

Miller Wagon Manufacturing Shop
805-809 Walnut St.
Madison
Jefferson County
Indiana

HABS No. IN-128

HABS
IND,
39-MAD,
38-

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

MILLER WAGON MANUFACTURING SHOP

HABS NO. IN-128

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IND,
39-MAD,
38-

Location: 805-809 Walnut Street, Madison, Indiana
(Jefferson County)

USGS Madison West Quadrangle, Universal Transverse
Mercator Coordinates: 16.641030.4289150.

Present Owner: Don P. and Ditten B. Meyers

Present Occupants: Meyers and Son Manufacturing Co.

Present Use: The building is presently used as the cutting
room for the Meyers & Son Manufacturing Co.,
where material is cut for work clothing.

Statement of
Significance:

Segmental arched windows and semicircular
arched doorways compose most of the facade
of this small brick manufacturing building.
Built in 1871-1872 for the wagon manufactory
of Jacob Barnhardt Miller, the structure has
undergone many additions and subtractions
(as well as at least one fire), though the
original structure remains mostly intact.
The building has also served as a furniture
manufacturing plant, a furniture store, a
warehouse, and is now used by the Meyers and
Son Manufacturing Co. as the cutting room
for their line of work clothing.

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A. PHYSICAL HISTORY

1. Dates of Erection: 1871-1872. The Assessment Books of Madison for 1872 show an improvement of \$1,000 on the property, while the 1871 Assessment does not.
2. Architect: The architect of this building is unknown, and due to its simple nature, it is doubted that one was employed.
3. Original and subsequent owners: The legal description of the property is part of Lot 37, lots 38 and 39 in John Woodburn's Addition North to the Town (now City) of Madison, Indiana. The following deed references may be located in the Recorder's Office of the Jefferson County Courthouse, Madison, Indiana.

1867 Warranty Deed, dated March 28, 1867; recorded in Deed Book 29, page 364 on March 28, 1867. Samuel and Nancy Morris sold the title to part of lot #37, and lots 38, 39, 40, 41 to Jacob Barnhardt Miller for a consideration of \$500.

1914 Quit-Claim Deed, dated August 14, 1914; recorded in Deed Book 86, page 173 on January 12, 1915. Caroline S. Miller and Matilda P. Miller, Louisa M. Russell and William and Emma C. Dietz, heirs at law of Jacob B. Miller and Mary Miller, both deceased, conveyed the title to part of lot 37, lots 38 and 39 to Charles W. and Albert D. Miller for consideration of \$1.00, to settle the estate of Jacob and Mary Miller.

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1923 Warranty Deed, dated September 26, 1923; recorded in Deed Book 93, page 580 on October 12, 1926. Charles Miller, et al, as heirs to the estate of Albert Miller, sold the property to Marcus R. Sulzer for \$1.00 and other considerations.

1924 Warranty Deed, dated May 20, 1924; recorded in Deed Book 94, page 311 on May 20, 1924. Marcus R. and Mabel G. Sulzer sold the property to Thomas Graham for \$1.00 and other considerations.

1943 Warranty Deed, dated September 30, 1943; recorded in Deed Book 108, page 63 on September 30, 1943. Thomas Graham and Company sold the title to the property to J. Graham Ross for \$1.00 and other consideration.

1945 Warranty Deed, dated October 16, 1945; recorded in Deed Book 110, page 501 on October 16, 1945. J. Graham and Linda C. Ross sold the property to William H. Wetzel for consideration of \$7,000.

1967 Warranty Deed, dated April 7, 1967; recorded in Deed Book 142, page 272 on April 7, 1967. William H. and Edna C. Wetzel sold the property to Harvey P. Meyers for \$1.00 and other considerations.

1976 Executor's Deed, dated August 2, 1976; recorded in Deed Book 160, page 1102 on August 5, 1976. The Indiana National Bank, acting as executors of the last will and testament of Harvey P. Meyers, deceased, conveyed the property to Meyers and Son Manufacturing Company,

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Don P. Meyers, President, and Julius Schmidt, Secretary, for \$1.00 and other considerations.

1976 Warranty Deed, dated August 2, 1976; recorded in Deed Book 160, page 1103 on August 5, 1976. Don P. Meyers, President, and Julius Schmidt, Secretary of the Meyers and Son Manufacturing Company, sold the title of the property to the present owners, Don P. and Ditten B. Meyers, for \$1.00 and other considerations.

4. Builders, contractors, suppliers: Unknown.

5. Original plan and construction of the building:

The building seems to have been originally composed of a two-storied, six bay facade that was only one room deep. The first floor appears to have been divided into two square rooms with a connecting doorway, while the second floor was composed merely of one large, open space. The six semi-circular-arched bays of the first floor street facade alternate between a large window opening with removable windows, and larger arched equipment doors.

6. Existing conditions and description of the building:

See Prof. John White's report as Supervisor of this project.

7. Additions and Alterations: The Miller Wagon shop is a difficult building to read because of the presence of so many changes in the fabric of the structure. As stated earlier, the original building appears to have been only one room (30 feet) deep. Since the building of the original shop, a series of additions were made to the

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building which were then destroyed by fire and then entirely rebuilt. The southern wall of the existing structure runs entirely to the alleyway at the rear, and clearly shows four additions to the original building. Unfortunately, this wall appears to be all that remains of these additions. The additions were added in 30-40 foot intervals, with the first addition appearing to have been a two-storied structure. The final addition to the west of the building was probably added between 1924 and 1927, as the remaining wall fabric shows what may have been a loading dock for the Graham Company's stock room as shown on the 1927 Sanbourn Map of Madison. The 1927 Sanbourn Map shows the building when it was occupied by the Thomas Graham Company. The plan represented in this volume follows a rough U-shaped plan, with the space between the telescoping arms of the U filled by a wooden walkway, or platform. The entire structure was composed of brick, save for this wooden platform and the farthest western end of the northern wing. Today, the plan is roughly L-shaped, and other than the original portion of the building and the southern wall, no original fabric remains. In the Fair Play Fire Company's Fire Record is the mention of a fire at the Thomas Graham Spoke Factory (Graham's Co. originally made wooden wagon wheels) on August 29, 1945, although the entry does not elaborate on the cause of the fire or the extent of the damage. It is no coincidence, however, that the building was sold two months later to William H. Wetzel.

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Traces of the first exist in the upper floor of the original structure, but do not show on the southern wall. Windows did exist on this southern wall, but must have been bricked up when the Thomas Graham Co. bought the property (the far western addition to this wall has no windows, and must have been added after electricity was introduced to the building. The windows were probably closed at the same time). The building was not extended again until the acquisition of the property by its present owner between 1967 and 1969.

B. HISTORICAL EVENTS AND PERSONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE BUILDING:

Miller Wagon Works:

Jacob Barnhardt Miller was born in 1806, and began his wagon making business in 1839, according to a special edition of the Madison Daily Democrat for May 18, 1899. Miller had the present structure built in 1871-1872, and ran the business until his death in 1891. Upon his death Miller's sons Albert and Charles ran the business until at least 1912. In 1923 the business had changed to the Miller Storage Company, and was sold in the following year to the Thomas Graham Co.

Thomas Graham Company:

The Thomas Graham Company was a long-established Madison manufacturing firm before it occupied the Miller Wagon Works building. Originally engaged in the business of producing wagon wheels and barrels, the company advertised their products as "Spokes and wheels, porch furniture" in the

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1927 Madison Directory. By 1936 they had abandoned the manufacture of wheels, and dealt solely in the production of "swings and furniture novelties". After selling the property in 1945, the Graham Company continued their business at 711-717 West Street.

After 1945, the building was listed as "vacant" in directories, until 1962 when "Smith's Retail Furniture Store" occupied the premises until 1966. The building was first mentioned again in directories as "Meyers and Son" in 1970, and has been used by that company to the present.

C. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

1. Primary and Unpublished Sources:

a) Tax Lists and Assessment Books of the City of Madison 1868, 1869, 1870, 1871, 1872. These records are presently kept in the basement of the City Hall, Madison, Indiana.

b) Minutes of Fire Meetings of the Fair Play Fire Company #1, Vol. January 1, 1934 - December 22, 1949.

This volume is one of ten such volumes kept at the Fair Play Fire Company #1 Fire House, 405 East Main Street, Madison, Indiana.

2. Secondary Sources:

a) Directories of the City of Madison, published by various companies: 1859-1860, 1860, 1867, 1871-1872, 1872-1873, 1875, 1879, 1887-1888, 1909, 1912, 1923, 1927, 1936, 1939, 1942, 1947, 1954, 1957, 1959, 1961, 1962, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970-1971.

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b) Sanbourn Map Company Madison, Jefferson County, Indiana,
August, 1927. (Sanbourn Map Company, Chicago, 1927)
page 13.

c) Souvenir Edition of the Daily Democrat
May 18, 1899. (Madison: Daily Democrat Co., 1899).

d) Cemetery Records of Jefferson County Indiana
(John Paul Chapter, D.A.R. Published Privately, 1941).

General Statement:

1. Architectural Merit and Interest: An example of a small manufacturing building displaying a good brick facade.
2. Condition of Fabric: Good

Description of Exterior:

1. Overall Dimensions: The six bay front, rectangular building is approximately sixty-feet wide by one hundred sixty feet long and is two story in the front portion.
2. Foundation: The stone foundation has stepped, coursed quarry-faced ashlar exposed on the exterior at the sides. There is a concrete foundation on the rear additions.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: The common bond red brick on the two-story front portion is painted white on the street facade. The second floor rear wall has vertical wood siding. An addition on the northwest rear has concrete block walls, painted with vertical wood siding on the gable ends.
4. Structural system, framing: Brick load-bearing walls with wooden framing.
5. Porches, stoops, bulkheads, etc.: There is an open-string wooden stair with seven steps at the rear west entrance. The steps have open risers and a simple wooden handrail on one side.
6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: There are three large double doorways opening at the east facade of the building, one into the cutting room and two to the storage room. The doorway into the cutting room has wooden surrounds, wooden threshold and a concrete sill. The wooden door has two panels below four

large light panels. The arched head of the opening has a fourteen light transom panel, with glass painted over. The doorways to the storage room have wooden surrounds, wooden threshold and concrete sill. The wooden door on the left has three vertical panels below ten light panels. There is an arched ten light transom panel. The door on the right has a panel below four large light panels with a fourteen light transom panel. All openings on the east facade have a round arched hood molding composed of a rowlock course with a projecting header course above, both painted dark green. There is a doorway at the rear of the large storage room on the west wall, with wooden surrounds and threshold. The wooden door has eight panels. There is a large wooden overhead garage door on the west wall to the right of the rear door.

- b. Windows and Shutters: There is a large display window on each side of the front entrance doorway on the left side. The wooden surrounds have a wooden panel across the lower section with a removable twenty-light glass sash above. There is a ten light arched transom panel above. There is a display window between the two double openings on the right side that is the same as the other two display windows.

Wooden windows on the second floor have six-over-six, single-hung light sashes, wooden surrounds and wooden sills. The six pair of double windows on the east facade have segmental arched hood molding composed of two rows of rowlock coursing, each projecting out with a projecting header course above.

There is an arched wooden panel infill between the flat top of the window and the arched opening. Openings on the sides of the building have been bricked in on the first floor.

Some of these have segmental arched heads.

7. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The roof over the two story portion of the building has a shed roof covered with asphalt shingles. The one story rear buildings have gable roofs with asphalt shingles.
- b. Cornice, eaves: The gabled roofs have boxed cornices with metal gutters and downspouts. Across the front facade there is a boxed corner with string moldings and console brackets. This cornice and brackets are all formed in metal and painted dark green.

Description of Interior:

1. Floor Plans:

- a. First floor: The entrance to the cutting room is in the center of the left half of the front facade. The large room extends the length of the building. There is a display window on each side of the main entrance. On the north wall at the front is a large opening into the storage room. There is a large opening on the north wall near the rear opening into the storage room. The storage room has two double openings in the east facade, one on each side of a display window in the center. On the north wall two window openings have been bricked in. There is a large opening in the west wall opening to a rear storage room. The rear

storage room has a large opening, with overhead door, leading to the exterior on the west and a passage doorway to the right of this opening. In the southwest corner is a large doorway opening into the cutting room.

- b. Second floor: The second floor is reached by an electric hoist. The one large storage room has two windows on the north wall and six pair of double windows across the east wall. A chimney has been torn out on the second floor.
2. Flooring: The second floor has wide wooden board flooring. The flooring on the first floor is concrete.
3. Walls and ceiling finish: Exterior walls are brick in the front portion of the building and the northwest part of the building has concrete block walls. There is a plywood portion between the cutting room and storage room. Storage rooms have exposed wood structure ceilings and there is a plywood ceiling in the cutting room.
4. Doorways and doors: There is a large opening between the cutting room and storage room that has wooden surrounds and a large wooden panel sliding door.
5. Mechanical Equipment:
 - a. Heating: There are two gas-fired unit heaters suspended from the ceiling in the cutting room. There are two large ventilating fans through the wall at the west wall.
 - b. Electrical: Modern fluorescent lighting fixtures.

Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The building faces east, on the west side of the street, in the middle of a long block. There are residential structures on each side and across the street. Immediately in front, across the street, is the old Walnut Street firestation, now the GOP headquarters. An alley runs by the rear of the building, with a small loading area at the rear door.

Prepared by: John P. White
Project Supervisor

August 1978

Project Information:

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey in cooperation with Historic Madison, Inc, and the Indiana Historical Society. Under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief, H.A.B.S., and Kenneth L. Anderson, Jr., Principal Architect, the project was completed during the summer of 1978 at the Historic American Buildings Survey Field Office, Madison, Indiana, by John P. White, Project Supervisor (Associate professor, Texas Tech University); John Hopkins, Project Historian (Skidmore College); and Student Assistant Architects Richard Berliner (Rhode Island School of Design); Jon Lourie (University of Maryland); Eric Swanson (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute); and Peter Whitehead (State University of New York at Buffalo).

ADDENDUM TO:
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Madison
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PHOTOGRAPHS

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National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
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