Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

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7 DESCRIPTION

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Andrew M. Hargis house is situated on a large tree shaded lot in the west residential section of Grand Island. The structure is of frame construction and is typical of the Queen Anne architectural style.

Built in 1898, the house has an irregular plan, multi-faceted gabled and hipped roof and a variety of window types including linteled, arched and Palladian. A three story tower dominates the northeast corner of the house, with mullioned round-arched windows circumscribing the third story. The elaborate hoods above the windows of the second story of the tower are of particular note. Penetrating the conical roof is an elaborate dormer window adorned with corner pilasters and finials. Several attic dormers project from the roof lines.

A large porch skirts the north and east facades of the house terminated at each end by a pedimented roof line. Paired columns support the porch roof and unite it with a spindle work balastrade. A variety of floral motifs decorate the porch pediments and the cornices above the two, now enclosed, second story porches.

The Hargis house has been owned since 1953 by the Grand Island Women's Club who use the house for a variety of activities including regular meetings. Prior to their ownership of the building, it had been used as a church. Much of the interior of the house retains its original historical integrity.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SIGNIFICANCE

The Andrew M. Hargis house built ca. 1898, has long been a landmark in the city of Grand Island.

Andrew Hargis was a significant educational leader in the city. He founded in 1885, along with Professors Rucker and Evans, the Grand Island Business and Normal College, a very successful private institution which is still operating today. After being involved in education for many years, he retired to California before 1920. Hargis' Business College provided an option in secondary education for central Nebraska residents.

On May 2, 1898, Hargis purchased the lots on west 2nd. street and shortly thereafter began erecting this house. The business school was enjoying prosperity, at the time, which accounts for Hargis' ability to build such a grandiose structure. Hargis owned the mansion until 1913 when it was sold to Grand Island banker F. J. Coates. No further biographical information is available for either man.

The house is a particularly distinguished example of the Queen Anne style of architecture which enjoyed widespread popularity during and after Nebraska's major boom period of the 1880's. Formally the house is characteristic of the style with its irregular plan accented with bay windows, complex roof forms, ell-shaped porch, shingled gables and its focus on the corner tower. Unlike the earlier versions of the style in Nebraska, the Hargis house exhibits predominately classical detailing as seen in the dentiled cornice, the Palladian window of the north gable, the pilasters of the top floor of the tower and the floral motifs above the porches. While Whiffen (1969, p. 115) notes that Queen Anne detailing is generally classical, evidence in Nebraska suggests that classical details appeared on Queen Anne houses built around the turn of the century and is likely related to changing attitudes following the great Expositions. The coupled columns of the Hargis house porch, so ubiquitous on turn-of-the-century Neo-Classical Revival dwellings, would appear to support the observation and enhance the significance of the house.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(See continuation sheet)

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11 FORM PREPARED	BY			
NAME/TITLE Janet Jeffries Sper	ncer. Preservation	n Historian; D.	Murphy, Architect	*
ORGANIZATION			DATE	
<u>Nebraska State Hist</u> STREET & NUMBER	orical Society		<u>April 1978</u> TELEPHON E	
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CONTINUATION SHEET	9	ITEM NUMBER	PAGE	2	

Buechler, A. F. and Barr, R. J., <u>History of Hall County, Nebraska</u>, Western Publishing and Engraving Co., Lincoln, 1920.

Grand Island Independent, "Heartland Living" Section, January 10, 1970.

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Whiffen, Marcus. <u>American Architecture Since 1780</u>, M. I. T. Press, Cambridge, 1969.