

**McLean County Museum of History**

**George H. Miller Collection**

Processed by  
Kathryn Kerr  
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**Collection Information**

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 Box
COLLECTION DATES:	1879 - 2004
RESTRICTIONS:	None
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the McLean County Museum of History
ALTERNATIVE FORMATS:	None
OTHER FINDING AIDS:	None
LOCATION:	Archives
NOTES:	See also Photos – People - Photos Subject – Mandel-Cohn Collection

## Brief History

George H. Miller (1856 - 1927) was one of eight children born to German immigrants in Bloomington; he grew up on the family farm near Bloomington, IL. At 15 he began working for the Rudolph Richter architectural firm, one of the few architectural firms in Bloomington at the time. In 1874 he traveled with architect John Harris to Columbus, Ohio, and served as a draftsman with Chicago based firm of Fredrick and Edward Bauman. He returned to Bloomington in 1875 where he began an active, successful career. He designed the Oberketter building, Corn Belt Bank building, and Livingston Building and other elaborate, ornamental, commercial buildings. He introduced the modern system of side lighting within school buildings. He designed many private homes in Bloomington and nearby communities.

Miller married Rose Stautz in 1887 and had three children. He served as Bloomington city treasurer, third ward alderman, and as the chancellor to the Knights of Pythias chapter in Bloomington. Miller suffered a stroke and paralysis and was ill the last four years of his life.

## Scope

The collection includes one document from Miller. (His papers were burned after his death.) Most of the collection is *Pantagraph* newspaper articles about his buildings, including the move of one of his houses; information on two specific houses, and brochures which include images of his buildings.

## Box and Folder Inventory

### Folder 1: General

- 1.1 Letter to Larry Knuth and Greg Koos from Nancy Camp-Leiken, former resident of the Miller home, 405 West Market Street, urging preservation of the building, 21 June 1989.
- 1.2 Letter from Herman Dirks, City Manager, and to the Mayor and Members of the City Council regarding the Miller home, 14 February 1990.
- 1.3 "Miller's Buildings According to Function" copy of a 3-page list of Miller designed buildings, location, date, and condition, undated.

### Folder 2: George H. Miller Agreement

- 2.1 Copy of an Agreement for Bank and Office Building between Geo. H. Miller, Architect, and Henry V. Snyder with Vinten E. Howell (?), 10 October 1900.

### Folder 3: George H. Miller Business Miscellaneous (all undated)

- 3.1 Copy of business card, office in Eddy Building.
- 3.2 Copy of envelope, address 400 N. Center Street.
- 3.3 Copy of billing form, address 400 N. Center Street
- 3.4 Copy of a plaque (?) listing Geo H. Miller, Architect office Main and Front Streets
- 3.5 Copy of a flyer of 8 buildings by Miller.
- 3.6 Souvenir of Bloomington, IL, page with 7 buildings by Miller.

3.7 Copies of brochure with Miller buildings, exterior and floor plans, 5 pages.

**Folder 4: Bane House, Arrowsmith, IL**

4.1 Copies of brochure with Miller buildings exterior and floor plans, 5 pages. The specifications for a frame residence to be erected by Miller and Fisher for Mr. Sam Bane at Arrowsmith, IL, 16 pages, July 1895.

**Folder 5: Jehle House, Pana, IL**

5.1 Photocopy of Registration form for National Register of Historic Places for Louis Jehle Home in Pana, IL built by George H. Miller in 1895. Extensive description and numerous photos are included.

**Folder 6: Newspaper Articles**

*Pantagraph* unless noted.

- 6.1. Note on Miller watercolor of Wakefield's patent medicine factory, East Washington Street, 18 April 1879.
- 6.2. Note on new German Catholic church at corner of S. water and Short streets, *Weekly Pantagraph*, 4 September 1885.
- 6.3. "Geo. H. Miller's New Quarters," 30 January 1886.
- 6.4. Note on four-story B.S. Green building, 4 February 1886.
- 6.5. "New Odd Fellows' Temple," *Daily Leader*, 14 July 1886.
- 6.6. "Among The Builders," 24 March 1887.
- 6.7. "Their New Church," 28 March 1888.
- 6.8. "Plans for new \$20,000 hotel for J.P. Butler," 3 May 1888.
- 6.9. "New Livingston Building and Its Proprietor," 4 August 1902.
- 6.10. "Latest Business Block on North Main," 23 October 1902.
- 6.11. "New Pavilion Is Opened at Miller Park," 23 May 1907.
- 6.12. "Proposed Grand Stand at the Bloomington Base Ball Park," 22 December 1908.
- 6.13. "Handsome and Costly Farm Residence," 17 April 1909.
- 6.14. "Finest Country Home in The County Is Burned Down," 27 April 1909.
- 6.15. "Madison Street Fast Becoming a Canyon Walled in By High Buildings," *Sunday Bulletin*, 5 June 1910.
- 6.16. "Contract Signed for J.E. Will Seven Story Building," 14 August 1912.
- 6.17. "Klemm's New Factory and Wholesale Building," 12 September 1914.
- 6.18. "George H. Miller, One of Pioneer Architects of the City; summoned," 7 March 1927.
- 6.19. "A tour of history, Community gets glimpse at Miller architecture," 10 December 2004.

**Folder 7: Family and Related Photos**

- 7.1 University Printers of Illinois Notes, undated.
- 7.2 Copies of photos including old family photos, houses designed by Miller, and the move of the Mandel-Cohn House, approximately 66 pages.

**Folder 8: Moving the Mandel-Cohn House, Etc.** *Pantagraph* articles.

- 8.1 "Old house to get new home" 30 October 2004.
- 8.2 "House has big move ahead" 14 November 2004.
- 8.3 "Mandel-Cohn house completes seven-hour, two-block journey" 16 November 2004.

8.4 "A tour of History" 10 December 2004.

**Folder 9: Miscellaneous**

9.1 "New Court House" *The Daily Pantagraph*, 19 June 1901.

9.2 Holy Trinity Rectory, descriptive page including a photo, undated.