

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	
COUNTY:	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAY 2 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:
Oxford House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
University of North Dakota

CITY OR TOWN:
Grand Forks

STATE North Dakota	CODE 38	COUNTY: Grand Forks	CODE 035
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition:	Occupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes:
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input type="checkbox"/>	In Process <input type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/>
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Planned as
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>	None	a museum
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:
State of North Dakota - University of North Dakota

STREET AND NUMBER:
University Station

CITY OR TOWN: Grand Forks	STATE: North Dakota	CODE 38
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Not platted.

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE:
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
None

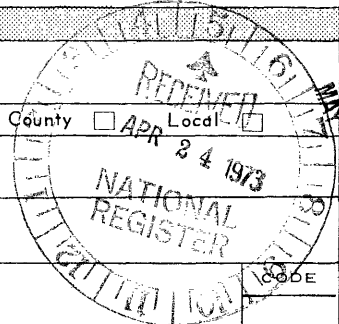
DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE:
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE:
COUNTY:
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

6-18-73

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

ORIGINAL PHYSICAL APPEARANCE:

When Oxford House was built in 1902, it was considered one of the most fashionable and modern buildings in the Northwest. Oxford House was the first house in Grand Forks to be wired for electricity. It contained the most modern conveniences of the time, such as: speaking tubes; a dumbwaiter; and three bathrooms of the best in modern sanitary construction. Some of the aesthetic features included three fireplaces, one with a mantle made of imported Italian marble, and an art glass window overlooking the stair landing.

The building is of colonial type design covering a ground area of 40 x 50 feet. Comprised of two stories and an attic, it is built of granite and gray granite pressed brick. The exterior woodwork was painted gloss white to give the illusion of marble, particularly effective on the columns in the front of the house which are treated in Roman Ionic design and extend above the second story. The portico is surmounted by a balcony, enclosed with wrought iron railings.

The main floor of Oxford House consisted of a large parlor, president's study, living room, reflectory, kitchen, pantries, refrigerators and spacious hallways. The second floor was divided into a large hall and six bedrooms. The attic contained a large ballroom and the full basement was finished off for servant quarters.

PRESENT PHYSICAL APPEARANCE:

The present condition of the exterior of the building is good, but the interior is in need of extensive work.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian <input type="checkbox"/>	16th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	18th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	20th Century <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
15th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	17th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	19th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **Built in 1902**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/>	Education <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Political <input type="checkbox"/>	Urban Planning <input type="checkbox"/>
Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/>	Engineering <input type="checkbox"/>	Religion/Philosophy <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Historic <input type="checkbox"/>	Industry <input type="checkbox"/>	Science <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Architecture</u>
Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/>	Invention <input type="checkbox"/>	Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Art <input type="checkbox"/>	Landscape <input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Humanitarian <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____
Commerce <input type="checkbox"/>	Architecture <input type="checkbox"/>	Theater <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Communications <input type="checkbox"/>	Literature <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Conservation <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>		_____
	Music <input type="checkbox"/>		_____

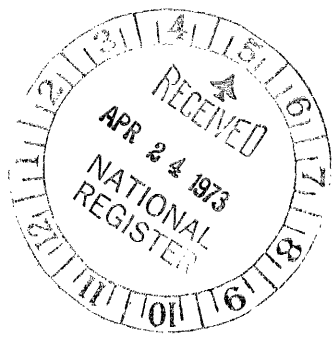
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Oxford House was the President's House for the newly married Dr. & Mrs. Webster Merrifield, fourth president of the University of North Dakota. The building was used as the president's home until 1954, serving four presidents: Webster Merrifield, Frank McVey, Thomas Kane, and John C. West.

(Joseph Bell)
 Mr. DeRemer, the architect for Oxford House, graduated from Columbia University in 1896. Named as the official University architect during McVey's reign, he designed many buildings on campus, among them the Administration Building and Merrifield Hall. The State of North Dakota contains many churches, business buildings, and homes which had designs conceived by him. One of his most notable achievements would be the North Dakota State Capitol building. Active in Grand Forks civic affairs, he also served as president of the North Dakota State Board of Architecture for three years. The President's House, however, was one of his first, and most frequently publicized designs.

Oxford House over the years has been the setting for much entertainment and entertaining. Besides the President's social gatherings of students and alumni, the house on one occasion was the scene of a reception attended by the Crown Prince Olav and Princess Martha of Norway. Every governor of North Dakota from 1902 through 1954 was a guest in the residence.



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Geiger, Louis G., University of the Northern Plains, University of North Dakota Press, Grand Forks, North Dakota, 1958.

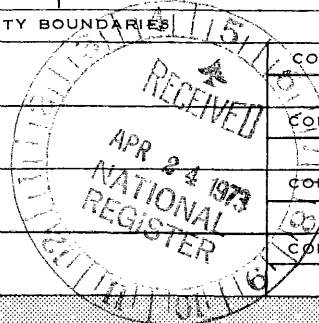
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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 ONE ACRE				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	47°	55'	20"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	97°	4'	24"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

UTM
14/643900
5369210
C

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Lawrence Loendorf

ORGANIZATION: Oxford Restoration Committee DATE: April 1, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER: University of North Dakota

CITY OR TOWN: Grand Forks STATE: North Dakota CODE: 38

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 James E. Sperry

Title State Liaison Officer N.D.

Date April 12, 1973

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Robert M. Utley
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 5/2/73

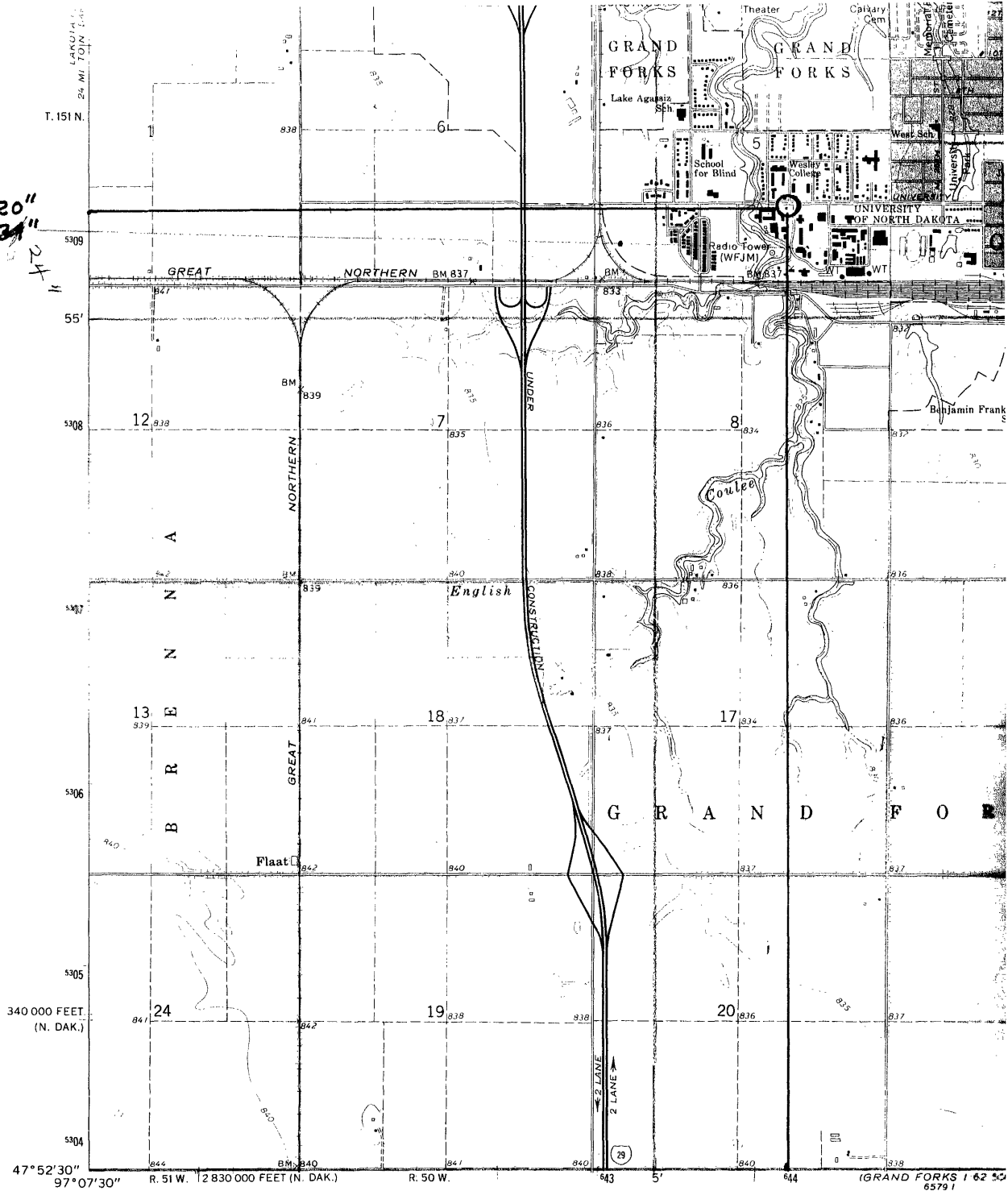
ATTEST: [Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date 4 30 73

OXFORD HOUSE

47° 55' 20"
97° 09' 31"

2 1/2 AC



GRAND FORKS 1:62 500
85991

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

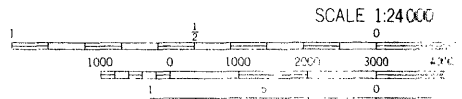
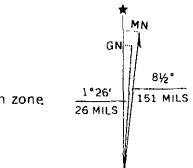
Control by USGS and USC&GS

Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1962. Topography by planetable surveys 1963

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grids based on North Dakota coordinate system, north zone
and Minnesota coordinate system, north zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 14, shown in blue

Red tint indicates areas in which only
landmark buildings are shown

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACT
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER 25, CO
AND BY THE STATE WATER COMMISSION, BISMARCK, ND
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS