

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

For HCRS use only
received JUL 9 1986
date entered AUG 13 1986

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

1. Name

historic Mason, John W. House

and/or common Boushley Residence

2. Location

street & number 205 West Vernon Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Fergus Falls N/A vicinity of N/A congressional district

state Minnesota code 22 county Otter Tail code 111

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 type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<u>N/A</u> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Gary and Judy Boushley

street & number 205 West Vernon

city, town Fergus Falls N/A vicinity of N/A state Minnesota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Otter Tail County Courthouse - Register of Deeds

street & number 100 Block, West Junius

city, town Fergus Falls state Minnesota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Statewide Survey of Historic Resources
title _____ has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date September, 1982 federal state county local

depository for survey records Minnesota Historical Society - Fort Snelling History Center

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The John W. Mason House is situated on the southwest corner of West Vernon and South Court in the residential area southwest of downtown Fergus Falls.

The house exhibits distinctive characteristics of the Italianate style of architecture in its basic cube form with low pitch hip roof and broad, bracketed eaves. The two storey frame house is sheathed in clapboard highlighted by cornerboards. Windows are rectangular with wooden surrounds, articulated by a moulded projecting cap and are framed by narrow louvered shutters. The limestone foundation is faced in cement.

Before the turn of the century the original bracketed entry porch was replaced by the current wrap-around type with pedimented gable and classic supports. About 1905, a square one storey bay window was added on the southeast corner of the house. Research suggests that extensive alterations were made to the interior about 1918 and, at that time, a one and one-half storey rear portion was extended to the second floor to accommodate a new kitchen and bedroom above. It is believed that an original window on the northeast corner was replaced also, at that time, by the present smaller one which features a diamond and art glass tulip design. More recent additions include aluminum storm windows and doors.

A one storey frame, gable roofed garage, c. 1950, has been re-sided with 8" lap siding.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates c. 1881 **Builder/Architect** Attributed: Stanford Brothers
Contractors & Builders

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The John W. Mason House is significant for its association with its namesake, a pioneer settler and distinguished political citizen of the City of Fergus Falls. Born in 1846 in La Peer, Michigan, John Wintermute Mason arrived in the city in 1871 seeking to establish his law practice. The city was in its infancy, having been platted only the previous year. It was not until the following year that the city was incorporated and, at that time, also became the new county seat. Mason was elected to the legislature in 1874, serving as the youngest member of the 41st district whose area was comprised of Otter Tail, Wilkin and Wadena Counties and all the territory north to the Canadian border. He was elected the city's first mayor in 1881 and was reelected in 1893-94. Mason was responsible for drafting the first and second city charters in 1881 and 1882, respectively, elected President of the Charter Commission in 1902 and served as the city attorney in 1898. Mason became interested in railroad legislation with the advancement of railroads in the latter part of the 1870s. He was so adroit at winning cases against the railroads that, in 1910, he was offered, and accepted, a position as legal representative by the Great Northern Railroad, a position in which he continued to serve for many years. Mason also had many civic interests, holding various positions of responsibility including serving as the first member and first President of the Board of Education and as a member of the Board of Directors of the Fergus Falls State Hospital. Mason also served as editor of the History of Otter Tail County, published in 1916. Mason built a small home on a lot at the corner of Vernon and Court about 1875 for himself and his wife, Fannie Safford Mason. Seven years later, he built the present home on the same site and remained there until his death in 1927.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet - page 1.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Fergus Falls

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	4	7	2	5	3	0	0	5	1	2	8	9	0	0
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 1 and 2, Block 50. Original Plat Fergus Falls

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 Camille Kudzia, Preservation Consultant

organization N/A

date October, 1984

street & number 2110 - 24th Avenue South

telephone (612) 338-6123

city or town Minneapolis

state 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Russell W. Fridley
Russell W. Fridley

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 7/1/86

For HCERS use only

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

J. Delores Bryan
Keoper of the National Register

date 8-13-86

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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

John W. Mason House, Fergus Falls, Otter Tail County, Minnesota

Continuation sheet

Resource Count

Item number 8

Page

1

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date entered

The John W. Mason House Nomination contains 1
contributing building.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

John W. Mason House, Fergus Falls, Otter Tail County, Minnesota

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 1

Adams, Elmer E. "J. W. Mason, A Review of His Life and Times," Fergus Falls Daily Journal, August 11, 1927.

"J. W. Mason," Fergus Falls Weekly Journal, September 5, 1881.

L. F. W. "Hon. J. W. Mason." Files of Otter Tail County Historical Society, March 30, 1939.

"Long Career of Hon. J. W. Mason Ended," Fergus Falls Weekly Journal, August 11, 1927.

Mason, J. W. History of Otter Tail County, Minnesota, "John Wintermute Mason," by Ernest V. Shockley, Indianapolis, IN: B. F. Bowen and Company, Inc., 1916, pp. 575-582.