

Miller House Additional Information

Secret Road Inn

Daniel Robbins Miller (1797-1891) was the second child and son of Joseph and Jemima (Robbins) Miller. He was born and raised in the house built for his great grandparents William and Deliverance Miller. He married twice, first to Isabella Hawkins in 1824, but she died six months later. In 1826 he married Martha Olive Mills. They had two girls Charlotte Mills Miller and Martha Helme Miller. By 1830 they had moved into their house which was across the street from his parents. Tradition has it that William Brown built the house. The gambrel roof gives the house a distinctively different look than most houses built at that time. Daniel farmed the acres he owned around his house and in other parts of the village.

Charlotte married Dr. Charles KS Millard, a surgeon who she probably met in New York City where he had his practice. During the Civil War Dr. Millard signed up as a contract surgeon. Charlotte and their two children moved in with her parents and sister. After the war Dr. Millard returned to Miller Place and practice surgery. He died in 1870. Charlotte and the children stayed with her parents.

Martha never married and stayed at home with her parents. She wrote a history of the family.

In 1946 the house was sold out of the family as only Charlotte's son Daniel Spencer Millard, daughter –in-law Elizabeth (Quinn) Millard, and grandson Harry were living in their home William Miller house.

There were a series of owners between 1946 and when you purchased the house.

I am looking for the start date of the restaurant. I have found it advertised as of Dec 18, 1958, however I am continuing to go back in the local newspaper, The Record.

The glass enclosed section of the restaurant was added by Walter Hurney when he owned the place in the 1985.

Some Historical Information about Miller Place

In 1655 a group of Englishmen from East Hampton, NY purchased property in what is today called Setauket. They continued to make other land purchases. In 1664 they purchased a large piece of territory which they called Old Mans and it was from the east side of present day Port Jefferson to the Wading River. There were several settlers including Andrew Miller who settled near the swamp near the present day pond. By the early 1700s the name of Miller's Place was used to define the property from Pipe Stave Hollow Road to a vague area to the east.

In the 1600s streets did not have names such as North Country Road. Instead they were known as the “road” or “upper cartway” from one place to another. For instance if someone was in Setauket and they asked directions to the Wading River he would be told to take the road from town east to Andrew Miller’s Place then continue east to Wading River. Eventually the Andrew was dropped and known as Miller’s Place. In 1894 the Post Office dropped ‘s from many names across the nation. Thus Miller Place.

The early houses were built along the road and the property to the rear was farmed.

Andrew Miller was a cooper aka barrel maker, as was his son, grandson, and great grandson William Miller

Ebenezer Miller had a wind-powered grist mill and a sawmill on his property

During the Revolutionary War there was a raid on Miller’s Place by Connecticut militia men. They went to Ebenezer Miller’s house. His son, William, opened the window to see what the commotion was and was shot dead. Another group of the militia went to the house of Andrew Miller next door to Ebenezer. When Andrew answered the door he was hit with the butt of a gun and fell into a rocking chair which is still in the family.

The one-room school house was opened in the early 1800s and lasted until 1894 when the building was closed as it was in poor condition. The children went to the Academy building for school until 1937 when the new school was opened today known as the North Country Road School.

The Academy was a private school built to provide what today is high school education. New York State in the early 1800s did not provide education beyond the 8th grade. Members of the community gave the money to build the school. Parents paid to send their children to the Academy. It was open to boys and girls. Students came from all over Suffolk County. The Academy was opened in 1834 and closed in 1868 as New York was providing high school education. The building continued to be used as a library. It also provided a place for community events of all kinds. Today it is still a community library run by volunteers.

Mary Louise Booth was born in Yaphank. She attended the Academy for a brief period of time. She was the founding editor of Harper’s bizarre magazine. She could translate 7-8 languages. Spoke several of them. Remained single her entire life. She travelled extensively, participated in the Suffrage movement. She had made many friends in Miller Place as there is a letter to Charles and Corinna (Davis) Miller from one of their nieces who mentioned that Mary Louise was in Washington. Mary Louise Booth and her many accomplishments are only now known because all her papers that she had given to her nephew were burned and when Harper’s was sold all her papers there were discarded. Trish Foley of the Yaphank Historical Society has pieced together her life and activities.

In 1894 the Port Jefferson branch of the LIRR was extended to Wading River. It was located where the high electric towers are today. The Miller Place Railroad station was located on the east side of Sylvan Avenue where the apartments are today. The activity included passenger and freight activity. Starting

in the early 1900s cars started to appear. During World War I the train was cancelled for a time as it could not get the coal necessary to power the engines. After the War the trains continued, but fewer people were using it. Starting in the 1920s the LIRR started requesting to the PSC to close the line down east of Port Jefferson. This was opposed by many of the local people, however by the 1930s the line was closed and the tracts taken up.

The Daniel Miller House was built in the style of vernacular architecture which was a common house structure for this region. The gambrel roof, however, is unique.

The building is extremely strong and was built using mortise and tenon construction. This can be seen in the bar area. The building had no structural damage after a huge tree fell on it in 2012.

The original portion of the house is unknown. It is thought that it was extended numerous times with the first portion being only the entrance and bar area. The last extension of the main dining room was completed in 1985.

The wood floors and beams are all original to our knowledge.

Through the years we have heard many stories of ghosts, hidden passages to the water, underground rooms and much more. Although they are entertaining, none of these have held much truth. However, we heard of skeletons in the closet from one of the homes down the street!

SECRET ROAD INN

Jun 16, 1956 – Joseph D & Ella A Pesce to James T & Doris Hansen

Port Jefferson Record

Dec 18, 1958

Extends Cordial Holiday Greetings

Shows the drawing which is on the cover of the menu that Helen (Hocker) Samuels donated to the Hist. Society. She found it at the Stasiwo house when it had a yard sale.

Port Jefferson Record

Aug 6, 1959

Located at NCR & Honey La, MP, LI, NY, 4 miles east of Mather Hospital on NCR. For Reservations: PO8-2877

Now serving the finest wines & liquors. Complete dinner from \$2.55.

Open weekdays from 5pm. Sat & Sun at noon. Closed Mondays

Port Jefferson Record

Apr 7, 1960

Open year round. Most complete dinner menu. North Country Road at Honey Lane, 3 ½ miles east of Mather Hospital. PJ 8-2877

852	934	Daniel R Miller			82		W		farmer						
		Martha H			40	Daughter	S		Keeping house						
		Charlotte Millard			37	Daughter	W		At home						
		Daniel S Millard			17	Grandson	S		Student						
		Caroline E			11	Granddaughter	S		Student						
		John C Lee			19	Laborer	S		Laborer						
		Mary E Hunter	B		17	Servant	S		Laborer						

1: Dwelling # 2: Family # C: Color S: Sex A: Age prior to June 1st 3: Relationship to head of house 4: Marital Status 5: Married in census yr 6: Misc Info 7: Cannot read or write 8: Place of birth 9: Place of birth of father 10: Place of birth of mother

Will 26 51
 Aug 3, 1878
 100 ac

Daniel R Miller
 Charlotte Miller Millard & Martha Helme Miller, daus

Homestead with bldings

- N: hgh
- E: late Jeremiah Rowland, George W Hopkins, John S Randall
- S: Id given to Daniel S Millard
- W: cleared Id given to Daniel S Millard

Daniel S Millard

- 27 ac 1/2 of piece of pasture on the W known by name of ROCK LOT & GEORGE'S LOT
- 25 ac Woodld S of above pasture land

Martha Amelia Millard, granddaughter

- Woodld known by name of TWELVE ACRES
- N: DWD
- E: SJ Hopkins RD
- S: DWD
- W: DWD

Caroline Erkson Millard, granddaughter

- Woodld on MAIN RD W of the cleared Id
- N: HGH
- E: Daniel R Miller
- S: George & Mary Hopkins
- W: George & Mary Hopkins

2559, 113
 May 1, 1946

Naomi S, Charlotte M, Chas H Street, all of 28 Gaines Ave, Huntington
 Joseph D & Ella A Pesce, Mineola

Land with bldings

4129, 344

Joseph D & Ella A Pesce, Floral Park

Jun 16, 1956 James T & Doris Hansen, Valley Stream

Same as 2559, 113

4509, 346 Doris & James T Hansen, E Set
Aug 18, 1958 James T Hansen & Hose Gomez, E Set

Land with bldings. Same as 4129, 344

4588, 226 James T Hansen & Jose Gomez, E Set
Feb 16, 1959 James T Hansen

Land with bldings. Same as 4509, 346

4769, 163 James T Hansen
Feb 16, 1959 Ignacy Staciwo

Same as 4588,226

4886, 240 Ignacy Staciwo, Old Post Rd, Set
Sep 30, 1960 Paul & Martha Thillard, Huntington Sta

Land with bldings

4998, 56 Joseph D & Ella A Pesce, MP
May 29, 1961 Paul R & Martha C Thillard, NCR, MP

Two parcels

5428, 538 Paul R & Martha C Thillard, MP
Sep 30, 1963 James Whelehan & Wesley & Elaine Hoffman

Same as 4886, 240 & 4998, 56

6273, 564 27 2 19 Wesley & Elaine Hoffman, James Whelehan
Dec 4, 1967 Le Steak de Paris

Same as 5428, 538

9688 368
Nov 29, 1984

Le Steak De Paris, Inc, MP
Secret Rd Inc

Long Island Star

Feb 12, 1869

Mr. Brown was engaged at his work away from home, & Mrs. Brown desiring to visit friends in PJ left Annie at a neighbor's house to await her return. During the forenoon the child ran over home with the intension to getting a drink of water from the spring. The folks became alarmed at her stay & Mr. Selah Tooker went in search of the missing girl, she was found by him in the spring, her head down & her body submerged in the water. Dr. Millard passed the house about this time, & on being called to examine the body pronounced life extinct

Port Jefferson Echo

Dec 24, 1910

Mattie A Millard has returned form her visit in Huntington

Port Jefferson Echo

Mar 25, 1911

Mrs. Chas Street children are visiting Mrs. CM Millard

Port Jefferson Echo

Feb 23, 1924

Miss Martha Miller, one of our oldest residents, is seriously ill at this time

Port Jefferson Echo

Jul 24, 1924

Two of our esteemed residents passed away during the wk. Mrs. Nathaniel T Davis died on Sat, after a short illness, & Miss Martha Miller, who has been failing for a long time, passed away on Mon. Both of these people will be missed by a lg number of friends

Port Jefferson Echo

Oct 9, 1924

Miss Mattie Millard & her mother have closed their house & gone to Huntington with Mrs. Street, Miss Millard's sister, for the winter

Port Jefferson Times-Echo

Oct 7, 1932

Miss Mattie Millard received a visit from Mrs. Charles Street of Huntington on Wed morning & returned with her to Huntington for a few days

Port Jefferson Times-Echo

Sep 7, 1934

Mrs. Nathaniel Tuthill entertained Mrs. WB Giles, Mrs. MS Warner, Mrs. KL Hornberger, Mrs. SH Miller, Mrs. Frank Voorhees, Mrs. Edwin S Davis, Mrs. Mark H Davis, & Miss Mattie Millard at her home on Tues

Port Jefferson Times-Echo

Jan 11, 1935

On the village sick list we find Miss Mattie Millard, Miss Judy Hancock, & Miss Marion Davis

PJ T

Apr 5, 1935

Mrs. Charles Street & Miss Naomi Street of Huntington visited Miss Mattie Millard last Wed

Port Jefferson Times

Jul 12, 1935

Mrs. Charles Street has been at her home for several weeks.

Port Jefferson Times

Jul 12, 1935

Miss Gertrude Noll is visiting Mrs. Charles Street at her home on Main street

Port Jefferson Times

Jul 26, 1935

Miss E Young & Miss Gertrude Noll are spending a wk with Miss Noll's sister, Mrs. Louise Street.