

HISTORIC NAME: 420 Main Avenue Commercial Building

COUNTY: Clay

CURRENT NAME: Same

CITY/TWP.: Moorhead

LEGAL DESC.: S. 50' of lot 4, Block 5, O.P.

ADDRESS: 420 Main Avenue

CLASSIFICATION:	CONDITION:	SIGNIFICANCE:	THEME/S:
Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Excellent _____	Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Primary <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce
Structure _____	Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	State _____	Secondary <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture
Object _____	Fair _____	National _____	Others _____
District _____	Deteriorated _____		

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Yes ___ No Restricted ___

PRESENT USE: Residence

VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: Yes No ___OCCUPIED: Yes No ___

DATE CONSTRUCTED: c. 1880

ORIGINAL USE: residence, commercial office

ORIGINAL OWNER: Frank Burnham

ARCHITECT/BUILDER:

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Hans Langseth
420 Main Avenue
Moorhead, Minnesota 56560ACREAGE: Less than one acre

LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.:

UTM REFERENCE:

14 / 669740 / 5193340

FORM PREPARED BY: Tom Harvey

Fargo South 7.5 quad.

DATE: October 1979

DESCRIPTION:

The 420 Main Avenue building is a detached commercial/residential structure dating from early in Moorhead's downtown development. The rectangular plan, two-story building, of frame construction and horizontal lap siding is often referred to as boomtown architecture. A stepped gable false front hides all but the eaves of a simple gable roof behind. The false front is marked by a frame cornice supported by small scroll brackets.

There are several, irregularly spaced, double sash windows on each side facade. The front facade second floor has two closely spaced double sash windows. The right side doorway is offset by a double wide window. The paneled door is surmounted by a transom window and an "eyebrow" arched door surround head. The green trim of the doors, windows, and cornice contrasts with the white commercial building.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The false-front, stepped parapet design of the Burnham building was once quite typical of downtown Moorhead commercial buildings. With later developments, and especially a major urban renewal project, the Burnham building is the only remaining example of its type in the city. It is in a basically unaltered state, though its setting has changed dramatically. Frank Burnham was an early Moorhead businessman and land dealer. He bought the 420 Main Avenue lot from the Lake Superior and Puget Sound Company, the townsite owners, and built the structure. He is thought to have had his office in the building until he sold it in 1884. Fire insurance maps from 1884 to 1929 show the building used only as a residence.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

MAR 21 1989

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

420 Main Avenue Commercial Building

Clay County, MN

Name Change Approval
to Burnham Building

Keeper Beth Boland 5/3/89

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

MAR 21 1989

Section number _____ Page _____

**Note: These changes apply to
420 Main Avenue Commercial Building
in Clay County, Minnesota.**

REFERENCE NUMBER: 80002013

STATE: MINNESOTA

COUNTY: Clay

RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC): Burnham Building

CITY:

VICINITY OF:

ADDRESS:

CERTIFICATION DATE:

REMOVED DATE:

COMMENTS:

Nina M. Archabal

Nina M. Archabal
State Historic Preservation Officer

JUN 17 1988

Date