

PH0368318

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAY 16 1977

DATE ENTERED

MAY 16 1977

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

* ↓ HISTORIC

Von Hoffman House (Preferred)

AND/OR COMMON

Medora Doll House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Broadway at Fifth Street

__ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Medora

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1

STATE

North Dakota

__ VICINITY OF

CODE
38

COUNTY

Billings

CODE

007

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<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:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Gold Seal Company

STREET & NUMBER

210 North Fourth Street

CITY, TOWN

Bismarck

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

North Dakota 58501

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Billings County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Post Office Box 168

CITY, TOWN

Medora

STATE

North Dakota 58645

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

North Dakota Historic Site Survey

DATE

1977

__ FEDERAL STATE __ COUNTY __ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDSState Historical Society of North Dakota
Liberty Memorial Building

CITY, TOWN

Bismarck

STATE

North Dakota 58505

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Von Hoffman House in Medora is a 1½-story, common-bond brick residence with a 5-course water table, a partial rock-walled basement, and an underground coal bin on the east elevation. Approximately 38 by 48 feet in size, the house has a wood-shingled, hip-gabled roof which projects over broad fascia on all elevations. Sheds formerly attached to the rear and east entrances were removed during renovation of the house after 1969 by the owner, the Gold Seal Company of Bismarck. The original 1-story front porch with its hipped, wood-shingled roof and pierced wooden posts remains, however. Also original are the double-leaf front and rear doors featuring ornate hardware and round-arch panes set above paneled bases. The segmental arches over the doorways are outlined with double rows of brick headers and have wooden facings incised in curvilinear foliage forms. The segmental-arch lintels of the 2 over 2, double-hung, wooden-sash windows are similarly treated, with additional enrichment derived from corbeled label stops and sills of 1-course headers.

The first floor interior of the Von Hoffman House, effectively designed for cross-ventilation, consists of a wide central hall flanked on each side by three rooms. The plan is the original one except for installation of a bathroom in the northwest corner of what was the kitchen. The layout of the second floor is also unchanged: two rooms on the longitudinal axis of the house and, beneath the eaves on the east elevation, a storage room with exposed flooring of 4-inch fir laid tongue-and groove. Because of deterioration, the original plaster of walls (some wallpapered) and ceilings has been replaced with wallboard, taped and painted. Doorways are framed with molded side casings and headings terminating in corner blocks carved with circles. To facilitate the traffic flow of museum visitors, new openings have been cut between rooms but the partitions are original. It was also necessary to rebuild the balustrade of turned balusters for the straight-flight stairway. Lighting fixtures, including a number of chandeliers, are new, and wall cases have been installed to exhibit the collection of dolls.

The grounds of the Von Hoffman House are planted in grass and on the south and east are enclosed by a white wooden fence with pickets in the outline of dolls. An outbuilding formerly in the rear yard has been removed, but a well remains. There is a single tree on the west side of a wooden sidewalk leading from the front porch to the street. During the summer of 1977, the mortar in the exterior walls of the house will be repointed and bricks replaced, with the contract going to Steigauf Brothers of Faribault, Minnesota, specialists in the preservation of old masonry.

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 type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1884

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Peter Book (Builder)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Von Hoffman House is associated with the names of three families notable in the history of North Dakota: de Mores, Von Hoffman, and Foley. The house also has intrinsic merit in terms of its architectural character and as an example of the craft of Peter Book, a local contractor and brickmaker who figured prominently in the building of early Medora.

Antoine de Vallombrosa, Marquis de Mores (1858-1896), was a French nobleman who in 1883 founded the town of Medora (named for his wife, New York heiress Medora Von Hoffman) in the Dakota Badlands. The location was to be headquarters for the Marquis' commercial scheme of slaughtering range-fed cattle and shipping the beef to Eastern consumers via refrigerated railroad cars. The Marquis was president of his firm, the Northern Pacific Refrigerator Car Company, and the treasurer was his father-in-law, Baron Louis L. Von Hoffman, a wealthy banker who contributed financial backing to the enterprise. In August, 1884, the Marquis commissioned Peter Book, a brickyard owner, to erect on lots 7, 8, 9, and 10, block 15, Original Plat, a brick cottage for the use of Baron Von Hoffman and his wife when they visited in Medora. The preceding April, Book's arrival in town had been favorably noted in the local press:

At last we have found some one who realizes the money there is in such a venture and a brick-yard and pottery works will soon be in active operation here. Mr. Peter Book, of Mandan, is the gentlemen to whom we refer. He is one of the best known masons and contractors there, that he built the People's block being a sufficient recommendation. Mr. Book will be here next week, as he is only waiting in Mandan to close up his business. The clay with which our buttes abound he says will make brick of a beautiful dark red color, exactly similar to the famous St. Louis brick. It is also the very best quality of pottery clay and as Mr. Book has had long experience in making both brick and pottery he has every hope of being completely successful in their manufacture here. He also expects to make pressed brick exclusively, as aside from the cost of the presses they can be made as cheaply and will command a far readier sale. There will be a splendid market for both the brick and pottery, and Mr. Book is to be congratulated on his foresight in entering into the business at this point.

(Bad Lands Cow Boy, April 3, 1884.)

In addition to the Von Hoffman House, Book was also the contractor for St. Mary's Catholic Church (donated to the town which was her namesake by the Marquise de Mores) and the tall chimney of the Marquis' meat-packing plant. The latter venture was doomed to failure as a result of an Eastern preference for corn-fed rather than range-fed beef

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bad Lands Cow Boy. Published at Little Missouri and Medora, Dakota Territory.

Various issues, 1884.

Maddox, Dawn. Personal inspection, February 17, 1977.

Schafer, Harold. President, Gold Seal Company, Bismarck, North Dakota. Personal interview, February 25, 1977.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre.

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 3	6 1 2 6 0 0	5 1 9 6 ^{4 50} 4 4 5	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Dawn Maddox, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

State Historical Society of North Dakota

DATE

May 3, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

Liberty Memorial Building

TELEPHONE

701-224-2666

CITY OR TOWN

Bismarck

STATE

North Dakota 58505

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Jana E. Sherry

TITLE

N.D. State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE May 3, 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Robert B. Rottig

DATE

11/21/77

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

Charles A. ...

DATE

11-17-77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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and a price war waged by competing packers. Consequently, the Marquis and his family left Medora in 1886, and at an undetermined date the Von Hoffman House was occupied by James W. Foley, his wife Gertrude, and their children. Foley supervised the de Mores affairs in Medora for 35 years, and he and Mrs. Foley were custodians of the vacant Chateau de Mores, the 2-story, 26-room frame residence which had been built by the Marquis a half-mile southwest of Medora in 1883.

James W. Foley, Jr. (1874-1939), known in later life as the poet laureate of North Dakota, presumably spent time with his parents in the Von Hoffman House during the years 1890-94, when he was employed in the Medora area as a ranch hand. The author of 13 volumes of poetry, including the words of "North Dakota Hymn," the state song, the younger Foley also became a newspaper editor and public lecturer. He exercised considerable influence during the years 1905-12 while serving in various political capacities, including secretary to two governors of North Dakota and secretary of the state senate, the state board of railroad commissioners, and the Republican state central committee.

In 1914, Medora, Marquise de Mores, conveyed ownership of the Von Hoffman House to James W. Foley, Sr. The property was transferred in 1963 to Duane C. Indergaard of Belfield, grandson of an 1883 Medora pioneer, who then opened the house to the public as the Foley Museum, although the collection was not limited to Foley memorabilia. Purchased from Indergaard by the Gold Seal Company of Bismarck in 1969, the Von Hoffman House was renovated as a museum of dolls and other antique toys. The Medora Doll House was modeled on the Custer Doll House in Custer State Park, South Dakota, and is intended to appeal to tourists visiting Medora as a result of a wide range of restoration/promotional activities sponsored by the Gold Seal Company.