## National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property			
histori <mark>c name</mark> Miller-Cansle	er House		
other names/site number Miller	r, Adam Jr. House		
2. Location			
	07, 0.5 mi. E of jct. v	w/SR 1005	N/Anot for publication
city, town Maiden			X vicinity
state North Carolina code	NC county Catar	wba code	035 zip code 28658
3. Classification			
Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Re	esources within Property
Xprivate	X building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
public-local	district	1	2buildings
public-State	site		sites
public-Federal	structure		structures
pablic redoral	object	-	objects
		1	2 Total
lame of related multiple property listing	na:	Number of co	ntributing resources previously
. Historic & Architectural			lational Register0
of Catawba County, N.C.		nsted in the N	rational negister
. State/Federal Agency Certific	ation		
In my opinion, the property Annea			April 4, 1990 Date
State or Federal agency and bureau			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
In my opinion, the property mee	ts does not meet the Nation	nal Register criteria. 🔲 Se	ee continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other officie	I		Date
State or Federal agency and bureau			
National Park Service Certifica	ition		A to seem to handle
hereby, certify that this property is:			
entered in the National Register.			
See continuation sheet.			
determined eligible for the National			
Register. See continuation sheet.			
determined not eligible for the			
National Register.			
removed from the National Register			
other, (explain:)			
	Signatu	ure of the Keeper	Date of Action

Miller-Cansler House, Catawba County, N.C.		
6. Function or Use		
Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)	Current Func	tions (enter categories from instructions)
Domestic: single dwelling	<u>Domestic</u>	: single dwelling
7. Description		
Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)	Materials (en	er categories from instructions)
	foundation	stone
Federal	walls	wood
	roof	metal
	other	wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Miller-Cansler House ("A" on attached Sketch Map) is a circa 1820 two-story frame dwelling located northwest of the town of Maiden in south Catawba County. With both exterior and interior details remarkably well-preserved, the Miller-Cansler House is one of the finest Federal style farmhouses surviving in the county. A well-shed/dairy, possibly dating from the nineteenth century, and a modern frame garage accompany the house on its two acre lot.

The Miller-Cansler House faces west on a slight knoll on its two acre site overlooking the Startown-Lincolnton Road. the front yard is a vegetable garden, north of the house is pasture, and east of the house is a dairy on the adjacent properowned by Cansler descendants. The West Maiden Road the west side of the house. Surrounding the house are large cedars and dogwoods. Clumps of shrubs, quince, wreath and camellias, and perennials such as peonies, day lilies, and Sweet William are dotted grounds. Boxwoods are found in random plantings. In the center of the rear drive is a willow oak underplanted with Sweet liam, pinks, iris, and other old-time flowers.

original portion of the mortise-and-tenon' Miller-Cansler House is three bays wide with shed-roofed on front (west) and rear (east) and a shed room across the third of the rear. A two-room frame ell was added east shed room circa 1941. The house originally rested on a mortared foundation with wood slatted ventilators spaced but much of the mortared stone has been each window, replaced with cinderblocks, and all but one of the wood ventilators been replaced by small, rectangular storm windows. (The ing original vent is located in the cellar on the east side the shed room but is no longer visible from the exterior the ell addition.) The house is sheathed in molded siding, except for the porch walls, which are flush-sheathed. roof has a molded rake board shingle covered and eaves boxed with Federal-style moldings. The porch roofs treated in similar fashion. The end of the house has a

#### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number7	Page1	Miller-Cansler House
	<b>G</b>	Catawba County, N.C

double-shoulder brick chimney laid in Flemish bond with pencilled joints, an eight-step heel, and mortared stone base. The north side of the house has an interior end brick chimney. Windows are symmetrically arranged, with nine-over-nine sash on the first story, nine-over-six sash on the second story, and four-over-four sash in the attic. Windows have three-part surrounds and shallow, molded sills. The first story windows retain their iron shutter pintles, although the shutters themselves are gone, and the second story and attic windows apparently had no shutters.

The shed-roofed porch which extends across the entire facade is largely original. The flush-boarded porch wall retains its molded cornice, and physical evidence suggests that there was once a baseboard. Porch posts are heavily chamfered, with caps. What appears to be the original balustrade wraps molded around the porch, with hand rail and base rail tenoned into and posts. The balustrade features turned balusters and a molded hand rail. At the center of the porch is the six-panel front door with four-light transom. The entrance is surrounded by a delicately reeded casing with plain base blocks and unusual square corner blocks ornamented with punched (or drilled ) holes. The rear porch appears to have been identical to the front porch, lost its balustrade and has replacement square (while retaining the molded caps.) The rear door is identical to the front door. The north end of the rear porch, adjacent to the shed room, continues the flush sheathed wall with molded cornice. Its door, however, with three-light transom, five-panel door and flat casing, appears to be a replacement of the door or originally at this location.

The circa 1941 one-story frame ell has a brick pier foundation infilled with cinderblocks, weatherboard siding, a gable roof with overhanging boxed eaves, interior brick chimney, and irregularly-placed six-over-six sash windows. The south side of the ell has an engaged porch with narrow beaded board wall and ceiling and slender chamfered posts. The ell porch adjoins the main rear porch.

Like the exterior, the interior of the Miller-Cansler House is well-endowed with Federal-style detailing. Both floors are arranged according to a three-room plan, with two smaller rooms on the north side and a single, exceptionally large room --measuring approximately twenty feet square -- on the south side. Ceilings are approximately eleven feet high. Although the flooring on the first story has been covered with linoleum or carpet,

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section	number	7	Page2	Miller-Cansler	Hous
			3	Catamba County	NI (

the second story still exhibits the original wide board flooring. Walls and ceilings are flush-sheathed, and the walls between chair rail and molded baseboard are stained (rather painted) to give the impression of a wainscot. (The exception is the northeast room downstairs, which incorporates the shed space. walls are sheetrocked and its ceiling has been lowered with celotex -- changes which probably occured when ell was added.) The crown molding varies in the different rooms, suggesting that it may not originally have been found in all that the most prominent rooms were treated largest and most prominent crown molding. Six-panel doors remain intact throughout the house, many with their original hardware -box locks, knobs, latches and strap hinges. The front door has a iron bolt above its box lock. Two of the doors on the second floor retain sophisticated mahogany graining. Most doors, as well as windows, have three-part molded surrounds.

beautiful Federal style mantels remain in the The most elaborate, as well as the most unusual, is in the south room downstairs. The mantel shelf is composed of layers of Federal style moldings and a reeded band and is slightly blocked. The frieze continues the three-part blocking, with a center tablet decorated by carved corner fans, and corner decprated by unusual scrolled console brackets. Beneath is an equally unusual deep U-shaped carved design. firebox is surrounded by an architrave bordered by a reeded band. northeast downstairs room has a corner mantel with shelf, molded band defining the lower edge of the plain frieze, fluted pilasters resting on base blocks. The corner molded the northwest downstairs room has a heavily frieze and molded architrave around the firebox. wide-panel Upstairs, the corner mantel in the northwest room is similar design to the mantel in the room directly below it but is somewhat smaller with slightly different overall proportions and some in the moldings used. The mantel in the large difference room upstairs is similar in overall design to the mantels in northwest rooms, but here the moldings of the shelf simple and the frieze panel is long and narrow and is painted simulate a bluish-grey slate or marble.

Other notable interior features of the Miller-Cansler House include the stairs and their associated closets. The stair to the second story is enclosed and is entered from the downstairs south room by way of a six-panel door located on the north wall next to the front door. The broad stairway rises from west to

#### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section	number	7	Page.	3	Miller-Cansler H	łouse
			5		Catawba County.	N.C.

east, and the stair risers are decorated with a painted spongework treatment. Beneath the east end of the stair is a closet with a small six-panel door opening from the northwest room. On the second floor, a stair rises from the southeast corner of the northeast room to the attic. This stair is enclosed above the fourth step by a six-panel door. Under this stair is a tiny closet enclosed by a two-panel door. In the northwest room upstairs, a cupboard in the southwest corner is recessed in the space above the main stair. This unusual feature has two sets of double-leaf, paneled doors, the upper set being the largest. Inside the cupboard are shelves.

The attic of the Miller-Cansler House has sawn rafters with pegged joints. It is completely floored with wide boards.

The cellar is entered through a small gable-rocfed frame structure with batten doors on the north side of the house, toward the front. Stone steps bordered by dry-laid stone walls lead down to the cellar. The cellar is approximatly six to seven feet deep and has a dirt floor. It is divided into two major rooms, but door hinge pintles in some of the upright supports suggest the likelihood that the cellar was originally divided into several spaces. Mortared stone walls with dirt ledges line the cellar, with some of the walls projecting into the rooms. Massive mortared stone piers and cedar poles twelve to fifteen inches in diameter support huge hewn joists. The northeast corner of the cellar is enclosed by vertical slats. Mortise holes in the bottom of the center beam suggest that there was once another partition of this type.

The circa 1941 ell on the rear of the house consists of two main rooms -- dining room and kitchen -- with a small bathroom between the central chimney and the north wall. A five-panel door leads from the shed room to the dining room. Walls and ceilings are sheathed in narrow bead boarding. Doors to the ell porch are of glass and wood panels.

Immediately northeast of the rear ell is a frame well shed/dairy, (8, noncontributing) of unknown construction date. It has a sheet metal-covered gable roof, weatherboarded gables, and wood poles supporting the roof structure above the open well shed on the south side. A batten door opens to the enclosed dairy, with its trough running along the east side. The inside of the dairy is sheathed with modern paneling and the exterior is covered with ersatz brick.

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number7	Page4	Miller-Cansler House
		Catawba County, N.C.

Northeast of the well-shed/dairy is the modern frame **garage** (C, noncontributing) with weatherboard siding, metal-covered gable roof, and opening on the south side.

Miller-Cansler House, Catawba County, 1	N.C.	
8. Statement of Significance		
Certifying official has considered the significance of this pr		
nationally	statewide X locally	
Applicable National Register Criteria A B	C D	
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)	C D DE DF G	
Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)  Architecture	Period of Significance ca. 1820	Significant Dates
	Cultural Affiliation N/A	
Significant Person N/A	Architect/Builder Unknown	

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

#### Summary

Miller-Cansler House, a circa 1820 frame farmhouse of Maiden in south Catawba County, is one of finest surviving Federal period farmhouses in the county. three room plan, two story farmhouse exhibits molded rake board and boxed eaves decorated with Federal-style moldings, decorative porch details such as turned balusters and molded hand rails, and six-panel front door with a four-light transom. details include five elaborate Federal style mantels, with the south downstairs room exhibiting a particularly fine mantel which is composed of several layers of Federal style moldings, scrolled brackets and corner fans. Exceptionally fine examples of teenth century painted mahogany wood grain can be found on two doors upstairs. The house was once the seat οf a prosperous nineteenth century farm, which shifted from grain typical of the nineteenth century into dairying in the twentieth In 1977 the house tract was separated from the acreage and lost its agricultural significance. Due to particularly fine Federal features of the Miller-Cansler House, it meets the registration requirements for Criterion C under Property Type "Houses of Catawba County: Antebellum (1800-1864)."

#### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section	number	8	Page1	Miller-Cansler Hou
			J	Catawba County, N.

#### Historical Background

The Miller-Cansler House is located three miles west of the Maiden community in south-central Catawba County. The farmhouse was possibly built around 1820 by Michael Rudisill, Jr. who acquired the property from his father in that year. In 1836 Rudisill sold the place to his son-in-law Adam Miller, Jr., a locally prominent and controversial Lutheran minister. The house remained in the hands of descendants of Miller and Cansler until its sale in 1977.

Adam Miller, Jr. (23 February 1801-13 February 1868) was one of a score of Lutheran ministers who served Catawba County in the antebellum period. A sizable proportion of the county's population, descended from German immigrants, worshiped in Lutheran German Reformed churches. Born in Scott County, Virginia, John Miller and his wife, Adam Miller, Jr. was named for also a Lutheran minister. The elder Adam Miller congregations in Tennessee, Virginia, and North Carolina Martin's in Cabarrus County among others). Adam Miller, Sr. came to the ministry late in life, preaching his first sermon at age of fifty-three. 1 The younger Miller, however, received calling at a much younger age. He was ordained as a deacon 1825 and became a pastor in 1826 at the age of twenty-five. Tennessee Synod, by which he was ordained, was formed in Congregations in the Catawba Valley which had generally affiliated with the North Carolina Synod became associated with the new group upon its formation. The Reverend Adam Miller, served fifteen area churches in Lincoln, Catawba, Gaston, Tenburg, Rowan, Alexander, and Stanley counties between 1831 In his home county of Catawba (formed from Lincoln 1842), Miller preached at St. Stephen's, St. John's, St. and Grace Lutheran churches. His ties were strongest to Paul's Church which was the nearest of the four to his home.

Miller's congregations at St. Paul's and St. John's were split by two events (perhaps related) in the mid-nineteenth century. In 1846 Miller and parts of his congregations withdrew from the Tennessee Synod, shifting their affiliation to the newly-formed Tennessee Synod Reorganized. The reasons for the shift are unclear. Miller, from all accounts, was a doctrinaire, theologically conservative clergyman. The inscription on his tombstone reads:

#### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section	number	_ 8	Page	2	Miller-0	Cansler	House
			5		Catawba	County,	, N.C.

A safe and able divine, a staunch and constant friend of God and religious liberty; and an uncompromising opponent to innovation in doctrine or discipline. A pastor of the Evangelical Church 42 years.<sup>2</sup>

The attempt to form the new synod, however, was an abortive one. With its failure in 1847 Miller petitioned for reinstatement in the Tennessee Synod but was rejected. In time he and several members of his congregations became affiliated with Joint Synod of Ohio. 3 At about the same time Adam Miller was confronted with charges regarding his personal conduct. The exact nature of such charges cannot be determined from available sources. A "charge of immorality" against Miller first arose within the ranks of the St. Stephen's congregation in 1845. Thus it was under the clouds of these "serious charges" that he chose to withdraw from the Tennessee Synod. Miller is said to have denied the charges but a majority of the members at St. John's and St. Stephen's refused to have him as their pastor. Though he remained at St. Paul's, dissension and division within its ranks led to a split and the eventual creation of a separate church. 4

Adam Miller, Jr. was married twice, both times in Lincoln County. His first wife was Mary Ann Rudisill (4 February 1814-25 December 1851) whom he married in 1829. They had three children, a son S. Gerard, and two daughters Catherine and Frances died at age sixteen). In 1857, six years after the death of first wife, Miller married Susan Roberts (20 June 1823-14 September 1913). They had two daughters, Gertrude and Candace.<sup>5</sup> 1836 Miller bought the house and 162 acres for \$862 from Michael Rudisill, Jr., the father of his first wife. 6 Rudisill (13 September 1785-25 October 1867), who is buried at St. Paul's, had bought 193 acres for \$200 from his father Michael Rudisill, Sr. in 1820. The archtectural detailing of the house, such as Federal-style moldings and mantelpieces, are strongly suggestive of a circa 1820 construction date. Both the Miller-Cansler House and the nearby Rudisill-Wilson House (NR) are associated Michael Rudisill Jr., and his father, however, it is not whether the father or son built the Miller-Cansler House. Rudisills were planters with extensive landholdings in what then Lincoln County. Y Because of the early sale of the house to Miller, the name of Rudisill did not become attached to house.

#### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number.	88	Page	3	Miller-0	Cansler	House
		9		Catawba	County,	N.C.

Miller, who made other purchases of local tracts after 1836, retained and farmed sizable parts of his land. In the 1860s he was taxed on 314 acres with a value of \$3,200. In 1860 he cultivated 100 acres, mostly in wheat, corn, and oats. He kept some livestock, mostly hogs. Whereas in 1840 Miller had only a single slave, in 1860 he had four slaves (one adult female, one male teenager, and two small children). One slavehouse, presumably no longer standing, was located on the property. Living with the Miller family in 1860 was G. F. Safire, a twenty-year-old white farm laborer. Adam Miller died in 1868 and was buried in the cemetery at St. Paul's (both of his wives were also buried at St. Paul's). By the terms of his will Miller left his real estate to his wife Susan and other personal property to his daughters and a grandaughter.

The property remained in the hands of Miller's descendants, those named both Miller and Cansler, from 1868 to 1977. His widow Susan outlived him by forty-five years, dying in 1913 at age ninety. Through most of the latter part of the nineteenth century she paid tax on the 314 acres, by then valued at \$1,500. In addition she kept some taxable livestock, a couple of horses, a few cows, and a dozen hogs and similar number of sheep. 10 Although no agricultural report is available for Susan Miller's farming operation, it seems likely to have been a small one to judge by her number of livestock. In 1880 Susan Miller lives in the house with her daughters Gertrude and Candace, then ages twenty-two and nineteen. 11 By 1900 the widow Miller no longer lived in the homeplace, apparently staying with one of her children in the area. She was buried at St. Paul's cemetery after her death in 1913.

Susan Fanny Gertrude Miller (28 June 1858-29 October 1901) received her mother's house and 184 acres of the farm in  $1896.^{12}$  In 1888 she married Adolphus L. Cansler (1847-?). By 1900 the couple had seven children. Cansler listed himself as a farmer in the census of that year. 13 The extent of his farming is not known, although he may have begun the dairy operation carried on by his heirs. Susan Gertrude Cansler died in 1901 (and was buried at St. Paul's Cemetery) but was outlived by her husband by several years. In 1915 he paid taxes on his livestock and 140 acres valued at \$1,436.14

Eben Craig Cansler (1891-1957), the son of Adolphus and Susan Gentrude, was the next owner of the property, receiving full title from other heirs in  $1947.^{15}$  E. C. Cansler had lived

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section	number	8	Page	4	Miller-0	Cansler	House
			J		Catawba	County,	N.C.

elsewhere in the Newton area since the 1920s. Like his father, he was a farmer and assumed operation of his father's operation. Upon his death in 1957 the property passed to his wife Lillie. Their son Vernon Dwight Cansler became the owner in 1960. He and his wife Ruth continued to operate a dairy farm. Lillie Cansler died in 1975. In 1977 her son Vernon sold the house and two acres to David and Glenda Withers. The house is currently owned by William and Barbara Cloer.

#### FOOTNOTES

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Lutheran Church in America, North Carolina Synod, <u>Life Sketches of Lutheran Ministers, North Carolina and Tennessea Synod, 1773-1365</u> (Columbia, S. C.: Published for the North Carolina Synod, 1965), 134.

<sup>2</sup>Neal D. wilfong (domp.), <u>lombstone Inscriptions of the Old St. Paul's Cemetery</u>, 1702-1957 (N.p., 1969), 18.

<sup>3</sup>Morgan et al., <u>History of the Lutheran Church</u>, 80; Lutheran Church, Life Sketches of Lutheran Ministers, 135.

<sup>4</sup>Charles J. Preslar, Jr., (ed.), <u>A History of Catawba County</u> (Salisbury, N.C.: Rowan Printing Co. for the Catawba County Historical Association, Inc., 1954), 106; Morgan et al., <u>History of the Lutheran Church</u>, 80, 329; <u>Hickory Daily Record</u>, 11 September 1965.

 $^5{\rm Lincoln}$  County Marriage Bond, North Carolina State Archives; Seventh and Eighth Censuses, 1850, 1860, Population Schedules.

<sup>6</sup>Lincoln County Deed Book 29, p. 543 and Deed Book 37, p. 96.

<sup>7</sup>Wilfong (comp.), <u>Tombstone Inscriptions</u>, 28.

<sup>8</sup>Catawba County Tax Records, North Carolina State Archives; Sixth and Eighth Censuses, 1840, 1860, Population, Agricultural, and Slave Schedules.

<sup>9</sup>Catawba County Will Book 1, p. 254.

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5 Miller-Cansler House Catawba County, N.C.

10 Catawba County Tax Records, North Carolina State Archives.

11Tenth Census, 1880, Population Schedule.

12 Catawba County Deed Book 53, p. 236.

13 Twelfth Census, 1900, Population Schedule.

14 Catawba County Tax Records, North Carolina State Archives.

15Catawba County Deed Book 368, p. 238.

<sup>16</sup>Catawba County Deed Book 598, p. 545.
Catawba County Deeds, Estates Records, Tax Records, Vital State istics, and Wills North Carolina State Anchives.

milier-cansier House, Catawba County, N.C.	
9. Major Bibliographical References	
See Continuation Sheet.	
	X See continuation sheet
Previous documentation on file (NPS):	E- occ community around
preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)	Primary location of additional data:
has been requested  previously listed in the National Register	X State historic preservation office Other State agency
previously determined eligible by the National Register	Federal agency
designated a National Historic Landmark	Local government
recorded by Historic American Buildings	University
Survey #recorded by Historic American Engineering	Other Specify repository:
Record #	
10. Geographical Data  Acreage of property2 acres	The control of the file of the control of the contr
Acreage or property	
UTM References	
A 1 7 4 7 6 9 9 9 3 3 9 0 1 5 Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing
	See continuation sheet
Verbal Boundary Description	
The nominated property consists of all of los	t l in area l of Sheet No. 69N of the
Catawba County tax maps.	
	See continuation sheet
Boundary Justification	. —
soundary occurrences	
Entire remaining parcel associated with proper	ty.
	See continuation sheet
11. Form Prepared By	
	. Phillips, description: Michael Hill, histor
organization <u>Catawba County Historical Assn.</u> Street & number <u>Rt. 1, Box 76 AB</u>	date telephone704/256-3040
city or town Conover	statezip code _28613

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number	9	Page	1	Miller (	Cansler	House	
				Catawba	County	, N.C.	

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  Balitimore: Regional Publishing Company, 1967 (originally published, 1937).
- United States. Sixth through Twelfth Censuses, 1840-1900: Population, Agricultural, and Slave Schedules.
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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Photos	Page1	Miller-Cansler House	
	•	Catawba County, NC	

The following information applies to all photographs unless otherwise noted below:

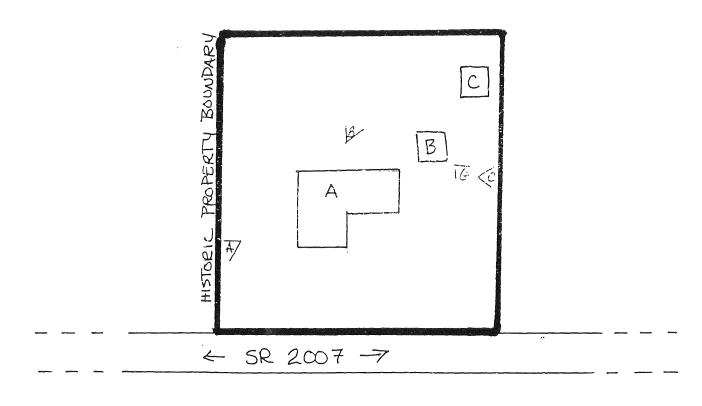
- 1) Miller-Cansler House
- 2) Maiden vicinity, North Carolina
- 4) May 1983
- 5) North Carolina Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, NC
- A. 3) Barbara Kooiman
  - 4) June 1989
  - 6) House, east
- B. 3) Davyd Foard Hood
  - 6) House, south
- C. 3) Davyd Foard Hood
  - 6) House, west
- D. 3) Laura Phillips
  - 6) House interior, painted stairs
- E. 3) Laura Phillips
  - 6) House interior, painted door
- F. 3) Laura Phillips
  - 6) House interior, mantel
- G. 3) Davyd Foard Hood
  - 6) Wellhouse (B), north

NOTE: Most of the photos used for this nominationwere taken in 1983. All resources have been thoroughly field checked by Barbara Kooiman in 1989 and have been determined to be unchanged from the appearance and condition portrayed in photographs taken prior to 1989.

MILLER-CANSLER HOUSE
MAIDEN VICINITY
CATAWBA COUNTY

MAP 69-N, BLOCK 1, LOT 1

NORTH



# BUILDINGS

A. MILLER-CANSLER HOUSE (C)

B- WELLSHED / DAIRY (NC)

C-GARAGE (NC)

SCALE | 1" = 100'

C= CONTRIBUTING
NC= NONCONTRIBUTING
A = Photo and direction & concre lence

