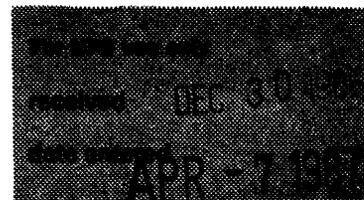


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1. NAME

Fargo City Detention Hospital (P1)

2. LOCATION

57 11th Avenue North  
Fargo, North Dakota

3. CLASSIFICATION

Category: building  
Ownership: public  
Public Acquisition: N/A  
Status: occupied  
Accessible: yes, restricted  
Present Use: educational (Headstart Program)

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

Name: Cass County, c/o Auditor  
Street and Number: 209 or 213 South 9th Street

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Cass County Courthouse  
209 or 213 South 9th Street  
Fargo, North Dakota

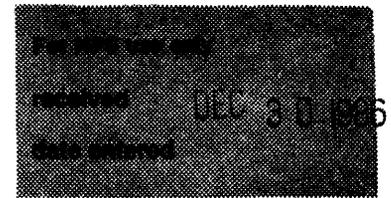
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

title: Reconnaissance Survey of North Side Fargo; Intensive Survey of  
North Side Fargo  
property determined eligible: no  
date: 1985-1986; 1986  
state: x  
depository for survey records: SHPO, State Historical Society of  
North Dakota

city: Bismarck state: North Dakota

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7. DESCRIPTION

Condition: excellent; altered; original site

Fargo's City Disease Detention Hospital is a rectangular two story brick and tile structure on an elevated base and with a flat roof. The main rectangular block of the building housed the wards of the hospital and the two story centrally-located front (south) vestibule housed the entrances to the wards and the resident doctor's office. This entrance extension has two separate entries, one on the east side to the first floor and one on the west side to the second. Each entry features a porch on a brick base, with a hipped roof supported by Corinthian columns, and accessed by a long flight of stairs extending to the south.

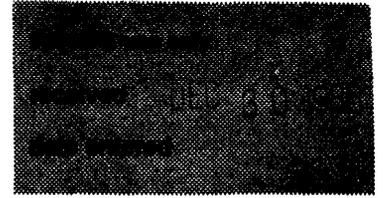
Aside from the columns, the hospital is relatively unadorned. Limestone belt courses at the first floor and the attic levels and simple corbelling at the parapets are the only decoration on the exterior brick walls, which are laid up in American bond. Window openings have slightly projecting flat brick arches, slightly darker than the sand-brown brick of the walls and limestone sills. All of the first and second floor windows have been replaced, some with glass block and some with solid in-fill panels in the top half and smaller double hung sash in the bottom half. The attic is vented with small openings between the belt course and the corbelling. Basement 1/1 double hung sash appear to be original, although they are covered with aluminum storm sash. There are basement entrances under the east porch and on the south end of the west side. Another basement entrance on the north end of the west side has been blocked up.

The interior of the Detention Hospital has sustained little alteration and clearly indicates both the structure and the functional concept of the the building. It was constructed with two hollow clay tile interior bearing walls running parallel to the east and west perimeter walls. The bearing walls support the reinforced concrete first and second floors and the wood second floor ceiling and roof joists. The corrugation of the concrete formwork is clearly visible in those rooms where the ceiling has not been dropped.

The hospital was designed so that there would be no interior connections between the first and second floors, presumably so that patients suffering from one disease could be quarantined on a separate floor from other people. Consequently, a north-south bearing wall divides the front vestibule section in two, with the west half housing marble stairs leading to the second floor wards. Each floor has a large central hall between the two interior bearing walls. On either side of the hall are ward rooms, nurses rooms, bathrooms, and fumigation rooms. These floors were finished with terrazzo floors, plaster walls, and no door or window trim. The resident doctor's office was in the second floor of the vestibule over the entries. The basement housed living quarters for the hospital staff, a kitchen, a laundry, a boiler room, and a coal room for 40 tons of coal, enough for a prolonged quarantine. The

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kitchen was connected to the upper floors by dumb waiters, one shaft of which is still in place.

The location of the hospital is also indicative of its original purpose. It is the only building on the east half of the block with only a city park between it and the Red River. At the time of construction this location was relatively isolated, being some distance from the residential areas on Fargo's north side. The building has lost some sense of this isolation in its current setting, as more recent houses have been built on the west side of the block.

The building now houses a Headstart Program in the basement and first floor and the caretakers' apartment on the second floor. Minor door and partition changes have occurred, but the interior is still largely intact.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

Period: 1900--

Areas of Significance: architecture

Specific Dates: 1910

Builder/Architect: Frank Anders, C.H. Johnson

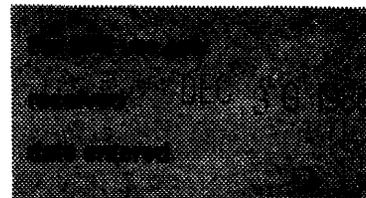
The City Disease Detention Hospital in Fargo is significant as a symbol of the efforts in the community in the early 20th century to control communicable diseases, to improve conditions for quarantined patients, and for its association with Frank L. Anders, prominent North Dakota engineer.

From Fargo's early years epidemics were common. In 1881, 1882, and 1883 there were serious smallpox epidemics. There were also outbreaks of diphtheria and scarlet fever in 1883. Typhoid fever was also endemic due to the use of Red River water. These problems led to the creation of a city health board, improved water and sewer systems, designated dumps, and the use of "pest houses" to quarantine diseased people. Improved sanitation and mass vaccinations rid the city of some diseases, but smallpox continued as a serious problem into the 20th century.

Various doctors established quarantine hospitals or "pest houses" and the city often paid to maintain them, but living conditions for the patients were terrible. Several doctors, including K.H. Millarian and Nils Tronnes, pressed the city to build a decent facility for the patients, which it did in 1910. On May 9 of that year, the City Council by a unanimous vote ratified the action of the City Board of Health to build a City Disease Detention Hospital and accepted C.H. Johnson's low bid of \$15,429 to build the structure designed by city engineer Frank Anders. On October 11, Fargo voters passed by a large margin a bond issue for \$15,000 needed to finish the hospital. Final cost of the building was higher, however, and totaled \$21,852.52. Of this, Johnson received over \$18,000. T.P. Riley, who installed plumbing and fixtures, received slightly over \$3,000.

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Frank Anders was born in Dakota Territory in 1875. As a young man he worked for several years in the Fargo machine shops of the Northern Pacific Railway before enlisting to fight in the Philippines where he was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor during the Spanish American War. After his return from the war in 1899 he worked at Northern Pacific shops in Montana and Utah and then for several Utah mining companies. In 1906, without a high school diploma, he enrolled at Ripon College in Wisconsin. Upon graduation, he was awarded the first scholarship given by the University of Wisconsin, where he studied civil engineering. In 1907 he went back to Utah to work as a mining engineer for two years before finally returning to Fargo where he lived for most of the rest of his life. Anders became Fargo's city engineer in 1910 and is best known for his design of the Fargo water purification system. In later years he was involved in the water systems of various other cities, was secretary and construction engineer on the Board of State Capitol Commissioners, and was active in promoting the Garrison Dam and Missouri River Diversion Project. He died in 1966.

Anders' design of the Disease Detention Hospital reflects an engineer's approach to design and the humanitarian concerns of Fargo's doctors for the conditions of the patients. For the structure of the hospital, Anders employed the reinforced concrete technology of C.A.P. Turner, an important innovator in that field from St. Paul. The city Board of Health, which along with Anders directed the construction of the hospital, probably advised Anders on how to design the building with features necessary for the accommodation of sick patients. The building has a functional plan with little ornamentation except the Corinthian columns on the porches. The wards and other spaces within the hospital have high ceilings, ample light, and were well equipped with facilities necessary for the treatment of quarantined patients. In a report prepared after the hospital was completed, Anders stated that the building's brick and concrete construction as well as its Terrazzo floors made it "completely sanitary in every respect." In addition, the building's relatively isolated setting, as the only building on the east half of a block, may have been another indication of its use, that of isolating diseased people.

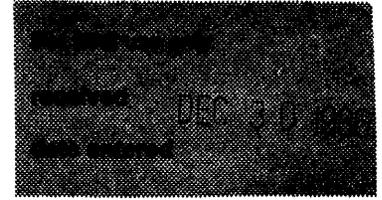
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SOURCES: See section 9 of cover form.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: less than one  
Quadrangle: Fargo North  
Quad. Scale: 1:24,000  
UTM References:

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All Zone 14.

E--669360; N--5195040

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

Hectors Addition to the City of Fargo, block 7, lots 13-19.