

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

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

For NPS use only

received **MAY 9 1983**

date entered

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

**1. Name**

historic DeRemer, Joseph Bell, House

and/or common N/A

**2. Location**

street & number 625 Belmont Rd. \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Grand Forks \_\_\_ vicinity of

state North Dakota code 38 county Grand Forks code 035

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Phillip and Lee Furman

street & number 625 Belmont Rd.

city, town Grand Forks \_\_\_ vicinity of state North Dakota

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Grand Forks County Courthouse, Register of Deeds

street & number P. O. Box 6

city, town Grand Forks state North Dakota

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title North Dakota Cultural Resources Survey was this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_ yes  no

date Summer, 1981 \_\_\_ federal  state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records State Historical Society of North Dakota

city, town Bismarck state North Dakota 58505

## 7. Description

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

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Joseph Bell DeRemer house at 625 Belmont Road is a 2½ story frame Dutch Colonial residence with classical details. It was originally faced in brick and stucco, but the second story has been resided.

The exterior of the house is faced in Flemish bond red brick on the first story and both chimney stacks (see Photo #1). Some of this Flemish bond brickwork is double wall construction, as is the case, according to the present owner, with the front porch. The second story, originally a tan stucco (see photo #3), has been sided in metal in recent years by the present owner. Stone is used for the trim on the south fireplace, basement window sills, and coping on the front stoop. The roof is now asbestos shingled, originally wood shingled, with a gambrel roof and off-set gambrel dormers on front (west facing) and rear elevations. The front second story gabled window has prominent returned eaves. The opposing rear dormer is ornately bracketted. Palladian windows are found on dormers in the west and north-south elevations on the top floor, which, according to the present owner, originally contained a ballroom, but is now used as a game room.

The exterior has several minor modifications, but, generally, exhibits excellent over-all integrity. Aside from the metal siding and metal soffits, the original diamond-paned 3-part dining room window (rear) has been replaced with a picture window (see Photo #s 2 and 4). Wooden balustrades on the flat-roofed east and west porches have been removed (Photo #s 1-4). The rear porch has been topped with an ornate wrought-iron balustrade. Front porch screens have been replaced. These changes are evident only because of excellent historical photographs taken between 1907-12, while Joseph Bell DeRemer owned the house.

All exterior trim is original and in excellent condition. Between the first and second stories is a frieze and dentilled wooden running course. The porches have elaborately bracketted wooden friezes just below the eaves.

On the southeast side of the house is a pergola of Flemish-bond brick piers on stone bases which match the house (Photos #2 and 4). They originally supported a wooden trellis-style roof, which has been removed. The piers are in excellent condition.

The interior of the house is remarkable and in substantially intact condition. Each major room has a differently designed parquet floor. According to a contemporary article, the house contains hardwood of "white and red oak, mahogany and maple in various finishes." <sup>1</sup> Leaded and stained glass panels are used in several window transoms, the north window on the stair landing, the front door, and in the balustrade leading from the first to the second floor (see Photo #5). Woodwork throughout the major rooms is generally

<sup>1</sup> "Two Days Spent in North Dakota."

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DESCRIPTION, continued:

classical with dentilled ceiling molding, frieze, and paneled pilaster strips, as in the living room.

The following is a brief description of the highlights room-by-room (see sketch #1):

Foyer and front entry: The front door in the entry is inset with a stained-glass window. Terrazo tile on the entry floor is elaborately patterned to simulate a rug. Brass large-hinged fittings are intact on the front door. The foyer is large, approximately 10' x 10'. The foyer ceiling is coffered. The front window has a stained glass and leaded transom. The stairway balustrade is craftsman-style with 4" x 6" panels of stained and leaded glass. At the half-story landing to the second floor is a 3-part stained glass Palladian style window. Foyer woodwork is in the original dark stained finish. The fireplace on the east wall of the foyer is cream Hebron brick with a butter joint and jack arched opening, with a wooden mantel and carved curved console bracketting. The room is predominantly panelled to the ceiling.

Livingroom: The living room has a west and south exposure. On the west (front) is an angled bay window, which looks out on the front porch. Walls and ceilings are plastered. Woodwork (still painted white as it was originally) is as follows: dentilled ceiling molding, frieze, and panelled pilaster strips. The fireplace, on the south wall, has a wood mantel supported with carved brackets like the bracketting on the exterior porches. Tiles around the fire box are green glazed. The living room fireplace was designed to take advantage of the Venturi effect of air circulation. The air ducts in the basement which exchanged hot for cold air have been blocked off by the current owner. The mirror above the fireplace is original. Portieres originally hung between the foyer and dining room at the living room door openings.

Dining room: The dining room has an east and south exposure. The ceiling is coffered like the foyer with dark woodwork and plate racks. The east window (rear) was a high 3-part window of diamond-paned glass. It has been removed and replaced with a picture window. The radiator in the dining room has a hinged double-door bun warmer.

Kitchen: The kitchen (northwest of the dining room) has a butler's pantry leading to the dining room. Off the butler's pantry to the rear of the house is a small room with white marble baseboards and floor, which may originally have been a pastry room. The kitchen, remodelled, has cabinetry painted in rosealing by the current owner. According to the present owner, Samuel Teel DeRemer redesigned

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DESCRIPTION, continued:

and remodelled the kitchen during the 1930s.

Bathroom-1st floor: From the foyer, running toward the rear of the house in a portion of the hallway, is a bathroom, done in Art Moderne style by Samuel Teel DeRemer as part of his 1930s remodelling. The bathroom is pink with a zig-zag ceiling of increasingly small square wooden strips, terminating in an opaque light fixture at the apex. This ceiling is reminiscent of the belltower on the Art Moderne United Lutheran Church, designed by Joe Bell and Sam DeRemer in the early 1930s in Grand Forks. Here, the design has been adapted to a residence.

The second floor consists of a very small front sitting room with built-in settle under the front windows and white woodwork. Door casings on the second floor are corniced. Upstairs bedrooms are coved-ceilinged or have craftsman-style wooden strips with 4-part mitered intersections applied to ceilings.

Master bedroom: Woodwork is painted white and is classical in design, like the living room. A fireplace is located on the south wall. It has fluted free-standing Roman Ionic columns supporting the mantel, under a wide frieze with a central panel with a swag. The ceiling has beaded plastered bas-relief work (see Photos #s 8 and 9). The oak floor is elaborately parquetted. The walls (Photo #9) were originally covered in fabric panels, but are now wallpapered (Photo #8). Mirrored valances over the windows and fireplace were installed by Samuel DeRemer in the 1930s.

Other 2nd story rooms: The upstairs bathroom, off the master bedroom and central hallway, has coved ceiling with all original fixtures, pentagonal tile floor, and claw footed tub. A rear study has a craftsman-style coffered ceiling. The other bedrooms have ceiling moldings and original woodwork.

The stairway to the third floor is as elaborate as to the second. The third floor, which may have been a ballroom, is tongue and groove panelling.

The current owners have an interest in Joseph Bell DeRemer, and are cognizant of the historical and architectural value of the house.

## 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 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** Joseph Bell DeRemer

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Joseph Bell DeRemer designed this house for his own family in 1906 and lived there until 1912. As an example of a middle-class house, the exterior and interior is remarkable for the attention to detail, proportion, design, and workmanship associated with the DeRemer firm in much larger public and commercial buildings. DeRemer's residence in this house corresponds with his "classical" period of architectural design in Grand Forks and was built only four years after the beginning of his North Dakota practice.

Joseph Bell DeRemer (1871-1944) was one of North Dakota's outstanding architects. He moved to Grand Forks from New Jersey in 1902 and immediately set up an architectural practice. Like many architects of the time, his training was more practical than formal. DeRemer, whose father, grandfather, and great-grandfather had been contractors, builders, and carpenters, was so proficient in carpentry by the age of 18 that he was given supervision of projects in his father's contracting and building firm, J. P. DeRemer and Sons. During 1896-7, he took a special course in architecture in the School of Architecture at Columbia University under chairman William R. Ware, founder of the school of architecture at M.I.T. an ardent advocate of the Beaux-Arts training. His Columbia training lasted less than a year, before DeRemer rejoined his father's firm, practicing in New Jersey from 1897 to 1902, when he relocated in Grand Forks.

During his 1902-1912 years in North Dakota, DeRemer's designs were predominantly classical revival styles. His first large commission in Grand Forks was the President's House at the University of North Dakota (National Register, 1979), a colonial, porticoed three story brick residence. Other major DeRemer-designed buildings during this period in Grand Forks include: the Widlund Block (said to be the first fireproof commercial block in North Dakota); the Corliss Block (Panovitz Store); the Masonic Temple built in 1912-13 in Renaissance Revival style (National Register, 1982); the B.P.O.E. Lodge built ca. 1910 in Classical Commercial style (National Register, 1982); the New Hampshire Apartments built in 1904 in Classical Commercial style (National Register, 1982); the Y.M.C.A. (razed); and the Carnegie Library (razed). In addition, DeRemer designed buildings in Grafton, Langdon, Rugby, Berthold (North Dakota) and Warren (Minnesota) before 1912.

In June, 1912, DeRemer moved to Los Angeles, California, due, according to one story, to business speculation reverses, where he practiced until November, 1918. In California, DeRemer designed the Wilshire Presbyterian Church and Title Insurance Building in L.A. The firm of DeRemer and Hewitt received a certificate of appreciation for a building of distinct architectural merit from the Southern California Chapter of the American Institute of Architects for the William H. Glover residence in L.A.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Grand Forks, N.D.-Minn.

Quadrangle scale 7.5'

UTM References

A 

1	4	6	4	7	3	2	8	5	3	0	8	6	1	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

C 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

D 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

E 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

F 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

G 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

H 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

Verbal boundary description and justification

Auditor's Subdivision #2, Lots 8 and 9, Grand Forks, North Dakota

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dr. Norene A. Roberts, President

organization Historical Research, Inc.

date February 20, 1983

street & number 5535 Richmond Curve

telephone (612) 929-2921

city or town Minneapolis, Minnesota

state 55410

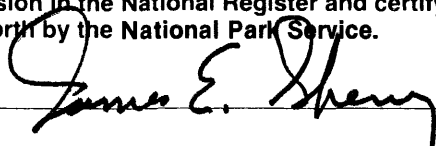
# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

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

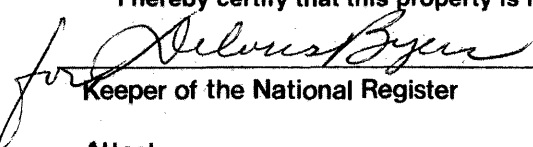


title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 3/22/83

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register



Entered in the National Register

date 6/9/83

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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## SIGNIFICANCE, continued:

After a year in New Jersey, DeRemer returned to Grand Forks in December, 1919. He was joined by his son, Samuel Teel DeRemer (1894-1967) from 1920 to 1944 in the DeRemer firm, but Sam operated the business from 1934-1944 under his father's name. During the post-1920 years, the DeRemer firm is best known for the Art Moderne-style state capitol in Bismarck and the United Lutheran Church in Grand Forks. Joseph Bell was a consulting architect, with Holabird and Root of Chicago, and William F. Kurke, another North Dakota architect, on the skyscraper state capitol project during 1931-2. From his 1930s alterations to the DeRemer house, Samuel's interest in Art Moderne and Art Deco can be seen in the first floor bathroom and in such details as the mirrored valances in the master bedroom.

Joseph Bell DeRemer was a charter member of the American Institute of Architects, the North Dakota Association of Architects, and served as its president, and the Minnesota Chapter of the A.I.A. For 5 years, he was a member of the North Dakota State Board of Architecture, for 3 of those as its president. During the presidency of McVey, from 1909 to 1912 DeRemer was architect of the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks. In addition to the President's House, the DeRemer firm (1902-1944) designed Delta Gamma Sorority, Sigma Nu Sorority, the Commons Building, Woodworth Hall and Merrifield Hall, on the campus.

In materials and quality of workmanship, the DeRemer house is similar to several Grand Forks commercial and public buildings. In the colonial brick, Bedford stone trim, and Flemish bond brick work, the house is similar to the 1904 New Hampshire Apartments at 105 N. Third St. The cream-colored brick and butter joint used in the foyer fireplace is similar to the ca. 1910 B.P.O.E. Lodge at 12 N. 4th St. and the 1912-13 Masonic Temple at 413-21 Bruce Avenue. The brickwork for the house was probably done by James Dinnie, of Dinnie Brothers, who did such DeRemer buildings as the New Hampshire Apartments, the Y.M.C.A., the Corliss Block, and the Carnegie Library in Grand Forks at about the same time. Building for himself, DeRemer was able to lavish the kind of money and time on his own house which was more typical to his larger projects.

The quality of the DeRemer house is itself an indication of the quickly won and continuingly successful architectural practice. In 1903, DeRemer was able to purchase the lot on which the house is built from Webster Merrifield, University president. Within only two years of his arrival in Grand Forks, the Herald listed 34 major commissions completed or in progress by Joseph Bell DeRemer. The Herald described DeRemer as a man of "indomitable energy," "wonderful equanimity," exacting standards, high integrity, who would work with only one client at a time and supervise projects from beginning to end.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Grand Forks Herald, Silver Anniversary Edition, 1904.

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- City Assessor's list of property owners, Grand Forks City Hall, Grand Forks, North Dakota.
- Crawford, Louis F. History of North Dakota. Chicago: The American Historical Society, 1931. Vol. 2, pp. 101-102.
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- "Samuel DeRemer dies at Bemidji." Grand Forks Herald, undated, ca. 1967 clipping in J. B. DeRemer house file, State Historical Society of North Dakota.



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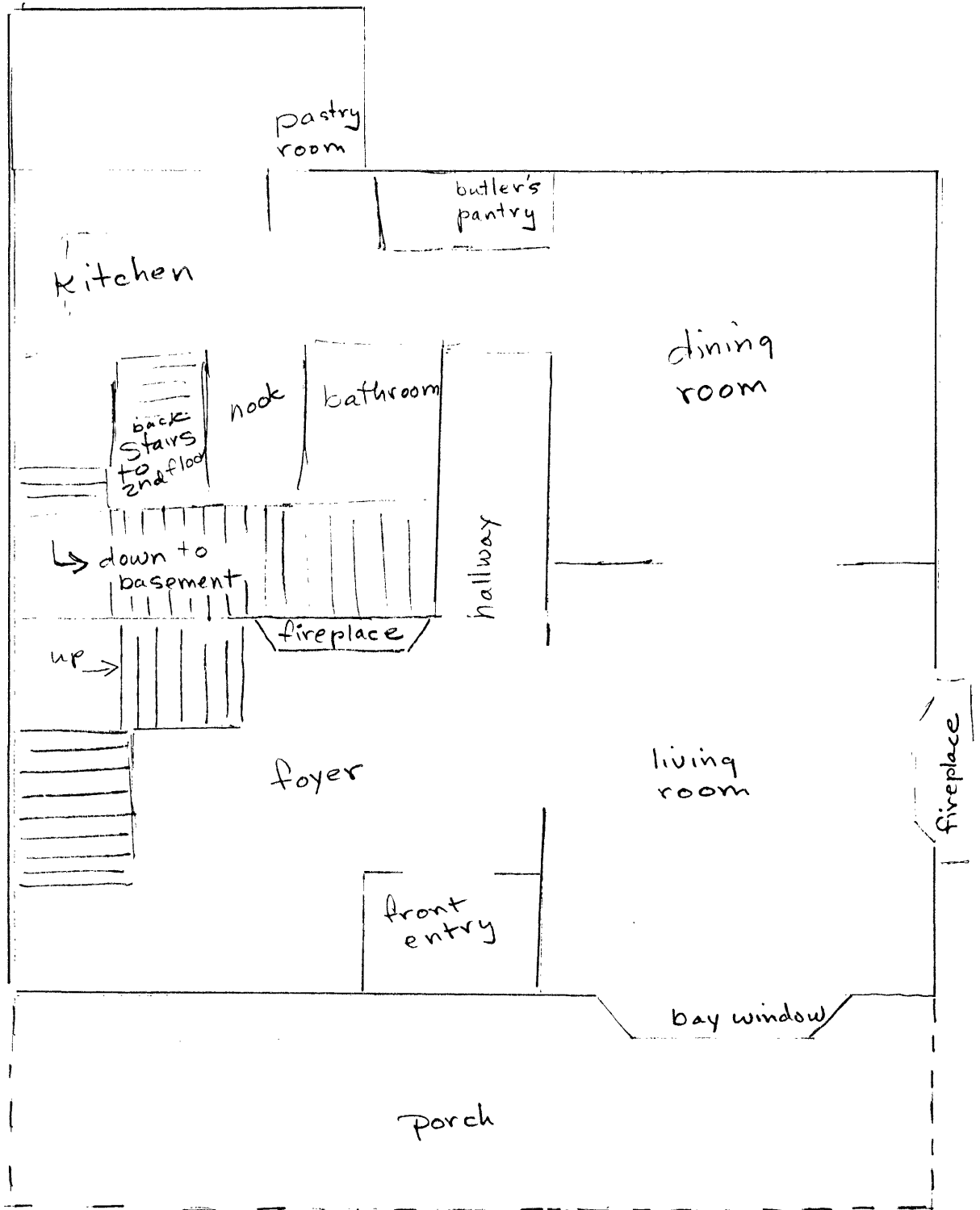
BIBLIOGRAPHY, continued:

Sanborn Insurance Maps for 1906, 1912, 1916, 1927 updated to 1960. At Chester Fritz Library, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, N. D.

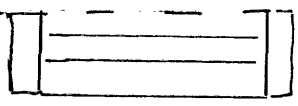
Souvenir, Grand Forks: Briefly Illustrated Facts. Grand Forks; Herald Printers, 1907, n.p. (historic photos of deRemer house and flower garden).

"Two Days Spent in North Dakota." Unnamed newspaper, undated clipping, probably from "Star" newspaper, Washington, N.J., ca. 1908 in J.B. DeRemer house file, State Historical Society of North Dakota.

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← North



Joseph Bell DeRomer  
house  
625 Belmont Rd.

Sketch 1  
first floor plan