

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED 11 SEP 1979
OCT 22 1979
DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC deLendrecie's Department Store

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 620-624 Main Avenue

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN Fargo

___ VICINITY OF

STATE North Dakota

CODE

COUNTY Cass

CODE

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- ___ DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- ___ STRUCTURE
- ___ SITE
- ___ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- ___ PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- ___ BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- ___ IN PROCESS
- ___ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- ___ UNOCCUPIED
- ___ WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- ___ YES: UNRESTRICTED
- ___ NO

PRESENT USE

- ___ AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- ___ EDUCATIONAL
- ___ ENTERTAINMENT
- ___ GOVERNMENT
- ___ INDUSTRIAL
- ___ MILITARY
- ___ MUSEUM
- ___ PARK
- ___ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ___ RELIGIOUS
- ___ SCIENTIFIC
- ___ TRANSPORTATION
- ___ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Trueman and Joan Tryhus

STREET & NUMBER 620 Main Avenue

CITY, TOWN Fargo,

___ VICINITY OF

STATE North Dakota 58103

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Cass County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER South Ninth Street

CITY, TOWN Fargo,

STATE North Dakota 58103

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The former deLendrecie department store stands at the southeast corner of Main Avenue and Seventh Street in Fargo, North Dakota. It was built in two major stages (1894 and 1904) and has been extensively remodelled twice (1944 and 1975), which makes it both interesting and difficult to describe.

McMillen & Tenbusch's 1894 design extended 75 feet along Main Avenue (then Front Street) and the property's full 140 foot depth along South Seventh Street. It consisted of full basement, two complete floors and a mezzanine. The exterior was of brick bearing-wall construction, except for the ground floor Main Avenue facade which was framed in five equal cast iron bays. The brick was a dense medium-brown iron-spot variety with buttered red mortar joints; stone trim was red sandstone, probably from the Port Wing or Kettle River quarries in Wisconsin. The central cast iron bay served as principal entry to the department store, while the others were glazed for display purposes. Half of the eastern-most bay was given over to a brick Romanesque arched entry to the second floor offices; the equivalent of one additional cast iron bay extended around the corner onto the Seventh Street facade. With the exception of six rectangular windows which lit the mezzanine and of a secondary store entrance, the rest of the Seventh Street facade was blank.

Above a continuous red sandstone sill course, the second floor treatment was more elaborate, giving expression to the separate office function housed there. Pavillions were suggested at each of the building's corners, as well as in the center of the west or Seventh Street facade. These pavillions projected slightly and were further emphasized with higher parapet walls. Between them, the facade consisted of paired round-arched window openings; each was filled with a standard double-hung window and a fixed semi-circular lunette. The arches were made of beautifully cut brick voussoirs; the exaggerated keystone and other trim were of the same red sandstone as the sills, string courses and parapet caps. Extensive use is made of moulded brick.

The interior of this first phase of construction is difficult to reconstruct in any detail. Structurally, it was framed with cast iron columns and heavy timber beams, a composite system common in Fargo and elsewhere during this period of transition in American civil engineering. Two column lines ran north-south, dividing the store into three equal bays which bore no connection with the five bays of the front facade. It is unknown how the second floor offices were organized.

Fargo architect A. J. O'Shea chose to duplicate many of the original details and materials in his three-story addition of 1904. The pavillion motifs were carried to the top of the now five-story facade, and the same brick and sandstone were used. Beyond that there are some variants.

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Windows in the 1904 construction correspond to the window spacing below. At the third and fourth floors, however, they are flat-arched rectangles. At the fifth floor, keystone round arches are again introduced, but the moulded brick and graceful voussoirs are absent, perhaps as a bow to economy. O'Shea has used a Classically-inspired pressed metal cornice and a brick and sandstone parapet. Brick bull's eyes with recessed metal rosettes decorate the fifth floor corner pavillions, which also support the cornice brackets.

Apparently the elevator was installed at this time (1904) in the north-east corner near the original office entry. The second floor was converted to retail space; the top three floors became offices, an arrangement which remained much the same through the next seventy years. Minor remodelling took place in 1944, when the Main Avenue facade was sheathed in granite and limestone, and again in 1975, when a large portion of the first floor was removed and a three-story court created at the center of the store. Partitions were constructed in much of the original department store space and new light fixtures and wrought iron rails were added.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" 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 1894, 1904

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

With previous retail experience gained in Paris, France, and Yazoo, Mississippi, Canadian-born O. J. deLendrecie arrived at Fargo in 1879. His first venture, the Chicago Dry Goods House, was immediately located at 618 Front Street, the city's main commercial thoroughfare. A larger, more permanent building at that same address was eventually outgrown and deLendrecie decided in 1894 to build on the adjacent property, a strategic corner site near the Headquarters Hotel.

Despite the national economic depression in the mid-1890's, Fargo enjoyed a healthy building industry. The Great Fire of 1893 had destroyed the entire business district north of the Northern Pacific railroad tracks, and the rebuilding was immediate and optimistic. Local and out-of-town "carpetbagger" architects set up their offices in hotel rooms, tents, anything that would keep the rain off their drawing boards. McMillen & Tenbusch, of Duluth, were among the architects and contractors who had come to fulfill the prophecy of the Phoenix and, not incidentally, to make money. Their Richardsonian-Classical design for O. J. deLendrecie's department store remains one of Fargo's finest post-fire structures.

The national architectural scene had changed considerably by 1904 when deLendrecie decided to expand his original store vertically. Perhaps for economic reasons, perhaps due to the area's inherent architectural conservatism, Fargo architect Andrew J. O'Shea chose to replicate much of the 1894 facade in his design for the three-story addition. There were some internal changes at that time--probably involving conversion of the second floor as retail space--but the original exterior remained essentially unchanged.

Other cosmetic modifications have been made over the years, most notably the main entry and the interior cabinetwork done after World War II by the office of William F. Kurke. Kurke also prepared designs for a five-story addition which would have occupied the entire south half of the block. But this scheme was never carried beyond preliminaries, a fact which may reflect the Central Business District's decline during the 1960's. Eventually, in 1972, deLendrecie's (now no longer owned by the family) closed its downtown store and relocated at West Acres, the regional shopping center five miles to the southwest.

^{old}The building remained nearly vacant for almost three years until February 1975, when it was purchased for conversion into a nostalgic evocation of

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hendrickson, Robert. The Grand Emporiums. New York: Stein & Day, 1979.

Hennessey, William B., compiler. History of North Dakota... Bismarck, ND: Bismarck Tribune, 1910.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM NOT VERIFIED

QUADRANGLE NAME Fargo South

QUADRANGLE SCALE 7.5

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,4 6,6,8 5,0,0 5,1 9,3 3,4,0

B

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 10, 11 and 12, Original Townsite of Fargo, ND. of Block Six of the

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Ronald Lanier Ramsey

ORGANIZATION

DATE

28 June 1979

STREET & NUMBER

Post Office Box 2351

TELEPHONE

701-237-8614

CITY OR TOWN

Fargo,

STATE

North Dakota 58108

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

James E. Sherry

TITLE N.D. State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 8/31/1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Carol Shull

DATE 10-22-79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *William H. Barram*

DATE 10.17.79

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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turn-of-the-century life. Similar efforts had already been successful in other cities--New Orleans, Kansas City and Salt Lake City among others--but the conversion of deLendrecie's most closely parallels that of the Butler Brothers Warehouse in Minneapolis.

By the Fall of 1975 the former department store had become "Block Six of the Original Townsite" (a name derived from the legal description of its property), a collection of small stores and specialty shops. A portion of the main floor was removed, extending the former mezzanine space into the basement. Much of the store fixtures were removed and the original open floors were partitioned into separate retail establishments--an arrangement not unlike the first department stores of the 19th century. The top two floors continue to serve as office space and as storage for the shops below.

From its origins in 1879 as the Chicago Dry Goods House, the development of O. J. deLendrecie's establishment parallels the metamorphosis of Fargo's urban core. The building is also closely associated with Onesine and Eugene deLendrecie, pioneer merchants and founders of North Dakota's premier department store. Fortunately, in its latest guise, the building continues to serve retail purposes and to preserve an important example of Fargo's 19th-century architecture.