

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED APR 28 1975
DATE ENTERED JUN 20 1975

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 Wohlheter, George, Mansion
AND/OR COMMON The Wohlheter Mansion

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 320 Woodland Avenue
CITY, TOWN Fairmont STATE Minnesota
VICINITY OF Second COUNTY Martin CODE 091
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE & Apart.
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mr. and Mrs. Aldon Thelen
STREET & NUMBER 320 Woodland Avenue
CITY, TOWN Fairmont STATE Minnesota
VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Martin County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN Fairmont STATE Minnesota

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Statewide Historic Sites Survey
DATE 1972
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Building 25, Fort Snelling
CITY, TOWN Saint Paul STATE Minnesota

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" 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 Wohlheter Mansion is an imposing three-story frame residence located at 320 Woodland Avenue in Fairmont. It is situated on a spacious lot and has no immediate neighbors. The building is reached by a long pathway. The height of the building is further accented by its placement on a high stone foundation. The front entry is only accessible by an ascent of seven steps onto a two story portico.

The building is an interesting stylistic intermingling of elements from the Queen Anne with those of its Neo-Classic successor. The massing (a combination of porches, bays, corner tower, multigabled roof and soaring fluted chimneys) is characteristic of the Queen Anne. However, inspiration for ornamentation is directly based upon the Classic. The two-story portico boasts four columns in the Corinthian order.

Garlands and swags adorn a dentilated entablature. Diminutive brackets appear to support projecting eaves. Within the portico, the entrance to the building shows Palladian treatment in its tripartite composition. This treatment is echoed by a similar portal directly above which opens onto a small balustraded balcony supported by intricately carved brackets.

Immediately adjacent to the portico is a three-story tower of massive proportion. The sway and garland motif is repeated at the cornice. The windows on the lower level are adorned with full triangular pediments on brackets. Transoms are of leaded stained and prismatic glass. Second level windows are curved and double-hung. Windows on the uppermost level are simply designed and provide a 270° view.

The Wohlheter Mansion is in an excellent state of exterior preservation. The only alterations to appearance have been the removal of a one-story conservatory, a porte cochere, and a carriage barn.

The interior of the Wohlheter Mansion has undergone several alterations since its construction in 1899. In 1938 the mansion was converted to house four apartment dwellings -- two on the first floor and one on each of the top two floors. When the present owners moved into the mansion in 1968 they removed the apartment additions on the first floor and reinforced the original architecture -- they continue to rent apartments on the second and third floors of the mansion.

The first floor rooms included a parlor, sitting room, kitchen, library, and a sewing room. Two of these rooms have been converted into bedrooms. Five bedrooms and a bath were housed on the second floor. The third floor housed a ballroom, along with two bedrooms that were used by the hired help as sleeping quarters. Outside of kitchen installations on the second and third floors the interior retains its original integrity.

Outstanding features of the interior include six fireplaces with intricately carved oak mantels and inset iron heaters, carved oak beamed ceilings, oak and mahogany wainscoting, parquet floors, built-in carved oak cabinets, Italian marble dado, oak lattice work, a rose mahogany balustraded staircase leading to the second floor, and uncounted stained and leaded 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 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 1899 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of the Wohlheter Mansion lies primarily in its salient architecture vis-a-vis other residences in Fairmont and secondarily in its association with one of Fairmont's earliest and leading citizens.

The mansion is a prime example of architectural design during the transition from the Victorian mode of the Queen Anne into the twentieth century Neo-Classic. It is the only mansion in Fairmont and was once the center for elegant social events.

George Wohlheter built this mansion in 1899 from profits realized in the grain trade. Wohlheter emigrated from Alsace-Lorraine and settled in Fairmont in 1876. At that time he became a bookkeeper for Ward & Caldwell Co. He soon acquired stock and when the expanding company incorporated he became its secretary and treasurer. The greatest merchandising house Fairmont ever had was the Ward & Caldwell company, which thrived for nearly a half century. The big concern developed from a tiny store established in civil war days until it occupied the great building on Fairmont's Main street. He was very successful in business, being engaged in the operation of grain elevators in addition to merchandising. He was for many years a director of the Martin County Bank.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Farimont Daily Sentinel, December 10, 1938; September 25, 1968; February 15, 1973.
 Historical Records of the Martin County Historical Society.
 Nelson, Major Arthur, A History of Martin County, Minnesota.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 5 acres

UTM OK
HL

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 5	3, 8, 1, ⁵⁰ 4, 0	4, 8, 3, 3, 4, ⁵ 4, 0	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

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Lynne VanBrocklin and Charles W. Nelson, Historic Sites Survey and Planning

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Minnesota Historical Society

10 March 1975

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Building 25, Fort Snelling

612 726-1171

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Saint Paul

Minnesota

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

Russell W. Fridley

3/28/75

TITLE Russell W. Fridley
State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Alfred Hayes

DATE

6/20/75

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAELOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

W. H. ...

DATE

JUN 20 1975

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

for Keeper Melvin J. Lynn
1/19/89

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

**Note: These changes apply to
Wolheter, George, Mansion in
Martin County, Minnesota.**

REFERENCE NUMBER: 75000994

STATE: MINNESOTA

COUNTY: Martin

RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC): Wolheter, George, House

CITY:

VICINITY OF:

ADDRESS:

CERTIFICATION DATE:

REMOVED DATE:

COMMENTS:

Nina M. Archabal

**Nina M. Archabal
State Historic Preservation Officer**

JUN 17 1988

Date