

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED **4 SEP 1979**
DATE ENTERED **OCT 18 1979**

**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

House
Lewis Residence (preferred)

AND/OR COMMON

Minn-Kota Red Cross Chapter Office

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1002 Third Avenue South

CITY, TOWN

Fargo

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1

STATE

North Dakota

VICINITY OF

CODE

38

COUNTY

Cass

CODE

017

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- OTHER: Office

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

American National Red Cross/Minn-Kota Chapter

STREET & NUMBER

1002 Third Avenue South

CITY, TOWN

Fargo

VICINITY OF

STATE

North Dakota

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Register of Deeds, Cass County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Box 2725

CITY, TOWN

Fargo

STATE

North Dakota

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

North Dakota Historic Sites Survey

DATE

Summer, 1978

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

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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 Lewis Residence exemplifies the elegant homes that were built during the late 1880's and 1890's on Third Avenue in Fargo. The residence reflects the synthetic eclecticism of early Victorian construction in a neoclassical exterior emphasis and in a variety in interior and exterior forms. It is a three-story, gable-roofed wood frame structure facing north, with major gabled roof dormers on the east and west roof slopes. Smaller gabled window dormers also break the east and west roof slopes to the south of the major dormers.

The facade exhibits neoclassical elements in a pedimented gable, symmetry, and detail in a projecting porch. Fluted Ionic columns support the bracketed porch roof, with balustades spanning the column bases. A cross-braced balustrade on the second level further stresses the importance of the porch. A latticed porch base gives additional visual and textural variety to the facade, and a curved porch landing projection repeats a feature established in entry vestibule. A pair of curved stained glass windows flank a single vestibule door, and the vestibule itself is flanked by a pair of one-over-one clear windows.

On the second level are a pair of double-hung double windows with transoms; a stylized porthole window interrupts the facade's overall rectilinear rhythm. Within the "tympantum" of the facade is a Palladian window. A row of dentils ornaments the under side of each of the building's cornices.

The rear facade repeats the patterns of the north facade with some exceptions. The south gable contains a tri-part double-hung window with a porthole window over it. The second story contains a double window with arched heads, flanked by a rectangular double hung window on the left and a single-pane door with transom on the right. A bracketed half-porch capped by a cross-braced balustrade, is supported by a single fluted Ionic column. A tool shed with extended hipped roof is attached to the half-porch and is in part supported by a single column.

The east elevation is distinguished by two rounded dormer bays with clear windows, and also by a Palladian window in the gable. The west elevation has a single but more prominent bay finished with stained windows, and has a gable window pattern like that of the rear facade. The elegance of the structure is enhanced by spacious grounds measuring 100 by 140 feet.

The interior of the first floor consists of a living room, library, dining room, breakfast alcove, kitchen, pantry, and smoking room. Rich materials create a sumptuous mood in these rooms that display the original owner's affluence. Oak, maple, and cherry woods are generously employed in coffered wall paneling, built-in bookcases, door architraves, and mantelpieces. Carved bead-and-reel or egg-and-dart decorations adorn many architrave trims and mirror enframements, and a decorative screen with Eastlake-like beaded spindles separates the living room from the stair landing. The kitchen contains blond oak cabinets, wainscoting, drawers with shell motif pulls, and a built-in icebox.

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Richness of materials and styles is also evident in the stained glass windows placed in the curved bays and vestibule. The most impressive stained window is on the second floor staircase landing, where a central window in sinuous Art Nouveau style depicts a hanging wreath, festoons, and two torches with intertwined serpents. Two smaller stained windows flank the central window and echo the hanging wreath theme. The wreath is also the leitmotiv displayed on fire boxes, light fixtures, and other stained windows throughout the building.

Brass, another favored Victorian material, has been used for door fixtures and fire boxes. Leaded glass doors of the library bookcases also contribute to the overall interior reflection of opulence.

Neoclassical elements are also evident in first floor rooms, including fireplace mantels with Doric pilasters, entablatures, cornice dentils, and a fire box decorated with a festoon pattern. The library contains a classical frieze parallel to the ceiling molding, depicting mythological scenes. Low relief plaster panels decorate the dining room walls in a "Four Seasons" theme.

The second floor consists of six rooms which were formerly bedrooms and which each contain a marble sink, closet, and built-in chest of drawers. Over half the length of the third floor is occupied in a ballroom, with several small rooms comprising the remainder of the space.

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

SPECIFIC DATES 1899

BUILDER/ARCHITECT John Amer, Builder

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Lewis Residence is a fine example of late nineteenth-century Victorian style, and represents the rich architectural milieu of Fargo's Third Avenue during that period. More significantly, however, the building was the home of Lieutenant Governor Robert S. Lewis (1856-1956), who was one of North Dakota's prominent political and business leaders in the early twentieth century.

On June 8, 1899, a building permit was issued to construct a residence for Lewis. The house was estimated to cost \$12,000 and John Amer was contracted as the builder. During that same year, 1899, Lewis' residence was completed. After a series of owners, the American National Red Cross (Minn-Kota Chapter) purchased the property and house from the Robert S. Lewis estate on August 4, 1956. The building continues to be occupied by the Minn-Kota Red Cross Chapter office today. Lewis' grandson, R. C. Lewis, Jr., still resides in Fargo.

Robert S. Lewis was born in Tennessee and in 1868, he moved with his parents to Minnesota where he was educated. Lewis began his career as a clerk for a Minneapolis mercantile establishment. In 1882, he went to Fargo in Dakota Territory and worked as a clerk at the Red River National Bank. While employed there, Lewis was promoted from various positions--teller, assistant cashier, cashier--until, in 1897, he became vice president of the bank. Lewis, together with his brother, J. H. Lewis, acquired the bank's controlling interest. In 1902, the former was chosen bank president and in that same year, the Lewis brothers sold their interest. The Red River National Bank was later liquidated and its assets were merged with those of the First National Bank of Fargo. Lewis became a director of the latter institution. His initiative and resourcefulness led him, together with other business associates, to organize a financial institution in 1908 for the purpose of receiving savings deposits and performing other banking services. It was from this institution that the Dakota Savings Bank of Fargo was formed in 1916.

As an advocate of agrarianism, Lewis' interest in North Dakota farming continued throughout his life. In 1892, he purchased extensive acreage in the Buffalo area of Cass County. Eventually, Lewis was farming more than 10,000 acres and he became one of the leading farmers in the northwest territory. He has been credited with advancing the agricultural and livestock industries in the state. With rising prices, Lewis sold his Buffalo land holdings in 1910 and later bought 3,000 acres near Mapleton. His knowledge of the livestock industry resulted in his serving as secretary for the Fargo Packing Company.

Despite his many business and agricultural activities, Lewis is best known for his political career. He was elected to the state senate in 1900 and served for four years in the legislatures of 1901 and 1903. The apex of his political career was

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

A Century Together: A History of Fargo, North Dakota and Moorhead, Minnesota.
 Fargo-Moorhead: Fargo-Moorhead Centennial Corporation, 1975.
 Clay County Historical Society. Moorhead, Minnesota.

(Continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .32 acre

UTM NOT VERIFIED

QUADRANGLE NAME Fargo South

QUADRANGLE SCALE 7.5'

UTM REFERENCES

A 1, 4 | 6, 6, 7, 9, 6, 0 | 5, 1, 9, 3, 0, 1, 0
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B | |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C | |

D | |

E | |

F | |

G | |

H | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property occupies block 30, lots 1 and 2, of the original Fargo townsite. The site size is 100 by 140 feet. It is bounded on the west by 12th Street South, on the east by 11th Street South, on the north by 3rd Avenue, on the south by 4th Avenue.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Constance Fukuda/Kurt Schweigert, Architectural Historians

ORGANIZATION

State Historical Society of North Dakota

DATE

July 25, 1979

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

STATE X

LOCAL X

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

James E. Sherry

TITLE N.D. State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 8/27/1979

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

John Carl Shull

DATE 10-18-79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *William H. Graham*

DATE 10-17-79

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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his election as lieutenant governor of North Dakota, when he served from 1907 to 1910 during Governor John Burke's administration. As an active member of the Republican party, Lewis was secretary of the Republican State Convention several times.

Lewis' activities were innumerable and in his obituary, the Fargo Forum praised his "colorful career in business [and] politics." Among the organizations with which Lewis was affiliated were: Board of Control, which was in charge of North Dakota's penal and charitable institutions, as a member and later chairman; Fargo Board of Education, as a member and then president; Board of Trustees for the North Dakota Agricultural School, as a member; and Fargo Commercial Club (now the Chamber of Commerce), an organization dedicated to civic development, as president. Moreover, he headed the Cass County Red Cross and was chairman of the chapter for more than 20 years. Lewis was also a member of various fraternal organizations in Fargo.

Lewis' important contributions to the history of Fargo and North Dakota were recognized by Lewis F. Crawford in the History of North Dakota: "Robert S. Lewis was an influential executive in connection with pioneer banking enterprise in the City of Fargo, has been actively associated with the advancing of progressive farming industry in North Dakota, and in the many years of his residence in this state he has stood exponent of loyal, liberal and constructive citizenship." The Lewis Residence, by virtue of the fact that it was the home of the former lieutenant governor, is a symbol and architectural memorial of Lewis' many achievements during his prolific career.

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- History of the Red River Valley. II. Grand Forks: Herald Printing Company, 1909.
- Iosbaker, James E. Executive Director, Minn-Kota Chapter, American National Red Cross. Interview conducted by Constance Fukuda. July 12, 1978.
- Lewis, R. C. Jr. Fargo, North Dakota. Interview conducted by James E. Iosbaker. 1977.
- "R. S. Lewis Had Colorful Career in Business, Politics." Fargo Forum, LXXVIII, No. 162, May 23, 1956.
- "Lieutenant Governor Lewis." North Dakota Magazine, I, No. 6. Bismarck: Agricultural Department. February, 1907.
- Ramsey, Ronald Lanier, ed. Fargo-Moorhead: A Guide to Historic Architecture. Fargo: Fargo-Moorhead Board of Realtors, 1975.
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