokee Strip Celebration, September 16, 1941.* Available Ponca City Vertical File, Research Library, Oklahoma Historical Society, Research Library Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, 1941.


Warranty Deed, George L. Miller to George W. Miller, December 25, 1923. Filed for record at the County Clerk’s Office, Kay County Courthouse, Newkirk, Oklahoma.

Warranty Deed. George W. Miller et ux to Margaret Miller. February 23, 1930. Filed for record at the County Clerk’s Office, Kay County Courthouse, Newkirk, Oklahoma.

Warranty Deed. Ira L. Edwards to George L. Miller. July 9, 1923. Filed for record at the County Clerk’s Office, Kay County Courthouse, Newkirk, Oklahoma.

Warranty Deed. Margaret Miller to Jessie J. Benkendorf. May 23, 1941. Filed for record at the County Clerk’s Office, Kay County Courthouse, Newkirk, Oklahoma.

Warranty Deed. Robert E. Clark to George W. Miller. August 27, 1927. Filed for record at the County Clerk’s Office, Kay County Courthouse, Newkirk, Oklahoma.


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**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

____ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

____ previously listed in the National Register

____ previously determined eligible by the National Register

____ designated a National Historic Landmark
Miller, George and Margaret, House
Name of Property

Kay County, OK
County and State

____ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # __________
____ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # __________
____ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # ______

Primary location of additional data:
X State Historic Preservation Office

____ Other State agency
____ Federal agency
____ Local government
____ University
____ Other

Name of repository: _____________________________________

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____ N/A ________

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property ______ Less than 1 Acre

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
Datum if other than WGS84: __________
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 36.690778 Longitude: -97.075462

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Lots 1 to 3, Block 9, Edwards Addition to Ponca City, Kay County, Oklahoma.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes the property historically associated with the George and Margaret Miller House. The boundary excludes the empty lots (Lots 4, 5 and 6) to the rear which were purchased in 1947 by Mrs. Jessie J. Benkendorf and, thus, were not historically associated with the George and Margaret Miller House during its period of significance.
Form Prepared By

name/title: Cynthia Savage, Architectural Historian, for
organization: City of Ponca City
street & number: 346 County Road 1230
city or town: Pocasset state: OK zip code: 73079
e-mail: archconsulting.savage@yahoo.com
telephone: ____________________________
date: March 2020

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)
Miller, George and Margaret, House
Name of Property

Kay County, OK
County and State

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and does not need to be labeled on every photograph.

Name of Property: Miller, George and Margaret, House
City or Vicinity: Ponca City
County: Kay
State: OK
Photographer: Cynthia Savage
Date Photographed: 19 November 2019

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 0001: Front (north) elevation, camera facing southwest.
Photo 0002: Front (north) elevation (left) and west elevation (right), camera facing southeast.
Photo 0003: West elevation, camera facing east.
Photo 0004: West elevation (left) and south elevation (right), camera facing northeast.
Photo 0005: Rear (south) elevation (center background), camera facing northeast.
Photo 0006: Rear (south) elevation (center) and east elevation (right), camera facing northwest.
Photo 0007: Rear (south) elevation (left) and east elevation (right), camera facing northwest.
Photo 0008: East elevation, camera facing west.
Photo 0009: Corner location and east and north elevations (center background), camera facing southwest.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.
Miller, George & Margaret, House
1300 South 8th Street
Ponca City, Kay County, Oklahoma
Latitude: 36.690778 Longitude: -97.075462
Miller, George & Margaret, House

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Miller, George and Margaret, House
Name of Property
Kay County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 11 Page 1

OK_KayCounty_GeorgeAndMargaretMillerHouse_0001
Miller, George and Margaret, House
Name of Property
Kay County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Miller, George and Margaret, House
Name of Property
Kay County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

OK_KayCounty_GeorgeAndMargaretMillerHouse_0002
Miller, George and Margaret, House
Name of Property
Kay County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

OK_KayCounty_GeorgeAndMargaretMillerHouse_0003
Miller, George and Margaret, House
Name of Property
Kay County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

OK_KayCounty_GeorgeAndMargaretMillerHouse_0004
Miller, George and Margaret, House
Name of Property
Kay County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

OK_KayCounty_GeorgeAndMargaretMillerHouse_0005
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 11  Page 6

Miller, George and Margaret, House
Name of Property
Kay County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

OK_KayCounty_GeorgeAndMargaretMillerHouse_0006
Miller, George and Margaret, House
Name of Property
Kay County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 11 Page 7

OK_KayCounty_GeorgeAndMargaretMillerHouse_0007
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 11  Page 8

Miller, George and Margaret, House
Name of Property
Kay County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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