

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: ~~Nomination~~ *remove*

Property Name: Viets Hotel

Multiple Name: Downtown Grand Forks MRA

State & County: NORTH DAKOTA, Grand Forks

Date Received:      Date of Pending List:      Date of 16th Day:      Date of 45th Day:      Date of Weekly List:  
4/5/2005

Reference number: 82001341

Nominator: State

Reason For Review:

\_\_\_\_ Accept      \_\_\_\_ Return      \_\_\_\_ Reject      \_\_\_\_ Date

Abstract/Summary  
Comments:

*Removed*

Recommendation/  
Criteria

Reviewer Control Unit

Discipline \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION:      see attached comments : No      see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.

# NORTH DAKOTA CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY

## Base Data Form

1. County Grand Forks, North Dakota
2. Site Number CK 564  
*(Downtown Grand Forks MRA)*
3. Site Name (s) Viets Hotel (Richardson House) ~~common name:~~ Hall Apartments
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: 309-311 Third Street South Sec. 3 T 151 N / R 50 W  
Plat: Viets Addition Block 1 Lots 3 and 4  
UTMG: A. 14. 647 540. 5309 380. B. \_\_\_\_\_  
C. \_\_\_\_\_ D. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Access: visible  
Location: the east side of south Third Street between Gertrude and Division  
Avenues approximately 400' west of the Red River of the North  
Acreage: less than one acre  
Verbal boundary: above city lots 100 x 400 feet
8. A. General description of site: The Viet's Hotel (Richardson House) is a two-story  
frame building located on the east side of South Third Street between Gertrude  
and Division Avenues. Its back yard overlooks the Red River of the North.  
Built in 1876 by Frank Viets, the hotel was altered shortly after construction  
and had achieved its present U shape by 1880.<sup>1</sup> Now a rooming house, its  
exterior has been moderately well maintained and the front elevation, in  
particular, remains in nearly original condition. Its interior has been  
substantially altered, and is now subdivided into apartments. (continued)  
B. Condition of site: fair
9. Owner's name/address: Alice J. Quale c/o Mrs. Roy Bachellor, c/ o Postmaster  
Perham, Minnesota 56573
10. Occupant's name/address: tenants
11. Historic Register value: Nat. ☐ State ☐ Undt. ☐ 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  
Other surveys in which included none Roberts
16. Recommendations: being nominated to NRHP in MRN: Historic Resources of downtown  
Grand Forks, North Dakota (Partial Inventory: Historic and ARchitectural Properties
17. Environment: Elevation \_\_\_\_\_ Nearest Water: Type \_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Distance \_\_\_\_\_ Direction \_\_\_\_\_  
Soil conditions: \_\_\_\_\_  
Soil Texture: \_\_\_\_\_

## 17. Environment, Cont.

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

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

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

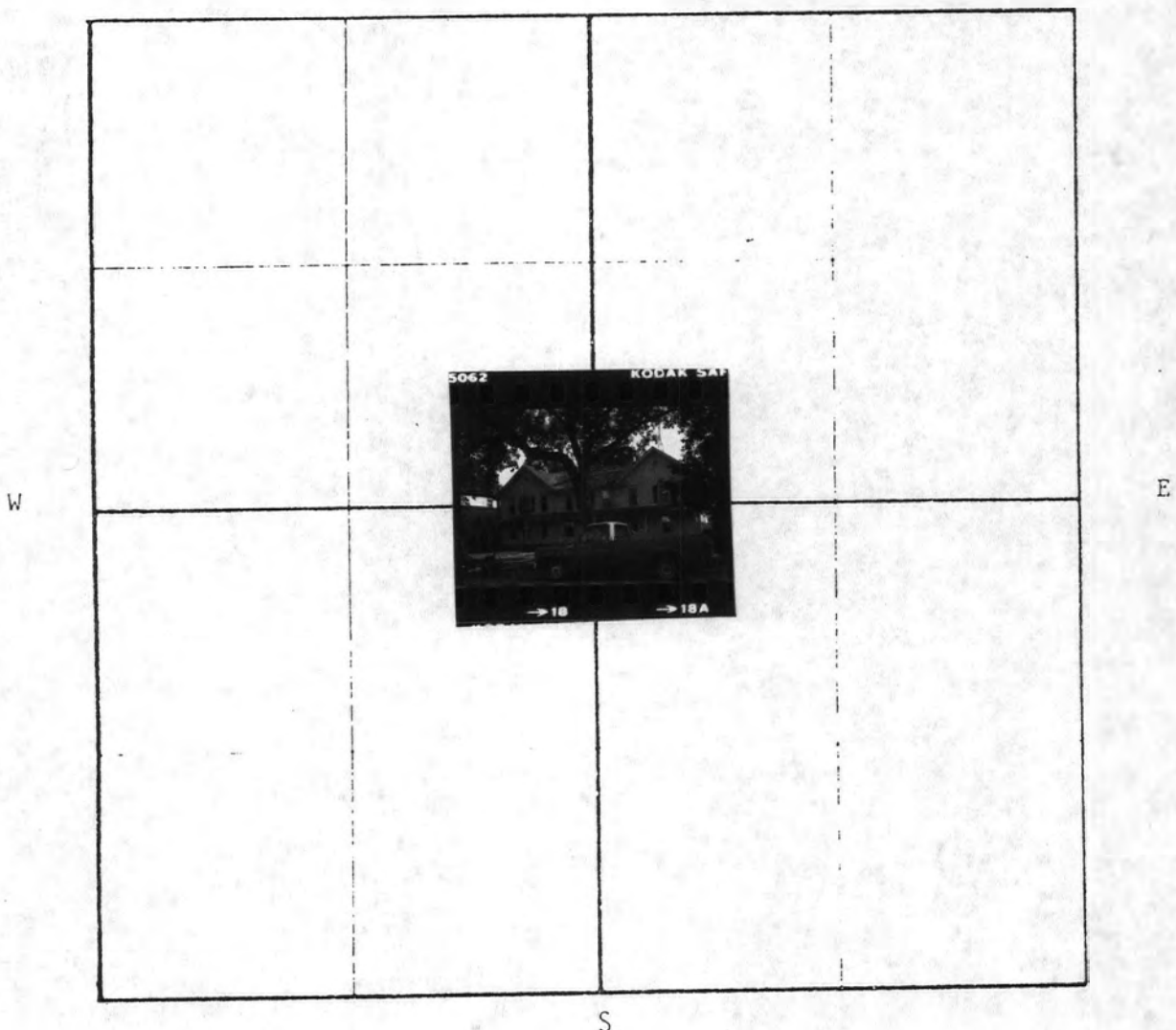
19. Photos: No B/W x Color Prints Slides Comments/ID code \_\_\_\_\_contact print (attached): Roll 21 Frame 208 x 10 glossies (attached): Roll 50 Frames 15,17,18,19Negatives stored at: Division of Archaeology and Historic PreservationState Historical Society of North Dakota

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

## 20. Sketch Map of Site:

Scale: \_\_\_\_\_

N

Recorded by: C. Kudzia Date 7/81Revised by: Norene and Joe Roberts and Gary Henrickson Date 9/81Historical Research, Inc. 5406 Penn Avenue S.  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55419

27. Thematic category settlement/architecture 28. Date or period 1876
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 Vernacular Greek Revival
- B. Architect/engineer \_\_\_\_\_
- C. Contractor/builder \_\_\_\_\_
- D. Original use hotel
- E. Present use apartments
- F. Number of stories 2 G. Basement: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Partial \_\_\_
- H. Foundation Material \_\_\_\_\_
- I. Wall Construction frame
- J. Wall Treatment lap
- K. Roof type and material shingle
- L. Number of bays: Front \_\_\_ Side \_\_\_ M. Plan shape U-shaped
31. Frontage 75 feet 32. Distance from road 30 feet
33. Number of outbuildings none 34. Description of outbuildings \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

35. Changes Part of north wing is said by owner to be original. Birdseye view of 1880 shows hotel to be substantially unchanged over last 100 years. Sanborn maps show a shed addition to south wing removed ca. 1901-06 and a one-story addition added to interior court of north wing ca. 1912-16.

36. Information sources/References

The Viets Hotel was built in 1876 by Col. Frank Viets, pioneer businessman of Grand Forks, who settled in the city in 1872.<sup>3</sup> Viets built the first flour mill in North Dakota in 1877 not far upstream from the hotel.<sup>4</sup> Originally from Ohio, Viets first moved to Georgetown, Minnesota, in 1870 where he and his wife ran a hotel and stage stop. (Cont.)

37. Reason for significance:

Viets Hotel is easily the best representative of early settlement in Grand Forks. It was built by Frank Viets, a prominent business and political leader in the early town. It is one of a handful of surviving pioneer frame buildings, and it is substantially original. It is the oldest surviving hotel in town. It is an excellent example of vernacular Greek Revival architecture, which was a common, if short-lived, style in the town's earliest days. This site is unique in Grand Forks in its power to suggest the historic character and architecture of first settlement.

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 CK 564Item No. 8.A.Architectural Description

The two-story frame hotel is roughly U shaped. The front elevation is formed by the end gables of the U's wings and a connecting gable roof between. Beneath the paired end gables the fenestration of the front facade is symmetrical: the north wing and connecting wings have three windows above three windows or three windows above a door and two windows. The south wing has two windows above a door and a window.

The hotel roof is wood-shingled; its eaves overhang the exterior walls only slightly. The cornices of the gable ends are returned. There is a wide frieze board just below the cornice. The exterior walls are three inch lap wood siding finished with pilaster strips at the corners. The short eaves, returned cornices, frieze board, and pilaster strips are all characteristic of the Greek Revival style.

The windows are 2/2, double-hung with cornice moldings. Some of the moldings have been removed on the side windows, many of the windows have aluminum storms and screens, and the rear windows appear to be of more recent manufacture than the front windows.

An open porch with Tuscan columns and a rolled asphalt roof ties the three wings together at the front of the building. The south wing entrance features a trabeated doorway with double sidelights.

The rear of the hotel is less symmetrical than the front. The rear south wing of the hotel is substantially larger than the north wing despite the removal of an end shed between 1901 and 1906. Between 1912 and 1916 a one-story addition with a cat-slide roof was added to the north wing. Since then, the building exterior has not been substantially altered.<sup>2</sup>

36. Information sources/References (Cont.)

In 1872, they settled in Grand Forks and took charge of the new Hudson Bay Company's Northwestern Hotel.<sup>5</sup> Viets bought both the Hudson Bay Company store and hotel in 1875 when the Company ended its activities in Grand Forks. The following year Viets erected the Viets Hotel.<sup>6</sup>

Although Viets continued in the hotel business for many years, his association with the Viets Hotel was short lived. By 1879, the Viets Hotel, one of the three largest hotels in Grand Forks, was managed by Col. Viets' in-law W.B. Dow.<sup>7</sup> By 1884, Viets had sold the property. It was renamed the "Richardson House," with W.H. Topping, proprietor.<sup>8</sup> Viets and J.J. Dow became the owners and managers of the first-class Hotel Dacotah, erected in 1888.<sup>9</sup> Viets was elected to the State Senate and served during the 1893-95 sessions.<sup>10</sup> (Cont.)

## NORTH DAKOTA CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY

Continuation form

Site Number CK 564

Item No.

36. Information sources/References (Cont.)

The Richardson House continued to be operated as a hotel and boarding house until sometime between 1892 and 1897; it was then subdivided into three dwellings until around 1906 when it became the "Hall Hotel," a name it carries to this day.<sup>11</sup>

The clientele at the Viets Hotel/Richardson House appears to have been genteel. According to one account, the hotel catered mainly to the steamboat trade before the railroad era began in 1880 because of its proximity to the steamboat landing at the Red River.<sup>12</sup> According to an account of a recent arrival to Grand Forks in the fall of 1887:

We followed Third Street that morning till we reached the Richardson House, now Hotel Hall, then the most popular family hotel, owned by Colonel Topping, with Bert Wells as clerk. Here lodged most of the unmarried younger set, and here stayed the then so well-known multi-millionaire lumber man, Mr. T.B. Walker and Mrs. Walker, when he was here to look after his saw-mill.<sup>13</sup>

## Notes

<sup>1</sup> Bird's Eye View of Grand Forks, 1880.

<sup>2</sup> Sanborn Insurance map, 1884, 1888, 1892, 1897, 1901, 1906, 1912, 1916.

<sup>3</sup> Bladow, 1974, p.14; Lounsberry, Vol.I, 1917, p. 508; The Record magazine, Fargo, N.D. 1 (1):22.

<sup>4</sup> "Saw Mill First Business," Grand Forks Herald, June 20, 1954.

<sup>5</sup> Dudley, 1897, p.44; The Record magazine, Fargo, N.D. 2 (4) October 1896, p.8.

<sup>6</sup> Fred Goodman, "Little Old Grand Forks," Typescript on file at Myra Museum, Grand Forks, n.d., p.7.

<sup>7</sup> "Hotels and Boarding Houses," Grand Forks Herald, 1(1):1.

<sup>8</sup> Sanborn Insurance map, 1884; Manual and Directory for the City of Grand Forks, North Dakota, 1885, The Plaindealer Co., p.126.

## NORTH DAKOTA CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY

Continuation form

Site Number CK 564

Item No.

Notes (Cont.)

<sup>9</sup>Dudley, 1897, p.63.

<sup>10</sup>The Record, 1(1):22.

<sup>11</sup>Sanborn Insurance maps, 1892, 1897, 1901, 1906, 1912, 1916, 1927  
updated to 1960.

<sup>12</sup>"Saw Mill First Business," Grand Forks Herald, June 20, 1954.

<sup>13</sup>Mrs. J. E. Engstad, "The White Kid Glove Era (in Grand Forks)," paper  
presented before the Franklin Club, December, 1941. Typescript on file  
with Myra Museum, Grand Forks, pp.5-6.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received  
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 124

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Downtown Grand Forks Multiple Resource Area  
State North Dakota

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

1. Viets Hotel (Richardson House) **Substantive Review**

Keeper Beth Grosvenor 10/26/82

Attest

2. Building at 317 S. 3rd St. **Substantive Review**

Keeper Beth Grosvenor 10/26/82

Attest

3. Speed Printing **Substantive Review**

Keeper Beth Grosvenor 10/26/82

Attest

4. Building at 201 S. 3rd St. **Substantive Review**

Keeper Beth Grosvenor 10/26/82

Attest

5. Red River Valley Brick Co. **Substantive Review**

Keeper Beth Grosvenor 10/26/82

Attest

6. Odd Fellows Block **Substantive Review**

Keeper Beth Grosvenor 10/26/82

Attest

7. Dakota Block **Substantive Review**

Keeper Beth Grosvenor 10/26/82

Attest

8. Electric Construction Co. Building **Substantive Review**

Keeper Beth Grosvenor 10/26/82

Attest

9. Clifford Annex **Substantive Review**

Keeper Beth Grosvenor 10/26/82

Attest

10. Finks and Gokey Block **Substantive Review**

Keeper Beth Grosvenor 10/26/82

Attest





Richardson House (Viets Hotel), MRN of  
Grand Forks, ND  
Photographer: Joe Roberts  
Summer 1981  
Negative: ND SHPO, Bismarck  
Elevation: North  
Building No. 1  
Roll 50 Frame 15

Richardson House (Viets Hotel), MRN of  
Grand Forks, ND  
Photographer: Joe Roberts  
Summer 1981  
Negative: ND SHPO, Bismarck  
Elevation: East  
Building No. 1  
Roll 50 Frame 17







Richardson House (Viets Hotel), MRN of  
Downtown Grand Forks, ND  
Photographer: Joe Roberts  
Summer 1981  
Negative: ND SHPO, Bismarck  
Elevation: South  
Building No. 1  
Roll 50 Frame 18





ONE  
WAY  
←

Richardson House (Viets Hotel), MRN of  
Grand Forks, ND  
Photographer: Joe Roberts  
Summer 1981  
Negative: ND SHPO, Bismarck  
Elevation: West  
Building No. 1  
Roll 50 Frame 19

Please refer to the map in the  
Multiple Property Cover Sheet  
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000472



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Substantive Review

Viets Hotel (Richardson House) (Downtown Grand  
Forks MRA)  
Grand Forks County  
NORTH DAKOTA

Working No. 9/13/82-2521  
Fed. Reg. Date: 2.1.83  
Date Due: 10/14/82 - 10/28/82  
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 10/26/82  
☐ RETURN  
☐ REJECT

☐ resubmission  
☐ nomination by person or local government  
☐ owner objection  
☐ appeal

Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Substantive Review: ☒ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria Accept - A, C  
Reviewer Grover  
Discipline Historia  
Date 10/26/82  
☐ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: ☐ technical corrections cited below  
☐ substantive reasons discussed below

## 1. Name

## 2. Location

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

## 4. Owner of Property

## 5. Location of Legal Description

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

## 7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

☐ summary paragraph  
☐ completeness  
☐ clarity  
☐ alterations/integrity  
☐ dates  
☐ boundary selection

Linda McClelland/WASO/NPS

06/26/2009 10:04 AM

To Edson Beall/WASO/NPS@NPS

cc lbmeidinger@nd.gov

bcc

Subject Fw: question

Edson--Can you sort this out. Thanks, Linda

----- Forwarded by Linda McClelland/WASO/NPS on 06/26/2009 10:03 AM -----



"Meidinger, Lorna B."  
<lbmeidinger@nd.gov>

06/26/2009 09:27 AM

To "Linda\_McClelland@nps.gov"

<Linda\_McClelland@nps.gov>

cc

Subject question

Good Morning Linda!

I've recently found a couple discrepancies between our working list of National Register properties and our more comprehensive database. In checking these against the NPS database I found five properties that were on our lists as having been removed from the National Register but were still on the NPS list. The copies of the requests for removal are dated 24 February 2005 but I could not find the properties anywhere on the published weekly lists for that year. My question is who I should talk to about looking into this? Or should I resubmit the requests with a letter explaining what I know of the situation?

The properties are all in Grand Forks County, North Dakota: Viets Hotel, House at 1648 Riverside Drive, Building at 205 DeMers Ave., Building at 317 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, and New Hampshire Apartments.

Lorna Meidinger  
Architectural Historian  
National Register Coordinator

State Historical Society of ND  
612 E Boulevard Ave  
Bismarck ND 58505

701-328-2089 (phone)  
701-328-3710 (fax)

FR 3/21/05

Request for RN

[Federal Register: March 21, 2005 (Volume 70, Number 53)]  
[Notices]  
[Page 13540-13541]  
From the Federal Register Online via GPO Access [wais.access.gpo.gov]  
[DOCID:fr21mr05-99]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places; Notification of Pending  
Nominations and Related Actions

Nominations for the following properties being considered for listing or related actions in the National Register were received by the National Park Service before February 26, 2005. Pursuant to section 60.13 of 36 CFR part 60 written comments concerning the significance of these properties under the National Register criteria for evaluation may be forwarded by United States Postal Service, to the National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, 1849 C St., NW., 2280, Washington, DC 20240; by all other carriers, National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, 1201 Eye St., NW., 8th floor, Washington DC 20005; or by fax, 202-371-6447. Written

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or faxed comments should be submitted by April 5, 2005.

Carol D. Shull,  
Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places.

CALIFORNIA

Contra Costa County

Merrill, Charles W., House, 407 Camino Sobrante, Orinda, 05000251

IOWA

Delaware County

Kirkpatrick, Robert Round Barn, (Iowa Round Barns: The Sixty Year Experiment TR), 3342-120th Ave., Coggon, 05000252

Polk County

Universalist Church, 420 4th St., Mitchellville, 05000253

KENTUCKY

Jefferson County

Schaefer--Meyer Brewing Co., Address Restricted, Louisville, 05000255

Oldham County



Bradshaw--Duncan House, 8502 Todds Point Rd., Crestwood, 05000254

MONTANA

Gallatin County

Three Valleys State Bank, 202 Main St., Three Forks, 05000256

NEW MEXICO

Sierra County

Fort McRae, Address Restricted, Elephant Butte, 05000258

NEW YORK

Albany County

Van derzee, Cornelius and Agnietje, Van Derzee Rd., Coeymans,  
05000259

Cayuga County

Ingham, William Smith, House, 3069 W Main St., Meridian, 05000263

Columbia County

Pulver, William and Victoria, House, 2329 Cty Rd. 8, Snyderville,  
05000260

Dutchess County

St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, Leedsville Rd., N side, W of NY 41,  
Amenia Union, 05000261

Greene County

Parsonage, The, 424 Main St., Oak Hill, 05000262

Nassau County

Saint Mary's Chapel, Rushmore Ave. bet Roslyn Ave. and Glen Cove  
Ave., Carle Place, 05000270

Saratoga County

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 1 Grove St., Schuylerville, 05000264

Suffolk County

Port Jefferson Village Historic District, Roughly along E. Main St.,  
E. Broadway, Grant St., High St. and South St., Port Jefferson,  
05000265

NORTH CAROLINA

Cleveland County

King Street Overhead Bridge, King St. Bet. Battleground and Railroad  
Aves., Kings Mountain, 05000268

Person County

Long, James A and Laura Thompson, House, 217 S. Main St., Roxboro,  
05000267

Stanly County

Second Street Historic District, Portions of 100 and 200 blks N.  
Second St. and 100 blk West North St., Albemarle, 05000266

Yadkin County

Morse and Wade Building, 100 E. Main St., East Bend, 05000269

PUERTO RICO

Cayey Municipality

Rodriguez Morales, Juana, House, 7 Nunez Romeu St., Cayey, 05000257

VIRGINIA

Louisa County

Mineral Historic District, Roughly along Mineral, Louisa, Lee,  
Richmond, Albemarle, Pendleton, Piedmont, Old Tolarsville, S.  
Cecilia, et al, Mineral, 05000271

WISCONSIN

Wood County

Marshfield Senior High School, 900 E. Fourth St., Marshfield,  
05000272

A request for REMOVAL has been made for the following resources:

NORTH DAKOTA

Grand Forks

Building at 205 DeMers Ave., (Downtown Grand Forks MRA), 205 DeMers  
Ave., Grand Forks, 82001316

Building at 317 S. 3rd St., (Downtown Grand Forks MRA), 317 S. 3rd  
St., Grand Forks, 82001318

House at 1648 Riverside Drive, 1648 Riverside Dr., Grand Forks,  
94001074

New Hampshire Apartments, (Downtown Grand Forks MRA), 105 N. 3rd  
St., Grand Forks, 82001332

Viets Hotel, (Downtown Grand Forks MRA), 309-311 3rd St., S, Grand  
Forks, 82001341

[FR Doc. 05-5447 Filed 3-18-05; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 4312-51-P