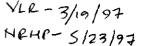
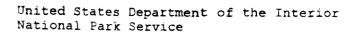
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NPS Form 10-900 (Rev. 10-90)

OMB No. 1024-0018

VLR-3/19/97





NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in Now to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or my entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 18-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

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Dr. John Miller-Masury House	Virginia Beach VA		
5. Classification			
Commership of Property Category of Property (Check as many boxes as apply) (Check only one box) x private x building(s) public-local district public-State site public-Federal structure object	Number of Resources within Property Contributing Noncontributing 1 0 buildings 0 sites 1 0 structures 0 0 objects 2 0 Total		
Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A	Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A		
6. Function or Use			
Historic Functions (Enter Categories from instructions) DOMESTIC/single dwelling COMMERCE/TRADE	Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions) DOMESTIC/single dwelling COMMERCE/TRADE/professional		
7. Description			
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)	Materials (Enter categories from instructions)		
LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY REVIVAL	walls granite slate		

roof fiberglass

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance		
Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing) x A Property is associated with events that have made a significant	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions) ARCHITECTURE	_
contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION	- -
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.		_
<u>x</u> C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents		A STATE OF THE STA
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significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.	1906 - 1908	_
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yield information important in prehistory or history.	Significant Dates	
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Property is:	1908	_
_ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked ab	oove)
_ B removed from its original location.	N/A	_
$_{f C}$ a birthplace or a grave.	Cultural Affiliation	
D a cemetery.	N/A	<u> </u>

Architect/Builder

Eberhard, Arnold

Narrative Statement of Significance

 $_{f L}$ **F** a commemorative property.

structure.

_ E a reconstructed building, object, or

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

	graphical References			
Bibliography (Cite the books, as		eparing this form on one or more cont	tinuation sheets.)	
Previous documentation on file (NPS): preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested. previously listed in the National Register previously determined eligible by the National Register designated a National Historic Landmark		Primary Location of Additional Data: x State Historic Preservation Office Other State agency Federal agency x Local government University Other Name of repository:		
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A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or

Dr. John Miller-Masury House

numerous resources.

Virginia Beach, VA

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

######################################				
Property Cwner				
(Complete th s item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)				
name Francis J. Reidy and Mrs. Juliette Reidy				
street & number 515 Wilder Point	telephone (757) 428-8336			
city or town Virginia Beach	state_VA_ zip code _23451			

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 200'3-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 21503.

NPS Form 10-900-a

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Dr. John Miller-Masury House name of property

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ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

Greystone Manor is located at the western end of 52nd Street on the east side of Crystal Lake in Virginia Beach, about ten blocks north of the resort area. Designed in the Scottish baronial style by Norfolk architect Arnold Eberhard, the large house required two years to complete.¹ It is an approximate 12,000 square foot, 2½ story stone and slate house with an L-shaped plan, covered by two hipped roofs which intersect at a three story castelated tower. The foundation, first floor, tower, six chimneys, and a projecting parapeted cross gable over the entrance are of rock faced random ashlar blue granite laid with a colored, beaded mortar joint. The second floor is covered with green slate applied in shingles. The original red clay tile roof has been replaced by fiberglass shingles. Except for the roof and some replacement windows in the kitchen, the house retains an extremely high degree of integrity, retaining even the wooden balustrades surrounding the front and side porches. Its style, materials, and size are unique for its period and location.

ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

The main block of the house is a south facing symmetrical five bay unit with a projecting central pavilion which is accented by dressed limestone quoins and coping. A deep, full width, one story porch wraps around the east to the side entrance. The porch's foundation walls extend up past its floor to form a low parapet which supports fourteen tapered, octagonal wooden columns. The flat porch roof is enclosed by a wooden balustrade with Gothic trefoil ornamentation. On the second floor of the facade, centered in the projecting entrance pavilion, is an angled bay window, flanked by single jack-arched windows. Flanking the projecting pavilion on the second floor are three French doors which have transoms with Gothic tracery. A fourth French door on the west has been replaced by a double hung window. The third floor of the pavilion has triple arched ribbon windows with tracery in the upper sashes. There are also two gabled dormers flanking the pavilion.



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At the west of the facade, a crenellated tower stands at the juncture of the two wings. There are belt courses of dressed limestone above the first and third story windows of the tower.

Slightly recessed behind the tower, the extended wing has one bay on the south side and eight bays along the west side. In 1984, as part of a kitchen remodeling, a door and two adjoining vinyl clad casement windows were cut into this elevation to permit access from the kitchen to a deck which extends to the west. The north end of this wing is a one story unit with a low, stepped parapeted gable and two windows. Both of these windows are vinyl clad replacements, one a casement window and the other a one-over-one sash window. The east side of the wing has a full length porch which was glassed in by a previous owner. The porch columns are full length versions of those on the front porch. The porch roof is pierced by two skylights added in 1984.

The north side of the main block has eight bays and a door at the intersection with the wing. An oriel window marks the location of the main staircase landing between the first and second floors. There are three gabled dormers on the third floor on this side.

The east side of the main block features a secondary entrance which formerly served a carriage drive. A three bay one story porch has columns and balustrade which match that of the main facade. The porch floor is a continuation of the south facade porch, however, the corner of the porch is treated as an uncovered terrace. On the second floor, centered French doors give entrance to the roof of the porch. There are two gable dormers on the third floor of this side.

Greystone Manor is located on a small point on Crystal Lake such that both the south and west elevations face the lake. The site was raised so that all the waterfront rooms would enjoy an expansive view. Both the south and east porches were designed with flat roofs, easily accessed by French doors, for leisure space.

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While the exterior depends on its expensive, rarely used materials and sheer volume for impact, the interior is richly adorned with fine detailed woodwork in a classical style. The glazed and paneled double doors of the south entrance open into a wide foyer terminating at an imperial staircase. The broad stairs rise from between a pair of Ionic columns, ascend to a bay windowed landing, then split into two narrower stairs which run back 180° from the broader stair to the second floor.

The main block of the house is organized along an axial plan. The exterior projecting porch steps lead to the projecting pavilion entrance which leads directly to the most important single feature of the interior - the staircase. Running perpendicular to this axis is an east-west transverse hall, to the east of which opens a library on the north and parlor on the south. The parlor has scrolled foliate motifs on the plastered ceiling; matching plaster work surrounds a mirror over the elaborate cast plaster mantel. To the west of the foyer, ceiling beams indicate the location of former room divisions (wall, partial wall, or columns) which stood between the foyer and the living room and, probably, a continuation of the cross hall. The tower opens onto the southwest corner of this room. This space was opened up and used as a ballroom by the Crystal Club.²

The large dining room at the southern end of the wing has a beamed ceiling with embossed panels between the beams. The presence of an exterior chimney flanked by smaller windows indicates that the room probably had an inglenook style fireplace, which has been removed. The dining room opens to the north into a service area with pantry, back hall, kitchen, sitting room, and enclosed porch.

All of the major first floor rooms (except the parlor) and hall have raised panel wainscoting. Early photographs show natural woodwork, but it has all been painted. The eastern end of the east-west cross hall woodwork has been stripped to reveal fine grained hardwood. An early newspaper

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article states that the woodwork was mahogany, but the craftsman who stripped it has tentatively identified it as California redwood.

On the second floor of the main block, five large rooms and the stairs open onto a wide central hall which runs east-west; in the wing a back hall running north-south leads to two more rooms. The two corner rooms on the south side of the main hall have French doors which open on to the front porch roof. In the southwest room one French window was replaced by a double hung sash, probably during its Crystal Club days. The eastern end of the main hall also has French doors to the roof of the side porch. There are four bathrooms on this floor, one of which opens onto the east-west hall.

The third floor, accessed by the service stairs in the north-south hall, is comprised of a five room apartment. A smaller stairway leads up to a storage attic. The house previously had an elevator which has been removed, but the pulley still remains in the attic atop the elevator shaft.

The house was designed by Arnold Eberhard (c.1860 - 1946), who was active in Norfolk from around 1890 until he moved to Philadelphia in 1914. Eberhard is known to have designed several large houses in the Ghent and Larchmont neighborhoods in Norfolk.

The interior decoration of the house was done by E. G. Potter & Company of New York, at a reported cost of nearly \$12,000. There are nine extant fireplaces, most with surrounds of narrow glazed tiles. The library fireplace surround is of handmade square tiles accented with two glazed figural tiles. The foyer fireplace mantel has been altered by the removal of flanking Ionic columns and the tile surround has been replaced by marble.

There is one service building remaining on the property. Probably dating from the Wilder ownership is a yellow brick doghouse with a slate roof. It is an approximately twelve feet tall, symmetrical, three bay structure 12 feet wide and 9 feet deep, with a round arch door flanked by

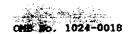
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diamond pane casement windows. The south end has a rose window under the gable end and two arched top openings at the floor level.

A wooden garden wall behind the kitchen repeats the trefoil motif of the porch balustrade. On the south and southwest sides of the property is a brick retaining wall topped by a garden wall. The central portion of the garden wall is a pattern of linked circles, and the terminating piers repeat the trefoil motif. A former garage is now a separately owned dwelling on th adjoining property.



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Virginia Beach, VA Vivo

SUMMARY PARAGRAPH

Greystone Manor is being nominated under both Criterion C and Criterion A. Greystone represents one of the few examples in Virginia of the Scottish baronial style of architecture, synthesizing elements and materials of the earlier Gothic revival with the more formal massing and symmetry of the Colonial Revival. Secondarily, Greystone Manor relates to the context "Entertainment/Recreation" at the local level for its role as the Crystal Club, a gambling casino and nightclub which flourished from 1936 to 1939. Crystal Club represents one step in the development of Virginia Beach from a sedate ocean front resort in Princess Anne County to a booming city that has grown to attract vacationers from as far away as Canada.

Greystone Manor has two distinct periods of significance. The first is its actual construction, which took two years, and is reputed to have cost \$130,000. It was acknowledged at the time as the largest and finest home in southeastern Virginia. The second period of significance coincided with its use as the Crystal Club.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Greystone Manor was built by Dr. John W. Miller-Masury, heir to the Masury Paint fortune. He was actually descended from the Masury family through his mother, but his father, Frederick Lewis Miller, changed his last name to Miller-Masury after marrying the daughter of John W. Masury. The company then became "John W. Masury & Son". John Miller-Masury received his medical degree from Columbia University, but is not known to have practiced medicine. In October of 1905, he and Martha Lewis Miller of Boston were married in Norfolk. Martha, his first cousin, was a widow with two children. He adopted the children, Frances Maria Miller-Masury and Arthur John Miller-Masury, and he and Martha had one child, Alice Martha Miller-Masury.

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In November of 1905, Miller-Masury paid Susan Uber \$21,000 for approximately 100 acres of the "Ubermeer" property that had been platted into 241 lots. He was later able to purchase several lots and a railroad right-of-way which had been sold by Susan Uber prior to 1905, bringing his holdings to about 130 acres. The property boundary ran east-west along present-day 58th Street, south along the ocean, westward along 51st Street to the east side of Crystal Lake, and then northward to 58th Street. 10

While his home, which he called Lakeside, was being constructed, he and his family lived in a house on the beach front. When it was built, there were no other houses along that portion of Crystal Lake and old photographs show a line of pine trees standing to the east of the house. It is not known where the beach house was located, nor if it still exists.

In 1908, Dr. Miller-Masury deeded to Martha the "buildings, all improvements, personal property, household and kitchen furniture, horses, wagons, farming implements and all other articles on the property." It was not unusual at this time for a house to be in the wife's name, and the mortgage, if any, to be in the husband's. The husband retained curtsey rights, and the wife could not sell without his permission.

The scale of the building, the novelty of its materials, and curiosity at its location deep in the wilderness (as early newspaper articles termed the site) led to great interest on the part of the public. On the occasion of its completion, a May 1908 Virginian-Pilot newspaper article gives many details (and possibly some exaggerations) about the house. The writer gives Dr. Miller-Masury's worth as \$7,000,000 and the cost of the house and land as \$150,000. Since the real estate records show the land was valued at \$21,000, this puts the cost of the house at nearly \$130,000.

However, Miller-Masury did not build just a house, but, the centerpiece of a self-sufficient estate complete with its own electric power plant, wind mill, a water heater capable of handling a thousand gallons, fruit orchards, vegetable gardens, and stables. According to local legend, Dr. Miller-Masury was part owner of the "Green Hornet", a trolley car which ran from Virginia Beach to Cape Henry. The trolley stopped at the entrance to Lakeside. 15

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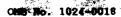
Dr. John Miller-Masury House name of property

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Dr. Miller-Masury served as a ship's captain in the Navy during World War I, no doubt as a result of his experience in racing his personal ocean going yachts. At some point after the war, he moved to Sierra Madre, California, where he purchased an estate formerly owned by Luther Burbank. He died there in January, 1938, and his obituary in the Virginia Beach News cites "the construction of his palatial home as one of the factors which spurred other outsiders to build substantial homes here." The article also refers to the legendary, but unsubstantiated story that Dr. Miller-Masury's house was considered for a summer White House by President Hoover. One story is that the contract was actually signed, but the sale subsequently fell through before closing.

In 1914 Martha Miller-Masury filed a Declaration vacating all the lots on the Ubermeer plat. 17 The land was resurveyed and platted in June, 1926, and in April, 1927, it was mortgaged to Seaboard National Bank for \$85,000. 18 Along with the Deed of Trust, Martha filed a power-of-attorney to sign for Dr. Miller-Masury. In February, 1928, Martha sold the Ubermeer lots to McCaa Realty, a corporation chartered in Norfolk. 19 The following month, McCaa Realty filed a name change to Masury Corporation. Martha Miller-Masury was listed as president, her son, Arthur Miller-Masury as secretary, and the location was changed from Norfolk to Virginia Beach. 20 For the next ten years Masury Corporation was a major real estate company in Virginia Beach, claiming among its holdings not only Ubermeer, but properties in Cape Henry and Atlantic Beach Hills. 21 Over one hundred sales and purchases by Masury Corporation are found in the Virginia Beach real estate records. Martha died shortly after Dr. Miller-Masury and was buried beside him in Arlington National Cemetery. 22

In May 1935, Masury Corporation leased Lakeside to Crystal Incorporated, which had been organized by three Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina men for the purpose of opening a club in the Masury mansion. The terms of the lease included granting Crystal Incorporated the right to make any necessary alterations to the interior of the house. It was at this time that the changes to the foyer, living room, and hall were made to create a large open space used as a ballroom. A newspaper article heralding Crystal Club states that \$15,000 was being spent on renovations,



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and estimated that there would be seating for four hundred people. The president of Crystal Incorporated was William Allsbrook; he was also known in Virginia Beach as Bill Allsbrook, and his Carolina Club Orchester.

provided the music for the club.24

The Crystal Club flourished for several years and is still remembered by local residents. The club offered dancing and floor shows. One local story is that most of the club's patrons came across the lake by boat so that, when the lookouts stationed at the land entrance saw the police approaching and gave a warning, the guests could head back across the lake to their parked cars.

After the demise of the Crystal Club, the house and four surrounding acres were purchased in March 1939 by Wachovia Bank and Trust on behalf of the estate of Samuel F. Patterson who had died in 1926.²⁵ Like the organizers of Crystal Incorporated, he had also been from Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina. Patterson had been a prominent figure in textile manufacturing and had been elected president of the American Cotton Manufacturing Association shortly before his death.²⁶ Very little is known about the tenure of the Patterson estate; when the property was sold in June, 1942, Patterson's widow, Nancy Patterson, and daughter, Mary Blythe Patterson, signed the deed.²⁷

William and Almira Wilder, who owned numerous motion picture theaters in southeastern Virginia were the purchasers. It is believed that he made extensive improvements to the grounds, building the retaining wall, garden wall, dog house, and the stone piers which mark each end of the circular driveway. The Wilders also gave the house the name Greystone by which it is known today.

The Wilder family lived at Greystone until 1967, when it was purchased by Andreae Hodgson and his wife Anne. In December of 1967 they subdivided the property, retaining three acres for development, and selling Greystone and one acre to Charles and Margaret Emanuelson. An article in the Virginian-Pilot in December of 1977 lists Charles Emanuelson as a retired industrialist, and his wife as a clinical psychologist. 30

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The current owners purchased the house in 1980 and have lived in it since 1984. It was in poor condition at the time of purchase during numerous roof leaks. The red clay tile roof was replaced with the current composition shingle roof.

Other than the loss of the original roof, the house retains a very high degree of architectural integrity. Although it is no longer a country estate, the house is sited such that it still seems remote from its neighbors, facing as it does on the lake.

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Dr. John Miller-Masury House name of property

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ENDNOTES'

- 1. "Dr. Masury's Mansion in the Wilderness, Virginia Beach." Virginian Pilot. May 17, 1908, p. 13.
- 2. "Masury Mansion Being Changed Into Night Club." <u>Virginia Beach News</u>. May 30, 1935, p.1.
- 3. "Dr. Masury's Mansion in the Wilderness, Virginia Beach."
- 4. Ibid.
- 5. Ibid.
- 6. Ibid.
- 7. "John W. Masury." National Cyclopaedia of American Biography, 1891, V, pp. 155-6. and "Dohse, John", Ibid. 1895, vol. 14, pp. 143-4.
- 8. Notes from Col. William K. Rockey, son of Frances Maria Miller-Masury and her husband K. E. Rocky, and Norfolk Marriage Records, Book 4, p. 22.
- 9. Virginia Beach Real Estate Records, Deed Book 76, p. 517; Deed Book 93, p. 172; and Deed Book 149, p. 228.
- 10. Deed Book 76, p. 517.
- 11. Stephen Mansfield, Princess Anne County and Virginia Beach: A Pictorial. (Norfolk and Virginia Beach: The Donning Co., 1989), p. 112.
- 12. Virginia Beach Real Estate Records, Deed Book 81, p. 296.

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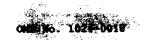
Dr. John Miller-Masury House name of property

Virginia Beach, VA county and State

ENDNOTES (cont.)

- 13. "Dr. Masury's Mansion in the Wilderness, Virginia Beach."
- 14. Ibid.
- 15. Roger Dey Whichard, The History of Lower Tidewater Virginia, (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1959.), Vol. 2, p. 132.

- 16. "Dr. Masury Dies at California Home." <u>Virginia Beach News</u>, Jan. 14, 1938. p.1.
- 17. Virginia Beach Real Estate Records, Deed Book 93, p. 499.
- 18. Ibid, Mapbook 7, p. 150. and Deed Book 144, p. 332.
- 19. Ibid, Deed Book 149, p. 429.
- 20. Virginia Beach Charter Books, Book 2, p. 161.
- 21. Virginia Beach Real Estate Records, Deed Book 153, p. 191, and Deed Book 179, p. 45.
- 22. Col. Rockey.
- 23. Virginia Beach Charter Books, Book 179, p. 41.
- 24. "Masury Mansion Being Changed Into Night Club." Virginia Beach News. May 30, 1935, p.1. and "Crystal Club Opening Set For Saturday." Ibid, June 14, 1935, p. 1.
- 25. Virginia Beach Charter Books, Book 196, p. 556.



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ENDNOTES (cont.)

- 26. "Samuel Findley Patterson," <u>National Cyclopaedia of American</u> <u>Biography</u>, Vol. 22, p.242.
- 27. Virginia Beach Charter Books, Book 217, p. 489.
- 28. Ibid. Deed Book 1011, p. 163.
- 29. Virginia Beach Real Estate Records, Deed Book 1040, p. 3. and Map Book 4, p. 20. A clipping in the vertical file of the Sargeant Memorial Room, Kirn Library, says the property included the house, dog kennels, a stable, and a four-car garage with an apartment. Hodgson intended to build ten new homes, but only seven homes were built on Wilder Point between 1967 and 1977.
- 30. Cammy Sessa, <u>Virginian Pilot</u>, Dec. 23, 1977. from the Sergeant Room clipping file top of article is cut off.
- 31. Virginia Beach Charter Books, Book 1997, p. 636.



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Dr. John Miller-Masury House name of property

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MAJOR BEHELOGRAPHIC REFERENCE



- City of Norfolk. Real Estate Records, Charter Books, and Marriage License Records.
- City of Virginia Beach, Real Estate Records and Charter Books
- Frazier Associates. Reconnaissance Architectural Survey Report. City of Virginia Beach, 1992.
- Jamestown Exposition Edition of the Norfolk Dispatch, Norfolk, VA.: The Norfolk Dispatch, 1904.
- Jordan, James M. IV, and Frederick Jordan. Virginia Beach: A Pictorial History. Richmond, VA.: Hale Publishing Co., 1974.
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NPS Form 10-900-a



United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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Dr. John Miller-Masury House name of property

Virginia Beach, VA county and State

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Virginian-Pilot newspaper, Norfolk: various dates from 1906 through 1977.

Unpublished Material.

Notes from Col. William Rockey.

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Dr. John Miller-Masury House name of property

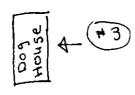
Virginia Beach, VA county and State

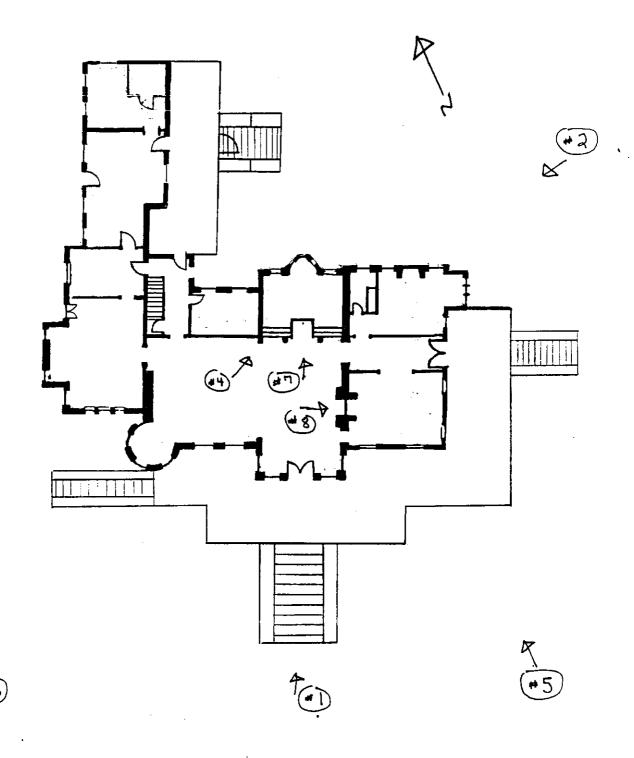
Verbal Boundary Description

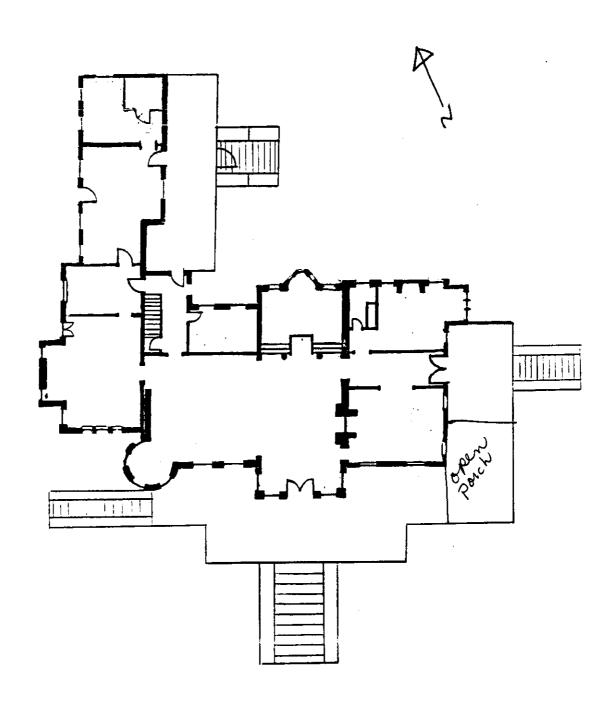
Lots 5A and 5B, Sec 2 56 Wilder Point Subdivision,
Parcel ID: 241869 401100 00

Boundary Justification

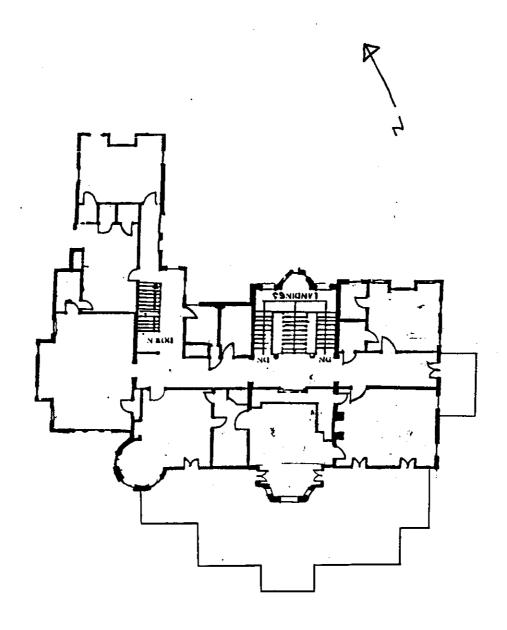
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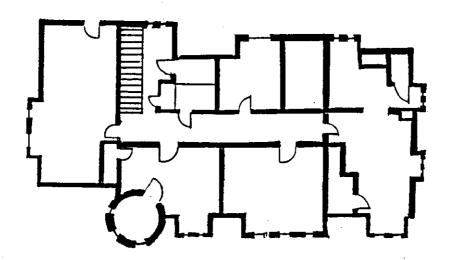


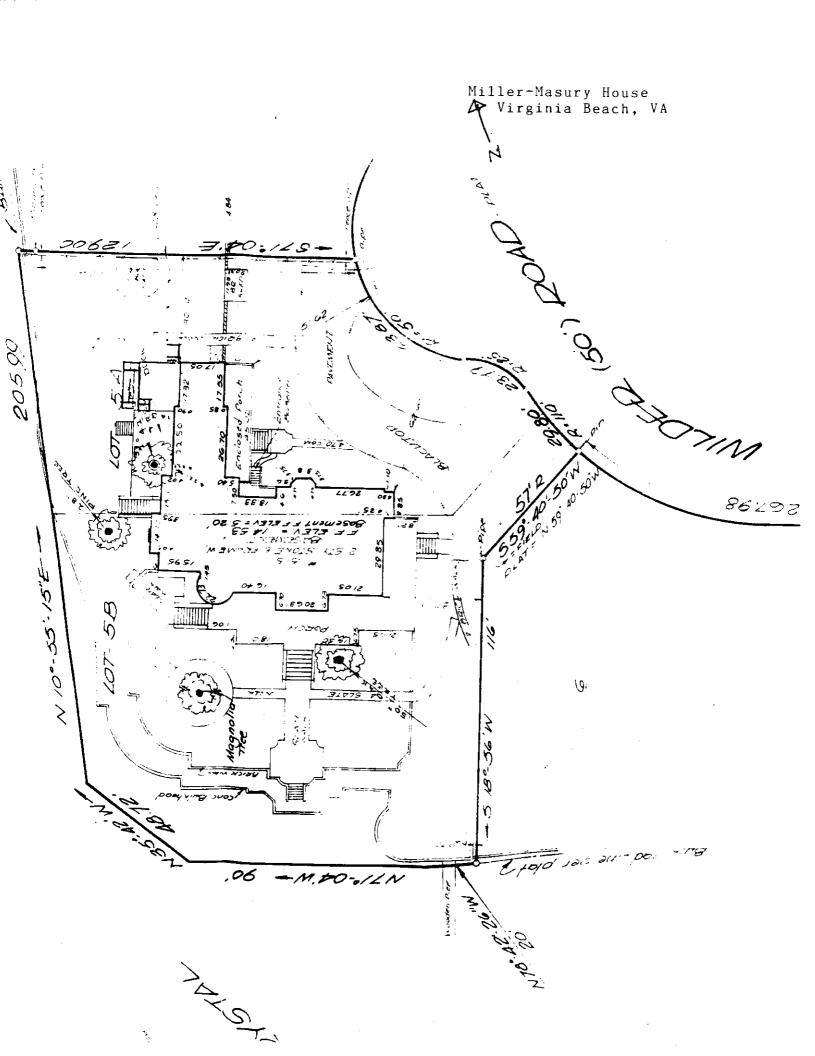
1 at Floor



Miller-Masury House Virginia Beach, VA







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