

NORTH DAKOTA CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY

Base Data Form

1. County Grand Forks, North Dakota 2. Site Number CK 11
3. Site Name (s) First National Bank
4. Type of Resource: A. Archaeological  Historical  Architectural  Paleontological   
 B. District  Site  Building  Structure  Object
5. Map Reference: USGS Quad. Grand Forks, N. Dak-Minn, 7.5' 1963 (photorevs'd 1979)
6. Location: 322 DeMers Avenue Sec. 3 T 151 N / R 50 W  
 Plat: Original Townsite Block 23 Lot Front 90'  
 UTMG: A. 14.647080.5309590. B. \_\_\_\_\_ of Lots 10 & 12  
 C. \_\_\_\_\_ D. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Access: visible  
 Location: northeast corner of DeMers Avenue and North Fourth Street  
 Acreage: less than one acre  
 Verbal boundary: city lots roughly 90 X 100 feet
8. A. General description of site: this is a five-story brick commercial building with a flat roof and approximately square in plan. Set back the width of the sidewalk, it covers the entire lot. Its north wall adjoins a three-story commercial building, and its east wall adjoins a two-story commercial building. The west and south elevations of the building are entirely visible. (Cont.)  
 B. Condition of site: Excellent
9. Owner's name/address: First National Bank 322 DeMers Ave. G.F. 58201
10. Occupant's name/address: \_\_\_\_\_
11. Historic Register value: Nat.  State  Untd.  None  On Reg.  In District  District   
 Multiple Resource
12. Open to public: Yes  No  13. Preservation Underway: Yes  No
14. Endangered by: Nothing
15. Survey Project: Title Hist. and Arch. Survey of G.F., ND Director Norene and Joe Roberts  
 Other surveys in which included none
16. Recommendations: being nominated to NRHP in MRN: Historic Resources of downtown Grand Forks, North Dakota (Partial Inventory: Historic and ARchitectural Propert...
17. Environment: Elevation \_\_\_\_\_ Nearest Water: Type \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_ Distance \_\_\_\_\_ Direction \_\_\_\_\_  
 Soil conditions: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Soil Texture: \_\_\_\_\_

(20)

17. Environment, Cont. Site Number CK11

Ground Cover: \_\_\_\_\_

Terrain: \_\_\_\_\_

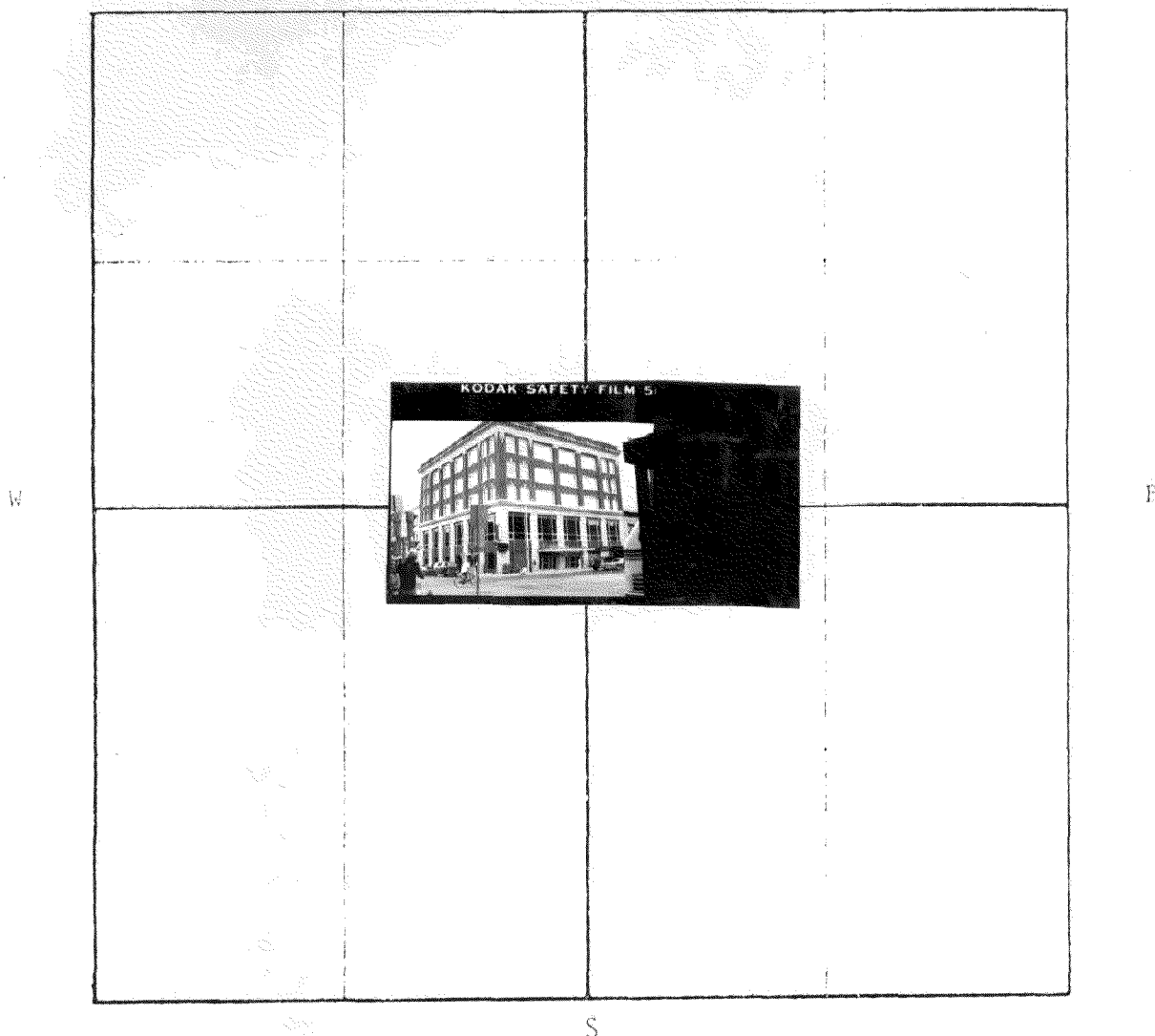
18. Local contact person or organization: \_\_\_\_\_

19. Photos: No B/W xColor Prints Slides Comments/ID code \_\_\_\_\_Contact Print: Roll 3 ,Frame 128 X 10 Glossies: Roll 51,Frame 35,36Negatives stored at: Division of Archaeology and Historic PreservationState Historical Society of North Dakota

In space below attach and identify a picture or contact print of the site.

20. Sketch Map of Site: Scale: \_\_\_\_\_

H

Recorded by: C. Kudzia Date July, 1981Revised by: Norene and Joe Roberts and Gary Henrickson Date 9/81

Historical Research, Inc. 5406 Penn Avenue S.

Minneapolis, Minnesota 55419

Continuation form: Historic Sites

Site Number CK1

27. Thematic category Commerce 28. Date or period 1914-1915
29. Structures: Number standing \_\_\_\_\_ Number collapsed \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of foundations only \_\_\_\_\_ Number of earthworks \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of basement depressions \_\_\_\_\_ No structural remains observed \_\_\_\_\_
30. Architectural/Structural Detail:
- A. Style or design Commercial vernacular with classical detailing
- B. Architect/engineer \_\_\_\_\_
- C. Contractor/builder \_\_\_\_\_
- D. Original use Scandinavian-American Bank
- E. Present use First National Bank
- F. Number of stories 5 G. Basement: Yes No Partial \_\_\_\_\_
- H. Foundation Material \_\_\_\_\_
- I. Wall Construction Steel, concrete, concrete block and tile
- J. Wall Treatment Brick and stone, granite base
- K. Roof type and material Flat
- L. Number of bays: Front 6 Side 5 M. Plan shape Rectangular
31. Frontage 100' 32. Distance from road 0
33. Number of outbuildings None 34. Description of outbuildings \_\_\_\_\_

35. Changes

36. Information sources/References

The First National Bank building was constructed in 1914-15<sup>1</sup> for the Scandinavian-American Bank. The Scandinavian-American Bank's first location was in the Metropolitan Opera House.<sup>2</sup> It took up quarters in the building at 322 DeMers Avenue in 1915. When the bank was chartered nationally it changed its name to Northwestern National Bank. (Cont.)

37. Reason for significance:

The 1915 First National Bank was one of a group of architecturally significant buildings of the era ca. 1905-1915. In this period the building of the downtown was largely completed, and the best of the buildings from the period show the influence of the Classical Revival style. Many of Grand Forks' most handsome buildings, such as the City Hall, the U.S. Post Office, the Grand Forks County Courthouse, and the Masonic Temple, date from this period of the city's highest architectural achievement. (Cont.)

Recorded by C. Kudzia

Date 7/81

Revised by Norene and Joe Roberts, Gary Henrickson

Date 9/81

## NORTH DAKOTA CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY

Continuation form

Site Number CK11Item No. 8.A. General description of site (Cont.)

The style of the building is commercial vernacular with classical detailing. The south and west facades are composed of a two story rusticated ashlar base surmounted by a three story running red brick building column and cornice.

The two story base is composed of rusticated ashlar piers atop polished granite base blocks. The piers support a frieze at the top of the second story which is topped by a molded stone cornice. The fenestration of the first two stories is plate glass and metal with six window bays on the west and five on the south.

The decorative detail of the building columns consist of three slightly projecting corner bays which frame slightly inset central bays separated by brick pilaster strips. Identical in detailing, the bays rise from stone base blocks at the third floor window sills to a cornice three floors above. The fenestration of the corner bays is a set of paired, asymmetrical, one-over-one windows on each floor with stone sills below each window and a segmented brick jack arch lintel incorporating a stone keystone above each window. Two decorative cartouches bracket the fifth story windows of each projecting bay. The pilaster strips between the towers sit on stone base blocks and rise three stories to square ornamented capitals. The south facade has two pilasters separating three inset bays. The west facade has three pilasters separating four inset bays. The inset bays are all identical in decorative detailing.

Each inset bay has three windows with a central light flanked by asymmetrical one-over-one sidelights. Below each window is a sill course running clear across the bay. Above the third and fourth floor windows is a slightly raised decorative brick spandrel .

Above the capitals is a metal frieze and a dentilated and bracketed metal cornice below a parapet capped with a stone coping.

36. Information sources/References (Cont.)

In 1929 the Northwestern National Bank was combined with the First National Bank , with the First National moving from the Commercial Exchange at DeMers and Third Street into 322 DeMers Avenue. From that year to the present the building has been identified as the First National Bank.<sup>3</sup>

37. Reason for significance (Cont.)

The First National Bank is an outstanding example of the Classical Revival idea executed in a large commercial structure.

## Notes

<sup>1</sup> City Assessor's description #224.

<sup>2</sup> City Directory of 1905. Pettibone Co., Grand Forks, p.160.

<sup>3</sup> Grand Forks Herald, June 23, 1974.