

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

Feb 1, 1979

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Miller-Kite House (Preferred)

216-5063

AND/OR COMMON

Kite House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

302 Rockingham Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Elkton

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Seventh (J. Kenneth Robinson)

STATE

Virginia

VICINITY OF

CODE

51

COUNTY

Rockingham

CODE

165

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

 DISTRICT BUILDING(S) STRUCTURE SITE OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

 PUBLIC PRIVATE BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

 IN PROCESS BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

 OCCUPIED UNOCCUPIED WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

 YES- RESTRICTED YES- UNRESTRICTED NO

PRESENT USE

 AGRICULTURE COMMERCIAL EDUCATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL MILITARY MUSEUM PARK PRIVATE RESIDENCE RELIGIOUS SCIENTIFIC TRANSPORTATION OTHER, Vacant**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Miss Mary Elizabeth Kite

STREET & NUMBER

Box 107

CITY, TOWN

Elkton

STATE

Virginia 22827

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Rockingham County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Harrisonburg

STATE

Virginia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey

DATE

April 1978

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission - 221 Governor Street

CITY, TOWN

Richmond

STATE

Virginia 23219

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Miller-Kite House stands on Elk Run near the Shenandoah River at the eastern edge of Elkton in Rockingham County. Formerly a rural dwelling, it is now part of a residential street. The house was built in 1827 for Henry Miller, Jr. It is a two-story, L-shaped structure, five bays long, built of brick laid in Flemish bond with a molded ovolo water table and a five-course molded brick cornice (now covered by a Victorian box cornice). Plain jack arches are used over the windows which have 9/6 sash and louvred blinds. The entrance is embellished with a frontispiece doorway consisting of symmetrically molded pilasters supporting tall entablature blocks with vertical elliptical paterae. Couged stars enrich the architrave band, and the tall frieze is occupied by a semicircular fanlight with a central keystone and recessed-panel intrados. The whole is surmounted by an open pediment enriched with a rope molding. The gable roof was altered slightly in the early 20th century; a central cross gable was added, and the eaves were extended and decorated with sawnwork filigree. The roof is covered with standing-seam sheet metal and crowned with semi-exterior end chimneys.

In 1848 the L-shaped ground plan of the house was expanded to a rectangle with the addition of a two-story frame lean-to in the reentrant angle. This plain structure is covered with weatherboards and has 6/6 sash and a "rock" (rubble limestone) chimney with a brick stack.

The plan of the Miller-Kite House is a common Shenandoah Valley variant of the traditional "I-house" plan. There is a single room on either side of the passage in the front section and a single room in the original ell. The main stair is located in the front passage, while an auxiliary stair in the ell leads to a second-floor chamber which originally had no access to the other second-floor rooms. The frame section extended the front passage and added another (southeastern) room, creating a central-passage, double-pile plan.

The decoration throughout the house shows the characteristic Valley elaboration and exaggeration of elements. In the northeast room, recessed-panel wainscot is carried around the room. Symmetrically molded trim with bull's-eye paterae borders the door and window openings. The rear window openings here were altered to closets when the mid-19th-century addition was made. The mantel consists of coupled fluted colonnettes with turned caps of no classical order supporting entablature blocks with applied-mold panels, framing incised tulip designs, and a shelf, broken out over the blocks. The shelf is composed of five levels of heavy moldings, each corbeled out beyond the one below. The tall frieze is divided into two horizontal panels, with the upper one slightly taller than the lower, each featuring a sinuous applied vine with stylized tulips in the center.

The passage is decorated with recessed-panel wainscoting similar to that in the northeast room. The open-string stair has pierced sawn brackets, a paneled spandrel, and two slender round balusters to a tread. The round banister, which is echoed on the wall, is ramped and eased at the newels and is carried over the top of the lower newel, where it ends in a large knob. The interior doors here and throughout the first floor are grained, and an original iron lock survives on the rear door.

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

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 checked="" 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		

CARPENTER

SPECIFIC DATES

1827

~~BUILDER/ARCHITECT~~

Samuel Gibbons

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Miller-Kite House in Elkton is a particularly fine example of a substantial Shenandoah Valley plantation house of the early 19th century. Its handsome brickwork and frontispiece doorway are outstanding features, as are its German-influenced interior woodwork and characteristic Valley plan. Built in 1827 for Henry Miller, Jr., a grandson or great-grandson of the earliest known European settler west of the Blue Ridge, the house is one of the few in the area with which a specific craftsman's name--that of Samuel Gibbons, its carpenter and joiner--is associated. In addition, it is traditionally believed to have been the headquarters of General Thomas J. Jackson during the time that the renowned Valley Campaign was planned.

Adam Miller, a Swiss, is believed to have settled along Elk Run near the present site of Elkton early in the second quarter of the 18th century, and it is on a portion of his original tract that the present house was built. The precise means through which Henry Miller, Jr., acquired the tract is uncertain since the Rockingham County records were seriously damaged by fire. He does, however, appear for the first time in the county land tax books in 1823, charged with 71½ acres of land on Elk Run. Three years later, he was charged with the ownership of 314½ acres of land, with the notation "By George Baugher". On December 26 of that year (1826), Miller agreed with Samuel Gibbons of Rockingham County "to do the joiners and carpenters work of a Brick House to be built on the place where the said Henry Miller now lives, the House to be 42 feet long and 20 feet wide with an Ell of 18 ft. long by 16 feet wide, each to be two stories high with 27 windows fifteen lights each, 10 by 12, Nine Panel Doors, Waynscoat all the rooms downstairs, two stair case one open and one boxed, and is to do all the joiners work necessary to be done such as floors, petitions, chimney and closets and every thing necessary to complete said House" The contract is a very precise description of the house that stands on the lot now. In its use of an original ell, with a back stair serving the second floor ell room which had no communication with the other second-floor chambers, Miller's new house adhered to the vernacular norm of the antebellum Shenandoah Valley. In addition, the woodwork which Gibbons installed incorporated Germanic elements, notably the tulip-and-vine work of the mantels. That Gibbons, who was not German, should use these elements is evidence of the strength of the Continental aesthetic which was among the most lasting European contributions to the 19th-century architecture of western Virginia. Miller's house also had brightly painted grained and marbled trim, as most contemporary houses in the area apparently did.

In 1829 the value of the buildings on Miller's land jumped to \$1500, five times their 1826 value, reflecting the completion of his house. In 1843 John A. Argabright, Sr., purchased the house from his father-in-law, and by 1848 he had added the frame addition which increased his building valuation to \$1700 in the tax records.

In April 1862, it is believed, Confederate General Thomas Jackson used the Miller-Kite House as his headquarters. Moving south through the Valley, his dispatches were dated "Conrad's Store (the small village which was renamed Elkton in the late 19th century),

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Douglas, Henry Kyd. I Rode With Stonewall. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina, 1940.
- Henderson, Lieutenant Colonel G.F.R., Stonewall Jackson and the American Civil War. Vol. I
New York, London & Bombay: Longman's, Green & Co., 1903.
- Kite, Mary Elizabeth. Telephone Interviews & Correspondence.
- The Official Atlas of the Civil War. New York: Thomas Yoseloff, Inc., 1958. (To accompany
the Official Military Records of both the Union and the Confederacy. First published
1891-1895). (See Continuation Sheet #2)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA less than

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Elkton, Virginia

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 17 7081710 4253640
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION The Miller-Kite House is located on a small rectangular city lot running from the S side of Rockingham Street S to Elk Run and measuring approximately 80' X 300', the 80' fronting on Rockingham Street.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE

August 1978

STREET & NUMBER

221 Governor Street

TELEPHONE

(804) 786-3144

CITY OR TOWN

Richmond

STATE

Virginia 23219

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Tucker Hill

TITLE Tucker Hill, Executive Director
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE 007 17 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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The Miller-Kite House, Rockingham County, Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET #1

ITEM NUMBER 7 & 8 PAGE 1

7. DESCRIPTION

In the northwest room the recessed-panel wainscoting of the previous rooms is repeated. The mantel consists of symmetrically molded pilasters supporting molded-panel entablature blocks. The frieze is divided horizontally into three molded panels, each with fluted quadrant fans in the corners; the central panel has a circular fluted patera while those flanking it have semicircular fluted fans. The whole is surmounted by a sharply molded shelf broken over the blocks.

The ell room is decorated with a double-beaded chair board and a mantel consisting of symmetrically molded pilasters again supporting entablature blocks. These, however, have concentric panels, each slightly recessed from the one surrounding it. Again, a sharply molded shelf broken out over the entablature blocks is fused. In the northeast corner is an undecorated L-plan stair enclosed above the turn.

The passage in the addition is undecorated, but it does have a small enclosed stair in the southwest corner. A Greek Revival door with two vertical recessed panels leads to the southeast room. The only decoration here is a Greek Revival mantel with plain pilasters, entablature blocks, and frieze supporting an unmolded shelf. Of note on the second floor is the surviving graining on the passage baseboard, as well as grey marbleizing on the treads of the attic stairs.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The register bounds approximate the property bounds of this small city lot.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

near Swift Run Gap" beginning on April 20. Jackson stayed in the area until April 30, conferring in person and in writing with Johnston, Ewell and Lee. From Conrad's store Jackson moved a few miles farther south, engaging the northern army at the battles of Port Republic and Cross Keys during the first week in May. Although direct documentation of his use of the Miller-Kite House during his stay at Conrad's Store is lacking, the tradition of his having done so dates back at least to the 19th century.

John Argabright's widow and sons inherited the house and held it until 1871, when it was sold to John Cover of Greene County for \$1984. Cover conveyed it along with 100 acres of land years later to W. E. Kite for \$5041.25. The Kite family still owns the house. Although it is vacant, possibilities of returning it to active use are being investigated.

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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Miller-Kite House, Rockingham, Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET #2

ITEM NUMBER 9

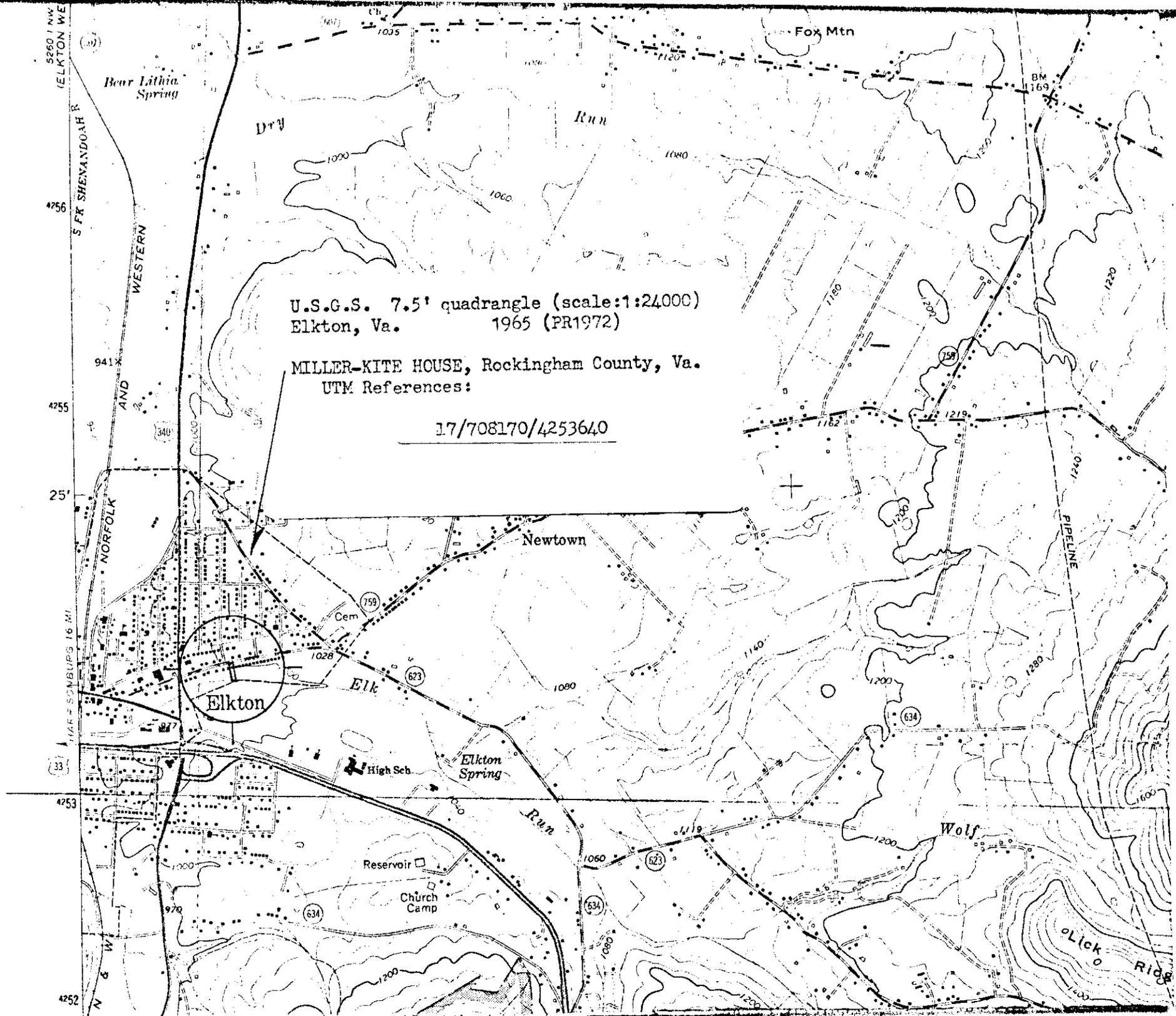
PAGE 2

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Poague, William Thomas. Gunner with Stonewall. A Memoir Written for his Children in 1903. Jackson, Tennessee; 1957.

Rockingham County Deed Books 7, 15, 16, 17, 24, & 8.
Land Tax Books 1782-1885.

The War of the Rebellion. Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies.
Series 1, Vol. XII, Parts 1. & 3. Washington, D. C.: Government Printing Office, 1885.



U.S.G.S. 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)
Elkton, Va. 1965 (PR1972)

MILLER-KITE HOUSE, Rockingham County, Va.
UTM References:

17/708170/4253640

5250 / NW
ELKTON WE
4256
S. PR SHENANDOAH R
WESTERN
941
AND
4255
25'
NORFOLK
THAR - SONBURG 16 MI
33
4253
4252

Bear Lithia Spring

Dry

Run

Fox Mtn

BM 1169

U.S.G.S. 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)
Elkton, Va. 1965 (PR1972)

MILLER-KITE HOUSE, Rockingham County, Va.
UTM References:

17/708170/4253640

941

NORFOLK

Newtown

Cem

Elkton

Elk

High Sch

Elkton Spring

Reservoir

Church Camp

Wolf

Lick Ridge