

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC The Norris Miller House
AND/OR COMMON The Stovewood House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 118 North Mill St. NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CITY, TOWN Decorah CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
STATE Iowa VICINITY OF
Iowa CODE COUNTY Winneshiek CODE

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME ~~Charles J. Istad~~ Nonprofit - American Historical Museum
STREET & NUMBER 126 1/2 Collage Drive
CITY, TOWN Decorah STATE Iowa
VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Recorders Office, Winneshiek County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN Decorah STATE Iowa

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
DATE FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
CITY, TOWN STATE

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Miller Stovewood House is a simple one and one-half story dwelling with a vernacular Classical cornice and exterior window and door trim. The original portion of the house measures 22 x 26 feet and has a gable roof. The gabled end of the house presents a symmetrical appearance with a door flanked by two windows on the ground floor and a window above the door for the second floor. There are also two windows on either side of the house. The house has a full basement with walls of native limestone. The structure is of oak split in the manner of stovewood laid up with a mortar composed of ash and lime. The exterior walls are furred and covered with clapboards. They range from 16 to 18 inches in thickness.

The interior of the house is simple. There are four rooms on the first floor with simple cut wood floors and six over six double hung sash windows for light. A steep narrow stair leads to the second floor which has two rooms. The interior walls are of a traditional frame construction. The house was originally heated by wood stoves vented to a central chimney. The chimney is still extant below the roof line.

There are two additions to the house: both of frame construction. One to the rear of the house and the other to the rear portion of the south side.

being restored - will be open to pub

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1856

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Norris Miller

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Miller Stovewood House is one of three known dwellings of this type in the United States. At one point there were two other known houses of similar construction in Decorah, one was torn down twenty years ago, the other little over a year ago. The other two existing dwellings are located in Wisconsin.

Norris Miller, a carpenter, came to Decorah from Ohio in 1855 and purchased a townlot. A year later he built his house of stovewood. Miller's choice of oak stovewood as a building material is understandable. One hundred and twenty years ago large forests of oak surrounded Decorah, and oak stovewood was probably much more readily available and certainly less expensive than sawed boards. The existence of at least two other houses of similar construction built roughly at the same time, perhaps by Norris Miller, tends to confirm this.

House Location



