

NORTH DAKOTA CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY

Base Data Form

- 21
- ✓ 1. County Grand Forks, North Dakota 2. Site Number GF24
- ✓ 3. Site Name (s) Grand Forks Woolen Mills (D. Am. Mfg. Co. 1880s)
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: 301 North Third Street Sec. 3 T 151 N / R 50 W
Plat: Original Townsite Block 10 Lot 9 & 11
UTMG: A. 14.646870.5309870. B. _____
C. _____ D. _____
7. Access: visible
Location: on the corner of North Third Street and Third Avenue
North across from the Northern Pacific Depot
Acreage: less than one acre
Verbal boundary: lots listed above, 100 X 140 feet
actual building 50 X 100 feet
8. A. General description of site: this is a three-story, flat-roofed brick industrial/commercial building of rectangular plan. The basement projects some two feet above grade, and bricked up basement window openings are visible on all four elevations. This building and the Northern Pacific Depot are the northern termini of the historic commercial district along Third Street. The mill is freestanding and sits on an unlandscaped lot. It is set back the width of the sidewalk on the south and east. The north and west walls overlook parking lots and (west) an alley.
B. Condition of site: Fair (Cont.)
9. Owner's name/address: Edwin Scott Industries, Inc. 301 N. Third St.
10. Occupant's name/address: GF 58201
11. Historic Register value: Nat. State Untd. 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 Roberts
Other surveys in which included none
16. Recommendations: being nominated to NRHP in MRN: Historic Resources of downtown Grand Forks, North Dakota (Partial Inventory: Historic and ARchitectural Propert
17. Environment: Elevation _____ Nearest Water: Type _____
Name _____ Distance _____ Direction _____
Soil conditions: _____
Soil Texture: _____

17. Environment, Cont.

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Ground Cover: _____

Terrain: _____

18. Local contact person or organization: _____

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

Contact Print: Roll 3 ,Frame 29

8 X 10 Glossies: Roll 51,Frame 10,11,12,13

Negatives stored at: Division of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

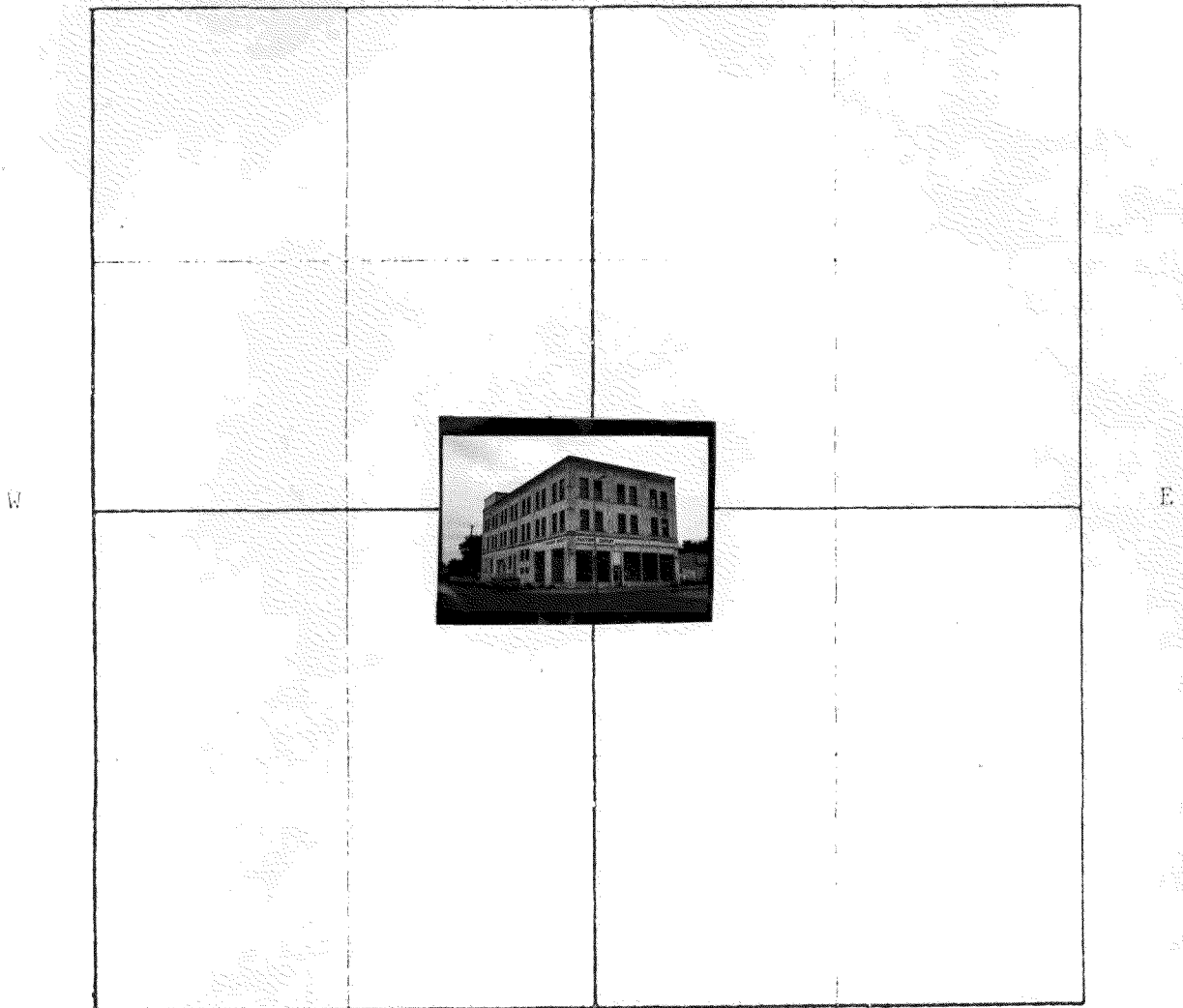
State Historical Society of North Dakota

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

20. Sketch Map of Site:

Scale: _____

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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

- 27. Thematic category Industrial 28. Date or period 1895
- 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 Commercial vernacular
 - B. Architect/engineer J.W. Ross (Dudley, Wm.L. City of Grand Forks
 - C. Contractor/builder Illustrated (1907), p.86)
 - D. Original use Woolen mill
 - E. Present use Commercial
 - F. Number of stories 3 G. Basement: Yes No Partial _____
 - H. Foundation Material _____
 - I. Wall Construction Brick
 - J. Wall Treatment Brick
 - K. Roof type and material Flat
 - L. Number of bays: Front 3 Side 7 M. Plan shape Rectangular
- 31. Frontage 50' 32. Distance from road 0
- 33. Number of outbuildings None 34. Description of outbuildings _____

35. Changes

The Grand Forks Woolen Mills building originally contained office, retail, wool scouring, cloth finishing, and weaving operations on the first floor; carding and mule spinning on the second floor; and cloth dying and sewing on the third floor. On the north side of the building to the rear was a one story brick addition. (Cont.)

36. Information sources/References

The Grand Forks Woolen Mills building was erected in 1895¹ at a cost of \$17,000.² It was designed by Grand Forks architect John W. Ross.³ The mills operation, which began modestly in 1892, employed some 75 people,⁴ and was the object of intense pride. "The mills are constructed on the same plan as the great mills of New England," said one writer...(Cont.)

37. Reason for significance:

The Grand Forks Woolen Mills building is of both historical and architectural significance. Historically, the woolen mill was a local symbol of economic independence from Minnesota, and the focus of Grand Forks' hope of becoming a manufacturing center.

Architecturally, the building is the finest example of the commercial/ industrial building style of Grand Forks architect John W. Ross. (Cont.)

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Continuation form

Site Number GF24Item No. 8.A. General description of site (Cont.)

The first story of the east (principal) elevation of the Grand Forks Woolen Mill is divided into five display window bays and an entrance. The bays are divided vertically by fluted and ornamented cast-iron pilasters. The other first story elevations of the building are asymmetrical and unornamented.

The second and third stories of the front elevation facing North Third Street are composed of three two-story window bays. Each bay contains four windows, two per story. The bays are connected at their bases by a stone belt course, divided vertically by brick pilasters, and connected at their top by a bracketed, corbelled brick cornice. Within each bay, double-hung 6/6 windows are tied together with stone sill courses and set beneath segmented brick arches. This bay and cornice arrangement is carried along the south elevation facing Third Avenue. On the north elevation, stone belt courses and lintel courses are replaced by brick on the rear bays. The bay arrangement on the west elevation is similar to the east elevation in width, but with a three-part window arrangement in the central bay and several single windows which have been bricked up.

35. Changes (Cont.)

This addition was set back from N. Third Street. It housed two boilers, a dye room, a picker room, and a room for wool oiling (Sanborn Insurance map, 1897).

The building was gutted by fire in 1916. The Sanborn Insurance map of 1916 reads "Bldg. gutted by fire," "Walls in good condition, to be rebuilt and will be a garage." The roof and one story addition and brick chimney on the north side were destroyed. The 1927 Sanborn Insurance map indicates that the structure was rebuilt in 1918 with a concrete floor and fire proof construction, retaining the original walls. It was for years thereafter the showroom and offices of Hanson Ford, according to city directories.

36. Information sources/ References (Cont.)

"...and are turning out work equal to Lowell or Fall River." The same writer noted that the mill had raised the price of raw wool paid to farmers and lowered the price of finished goods because "the expense of shipping the raw product east and of returning the finished cloth is saved."⁵ The "east" of this statement, however, did not refer to Massachusetts but to Minneapolis. The Grand Forks Woolen Mill represented a declaration of independence from the great mills at St. Anthony Falls. But competition with Minneapolis organizations such as the the North Star Woolen Mills on the Mississippi was too much, and the Grand Forks Woolen Mill lasted less than a generation. The mills ceased operations between 1901 and 1906, in part because the manufacturing operation was too far from market and wool supplies.⁶

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37. Reason for significance (Cont.)

Though he is better known for his Grand Forks City Hall, Ross designed the woolen mill in his prime in 1895 while the City Hall (1911) was erected a few years before his death in 1914.⁷

Though the woolen mill building is only in fair condition, its proportions and sensitive detailing make it one of the most handsome buildings in the city. It is clearly the product of a first-rate architect.

Notes

¹ William L. Dudley, City of Grand Forks Illustrated. Grand Forks: Herald Printers and Binders, 1897, p.60; City Assessor's description #87 incorrectly dates construction as 1885 instead of 1895.

² The Record. Vol. I No. 5, Sept.-Oct. 1895. Fargo, N.D., p.17; see also Permits Index Book I, August 1895, permit #66: "Class B Mill, est. cost \$12,796, Grand Forks Woolen Mill."

³ Dudley, p.86.

⁴ Dudley, p.60.

⁵ The Record. Vol. I No.3, July 1895. Fargo, N.D.

⁶ Sanborn Insurance map, 1901, 1906; See also, James Turner Papers, Typescript , 1 page, n file: Myra Museum, Grand Forks.

⁷ C.A. Lounsberry, North Dakota: History and People. Chicago: S.J. Clarke. Vol.III, p.835.