

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
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

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**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NOT FOR PUBLICATION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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<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

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		

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### 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.



# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hennessy, W.B. Compendium of History and Biography of North Dakota, Chicago: Geo. A. Ogle & Co., 1900. P.179.  
History of North Dakota. Bismarck: The Bismarck Tribune Company, 1900, P. 484.  
 Ramsey, Ronald Lanier. Personal inspection and personal interview with Mr. and Mrs. Paul E. Grinager, Mayville, North Dakota, February 1, 1976.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre  
 UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>1,4</u>	<u>62,6</u>	<u>3,60</u>	<u>5,2</u>	<u>6,2</u>	<u>2,10</u>	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING				
C							D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Ronald Lanier Ramsey, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

North Dakota State University

DATE

September 9, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

Post Office Box 2351

TELEPHONE

(701) 237-8614 Ext. 25

CITY OR TOWN

Fargo

STATE

North Dakota 58102

# 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 National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

*Jane E. Sherry*

TITLE

N.D. State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

10/26/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

CHIEF

*[Signature]*

DATE

4/11/78

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

*[Signature]*

DATE

3/25/77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER