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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  
Miller-Claytor House  
 AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
Treasure Island Road at Miller-Claytor Lane NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
 CITY, TOWN  
Lynchburg VICINITY OF Sixth (M. Caldwell Butler) CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
 STATE  
Virginia CODE 51 COUNTY (in city) CODE 680

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

| CATEGORY  | OWNERSHIP                                   | STATUS   | PRESENT USE  |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT               | <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED       | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM                |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE | <input 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                   | <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION | <input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE                | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT                 | <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC                        |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED   | <input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED          | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION                    |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> NO                        | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER Charitable Offices |

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
Lynchburg Historical Foundation  
 STREET & NUMBER  
Eox 3154  
 CITY TOWN  
Lynchburg VICINITY OF \_\_\_\_\_ STATE  
Virginia

**5 LOCATION OF ~ G A DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE.  
 REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC Lynchburg Courthouse  
 STREET & NUMBER  
 CITY, TOWN  
Lynchburg STATE  
Virginia

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (2)**

TITLE  
(1) Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory (see Continuation Sheet #1)  
 DATE  
no date  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL  
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
Library of Congress  
 CITY, TOWN  
Washington STATE  
D. C.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET 1

ITEM NUMBER 6

PAGE 1

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS:

- (2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey  
1967, 1975 State  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
221 Governor Street  
Richmond, Virginia code: 51

# DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION                                     |                                       | CHECK ONE                                   | CHECK ONE                                 |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED          | <input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD                 | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR                 | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED    |   | DATE <u>1940</u>                          |

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Miller-Claytor House, which stood until 1936 on a busy intersection at the corner of 8th and Church Streets in downtown Lynchburg, now occupies a pleasant site on the edge of Riverside Park in a residential section of the city. It is a two-story, white framed structure, sheathed with beaded weatherboards. There is a box cornice at the eaves of the gable roof which is covered with standing-seam sheet metal. The house is underpinned with stone and has two end chimneys, one (presently) exterior stack built of stone to the weatherings, with brick above, and featuring a closed-in exterior fireplace where a dilapidated kitchen wing was removed, and the other an interior brick chimney with an exposed two-story flush panel of Flemish-bond brickwork on the gable end. A one-story porch runs the length of the rear of the house.

Its two front doors, in the second and fourth of its five ground-floor bays, mark the house as one of a type often found in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Virginia but as yet unaccounted for. The three ground-floor windows have six-over-nine sash and louvered blinds, and the four second-floor bays are lit by six-over-six sash which also have louvered blinds.

The house has a pre-Georgian first-floor plan with a hall (dining room) and parlor but no central passage. In the inside rear corner of the larger of the two rooms (the parlor), there is a stair consisting of an open-string flight with turned balusters, a slender turned newel, and a molded handrail, several winders in the corner, and then a closed-in flight against the partition wall. The only significant decorative feature in the room is the mantel. A pair of fluted Roman Doric pilasters frame a segmentally arched firebox and support a plain frieze with entablature blocks and a central tablet. A band of dentilwork sets the frieze off from the molded shelf. There is a double-beaded chairboard carried around the room.

The dining room has a mantel very similar to that in the parlor, except that there is no central tablet in the frieze, and the dentils are of a slightly different form. Flush wainscot with a molded cap sheathes the walls of this room. On the second floor are two nondescript Greek Revival mantels of a later date than the house; the third floor has no fireplaces. Architrave door and window frames and six-panel, raised-panel doors with iron locks and HL hinges are used throughout the house.

The building benefited from a careful moving and restoration. It was rescued from a very dilapidated condition and returned to a sound state with most of its original fabric retained.

DTU

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

| PERIOD         | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW |                           |                           |                        |  |
|----------------|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|--|
| ___PREHISTORIC | ___ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC                        | ___COMMUNITY PLANNING     | ___LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | ___RELIGION            |  |
| ___1400-1499   | ___ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC                           | ___CONSERVATION           | ___LAW                    | ___SCIENCE             |  |
| ___1500-1599   | ___AGRICULTURE                                   | ___ECONOMICS              | ___LITERATURE             | ___SCULPTURE           |  |
| ___1600-1699   | XX ARCHITECTURE                                  | ___EDUCATION              | ___MILITARY               | ___SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |  |
| XX 1700-1799   | ___ART   | ___ENGINEERING            | ___MUSIC                  | ___THEATER             |  |
| ___1800-1899   | ___COMMERCE                                      | ___EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | ___PHILOSOPHY             | ___TRANSPORTATION      |  |
| ___1900-       | ___COMMUNICATIONS                                | ___INDUSTRY               | ___POLITICS/GOVERNMENT    | ___OTHER (SPECIFY)     |  |
|                |  | ___INVENTION              |                           |                        |  |

SPECIFIC DATES 1791

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Miller-Claytor House, originally located in downtown Lynchburg, is believed to be the fourth house to have been erected in the new town, and is probably the oldest extant Lynchburg dwelling. Moved to a new site in the city's Riverside Park in order to be preserved, the house survives as an interesting example of urban vernacular architecture. Among the prominent Lynchburgers to have lived there are Thomas Wiatt, the city's first mayor, and Ann Ursula Byrd, widow of Francis Otway Byrd of Westover.

In 1790, John Miller, a local tavern keeper, purchased Lot 15 in the newly organized town of Lynchburg from Nathaniel Thackson for £40. It is almost certain that he built the present house soon afterward. Three years later he sold the quarter-acre lot "with the mansion house" to his son-in-law Thomas Wiatt for a token sum of five shillings. A Mutual Assurance Society policy taken out by Wiatt in 1799 describes the structure essentially as it remains: a "Dwelling house 34 feet by 20. two stories high built of wood & covered with wood. underpin<sup>d</sup> with stone. two brick chimneys--". Wiatt sold the house in 1802 to William Warwick who lived there for eight years. In 1805 Wiatt was elected Lynchburg's first mayor. Benjamin Essex, who owned the property from 1810 until 1825 was a tailor and his wife was a milliner. His shop and milliner house run by his wife, along with their dwelling were located in the same block with the Miller-Claytor House. The 1819 mortgage indicates that the house was for rental purposes. Among the renters in this time period was the family of Owen Owens. Mrs. Owens opened a school in Lynchburg for girls teaching art, penmanship, and needlework. This family had a substantial library and eventually launched the city's first circulating library.

Samuel Claytor bought the house that bears his name for his wife in 1825, for \$1,000. From Claytor's estate it passed in 1837 to Andrew Elliot and then four years later to Ambrose Page. It was Page who rented the dwelling to Ann Ursula Byrd (died 1844); his family held the property until 1921. In 1936, the imminent demolition of the house to make way for a service station led to the formation of the Lynchburg Historical Society and the subsequent removal of the house to its present site.

DTU & MTP



USGS 7½' quadrangle (scale: 1:24000)  
Lynchburg, Va. 1963 (PR 1968)

MILLER-CLAYTOR HOUSE, LYNCHBURG  
UTM References:  
17/662460/4144710

