

BUILDING-STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM

DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION
NEW YORK STATE PARKS AND RECREATION
ALBANY, NEW YORK (518) 474-0479

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

UNIQUE SITE NO. 03342.000b/0
QUAD _____
SERIES _____
NEG. NO. _____

L

YOUR NAME: Phil Gallos/Mary B. Hotaling DATE: 9/21/83

YOUR ADDRESS: Box 59, Saranac Lake TELEPHONE: (518) 891-3080 ext 59

ORGANIZATION (if any): Historic Saranac Lake

IDENTIFICATION

- 1. BUILDING NAME(S): Owl's Nest/Journey's End; Miller's Store
- 2. COUNTY: Franklin TOWN/CITY: Harrietstown VILLAGE: Saranac Lake
- 3. STREET LOCATION: 42-44 Main Street *now 51 MAIN ST 2/9/2011*
- 4. OWNERSHIP: a. public b. private
- 5. PRESENT OWNER: Gregory C. Zeh ADDRESS: 42-44 Main St., Saranac Lake
- 6. USE: Original: general store Present: pizza parlor/bar
- 7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: Yes No
Interior accessible: Explain 1st floor businesses open to public

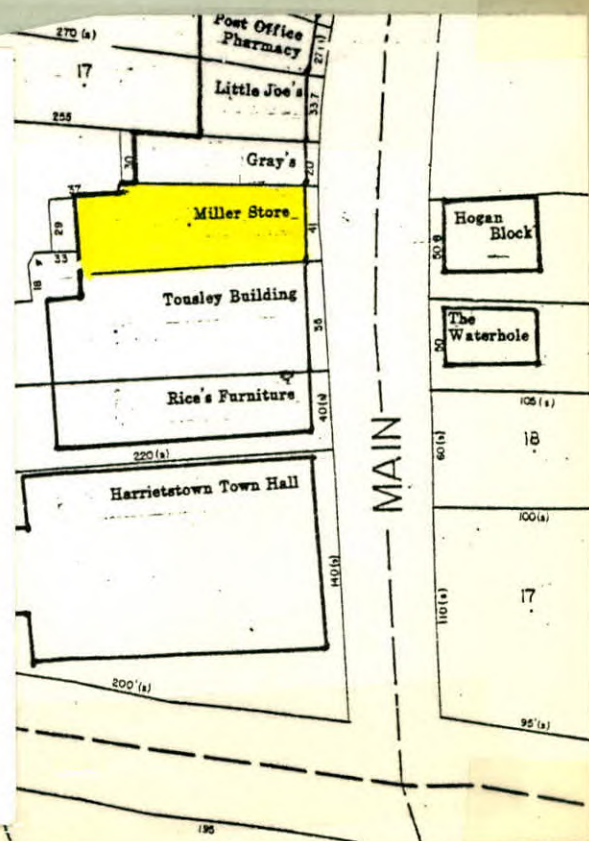
DESCRIPTION

- 8. BUILDING MATERIAL: a. clapboard b. stone c. brick d. board and batten
e. cobblestone f. shingles g. stucco other: _____
- 9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM: (if known) a. wood frame with interlocking joints wood frame
b. wood frame with light members
c. masonry load bearing walls
d. metal (explain) _____
e. other _____
- 10. CONDITION: a. excellent b. good c. fair d. deteriorated
- 11. INTEGRITY: a. original site b. moved if so, when? _____
c. list major alterations and dates (if known): _____

succession of unfortunate changes since June, 1945.

12. PHOTO:

13. MAP:



14. THREATS TO BUILDING: a. none known b. zoning c. roads
 d. developers e. deterioration
 f. other: _____
15. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS AND PROPERTY:
 a. barn b. carriage house c. garage
 d. privy e. shed f. greenhouse
 g. shop h. gardens
 i. landscape features: _____
 j. other: _____
16. SURROUNDINGS OF THE BUILDING (check more than one if necessary):
 a. open land b. woodland
 c. scattered buildings
 d. densely built-up e. commercial
 f. industrial g. residential
 h. other: _____
17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: In the Berkeley Square
 (Indicate if building or structure is in an historic district) Historic District.
18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE (including interior features if known):
 Third story, with mansard roof and dormers.

SIGNIFICANCE

19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: 1867, oldest commercial structure in
 the village
- ARCHITECT: _____
- BUILDER: Milo B. Miller, owner.
20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

SEE ATTACHED.

21. SOURCES: Franklin County Clerk's records, Malone, N.Y.
22. THEME: Saranac Lake: Pioneer Health Resort

THE SECOND EMPIRE GROUP : MILLER'S STORE

From 42 to 52 Main Street there is a group of four buildings three of which were built in the Second Empire mode. All of these were built by Milo B. Miller. The first of these to be built was 42-44 Main St. which was erected in 1867. It is therefore the oldest commercial structure in the village.

Until 1890, this three story, wood-frame building was the home of Miller's Store, a general merchandise operation that was the community's second such business. Then, Aaron Goldsmith leased the premises , and for the next 43 years it was the location of A. Goldsmith and Son, drygoods.

Charles H. Goldsmith took over the business from his father and then bought the building from the Miller Estate in Dec., 1921. Charles was not the businessman that Aaron was, however; and, by Oct., 1931, the store was in such deep financial trouble that a Committee of Creditors headed by Adirondack National Bank president John R. Freer was given quit claim to the property. One year and two months later, the bank received a warranty deed for bidding \$18,060.40 at a foreclosure proceeding. It was theirs until June, 1945.

Since then, the Miller Store building has housed a variety of businesses and has had six owners. Unfortunately, it seems that each of these has felt compelled to change the building's face; and this has been done not by removing previous alteration and starting anew or restoring the original but by simply covering, entirely or in part, what was most recent. Furthermore, there is a large, concrete block addition at rear.

Thus, the first two stories of this historic and once gracious structure are totally obscured. Still, above them, the third story with its mansard roof and dormers seems to float, untouched, weathered and brooding but a reminder that the Miller Store Building is not lost -- just hidden.

by Phil Gallos

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