

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received AUG 22 1986
date entered SEP 30 1986

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic George B. Clifford House

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 406 Reeves Drive N/A not for publication

city, town Grand Forks N/A vicinity of

state North Dakota code 38 county Grand Forks code 035

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"/> 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
			<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Jack and Mary Ingstad

street & number 406 Reeves Drive

city, town Grand Forks N/A vicinity of state North Dakota 58201

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds

street & number Grand Forks County Courthouse

city, town Grand Forks state North Dakota 58201

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Survey of Grand Forks has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date (Historical Research Inc.) 1981 N/A federal state county local

depository for survey records State Historical Society of North Dakota

city, town Bismarck state North Dakota 58505

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 George B. Clifford House is located at the north end of Reeves Drive on the west side of the street. The house measures 32' x 48' and faces east on its corner lot. The property is located along the most impressive residential street in Grand Forks, just south of the central business district and west of the Red River of the North which Reeves Drive runs parallel to. This individual nomination consists of the house and garage, both contributing.

The Clifford House is basically rectangular with the long axis along 4th Avenue and the short axis along Reeves Drive. It is a two story Queen Anne style frame dwelling, richly detailed, with an attic and a complicated hipped wood shingled roof with lower cross-gables. The facade is asymmetrical and is surrounded by one story porches on the front and rear, with the rear (west) porch wrapping around to the south side of the house. Gable ends project over the lower walls of the house. The house is painted yellow with 3" clapboards on the first and second floors and patterned shingles in the gable ends, including fish scale, shingles laid in a semi-circular pattern (north gable), and imbrecated and beveled (in the front facing east gable).

Chief decorative effects are accomplished by a variety of wall surfaces and window designs which produce a rich variety of texture (Photos 1, 2). The dominant front-facing gable is shingled in fish scale and imbrecated and beveled shingles. Three grouped gable windows are recessed under a projecting gable peak with wooden brackets. These windows are single hung with 48 small panes of glass. Triangular-shaped panels on each side of the windows are carved with reclining griffins and oak leaves (Photo 3). Under the windows at the sill line is a plain wood band which separates the windows from the patterned shingles below. The porch is a one story shed type with front facing gable over the front entry. Within the pediment is wood carving of grape leaves and fruits (Photo 4). The porch has Eastlake turned porch columns and spindlework under the frieze with a dentilled molding at the eave line. The porch balustrade is plain wooden 1 x 1s, but linen drawings show a design for a more elaborate wooden balustrade which might have been original.

Exterior wall surfaces are broken by a variety of methods between the first floor and the eaves at the top of the second floor. The south side of the house has two story bay windows and the north side has a shallow projecting wing topped by a shingled gable (Photo 2). This north gable has shingles laid in a semi-circle over the gable windows. The windows are typical of the Queen Anne style with small panes on the top and bottom of the upper light. Wood clapboard, wood panelling, and a full pediment supported by wood brackets completes the detailing on the gable end. Above the second floor windows on this wing is a wide band of panelling surmounted by a carved frieze of circles and oak leaves. The clapboard sheathing is broken on all facades by horizontal wooden bands at the top of window heads on the first floor and at

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet Description Item number #7 Page 1

the window sill line on the second floor, as well as corner boards and a wood water table. The house has three brick chimneys, two of which were originally patterned masonry with wider chimney caps. The chimney caps have been redone and are now plain brick. The chimney stack on the rear of the house runs up the center of the northwest gable end. Gable ends on the rear of the house are clapboard and wood panelling. The chimney stack on the south side of the house also runs up the center of the southeast gable. On both sides of this chimney, the gable ends are decorated with a grid of small wooden blocks and lattice. Finally, the garage at the rear (west end) of the property is a simple wood frame two car garage, sheathed in clapboard with a pyramidal roof. It is not original to the property and is in poor repair.

The interior is in excellent condition and has seen few changes over the years. A set of blueprints dated 1906 show some minor alterations made to the kitchen, pantry, and rear exit of the house by Joseph Bell DeRemer of Grand Forks. The more public areas of the house have been well cared for and are in very good condition. The front first floor hallway is panelled in walnut, a stained glass window on the north wall, and parquet floors (Photos 5-7). Fluted Roman Ionic pilasters and a columned fluted newell post on the stairs decorate the hall (Photo #6). The upstairs hallway also has parquet floors in a border pattern with walnut balustrade and stained glass on the north windows (Photo #15).

The first floor contains a dining room, library, parlor, kitchen, and pantry. Bedrooms and bath are upstairs. The dining room is panelled in walnut, and has a walnut fireplace, parquet floors and bay window (Photos 10, 11). The library is panelled in oak with a dark stain, and has a fireplace with Greek Ionic fluted pilasters and molded mantle with dentilled molding. The Tiffany chandelier in the library is original (Photos 12, 13). The parlor has dentilled crown molding, built-in bookcases, and a beautiful fireplace. All woodwork is antique white (Photo 14). The kitchen at the back of the first floor has been enlarged with the removal of walls, but the tin sink, maid's pantry marble sink, tin ceiling, and wood cabinets are original (Photos 21-25). The upstairs master bedroom has hardwood floors, crown molding, and a bay window (Photo 16). The bathroom is ceramic tile and plaster walls with a patterned ceramic tile floor which has a meander border. The original pedestalled wash basin, bathtub, and shower are in excellent condition (Photos 17-19). The two windows in the bathroom are stained glass (Photo 20).

The exterior of the house needs some repairs, including a new roof. Some of the siding is rotten, especially on the south side near the bay windows. The porch needs new boards and beams and the railing is loose. The house needs paint, but has too much paint on it already. The kitchen ceiling leaks and water has stained the wallpaper and ceiling tiles. The garage needs a new roof, has rotten siding, and broken windows. Because of the detailing, the house is expensive to keep up.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1889, 1906

Builder/Architect 1889: unknown; 1906: Joseph Bell DeRemer

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The George B. Clifford House is one of North Dakota's best early examples of the Queen Anne style house and is historically significant for its association with George B. Clifford, a Grand Forks attorney, banker, and real estate man, and one of three founders of the Cream of Wheat Company. Although the original architect is unknown, the Clifford House, built in 1889, was remodelled on the interior in 1906 and a rear addition and gable was added with a bathroom upstairs by one of North Dakota's leading architects, Joseph Bell DeRemer.

The Queen Anne Style Clifford House was built in 1889, only 13 years after the Watts-Sherman House in Newport, Rhode Island, said to be the first Queen Anne style house built in this country. Because of this, it is closer in design and detail to the original Shavian Queen Anne style as elaborated by Richard Norman Shaw. The high relief wood carvings in the upper front and front porch gables are unusual in design (griffins and high relief foliated patterns) as is the banding on the north side wing (circles and oak leaves). The overhanging gable ends and elaborately patterned shingles are closer to the original designs of Shaw than later American adaptations. There are, however, some American adaptations apparent in the Eastlake porch supports and spindlework on the front facade. "Free Classic" elements on the exterior are limited to the dentilled porch molding on the front facade. The house was built in 1889 for Clifford at a cost of \$5,000.00 (The Plaindealer, Special Edition, May, 1889, n.p.), and an engraving from that paper shows that the house has had no alterations to primary facades. Since houses of this quality and design were commonly available from builders' catalogues during the 1880s and popularized by such publications as Scientific American, the possibility that this was a patternbook design can not be ruled out.

Blueprints in the possession of the owners, dated 1906 and signed by DeRemer, show some interior changes to the first floor, and the addition to the rear of the house of a second gabled wing (SW corner of the rear facade) and upstairs bathroom. Since Joseph Bell DeRemer did not arrive in Grand Forks until 1902, he is not the original architect. The 1906 blueprints are not a full set, and it is clear that DeRemer was hired to redesign the front hallway's walnut Classical style panelling and balusters, and the dining room fireplace and panelling. The owners also have several original linen elevations and details of exterior and interior woodwork. These are unsigned and appear to date from 1889. One page of these linens (sheet #8) shows the original Eastlake design for the front hallway stairs before the DeRemer Classical Revival redesign of 1906. These original linens show no second rear gable on the back of the house (sheet #4). This change was accomplished by DeRemer as shown in the 1906 blueprints.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet #3

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Grand Forks, N.D.-Minn. (1963, photorevs'd in 1979) Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	4	6	4	7	4	4	0	5	3	0	8	8	8	5
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 26, 27, 28, 29 of Westerman and Sheehan's Addition to the City of Grand Forks.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dr. Norene A. Roberts, President

organization Historical Research, Inc.

date April 15, 1986

street & number 5535 Richmond Curve

telephone (612) 929-2921

city or town Minneapolis

state Minnesota 55410

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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature James E. Sperry

title State Historic Preservation Officer (North Dakota)

date August 14, 1986

For NPS use only

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

Keeper of the National Register

date 9/30/86

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet Significance Item number #8 Page 2

George B. Clifford purchased the lots on which the house stands in 1887 and moved into the house in 1889. When Clifford's wife, Minnie, died in 1910, Clifford sold the property, and it has changed hands several times since then. George B. Clifford arrived in Grand Forks in 1881 from Vermont. He became a member of the law firm of Gozard and Clifford, an organizer of the Vermont Loan and Trust company, and of the Dakota Investment Company. He was elected secretary and western manager of Vermont Loan. He also became secretary of the Security Trust Company, president of the North Dakota Milling Company, and vice-president of the Grand Forks National Bank. He was credited in 1895 with having done more for the upbuilding of Grand Forks than any other single citizen (The Record, Vol. 1, #3, July, 1895). In 1897, Clifford was listed as one of the seven leading financial institutions in Grand Forks, operating under the name of George B. Clifford, real estate loans, with a capital of \$100,000, a sum that constituted one-tenth of the money on deposit in the city (Dudley, p. 55). He was praised as being among the foremost in promoting enterprises for the advancement of the city, and credited with the Grand Forks Woolen Mill, managed by an A. P. Clifford (possibly a son or brother). Clifford's business was in mortgage loans, and he had a large number of clients in New York and New England. An 1897 account explained that "His loans are confined exclusively to first mortgages on Red River Valley farm and city property, a class of securities that have stood the test of time" (Dudley, p. 58). In 1897, Clifford was also listed as a member of the Grand Forks County Bar Association (Dudley, p. 70).

George B. Clifford was one of three principal owners in the Diamond Mill in Grand Forks when Thomas S. Amidon, head miller, came to them with the idea of using cooked purified middlings for a breakfast cereal. Amidon finally sold the owners on the idea and in 1895 the cereal was successfully marketed as Cream of Wheat. In 1897, Cream of Wheat moved to Minneapolis, and it is not known precisely what Clifford's role was in the company after that date. Little is known of Clifford's later years, but he was one of the chief businessmen and principle links to northeastern capital during the years of consolidation and progress after first settlement in Grand Forks.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Major Biblio. References

Item number #9

Page 3

Abstract of Title on 406 Reeves Drive, Grand Forks. In possession of owners.

Blueprints dated 1906 and original linen elevations and details. In possession of owners.

Dudley, W. L. City of Grand Forks Illustrated: Salient Facts about the History, Resources, and Adventures of the Metropolis of the Northwest. Grand Forks, North Dakota: Herald Printers, 1897, pp. 55, 56, 58, 70.

Gifford, William L. Souvenir Album, City of Grand Forks, North Dakota. The Ladies' Aid Society of the First M.E. Church, Grand Forks, n.p., n.d.

History of the Red River Valley Past and Present. Herald Printing Co., Grand Forks, and C. F. Cooper & Co., Chicago, Ill., 1909, Vol. 2, pp. 1001-1002.

The Plaindealer, Special Edition, May 1889, n.p.

The Record magazine. Vol 1, # 3 (July, 1895).

Roberts, Norene A. and Joe D. Historical Research Report, Summer 1981 Historical and Architectural Survey of Downtown Grand Forks, North Dakota. On file: Division of Archeology and Historic Preservation, State Historical Society of North Dakota. November, 1981, pp. 58, 81.

Sanborn Insurance Maps for 1892, 1897, 1901, and 1916. Sanborn Map Company. On file: Chester Fritz Library, University of North Dakota.

Stolt, Bill. "Cream of Wheat originated Here." in Grand Forks Centennial Corporation. They Came to Stay. Grand Forks, N.D.: Jet Printing, June, 1974, p. 43.