## Enoch Miller, Mifflinburg's Master Builder by Susan Waggoner

American domestic architecture came of age in the late Victorian period, 1860-1900. "Rapid industrialization and the growth of railroads led to dramatic changes in American house design and construction" as, due to these changes, complex shapes and elaborate details became available for use on more than the most expensive houses. Another development at the time was the publication of books that showed drawings of architectural detail for craftsmen to follow and house plan books that offered sets of plans



Enoch Miller about 1898<sup>1</sup>

for sale by mail. In the late 1870s formal education in architecture was added to the curriculum of several major institutions of higher learning, including Pennsylvania universities, and "these formal programs were reinforced by a multitude of architecture journals."<sup>2</sup>

Enoch Miller's working life and his development as a skilled craftsman,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> <u>Commemorative Biographical Record of Central Pennsylvania, including the Counties of</u> <u>Centre, Clinton, Union and Snyder.</u> Chicago: J. H. Beers and Co. 1898, p. 904-5.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> McAlester, Virginia Savage. A Field Guide to American Houses. Knopf, 2015. Page 314.

wood worker, builder, contractor, architect and businessman exactly coincided with these changes in American architecture as well as with the growth and expansion of Mifflinburg as a buggy manufacturing center. He was not the only builder or architect active in Union County between 1860 and 1920, but, referred to as "the town's eminent architect and builder" in more than one period source, he is the one who left the most indelible mark, a mark we can easily see and appreciate today.

Moses Miller and his wife, Maria Bertolet (aka Mary Bartlet) Miller, moved from Berks County, Pennsylvania to Union County in the spring of 1835, locating on a farm in West Buffalo Township (after the division, it would be in Limestone Township). The purchase of a farm consisting of 51 acres and 126 perches from John Pancross for the sum of \$1800 was recorded at New Berlin on March 16, 1836. Making the journey with them were two young daughters, Sarah and Maria. On November 4, 1835, their first son, Enoch, was born. Four more sons, Joseph, Daniel B., John F., and George A., would be born between 1837 and 1844. Enoch's father was of German descent and his mother was a member of a French Huguenot family who settled in the Oley Valley of Berks County after the Revolutionary War.<sup>3</sup>

Moses Miller died intestate on May 23, 1844, when Enoch was eight years old. As there were insufficient funds to pay off the family's debts, the administrator for Moses' estate held a public sale on February 5, 1845. The farm was sold to his surviving widow Maria for \$2195.<sup>4</sup> It fell to Enoch as the oldest son to help his mother manage the farm with the help of tenants and her seven children. Enoch began working on neighboring farms as soon as he was strong enough, working out by the month and attending school in the winter only. He is

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Basic biographical information throughout the essay is in *Commemorative Biographical Record* of *Central Pennsylvania, including the counties of Centre, Clinton, Union and Snyder*; J.H. Beers & Co., 1898; pp. 904-905, with photo; published when the subject was at his height and could provide personal details, this is the source for numerous later publications, especially those of Charles M. Snyder. Some interesting additions were found in Ellis & Hungerford's *History of that part of the Susquehanna and Juniata Valleys embraced in the Counties of Mifflin, Juniata, Perry, Union & Snyder*, 1886, page 1378. The front page obituary for Enoch Miller in the *Mifflinburg Telegraph*, October 18, 1923, supports these sources.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Union County, Pennsylvania; Courthouse records.

listed as a pupil at Lewis Township School on January 16, 1847.<sup>5</sup> In 1850, when he was fifteen years old, he worked his mother's farm for one year.

In 1851, Enoch was placed by his guardian with Joseph Boop to learn the carpenter's trade. For the next five years, he worked as an apprentice, a journeyman, and finally a partner to Mr. Boop who was a prominent builder in Mifflinburg at the time. He was only nineteen years old when he went into business on his own while still helping Joseph Boop as his assistant.

On September 20, 1856, Enoch Miller married Sarah Louisa Katherman, a native of Union County and Mifflinburg. She was nineteen and he was twenty-one. They would eventually have a family of eight daughters and one son; two daughters and the son died at young ages but five daughters lived into adulthood.

In 1857, Joseph Boop built the German Reformed Church at 415 Market Street. That same year, the Mifflinburg board of school directors purchased the old Elias church property and Joseph Boop took the contract for making the partitions and arranging the building for use as a school. Enoch Miller was his assistant on both of these projects.<sup>6</sup>

In 1860, Enoch Miller built a house and carpenter shop on the southwest corner of 6<sup>th</sup> and Catharine (later Market) Streets in Mifflinburg, where he and his family would live until 1870.<sup>7</sup> At this time and place he became independent of Joseph Boop and continued to work at his trade on his own account. The *Atlas of Union County 1868* shows the house and carpenter shop at this location. The 1860 Census lists his occupation as "master carpenter " and Joseph Maize is listed with him as an "apprentice carpenter."

In the late 1860s, Enoch Miller designed and built a large and very beautiful home on Chestnut Street at the west end of Mifflinburg. It is known as the Barber-Orwig-Ward house at 836 Chestnut Street. A few years later, he reversed the plan for this house and built its twin across the street at 900 Chestnut Street. This second house is now known as the Barber-Earnest-Iddings house. Both houses

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Dr. Mary Belle Lontz, *History of the Schools of Union County, Pennsylvania*, 1984.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Lincoln, *History of Mifflinburg* and *Steese, History of Mifflinburg*, <u>1792-1927</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Steese, *History of Mifflinburg* and Snyder, *Union County, Pennsylvania: A Celebration of History*.

were built for two brothers. In the 1880s, he did something similar for the Klose brothers; Aaron (1880) at 330 Market Street and John (1884) across the street at 327 Market Street.<sup>8</sup>

In 1867, the German Reformed Church installed a pipe organ at the prodding of and with a sizable contribution from Enoch Miller who directed the choir for many years. He attended this church throughout his life.<sup>9</sup>

In 1870, Enoch Miller razed the house he built in 1860 and built a new one to replace it on the same site.<sup>10</sup> By now, he is "the town's foremost architect and builder" and this new house at 537 Market Street, a rectangular, two-story, frame structure, was his home for the rest of his life. At this time, he is most likely operating his carpentry business from this same location. In the 1890s, he added a large Victorian porch. The 1870 Census lists Enoch Miller's occupation as "carpenter" with a real estate value of \$5000 and personal value of \$1000. His brother Joseph, listed as a "house carpenter," and two apprentice carpenters are at the same location. The Sandra Fasano-Dreese house at 601 Market Street was built by Enoch Miller about this time. He sold it to Peter Grove in 1874 and it was converted into apartments by Joseph Fasano in 1875 without altering the exterior, including the large Victorian porch. This same year, 1870, Enoch Miller built the Minadore Schware Jewelry Shop and lodge hall at 326 Chestnut Street, which would become part of the Schware-Sholly Block in 1883.<sup>11</sup>

According to courthouse records dated October 11, 1869, Enoch Miller deeded to "Mary M. Miller, widow" a lot adjoining his residence on Market Street. Mrs. Miller sold the family farm in 1871 and built a house in Mifflinburg in 1873 where she spent her later years. It seems probable that her son Enoch was the builder of her house.

"In 1875, Enoch Miller, an enterprising architect and building contractor,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Union County Preservation Plan, 1978; this is the source throughout this essay for information about the structures considered at the time of historical importance; unfortunately, the architect or builder is not always noted with preference given to the owner or pastor at the time.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup>Snyder, *Mifflinburg: A Bicentennial History*; pages 17ff, photo of Enoch Miller, p. 146.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Lontz, "Trail of History" column, *Mifflinburg Telegraph*, July 26, 2007; originally published September 2, 1977.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Mifflinburg Walking Tour: the Late Years, 1865-1900.

commenced the erection of shops for the purpose primarily of working the lumber



Enoch Miller about 188612

used by him in his building operations. He has an engine in his works, and is well equipped for doing all kinds of work usually done in planing mills."<sup>13</sup> An 1886 source says that he built

in 1875 the large and commodious planning [sic] mill he now occupies, and in which he manufactures doors, sash, blinds and everything in his line used in building. Mr. Miller is, in every sense of the word, a self-made man, and has, by integrity and upright dealing, increased his business until he now employs sixteen carpenters and erects buildings in Mifflinburg borough, Northumberland, Snyder and Union Counties."<sup>14</sup>

He operated the planing mill for over forty-five years. An advertisement in the *Mifflinburg Telegraph* dated April 1, 1885, lists the mill's offerings: "Flooring, Siding, Doors, Sash, Blinds, Shutters, Moulding, Brackets and everything that

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> <u>History of that part of the Susquehanna and Juniata Valleys Embraced in the Counties</u> of <u>Mifflin</u>, <u>Juniata</u>, <u>Perry</u>, <u>Union and Snyder in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania</u>, Vol 2. Philadelphia: Everts, Peck and Richards. 1886, p. 1378.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Lincoln, *History of Mifflinburg*.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Ellis & Hungerford, *History...Susquehanna and Juniata Valleys*.

lifflinburg, Union Co tect & Bn ROPRIET The Planing Mill is located in the west end of the Borough; of the Lewisburg and Tyrone Railroad and is supplied with the latest im-proved machinery for manufacturing Flooring, Siding Doors, Sash, Moulding, Brackets and everything tains to the trade. CONTRACTS taken for NEW bendings, estimates furnished for the same on short notice and on reasonable terms. CUSTOM WORK .- Persons having lumber of sheet, own sand de-siring to have it worked into building muterial or otherwise, can be accommodated at any time." In connection with my above business I am prer notice a first class quality of ROOFING And also have an experienced Slater to do my slating; and hav tent Slater right at the quarties to select the Slate, and will GUAR-ANTEE SATISFACTION to all who may favor me with their work April 1, 1885.xtf ENOCH MILLER, Millinburg, Pu.

Advertisement, Mifflinburg Telegraph, May 20, 1885

pertains to the trade." In addition, they were taking contracts for new buildings and doing custom work for persons having their own lumber. There is an excellent photograph of Enoch Miller and his employees taken much later, probably June of 1898, at the mill.<sup>15</sup> Over the years, he had several expert woodworkers working for him, (see photo next page) such as Mike Noll and Eli Groover, as well as apprentices.

Between 1876 and 1921, he designed and built more than thirty major structures - at least nine churches, fifteen homes, and eight commercial buildings, three of which were "blocks" containing two to three different businesses. Most of his work was done in Mifflinburg with a few notable structures in nearby villages in Union County. In addition, he is credited with the Union National Bank and a church in Lewisburg as well as churches in Lewistown, McEwensville, Renovo, and

<sup>9</sup> 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Memories of Mifflinburg.

Lock Haven. It is also believed that he was at least a part of the 1904 renovation of the Mifflin County courthouse in Lewistown. Several of these structures, such as



June 1898 photo of Enoch Miller and his employees: left to right, first row, William F. Romig, Miller Badger, Charles Badger, Eli Groover; second row, Daniel Hassinger, Enoch Miller, proprietor, Hud Eberhart, Stewart Romig, Harry Wilkinson, Benjamin Tittle.

the Gothic style Lutheran Church in Hartleton which was one of his earlier creations in 1876 and the elaborate Victorian Mifflinburg School House of the same year, have since been torn down. Fortunately, most of his work remains today and can be seen and appreciated by even the most casual visitor to Mifflinburg. (See attached Chronology for more information)

In style, Enoch Miller appears to have made his own every feature of what is considered "Victorian," the decorative building styles popular during the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. His churches in Mifflinburg are decidedly Gothic, but the Lincoln Chapel near Laurelton is more Carpenter in style. The homes he built for private individuals in Mifflinburg are elaborate Victorian mansions with Queen Anne features, but the house he built on the planing mill site in 1885 is a smaller Queen Anne cottage. And then there is the Eastlake style house that he built for Joseph S. Raudenbush in Vicksburg in 1887. The Union National Bank in Lewisburg, erected in 1899, was designed in Beaux Art style with characteristic cross-hatching over rounded windows and flat pilasters. He and his expert wood workers and craftsmen were comfortable with all kinds of intricate details and used them in good taste on the interiors as well as the exteriors. His commercial buildings, such as the Gast Department Store and the bank buildings were as much a pleasure to enter as were, and still are, the churches. One can only imagine what it must have been like to attend school in the beautiful Mifflinburg School House surrounded by dozens of Norway maple trees.



The planning mill in 1900; building with porch is Enoch Miller's office.<sup>16</sup>

What cannot be fully appreciated or even identified are the barns, porches, and ordinary structures that Enoch Miller and his crew built in between those major projects. (For instance, attendees at the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the Mazeppa Union Church at Old Buffalo Church on November 20, 2016, were given copies of a timeline. In 1916, "a new pulpit platform would be built by Enoch Miller.") Only the discovery of actual records from the planing mill would give us this detailed information. Hopefully, such records will surface some day.

While he was doing all of this building and operating his construction business and the planing mill, Enoch Miller was a contributing and valued member of the Mifflinburg community. He served many years on the Borough

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> This photo is used in Huffines' *Mifflinburg and the West End*, 2012, p. 75, where the employees are identified.

Council and was President of that body for several terms. He was the first initiate member and past master of Masons Lodge no. 370 and served as its treasurer. He was a life-time member of the German (St. John's) Reformed Church, conducting the choir there for many years, and was instrumental in getting a pipe organ installed there in 1867. It is not known whether he played it, but a piano is listed in his estate, so he may also have been a skilled player.

In the January 1, 1897, issue of *The Wood-Worker*, a journal for machine wood-workers, there is a nice paragraph about Enoch Miller accompanied by a "likeness" of him:

Enoch Miller ...is one of the successful men of Mifflinburg, Pa. Besides being the owner of a planing mill and sash, door, and blind factory, he is an architect, contractor and builder. The principal residences and public buildings of his town are evidence of his skill, as he drew the plans and contracted for the creation of the greater part of them. His mill, office and lumber yards cover about two acres of ground. This would not be considered a big plant in some localities, but it is big enough for its owner's purpose. It is a good plant, too, and Mr. Miller knows how to get plenty of good work out of it. One evidence of this shrewdness is that he has for years been a careful reader and staunch friend of The Wood-Worker.<sup>17</sup>

Obviously, this is somewhat promotional for the journal itself, but it also gives us a nice description of the man Enoch Miller and the respect his fellows had for him.



Fire insurance photo of the Miller Planning Mill showing Queen Anne style house (right) built in 1885 and, in the distance, Enoch Miller's office both of which are still there.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> The Wood-Worker, vol. 16, January 1, 1897, p. 23

In 1909, tragedy struck Enoch Miller's family. Two married daughters, both living in Birmingham, Alabama, died within a few months of each other. Edith May Budwig (who lost her first husband Bringhurst to a pistol accident and remarried) died on February 17 at age 47 and her sister Margaret Blanche Myer died on May 29 at age 38. The cause of both deaths was Bright's Disease, a term used at that time for a number of illnesses having to do with the kidneys. Enoch's wife Sarah had been ill for some time with cancer and was not told of the deaths of her daughters. She succumbed to the disease on June 17 at the age of 72 and was interred in the Mifflinburg cemetery. They had been married for fifty-three years.<sup>18</sup> The White Springs school house was being built this same year.

The 1910 Census lists Enoch Miller, age 74, as an employer and manufacturer and operator of a planing mill; his daughter Virginia B. is living in the same house with him. The Sanborn map of Mifflinburg dated July 1913 shows details of the Enoch Miller Planing Mill. The accompanying comments indicate there is no watchman, heat and power is supplied by steam, fuels used are coal and shavings, the lights are kerosene, and there is 150 feet of 2 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> inch hose and twelve chemical fire buckets on site. The Sanborn maps were done for purposes of fire insurance and provide interesting details.

In 1916, the Mifflinburg Silk Mill was founded by F. Q. Hartman on the southeast corner of Walnut and 2<sup>nd</sup> Streets. J. Merrill Barber directed the brickwork and Enoch Miller was in charge of the woodwork. It is basically a single-story, rambling brick building with few decorative features and is today an apartment house.

In the 1920 Census, Enoch Miller, age 84, at 537 Market Street, is listed as an employer and his occupation is builder of homes; his daughter Maize C. "Mary" Badger, age 61, widow, is living with him.

In 1921, he sold the planing mill to Ruhl, Watson & Phillips, a group with similar operations in Hartley township and Lewisburg, for \$12,000; the transfer deed is dated December 29. The buildings built after the sale and the main planing

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> *Mifflinburg Telegraph*, June 4 and June 25, 1909, front page obituaries for daughters and wife.

mill were razed by fire in 1924,<sup>19</sup> but Enoch Miller's office and the house he built on the site in 1885 are still there today (2017) as well as some other out-buildings.

Enoch Miller died on October 12, 1923, at the age of 87. The funeral was held on October 15 at St. John's Reformed Church, Mifflinburg, and he was buried in the family plot in the Woodlawn (Mifflinburg) Cemetery with the Masonic Lodge conducting the impressive burial service at the grave.<sup>20</sup> There is a nice monument bearing the family name. The certificate of death lists the cause as "Acute Suppression of Urine. Uremia" with contributory or secondary cause as "Epithelioma of Face." He most likely had been ill with chronic conditions for some time and may have had treatments that could have been radical in nature, making it very difficult for him to continue working. Residents told of seeing him crawl up the ramp into his mill before he sold it.<sup>21</sup>

Soon after I purchased my 19<sup>th</sup> century log house on New Berlin Mountain Road, a previous owner told me that a name, "Enoch Miller," was on the frame of the original front porch which was now enclosed and covered with wallboard. This name did not appear in my search of the deeds and, as I did not recognize it, I gave it no more thought. Then Tom Greaves suggested that "Enoch Miller" would make a good topic for a future issue of the Union County Historical Society's online journal *Accounts*.

I volunteered to search for materials and write an article as a way of finding out about the man whose name is on my house. My thought was that I might be able to make the connection between Mifflinburg's esteemed architect of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and my front porch. I now know quite a bit about Enoch Miller but that connection is elusive and can only be imagined from his story. Piecing together that story has been reward enough and some day soon I will have the courage to pull off some of the porch wallboard and see his name for myself.

In the meantime, perhaps people with additional knowledge of Enoch Miller, his architecture, and his planing mill will come forward and add to the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> Memories of Mifflinburg, 1793-1942.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> *Mifflinburg Telegraph* obituary

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> Snyder, Union County...Bicentennial History.

story. I feel certain there is much more to tell.

## **Enoch Miller Chronology**

In the following, I have attempted to determine the year the structure was built, but different sources often give different dates. Particularly difficult are the churches as they change denominations and names with surprising frequency. Most descriptive notes are from the *Union County Historic Preservation Survey*, *1978.* All structures are in Mifflinburg unless otherwise noted. The number(s) at the end of each building entry correspond to the number of the source in the Source list that follows this Chronology.

1851 Enoch Miller went to Mifflinburg to learn the carpenter's trade with Joseph Boop as his apprentice, then journeyman, and finally as his partner (15 years old) (*3*,*8*,*1*5)

1856 Enoch went into business on his own (21 years old) (3,15)

1857 German Reformed Church, 415 Market Street; probably built by Joseph Boop while Enoch Miller was his assistant; now St. John's United Church of Christ. (20, p.62)

Also "In 1857, the board of school directors purchased from the trustees of the Lutheran and Reformed churches, the old Elias church property...Mr. Joseph Boob took the contract for making the partitions and arranging the building..." for use as a school. (7)

1860 Enoch Miller built a house and carpenter shop on the corner of Sixth and Market Streets in Mifflinburg *(20)* 

1860 Census (July 6) lists Enoch Miller occupation as a Master Carpenter, age 24; Jacob Maize is listed with him as an Apprentice Carpenter (4)

1866- Barber-Orwig-Ward House, 836 Chestnut Street; "built just prior to 1870...twin to 1870 house at 900 across the street" *(22)* 

Barber-Earnest-Iddings House, 900 Chestnut Street; twin to above, plan reversed, probably dating from late 1870s, rear addition in 1893; both houses built for two brothers (22)

1867 German Reformed Church installed a pipe organ at the prodding and sizable contribution of Enoch Miller who directed the choir for many years (17)

1868 *Atlas of Union County 1868* shows the Enoch Miller house and carpenter shop on the southwest corner of 6<sup>th</sup> and Catharine (later Market) Streets (2)

A Sample of Buildings Built by Enoch Miller, Mifflinburg, Vicksburg and Lewisburg



537 Market (Miller's own house)

411 Market (Parsonage)

404 Market (1st Evan. Lutheran)



327 Market (J. Klose House)

325 Market (United Methodist) Vicksburg (Raudenbush Hse.)



407 Chstnt (1st Farmers' Bk)



326 Chestnut (Shops & Lodge Hl) Union Nat'l Bank, Lewisbg





836 Chestnut St. (Barber Hse)

348-52 Chstnt (Gast Block) 241 Chestnut (Brubaker House)

1870 Enoch Miller House, 537 Market Street; he built the home he lived in until his death; his personal residence after 1870 was "...at 537 Market Street." (19)

"the town's foremost architect and builder - a rectangular, two-story, frame structure with a large Victorian porch which he added in the 1890s" (22); he razed the house he built in 1860 and built this one to replace it (8:June 26, 2007); he most likely operated his business from this same location

1870 Census (August 11) lists Enoch Miller, age 34, Carpenter, Value of Real Estate - 5000, Personal Estate Value - 1000; brother Joseph, age 32, at same location, H (House?) Carpenter; and two apprentice carpenters (4)

Sandra Fasano-Dreese House, 601 Market Street; "early Enoch Miller building, dating about 1870, which he sold to Peter Grove in 1884. It was converted into apartments by Joseph Fasano in 1875 without altering the exterior, including its large Victorian porch (*22*)

1873 Enoch's mother built a house in Mifflinburg, "where she spent her later years..." (3)

Minadore Schware Jewelry Shop and lodge hall; 326 Chestnut; part of Schware-Sholly Block in 1883 (*16*)

1875 Enoch Miller built and began operating his own planing mill on north 8<sup>th</sup> Street; "In 1875, Enoch Miller, an enterprising architect and building contractor, commenced the erection of shops for the purpose primarily of working the lumber used by him in his building operations. He has an engine in his works, and is well equipped for doing all kinds of work usually done in planing mills." (7)

1876 Lutheran Church, Hartleton; of Gothic design, one of Miller's earliest structures; demolished in the 1960s *(6)* 

1876- Mifflinburg School House, Third and Maple Streets; "Mr. Miller also supervised the erection in 1877 of the old section of the Mifflinburg School House; an elaborate Victorian structure admired by visitors to the community." (*6*,*7*)

1878 Dr. John Reynolds Gast Residence, 422 Market Street; handsome brick residence; "an ornament... a beauty, and most convenient, which speaks well for the architect and builder" (*19*); "...one of Miller's early successes, dating from 1878. Notice the same brickwork under the roof as in other homes he built." (*18,19*) Joseph Boop died while working on the Cronmiller house. (*17*)

1879 Dr. David Brubaker Residence, 241 Chestnut Street; Victorian cottage; "Note the unusual brickwork under the eaves and the finials on the corners of the roof line."(*16*) "shamrock-like arrangement of bricks, variety of window shapes...Victorian taste for decorative detail" (*22*) Gast-Evans House (22)

1880 Gast and Strunk Stores (19)

Mifflinburg Bank (later the fire house, now gone) (19)

Snodgrass Hardware Store (19)

1880 Census lists Enoch Miller, age 45, occupation: Architect & Builder but shows that he has been unemployed for two months (4)

Klose-Bingaman-Littell House, 330 Market Street; built for Aaron Klose, a farmer and grain and coal dealer; brick quoins at corners, ornamental window frames and doorways (22)

1881 United Methodist Church (earlier Presbyterian and Evangelical) (*19*); Buffalo Presbyterian-Evangelical-St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 325 Market Street; small, neat neo-Gothic church edifice, an attractive rectangular brick structure erected by Enoch Miller (*22*); became St. Paul's United Evangelical on November 30, 1902 (*6*); plate on tower shows 1901; currently Providence Orthodox Presbyterian Church

1883 Enoch Miller opens his planing mill; 1884 map of Mifflinburg shows the planing mill on the northwest corner of 8<sup>th</sup> and the Railroad *(6)* 

Ray's Church (St. Peter's Lutheran and Reformed) (19,22)

Samuel W. Snodgrass building (Snodgrass-Musser-Shively House), 315 Chestnut Street; two story, brick store erected for Samuel Snodgrass and sons, James and Robert for a hardware business; had fine hardwood counters (22); decorative façade and quoins a favorite of Miller (19); recently Dressler's Appliance & Electric

Henry Gast Building/Gast Department Store, 352 Chestnut Street; became O. R. Laney's Five and Ten Cent Store; designed and built by Enoch Miller, "Mifflinburg's fine architect and builder"; large brick structure with large French glass windows and a broad open stairway *(18,19)* 

Gast-Laney Block, 348-352 Chestnut Street included three businesses: O.R. Laney Five & Dime, Augustus Heiter's barber shop, and Strunk-Kleckner Tru-Value (*22*)

Schware-Sholly Block, 326-328 Chestnut Street; "built shortly after 1883 for rental as business space" - ornamental details typical of the period: brick frieze, carved brackets and dentils, quoins at corners, arched windows with keystones *(22)* 

1884 John Klose House, 327 Market Street; wanted a house like his brother Aaron's across the street; not identical but resemblance is unmistakable with Victorian trim and brick quoins *(22)* 

<sup>1885</sup> "Architect Enoch Miller is building a frame house adjoining his planing mill on the east." (*14: November 11, 1885*) This small Queen Anne cottage at 107 North 8<sup>th</sup> Street as well as Enoch Miller's office still stand on the original planing mill property; they were not included in the Union County Historic Preservation survey and may be in danger of being razed for a parking lot. Advertisement for the Miller Planing Mill (*14:May 20, 1885*)

1887 Joseph S. Raudenbush Residence, Vicksburg; "In 1883, he (Raudenbush) employed Enoch Miller to build an Eastlake Victorian mansion..." (18)

Sanborn map of Mifflinburg shows the Enoch Miller Planing Mill at North 8<sup>th</sup> Street and the railroad.

1888 Kurtz-Glover-Barker House; 4<sup>th</sup> and Walnut Street (*19*); built for Luther D. Kurtz; Queen Anne shaped building with four gables trimmed with scalloped siding, frame structure with central hallway (*22*)

Green Grove School House; one-room school house (*19*); "Mr. Enoch Miller, contractor, erected the present building for \$2,200. The price was deemed exorbitant by a minority of the tax payers who severely criticized the Board of Directors. More recent opinion is very commendatory." (*10*)

1889 First Farmer's Bank-Orren House, 407 Chestnut (now the Tattoo Parlor); ornate, three-story brick structure with date at top *(6,19,22)* 

Schoch-Koons House, 408 Chestnut Street; built for a residence, a post office, and a printing business - rectangular building, brick construction with Victorian detail at the roof and a squared bay window on the second floor (22)

1890 The 1890 Census is incomplete and there is no record for Enoch Miller

John Beard Residence, 431 Chestnut Street; a fine Queen Anne built for lawyer Beard and, upon his death, transferred to the town for a civic center, Beard Community Center (22)

1891 Lincoln Chapel (Methodist), near Laurelton; "unusually attractive Gothic edifice designed by Mifflinburg's noted architect and builder" *(22)* 

Enoch Miller elected treasurer of Mifflinburg Lodge No. 370, E.&A.M. for 1892. (*14:December 15, 1891*)

1892 Enoch Miller "re-modeling Mr. J.O. Glover's business building" near Third and Chestnut streets; "Frank H. Forster, a successful merchant, will take

possession for a term of years." (14:April 22 & July 8, 1892)

1893 Methodist Church, 279 Market Street; "Gothic design by the town's eminent architect and builder - the charm of his edifice remains undimmed" (*17*); was Wesley United Methodist, today is Mifflinburg United Methodist? (*16*) "The present 1893 Gothic structure was designed and built by Enoch Miller." (*6*)

Presbyterian-Kreisher House, 321 Market Street; Queen Anne style frame residence erected for the First Presbyterian Church parsonage; high gables, delicate wood trim *(22)* 

1894 Wesley Methodist? (18)

1895 Parsonage, German Reformed Church, 411 Market Street; just east of the church; Enoch Miller assigned his master woodworkers, Mike Noll and Eli Groover, and it remains an ornament today (*17,18*); decorative details blend elements of Victorian and Queen Anne styles - interior wood-work combines oak, cherry and chestnut - original porch (*22*)

1898- First Evangelical Lutheran Church, 404 Market Street; Enoch Miller as builder, not architect; J. A. Dempwolf of York, architect; church with the clock tower; Miller not mentioned in the history (1992) describing the dedication on November 4, 1900 *(6)* 

1899 Union National Bank of Lewisburg, 311 Market Street; designed in Beaux Arts style with characteristic cross-hatching over round-top windows and flat pilasters (22). In the UCHS Past Perfect database, there is a bond binding Enoch Miller to build a brick and stone building and a second document showing a payment of \$2000 made to Enoch Miller in February 1900 (12)
1900 Census, #312, Enoch Miller is listed as a manufacturer of sash, doors, etc. (4)

1900 Census, #312, Enoch Miller is listed as a manufacturer of sash, doors, etc.(4)

1900 Lutheran Church, Lewistown (possibly St. John's at corner of North Main Street and Third Avenue) *(12,18)* 

1900- Probably some time in this next decade, Enoch Miller is also credited with building a Reformed Church in McEwensville, a Sunday School Room for a Reformed Church in Lewistown, a Church at Renovo, and a Catholic Church at Lock Haven (*12,18*)

1903 United Church of Christ (Reformed), Lewisburg (12,18,19)

1904 Kurtz-Delaney House, 253 Chestnut Street; "Erected by Newton Kurtz (Enoch Miller, builder) ...it reflects both the simplicity of the Classical Revival and the Queen Anne of the previous decade, notably, the turret." (22)

Mifflin County Courthouse, Lewistown; "The remodeling of the Court House at Lewistown was the last work contracted by this firm" *(12)*; unable to confirm; certainly not the "last work" of the firm

1906 Dr. Charles Dimm Residence (later Bidlack house); 307 Chestnut Street; plans by architect J.A. Dempwolf of York, built by Enoch Miller; Flemish flair of overhanging roof, colored glass windows of Queen Anne mode (*18,19,22*)

1909 White Springs School House (10,18,19)

1910 Census lists Enoch Miller, age 74, an Employer, Manufacturer/ Planing Mill; daughter Virginia B, age 41, living in the same house but no one else (4)

1913 Sanborn map of Mifflinburg dated July 1913 shows details of the Enoch Miller Planing Mill on the northwest corner of 8<sup>th</sup> Street and the Railroad; comments: No Watchman. Heat & Power - Steam. Fuel - Coal & Shavings. Lights: Kerosene. 150' 2<sup>1</sup>/2" hose. 12 Chemical Fire Buckets. Dwelling and office clearly marked; they both exist today.

1916- Mifflinburg Silk Mill, southeast corner of Walnut and 2<sup>nd</sup> Streets; "Its founder was F. Q. Hartman. J. Merrill Barber directed the brickwork, and Enoch Miller, the woodwork" *(6,17)*; today it is an apartment building.

1920 Census lists Enoch Miller, age 84, address 537 Market Street, as an Employer; Occupation: Builder; Industry: Home; daughter Maize C. "Mary" Badger, age 61, widow, living in the same house (4)

1921 Enoch Miller sold the Planing Mill to Ruhl, Watson & Phillips; transfer deed dated December 29, 1921 (*21*); the new owners built an addition onto the main frame building and this building burned in 1924. (*8: November 7, 1996*)

1923 Enoch Miller died on October 12 at age 87; the funeral was held on October 15 at St. John's Reformed Church, Mifflinburg. He is buried in the family plot in the Woodlawn Cemetery (Mifflinburg Cemetery) where there is a nice monument bearing the family name. *(15)* 

## **Sources Consulted**

1) Ancestry.com (website)

2) Atlas of Union & Snyder Counties, Pennsylvania; D.G. Beers, Pomeroy & Beers, 1868.

3) Commemorative Biographical Record of Central Pennsylvania, including the counties of Centre, Clinton, Union and Snyder; J.H. Beers & Co., 1898. Pages

904-905, with photo.

4) Census 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910, and 1920

5) Ellis, Franklin and Austin N. Hungerford; *History of that part of the Susquehanna and Juniata Valleys embraced in the Counties of Mifflin, Juniata, Perry, Union & Snyder, in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania*; Philadelphia: Everts, Peck & Richards, 1886. Page 1378.

6) Huffines, Marion Lois; *Mifflinburg and the West End* (Images of America); Arcadia Publishers, 2012.

7) Lincoln, Richard Van Buskirk; *History of Mifflinburg*; written in 1900; published by daughter, 1938. UCHS Heritage Vol. XIII, 1992, revised, annotated, and illustrated.

8) Lontz, Dr. Mary Belle, "Trail of History" column, *Mifflinburg Telegraph*, June 26, 2007 & November 7, 1996.

9) Lontz, Dr. Mary Belle, *Union County Pennsylvania 1865-1965*. Self-published 1966.

10) Lontz, Dr. Mary Belle, *History of the Schools of Union County, Pennsylvania,* 1984.

11) McAlester, Virginia Savage, A Field Guide to American Houses: Knopf, 2015.

12) Memories of Mifflinburg, 1793-1942; 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

13) Mifflinburg Area High School Alumni Directory, 1998.

14) Mifflinburg Telegraph, various dates depending on subject.

*15) Mifflinburg Telegraph,* Obituary for Enoch Miller; Thursday, October 18, 1923, page 1, 3.

16) Mifflinburg Walking Tour: the Late Years, 1865-1900. Unpaged.

17) Snyder, Charles McCool; *Mifflinburg: A Bicentennial History*; Mifflinburg Bicentennial Committee, 1992; pages 17f. Photo of Enoch Miller, p. 146.

18) Snyder, Charles McCool; *Union County Pennsylvania: A Bicentennial History*; The Colonial Printing House, 1976. Pages 126-127.

19) Snyder, Charles M., *Union County, Pennsylvania: A Celebration of History;* Union County Historical Society, 2000. Pages 160-164; photos.

20) Steese, C. M., compiler; *History of Mifflinburg*, *1792-1927*; Saturday News Publishing, Lewisburg, 1929. Page 28.

21) Union County, Pennsylvania; Courthouse Records: various deeds and Enoch Miller's will and recorded disposition of his property.

22) *Union County Historic Preservation Plan, 1978;* prepared for the Union County Planning Commission by Bucknell University, Lewisburg.

23) The Wood-Worker, vol. 16, January 1, 1897, p. 23.

24) 1884 Map of Mifflinburg, Union County, PA; Lith. & Printed by O.H. Bailey & Co.

## Acknowledgements

I am grateful to Bob and Dianne Lynch of Mifflinburg for their interest in Enoch Miller and his Planing Mill and for their enthusiasm and assistance for this project. They found interesting items in the Mifflinburg Telegraph and elsewhere and generously made copies for me. They assured me I was on the right track just when I needed it most. I also want to thank Tom Greaves; first, for drawing my attention to Enoch Miller; second, for continually encouraging me through numerous drafts; and third, for his expert editing and photography. At several points, I was overwhelmed and he kept me going.

st accounts st

ACCOUNTS Vol. 7, No. 1, 2017 Union County Historical Society