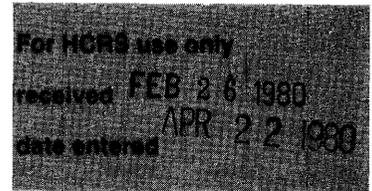


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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



1. Name

historic Welsh House (Preferred)

and/or common Ness House

2. Location

street & number 208 Fifth Avenue NW _____ not for publication

city, town Mandan _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district One

state North Dakota code 38 county Morton code 059

3. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use |
|---|---|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district | <input type="checkbox"/> public | <input type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input type="checkbox"/> both | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <input type="checkbox"/> educational |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <input type="checkbox"/> in process | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> military |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> other: |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> museum |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> park |
| | | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> religious |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |

4. Owner of Property

name Larry Ness

street & number 208 Fifth Avenue NW

city, town Mandan _____ vicinity of _____ state North Dakota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Morton County Register of Deeds

street & number Morton County Courthouse

city, town Mandan _____ state North Dakota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title _____ has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date _____ federal state county local

depository for survey records _____

city, town _____ state _____

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Welsh House is a two-story wood frame structure with hipped roof and prominent polygonal dormers on the east, west, and south roof slopes. The building is set on a concrete foundation that is "rusticated" with projecting small stones. A small screened and closed porch serves the rear entry on the east side. The facade on west side also features a full porch, the roof of which is supported by paired Ionic columns with enriched capitals. A spindled balustrade encloses all but the stair landing of the porch. Narrow lap siding covers the exterior of the building. Original lighting and doorbell fixtures on the porch are intact.

The interior of the house retains rich wood floors throughout, as well as dark oak and pine woodwork. The living room and dining room of the first floor have exposed beam ceilings, and lighting is provided by four small ornate fixtures in each ceiling. The partition between these two rooms includes a rich wood door surround with beveled and leaded glass cabinets and an Ionic column on each side. The dining room contains a brick fireplace with brass hearth or firebox. A china closet of dark oak and beveled leaded glass is built into the east wall of the dining room, and is evident as a protrusion from the east exterior wall. The kitchen area on the first floor has been extensively altered and retains virtually no historical integrity other than its original spacing. A cloak room and another small room on the first floor retain their original spaces, woodwork, and some other finishings.

The stairway to the second floor is lighted by leaded windows, and is constructed and decorated in dark wood. The second floor includes two large bedrooms, a bath, and two large closet areas. Original woodwork and floors remain intact, and most windows retain original leaded glass panes. The full basement is largely unfinished, but original spaces have been altered by construction of one small room with concrete blocks. The only other visible alteration is the replacement of some original storm windows with aluminum combination windows over the leaded glass inner windows.

8. Significance

| Period | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> law | <input type="checkbox"/> science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> economics | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | |

Specific dates 1918 **Builder/Architect**

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Welsh House was built in 1918 by Robert M. Welsh, a brakeman and conductor for the Northern Pacific Railroad from 1896 to 1938. Born in Kentucky in 1872, Welsh came to Dakota Territory by steamboat with his family in 1874. His father was a soldier at Fort Buford and Fort Lincoln, and the family became one of the first to permanently settle in the vicinity of Fort Lincoln when in 1880 they purchased the homestead of J.W. Foley, father of North Dakota's Poet Laureate. In 1888 the younger Welsh began his career by establishing a door-to-door milk delivery service in Mandan. In 1896 he became a brakeman for the Northern Pacific Railroad, and in 1906 he was promoted to conductor. He was a member of the Order of Railroad Conductors, Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, the Benefit Association of Railroad Employees, and the Knights of Pythias. In 1897 Welsh and his wife moved from Bismarck to Mandan, and in 1918 constructed the present house. They continued to live in the building until 1943, when it was deeded to the Evangelical Lutheran Joint Synod of Wisconsin and Other States, for use as a parsonage. The building remained in use as a parsonage until sold to the present owners in 1979.

Although the Welsh House is not outstanding as an example of a particular style of architecture, it is a good example of working class residential construction of its era and region. The subdued exterior treatment and the rich wood interior finishings were well suited to represent the status of Welsh in the local society. The building retains a high degree of historical material integrity in both interior and exterior detail, and reflects the dying exuberance in residential construction of the post-Victorian era in the region. The Welsh House may be a contributing element of an historic residential district in Mandan, and nomination of the Welsh House is expected to result in increased local interest and support of survey and research of the older areas of that city.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Mandan Daily Pioneer, April 12, 1939, p.6.

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property Less than one

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle name Mandan

Quadrangle scale 7.5'

UMT References

| | | | |
|---|-------------------|---|--|
| A | <u>1</u> <u>4</u> | <u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>5</u> <u>3</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u> | <u>5</u> <u>1</u> <u>8</u> <u>7</u> <u>4</u> <u>9</u> <u>0</u> |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing |

| | | | |
|---|------|---------|----------|
| B | | | |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing |

| | | | |
|---|------|---------|----------|
| C | | | |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing |

| | | | |
|---|------|---------|----------|
| D | | | |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing |

| | | | |
|---|------|---------|----------|
| E | | | |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing |

| | | | |
|---|------|---------|----------|
| F | | | |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing |

| | | | |
|---|------|---------|----------|
| G | | | |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing |

| | | | |
|---|------|---------|----------|
| H | | | |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing |

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 11 of Block 18 of the Original Townsite Plat of Mandan, North Dakota

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|-------|------|--------|------|

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|-------|------|--------|------|

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kurt Schweigert, Architectural Historian

organization State Historical Society of North Dakota date February 20, 1980

street & number Liberty Memorial Building telephone 701-224-2672

city or town Bismarck state North Dakota

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

James E. Sherry

title State Historic Preservation Officer (North Dakota) date February 20, 1980

For NCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

W. Ray Juce
Keeper of the National Register

date 4/22/80

Attest: *William H. Bralham*
Chief of Registration

date 4.15.80