

NORTH DAKOTA CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY

Base Data Form

- 1. County Grand Forks, North Dakota 2. Site Number CK42
- 3. Site Name (s) Finks and Gokey Block (DeMers Ave. & Grand Forks Ave.)
- 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: 414-420 DeMers Avenue Sec. 3 T 151 N / R 50 W
Plat: Original Townsite Block 22 Lot Rear 90.35'
UTMG: A. 14.647030.5309520. B. of Lots 10 & 12
C. D.
- 7. Access: visible
Location: the west side of the alley on the north side of
DeMers Avenue
Acreage: less than one acre
Verbal boundary: lots listed above, 90.35 X 100 feet
- 8. A. General description of site: this is a two-story, brick, commercial building of rectangular plan. It is of flat-roofed design, and is set back the width of the sidewalk. The back (north) wall has a frame two-story shed roof addition which runs most of the length of the wall. A part of the west wall adjoins an abandoned one-story service station which is set much farther back from DeMers Avenue. The other three elevations are entirely visible. The back wall overlooks a parking lot.

(Cont.)

B. Condition of site: Good
- 9. Owner's name/address: Western Investment Co. 414 DeMers Avenue
- 10. Occupant's name/address: E.J. Lander Co., Hardware Hank, etc. GF 58201
- 11. Historic Register value: Nat. State Undt. None On Reg. In District District
- 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 Properti
- 17. Environment: Elevation Nearest Water: Type
Name Distance Direction
Soil conditions:
Soil Texture:

nlrk

17. Environment, Cont.

Site Number CK42

Ground Cover: _____

Terrain: _____

18. Local contact person or organization: _____

19. Photos: No B/W xColor Prints Slides Comments/ID code

Contact Print: Roll 4 , Frame 9

8 X 10 Glossies: Roll 52 , Frame 1,2,3,4

Negatives stored at: Division of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

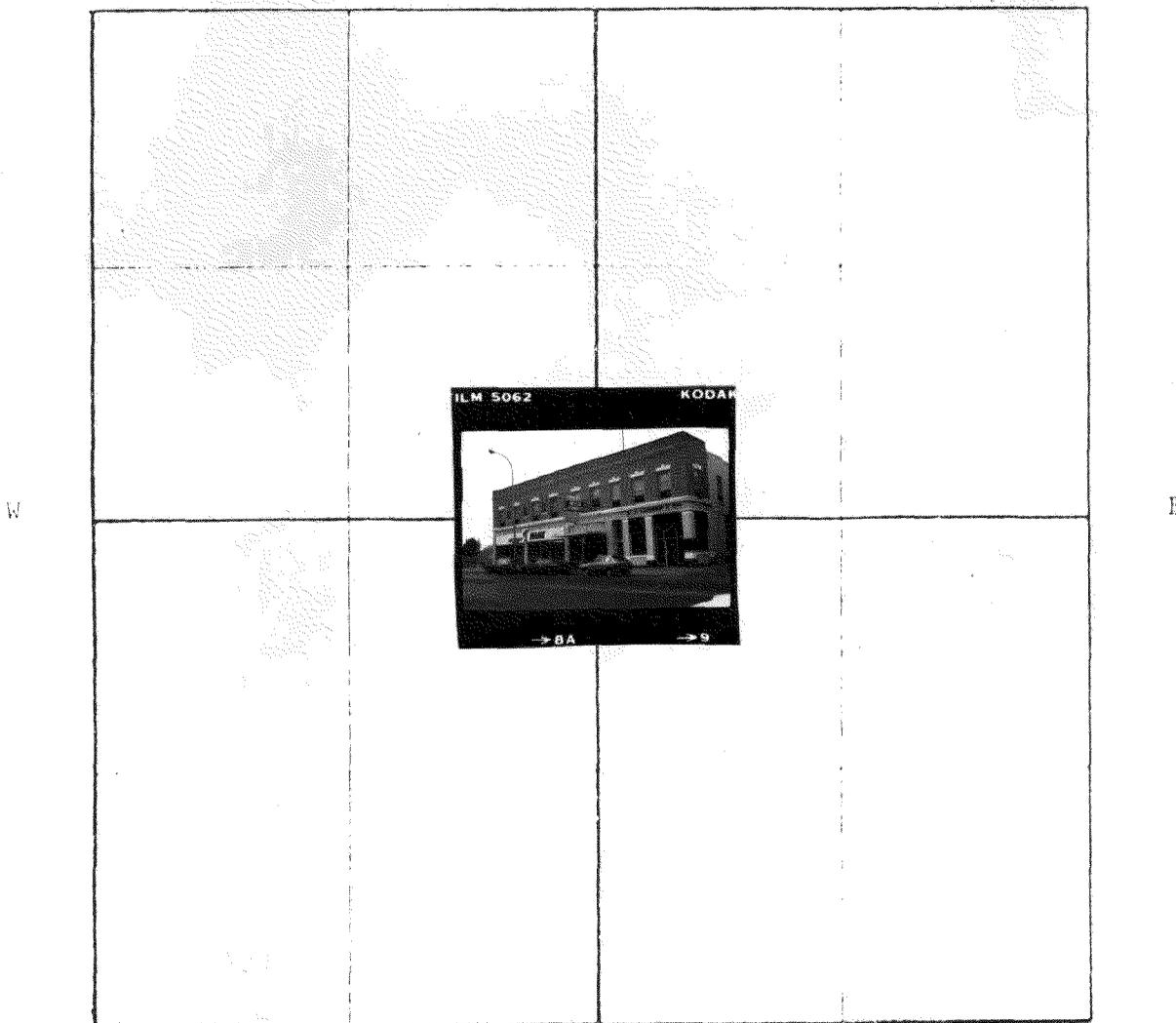
State Historical Society of North Dakota

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 July, 1981

Revised by: Norene and Joe Roberts and Gary Henrickson

Date 9/81

Historical Research, Inc. 5406 Penn Avenue S.
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55419

9/1/81

27. Thematic category Commerce 28. Date or period 1881
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 19th century Commercial vernacular
- B. Architect/engineer _____
- C. Contractor/builder _____
- D. Original use Commercial
- E. Present use Commercial/residential
- F. Number of stories 2 G. Basement: Yes No Partial _____
- H. Foundation Material _____
- I. Wall Construction Frame
- J. Wall Treatment Brick with stone trim
- K. Roof type and material Flat
- L. Number of bays: Front 9 Side _____ M. Plan shape Rectangular
31. Frontage 100' 32. Distance from road 0
33. Number of outbuildings none 34. Description of outbuildings _____
- _____
- _____

35. Changes

The brick and stone sills and piers on the east side of the front facade were either installed or remodeled in 1928. At some time between 1910 when E.J. Lander Co. moved into this building and 1914 when John W. Ross (architect) died, Ross remodeled the second floor along the front of the Finks building (Cont.)

36. Information sources/References

The Finks building is the third location of the E.J. Lander Company which began loaning money on first mortgages and investment securities in the Red River Valley. ² Lander and Co. were agents for farm lands in nearly all townships surrounding Grand Forks. ³ The E.J. Lander and Co. offices have remained (Cont.)

37. Reason for significance:

The Finks and Gokey Block is one of the earliest brick commercial buildings in Grand Forks. It is the earliest free-standing survivor of the first generation of brick commercial architecture in the downtown area and was representative of the commercial style and construction of its time (frame construction, brick faced).

Recorded by C. Kudzia Date 7/81

Revised by Norene and Joe Roberts, Gary Henrickson Date 9/81

9/13/81

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8. A. The building is of commercial vernacular style with classical details. The first floor is divided on the main facade by irregularly spaced brick piers which are sheathed in ceramic tile for most of the length of the storefront. The four exposed piers sit atop stone base blocks and support simple squared decorative capitals. A stone molding is applied to the building just above the tops of the piers. A stone sill course with small cornice separates the first and second stories. Fenestration is one-over-one, double-hung sash with aluminum storm windows. The second-story windows are topped with jack arch stone keystones, and a modest metal cornice sits below a parapetted wall capped with a stone coping. The main (south) facade wraps around the east wall for a short distance. East, west, and north windows have most of the original segmented arch brick lintels. Fifteen foot high ceilings in the Hardware Hank store are tin. The Lander office contains the original oak woodwork and wainscoting.

35. ...for E.J. Lander as well as installing bathrooms, evening up the second story windows, installing doors, baseboards, closets, lath and plastering.¹

36. ...in the Finks Building since 1910.⁴

The Finks Building was erected in 1881 and was one of the first brick-faced business blocks west of Fourth Street as the downtown began expanding west of the Red River.⁵ Architecturally it is a rather unadorned brick commercial building common to the period of early brick business buildings before the Richardsonian Romanesque fashion became popular. It was originally divided into four stores in 1884, one of which was a wholesale grocers,⁶ and was subsequently occupied by tailors, book sellers and printers, and a furniture store.⁷ The 1897 Sanborn Map shows that this building was occupied mainly by the Commercial Hotel, with hotel parlor and office at the east end where the Lander and Co. offices are today. Various small businesses have been tenants since 1900, including the Y.W.C.A. (on the second floor) from 1912 to 1928.⁸

Notes

¹In "Specifications for remodeling Cross House." Finks Building papers on file with E.J. Lander Co. offices, Grand Forks.

²Clement A. Lounsberry, North Dakota: History and People. S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., Chicago, 1917, p.27.

³William L. Dudley, City of Grand Forks Illustrated. Herald Printers, Grand Forks, N.D., p.54.

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Notes (Cont.)

⁴"Location of business of E.J. Lander and Co.," Manuscript Collection A3, North Dakota Room, Chester Fritz Library, U.N.D.

⁵Sanborn Insurance Maps, 1884, 1888, 1892.

⁶Sanborn Insurance Map, 1884.

⁷Sanborn Insurance Maps, 1888, 1892.

⁸Sanborn Insurance Maps, 1912, 1916; Polk and Co., Grand Forks City Directory, 1928, p.311.

37. Continued

The Finks and Gokey Block is one of the last two remaining frame with brick veneer commercial buildings in Grand Forks. Although partially remodeled with small windows on the second story front facade and new piers between the storefront windows, the building is essentially intact. The west store retains its original pressed metal ceilings. On the east storefront, the Lander's office retains its 1905-10 character, when E. J. Lander began his offices there. The Lander's office retains its tall wide windows on the east elevation along the alley, as well as tall ceilings on the interior.

The Finks and Gokey Block is also significant for its association with E. J. Lander and Company, which was one of the largest and best known real estate and farm loan businesses in the Lower Red River Valley of the North. Lander's loan and mortgage business extended to Minnesota, Wyoming, and Montana. He was director of the Grand Forks Street Railway Company, Secretary of the Grand Forks Building and Loan Association, President of the Northern State Bank, and President of Great Northern Life Insurance Company, all while operating E. J. Lander and Company from the Finks and Gokey Block. As well as his business dealings, Lander held three terms as a Grand Forks County Commissioner, and was first President and original organizer of the Grand Forks Commercial Club. E. J. Lander and Company offices have been located continuously in the Finks and Gokey Block since circa 1910. Lander's grandsons now operate the firm out of the same office.

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