

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: North Dakota
COUNTY: Billings
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE APR 16 1975

1. NAME

COMMON:
Chateau de Mores

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: **1/2 mile W.S/W of Medora, (C.E. 1/2 Sec 27 T. 140N. ; R. 102 W.)**

CITY OR TOWN: **Medora Vicinity** CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: **1**

STATE: **North Dakota** CODE: **38** COUNTY: **Billings** CODE: **007**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: **State Historical Society of North Dakota, State of North Dakota**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Liberty Memorial Building**

CITY OR TOWN: **Bismarck** STATE: **North Dakota** CODE: **38**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: **Office of Register of Deeds**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Billings County Courthouse**

CITY OR TOWN: **Medora** STATE: **North Dakota** CODE: **38**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: **State Historical Society Historic Sites Registry, N. D. Century Code 55-10-03**

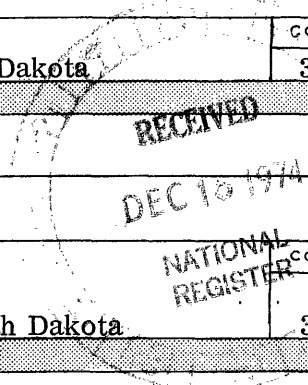
DATE OF SURVEY: **1967** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: **State Historical Society of North Dakota**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Liberty Memorial Building**

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ENTRY NUMBER: APR 16 1975
DATE
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

On the second terrace above the Little Missouri River which winds its way among the buttes, that it helped carve out of the sedimentary layers of prehistoric lake bed deposits, and about a half mile west by southwest of the small community of Medora, North Dakota, stands the Chateau de Mores, built by a French Marquis to overlook the townsite he platted and named for his wife.

Built in 1883, the chateau is a two story, frame building with a one story ell on the north side and a covered verandah, supported by posts and protected by railings, extending across the east side to just over half way along the south side. The exterior walls of milled siding are painted French grey, highlighted by slate grey trim. The shingled gable roof is red as are the window shutters.

Although not especially prestigious on the exterior, except for its unusual size in a frontier setting, the twenty-six room chateau is a monument to 19th Century grace and elegance interiorly. The sixteen first floor rooms and the ten second floor rooms all have plastered walls. In keeping with the family's heritage of wealth, the interior appointments, furnishings and decor reflect the finest materials and accouterments of comfort available, many having been imported from Europe and the Eastern metropolitan trade centers. Although intended for use primarily as a summer residence, a massive native clay brick fireplace is built through walls so as to provide heat to four rooms simultaneously. Porch awnings and lighting rods were at one time used for the comfort or protection of the family.

To the north of the Chateau stood a wood shed and to the south and further east, on the next terrace towards the river, stood a coachman's house, a carriage shed, a stable and corral, also of frame construction.

In 1936, when the State Historical Society of North Dakota acquired title to the de Mores properties, several deviations from the original appearance of the Chateau and associated buildings were noted. Following a thorough study by Arnold Goplen, a report was submitted to the National Park Service in 1939 in which was prescribed the work required to restore the buildings to their 1885 appearance. The recommendations of the Goplen report were implemented by a W. P. A. project coordinated by the National Park Service and the State Historical Society of North Dakota.

During the project, the exterior walls of the Chateau were repainted in the appropriate colors and the roof was reshingled and restored to the original color. A door on the west side was replaced by a window and another window was removed,

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Continuation Sheet)

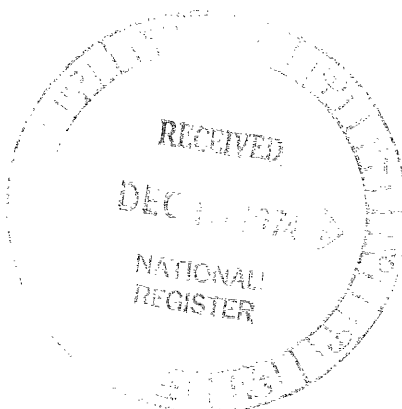
STATE	
North Dakota	
COUNTY	
Billings	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 16 1975

(Number all entries)

7 (description continued, page 2)

in accordance with the original specifications. Badly deteriorated walls on the second story were replastered and a special order of wallpaper, similar to the original, refreshed the appearance of the interior. The out-buildings were also repainted and repaired by having broken windows and boards replaced.

The property has been maintained by the State Historical Society of North Dakota in accordance with the Goplen study since the first major renovation during the W. P. A. project and is now open to public visitation as an historic house museum. The house is surrounded by approximately 129 acres of the Marquis original vast holdings, the land appearing today much as it did at the time of his occupancy.



6. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Chateau de Mores is significant to the history of North Dakota and perhaps to that of the United States both for what it was and for what it represents.

The Chateau's imposing size, for a frontier setting where construction materials were scarce at best and had to be freighted considerable distances to be had at all, and its position atop the bench terraces overlooking the river bottomland, established the Chateau as an area landmark.

Socially, the chateau and its residents presented a sharp contrast to the mostly austere way of life common to the region by introducing a touch of elegance to the still raw and unpretentious region. The Marquis de Mores had the chateau built in 1883 to serve as the summer residence of his family. His wife, Medora (Hoffman), was an heiress from New York, and together, they lived in regal style at the twenty six room house, staffed with French servants and decorated and furnished in a manner appropriate to the heritages of the two families. There, in a nearly ideal setting for the aristocratic interests of the couple, they engaged in hunting, riding, dancing, and, there they entertained some of the tired nobility of Europe as well as socially prominent friends from the East. Theodore Roosevelt, then a contemporary Badlands rancher, was also on occasional guest.

Probably the primary significance of this property, however, lies in its status as a memorial to the man who built it, because therein is related a remarkable story of the development of the West and the diversity of the people who settled it, and tamed it and made it a productive part of this nation.

Antoine Amedee Marie Vincent de Vallombrosa, the Marquis de Mores, a pretender to the French throne, determined and resourceful, arrived at the tiny settlement of Little Missouri, Dakota Territory, in April of 1883 for the purpose of establishing a meat packing enterprise utilizing some innovative

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dresden, Donald. The Marquis de Mores: Emperor of the Badlands Norman Oklahoma, University of Oklahoma Press, 1970

Goplen, Arnold. "The Career of the Marquis de Mores in the Badlands of North Dakota," North Dakota History, Vol XIII, No. 1 and 3 (January and April, 1946)

Goplen, Arnold. "Historical Narrative and Plans for Restoration, Development and Preservation of the DeMores Historic Site at Medora, North Dakota" National Park Service Report, May 29, 1939.

Saum, Lewis O. "The Marquis de Mores: Instrument of American Progress" North Dakota History, Vol. XXXVI, 1969.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

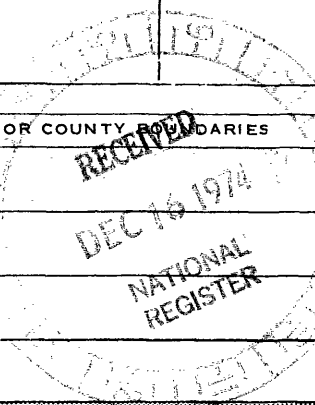
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	46 ° 55 ' 02 "	103 ° 32 ' 12 "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	46 ° 55 ' 02 "	103 ° 31 ' 42 "				
SE	46 ° 54 ' 19 "	103 ° 31 ' 42 "				
SW	46 ° 54 ' 19 "	103 ° 32 ' 12 "				

NO
WM
CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **128.26**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Walter L. Bailey - Historic Preservation Planner

ORGANIZATION: **State Historical Society of North Dakota** DATE: **10-16-74**

STREET AND NUMBER:
Liberty Memorial Building

CITY OR TOWN: **Bismarck** STATE: **North Dakota** CODE: **38**

12 STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name **James E. Sherry**

Title **N.D.S.H.P.O.**

Date **Nov 19, 1974**

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

A. B. Marlowen
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date **4/16/75**

ATTEST:

W. Mantz
Keeper of The National Register

Date **APR 14 1975**

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
North Dakota	
COUNTY	
Billings	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 16 1975

(Number all entries)

8 Significance (continued page 2)

ideas that he was convinced could revolutionize the meat producing industry. Mores believed that by slaughtering and processing meat animals close to the producing range and shipping the carcasses by refrigerated railroad car (thereby eliminating the costs of feeding and caring for live animals and reducing weight loss or volume shrinkage) economies could be obtained that would permit successful competition both economically and qualitatively with the operations of the eastern packers.

The Badlands of the Little Missouri provided everything Mores needed: a railroad, a producing range, a cattle raising industry, and lots of open space in which to operate. He selected the vicinity of the Northern Pacific Railway's crossing of the Little Missouri River, just east of the town of Little Missouri, to be the seat of his operations. East of the river, he built the huge abattoir that would, he hoped, turn 150 beeves a day into food for the nation's consumers. He built cold storage facilities at Helena, Billings, Miles City, Medora, Bismarck, Fargo, Brainard, Duluth, Minneapolis, St. Paul and Chicago to facilitate the shipment of his products; and he purchased 15,000 acres of land (another innovation for the previously "free" range area) to use as grazing and pasture land.

Also east of the Little Missouri and next to his packing plant, the ever optimistic Mores platted a new town which, in his gallant manner, he named Medora after his recent bride. Intended and designed to better serve his needs than could its rough, west river neighbor, Little Missouri, Medora prospered and grew as rapidly as the ambitions of its founder. It soon boasted a brick yard, church, newspaper, three hotels, several stores and saloons, and by the end of 1884, boasted of a permanent population of 251. Recognizing a need, Mores next started a stage coach line from Medora to Deadwood, center of the gold mining region in the Black Hills.

Unfortunately, the packing venture failed. Eastern housewives seemed to prefer "corn fed" to the tougher "range fed" beef and the competitive packers of the east met the challenge with a price war that reduced prices to as little as 3¢ a pound. With the closing of the packing plant, the other Mores enterprises also declined and before the disastrous winter of 1886-87, which nearly put an end to the area's cattle business, the Marquis and his family had returned to the East and Europe, leaving the Chateau de Mores to memory and the care of a small staff.

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	North Dakota	
COUNTY	Billings	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	16	DATE
	APR	1975

(Number all entries)

8 (significance continued, page 3)

But that the imprint of the man was left on the country is beyond question. The town of Medora flourishes and the tales about the near legendary "Frenchman" still abound. Interestingly enough, before North Dakota statehood in 1889, beef packing plants based on the Mores premise were operating successfully in Fargo and Grand Forks. The cattle industry continues to thrive and thousands of persons each year visit the home of a vindicated visionary.

