United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms* Type all entries—complete applicable sections

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7. Description

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Andrew Carr Sr. house stands on roughly an acre and a half of river front property. It is one of five homes built along a gradual bend in the Souris River in west central Minot between ca. 1900 and 1925. Both the large house and modest carriage house are located on the rear (north) portion of the lot near the river. The carriage house predates the house and was actually Carr's first residence. The expansive yard is interspersed with oaks, firs and lilac bushes, many planted by the Carr family. A concrete sundial pedestal stands southwest of the house and a fluted wood flagpole with ball finial stands southeast of the house. The once-circular driveway now terminates at the carriage house, and the tennis courts originally located east of the house have long since been usurped by another residence.

William Zimmerman's design for the Carr House bridges the gap between the established Victorian-era esthetic and the growing taste for Classicism. Although the house is wrapped in a grandiose porch and art glass windows dot the elevations, the overriding emphasis of the exterior design is Classical. The classically inspired composition of the porch, combined with such classically derived features as the fully pedimented gables, Palladian-like arrangement of the facade gable windows with denticulated window hoods, and the paneled and modillioned soffits, are all indicative of the trend to bring order to the flamboyance of the Victorian era.

The Carr house is relatively symmetrical in plan and is composed of an elongated two and a half story rectangle with a gable roof, both aligned on a north-south axis. A pair of two story bays are approximately centered on either side elevation. The three-sided west bay pierces the roofline and culminates in a gabled dormer. A single story open porch extends the full width of the front (south) facade and wraps around the southeast corner of the house, terminating at the east side bay. A small single story hip roofed entry is built into the north elevation. The entire structure rests on a rough cut granite foundation. Cast concrete block pilings support the front porch. All elevations are sided with asbestos shingles and all roof slopes are finished with asphalt shingles.

Stained and beveled glass are abundant in the Carr house and include large fixed leaded glass windows at both levels of the west bay, leaded glass transoms on the east bay, stained glass transoms in all main facade window treatments, and a stained glass lunette on the west elevation. A clear glass cameo window lights the gable peak above the Palladian-like window arrangement in the facade gable.

The single story porch is the dominant feature of the south facade and is composed of classically inspired fluted pillars embellished with egg and dart echinus mouldings and turned balustrades at the first and second story levels. The porch floor is tongue and groove and the ceiling is beadboard. Both the latticed porch skirt and stairs are wood. The rear entry porch is similarily detailed but without the second story balustrade.

Alterations to the exterior of the Carr House include the application (1959) of asbestos shingles over the original clapboard siding and shingled gable faces. This resulted in removal of the denticulated lintel moulding above the pair of second story

Continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

7	Page	1	
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bay windows on the front facade. Original ground-level cellar doors have been replaced (ca. 1959) by a gable roofed entry on the west elevation and a fixed sash window has been inserted between two originial one-over-one kitchen windows on the west elevation (no date). The rear entry has been enclosed on the north with a piece of corrugated steel, the roof has been reshingled with asphalt and the corbelled chimney caps have been removed (no dates).

Item number

The asymmetrical interior spacial arrangement of the Carr house with its \Im attention to formality and privacy, as well as the general opulence of material finish, illustrate the Victorian esthetic. The massive size of the Carr house reflects the need of the affluent Victorian for specially designated space; servants quarters for the maid and chauffeur, extra bed-rooms for extended family members or guests, and parlors, music rooms and ballrooms for the cultivation of the arts and entertainment.

The first floor of the Carr house is a bilateral arrangement of space and is comprised on the west side, from front to rear, of a small entry, large foyer, dining room, pantry, and kitchen. The east side of the main floor is occupied by a music room/solarium, parlor, library, and "spare" room.

The most outstanding feature of the main floor is the woodwork. The most exquisite woodwork is located in the fover and includes the three-turn open stairway and corner nook and the colonnades. All of the wood is oak and much of it is quartersawn. The balustrade of the three flight stairway is made up of three styles of turned balusters which rest upon an open paneled string-course. The square newel posts at each landing are paneled, each panel articulated by a bead of egg and dart. Newel caps are embellished with acanthus leaves. Beneath the stringcourse, the stairwell is enclosed with a dado of chamfered panels which complements the stringcourse and corner nook paneling. Both foyer colonnades are identical and have chamfered bases. fluted wall pilasters and smooth doric columns. Both pilasters and columns are embellished with bands of egg and dart, bead and reel and anthemion. While the colonnade to the music room supports a flat entablature, the colonnade framing the dining room entrance supports an elliptical arch. A third colonnade defines the small solarium in the southeast corner of the music room. It is identical to the others except for the addition of ornamental consoles above the post capitals which visually support the entablature above it. The consoles are decorated with foliated scrollwork.

Two working fireplaces help warm the large house, one in the northwest corner of the parlor and one on the north wall of the library. The parlor hearth features mottled brown ceramic tiles framed by an oak mantel and overmantel with beveled mirrors. The library hearth is diminutive; both mantel and hearth tiles are unglazed terra cotta.

Each of the formal rooms on the main floor can be enclosed by handsome paneled pocket doors embellished with egg and dart. Each of these rooms is finished with identical window and door surrounds, baseboards, picture rails and brass hardware.

Continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only received date entered Page 2

Window and door lintels as well as doorknobs and door plates are decorated with the egg

and dart motif. All the walls have plaster finishes and all floors are oak except for the small entry which is finished in green and white octagonal encaustic tile. The dining room floor is parqueted tongue and groove and displays a border of alternating light and dark stained boards. The less formal areas of the main floor, the pantry, kitchen and northeast corner rooms, are finished in fir and have maple floors.

Light fixtures represent several time periods but the two brass gasoliers (now electric) in the foyer and dining room are original. The crystal chandelier in the dining room was purchased in the early twenties and replaced the original Tiffany glass fixtures. The moderne fixture in the library was probably installed in the 1930s.

The main floor has been altered by the total renovation of the kitchen (date unknown) and the conversion of the west half of the pantry to a half bath (1959). The still operable servant's call system box has been relocated from its original kitchen location to the exterior of the newly formed bathroom wall.

The second floor of the Carr house contains eight rooms. A full bath occupies the south end of the floor and the remaining bedrooms and second bath flank the north-south axis of the central hall. All the rooms are finished with the same oak woodwork that prevails on the main floor. The three front bedrooms are ventilated by moveable door transoms. The floors are maple. The second floor light fixtures are of mixed vintage but the brass gasoliers (now electric) in the east and west side bay rooms appear to be original. A small hall light dates to ca. 1930 and other fixtures appear to be reproductions or very recent.

Although the original spatial configuration of the second floor is unchanged, the south end dressing room was converted to a full bath in 1973. At that time, the footbath in that dressing room was moved to the original full bath on the west side. Other alterations to the second floor include replastering ceilings down to the picture rail. Interviews indicate the main bedrooms originally had frescoed wall borders.

The third story maple-floored ballroom is accessible via a hand-grained stairway (which also extends to the kitchen below) at the north end of the second floor hall. The ballroom was remodelled in 1975, at which time the walls were papered; however, the space remains unchanged. Also located at the third story level are two bedroom's and a bath, originally utilized by servants. A pedestal sink and water closet indicate the bathroom was remodelled ca. 1930.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only received date entered

Continuation sheet	Item number	7	Page ³

The carriage house is a one and a half story wood frame structure that rests on a rough-cut granite foundation. It is finished with clapboards and cornerboards and has an asphalt shingled clipped gable roof. It is fenestrated with two-over-two wood frame windows. A slightly projecting loft opening centered on the east elevation is supported by three curved wood brackets and is protected by a clipped gable roof. The main floor contains three bays; the central bay originally opened on both east and west sides, but is now accessible only from the east. The walls and ceilings of all three bays are finished with beadboard. The loft is divided into two bays; the smaller, northern-most, bay is finished with wallboard while the larger bay on the south remains unfinished. Major alterations to the carriage house include the enclosure of the central bay on the west elevation with clapboards.

8. Significance

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Specific dates	ca 1903	Builder/Architect	William Zimmerman	

ca. 1903 Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Andrew Carr Sr. house is significant for it's association with one of Minot's most prominent families and is a physical monument to their accomplishments. It is also significant as one of a few well-preserved examples of massive architect-designed homes built by affluent North Dakotans at the turn of the century.

Both Andrew L. Carr Sr. and his wife, Addie Carr, made important and lasting contributions to the city of Minot and the surrounding community during their 45 years of residency within that community. Dr. Carr was one of many early North Dakota physicians whose practice spanned the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Carr's practice, however, as evidenced by his efforts to organize the growing medical profession in his working area and to build modern health care institutions that would complement the trend toward specialized medicine, represents a distinguishable contribution to the transition from general practice to specialization. Mrs. Carr's endeavors, most of which took place "behind the scenes," enhanced the quality of life in Minot by transforming the time and money of the affluent into public good.

The details of Andrew Carr's life are sketchy before he and Addie McIntyre, both formerly of Minnesota, were married in Grand Forks County, Dakota Territory, in 1883. Both Addie and Andrew Carr proved on homesteads in the McVille-Northwood area in Northeastern Dakota before leaving for Chicago where Andrew Carr attended Rush Medical School. Upon his graduation in 1888, the Carr's returned to Northwood where Carr established a general practice and worked the long hours of a country doctor. Carr was one of approximately two hundred registered physicians in Dakota Territory who practiced in an era when surgery was still being performed in the patient's home.

In 1899, Carr organized the physicians in the Northwood area into the Inter-County Medical Society, the first medical society to be established in the Red River Valley after Fargo physicians organized in 1881. Inter-County's membership included doctors from Grand Forks, Nelson, Traill, and Steele Counties and excluded cities with populations exceeding 3,000.

After nearly a decade of general practice, Carr returned to Rush Medical School to become a specialist in otolaryngology. He completed that degree in 1903 and was one of the state's earliest specialists when he took up residency in Minot the same year. In 1904, Carr was instrumental in organizing the Northwestern Medical Society in Minot and was elected its first president. The organization included physicians from Ward, Williams, McHenry, Bottineau, and Pierce Counties and met quarterly to present professional papears and case studies. This society exists today as the 4th District Northwestern Medical Society.

In 1927, ". . . due largely to the vision and spirity of Dr. Carr," the three story Northwest Clinic was built to accommodate the growing number of specialists in the Minot area. This building, designed by the Minot architectural firm of Bugenhagen and Molander, is presntly called the Professional Building and remains part of the growing complex of medical buildings in commercial Minot.

9. Major Bibliographical References

¹ Minot Daily News, May 18, 1953, p. 14 The Independent, Jan. 29, 1948, p. 8

North Dakota Medicine Sketches and Abstracts by J. Garassick, M.D., 1926, pp. 204,238,259 & Personal interview with Ruth Carr Jr., Minot, October 29, 1983. 288

10. Geographical Data

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Continuation sheet

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only received date entered Page 4

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In 1930 Dr. Carr's achievements and contributions to the quality of medical care in North Dakota were recognized by his peers when he was elected president of the North Dakota Medical Association. In 1949, a year after his death, family members dedicated a nurse's station in Carr's name to the then expanding Trinity Hospital in Minot. Carr had donated both time and money to the establishment of the institution in 1924.

Item number

8

Carr's interests beyond the medical community were reflected in his election to Minot's first City Park Board in 1911. He was also a member of the Kiwanis Club and the Masonic Order.

Andrew Carr's zeal for the medical profession was matched by Addie Carr's energy for philanthropy and community development. Addie Carr, Charter Member of Minot's Women's Club, is credited with having secured for Minot one of six Carnegie libraries built in the state (listed on the NRHP in 1980). An active member in the Women's Club until her death in 1940, Mrs. Carr chaired that organization's philanthropic committee. Addie Carr was a devoted Red Cross volunteer during World I, supported the women's suffrage movement, and was State Treasurer for the W.C.T.U. (date unknown). She and her husband were both avid gardeners and planted many species of lilacs, fruit trees, and deciduous and coniferous trees on the grounds around the Carr house. Both were committed members of the Presbyterian Church.

The Carr House, designed by William Zimmerman and built ca. 1903, not only represents the achievements of one of Minot's most prominent families, but represents a style of domestic architecture that, not unlike Carr's medical career, also spans two centuries. While the interior of the Carr House largely demonstrates the nineteenth century Victorian esthetic, the exterior illustrates the early twentieth century preoccupation with Classicism. Although the Carr House does not fit into any single high style of architecture, it is typical of a number of large homes built by wealthy North Dakotans at the turn of the century. It is somewhat unusual in that it has survived to the present as a single family dwelling. It's uncompromised setting, excellence of material workmanship, and generally well-preserved material integrity make it a fine example of its genre in North Dakota.