

Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>Minnesota</b>
COUNTY: <b>Olmsted</b>
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE <b>MAR 26 1975</b>

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

### 1. NAME

COMMON: <b>The Mayo Foundation House</b>
AND/OR HISTORIC: <b>The William J. Mayo House</b>

### 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: <b>701 Southwest Fourth Street</b>			
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Rochester</b>		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: <b>First</b>	
STATE: <b>Minnesota</b>	CODE: <b>22</b>	COUNTY: <b>Olmsted</b>	CODE: <b>109</b>

### 3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY <small>(Check One)</small>	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE <small>(Check One or More as Appropriate)</small>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other <small>(Specify)</small> <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

### 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

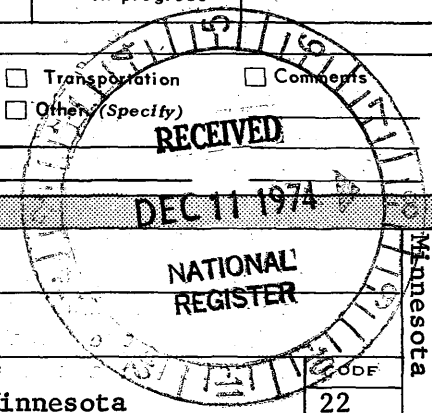
OWNER'S NAME: <b>The Mayo Foundation</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: <b>701 Southwest Fourth Street</b>			
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Rochester</b>		STATE: <b>Minnesota</b>	
		CODE: <b>22</b>	

### 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: <b>Olmsted County Courthouse</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Rochester</b>		STATE: <b>Minnesota</b>	
		CODE: <b>22</b>	

### 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: <b>Statewide Historic Sites Survey</b>			
DATE OF SURVEY: <b>1973</b>		<input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local	
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: <b>Minnesota Historical Society</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: <b>Building 25, Fort Snelling</b>			
CITY OR TOWN: <b>St. Paul</b>		STATE: <b>Minnesota</b>	
		CODE: <b>22</b>	



STATE: <b>Minnesota</b>
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ENTRY NUMBER: <b>MAR 26 1975</b>
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Mayo Foundation House is located at 701 Southwest Fourth Street in Rochester. The mansion was designed by the Minneapolis architectural firm of Ellerbe and Associates. This three story, forty seven room stone mansion with a central tower of five stories was completed and occupied by Dr. and Mrs. William J. Mayo in 1918. The exterior of the mansion is faced in sandstone except for the third story which is faced with stucco and half timbers. The Tudor architecture and cut stone construction combine dignity with graciousness in a setting of informal gardens several blocks from the Mayo Clinic.

Rising above the main entrance to the mansion is a five story tower. This tower was built at Dr. Mayo's request and is reminiscent of the tower in his parents' home where his mother followed her hobby of astronomy. The fourth floor of the tower contains Dr. Mayo's study. Dr. Mayo's amusement room occupies the fifth floor of the tower. During his residence this room contained his favorite amusement -- a billiards table.

Main entry to the mansion is gained through three sets of double doors. The doors are constructed of mahogany and shaped in a tudor arch motif. The two outermost doors contain leaded glass panels and the inner door, which leads onto the main reception hall, retains more ornate decorative stained glass panels. To the right of the main entry is an elevator which leads from the main floor to the fifth floor of the tower. The walls of the reception hall are constructed partially of white carrara marble and partially of walnut veneer panelling. The most dominant feature in the reception hall is a very ornate player organ, built into the wall.

The formal living room -- large enough to accommodate meetings of seventy persons --, the dining room, and William J. Mayo's private library -- which contains 1500 volumes of Dr. Mayo's personal books -- are all accessible from the reception hall. In addition to these rooms the main floor contains an extensive kitchen, pantries, sunrooms, and closets.

A mahogany balustraded staircase, which contains ornate scrollwork, leads to the second floor. The second floor contains bedrooms and sitting rooms besides closets, baths, and sunrooms.

The third floor consists of one great hall known as Balfour Hall. After the Mayos gave their home to the Foundation, the third floor ball-room was panelled in dark New England oak and decorated with hand carved emblems of medical schools. The ceiling is thirty feet high and over ninety feet in length. The hall was named in honor of the late Dr. Donald C. Balfour, second director of the Mayo Foundation. At one end of this great hall is a grand fireplace and at the other is a stained glass window. This window, installed in Balfour Hall in 1943, depicts 2000 years of medical history. The four panels of the left-hand light trace the course of medical education with representations of outstanding men, institutions and events. The center light is similarly devoted to medical practice and the right-hand light to medical research. Each horizontal level of panels is concerned with one particular era of medicine, thus emphasizing the interrelation of medical education, practice and research.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1918 - present			
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	osophy	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Science/medicine	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	itarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE			
<p>In 1916-1917 Dr. William J. Mayo built this large, two-and-one-half story house with a central tower of five stories. This mansion remained his official residence until 1938, when he gave it to the Mayo Foundation to use in connection with its program of medical education and research primarily "as a meeting place for the exchange of ideas for the good of mankind."</p> <p>"Few men have been more honored in their lifetimes than the Doctor's Mayo of Rochester, Minnesota, who pioneered in the so-called 'new surgery' that began to develop rapidly in the last decade of the 19th century. William J. Mayo was the second son of the pioneer doctor, Dr. William Worrall Mayo. William J. and his brother Charles received training from their father that was both thorough and covered almost every aspect of medical practice. The Mayo brothers went to medical school as a matter of course. "Dr. Will" received his degree from Michigan in 1883 and "Dr. Charlie" from Chicago Medical College in 1888. After graduating from medical school the two brothers joined their father in the successful practice of medicine in Rochester.</p> <p>"Much of the success of the Mayo's was due to the fact that they kept abreast of new advances in medicine and new developments in surgery. The developments of antiseptic procedures by Joseph Lister revolutionized the medical profession. The Mayos were among the first doctors to take the appropriate protective measures and firmly establish the proper germ-killing procedures."<sup>1</sup></p> <p>The "new surgery" developed rapidly, and the Mayo brothers were the first doctors credited with the private clinic concept. Certain elements had been present in the Mayo method of practice from the beginning, but not until 1914 had there appeared "a complete clinic, including laboratories, housed under one roof, and independent of any hospital." "While the idea of group practice was not a new one -- cooperation of a sort among clinicians, surgeons, and laboratory men existed in municipal, state, and local hospitals -- the Mayos were the first to apply it to the private sector and in doing so they changed the course of medical history."<sup>2</sup></p>			
<p>1. John D. McDermott, <u>Sites Associated with the Doctors Mayo, Minnesota</u> The National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings, Special Report. p. 5</p> <p>2. <u>Ibid.</u> p. 8.</p>			
(see continuation sheet)			

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Clapesattle, Helen, The Doctors Mayo, (Mpls.:1941)  
 McDermott, John D., The National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings -- Special Report, Sites Associated with the Doctors Mayo, Minnesota, 1969  
 Rowntree, M. D., Leonard G., Amid Masters of Twentieth Century Medicine, (Springfield, Ill.:1958)

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

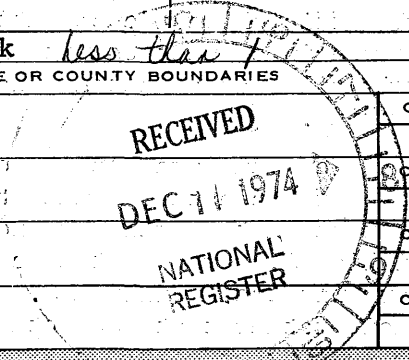
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "		44° 01' 08"	92° 28' 15"	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

*NO  
UTM  
CD*

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1 city block less than 1/2 acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Lynne VanBröcklin, Survey Specialist

ORGANIZATION: Minnesota Historical Society DATE: 4 November 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: Building 25, Fort Snelling

CITY OR TOWN: St. Paul STATE: Minnesota CODE: 22

**12 STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name Russell W. Fridley  
 Title Minnesota Historical Society  
 Date December 7, 1974

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

A. B. Swartz  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 3/26/75

ATTEST:

[Signature]  
 Keeper of the National Register

Date 3-25-75

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Minnesota	
COUNTY	
Olmsted	
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	MAR 26 1975

(Number all entries)

**7. Description**

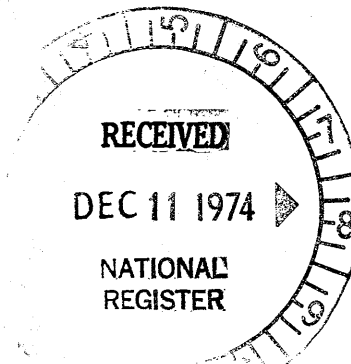
Of particular note throughout the entire mansion is the beauty and craftsmanship of the oak and mahogany woodwork, and the Mayo's vast collection of art work, including a Frederic Remington sculpture and a Charles M. Russell painting. Many of the original furnishings have been retained, and the house offers rewarding insights into the personality of the man who with his brother made unique contributions to the practice of medicine and to graduate medical education and research.

The Mayo Foundation House, as it was named in 1938 after Dr. William J. Mayo and his wife gave the mansion to the Mayo Foundation in order to provide ". . . a meeting place where men of medicine may exchange ideas for the good of mankind.", is in an excellent state of preservation. It is used by the Foundation for medical meetings, dinners, and various educational activities. The educational activities centered in the Mayo Foundation House reflect the wide-ranging endeavors of contemporary medicine. Apart from these uses, the house stands as a reminder of the heritage of excellence and service to mankind from which the Mayo institutions derive continuing inspiration.

**8. Significance**

In 1919 the Mayos assured the continuation of their work by forming the Mayo Properties Association and transferred to it all the buildings, medical apparatus, and other fixed assets which they had owned as senior partners. In 1932 the brothers resigned from the Clinic's board of governors, ending all semblance of Mayo domination.

Few men were more honored in their lifetimes than the Mayo brothers. Dr. William J. Mayo received thirty one honorary degrees, served as president of the American Medical Association as well as most of the other major medical fraternities and societies in this country. He along with his brother are best remembered for the organization they created rather than for the surgical skill they possessed. Today the Mayo Clinic is still considered the largest and most successful private practice in the world. It is also the largest graduate training center for medical specialists.



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*(Continuation Sheet)*

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COUNTY Olmsted	
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*(Number all entries)*

8. Significance -- Common Name - The Mayo Foundation House  
Historic Name - The William J. Mayo House

The significance of the Mayo Foundation House lies both in its association with Dr. William J. Mayo and the architectural style which it represents. The Mayo Foundation House is considered an excellent example of the pronounced medieval influence on the style of urban architecture in the early twentieth century.

