1. NAME

Miller, Lewis, Residence

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 142 King Drive
CITY OR TOWN: Akron
STATE: Ohio

3. CLASSIFICATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY (Check One)</th>
<th>OWNERSHIP</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
<th>ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Object</td>
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PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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<td>Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>Private Residence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
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<td>Other (Specify)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER’S NAME: Bill E. Thomas
STREET AND NUMBER: 2056 Brookshire Road
CITY OR TOWN: Akron
STATE: Ohio

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Summit County Building
STREET AND NUMBER: 72 South High Street
CITY OR TOWN: Akron
STATE: Ohio

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: 
DATE OF SURVEY: 
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: 
STREET AND NUMBER: 
CITY OR TOWN: 
STATE: 
CODE: 
FOR NPS USE ONLY 
ENTRY NUMBER DATE: 

This is a very large brick three-story mansion basically in the High Victorian Italianate style. The great gables on the main elevations have some incised decoration on the gable fascias in the Eastlake idiom. There is a veranda on the east facade. A projecting north bay has curious bowed corners on the second story which are explained on the interior. The main entrance is a large round-arched doorway.

Inside, a main hall runs east-west, and the main stair runs perpendicular to the hall. A second servants' stair winds up from the west end. Many of the room doors are recessed from the corridors in arched vestibules or niches. The ceilings are twelve feet high. The doors and windows are large segmental-arched, and their woodwork is heavily molded. There are several characteristically Victorian marble mantelpieces intact, but only one fireplace is operable. The third floor servants' quarters are also quite spacious, though most of the rooms are underneath the slanting roofs and some have skylights. There is a large full basement. The roof has a flat deck at its summit, and the original iron cresting is lying there waiting to be put in place.

Around 1900, the center north second-story room was completely remodeled in the prevailing Neo-Classic Revival style, with an Adam revival mantelpiece, an elliptical window with beveled glass, classical columns framing the fireplace inglenook, and plaster relief ceiling ornament in a delicate neo-Adamesque style. The corner windows are bowed outward over the old polygonal bay below.

The house has been divided into some twenty small apartments. In a few cases formerly large rooms have been partitioned. Individual baths and kitchens have been added. Nevertheless, the interior detail is remarkably intact, including interior folding shutters at most of the large first-story windows. At the northwest corner, a grade-level utility structure has been added. Because of the continuous subdivision of the property, the house is now entered from two streets, through both the original main entrance and the old rear entrance.
This mansion is primarily significant as the home of the important Akron industrialist Lewis Miller, inventor of the Buckeye Mower and Reaper, co-founder of the Chautauqua Association, and father-in-law of Thomas A. Edison, who was married in this house.

Lewis Miller was born in Greentown, Stark County, in 1829. In 1851 he began working as an apprentice for Bell, Aultman & Company, manufacturers of farm implements. When the plant moved to Canton, Miller became its superintendent. In 1856 he patented the Buckeye Mower and Reaper. A branch plant in Akron was separately incorporated in 1865 as Aultman, Miller & Company and Miller was superintendent for many years. He built this mansion in 1870.

In 1874 Miller and Bishop J. H. Vincent founded the Chautauqua Association, the widely influential Midwestern cultural institution on Lake Chautauqua, New York. He made extensive contributions to several Methodist colleges, especially Mount Union in Alliance, whose first boarding hall, built in 1866 by Western Reserve master builder Simeon Porter, is named after Miller. In 1886 Miller's daughter Mina became the second wife of Thomas Edison. Miller died in 1899, and his son Lewis A. Miller lived in this house until 1917.
Miller, Lewis, Residence

7. The biography of Lewis Miller states that in 1868 he acquired "some twenty-five acres on a hill in the growing city, completing a house that was in course of construction on the top." There is nothing to indicate that the basic form of the entire house does not date from that period. An old photograph from the nineteenth century shows that there have been relatively few alterations. The apparent blankness of the center bay window on the east facade is original. There was a smaller second-story bay with a flaring roof which has been removed. The gable window was originally a roundel and has been replaced with the rectangular window. The pointed bargeboards of the large gables are not, properly speaking, High Victorian Gothic, but their detail presages Eastlake usage. In fact, it is evident that many details of the entire design are very advanced for their time and location.

8. The advanced anomalies of the home's design are exactly consistent with the character of the owner, who was an inventor and a genuine innovator in industry, religious education and architecture, and the development of socio-cultural institutions. Miller conceived the first building to be erected solely for Sunday school purposes and built in 1868. He created a unique plan to accommodate graded classes, consisting of a semi-circular auditorium arranged as a parterre and gallery, and suggested to him by an outdoor picnic ground and amphitheater. This arrangement came to be known as the "Akron plan," and frequently incorporated a large folding or lifting door to enlarge a conventional sanctuary. This plan gained enormous popularity and spread all over the United States.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

William H. Perrin, History of Summit County (Chicago, 1881), 739-740
Karl H. Grismer, Akron and Summit County (Akron, 1952?), 686.
Akron City Directories, 1869-1917.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

<table>
<thead>
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<th>CORNER</th>
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LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES

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APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one

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

STATE: | CODE | COUNTY |
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11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Eric Johannesen, Preservationist
ORGANIZATION: Western Reserve Historical Society
STREET AND NUMBER: 10825 East Boulevard
CITY OR TOWN: Cleveland
STATE: Ohio
CODE: 039
DATE: August 1974

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National □ State □ Local □

Name: [Signature]
State Historic Preservation Officer
Title: Director, Ohio Historical Society
Date: July 25, 1975

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date
1. **NAME**
   - **COMMON:** Miller, Lewis, Residence

2. **LOCATION**
   - **STREET AND NUMBER:** 142 King Drive
   - **CITY OR TOWN:** Akron
   - **STATE:** Ohio
   - **CODE:** 039
   - **COUNTY:** Summit
   - **CODE:** 153

3. **MAP REFERENCE**
   - **SOURCE:** U.S.G.S. Akron West Quadrangle
   - **SCALE:** 1:24,000
   - **DATE:** 1967

4. **REQUIREMENTS**
   - **TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS**
     1. Property boundaries where required.
     2. North arrow.
     3. Latitude and longitude reference.
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

1. NAME
   COMMON: Miller, Lewis, Residence
   AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION
   STREET AND NUMBER: 142 King Drive
   CITY OR TOWN: Akron
   STATE: Ohio
   CODE: 039
   COUNTY: Summit
   CODE: 153

3. PHOTO REFERENCE
   PHOTO CREDIT: Eric Johannesen
   DATE OF PHOTO: August 1974
   NEGATIVE FILED AT: Western Reserve Historical Society

4. IDENTIFICATION
   DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.
   West elevation, looking northeast.

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 1974-757-591

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

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   PHOTO CREDIT: Eric Johannesen
   DATE OF PHOTO: August 1974
   NEGATIVE FILED AT: Western Reserve Historical Society

4. IDENTIFICATION
   DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.
   East facade, looking west.
February 19, 1976

Mr. Bill W. Thomas  
2056 Brookshire Rd.  
Akron, Ohio 44313  

Dear Mr. Thomas:

I am pleased to inform you that the Lewis Miller House, 142 King Drive, has been entered in the National Register of Historic Places by the National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior.

The nomination was made in connection with a state plan to identify and document prehistoric and historic places in Ohio which qualify for National Register status under provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. All nominations are approved by the Ohio Historic Site Preservation Advisory Board.

Enclosed is information explaining the purposes and goals of the National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Thomas H. Smith  
Director, Ohio Historical Society  
State Historic Preservation Officer

THS;jp  
enclosure

X.c: Mayor of Akron  
Eric Johannessen, Western Reserve Historical Society
The Ohio Historical Society
Ohio Historic Preservation Office

National Register of Historic Places File Checklist

The following materials are contained in this file of the National Register form for:

Name: Miller, Lewis, House

County: Summit

☑ Original National Register of Historic Places nomination form

☐ Multiple Property Nomination form

☐ Photograph(s)

☑ Photograph(s) (copies)

☐ USGS map(s)

☑ USGS map(s) (copies)

☐ Sketch map(s)/figure(s)/exhibit(s)

☑ Correspondence

☑ Other news clip

CES: 9/01