

## Smith & Sons Miller Chapel

Founded: [1886]

Location: Original location unknown, South Whitley (1886– ); Maple Street; State Street (–1941); 208 North Maple Street (1941–)

The forerunner of the Miller Funeral Home was established in South Whitley in November 1886, probably by Robert A. Fisher. M. Roy Miller, Fisher's stepson, seems to have become a partner in the early 1900s; the two men ran the Miller & Fisher Funeral Home. From 1922 until August 1934 Miller was in partnership with Lewis Pook. The Miller & Pook Funeral Home was located on State Street for at least part of this time. A native of Kosciusko County, Miller was in the undertaking business for forty-seven years. For many years he operated a furniture store in addition to supervising funerals. From August 1934 onward he operated the Miller Funeral Home on his own, except for a brief period from March 1936 through July 1938 when he entered a partnership and the business became Miller & Landis Funeral Home.

Miller closed his furniture store in 1941 and moved his undertaking business to his home at 208 North Maple Street, which he remodeled. His son-in-law William A. Striggle joined the business. Striggle inherited the funeral home after Miller's death in 1949. Striggle operated the firm until his sudden death on 1 January 1982. His widow Joan sold the funeral home to Smith & Sons Funeral Home of Columbia City later that month. Smith & Sons retained Striggle's old staff and operated the South Whitley funeral home as Smith & Sons Miller Chapel. Joan Striggle continued to reside in the home and assist in funeral arrangements.

