

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

681



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determination for individual properties and districts. See instruction in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Coghlan Castle

other names/site number Coghlan House; 32RO0051

2. Location

street & number Lot 2, SW 1/4 of the NW 1/4 T163N R69W Section 19 [N/A] not for publication

city or town St. John [X] vicinity

state North Dakota code ND county Rolette code 079 zip code 58367

3. 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Merlan E. Paavola, Jr.
Signature of certifying official/Title Merlan E. Paavola, Jr.
State or Federal agency and bureau

State Historic Preservation Officer 6-7-08
Date

4. National Park Service Certification

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

I hereby certify that the 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
 See continuation sheet.
- other, explain
 See continuation sheet.

Edward A. Beall
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 7-16-08

Name of Property
Coghlan Castle

County/State
Rollette County North Dakota

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not count previously listed resources.)

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

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Function
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic Single Dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Work in Progress

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other Scottish-Manitoban genteel vernacular granite fieldstone residence

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation granite
walls granite
roof wood shingle

Coghlan Castle
Name of Property

Rolette County, North Dakota
County/State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- 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 Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or 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.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical Reference

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Settlement

Ethnic Heritage - Scottish

Periods of Significance

1909 -1932

Significant Dates

1909

Significant Person(s)

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above).

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Bowyer, Thomas builder

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other: Province of Manitoba Historic Resources Branch

Name of repository:

State Historical Society of North Dakota

Coghlan Castle

Name of Property

Rolette County, North Dakota
County/State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property .064

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1. 14 452070 5419934 (NAD27)
Zone Easting Northing

2. Zone Easting Northing

3. Zone Easting Northing

4. Zone Easting Northing

[] See continuation sheet

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.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan Quinnell, Review and Compliance Coordinator

organization State Historical Society of North Dakota

date May 29, 2008

street & number 612 E Boulevard Ave

telephone [REDACTED]

city or town Bismarck

state ND

zip code 58505-0830

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 SHPO or FPO.)

name Tim DeMers

street & number RR 1 Box 151

telephone [REDACTED]

city or town Rolla

state ND

zip code 58367

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Coghlan Castle Rolette County, ND

Setting

Coghlan Castle is situated on a slight rise five miles north northwest of Rolla, North Dakota and five miles south of the Manitoban border on Section 19, T163N R69W, Rolette County, North Dakota. Maurice Coghlan had Thomas Bowyer, a stone mason from Killarney Canada construct the building as the second home on his 160-acre original homestead in 1906 - 1909. It is surrounded by shelter-belt plantings of pines, and overlooks acres of rolling agricultural lands interspersed with wetlands. A contemporary farming operation continues about an eighth of a mile to the south.

Exterior

Coghlan Castle is a two-story, single-family dwelling approximately 40' x 50' with a 12' diameter two-story turret, a fieldstone granite basement, granite block exterior walls, and a complex wood-shingled hipped roof with a gabled ell. The windows are wood-framed, narrow, one-over-ones, with a large fixed sash with stained glass transom in the front parlor, and segmented arch window frames in the turret windows. Currently the glazing is missing from the window sashes. The doors are of four and five panel construction. The wood-shingled roof structure consists of milled 2 x 6 rafters supporting a hipped roof over the main structure with a gabled roof over the kitchen on the first floor and one bedroom. The entire Castle was completed during the initial construction phase and there are no additions.

A massive two-to-three foot granite rubble fieldstone foundation creates a full basement which rises above a dirt floor. The full basement foundation supports the exterior and interior load-bearing walls, as well as the turret. A hot water furnace was located in a square blond brick housing with a brick chimney to above the eaves. There was a good well which provided an excellent source of potable water, and a concrete cistern, located in the basement under the pantry. The cistern collected rainwater from the roof run-off, and supplied additional water for the septic system. The mortar holding the granite fieldstones in the basement walls was patched from time to time with cementitious mortar. The original mortar used for the exterior work throughout the house is also of a cementitious type.

By consulting the field of geology, we can learn more about the material used in the construction of these walls. According to Dr. Lorraine Manz, Geologist with the North Dakota Geological Survey who visited the Coghlan Castle site in late February 2008, the fieldstone is comprised of :

. . . a variety of igneous and metamorphic rocks derived from geologic provinces of the Canadian Shield, and were brought to North Dakota from parts of Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Ontario by glaciers during the last major glaciation (Late Wisconsinan) between 25,000 and 10,000 years ago. The rocks themselves are very ancient and were formed during the Precambrian between 4.5 and .5 billion years ago.¹

Dr. Manz also noted that "there are no exposures or readily accessible sources of igneous or metamorphic rock in North Dakota," as they are at least several hundred feet below the surface. Therefore, if a property owner wanted a house built of stone, there was no other choice locally except to use glacial erratic field stones. These, as several generations of farmers can attest, are in abundance, and farmers' rock piles are commonly seen in aerial photographs throughout the state. Rock walls, however, are nearly non-existent, because barbed wire fence was available at the time when people were fencing the land into individual homesteads, farms, and pastures, mostly after 1890.

Stone walls

In August 1906, the Turtle Mountain Star noted that Maurice Coghlan and his five (well-muscled) sons were "busy hauling rock for a new twelve room residence on his farm." They hauled many wagon loads of crystalline (igneous and metamorphic rock) erratic boulders, which are glacial debris scattered over the surface throughout North Dakota, Manitoba and elsewhere. There is also some light gray, tan, and orange-colored sandstone utilized for lintels and carved blocks, which are probably from the local Turtle Mountain area. Local property owners recognize

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Coghlan Castle Rolette County, ND

the stone as similar to that found nearby. Much of the stone is granite or granitoid, which is heavy in weight, one of the hardest in workability and high in strength.ⁱⁱ

In 1959 the Turtle Mountain Star reported the recollections of John Coghlan, the youngest son, on the building of the stone walls. John remembered that they moved all the stone by hand without any mechanical lifting equipment. The family members rolled the medium-sized stones onto a plank wagon, but had the stone mason, Thomas Bowyer, cut the large boulders in the field. Then, laborers, some from the nearby Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indian reservation, who were working on the house, lifted each stone from one scaffold to the next higher one until the walls were complete.ⁱⁱⁱ

The laborers constructing the stone walls were attempting a rather ambitious project for the time and place. They laid uncoursed rubble walls bound with a lime and cementitious mortar for the basement and foundation. However, stone mason Thomas Bowyer chose squared stone masonry for the exterior walls. These walls consist of "equal sized round boulders split into two halves and laid in even courses with the smooth faces positioned outwards, thus creating a fairly even-surfaced wall. Often, the sides of these boulders are also broken or hammered at one end to create a more squared block."^{iv} The laying technique is called "butt-to-butt" or "back to back."^v The walls consisted of two layers, the roughly dressed squared blocks on the outside, held together with cementitious mortar, and a rubble wall constructed inside the squared block layer, made of cobbles, stones and the larger pieces cut away from the squared blocks. The double thickness of the wall construction resulted in an extremely durable and strong structure. On the interior, a gap of about three inches exists between the inside of the rubble wall, which is painted white, and the frame and lathing for the interior plaster, allowing humidity to escape. Since it took three years to complete the house, the rubble wall may have been painted until the plaster interior walls could be completed.

On the exterior, the masons used true tuck pointing technique to provide a finished look to the fieldstone walls. This technique is found on the Coghlan Castle walls, the McConnell House in Morden Manitoba, and on many of the other 62 known surviving examples of granite fieldstone buildings in the province of Manitoba, (as of October 1986).^{vi} The tuck pointing technique used is "a masonry jointing that uses mortar in two colors to simulate the appearance of narrow joints."^{vii} At the Coghlan house, a dark gray Portland-based mortar served as the base to bind together the exterior blocks. After it dried, a mason incised a 1/4" application of a concrete with the fine-grained characteristics of Federal white cement used with a fine white sand. In many areas, the incised lines are still visible. Shellenbarger dates the end of the use of this tuck pointing technique in the United States to shortly after 1900.^{viii}

Although granite fieldstone lends great strength to buildings, it also limits the complexity of form. Each corner block requires extra work to fashion and the builder must carefully consider the weight to be redistributed around each window and door opening in relationship to each other, so that cracks do not form at unintentionally-created weak spots. Coghlan Castle is L-shaped in plan with the turret at the southwest corner facing the drive, and the kitchen/pantry located at the northeast corner. The turret anchors the building and provides its most outstanding architectural feature. Each granite block is cut with a slight curve, carried inside with careful plaster work on both floors. Three narrow windows have three voussoir blocks each above the opening. One gabled roof dormer is centered above each lower window. This window arrangement allows light into the master bedroom on the second floor without sacrificing privacy. The west wall closest to the turret holds one large window which held a stained glass transom, an entry door and another narrow window. A massive wooden beam supports the weight of the wall above the large fixed window with transom. Above the two windows are distinctive through-the-eave dormers, repeated on each elevation. The west elevation of the kitchen has the kitchen entry with a wood-framed mud room. The north elevation has a cellar entry centered below one of two narrow first floor window openings. Along the east elevation, five one-over-one narrow windows are somewhat asymmetrically placed below three through-the-eave dormers. Generally, long stone blocks carried the weight of walls above narrow openings.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

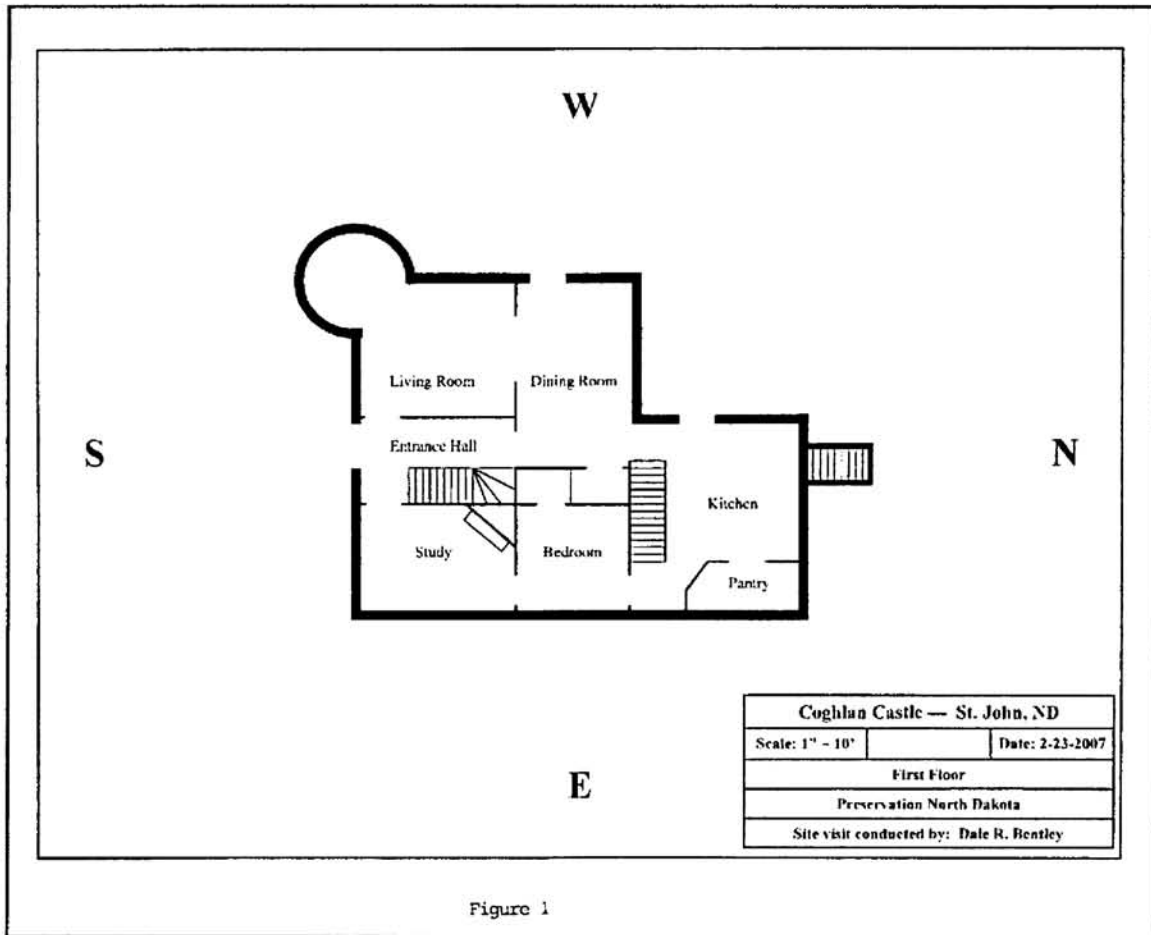
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

Coghlan Castle Rolette County, ND

The simple strong character of the house is conveyed through the turret and fieldstone walls, and exterior decorative elements are naturally few. However, carpenters shaped the gable moldings for the dormers with care, and a metal button cap finishes the turret. A hand-curved, period, metal gutter is in place on the turret. Period photos document that a thorough guttering system was in place, presumably to maximize water collection to the cistern. Decorative stone pieces finishing the window openings are missing, also.

Interior



Despite the cost and labor of worked fieldstone construction, Maurice Coghlan insured that there was ample interior space. The first story floor plan (Figure 1) features the parlor with turret, an adjoining dining room, including oak flooring with a diamond-shaped motif and built-in china closet. The entrance hall holds the remains of what once was a decorative open staircase to the second level. This space separates the parlor and the study. In the study, there is a corner fireplace with a decorative wood mantelpiece and tile work. Also located on the first story is a bedroom with access to the kitchen, dining room and study. A well-ventilated kitchen features embossed plaster walls in a tile pattern, an exterior covered frame mud room, a walk-in pantry with sliding door, ample floor and wall cabinetry, a dry sink, and access to the cistern. The kitchen also has access to an interior basement stairs and separate pantry with ample floor and wall cabinetry, and the back stairway allowing access to the second floor. An exterior staircase entrance off the north wall of the kitchen also allows entry to the basement. Interestingly,

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 4

Coghlan Castle Rolette County, ND
electricity was extended only to the kitchen. A light fixture, outlets and wall switches are only in this room and in no other.

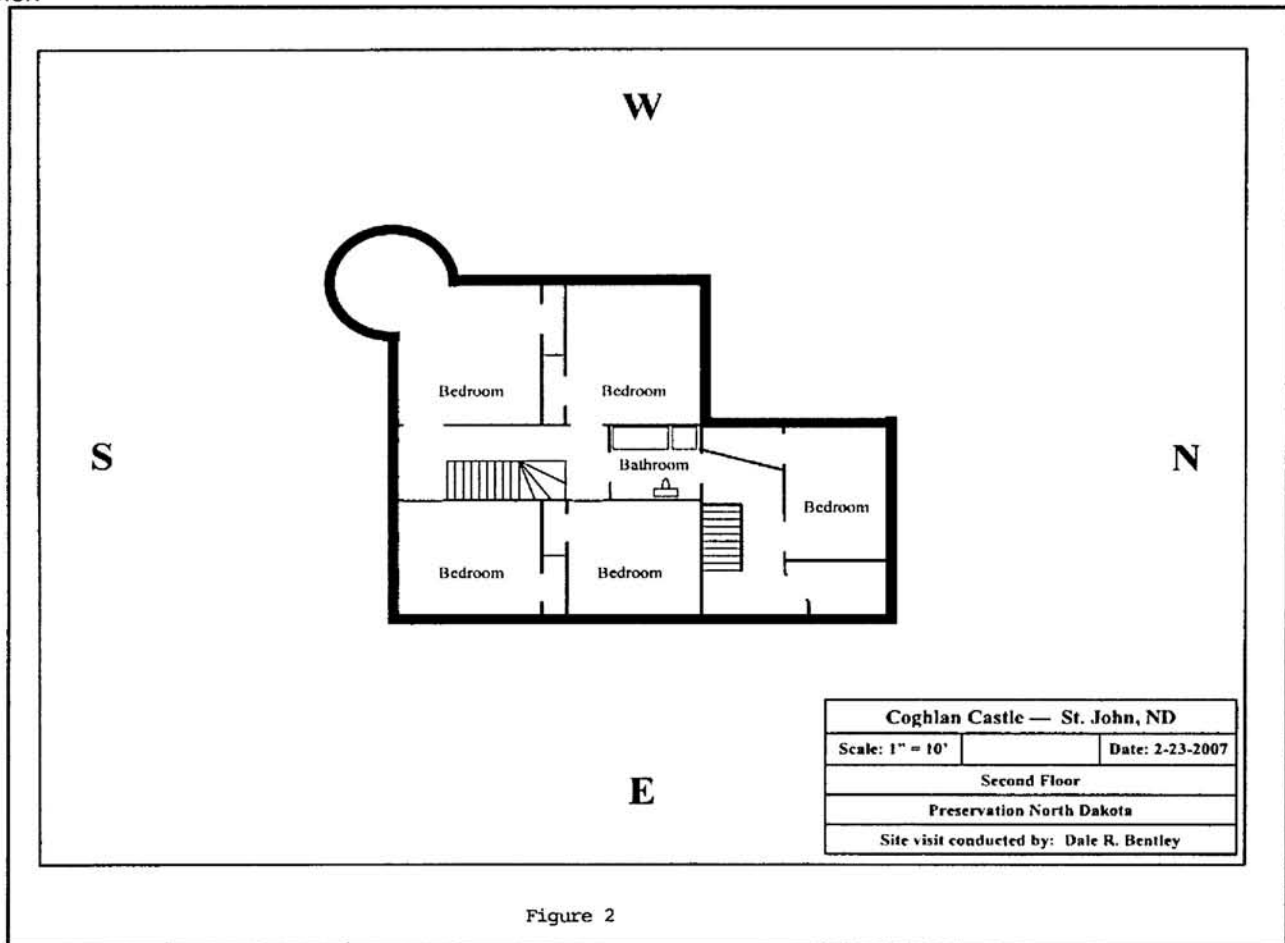


Figure 2

The second story plan (Figure 2) includes a master bedroom with turret, four other spacious bedrooms and a full bathroom, which featured indoor plumbing and hot and cold running water. The walls of the bathroom were embossed with a decorative tile pattern and a chair rail. The ceiling of the bathroom featured a skylight to bring light into the interior windowless room. Access to the unfinished attic is through a covered opening in the hall. The closets are long and narrow. Closet fixtures are hooks, not rods for using hangers. The walls are plaster throughout both floors, there is maple and pine floor, and these elements as well as the window and door moldings still attest to the craftsmanship of John Coghlan. John was Maurice Coghlan's brother who traveled from Boston to help with the finish carpentry, the cabinetry, and faux wood painting around windows and doors.^{ix}

Integrity

The stout walls have withstood the effects of weather quite well, but vandals played a part in the history of this building. In 1973, the Minot Daily News (with headquarters 130 miles from the Coghlan Castle), ran a story on its history, featuring Mrs. Vernon Indvik (born Fay James) and her mother, Mrs. Alex James, who were visiting the Castle. During the 1940s, the James family enjoyed the spacious home and raised seven children there. The family attempted to buy the house and 800 acres, but were unable to keep up with the payments. They moved away in November 1949. During that winter vandals broke windows and damaged plaster. In the 1950s a doctor wanted a stone fireplace for his house on Lake Metigoshe, and he hired a stone mason who worked for two days

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5

Coghlan Castle Rolette County, ND

removing stone. At that time it came to the attention of the home owner Frank DeMers that the mason had removed the stone from the house, when he only had permission to remove stone from a barn, (no longer extant). The missing exterior stone is due to this deliberate removal, not deterioration. The stonework for the turret is in good shape as the curved surface makes it unusable for straight walls. Some of the stone was returned and lies near the front of the house, but the doctor got his fireplace. Vandals removed radiators and the bathtub in the same era. In the 1970s and 1980s, local high school students staged many photographs in front of the Castle, and unfortunately one group set a small fire in the living room, and burned the front staircase.^x In August 1981, the Sunday Forum, in Fargo-Moorhead (North Dakota-Minnesota) some 265 miles from the Castle devoted a full-page spread to the Coghlan Castle, reporting its history as retold by Kenneth Coghlan, a prominent contractor in Valley City, North Dakota. He recalled the era when Frank DeMers took back the house, bringing it back to the Coghlan extended family. Frank rented out the house in the 1950s, but soon after some graffiti writers left their mark on the plaster walls.^{xi} Currently the Tim DeMers family continues to live on the property, about an eighth of a mile away and are encouraging a local non-profit to proceed with restoration.

Seven aspects of integrity

A brief review of integrity and its seven aspects finds many strong elements remaining in the building. The location of the dwelling has not changed, nor are there any additions. The design of the building has not changed over the years. What is striking is how little has changed. The electrical system, for example was never extended beyond the kitchen, and therefore there are no problems with modern light fixtures and other modern intrusions. The structural system is not compromised as the missing blocks of stone have not compromised the structure, although an about eight foot portion of the south foundation and lower wall are currently being repaired. The interior wall has supplied sufficient mass to maintain the structure upright for about fifty years. The massing and arrangement of interior and exterior spaces have not changed since the building was completed in 1909. The fenestration appears to remain the same. The earliest extant photos date to the 1940s, and they show no plantings, just grass up to the foundation. However, an overgrown tree is beginning to intrude into the kitchen wall foundation and will need to be cut down. About 30% of the exterior surface stone will need to be reset or replaced. (Many of the original stones taken to build a fire place in the 1950s were returned and are in the front and side yards, and need to be reset). The setting remains the same. The modern agricultural business on the property uses a separate entrance. The entry to the Coghlan Castle is gravel to dirt to grass path as visitors park their cars near the highway. A thick shelter belt of pines remains in place that helps minimize sound and sight intrusions. So far, the date of the first plantings of the shelter belt has not been determined. Materials remain the same. There is some loss of integrity due to vandalism of some exterior stone, and the loss of the window glazing. A sufficient number of sashes remain to be able to replicate those that have deteriorated. The most exciting aspect of materials is that the stone is indigenous to the surrounding area, and more of the same stone can be used to supply missing blocks. Much of the workmanship is very much in evidence, from the crafting of the stone blocks to the details of window and dormer trim. The feeling, or the property's expression of its place in the Turtle Mountain area in the early 20th century is very intact, as the portion of the property is just the building and a small perimeter. The association of the building with the Coghlan family remains good as there have been no additions to detract from the original form.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 6

Coghlan Castle Rolette County, ND

SIGNIFICANCE

The Coghlan Castle is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria C Architecture because it is an excellent example of a regional stone masonry technique with the following characteristics: the use of granite and other hard rock fieldstone for wall construction, superior workmanship including genteel vernacular stylistic components, and built predominately by masons of Scottish and British descent. It is also eligible under Criteria A History for its contribution to our understanding of the settlement patterns and economic intercourse of the North Dakota/Manitoba borderlands during the construction of the dwelling, and the Coghlan family's contributions to the development of the local area.

Regional stone masonry and research regarding Scottish masonry ties

The Coghlan Castle is the only example in North Dakota of a regional variation of fieldstone construction technique found mostly in southwest Manitoba. Edward Ledohowski, Heritage Designation Officer for the Culture, Heritage and Tourism Historic Resources Branch identifies three eras of stone masonry in Manitoba. The Pre-Confederation Period from 1832 – 1870, The Settlement Period (1871 – 1914), and Modern (1915 – 1945). In the Confederation Period, Scottish employees of the Hudson Bay Company with some masonry skill constructed 12 homes of uncoursed limestone rubble residential construction. These were found near the Red River from Winnipeg to Selkirk, about 26 miles to the north. They were "simple 1½ or two story rectangular plan with hipped roofs, twin chimneys positioned at the hip peaks and doorways positioned centrally along the front side."^{xii}

The Coghlan Castle fits into the context of the second period identified by Mr. Ledohowski, Settlement Period, 1871 – 1914. In Manitoba, it was a boom period and he found that stone residences were constructed throughout the province, but there was a concentration of cut fieldstone houses in the Anglo-Ontario settlement area of southwest Manitoba. Granite was the most common stone construction material but sandstone was available near Boissevain and limestone at Stonewall. These were sometimes cut into square-cut blocks due to their softer nature. Masonry types include the coursed rough-cut blocks that the Coghlan Castle features, as well as uncoursed rubble. He also states that earlier houses were small, simple story-and-a-half gabled houses and hipped-roofed cottages, and that the later dwellings were more substantial two-story models of more complex plan. After 1914, stone construction was less popular and brickwork more common.^{xiii} Also a few rusticated concrete block buildings survive from this later period, which offered rusticated blocks of a standard size. The Settlement Period was followed by a Modern Period 1915 – 1945 when the use of stone in residential buildings decreased, especially fieldstone, which came to be seen as out-of-date.

From 1870 to 1920 fieldstone or boulder stone, as it was called in the period, was commonly used for barn foundations, root cellar walls and building foundations, north and south of the border. Because the material was free, abundant, and did not need to be carefully worked, masons learned to use them to good advantage. They used heavy stone hammers to break the large stones, smaller mason's hammers, which had a flat head and pointed claw, to chip off corners, and various points to remove pieces and dress down the face of the rock, a pitching tool with a sloped chisel to shear off unwanted humps of material, and hefty stone chisels to split the stone.^{xiv} The Pilot Sentinel of Mound, Manitoba noted in 1889 that boulder stone was common, but that round stone were little used in the region "is owing to the unreasonable fuss that inexperienced masons make when called to build with this description of material, the high prices charged and the remarkable slow progress made with the work; most of the time being spent in the unnecessary employment of hammering the rocks."^{xv}

In the same month, the Monitor from Morden Manitoba sheds light on the increased use of fieldstone in the general area, breaking the news to its readers that better masons had arrived in the region. The writer notes that the Commercial Bank at Morden was built with boulder stone walls, but that lack of experienced stone masons had limited the used of the material for wall construction in the past. However, "the Scotch (sic) mason has come to the rescue, and he finds it no more difficult to shape and mould the prairie boulder than the stoney boulders from the Highland glens of his native country."^{xvi}

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 7

Coghlan Castle Rolette County, ND

At St John, North Dakota, the mason entrusted with the construction of the Coghlan Castle was Thomas Bowyer, a Canadian born in the Wroxeter-Doon area of Ontario north of the central north shore of Lake Erie in 1872, an area also known for its historic stone houses.^{xvii} His mother was Margaret Hossack. As a young man Tom stayed with his grandfather Sam Hossack and the extended family of stone mason/ farmers in Killarney, Manitoba.^{xviii} Sam Hossack was born in Aberdeenshire in the 1830s with the name Samuel Hoise, had five children and immigrated with them and his wife Margaret Archibald to Ontario some time between 1862 and 1865.^{xix} Although at age 23, Sam Hoise was listed as an agricultural laborer in the 1851 Scotland Census, other household members were slate quarriers.^{xx}

There are a few Manitoban houses known to have been built by the Hossacks or Tom Bowyer himself that share very similar characteristics with the Coghlan Castle. They are Hossack's Terrace, Killarney Baldwin Residence, Sawyer's House, and Thomas Bowyer's own house, all in Killarney Manitoba. The Hossack extended family was quite busy building houses, barns and foundations in southwest Manitoba from the late 1880s to the early 1920s, during the boom period of Manitoba's settlement. Some family members also learned to install the latest plumbing and heating devices by 1905.



Samuel Hossack and two of his sons, Alex and Will built Hossack's Terrace (Figures 3 and 4 above) in the late 1880s. It evinces the same rectangular and nearly square granitic and granitoid blocks found at Coghlan Castle, with more even course work. The window headers and sill courses are similar as is the non-symmetric placement of the window and door openings. Photographed in 1930 by Mrs. Lorne Miller, Killarney. B&W photograph from *Survey of Killarney Manitoba*. Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Tourism, Historic Resources Branch. The contrast between early and later pointing technique is noticeable. Color photograph by Dale Bentley, February 2008.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 8

Coghlan Castle Rolette County, ND



Killarney Baldwin Residence Built in the late 1890s, probably by the Hossack Brothers, figure 5, above. Similar stone working, asymmetric window and door placement. This building is gone. The survey page notes that the Hossack Brothers were noted for their ability to smooth out the rough surfaces of their stone faces. From: *Survey of Killarney Manitoba*. Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Tourism, Historic Resources Branch.



Sellar's House, built by Tom Bowyer in the late 1890s is still extant, figure 6 above. Note the course work, window headers and asymmetric placement of the openings. The same colorful choice of stone as Coghlan Castle, but a geologist has not examined this building to compare type of stone. The photograph is by Dale Bentley, February 2008.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 9

Coghlan Castle Rolette County, ND



Thomas Bowyer's own residence, no longer extant. Built in the 1890s, figure 7 above. From: *Survey of Killarney Manitoba*. Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Tourism, Historic Resources Branch.

Other similar houses constructed during the settlement period are listed on Manitoba's Historic Places and are listed on the Canadian Register of Historic Places web site, currently <http://www.historicplaces.ca/visit-visite/recherche-search.aspx> (The photographs below are from that website). The website links clearly show that the stone was chosen for its variety of colors, ranging from dark reds to pink, grays, light tans and even green). The buildings share coursed or roughly coursed stone masonry, generally genteel architectural elements, and when builders are identified, they were almost exclusively of Scottish or British descent, (some were French). According to Ed Ledohowski in Winnipeg, glacial erratics were available throughout Manitoba, especially in valleys and hillsides. Only when predominately Scottish masons came to an area in Manitoba did the fieldstone residences and commercial blocks appear. After WWI fieldstone construction came to be seen as old fashioned, and better quality brick and frame materials were available. Builders could use these materials to build a structure faster. Fieldstone construction died out in the early 1920s. Nevertheless, Ed Ledohowski and others at the Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Tourism, Historic Resources Branch have identified at least 62 residences, centered in southwest Manitoba that share these characteristics. Photos of seven of these Settlement Era fieldstone residences are listed chronologically for the reader's visual reference to material, massing, size, quality of workmanship, placement of windows and doors, and variety of genteel architectural elements, generally of a better quality than that of the first homesteads of the region. These include:



The McKay House, 1892 Minnedosa Manitoba Built by original owner, James McKay, figure 8 above.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

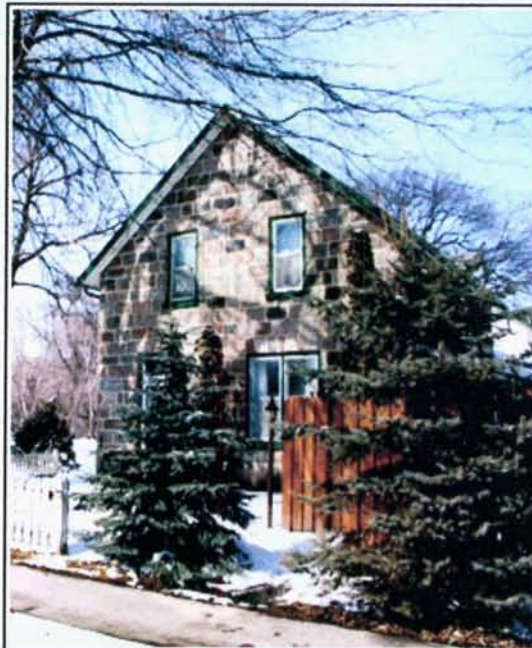
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 10

Coghlan Castle Rolette County, ND



The McKenzie House 1892, Rapid City Area, built by stone mason T.D. Taylor, figure 9 above.



McElroy House, 1895 Morden, Manitoba, built by Henry McElroy, figure 10 above.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 11

Coghlan Castle Rolette County, ND



The McConnell House Morden Manitoba (1899) figure 11 above.



The Young House, Victoria Manitoba (1900) figure 12 above.



The Menarey House 1910 Cartwright area, Stone mason John Henderson for John Menarey, figure 13 above.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 12

Coghlan Castle Rolette County, ND



The Carpentier House, 1907 Griswald Manitoba area, built for Joseph Carpentier from Quebec, figures 14 and 15 above.

The Coghlan Castle and its "cousins" in Manitoba of the same era exhibit similarities in massing, material, workmanship, and size. There are other similar examples of Scottish granite masonry in the North American West, particularly with workers originating from Aberdeenshire. Author Ferenc Morton Szasz notes that it is difficult to find tangible evidence of Scottish contributions to the history of the growth of the Canadian and US West, but finds that their masonry work is an exception. Masons and quarrymen help build California during the late 1800s. From 1889 – 1892 they worked in granite quarries near Aberdeen, Colorado (near Gunnison) and in Mormon Utah. Scottish masons cut granite for the famed Mormon Temple in Salt Lake City.^{xxi} Thomas Frazer, was a Scottish mason working in the 1870s and 1880s in northern Utah near Beaver, and others worked in Willard, Utah.^{xxii} Vernacular examples from Utah are similar in material, massing, workmanship and size as those from Manitoba.

The Coghlan Castle compares quite favorably with the relatively few other vernacular cut stone dwellings surveyed in North Dakota. Germans from Russia built many sandstone slab dwellings especially in western and southern counties. These are long, low, one-story buildings built with mud and later cementitious mortars, followed specific plan forms including no windows on the north side, and were often originally covered by mud plasters. There is one vernacular cut stone house documented that is useful for comparison. It is the Steven W. Brown House in Stutsman County, Site 32SN705, nominated to the National Register of Historic Places in 2003. It has similar cut blocks, although the stone is not identified, and a fieldstone foundation, framed cupola above a hipped roof, and was built in two sections, a 34 foot by 24 foot dwelling built in 1889 and a later stone addition. Although "best" is very subjective, it is this author's opinion after researching through the state site files that the Coghlan Castle is the best cut stone vernacular dwelling documented in the state, exhibiting the best craftsmanship in working with a difficult material, and the best architectural detailing, of course featuring the turret. No other dwelling in its vernacular classification exhibits the high level of craftsmanship, or attention to detail on the interior or exterior.

The Coghlan Family and their contributions to northern North Dakota

The patriarch of the Coghlan family was Maurice, who was born in 1848 in County Cork, Ireland. He came to Boston Massachusetts in 1865 and married Nellie Dorgan in Boston in 1872. Ten years and four strapping boys later, Maurice took a trip to Dakota Territory, bought a house north of St. John from an Indian and returned to Boston for the winter. The next summer Maurice went to Fairview township and traded the house to Joseph

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 13

Coghlan Castle Rolette County, ND

Dumaresy for his relinquished homestead, the NW ¼ of T163N R69W Section 19. This section became the core of the Coghlan local property holdings of some 600 acres.^{xxiii} Portions of Section 19 were claimed under the Desert Claim Act and others including the dwelling parcels, under the Tree Claim Act. The first homestead house was possibly of log and built on the NW ¼, as cut logs were included in the trade with Dumaresy. In 1885 Nellie died leaving Maurice with five boys. Maurice never remarried.

The 1900 census places Maurice on the Fairview Township property along with his sons Michael, a school teacher, Cornelius, William, Joseph and John, then ranging from 25 – 17 years old, a servant and two laborers. The Turtle Mountain Star notes in August 1906 that Maurice and his sons had about 600 acres in crop in Fairview and St. John Townships, and another farm of 600 acres in crop near Maxbass. Maurice maintained his role as a distinguished farming pioneer of the area and a respected member of the Catholic community until his death in 1932. His oldest son Mike took a law degree from the University of North Dakota, did a stint of railroad work, enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force at Lethbridge, Alberta, but eventually settled at Rolla, becoming a Rolette County judge for 11 years.

The second son, Cornelius and his family actually lived at the house from when it was completed in 1909 until 1932. Possibly they lived there before the interior was finished, after their marriage in 1908, because the interior rough walls underneath the plaster are whitewashed. His marriage with Sadie Smith of Emerson Manitoba was at Churchs Ferry, North Dakota on May 6, 1908. This was an intermarriage since she continued to practice the Presbyterian faith throughout her life, and the Coghlan's were Roman Catholic. She was county supervisor of the WPA sewing units, an organist for the Presbyterian Church of Rolla, and a member of the Cosmos club of St. John. She and Cornelius raised three daughters at the Coghlan Castle.^{xxiv} Cornelius was Register of Deeds of Rolette County from 1906 – 1910, and farmed at the Fairview Township homestead until 1932. He also became a county judge in 1938 and remained in that position until his death in 1941.^{xxv} Interestingly, just a few months before his death, Judge Cornelius Coghlan issue a decree establishing heirship and succession to real estate on the Coghlan Castle to Augusta Mohrbacher, (not related to the Coghlan's).

The Coghlan family occupied the Coghlan Castle from its construction until 1932. The mortgage trail over the years suggests that it was an expensive proposition to retain the property. Mortgages on the house and property totaled \$5,000.00 in 1907, and the sheriff auctioned the property to the State Bank of Rolla for \$6,700.00 in 1915. The mortgage was soon in the hands of a close family friend F.J. Meuwissen, cashier at the State Bank of Rolla. In October 1926 Cornelius paid off the mortgage. Ownership passed out of the family with the Paul Mohrbacher purchase in January 1934 until Frank Demers, a member of the extended family gained ownership in 1950. The property remains in the Demers family today. The period of significance is that of the Coghlan family occupancy in the building and the period when they farmed adjacent lands. This is from when the house was completed in 1909 until 1932.

More recently, the Save the Coghlan Castle, Inc. non-profit group (an affiliate of Preservation North Dakota) has raised \$25,000 to date to stabilize the foundation and a portion of the lower south wall and work is underway. Additional funds are being sought to continue restoration efforts for the wooden roof and to protect the interior from the elements. The City of Rolla has recently pledged \$5,000 per year for an indefinite time as long as repair efforts continue on the building. This is a significant contribution as tourism is a very important part of the economic future of Rolette County, which is home to the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians Reservation. Rolette County has the highest number of families living in poverty in the state. Plans are to interpret the building and its history as a National Scenic Byway feature with a pull out, and eventually begin restoration on the interior. Given the interest the dwelling has generated in featured newspaper articles all over the state over several decades, its ties to other similar properties in Manitoba, its proximity to the Turtle Mountain Provincial Forest, Lake Metigoshe State Park and the International Peace Gardens, and its importance to a regional tourism effort, the future of the building looks bright.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 14

Coghlan Castle Rolette County, ND

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(Cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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_____. "Coghlan House – North of Rolla." Valley City (ND) Times-Record, Bicentennial Issue, July 14, 1976. p. F-12.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 15

Coghlan Castle Rolette County, ND
GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

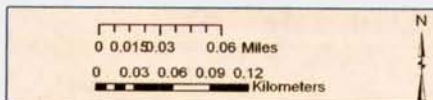
The Coghlan Castle stands on a portion of a modern farmstead. The building footprint with eight feet of perimeter is the nominated parcel. See map Figure 20.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The site chosen for nomination includes only the Coghlan Castle building. The rest of the homestead claim is currently being used for a working farm. The nominated site retains its historic integrity.



Coghlan Castle Location SW 1/4 NW 1/4
T163N R69W Section 19 Rolette County, ND
Plotted NAD 1983, in St. John USGS Quad.
SHSND - 11/1/2007



Map of boundary figure 20.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page 16

Coghlan Castle Rolette County, ND

PHOTOGRAPH LOG

The following information pertains to all photograph numbers except as noted:

Photographer: John Toso
Date of Photographs: September 2007
Negatives: with photographer 1660 Parker St, Ashland OR 97520

<u>Photo No.</u>	<u>Photographic Information</u>
1.	Facade view, camera direction NE
2.	View of rear of building, kitchen pantry area, camera direction SW
3.	Context view, camera direction NE
4.	Turret side view, camera direction N
5.	Detail of turret dormers
6.	Detail of dining room window frame
7.	Basement – area requiring rebuilding camera direction S
8.	Interior of turret, first floor
9.	Pantry
10.	Dining room diamond-shaped inset in floor

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Footnotes Page 17

Coghlan Castle
Rolette County, ND

- ⁱ E-mail correspondence received March 6, 2008.
- ⁱⁱ Charles McRaven, *Building with Stone* (Pownal, Vermont: Storey Communications, Inc, 1989), 20.
- ⁱⁱⁱ Turtle Mountain Star, Rolla, North Dakota, May 21, 1959, 4.
- ^{iv} Edward M. Ledohowski, Historic Resources Branch, Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Tourism, "The B.J. McConnell House, #557 Stephen Street, Morden, Manitoba," Draft, (October, 1986), 14.
- ^v Ibid.
- ^{vi} Ibid, 14.
- ^{vii} Michael Shellenbarger, "Tuck Pointing History and Confusion," *APT Bulletin* (1991) v23 no3, 38.
- ^{viii} Ibid, 40.
- ^{ix} Leonard Lund, Minot Daily News, Thursday October 4, 1973, 9.
- ^x Ibid.
- ^{xi} The Sunday Forum, Fargo-Moorhead, August 23, 1981 D-1.
- ^{xii} Ed Ledohowski, unpublished manuscript, "Context" no date.
- ^{xiii} Ibid.
- ^{xiv} Charles McRaven, *Building with Stone* (Pownal, Vermont: Storey Communications, Inc., 1989), 28.
- ^{xv} Pilot Sentinel, Mound, Manitoba, October 31, 1889, 1.
- ^{xvi} The Monitor, Morden, Manitoba, October 3, 1889, 1.
- ^{xvii} Note Brian Coffey's "The Irish, English, and Scots in Ontario" in *To Build in a New Land: Ethnic Landscapes in North America* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1992) 44-59. In this article Coffey uses the 1851 – 1852 Census of Canada to compare ethnic identity and preferred dwelling type, among stone, log, frame and "shanty." He finds that the Scots had nearly double the tendency to live in stone buildings (6% to 3.2% English and 2.9% Irish), but that subregional preferences also played a role in the choice of dwelling type.
- ^{xviii} Aileen Garland, Trails and Crossroads to Killarney, Altona, MB: D.W. Friesen & Sons, Ltd, 1967, 259-260.
- ^{xix} George A. Hardy, "Samuel and Margaret Hossack of Scotland and Canada and their Descendants," November 1993, 1-2.
- ^{xx} The Family History of Daniel Patrick Hardy, December 1996, 28 – 30.
- ^{xxi} Ferenc Morton Szasz, *Scots in the North American West, 1790 – 1917* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2000), 86.
- ^{xxii} Linda L. Bonar "Historic Houses in Beaver: An Introduction to Materials, Styles, and Craftsmen," *Utah Historical Quarterly* (1983) Vol 51 #3. Also e-mail from Tom Carter, Associate Professor of Architectural History, University of Utah dated March 3, 2008, who notes that the Coghlan Castle dormers do look like those found in Scottish Mormon architecture.
- ^{xxiii} "Maurice Coghlan, One of Old Settlers, Dies," Turtle Mountain Star, Rolla, North Dakota April 14, 1932, 1; Rolette County Deeds, p. 127; Valley City (ND) Times-Record, Bicentennial Issue, July 14, 1976, F-12.
- ^{xxiv} "Well Known Woman of St. John is Stricken," Turtle Mountain Star, Rolla, North Dakota, April 7, 1938, 1.
- ^{xxv} "County Judge Coghlan Dies November First," Turtle Mountain Star, Rolla, North Dakota, November 6, 1941, 1.



1. Coghlan Castle
2. Rolette County, ND
3. John Toso
4. September 2007
5. with photographer, 1660 Parker St Ashland OR 97520
6. Facade View camera direction NE
7. Photo # 1



1. Coghlan Castle
2. Rolette County, ND
3. John Toso
4. September 2007
5. with photographer 1660 Parker St Ashland OR 97520
6. View of rear of building kitchen pantry area,
camera direction SW
7. Photo 2



1. Coghlan Castle
2. Rolette County ND
3. John Tosu
4. September 2007
5. with photographer 1660 Parker St, Ashland OR 97520
6. Context view camera direction NE
7. Photo 3

COGLAN CASTLE
Rolette County,
North Dakota



1. Coghlan Castle
2. Rolette County ND
- 3 John Tosu
- 4 September 2007
- 5 with photographer 1660 Parker St Ashland OR 97520
- 6 Turret side view, camera directed N
- 7 Photo 4



1. Coghlan Castle
2. Rolette County North Dakota
3. John Toso
4. September 2007
5. with photographer 1660 Parker St, Ashland OR 97520
6. Detail of turret domes
7. Photo 5



1. Coghlan Castle
2. Rolette County, North Dakota
3. John Toso
4. September 2007
5. With Photographer, 1660 Parker St, Ashland OR 97520
6. Detail of Dining Room window frame
7. Photo 6

COGHLAN CASTLE
Rolette County,
North Dakota



1. Coghlan Castle
2. Rolette County, ND
3. John Tosu
4. September 2007
5. with Photographer, 1660 Parker St Ashland OR 97520
6. Detail of dining room window frame
7. Photo 7

COGHLAN CASTLE
Rolette County,
North Dakota



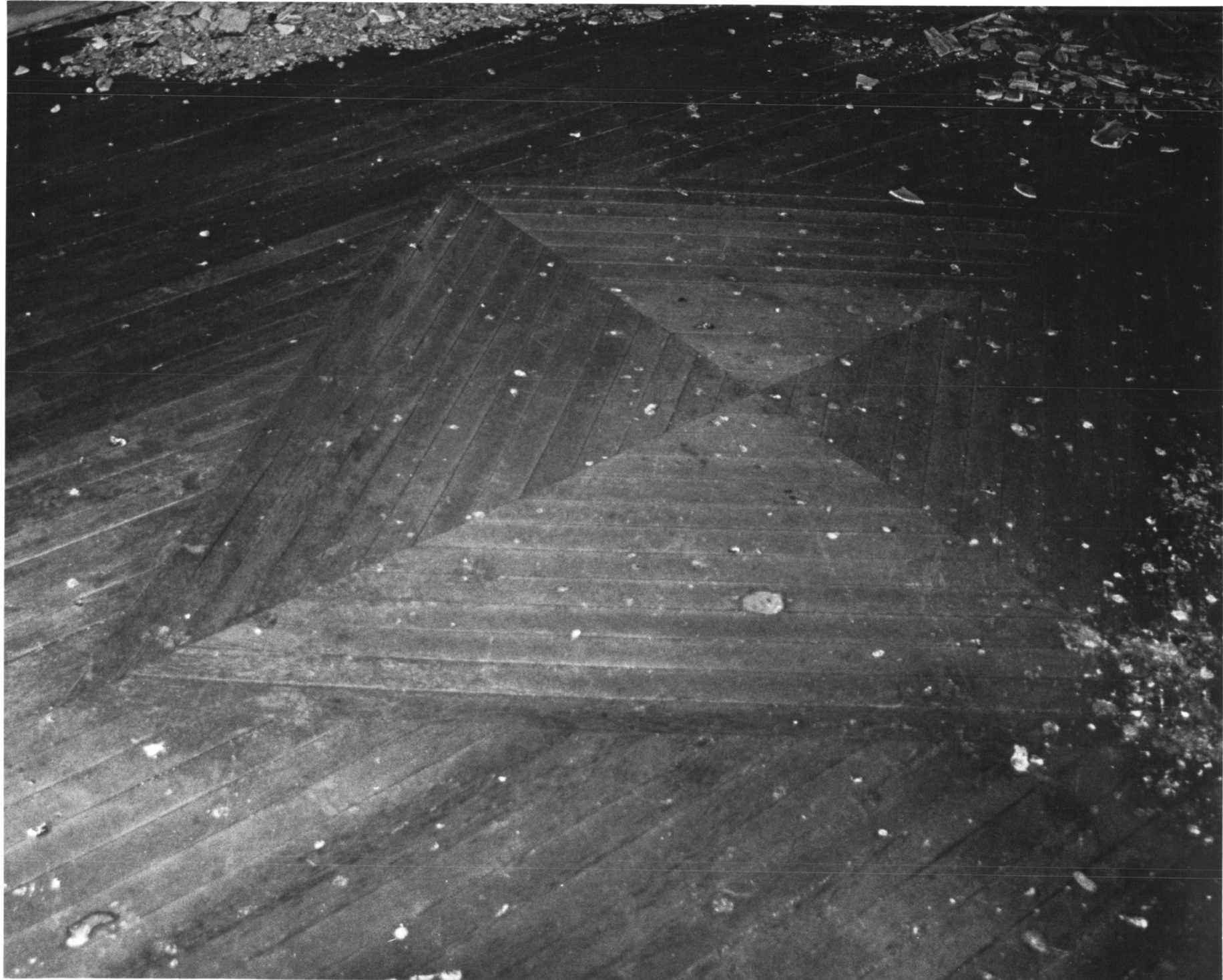
1. Coghlan Castle
2. Rolette County
3. John Tosco
4. September 2007
5. with photographer, 1660 Park St, Ashland OR 97520
6. Interior of turret, first floor
7. Photo 8

COGHLAN CASTLE
Rolette County,
North Dakota



1. Coghlan Castle
2. Rolette County ND
3. John Tosco
4. September 2007
5. with photographer 1660 Parker St, Ashland OR 97520
6. Pantry
7. Photo 09

COGHLAN CASTLE
Rolette County,
North Dakota



1. Coghlan Castle
2. Rolette County ND
3. John Tosu
4. September 2007
5. with photographer 1660 Parker St, Ashland OR 97520
6. Dining Room diamond-shaped inset in floor
7. Photo 10