

NORTH DAKOTA CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY

Base Data Form

- 1. County Grand Forks, North Dakota 2. Site Number JR23
- 3. Site Name (s) Building at 205 DeMers Avenue
- 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: 205 DeMers Avenue Sec. 3 T 151 N / R 50 W
 Plat: Original Townsite Block 25 Lot 5, Auditor'
 UTMG: A. 14.647200.5309680. B. Resubdivision
 C. D. of Lots 1 & 2
- 7. Access: visible
 Location: the south side of DeMers Avenue between the City Center
Mall's vacated block on Third St. and the Third St. Ring Road
 Acreage: less than one acre
 Verbal boundary: lots listed above, roughly 25 X 50 feet
- 8. A. General description of site: this is a three-story, flat-roofed, brick commercial structure of rectangular plan. The west wall of the building adjoins a one-story commercial building on the west. The other three elevations are entirely visible. The north (main) facade is set back the width of the sidewalk. The east wall overlooks an alley, and the back (south) wall overlooks a parking area. (Cont.)
 B. Condition of site: Fair
- 9. Owner's name/address: Sam S. & Evelyn G. Silverman 1122 Walnut 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
 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:

17. Environment, Cont.

Site Number JR23

Ground Cover: _____

Terrain: _____

18. Local contact person or organization: _____

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

Contact Print: Roll 2 ,Frame 24

8 X 10 Glossies: Roll 51 ,Frame 27, 28, 29, 30

Negatives stored at: Division of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

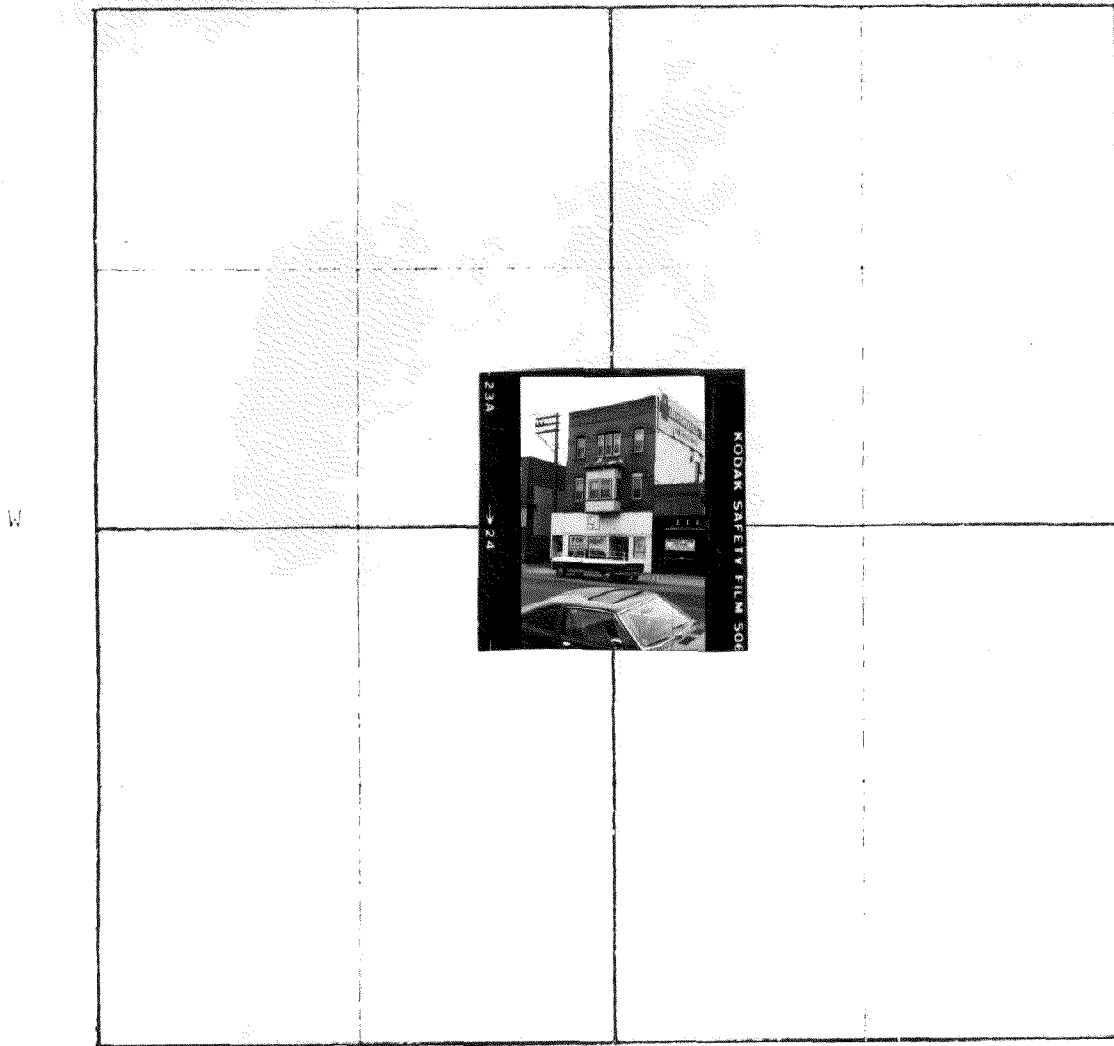
State Historical Society of North Dakota

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: J. Roberts 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 Architecture 28. Date or period 1888
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 _____
- C. Contractor/builder _____
- D. Original use Commerce
- E. Present use Commercial 1st floor, apartments 2nd and 3rd floor
- F. Number of stories 3 G. Basement: Yes No Partial _____
- H. Foundation Material _____
- I. Wall Construction Frame
- J. Wall Treatment Brick, 2nd story bay window has tin roof
- K. Roof type and material Flat
- L. Number of bays: Front 1 Side _____ M. Plan shape Rectangular
31. Frontage 25' 32. Distance from road 0
33. Number of outbuildings none 34. Description of outbuildings _____

35. Changes
 New wood frames on windows and composition board infill at top of original window openings; applied vitreolite panels to first floor shop windows and new plate glass aluminum windows.

36. Information sources/References
 This building was constructed in 1888,¹ but its original commercial use is not known. Between 1892 and 1912, the first floor was occupied by a harness shop.² In 1905, the harness maker was T.J. McMullen.³ By 1911-1914, harness maker Joseph Mahowald occupied this building.⁴ (Cont.)

37. Reason for significance:
 This building is distinctive not for its occupants but as one of two early brick-veneered frame commercial buildings which represent the first generation of substantial business blocks in the city of Grand Forks.

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Continuation form

Site Number JR23

Item No.

8.A. ...The east wall has a frame stair enclosure attached.

The first floor of the front (north) elevation of 205 DeMers Avenue has been completely remodeled in vitreolite, metal and plate glass. The second floor elevation features projecting brick drip moldings over the east and west windows. There is an apparently remodeled bay window in the center of this elevation. The third floor features projecting brick hood moldings with slightly flatter arches over the center windows than over the east and west windows. These hood moldings form a continuous banding across the elevation. Above them, varied brickwork suggests a frieze, brackets, and a dentilated cornice. The second and third story windows are six-over-one, double-hung. Aluminum storms and screens and infill have been added to the original windows. The accented window moldings, accented cornice of brick and bracketing suggest the Italianate commercial style.

All elevations of this building have brick laid in a stretcher bond. The side and rear elevations are undecorated. Windows on east and south elevations have segmented arched brick lintels and brick sills.

36. ...Between 1912-1916, the bay window was added to the second story front facade⁵ and the building was occupied by A.K. Skinner, photographer.⁶ During the late 1920s and early 1930s, a diamond shop and the Empress Cafe occupied the commercial space at 205 DeMers.⁷

Notes

¹City Assessor's description #237.

²Sanborn Insurance Maps, 1892, 1897, 1901, 1906, 1912.

³Grand Forks City Directory, Pettibone Co., 1905, p.170.

⁴Grand Forks City Directory, Pettibone Co., 1911, p.210; also 1914, p.207.

⁵Sanborn Insurance Maps, 1912, 1916.

⁶Grand Forks City Directory, Pettibone Co., 1916, p.234.

⁷Grand Forks City Directory, Polk & Co., 1928, p.310, and 1930, p.300.