OMB No. 1024-0018

(Expires 12-31-2005)

MAI. REGISTOR OF PROTOCOL SERVICE

NPS Form 10-900 (Rev. Aug. 2002)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM 1. Name of Property historic name William E. Metzger House other names/site number Thomas Tate House 2. Location street & number 112 Makee Street not for publication city or town Portal vicinity code ND county Burke state North Dakota code 013 zip code 58772 State/Federal Agency Certification As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ____ nationally statewide X locally. L See continuation sheet for additional comments.) J-5-07

State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

J-5-07

Date

Burke County, North Dakota In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.) Signature of commenting official/Title Date State or Federal agency and bureau 4. National Park Service Certification I, hereby certify that this property is: entered in the National Register See continuation sheet. determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet. determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register other (explain): ignature of Keeper Date of Action 5. Classification Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply) x private ___ public-local ___ public-State public-Federal Category of Property (Check only one box) x building(s) ___ district site structure object

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Metzger, William E., House

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing		
1	1	buildings	
0	0	sites	
0	0	structures	
0	0	objects	
1	1	Total	

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register $\underline{0}$

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A	

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions) Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: single dwelling 7. Description Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions) Late Victorian: Queen Anne Materials (Enter categories from instructions) foundation GRANITE and CONCRETE roof ASPHAIT walls WOOD: weatherboard other Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.) 8. Statement of Significance Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the	ennetion or Use
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property on one or more continuation sheets.)	
8. Statement of Significance 	property on one or more continuation sheets.)
Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the	8. Statement of Significance
x A Property is associated with events that have made a significant	Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

	contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
<u>x</u> B	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
<u>x</u> C	Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.
Criteria Con:	siderations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)
A	owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
B	removed from its original location.
C	a birthplace or a grave.
D	a cemetery.
E	a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F	a commemorative property.
G	less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.
Areas of Sign	A: Exploration/Settlement; Social History B: Politics/Government; Commerce/Agriculture C: Architecture
Period of Sic	gnificance 1905 - 1955
Significant	Dates <u>1905</u> 1947

Significant Person	(Complete if Criterion B is marked above) William E. Metzger Thomas Tate			
Cultural Affiliation	on N/A			
Architect/Builder	Unknown			
Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)				
9. Major Bibliograp				
Previous documentate preliminary det requested. previously list previously dete designated a Na recorded by His	tion on file (NPS) termination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been ted in the National Register ermined eligible by the National Register ational Historic Landmark storic American Buildings Survey # storic American Engineering Record #			
Primary Location of x State Historic Other State age Federal agency x Local governmen University Other	Preservation Office ency			
Name of repository:	: Portal City and Burke County Recorder and Tax Offices			
10. Geographical Da	ata			
Acreage of Property				

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>13</u>	678978	5430012	3			
2				4			
		See cont	cinuation	sh	neet.		

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

continuation sneet.	
11. Form Prepared By	
name/title Dr. Elizabeth K. Barber	
organization Owners' daughter and niece	date 1 July 2007
street & number 26W281 Parkway Drive	telephone 630-665-3940
city or town Winfield	state_IL_zip code 60190
Additional Documentation	
Submit the following items with the completed	form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location. A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner	
(Complete this item at the request of the	
name Kathryn F. Barber and Carol McGuire	e
street & number	telephone
city or town	state zip code

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 36 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to Keeper, National Register of Historic Places, 1849 "C" Street NW, Washington, DC 20240.

NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018 (Expires 12-31-2005)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

William E. Metzger House name of property

Burke County, North Dakota county and State

Description

The William E. Metzger House is located on a 24,000 square foot parcel of land located between First and Second Avenues on Makee Street in residential Portal, Burke County, North Dakota. The Late Victorian Queen Anne style house sits on the northwest corner with a border formed by hedgerows around its perimeter. The house faces Makee Street and stands southeast of the intersection of Makee Street with Second Avenue. Portal is one of eighteen ports of entry into the U.S. in North Dakota and received its name for this fact when the Soo Line arrived at the border with Canada in 1893. The Metzger House, known locally as the Thomas Tate House due to its longer and more recent association with the Tate family, is situated about 200 feet from the Canadian border in a residential section of Portal, a largely rural community which has been a station of the U.S. Customs Houses and Border Patrol since the 1890s.

Portal is geographically located on the border with Saskatchewan in the western quarter of North Dakota on highway 52, which becomes highway 39 in Saskatchewan. Portal is at the site of the joining of the Soo Line Railway with the Canadian Pacific Railway at the international border. The topography of the region appears flat. The flat landscape combined with the rich soil creates ideal conditions for farming, the main industry in the region for generations along with the Border Patrol and U.S. Immigration Service, now a part of the Department of Homeland Security.

The hedge surrounding the property displays several large deciduous trees at the front and back borders of the house. A garage, echoing the house in design and materials is set at the southwest corner of the lot and is reached by a short gravel driveway from Second Avenue. The house and property are in excellent condition and have had very little alteration since the house's construction from 1904 to 1905, apart from the addition of the back porch and movement of the garage from the rear to the back corner of the site in 1946. Thomas Tate Jr. built the 14 foot-wide rolling gate at the southeast corner of the lot in about 1950, which is the primary point of access to the house. The

NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018 (Expires 12-31-2005)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 2

William E. Metzger House name of property

Burke County, North Dakota county and State

Description (continued)

second staircase to the basement from the service entrance was sealed off when deliveries to the basement for cold storage were no longer necessary.

The front of the house is somewhat hidden from Makee Street by the four large pine trees planted by the Thomas Tate family in 1947. It is two city blocks from Portal's main street and is in the center of the northwestern residential district. One half block behind the house to the southeast stands St. John's Church with Trinity Presbyterian Church one block to the southwest.

The Metzger House was built between mid-1904 and 1905⁴ in the Queen Anne free classic style. The exterior displays asymmetrical front and back façades and one centered gable on each of the four sides. The steeply-pitched irregular hipped roof with a dominant front-facing gable and one or more side gables distinguish the house as a Queen Anne.

A porch spans the northwest-facing front of the house and is unobstructed by railing to allow the air to circulate as air-conditioning was not yet used in houses. The front porch has four slightly tapered octagonal columns with square bases and capitals. The modern method of constructing octagonal columns was displayed in a 1904 edition of *Carpentry and Building* about the time construction was begun on the house.⁵

Since its construction, the house has been continuously owned for use as a domestic dwelling and its principal use has been as a family home. The balloon-frame building is sheathed in clapboard siding and displays individually-carved dentil detailing at the soffit and below the porches and gables reflecting the popularity of neoclassical details on Queen Anne homes in the early twentieth century.

The back of the house has a contrasting cross-gabled roof construction on one side and a hipped roof with lower cross gables on the other consistent with

NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018 (Expires 12-31-2005)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 3

William E. Metzger House name of property

Burke County, North Dakota county and State

Description (continued)

many Queen Anne homes of the period. The back entrance displays a small pedimented trellis-enclosed porch with two benches for seating on the southeast façade.

The original granite foundation, visible around the house, consists of cut stone footings cemented in place. The fenestration displays drip-cap double hung windows on the first and second floors with three single pane attic windows. The nine windows on each of the first and second floors include four neoclassical art glass windows: two single pane, one double-hung and the top portion of the upper panel of a double hung Queen Anne window. A two-story bay window faces onto the southeast lawn from the dining room and master bedroom above. Exterior window and door surrounds display carved moldings. The southwest side of the house displays a side projection from the attic to the foundation covering the interior foyer staircase, service entrance and changing room. The chimney is centrally placed along the ridge of the roof extending from the basement through the attic and is built of brick. The original roof was replaced with asphalt shingles applied in the mid-1970's.

The front entrance displays Queen Anne style exterior and interior vestibule doors with an upper beveled glass panel and three lower cross panels. The cap trim above the interior doors displays an egg and dart motif. The collection of neoclassical art glass windows begins in the foyer closet to allow light in with a small opalescent scene inside a wreath with a combination Renaissance/Rococo design, likely inspired by the designs of Louis Comfort Tiffany. The second art glass window is also displayed in foyer as the top quarter of a double-hung Queen Anne window. Its design contains two fleur-delis (flower of life) on a geometric (Aesthetic movement) design interspersed with roundel-like diamond shapes. The large art glass window at the top of the foyer staircase landing displays the neoclassical symbol of success of a green wreath with a pink ribbon on each pane, with thin rectangular green and brown

NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018 (Expires 12-31-2005)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 4

Milliam E. Metzger House name of property

Burke County, North Dakota county and State

Description (continued)

opalescant borders surrounding a clear geometric grid to allow more light in and a view outside from the small window seat on the landing. The final art glass window is found in a small second floor bedroom alcove and contains a red-jewel surrounded by a large green fleur-de-lis on a clear glass background. A similar fleur-de-lis pattern has appeared in later windows of Frank Lloyd Wright. This collection of neoclassical patterns was highly sought after by those building Queen Anne homes in the early 20th century. 11

The most distinctive interior feature of the house is the elegantly carved and beautifully preserved birdseye maple trim present throughout. It displays the characteristic four-inch wide trim of the early 20th century around the doors and baseboards and built-in cabinetry in the parlor, dining room, butler's pantry, kitchen and upstairs hallway. Immediately upon entering the foyer one views the grand carved birdseye maple staircase and trim and inviting clear grided glass French doors which open into the parlor. In the parlor, more carved wood with wide dentil detailing is shown on the built-in U-shaped curved "cozy corner" or version of an inglenook formed by reading benches in front of glass cabinets containing a small library in the parlor. The benches have a storage area built into them. The large parlor displays three asymmetrical windows in keeping with the house's eclectic design.

The interior doors are nearly all 5 cross-panel bead and cove doors. The carved foyer staircase contains a landing and displays square, grooved newel posts and caps on the curtail step adorned by neoclassical wreath motifs with egg and dart detailing and turned balusters on a face string. 13 The stair design strongly resembles that available in 1903 by mail order. 14 The dimensions of the rooms range from approximately $10' \times 12'$ to $13' \times 15'$.

The house has a modified rectangular plan, approximately 34×32 feet. The arrangement of the rooms is typical of many Queen Anne homes. After passing through the vestibule from the front door, the large entrance hallway contains

NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018 (Expires 12-31-2005)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 5

William E. Metzger House name of property

Burke County, North Dakota county and State

Description (continued)

carved wainscoting and double French doors which open into the expansive parlor, about 20' x 22'. Pocket doors separate the opening from the parlor into the dining room (about 15' x 15'), which can also be accessed via the pantry (about 4' x 6') from the kitchen (about 15' x 15'). The dining room contains a bay window and a built-in cabinet in one corner and a five panel door leading to the butler's pantry. The butler's pantry contains more built-in cabinetry, a window and a breakfast table. The large kitchen has two windows, built in cabinets and modern appliances. The original back stairs to the second floor from the kitchen were largely replaced with a small lavatory installed in the 1970's. The door to the basement is adjacent to that for the original back stairway. The kitchen can also be accessed via the back porch or side entrance which opens into a small changing room with a second door under the foyer staircase. The side entrance was likely a service entrance.

After passing through the kitchen door and up the foyer staircase past the landing, more turned balusters appear on the second floor railing next to the original telephone in the hallway. The telephones probably were installed during the original construction as Portal opened a telephone exchange in 1904. The maple hardwood upstairs hallway is about 4' x 20'. The hall contains more built-in cabinets with their original finish. A large room is found in each of the four corners of the second floor, three of which have large built-in closets with the original hooks, as hangers were not yet in common use. Each room has at least two windows. Unlike the other three rooms, the first room on the right does not contain a built-in closet and may originally have been used as a servant's room, study, sewing room or children's playroom. The master bedroom contains a bay window, a second window and a connecting door to the third room which appears to have been the wife's bedroom. Such an arrangement was common among middle class families in the early $20^{\rm th}$ century. The fourth bedroom has two windows and a built-in closet and appears to have been the children's bedroom, which may explain the presence of a small alcove which could have served as a small chapel.

NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018 (Expires 12-31-2005)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 6

william E. Metzger House name of property

Burke County, North Dakota county and State

Description (continued)

The bathroom, located at the rear center of the second floor, contains an original roll-top tub, marble sink, and a window. The attic can be accessed via a door to the original wooden staircase from the hall upstairs next to the bathroom, and the kitchen was originally accessed via a second adjacent doorway. Such an arrangement would have been convenient for busy household staff.

The roomy interior of the house has 9.5 foot ceilings and is covered with wallpaper on most of the first and second floor walls. Painted gypsum board appears in the dining room above a gold picture rail and crown molding appears through most of the house. Wallpaper was characteristic in fashionable late nineteenth and early twentieth century houses after the Philadelphia Centennial of 1876. The paper was often based on the designs of William Morris in England who made wallpaper popular again in the 1860's. The house has been wallpapered several times since 1947, often with Montgomery Ward patterns, and likely has been since it was built. An original pattern was revealed during repapering by the current owners in the "wife's" bedroom which closely resembles the Savannah Tulip pattern (American, 1900-15) by Scalamandré. A version of Morris's "Larkspur" pattern was shown on the walls with a four generation picture of Annie Tate in her parlor in 1971 with her daughter Elizabeth Fredenburg, grand-daughter Kathryn Barber and great-granddaughter Elizabeth Barber.

Decorative grating covers the furnace vents throughout the house. The basement contains a stove dating from at least 1947 which was used by Annie Tate for canning. The modern furnace, washer and dryer are also in the basement. The basement originally had two entrances, one via the back cellar and one under the side service entrance, in addition to a coal chute under the parlor and a water cistern under the kitchen. The basement has four large areas in the corners for laundry, supplies, canning, wood and coal storage and a work bench with the furnace in the center. The granite foundation extends to the basement

NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018 (Expires 12-31-2005)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7,8 Page 7

William E. Metzger House name of property

Burke County, North Dakota county and State

Description (continued)

floor. The attic contains exposed beams and three windows with a small ceiling trap door which can be opened for ventilation. The area may also have been used as another room if needed during the warmer months.

Except for the addition of the back porch and re-positioning of the garage in 1946, modernization of plumbing and mechanical systems, and upgrading of the kitchen, the house and grounds largely retain their original appearance. The upstairs wallpaper was replaced in the parlor and three of the upstairs bedrooms in 1985 and 1998.

Historical background and significance:

The William Metzger House, built in 1905, is a product of the dissemination of the Queen Anne free classic philosophy and aesthetic in American architecture and is an excellent example of the craftsmanship of its period and probably of a prominent local builder. Contextually, it relates to the influence of the American late Victorian and early neoclassical architectural styles in North Dakota and to the statewide context of the Arts in early North Dakota history. Secondly, the Metzger House is significant for its place in the context of the social history and development of Portal, North Dakota as well as the context of the City's community and regional planning. Thirdly, the Metzger House is also significant by virtue of its two most significant owners, William E. Metzger and Thomas Tate. William Metzger was a homesteader, locally prominent banker, politician, landowner, Village Trustee and insurance broker and Thomas Tate was a prominent farmer, landowner and also active in civic affairs.

The William E. Metzger House has the distinction of having been built and occupied by two families with lengthy occupancies who have made great contributions to the City of Portal. William E. Metzger, a prominent local banker, landowner and insurance broker built the house and occupied it with his family from 1905 to 1935. Thomas Tate was a prominent local farmer who occupied

NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018 (Expires 12-31-2005)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 8

Milliam E. Metzger House name of property

Burke County, North Dakota county and State

Statement of Significance (continued)

the house from 1947 until his death in 1968. His widow, Annie remained in the house until her passing in 1981.

Portal is located on the Saskatchewan border and functions as a major Port of Entry to Canada. Portal was a thriving community in the early 1900's and continues to be an important U.S. port of entry. Although Portal's population was near 1000 at the turn of the century, the residential population was reported as 238 in 2003 (USGSA 2003) with the commuter population being larger because of an increase in the number of jobs at the border station. 21

The first recorded settlement in Portal was in 1883 as recorded in the 1905 "Imperial Ward" County Directory. After the railroad reached Portal in 1893, homesteading in the area rapidly expanded. The U.S. first granted "letters patent", or the right to homestead, on the property on which the Metzger House sits in 1897 to the Minnesota Loan and Trust Company. Portal was surveyed and platted on June 1, 1899. The railway brought many homesteaders to the area via extensive advertising campaigns to induce settlers to come into all regions which had railway lines, as inhabited areas increased profits. "Imperial Ward" as Burke county²³ was then known was advertised as "little short of Utopian." After teaching in Sheldon and homesteading in Harvey, William E. Metzger arrived in 1901 as one of three partners to build, open and run Portal's first bank, The First International Bank, which opened in December 1901. William "Billy" Metzger, acquired the deed to the Metzger house property in 1903. The railway ads also likely induced Thomas Tate to move to Portal in 1908.

William Metzger was a native of South Bend, Indiana, born on May 19, 1866. He attended school in South Bend and then Valparaiso University in Indiana, then called the Northern Indiana Normal School. At the age of 21, in 1887, he came to Sheldon in the Dakota Territory, where he taught penmanship in the Fargo schools. He next went to Harvey, ND to buy grain, where he also filed on a homestead. In 1901 William Metzger built Portal's first bank, The First NPS

Form 10-900-a (8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018 (Expires 12-31-2005)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 9

William E. Metzger House name of property

Burke County, North Dakota county and State

Statement of Significance (continued)

International Bank as one of its three incorporators, along with T.L. Beiseker and W.J. Eide of Canada. It is of interest that both T.L. Beiseker and William Metzger were contemporaries born in Indiana in April and May of 1866, respectively. T.L. Beiseker was born in a covered wagon in Muncie while his family was traveling from Brooklyn, New York to Austin, Minnesota, where his father had been granted lands for distinguished Civil War service and had served in President Lincoln's Honor Guard, eventually working as a Cooper for Hormel Foods, founded by George A. Hormel in Austin in 1891. George A. Hormel was a contemporary of T.L. Beiseker and the Hormel home is now on the National Register of Historic Places.

William Metzger first homesteaded in Harvey, North Dakota, not far from Fessenden where T.L.'s brother, A.N., was a banker in another bank run by T.L. Beiseker. William Metzger and his second son Charles are buried in Harvey, North Dakota indicating his strong affiliation with the area.

The Metzgers were one of the first families to begin construction on a home in Portal in 1904 along with the original St. John's Church next door, of which William Metzger was an active patron. Other 1904 residential constructions included one for the Osborne family, A.H. Makee, contractor Lie, Olaf B. Holton, Perry Chattleburg, J.L. Green, William I. Agard, Robert B. Field and the U.S. Customs House. 29 Only the Metzger House is still standing of these structures.

Portal was already a major Port of Entry to the U.S. at the time the Metzger home was built as North Dakota had become a popular homesteading destination, particularly after the years then President Roosevelt had spent on his ranch in the Dakota Territory from 1885-1887. Other Portal businesses in December 1903 included the Haffie and Crosby Department Store, Palace Department Store, Davidson's Store, Chezik and Kotschevor Hardware Store, Portal Drug Store, Portal Meat Market, Gate City Bowling Alley and Billiards, and Green's Barber

NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018 (Expires 12-31-2005)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 10

Milliam E. Metzger House name of property

Burke County, North Dakota county and State

Statement of Significance (continued)

Shop. A second bank had been opened in 1902. Further growth was shown in 1904 with the opening of a bakery, ice house, City Meat Market, dry cleaning shop, Ladies Millinery Shop, building materials store, and Chinese laundry. There was band practice every Thursday night at the drug store, and the Portal Reds baseball team held a benefit dance in the Murphy Hall. The Soo Line was a passenger train at that time and by February 26, 1904, had booked passage for six hundred emigrants from Western Canada. Trains were running five to six hours late because of the influx of immigrants. In January 1904, however, a fire broke out at the LaFlame restaurant which threatened the whole settlement. Despite the sub-zero temperatures, the entire town turned out with wet blankets and a water brigade to successfully quell the flames. Locking post office boxes were introduced in 1904, as were several Lodges and land was selling for \$5.00 to \$10.00 per acre. The Clyde Telephone company opened in 1904, the same year a stone mason and photography shop began. Heavy immigration necessitated an additional office building next to the Soo Line Depot. Another midwinter fire broke out in December 1904 at the Bowling alley and Billiard Hall causing \$17,000 damage. Growth continued, however, with a firm of attorneys, two doctors, a dentist, telephone linemen and an embalming nurse. 30 This was the environment in which the Metzger House was built. The William E. Metzger House was one of the first houses to be built in Portal, during a burst of construction in the area in July 1904. Portal was officially incorporated as a Village in 1905 and Burke county was formed in July 1910.31

The former Metzger residence was designed for William E. Metzger, a prominent local banker, homesteader and land owner who built Portal's first bank, The First International Bank, in partnership with T.L. Beiseker of Fessenden, North Dakota. The First International Bank in Portal was the final one in the U.S. in a series of chain banks along the Soo Line and Canadian Pacific Railway in North Dakota and Canada established by T.L. Beiseker in the early 20th Century. T.L. Beiseker was a Banker, Railroad Executive, journalist and large landowner in North Dakota whose Fessenden, North Dakota mansion is on the National

NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018 (Expires 12-31-2005)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 11

William E. Metzger House name of property

Burke County, North Dakota county and State

Statement of Significance (continued)

Register of Historic Places (pictured in Photo No. 1). Thomas Lincoln ("T.L.") Beiseker³⁴) established 28 financial institutions in North Dakota and Montana in the 1890's and early 1900's along the railways which he helped expand into Canada. The town of Beiseker, Alberta is named after him. T.L.'s brother A.N. Beiseker, was based in Harvey, near Fessenden and the Presidency of the First International Bank appears to have been passed to A.N. in June, 1904, as the Bank ads change from T.L. to A.N. Beiseker at this time, shortly after the paper records that T.L. Beiseker stayed with the Metzger family in Portal for a week. The state of the paper records that T.L. Beiseker stayed with the Metzger family in Portal for a week.

On July 30, 1902, William Metzger married Elizabeth A. ("Lizzy") Beiseker, ³⁷ a younger sister of T.L. and the third child and eldest daughter of her the Beiseker family of Austin, Minnesota. ³⁸ As a result of marrying into this family, Mr. Metzger may have felt a responsibility to impress his wife, Elizabeth, particularly as she had just given birth in February 1904 to his first-born son, Francis Edward, in Fessenden, most likely at her brother's home, the Beiseker Mansion. ³⁹

Mr. Metzger clearly intended for his "fine residence" to make a statement of his present and aspirational success, designing it to accommodate many of the latest features of the time, including a working telephone in 1904, electricity when it became available in 1909, 40 and radiators rather than fireplaces. The new residence was reported as "nearly all enclosed" in April 1905. 41 The relative grandeur of the house may have been instrumental Mr. Metzger's early political success in becoming one of Portal's two first elected Council Trustees and Councilman for Portal's 2nd District in August 1905. 42

William Metzger's active interest in helping to develop Portal is still evident in the "Metzger Addition" in Portal, which refers to a 31-lot area of land in the southwest corner of Portal which has carried Mr. Metzger's name since June 6, 1905. This addition may have facilitated Portal's election to become a

NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018 (Expires 12-31-2005)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 12

William E. Metzger House name of property

Burke County, North Dakota county and State

Statement of Significance (continued)

village on July 25, 1905. 44 Shortly after its incorporation as a village, the first Portal election was held July 25, 1905, electing Albert H. Makee, president and Willam E. Metzger and Fred A. Sinclair (City Road Overseer) Trustees of the Village Council. 45 The efforts of these early settlers to build what is now the City of Portal on the prairie were sometimes rewarded with several streets being named after them, as is one for William Metzger and Mr. Makee. In late 1905, William Metzger was listed as the First Director of the First International Bank in the local newspaper. 46 The published report of conditions of the First International Bank lists its assets at \$104,000 as of February 8, 1906, a strong indicator of its success at that time.

William Metzger was listed as the bank's first Director. 47 Metzger was reelected as Trustee for District 2 in Portal in March 1906, 48 shortly after the birth of his second son, Charles, in January 1906. 49 In 1908, Metzger's "fine residence" was referred to in Portal's local paper as the site of a gathering of the local Whist Club, an indication that the Metzgers used the house to entertain, as suggested by its structure. 50 The local paper reported that the Metzger family had acquired an automobile by 1913, in which they "autoed" to Lake Carlyle, 51 suggesting that Mr. Metzger was one of the first car owners in Portal.

The Metzger House is also historically significant for its long association with the development of civic life in Portal since its completion in 1905. The Metzger House was originally described as a "fine residence" in The International of 1905 and its original architectural character has remained remarkably intact. The elegance of the house may have helped to attract settlement to the rapidly expanding frontier village by standing as a statement of its prosperity. Built during the American Gilded Age, it represents a period of promise and opportunity on the American frontier.

It is not definitively known who William Metzger contracted to build his house,

NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018 (Expires 12-31-2005)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 13

William E. Metzger House name of property

Burke County, North Dakota county and State

Statement of Significance (continued)

although it is likely that he hired Henry J. Beiseker, his wife's uncle who had built the similarly styled mansion of his business partner and brother—in—law T.L. Beiseker in 1899. Henry Beiseker was known to build homes for other family members in North Dakota and Mrs. William Metzger was his niece. Her brother T.L. Beiseker's house shares many architectural and ornamental features with the Metzger House. The components of the house probably arrived pre—cut as was the usual practice at that time. The Beiseker Mansion in Fessenden was designed by Walter J. Keith of Minneapolis, one of the major house plan catalog designers of the popular "mail order houses" of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Upon viewing the interior of the Beiseker Mansion and its architectural plans, the Metzger House appears to be a modified version of Design 37 likely used in the Beiseker Mansion and the featured house in the May 1899 edition of the house plan catalog, "Keith's Home Builder". The Metzger House shares many interior and exterior features with the Beiseker Mansion.

Notable shared features include: the location of the parlor cozy nook, an identically styled wooden bench with curved side benches in the Metzger cozy nook and the Beiseker foyer staircase landing, the built-in dining room cabinet, the design of the fover staircase with a seat and accompanying stained glass window, the design of the balusters, the design of the second floor walls with one being rounded and one square to accommodate a central chimney, the central location of the upstairs bathroom, the location of the side entrance with an identically placed door to the basement and one to the fover outside the kitchen, the presence of wainscoting underneath the foyer staircase, a "back stairs" leading to the second floor from the kitchen and a staircase near the bathroom from the second floor to the attic, the position and design of the butler's pantry, the design and location of the first and second story bay window, the design of the front of the house with a large front-facing gable containing a center window and Queen Anne style roof, a vestibule inside the front door of the house with a beveled glass Queen Anne door, and the overall floor plan of the two houses. The Metgzer House appears to have been a reduced

NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018 (Expires 12-31-2005)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 14

William E. Metzger House name of property

Burke County, North Dakota county and State

Statement of Significance (continued)

version of the Beiseker Mansion by approximately 1/3 and lacks several of the grander details such as the turrets and wrap-around porch. 55

Henry J. Beiseker constructed his houses by hiring men from Minneapolis to commute by the week to construct the house at a daily rate. The commute to Portal would have been longer, however, and may have required a longer stay for the workers. As William Metzger was deeded the Portal lot by Arthur M. Keith, 2nd Vice President of the Minnesota Loan and Trust Company on 29 June 1903, 57 it is possible that the two Mr. Keiths were related as well. The Minnesota Loan and Trust Company had invested heavily in Portal's development through loans for home building in 1904.

The Minneapolis connection had existed in Portal since the first lots were sold to private owners in 1899 by the Minnesota Loan and Trust Company. A new wave of construction began in the spring of 1905, when the firm decided to invest again in Portal through building loans and the First Presbyterian Church was built. On July 3, 1905 Portal had a "monster International Celebration", a few weeks before officially becoming a village, at which up to 4,000 people were said to have attended by the speaker of the day, ex-Governor Joseph Devine.

During the 1920s financial collapse in the Northwest, resulting from poor farming conditions which prevented many farmers from repaying their debts, the First International Bank had to close its doors in 1923, 58 although Mr. Metzger remained in financial partnership with T.L. Beiseker, A.N. Beiseker, and G. Eide until at least 1927. 59 After the First International closed, Mr. Metzger became an insurance agent for the Old Line Insurance Company 60 and looked after his local interests in land in addition to being an active member of St. John's Church throughout his life. At his passing, he left a widow and a son, Francis, who was employed in Portal.

The former Metzger residence has been known as the largest house in Portal

NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018 (Expires 12-31-2005)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 15

William E. Metzger House name of property

Burke County, North Dakota county and State

Statement of Significance (continued)

since its construction and has been owned by seven families. William Metzger deeded the house to his wife Elizabeth in March 1905 and the family occupied the house until William's death in February 1935. His wife sold the house in 1936 to the George Nolte family, who occupied it for nine years until 1945. Two of the Nolte children, Rhoda Eve and Lincoln, are noted as playing the cornet and clarinet in the Portal High School spring concert. 61 The Nolte family was also in residence when the Duke and Duchess of Windsor passed through Portal on their way to their Alberta Ranch in 1941, 62 indicating the importance of Portal as a stop on the Canadian Pacific Railroad at that time. The Metzger House was then purchased by the Walter Weimers family who occupied it until October 1947 when it was purchased by Thomas Tate for his wife Annie. The Tate family occupied it for 34 years until Annie's death in 1981. The house then passed to the Tates' children and was solely acquired by their eldest daughter Elizabeth T. Fredenburg, until her passing in 1991. It then passed to her three children and is now owned by her daughters Kathryn Barber and Carol McGuire who have maintained its historic integrity with their families since 1991.

The owner by whom the house has been locally known for many years in Portal is Thomas Tate. Thomas and his wife Annie (Brown) Tate became a successful farming couple in Portal who moved into the Metzger House in 1947, were celebrated by the people of Portal for their $50^{\rm th}$ wedding anniversary in 1960 and who lived in Portal until their passing in 1968 and 1981, respectively.

Tom Tate began in Portal as a tenant farmer in 1908 and by 1960 he and his wife, the daughter of a landowner in northern Ireland and one of 17 children, had become significant landowners who rented half of their 1000 acres to others thus strengthening the local economy. Annie also brought one of her brothers and recently widowed future mother—in—law with her from Ireland and both became residents of Portal. Tom and Annie Tate had five children in Portal and made significant contributions in local and state leadership positions in the North

NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018 (Expires 12-31-2005)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 16

William E. Metzger House name of property

Burke County, North Dakota county and State

Statement of Significance (continued)

Dakota Presbyterian Church Synod and local lodges throughout their lives. The second child and eldest son of eight children, Thomas Tate was Born July 21, 1886 in County Down, Ireland to Elizabeth and Samuel Tate. 64 Thomas Tate emigrated via to North Dakota in May 1908 and settled in Portal. His entertaining skills on the accordion enabled him to be invited to cross the ocean in the first class cabin. He first obtained work from Mr. McKenzie of Portal and married Annie Brown on Nov. 8, 1910 at North Portal, attended by "their many friends".65 He farmed from 1919 to 1929 in portal Township, Burke County. From 1929 to 1968 Mr. Tate farmed in Soo Township Burke County. Thomas Tate was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Portal and served as president of the Board of Trustees for the Church for over 20 years. He was moderator for the North Dakota Presbyterian Church Synod for a year and was chairman of the Pension Commission of the Presbyterians in Minot. Mr. Tate was a member and Past Master of the Portal Masonic Lodge No. 84 and also served as Chaplain. 66 The Lodge still displays his picture. Thomas Tate also Chaired the 50th Anniversary Committee for the First Presbyterian Church of Portal. 67

The Tates' eldest child, Elizabeth, was the first baby born in the Portal Hospital in 1911, was Valedectorian of the Portal High School in 1930, 68 and married a member of the Portal Border Patrol, Thomas Fredenburg after attending college on a scholarship. Tom Tate, Jr. became known for tagging Eagles originating in Portal, 69 and earned a master's degree from Columbia University. Myrtle became a writer for the Oregonian newspaper and Russell became a Presbyterian minister, ordained in Minot in 1949, an event most likely celebrated in the Metzger House. 70

Because of their British/Irish heritage, Tom and Annie Tate were able to bring a significant international perspective to the lives of the people of Portal and a native understanding of the British influence of their Canadian neighbors just across the border. They demonstrated this regularly through their devotion to their church, education and community service. Their diplomatic

NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018 (Expires 12-31-2005)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 17

William E. Metzger House name of property

Burke County, North Dakota county and State

Statement of Significance (continued)

characters were very helpful as the location of Portal on the Canadian border meant that people of many nationalities would be neighbors.

Even during the difficult days of the widespread bank closures and eight year drought from 1934 to 1943, the Tates never missed a Sunday evening service at the Portal Presbyterian church. The purchase of the Metzger House by the Tate family in 1947 was testament to their perseverance as they lost most of their farm supplies when their barn caught fire in August 1933.

The Tates' first major gathering at the Metzger House was a family reunion in 1948.73 Tom and Annie continued to keep the spirit of the Metzger House alive by frequently entertaining their four surviving children, nine grandchildren and approximately 17 great-grandchildren at the house throughout their years in it as well as many of the citizens of Portal and other friends. 74 Annie's sense of humor and concern for others made her and her family consistently popular. Mrs. Tate was especially known for having doughnuts for children who would stop by or for bringing her baked goods to families in need in Portal. 75 One of Annie's sons, The Reverend Russell Tate, served in the Army in the European Theatre of Operations in World War II and afterward became a Presbyterian minister, 76 delivering an anniversary sermon in tribute to his parents in their hometown of Greyabbey, Northern Ireland at the Trinity Presbyterian Church, which Annie and Tom attended until leaving for North Dakota. 77 In her latter years, Annie was written up in the local paper for her many contributions to Portal throughout her life. 78 The children of William Metzger's son Francis returned to visit the Metzger House in which Annie Tate was then residing in the 1970's. Tom Tate had often told the story of William Metzger successfully "water witching" the still-extant well on the Tate farm when the Tates first arrived in Portal.

The William E. Metzger House is a well-maintained and intact example of the Queen Anne style which captured the imagination of America in the early 20^{th} century. It is even more important that it was built on the new frontier NPS

Form 10-900-a (8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018 (Expires 12-31-2005)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 18

William E. Metzger House name of property

Burke County, North Dakota county and State

Statement of Significance (continued)

developing in North Dakota, where quality materials were relatively difficult to find and elegant architecture was not often present.

The Queen Anne style first became popular in America after it was exhibited by Shaw at the 1876 Philadelphia Centennial. The first Queen Anne house was built in Newport, Rhode Island after which the style quickly spread throughout the country and became known as the quintessential American house. The "free classic" modifications, such as neoclassical columns, dentils and pediments and a simpler overall design, became incorporated in the Queen Anne style after the 1893 Chicago Columbian Exhibition which made neoclassical architectural details popular. The Metzger House was clearly designed with the attention to space, air, and light, typical of Queen Anne homes, and a welcoming atmosphere to entertain guests which both the Metzger and Tate families did. The Metzgers may have had servants as a back staircase was built into the house from the kitchen to the second floor as was a side service entrance and changing room. Pocket doors between the parlor and dining room were customarily closed after dinner to allow the table to be cleared without disturbing the guests' conversation in the parlor. Similarly, the door between the butler's pantry and the dining room could be closed during dinner for optimal conversation. It is likely that William Metzger had the house designed with these features. high ceilings, wide hallways and large rooms would have made the house open and inviting.

Mail order houses ordered from a plan book of architectural designs, which often had the pre-cut materials shipped to the site, became popular, especially in towns near a railroad, in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, with George F. Barber of Knoxville, Tennessee, Walter J. Keith of Minneapolis and R.W. Shoppell of New York City among the most distinguished mail-order house plan firms of the time. An examination of several of the major house plan designers of the time revealed that the Metzger House plan shares many features with the floor plan of Shoppell's design number 576, and Keith's

NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018 (Expires 12-31-2005)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8,9 Page 19

William E. Metzger House name of property

Burke County, North Dakota county and State

Statement of Significance (continued)

design number 37 from May 1899, the exterior of which is virtually identical to the Beiseker Mansion. A very similar floor plan to the actual Metzger House layout was found in a September 1904 edition of *Carpentry and Building* which could have been used to modify the basic Keith plan from 1899. House plans were often modified by mail by the owner or on site by the builder. The style of the wood trim around the interior doors and stairway balusters of the Metzger House were also available through the 1903 Roberts catalog. 83

The Metzger House remains a focal point the history of Portal and the history of North Dakota's commerce in the banking, landowning, railroad and farming industries in the Gilded Age and beyond by providing a continuing reminder of the vision and achievement of its founders and citizens. Its sound construction and exuberant style have been steadfast and elegant symbols of the good and solid nature that characterizes the people of Portal. The house reflects the ideals of the age in which it was built while retaining its historic integrity largely due to its excellent construction and the care and maintenance of its owners.

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Section 10 Page 20

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 10 Page 21

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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 10 Page 22

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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Verbal boundary description

The northwest to southwest 24,600 square feet of Lot (2), Block (14), City of Portal, recorded in book "1" of plats at page 23.

Verbal boundary justification

The parcel associated with the House retains its historic integrity and is currently owned and eligible for nomination. A small portion of adjacent vacant land not typically associated with the House is now under different ownership and no longer retains integrity.

NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018 (Expires 12-31-2005)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Endnotes Page 25

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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Endnotes Page 26

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NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018 (Expires 12-31-2005)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Endnotes Page 27

William E. Metzger House name of property

Burke County, North Dakota county and State

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NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018 (Expires 12-31-2005)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Endnotes Page 28

William E. Metzger House name of property

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NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018 (Expires 12-31-2005)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Endnotes Page 29

William E. Metzger House name of property

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