

**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

For HCERS use only
received **MAY 28 1980**
date entered **JUL 3 1980**

1. Name

historic O'Connor House
and/or common

2. Location

street & number 043 72 N not for publication
city, town St. Thomas vicinity of congressional district 1
state North Dakota code 38 county Pembina code 067

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input 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 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 type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<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
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Margaret O'Connor Estate
street & number c/o 4910 Chestnut
city, town Grand Forks vicinity of state North Dakota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Pembina County Register of Deeds
street & number Pembina County Courthouse
city, town Cavalier state North Dakota 58220

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N.D. Cultural Resource Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date October, 1979 federal state county local
depository for survey records State Historical Society of North Dakota
Liberty Memorial Building
city, town Bismarck state North Dakota

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 O'Connor House is a two and a half story wood frame dwelling in Queen Ann Style. Built in 1898, the structure features steep gabled and hipped roofs, an octagonal corner turret with bellcast roof and metal cap and finial, and a wrap-around hipped porch on the south and west sides. Exterior visual quality is further enhanced by a semi-hexagonal bay rising on the south elevation, and by over-hanging gables on the south and west sides. These gables are closed and are surfaced with fishscale decorative shingles; the west end of the south gable and the north end of the west gable are supported by corbel-like brackets. Scroll-cut brackets support the gable overhangs, the eaves of the main roof, and the eaves of the bellcast turret roof. Wall surfaces and the east end gable are finished with narrow wood lath siding. The roof of the single-story porch is supported by wooden columns with carved wooden capitals.

Fenestration consists of rectangular windows of dimensions to fit the wall areas of application. Windows on the third floor level have leaded and beveled panes. Some original double-hung windows on the second story have been replaced with aluminum sashes in the original surrounds. Other exterior alterations from original construction are the construction of a rear or east entry addition and removal of balustrades on the ground level porch and the porch roof on the west side.

The building's interior retains its original spaces, except for addition of a bathroom on the first floor; and retains virtually all of its original woodwork. First and second floor rooms have plastered walls and darkly stained Georgia Pine moldings and opening surrounds. Floors in the parlor and dining room are maple, and floors in much of the rest of the house are covered with tile or linoleum. Remnants of original gas lighting fixtures are evident in several rooms. Dropped ceilings with acoustical tile have been installed in first floor rooms. Much of the furniture now in the building is apparently original to the first residents, including a built-in china closet in the dining room. Third floor attic and full basement are unfinished.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input 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 1898-99

Builder/Architect A.L. Flegel, Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The O'Connor House is a fine example of late Queen Ann residential architecture, and retains a high degree of material integrity. Built in 1898, the house reflects the movement in design of residential structures away from the exuberant eclecticism of Victorian Queen Ann to quieter forms. The O'Connor House also recognizes the roots of the Queen Ann Style and anticipates the later Neo Classical Revival. Gothic elements of tower and gable overhangs are combined with Classical "tympanum" treatment of gable ends and the use of prominent columns.

The building was a suitable dwelling for the locally prominent O'Connor family. Archie M. O'Connor was one of the original settlers of the area in 1881, and about 1885 became a partner with his brother in a grain elevator business. He served as Pembina County sheriff from 1888 to 1892, and as U.S. Collector of Customs in North and South Dakota from 1893 to 1899. His son, A. B. O'Connor, served as county sheriff from 1933 to 1937, as superintendent of the North Dakota Highway Patrol in 1943, and was State Safety Director from 1943 to 1945. The younger O'Connor is credited with having been one of five county sheriffs who planned the organization of the North Dakota Highway Patrol in 1935. The O'Connor family has conducted large farming operations in the St. Thomas area since the 1880's, and the O'Connor House remains in family possession. The house is therefore significant in its physical design and integrity and its association with a family prominent in local and state contexts.

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property Less than one mile **UTM NOT VERIFIED**
Quadrangle name St. Thomas Quadrangle scale 7.5'

UMT References **ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

A	<u>1</u> <u>4</u>	<u>6</u> <u>1</u> <u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>6</u> <u>5</u>	<u>5</u> <u>3</u> <u>8</u> <u>5</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification
Lots 1-6, Block 54 of the Original Townsite Plat of St. Thomas, 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 March 21, 1980
street & number Liberty Memorial Building telephone (701)224-2672
city or town Bismarck state North Dakota 58505

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:
 national X state X 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 May 20, 1980

For HCRS use only
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Forrest W. Ray date 7/3/80
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: William H. Brasham date 6.23.80
Chief of Registration