



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name Dr. Albert M. and Evelyn M. Brandt House

other names/site number Francis and Leona Larson House

**2. Location**

street & number 323 East Avenue B

N/A  not for publication

city or town Bismarck

N/A  vicinity

state North Dakota code ND county Burleigh code 015 zip code 58501

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Samuel J. Wegner  
Samuel J. Wegner

07/06/00  
Date

State Historic Preservation Officer (North Dakota)

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I, 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): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Edson H. Beall

Date of Action

5/10/00

Brandt House  
Name of Property

Burleigh, ND  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Tudor Revival  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE  
walls BRICK  
roof WOOD  
other \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Brandt House  
Name of Property

Burleigh, ND  
County and State

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**  
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**  
(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a grave.
- D** a cemetery
- E** a reconstructed building, object or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**  
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**  
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:  
Judi (Larson) Chapman

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

1928

**Significant Dates**

1928

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Architects: Don A. McLaren and  
Albert O. Larson, Minneapolis, MN  
Builder: Nils H. Lovin, Bismarck, ND

Brandt House  
Name of Property

Burleigh, ND  
County and State

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## 10. Geographical Data

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**Acreege of Property** less than 1 acre

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	14	363 720	518 430			3
	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
2					4	
	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing

See continuation sheet.

### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

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## 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title Judi Chapman with technical assistance by Rolene Schliesman, ND SHPO office  
organization \_\_\_\_\_ date 7 July 2000  
street & number 2300 Hilda Avenue telephone (406)543-7746  
city or town Missoula state MT zip code 59801

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## Additional Documentation

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

### Continuation Sheets

### Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

### Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

### Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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## Property Owner

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(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Judi Chapman  
street & number 2300 Hilda Avenue telephone (406)543-7746  
city or town Missoula state MT zip code 59801

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**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

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Dr. Albert M. and Evelyn M. Brandt House  
Burleigh County, North Dakota

**Description**

The Dr. Albert M. and Evelyn M. Brandt House is a two-story English Tudor Revival style house located at the 323 East Avenue B in Bismarck, North Dakota. Situated on the southeast corner of the East Avenue B and Fourth Street North intersection, the house is in a quiet neighborhood one block from the edge of the downtown commercial and governmental core of the city. The brick house, matching brick detached garage, and landscaping were designed by the Minneapolis architectural firm of McLaren and Larson and built in 1928. Typical of Larson and McLaren's designs, the front elevation is the long axial side of the house. The front faces north toward the Former Governors' Mansion at 320 East Avenue B which was listed in the National Register in 1975.

The Brandt House is cited on one-and-a-half lots with large American elms, evergreen trees, and shrubs in the north front and east side yards and in the wide parkway strips, or grassy right-of-ways between the curb and sidewalks. In the back yard, two brick arched gateways, brick courtyard walls, and wooden picket fencing provide structure in the landscape. Other hard landscape surfaces are the curved, herringbone-patterned brick sidewalk to the front door; a three-tiered brick step from the courtyard to the French doors of the dining room, and courtyard paving bricks in basket-weave and grid patterns. Multiple planting beds of irises, peonies, tulips, ferns, and raspberries hug the base of the house and accompany a small vegetable garden and a rose garden which is visible from the living room windows of the home. Vines cover some of the brick walls and have climbed the massive brick chimney.

A comb-finished yellow-beige brick; brick being the most common Tudor wall material, was used in the construction of the house, detached garage, courtyard walls, and archways. Each element is trimmed with dark red-brown brick. The brick was made in North Dakota's only remaining brickyard, the Hebron Brick Company. The house and garage are capped with steeply pitched roofs and low eave lines. Roof forms include a long axial clipped gable, a dominant front gable, dominant rear hipped roof, hipped dormers and arched dormers. The roofs sport their original cedar shake shingles which were installed in a waved pattern that imitates thatching. Leaded glass casement windows of differing sizes were used throughout the house. Fixed transom windows are located over several of the casement windows and elongate the openings.

The central front elevation is dominated by a large, central 1½-story entrance gable that projects four feet from the main body of the house, a typical feature of the Tudor style. The original Tudor arch doorway is trimmed in beige cast stone, and the shape of the original heavy wood door and screen door matches the Tudor opening. A bracketed lintel is located above the front door and serves as a shallow step for the balcony above. The balcony, with its wrought iron railing, French doors, and fixed transom, is ornamental rather than functional. A metal and art glass light fixture, which appears to be original, hangs from the door lintel. Chunks of colored glass are embedded in lead to create the shade and a conical cap houses the electrical socket

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Dr. Albert M. and Evelyn M. Brandt House  
Burleigh County, North Dakota

**Description (continued)**

In the receding bay at the west end of the house, is what appears to be an attached garage with three wooden folding doors. The doors are sealed because the interior space was never used as a garage. Instead a detached brick and hipped roof garage is located to the west of the house and was constructed simultaneously with the house. Its architectural style matches the house including a late-1950s addition to the front of the garage, constructed to accommodate the Larsons' long Cadillac.

The southern rear elevation of the house includes a back door, a projecting 1½ hipped bay with two sets of leaded glass French doors, a bowed bay window, and a small second story balcony with a four-lite wooden door and wrought iron railing. The east side elevation features a massive, exposed brick chimney.

**Interior**

Advancing through the central front entrance, the Brandt House embodies the following rooms: foyer, front stair hall, living room, dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms, three bathrooms, and a full basement with several separate rooms. The heavy front door matches shape of the Tudor arch head of the opening and contains a small 6-inch by 10-inch stained and leaded glass insert. The front door and the 10-panel foyer door are darkly stained solid oak. The foyer, according the description on the original plans, features Nemadgi tile flooring set in a herring bone pattern.<sup>1</sup> The reddish brown tiles are small, measuring one inch by four inches, with a dark grout. To the south of the foyer is a central hallway with wide red oak ceiling beams and a darkly stained red oak staircase and carved bannister leading upstairs. The front coat closet contains built-in shelves for hats, scarves, gloves, and mittens and the closet light automatically turns off when the door closes.

An original sunken living room is located to the east (left) of the hall and is entered through a nearly flat archway. The living room measures 23 feet by 17 feet with a nine-foot six-inch ceiling. It contains a Mankato gray "Casota stone" fireplace on the east wall, and a window seat and built-in floor-to-ceiling oak bookcases on the north wall. The casement windows are operated with cranks in perfect working condition and have custom interior storms and screens. Storms and screens can be found sporadically throughout the house. The living room also contains the original crystal and electric candle sconces also in working order. The flooring in the living room and front hall is solid oak and is covered with carpet.

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<sup>1</sup>Original plans, McLaren and Larson, 1924.

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Dr. Albert M. and Evelyn M. Brandt House  
Burleigh County, North Dakota

### Description (continued)

Located in the south front hall wall is an original and uniquely designed telephone compartment with carved wood doors. It can be opened from the hall or from the dining room which is on the other side of the wall. The shape of the compartment resembles an oriel window and the stain matches the dark stain of the hall woodwork. The dining room is located south of the hallway and opposite of the front door. It measures 15 feet by 12 feet and contains a false fireplace of Mankato gray "Casota stone" on the east wall and original reddish-brown square tile on the floor. Two sets of leaded glass French doors provide egress to the courtyard.

Just to the west (right) of the front foyer is a small half bath. The Nemadji tile floor of the foyer continues the same herring bone pattern into the small bathroom. The bathroom is fitted with its original sink and replacement toilet, and the tiny room can be used as a pass through from the foyer to the kitchen. The kitchen is located to the west (right) of the half bathroom and is located in the front of the house. The kitchen is the only room in the house which has undergone some modernization. Plans show the original counters and cabinets were naturally finished birch that have since been replaced with vintage white stainless steel cabinets and Formica counters. The upper cabinets incorporate wavy frosted glass which slide in horizontal tracks and built-in fluorescent fixtures to light the counters below. The kitchen has a built-in workstation with an original Italian white marble pastry slab and zinc lined bottom-hinged flour and sugar bins.<sup>2</sup>

Doorways are abundant in the kitchen and south hall leading to the back door: the aforementioned door to the half bath, a swinging door to the dining room, a small door to an original basement incinerator, a door to the servant's maple stairway, a door to the basement, and to the west (right) of the back door is the door to the storage area. This space appears from the exterior to be an attached garage but was never used as such because the detached garage was available. Tall, built-in cupboards on the north wall and a corner cupboard in the southeast corner were probably constructed in the 1940s based on the style of the cabinet knobs. The room was used as a guest room but now stores the washer, dryer, freezer, refrigerator, and a shower.

The main staircase is wide with low carpeted risers with leading to the second floor. Near the top of the stairs is a walk-in cedar closet. The upstairs hall is expansive and contains three pewter light fixtures and a built-in linen closet with four large drawers, a hanging space, a laundry chute. In addition to the hall, the upstairs contains three bedrooms, a powder room, and a full bathroom. The master bedroom is large, matching the size of the living room below. Built into the room is an original window seat with flanking shelves, four original light fixtures, and a working fireplace with taupe-gray tiles and wood mantel. The woodwork on the second story is solid birch most of which is painted.

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<sup>2</sup>Original plans, McLaren and Larson, 1924.

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Dr. Albert M. and Evelyn M. Brandt House  
Burleigh County, North Dakota

### Description (continued)

Located next to the master bedroom is a powder room, or dressing room, with built-in floor-to-ceiling closets and shelves and a vanity with mirror. The door handles and drawer pulls are glass. The room provides one of two accesses to the bathroom. The original sink and tub remain in the bathroom while the commode was replaced with a more modern fixture. Of the two remaining bedrooms, one is sunken into the space over the attached garage and has carpet over the red oak floors and the other bedroom is directly over the kitchen and includes a built-in closet and shelves. Near the top of the servant's staircase is an exterior two-panel and four-lite wood door to the small southern balcony.

The foundation of the house includes a poured concrete basement with several brick partitions. The basement rooms include a knotty pine paneled room, a "maid's room" as indicated as such on the original blueprints, maid's full bathroom, and storage rooms. The storage areas defined on the original plans are the "Coal Room," the "Vegetable Room," and the "Laundry Room." During the time the first owners, the Brandts, lived in the house they employed a live-in maid. The maid's room includes an original sink separated from the bathroom. Behind the 5-panel wood bathroom door and chrome handle is an original bathtub and toilet. The late 1940s remodeling of the knotty pine paneled room includes matching knotty pine plank flooring and deep insets for shelving. The shelves are gone but the electrical outlets remain that provided lighting opportunities for one owner's Indian artifacts.

Few changes have occurred at the Brandt property. The exterior of the house is identical to the 1928 construction and the bedrooms and living areas are all maintained in their original design. The only alterations are some kitchen modernization and the late-1950s addition to the detached garage.



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National Park Service

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Dr. Albert M. and Evelyn M. Brandt House  
Burleigh County, North Dakota

### Statement of Significance

The Albert M. and Evelyn M. Brandt House is nominated under National Register criterion C as one of the best examples of Tudor Revival architecture in Bismarck, North Dakota. The home, designed by the Minneapolis architectural firm of McLaren and Larson, is the only known commission by this firm in Bismarck, is in excellent condition, and has sustained little change since its construction date in 1928. The house, detached garage, and the landscape are considered contributing resources for this property. The period of significance for the property is 1928.

The Brandt House incorporates late-medieval English elements of the Tudor style throughout the property. The home's stylistic elements are its tall steeply pitched roof with low eaves and pitched roof dormers, brick walls, a dominant front gabled bay, Tudor arch doorway with stone projected into surrounding brickwork and a heavy door, a side-placed massive chimney, tall multi-paned windows of differing sizes including a bowed window at the rear, and wrought-iron strap hinges found on the doors and gates. The brick, the most common Tudor style wall material, was made in North Dakota's only remaining brickyard, the Hebron Brick Company. Where as other houses in Bismarck may incorporate some of the Tudor architectural characteristics, the Brandt House is one of the best examples of the Tudor Revival period (1890-1940)<sup>3</sup> in the city.

The two most distinctive characteristics of the house are the leaded and multi-paned, steel rolled glass windows used throughout the house and the original false thatch shake shingled roof. The windows were imported from England and are arranged in the Tudor Revival style of "tall, narrow windows in groups"<sup>4</sup> with the operable casements below and the fixed transom windows above. Also from England are the two sets of leaded glass French doors located in the dining room to provide access to the rear courtyard. The false thatched roof is "rare but is a distinctive subtype which attempts to mimic with modern materials with the picturesque thatched roofs of rural England. . . . Such roofs were occasionally used on Tudor houses of all types, from modest cottages to grand landmarks," according to *A Field Guide to American Houses*. Most false thatch roofs "have usually been replaced by later coverings with regular shingled patterns"<sup>5</sup> making the original shingle pattern on the Brandt House rare. The false thatch was accomplished with Tennessee red cedar shakes with the thatch butts placed in a random and waved. The courses are irregular and zinc coated hot dipped nails were used to install the unique shingles, according to details supplied by the Creo-Dipt Company of North Tonawanda, New York.

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<sup>3</sup>McAlester, p. 354-358.

<sup>4</sup>Langley, p. 73.

<sup>5</sup>McAlester, p. 355-356.

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Dr. Albert M. and Evelyn M. Brandt House  
Burleigh County, North Dakota

### Statement of Significance (continued)

The original shakes, windows, doors, door handles, fireplaces are all in working order. Credit is due to the local contractor, Nils H. Lovin of Bismarck and the durable construction materials chosen by the architects and owners. The original flooring is in place, although carpeting has been added in some rooms. Great care has been shown over the years in maintaining the home in its original architectural design due to good fortune of having been owned by only three families.

The family who commissioned the design of the house was Dr. Albert M. and Evelyn M. Brandt. Evelyn was a active member of the Monday Club, the oldest Women's Club in Bismarck, and served as its president.<sup>6</sup> Albert was born on December 30, 1880, in southern Minnesota.<sup>7</sup> He studied medicine at the University of Minnesota and graduated in 1905. He was licensed in Burleigh County, North Dakota, on April 11, 1907 and joined the staff at the Quain and Ramstad Clinic in Bismarck as a obstetrician and pediatrician. Albert was a partner in the clinic from 1934 until 1946. According to the Bismarck Tribune, "He was on staff at both Bismarck and St. Alexius hospital until his retirement in 1948 when he and Mrs Brandt moved to LaJolla, California. They spent their summers at their lake home near Grand Rapids and were frequent visitors to Bismarck." Evelyn died at the age of 80 in Bismarck at a local hospital on December 22, 1966, just four months after her husband. Albert died of heart disease on August 27, 1966, at the age of 85.

In his book The Story of Quain & Ramstad Clinic, Dr. Paul W. Freise lent insight into Albert's character:

Dr. Brandt was a rather small, sandy-haired individual, somewhat jaunty in appearance with his neatly tied bow tie and usually a posey in his lapel, and was known by his close associates and friends as "Pinky." He had a pleasing personality, unless the situation was such as to warrant seriousness. . . . It is doubtful that Dr. Brandt had an enemy. If there were any unkind feelings towards him for any reason, his humor would rapidly dispel them. . . . Dr. Brandt was a likable, interesting character and enjoyed life to its fullest. He was an excellent obstetrician and pediatrician combined. He was probably the only one on the staff who could without fear belittle and deflate the importance of some surgeons. . . . [he] was inclined to be derelict insofar as records and his personal bookkeeping were concerned. Those who knew him well knew that his services could not be obtained on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March, the deadline for income tax filing, which had no attention whatsoever prior to that date.

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<sup>6</sup>Sakriassen interview.

<sup>7</sup>Bismarck Tribune, Albert's obituary.

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Dr. Albert M. and Evelyn M. Brandt House  
Burleigh County, North Dakota

**Statement of Significance (continued)**

Dr. Brandt was dedicated to his speciality. It is noted by the men who came in the early 1920s how well the people had been educated to prenatal care and how well it was accepted, much better than in the urban areas. This excellent obstetric and prenatal care was evident. . . . One of Dr. Brandt's major professional disappointments was that he never had the opportunity to deliver triplets or quadruplets. According to Hellin's Law, triplets occur in about every 6,400 births. So from a statistical standpoint, he was long overdue.

After being at the Clinic for some time, Dr. Brandt was married. They had no children and, consequently, Mrs. Brandt became attached to a black cat who was called Mortimer. Dr. Brandt professed to dislike this cat markedly, but we are sure that he was as attached to it as much as Mrs. Brandt. However, on many occasions, he would speak ill of Mortimer much to the amusement of Mrs. Brandt. . . . He professed to envy Mortimer his carefree existence and said that if reincarnation took place, he would like to come back as a tomcat.

Dr. Brandt was a member of the Sixth District Medical Society, the American Medical Association, a founder and past president of the North Dakota Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and had been a partner in the Quain & Ramstad Clinic. He published a number of papers.<sup>8</sup>

In 1948 when the Brandts retired and moved to California, the house was sold to Mrs. Mabel Underhill, a widow whose husband had an extensive collection of Indian artifacts which she displayed behind protective glass in the basement knotty pine room. Mrs. Underhill's husband had owned a store in Cannonball, North Dakota. These artifacts have subsequently been donated to the State Historical Society of North Dakota. Mrs. Underhill married Lee Nichols, who worked at the North Dakota State Tax Department. They were married in the house with the Reverend Opie Rindahl of Trinity Lutheran Church officiating. Two years after their marriage, they too moved to California. Francis and Leona Larson purchased the home in 1952 and lived there until their deaths in 1997 and 1998. When the Larsons moved in, many of Dr. Brandt's medical books were still in the house. The Larsons donated them to a local medical library. Of the three families who have lived in the home, the Larsons lived there the longest, a total of 46 years.

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<sup>8</sup>Freise, p. 21-23.

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Dr. Albert M. and Evelyn M. Brandt House  
Burleigh County, North Dakota

### Statement of Significance (continued)

Francis Larson (January 21, 1917 - March 12, 1998) was the manager of the J. C. Penney store in Bismarck from 1952 until he retired in 1972. He then served as president of First Federal Savings and Loan and worked with the North Dakota State Retailers Association. Francis served as co-chair of the Bismarck Centennial Committee in 1975, was active in Kiwanis, and both he and Leone were members of Apple Creek Country Club. Leona (April 1, 1910 - June 27, 1997) was active in community and church organizations. When the Larsons purchased the home in 1952, the state Governor was Norman Brunsdale. There were numerous dinners and social events shared between the Brunsdales and the Larsons. In 1956, John Davis was elected governor and the relationship between neighbors continued. The Larson's daughter, Judi, was similar in age to the Davis's son, resulting in joint teenage party events held in the house.

During the time that these three families lived in the house, very little was done to alter or change the design of the house. The original plans and specifications still exist and are in the possession of Judi (Larson) Chapman. The house was built during a time where quality of work was considered to be of utmost importance. Folklore from that pre-depression period said that if the work was not done correctly, someone else would be available to take the job. Consistent with the building practices of the late 1920s, this home was built in an area with a mix of housing styles which reflected the settlement practices of that era. Within the same immediate neighborhood, there were several stucco, frame, and brick homes with a range of income level represented. In that neighborhood and in Bismarck, the Brandt-Larson home was and is considered a grand home due in large part to the thoughtful architectural detailing of the architects.

The Brandt House is the only known Bismarck commission of the architects Don McLaren and Albert O. Larson of Minneapolis. Unfortunately, no citywide architectural survey has been completed for the city of Bismarck to offer more comprehensive comparison. Don A. McLaren (1891-1950) was born in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin, and moved to Minneapolis in 1920. He was a graduate of Cornell University and served in naval aviation in World War I. He was a member of the American Institute of Architects and trained under Jas Gamble Rogers in New York City and Magney and Tusley of Minneapolis. McLaren was a partner with Larson from 1922-1950. Albert O. Larson (1893-1974) was born in St. Paul, Minnesota, and attended the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. He received his professional training with A. H. Stem in St. Paul; Chapman and Magney of Minneapolis; and Magney and Tusler of Minneapolis. Larson was President of the Minnesota Association of Architects and served as State Architect in Minnesota for many years.

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Dr. Albert M. and Evelyn M. Brandt House  
Burleigh County, North Dakota

### Statement of Significance (continued)

McLaren and Larson were responsible for many important buildings in Minneapolis during the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Their notable structures include the 1929 Groveland Apartment Building at 510 Groveland Avenue (now also housing a restaurant on the main floor), the 1927 Minnesota Garage Inc. at the corner of 13<sup>th</sup> Street and University Avenue SE, the 1956-60 remodel of the Plymouth Building (1929) at the northeast corner of Sixth Street and Hennepin Avenue, the 1939 F. W. Woolworth Building on at the southeast corner of Seventh Street South and Nicollet Avenue (razed), the 1931 Oneida Holding Company Building on Seventh Street South between Hennepin and Nicollet Avenues, the 1948 Western Electric Company Distribution House at an unknown Minneapolis address, the 1955 addition to the Federal Reserve Bank at 73 Fifth Street South, the 1955-56 First Federal Savings and Loan Association in St. Louis Park, remodeling at Dayton's Department Store at 800 Nicollet Mall (n.d.), and Donaldson's Department Store at the northeast corner of Seventh Street South and Nicollet Avenue (n.d.).

While McLaren and Larson are primarily noted for commercial architecture in the Midwest, they have been responsible for several residential homes in Minneapolis area - - particularly in the area of Washburn Avenue South near West 50<sup>th</sup> Street. The area's wide lots allowed the architects to design homes with the long axial side of the homes facing the street. This is consistent with the design of the Brandt House. Architecturally similar designs in the Minneapolis area were the Fred Malcolmson residence, 816 Second Avenue South, and the M. R. MacDonald residence, Kenwood Parkway, both constructed in 1927, and the W. R. Everett residence<sup>9</sup> constructed in 1932.

Another home of similar design was the Morrell Foster residence<sup>10</sup> at 1 West Penmarch Place<sup>11</sup> in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Built in 1927, the house was the second of four houses commissioned by John Morrell Foster of the John Morrell Meat Packing Company, one of the city's oldest and largest employers. The Tudor Revival house cost \$50,000 to build, perhaps one of the largest and most expensive house built in South Dakota in the pre-Depression period. The house featured brick walls and stone trim similar to that used in the Brandt House, which was built in one year later in 1928.

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<sup>9</sup>House address unknown.

<sup>10</sup>The property is historically known as Penmarch Place.

<sup>11</sup>Recent replatting has resulted in a new address: 4801 S. Heatherwood Circle, Sioux Falls.

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Dr. Albert M. and Evelyn M. Brandt House  
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### Statement of Significance (continued)

Of interest is the connection the architects made between their commercial creations and their residential homes. For example, the 1927 Baker Building at 706 Second Avenue South, Minneapolis, utilized sandstone similar to the fireplaces in the Brandt House and tile floors similar to the floors in the hallway and dining room of the Brandt House. The Star Journal Building, now the Minneapolis Star Tribune Building at 425 Portland Avenue South (1939 and an addition in 1944-45), likewise incorporated tiled stairs and flooring in the lobby and electric candle sconces similar to the light fixtures in the living room and master bedroom of the Brandt House.

The blueprints and specifications of the Brandt House chronicle the architects involvement in every detail of construction, down to flower bed placement and landscaping to the mirrors and closets. Of interest too is some correspondence between Dr. A. M. Brandt and the Forman, Fort and Company of Minneapolis, regarding the mirror installed in the powder room off the master bedroom. Dr. Brandt had complained that the mirrors were “. . . not first class. They are both very cloudy and we are not satisfied with them.” The Forman Company secretary responds “Now, Doctor, this explains exactly just what the trouble is with your mirrors. You left them packed all winter, and, of course, they could be nothing else but cloudy when you unpacked them. If you lacked the knowledge as to how to take care of mirrors and let them spoil in the packing, as they would surely do, you have no reason to ask us to make good the damage.” No follow-up correspondence was found.

The Brandt House is located within a block of the commercial core of the city. The years have resulted in a gradual encroachment into this residential area by the business community and the expansion of Trinity Lutheran Church and its parking areas. The current owners are particularly concerned about this and committed to preserving the property in its original state and as a privately owned single family home.

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McLaren and Larson. “Dr. Albert M. and Evelyn M. Brandt House (1094)” original blueprints and specifications. In possession of Judi (Larson) Chapman, Missoula, MT.

“McLaren and Larson files from Northwest Architectural Archives, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.”  
[photocopies]

Application for Association with AIA, Don McLaren and Albert Larson 4/3/23.

List of buildings designed by McLaren and Larson (1927-1956).

Photo of Frontenac Building, 1927, Minneapolis (Larson and McLaren).

Photo of Groveland Apartment Hotel, Minneapolis, American Architect, 2/5/29, p. 175, 174, 156.

Photo of the Sheridan, A. Bachelor Hotel, Minneapolis, Architectural Record, p. 209.

Photo of F. W. Woolworth Building, 1939 (McLaren and Larson, architects).

Newspaper article - Edina Morning Star Courier, 10/9/58 lists buildings designed by McLaren & Larson.

Article on “The New Star Journal Building” July-August 1940, p. 6-7.

Photo of First Federal Savings and Loan Association (McLaren and Larson), 1938

Photo of Baker Building - Minneapolis (McLaren and Larson) Architectural Forum, July 1927, p. 25-26.

Photo of Baker Building, The American Architect, 10/20/27, p. 517, 518, 519.

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### Verbal Boundary Description

Lot One (1) and the North Half (N½) of Lot Two (2), Block Fourteen (14) Northern Pacific Addition to the city  
of Bismarck, North Dakota. Southwest corner lots at the intersection of East Avenue B and Fourth Street North.

### Verbal Boundary Justification

The boundaries are historically associated with the property and have not been altered since the house was built  
in 1928.