

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED JUL 17 1979
AUG 24 1979
DATE ENTERED

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

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Grand Lodge of North Dakota, Ancient Order of United Workmen (Preferred)

AND/OR COMMON

Fossum Building; Interstate Business College

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

112-114 North Roberts Street

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Fargo

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1

STATE

North Dakota

CODE

38

COUNTY

Cass

CODE

017

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Triad Development Company

STREET & NUMBER

114 North Roberts Street

CITY, TOWN

Fargo

— VICINITY OF

STATE

North Dakota 58102

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Traid Development Company

STREET & NUMBER

114 North Roberts Street

CITY, TOWN

Fargo

STATE

North Dakota 58102

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

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 Grand Lodge Hall of the Ancient Order of United Workmen at 112-114 North Roberts Street, Fargo, North Dakota, was built in 1914-1915 from the plans of Haxby & Gillespie. The three-story masonry building occupies the lot's full 140 foot depth; its principal or east facade extends 41.7 feet along Roberts Street.

The symmetrical, clasically-ornamented front is divided vertically into three parts: a stone-veneered first floor; architecturally unified second and third stories; and a cornice/parapet. The first floor or base consists of a transomed double door flanked by two broad windows. The entry is framed with a simple molding and surmounted by a bracketted pediment with apron, upon which are incised the sans-serif initials "A.O.U.W." The flanking windows are each divided in a 1-2-1 rhythm by vertical mullions; there is also a horizontal muntin separating the fixed glass below from the tinted, light-diffusing panels above. All sills, moldings and other details, as well as the coursed ashlar veneer, are of the same light pink sandstone.

Above an exaggerated sill course, the second and third floors are treated as an ornamental unit. Within a stone frame of horizontal courses and vertical quoins, the double-hung windows of the second and third floors are grouped in vertical pairs. Each pair is itself framed with smaller scaled quoins and other stone molding, including a semi-circular arch with keystone. These five window pairs are then spaced to correspond with the 2-1-2 rhythm established on the first floor below. The remainder of the wall surface consists of a medium-brown iron-spot brick, interrupted by a string course at the spring line of the third floor arches.

The uppermost portion of the Roberts Street facade is divided into three horizontal bands. Wreathed medallions flank the first one of brick; the second consists of a bracketted cornice projecting nearly two feet and wrapping around the corners of the facade; and the third is a brick and stone parapet including the insignia of the A.O.U.W.

The north elevation of common brick and variously placed windows seems to have anticipated a building of at least three stories on the adjacent lot. But the south and west facades are of the same brick as the Roberts Street facade; the south elevation is particularly handsome.

The adjacent property at the corner of Roberts Street and First Avenue North had been partially occupied since 1894 by Fargo's first Federal Building, which may have assured that a visual easement would remain in the foreseeable future. The south elevation was therefore set back from the property line slightly less than five feet and veneered with the same dense medium brown brick. In addition, the front ornamental treatment was carried around on the first bay of this side elevation, giving a sense of depth to what would otherwise appear to be a two-dimensional composition. Westward from this bay, simple rectangular window openings have been cut at the first and second floors. But at the third floor level, eight arched Palladian

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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windows give expression (and light) to the lodge rooms located there. Brick arches, keystones, string courses and parapet correspond to the sandstone details of the front elevation.

The building's internal organization is predictably simple. Bisected lengthwise, by a corridor and column line, the first and second floors were divided into speculative office space; the first floor consisted of two long rental spaces and the second was divided into smaller units. At the third floor, however, the A.O.U.W. meeting rooms were located.

Ante-chambers and other smaller rooms on the east, north and west surround the main lodge hall, whose five Palladian windows face south across the still-open side yard of the old Federal Building. Both south and north interior walls are divided into five equal units by engaged Tuscan pilasters, and these in turn begin to "support" the beamed ceiling; the central unit of the ceiling contains an octagonal skylight. Walls and ceilings are plastered; the wainscoting door and window trim are of oak. Upper portions of windows are of stained glass and contain heraldic motifs.

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 checked="" 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 1914

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Haxby & Gillespie, Architects

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The A.O.U.W. Building is significant in terms both of the history of Fargo and North Dakota and the architectural history of the region. The Ancient Order of United Workmen was itself an early North Dakota institution, one of a number of secret fraternal societies of the early post-settlement period. The first Grand Lodge of the A.O.U.W. was founded at Jamestown in 1883, but by 1907 the Fargo Lodge # 5 was the state's largest lodge with over 400 members. The fraternity met in rented quarters in several locations until 1915, when the Roberts Street building was completed. The Roberts Street location remained the home of the lodge until 1927 when the organization moved to newer facilities on North Tenth Street. The A.O.U.W. eventually ceased to be a fraternal order and became the mutual insurance company known as Pioneer Mutual Life.

For many years the A.O.U.W. Building has been associated with the Interstate Business College, which was housed there until 1978 when the school relocated on South University Avenue. Interstate Business College has been an important educational institution in the Fargo area, serving a wide region and providing quality business education for several generations of North Dakotans. Graduates of I.B.C. occupy key positions in management throughout the region.

The A.O.U.W. Building is representative of an architectural style which might be termed Commercial Classical, which is being gradually eliminated from North Dakota cities and towns. The building is handsomely proportioned and exhibits details and craftsmanship impossible to attain in contemporary construction. This building also is representative of a specialized historic building type. From the 1870's through World War I, fraternal organizations in the region typically occupied impressive structures designed with meeting halls on the upper floor and speculative commercial space on lower floors. In Fargo only the Masonic Block or Dakota Business College (also being nominated to the National Register in June, 1979), and the A.O.U.W. Building remain essentially intact as representatives of this building type. Although the A.O.U.W. Building was built some thirty years after the Masonic Block, the two structures display a marked similarity in internal organization and history.

The Firm of Haxby & Gillespie, architects for the A.O.U.W. Building, was formed about 1905. The partnership continued to operate in Fargo until World War I, and produced a number of important buildings throughout North Dakota. In the 1920's Gillespie ceased architectural practice and founded Gate City Savings & Loan, one of the leading lending institutions in the state.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than 1 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Fargo North

QUADRANGLE SCALE 7.5

UTM REFERENCES 420 730

A 1,4 6,6,8 5,8,0 5,1,9,3 2,7,0

B

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lot 4, Block 5, Roberts Addition to the City of Fargo, North Dakota

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

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| | | | |
| | | | |

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Ronald Lanier Ramsey

ORGANIZATION

DATE

February 10, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

Post Office Box 2351

TELEPHONE

(701)293-0815

CITY OR TOWN

Fargo

STATE

North Dakota 58102

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

LOCAL X

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

James E. Sherry

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer (North Dakota)

DATE July 2, 1979

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

Carol Stull
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 8-24-79

ATTEST: *William H. Brannan*
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 8-22-79