

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED NOV 2 1976
DATE ENTERED APR 11 1977

**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

Colonel William H. Robinson Home

AND/OR COMMON

Inga B. Grinager Home

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

127 Fourth Avenue N.E.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Mayville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1

STATE

North Dakota

CODE

38

COUNTY

Trail

CODE

097

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mrs. Judy M. Grinager

STREET & NUMBER

127 Fourth Avenue N.E.

CITY, TOWN

Mayville

VICINITY OF

STATE

North Dakota 58257

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Trail County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Post Office Box 148

CITY, TOWN

Hillsboro

STATE

North Dakota 58045

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

North Dakota Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1975

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

State Historical Society of North Dakota
Liberty Memorial Building

CITY, TOWN

Bismarck

STATE

North Dakota 58505

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Robinson-Grinager house built at Mayville, North Dakota, in 1900 is a remarkably well-preserved example of late Victorian design.

Typical of many larger Red River Valley homes of the period, it represents a composite of architectural styles. Columns, mouldings and balustrades on the exterior, for instance, show influence of the Classical Revivalism popularized throughout the Midwest by the 1894 Columbian Exposition. In contrast with these details, however, are the building's irregular massing and asymmetrical room arrangement, and the intricate wood decoration derived from the "Queen Anne" style of twenty years earlier. This conflict may be explained by the absence of a documented architect and the fact that the owner-builder William Robinson was a lumber dealer, suggesting that he may have served as his own designer.

The Robinson-Grinager house is two-and-one-half story wood (probably balloon) frame construction on brick and rubble stone foundations; its overall dimensions are approximately 38' by 52'. The principal or east facade fronts nearly 38' on Fourth Avenue. Against the basic hip-roofed rectangular volume of the house there is an asymmetrical composition consisting of a lower two-story extension with gabled room, an abutting octagonal tower at the northeast corner of the house, and a single story Ionic-columned porch at the southeast corner. A small gabled roof at the porch steps emphasizes the recessed front entry. Originally, a semicircular unroofed porch extended south into the generous side yard.

The octagonal tower also dominates the north facade on Second Street. A brick chimney and shallow dining room porch also punctuate this elevation. The triptych of dining room windows and the second-floor bedroom window above hint at the preferred Classical symmetry of the time. The nearly blank west facade acknowledges prevailing northwest winter winds, while the south elevation opens to take on solar heat gain and provides additional visual interest with its protruding semi-cylindrical stair tower.

As is often true of Victorian planning, the variety of exterior forms indicates a diversity of interior function. After passing through a vestibule along the south edge of the plan, one reaches the centrally placed reception hall and stairway, around which there is a U-shaped configuration of interconnecting rooms: parlour to the east; sitting room with fireplace and octagonal alcove to the northeast; dining room to the northwest; and library to the west. The kitchen, bath and servants' stair are in the service wing at the rear.

The second-floor hall is smaller than its counterpart below, but the bedrooms are located off it in a similar configuration: master bedroom to the east; sitting room with octagonal alcove to the northeast; and two additional bedrooms to the northwest and west. These latter two rooms are separated by the servants' stair, a half bath and a short corridor leading to the two servants' bedrooms at the rear. The main

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staircase continues up through a constricted passageway to the dormer-lighted billiard room which occupies most of the third floor.

The house has had only two owners through most of its history, and its interior decoration is remarkably well preserved. This is especially true on the main floor, where elaborately turned and carved woodwork forms intricate radial, basket-weave and lattice-work screens between the principal rooms. The fact that so much of the original wall coverings and interior furnishings remain from the time of its first occupants makes the Robinson-Grinager house a landmark in the Red River Valley and a rare surviving example of its kind.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1900 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Colonel William H. Robinson

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

For both its architectural and decorative quality, and the associations which it has with the families who have occupied it, the Robinson-Grinager house is a landmark in the Red River Valley.

Colonel William H. Robinson (1846-1911) came to Mayville, North Dakota, about 1888. There he operated a lumber yard, which had been his business at nearby Portland and at various locations in Iowa and Illinois. Robinson prospered and in 1900 built his home in the northeast portion of Mayville near the Normal School campus. The house provided a suitable location for Robinson's many social responsibilities. Twice a member of the state senate, he was an active Republican, serving on the party's central committee and as the state coordinator for William McKinley's presidential campaign. Aside from partisan politics, Robinson served at various times as a member of the Penitentiary Board of Trustees and as president of the Agricultural College Board.

William Robinson died at his winter home in Louisiana in 1911. His widow continued to occupy the house until 1915 when it was purchased by Jens K. Grinager for the sum of \$3,500. A well-known Mayville dry goods merchant, Grinager lived in the house until his death in 1938 and was succeeded by his wife Inga who remained there long enough to celebrate her 101st birthday on 5 February 1975. The house is presently owned and occupied by their grandson and his wife, Paul and Judy Grinager.

As an example of late Victorian design, the house well illustrates the 19th century conflict of styles as well as the conservative design inclinations of this region. The mixture of styles, the many naive details and the lack of an architect of record suggest that William Robinson acted as his own designer. Thanks to the stewardship of Jens and Inga Grinager, the house remains a rare and well-preserved social and aesthetic document of its time and place.

