

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

For NPS use only

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

received **OCT 16 1985**
date entered **NOV 20 1985**

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

1. Name

historic Union Block

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 21 - 25 Main Street West

N/A not for publication

city, town Mayville

N/A vicinity of

state North Dakota

code 38

county Traill

code 097

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<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 checked="" 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Maudie Mootz

street & number Box 308

city, town Larimore

N/A vicinity of

state North Dakota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Traill County Registry of Deeds

street & number Traill County Courthouse

city, town Hillsboro

state North Dakota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historical and Architectural Survey
of Portions of Mayville, ND

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date November, 1982

N/A federal state county local

depository for survey records North Dakota State Historical Society

city, town Bismarck

state North Dakota

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Union Block is a well preserved brown brick commercial building that spans two city lots in downtown Mayville, North Dakota. The building is divided by a central frame partition wall and enclosed stairwell to the second story. The exterior walls and front facade are constructed of brick. Both exterior walls are accented by sandstone corner stones which are also repeated on either side of the central door way leading to the second floor. Perhaps this building's most visible architectural detailing is the fine brick work on the main facade. Various uses of brick in different spacing and heights make up the parapet, cornice, pilasters and dentils. In the center of parapet is the "1900" construction date. Fenestration consists of nine second story window openings. Those on the east of the central doorway have been altered by infilling window openings to accommodate smaller aluminum windows. Those west of doorway are original two over two, wood frame windows. All windows rest on sandstone sills.

The storefront is divided into two halves being seperated by the central staircase which has a sandstone threshold and new metal door. The storefront on the east half of the building (Lot 6) has an altered brick kickplate with original painted brass window framing and leaded block glass transom. The doorway is recessed and contains an aluminum framed plate glass door with an air conditioner in the transom opening. The large interior front window display space retains a hardwood floor with drilled holes in it for measuring rope; as the building was once the Gambles Store. The ceiling in this room has been lowered through the use of acoustical tile. The second floor on this side houses two renovated apartments.

The western half (Lot 7) of the front facade has been altered with the use of brick to fill in the kickplates. Plate glass windows, aluminum framing, new central double doors and the use of white structural glass in transom openings are also alterations. The interior was completely renovated c. 1960. The second story space has been, since 1944, and still remains, the Masonic Temple.

The building is a key contributor to the streetscape of this block and tastefully blends with the commercial buildings on either side of it. The Union Block continues today to be an important retail commercial outlet - a role which the building has had for the last 85 years.

One Contributing Building.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1900 **Builder/Architect** William C. Albrant, architect

E.J. Holberg, builder

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Union Block is significant for its distinctive commercial architecture which represents the work of an early North Dakota architect, William C. Albrant. The building also reflects the 1899 post-fire construction period which occurred in downtown Mayville. It possesses integrity of location, design, setting, and craftsmanship.

In 1899 much of the north side of block 33 was destroyed by a fire. Shortly there after new construction was started on Lots 6, 7 and 8. These lots were all owned by individuals who got together and hired Fargo architect William C. Albrant to design two separate buildings on the sites. Albrant consequently designed the Union Block for Charles H. Hanson and A.L. Thompson on Lots 6 & 7. The second building - only one story - was built for furniture store owner Ole Lura. The co-joined buildings were completed and occupied by August 1900. They also demonstrate the excellent craftsmanship of local Mayville contractor E.J. Holberg who constructed both buildings. Holberg used brick as the primary building material for the Union Block. Brick came into wide use in downtown commercial blocks after successful enforcement of a fire-limits ordinance early in 1897. Holbert's skillful use of the material allowed for a simple, but ornate, exterior facade design. The use of patterned brickwork makes the Union Block blend into the smaller adjoining Lura Block on the west. At the same time, it blends harmoniously with the rest of Mayville's downtown streetscape. Architectural significance can be attributed to the building's fine commercial design and its relationship to early North Dakota Architect William C. Albrant. Albrant died in 1905, but contributed heavily to the early architecture of the state. Besides designing the Mayville City Library, (listed on The National Register of Historic Places in 1977) he is also responsible for the addition to Old Main on the Mayville State College campus in 1905. Other important work includes the Robb-Lawrence Building, in Fargo and two buildings, the Carnegie Library and Science Hall on the North Dakota State University campus. All three of these buildings are listed on the national Register of Historic Places. Albrant also did the design work for the Moose Jaw City Hall in Saskatchewan, Canada in 1904-05. The Union Block therefore represents an early small town commercial design that demonstrates Albrant's versatility as an architect.

The Union Block is also being nominated under the commerce area of significance. This building has served as a vital commercial space in downtown Mayville. The separate business rooms have housed a variety of retail operations. Most notably from 1900 until 1940, Charles Hanson's (the east first floor room) drug store. In 1940 it became

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .14 acres

Quadrangle name Mayville South

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	4	6	6	6	0	3	0	5	2	6	1	8	4	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

Lots 6 & 7 Block 33 of the original Mayville Townsite

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

state N/A code county code

state N/A code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title James R. Schimmer and Daniel Cornejo

organization Cornejo-Schimmer Planners date June 20, 1985

street & number Suite 814 Black Building telephone (701) 235-3147

city or town Fargo state North Dakota

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.

James E. Sperry
State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title State Historic Preservation Officer (North Dakota) date September 30, 1985

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

Keeper of the National Register

date 11/20/85

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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home to the Gamble's Hardware Store. The Gamble's Store was an important commercial contributor to the downtown core for many years until it went out of business. This business was the first "department" store to locate in Mayville's Downtown. It contributes greatly to the retail market by offering a diversity of products for the local consumer. The Gamble's store moved from this location in the late 1960's and remains an important retail operation in the downtown. The west half of the first floor has also been occupied by a succession of less important retail stores, however, it still continues today to operate as a viable commercial facility.

The fact that the Union Block is a representative example of architect W.C. Albrant's small town store work and the building's long-standing commercial role make this Block both architecturally and commercially significant to the City of Mayville, North Dakota.

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Bibliography

Mayville Tribune

March 29, 1900
April 5, 1900
August 2, 1900
February 18, 1915
May 24, 1928
January 3, 1929

Trall County Tribune

January 6, 1938
November 2, 1939
April 5, 1945
April 19, 1945
August 19, 1948
August 20, 1975