

The Old Miller Tavern
Cauley Bridge, Fayette County, West Virginia

HABS No. WVa, 21-11

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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of West Virginia

Historic American Buildings Survey
Herbert S. Kyle, District Officer
1107 Union Bldg., Charleston, W.Va.

THE OLD MILLER TAVERN
Gauley Bridge, Fayette County, West Virginia

Owner R. H. Miller.

Date of Erection About 1824.

Builder Builders of the James River-Kanawha Turnpike.

Present Condition Good. It is "T" shape in plan. The stem of the "T" comprises the kitchen or summer kitchen and dining room. Between the detached kitchen and the main building, there was a passage open at each end. It is a modified type of plan known as "Dog Run". The main dining room, however, is in the front, main portion of the building. Original site was approximately 40' S. 60' E. of present location.

Number of Stories The front or main portion of the building is two stories.

Materials of Construction The building appears to have been built in sections. The foundation is of native stone. The front, right-hand, room is of log construction, plastered inside and covered with weatherboarding on the exterior. The other walls, floor, ceiling and roof construction are wood frame. The chimneys are stone to a point above the fireplace openings on the second floor. From this point to the cap they are of brick. The roof is wood shingles. Puncheon floors of random width boards appear to have been railed with square cut or wrought iron nails.

Other Existing Records Family records, Tavern records and pictures, custody of J. H. Miller, Gauley Bridge, W. Va.

Additional Data The original owner of the house was one Mansaur. It was conveyed by him to James Hodges Miller, who was the proprietor of the West Side Tavern at Gauley Bridge and the Collector of Tolls at the covered bridge in 1861. The building represents a tavern of outstanding importance of the period in this section. Its location at the confluence of the Gauley and New Rivers, an important junction of the section, should be noted. Gauley Bridge was a strategic point in the occupation of this region throughout the War, and there was a

constant ebb and flow of both armies around the old house during the entire four years. Generals of both armies frequented the tavern. The Federal Generals, Jacob B. Cox, Rosecrans and Lightburn had headquarters there. William McKinley, Harrison and Rutherford B. Hayes were quartered there. Generals Wise, Loring and Floyd, of the Confederate Army, were frequently there.

The Miller House came under shell fire in the Fall of '61, when the Confederates undertook to drive the Union forces from Gauley Bridge.

James H. Miller, Sr., Proprietor of The Old Miller Tavern, was appointed Postmaster at Gauley Bridge by President Harrison, and served this post fifty-two years.

Information furnished by J. H. Miller, "Houses of the Past", by Forrest Hull, West Virginia Review, June 1927, p. 340.
 "The Destruction of Gauley Bridge", by Roy Byrd Cook, W. Va. Review, Oct. 1925, p. 5.
 History of Fayette County, p. 136, by J. T. Peters and J. B. Carden.
 Semi-Centennial History of W. Va., p. 155. By James Morton Callahan.
 History and Government of West Virginia, p. 132 By East & Maxwell.

Fluessa M. Mathes

Approved

Robert P. [Signature]
 District Officer.

June 25, 1936.

Renewed, July 31, 1936, [Signature]