

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

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

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

For NCRS Use only

received SEP 13 1982

date entered

1. Name

historic Hotel Berry

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 100 West Central Avenue _____ not for publication

city, town Velva _____ vicinity of congressional district

state North Dakota code 38 county McHenry code 049

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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name James W. Olson

street & number 100 West Central Avenue

city, town Velva _____ vicinity of state North Dakota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. McHenry County Courthouse

street & number 407 Main South

city, town Towner _____ state North Dakota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date N/A _____ federal _____ state ^{N/A} _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A _____ state N/A

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Hotel Berry is a three story, six by four bay rectangular building which fronts the street on two facades. The front facades are composed of hard brick lain in "battered" joints and are divided equally by brick pilasters, three on the east and four on the south. A horizontal line of brick corbelling between each pilaster further defines the spaces outlined by the pilasters. Fenestration is regular and while one-over-one wood-frames with stone lintels and flat jack arches punctuate the second and third stories, large single pane windows with stained or leaded glass transoms light the first floor level. A decorative wood cornice, supported with wood brackets, wraps around the parapet roofline of the front facade. Four brick chimneys, two of them functional, rise slightly above the cornice. Sandstone blocks face the foundation of these two facades.

The main entrance is canted on the southeast corner of the building behind a square brick column on a sandstone base. Just above the stone base on the column, "Hotel Berry" is painted in black letters on a white background. Protecting the canted entry from the elements, a non-original but very early (date unknown) multi-paned enclosure creates a small vestibule to the lobby. A somewhat elaborately turned screen door recalls the days of natural air conditioning. The Hotel's basement is accessible from the street via a stairway on the east side of the building. The stairwell is enclosed by a smooth iron rail.

The rear (north and west) elevations are built of soft brick and terminate in a parapet roofline. Windows on these facades are one-over-one wood frame with sandstone lintels and segmented brick arches. Silver sealant has been applied to the northwest corner of the building and to the top of the east facade in an unsuccessful attempt to solve water problems. Visible on the north elevation are painted advertisements for Hotel Berry and Owl Cigars. A plain brick chimney rises out of the same elevation. Beneath the cigar advertisement is a non-original doorway with a hipped awning. A metal fire stair zigzags across the west end of the wall and under the stair is a 1910 frame shed roof addition that provides a storage area for the kitchen.

The interior of the hotel retains most of its original finishes with very few alterations. The spacious lobby is dominated by a curved wood reception desk on the north wall with a glass-top display case. An "automatic" Hawkeye gas cigar lighter, still functional, stands on the counter. Behind the desk is a small office area containing the original cash register and safe bearing the hotel's name. A brick fireplace with a wood mantel and plate glass mirror bisects the south wall of the lobby. The firebox opening is framed in a band of cast metal in a plant motif. The fire place is flanked by two large single paned windows with double paned leaded and beveled glass transoms. The lobby floor was laid with German-imported inlaid linoleum in 1917. The pressed metal ceiling is bordered in a shield and serpent coat-of-arms motif and is surrounded with a pressed cornice of stylized palmettes. Light fixtures with white glass globes are not original (1910) but hang in the original locations. The walls have a plaster and paint finish. Plain hardwood baseboards and surrounds finish the doors and windows. Opposite the entry, in the northwest corner of the lobby, the main stairway leads to the upper floors. It features a square newel post with carved embellishments and a turned balustrade. Behind the desk area is a suite of rooms that have been slightly altered from their former use as parlors into living quarters for the owners.

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

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

For HCRS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 1

A set of swinging doors with diamond paned beveled glass panels stamped "Dining Room" separate the lobby from the dining area to the west. The walls of the dining room are finished with a four foot dado of Lincrusta-Walton and a wood border moulding. The south wall is punctuated by two single paned windows with stained glass transoms. Plain baseboards and surrounds retain their original patina. Linoleum, installed in 1946, covers the floor. The pressed metal ceiling of the dining room is more elaborate than that of the lobby's with two concentric raised mouldings and a cornice. White glass globe light fixtures are, again, non-original but hang in the original locations. The dining room contains some of the hotel's original furnishings, including bentwood chairs imported from the Austrian Thonet factory.

The kitchen, north of the dining room, is accessible through another set of plain double swinging doors with brass kickplates. The kitchen has been remodeled and contains modern cabinets and cooking facilities. The walls are plaster and paint and the floor is covered with linoleum.

The second and third floors are identical in their configuration and consist of sixteen rooms each, all but two arranged along the outside walls. A typical room is generally square with high ceilings, hardwood floors and woodwork and plaster walls. Those rooms located on the perimeter walls are illuminated with outside windows. The entry doors are five panel with glass transoms. The hall floors are hardwood, although the second floor was covered with linoleum ca. 1936. The hallways are lighted by original brass and glass globe fixtures.

The basement is a combination of stone foundation walls, concrete bearing walls and wood partitions. Under the kitchen, the original coal furnace and hot water heater is still operational. The laundry room, beneath the dining room, retains some of its original laundry tubs. A large modestly finished room, accessible from the sidewalk entry, served as a meeting room for traveling salesmen. Other smaller partitioned spaces are used for storage.

Just west of the hotel is a single-stall frame garage with a gabled roof. Built ca. 1925, the outside walls are sheathed in pressed metal to simulate brick and the gable end is pressed with festoons. The roof is corrugated metal.

Although the hotel no longer functions in its original capacity, it remains a residence for the owners. The hotel was closed in 1979 because it did not meet modern codes.

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 type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input 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 1906 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Hotel Berry, built in 1906 in Velva, represents a genre of first rate hotels built across North Dakota in an era marked by railroad travel and luxury accommodations. It is a visual reminder of the symbiotic relationship between railroad expansion and the development and maintenance of commercial/agricultural centers in the state. A perfect example of this relationship, Velva was established on the Soo Line Railroad in 1893, and by 1907 boasted four grain elevators, three lumber yards, five churches and a bustling downtown commercial area.

The interior and exterior material integrity of the Hotel is outstanding. It remains one of the State's best preserved turn-of-the century hotels as well as one of Velva's best examples of early twentieth century commercial architecture. Although many hotels were built in North Dakota on railroad lines as they crisscrossed the state, many have disappeared as a result of the decline in railway passenger service and the nationwide shift toward automobile transportation and motel accommodations. Others, in an attempt to compete with motels have remodeled, destroying the original architectural integrity of their buildings.

Hotel Berry was built by T. F. Berry, an early pioneer in the Velva community. Prior to the construction of the Soo Line road, Berry was employed hauling supplies from Devils Lake 100 miles west to the Velva area. Around the turn of the century, Berry built his first hotel, a twenty room frame structure which burned in the 1960's. Although Berry left Velva in 1910, the hotel has since been owned and operated by Velva residents.

The Hotel not only accommodated new arrivals and travelers, but hosted many of Velva's important social events, from high school graduation parties to political rallies. The Hotel's dining room, until it closed in 1949 was Velva's finest restaurant and is remembered as the scene of Sunday dinners, special family occasions as well as a gathering place for coffee and conversation.

