

NORTH DAKOTA CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY

Base Data Form

1. County Grand Forks, North Dakota 2. Site Number CK15
3. Site Name (s) Original Odd Fellows Block (common name: Central Apts.)
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: 23-25 S. ^{4th} Fourth St. and Sec. 3 T 151 N / R 50 W
Plat: Original Townsite 324 Kittson Ave. Block 26 Lot Front 40'
UTMG: A. 14.647200.5309500. B. _____ of Lots 14 & 16
C. _____ D. _____
7. Access: visible
Location: the northeast corner of Kittson Avenue and South Fourth Street
Acreage: less than one acre
Verbal boundary: above city lots roughly 40 X 100 feet
8. A. General description of site: this is a three-story, rectangular, brick commercial building with a flat roof. The back (north) wall of the building abuts the Dakota block, and the east elevation abuts an adjoining business building which reaches approximately halfway up the side wall. The west and south elevations are entirely visible. The building covers the entire lot. West of this building urban renewal has removed most of the area buildings.
(Cont.)
B. Condition of site: Fair
9. Owner's name/address: Julius, Margot, Max, Irma & Dina Stern
10. Occupant's name/address: c/o Central Block Apts. Box 1302
GF 58102
11. Historic Register value: Nat. State Undt. 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 Properti
17. Environment: Elevation _____ Nearest Water: Type _____
Name _____ Distance _____ Direction _____
Soil conditions: _____
Soil Texture: _____

17. Environment, Cont.

Site Number CK15

Ground Cover: _____

Terrain: _____

18. Local contact person or organization: _____

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

Contact Print: Roll 3, Frame 16

8 X 10 Glossies: Roll 50, Frame 2,3,4

Negatives stored at: Division of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

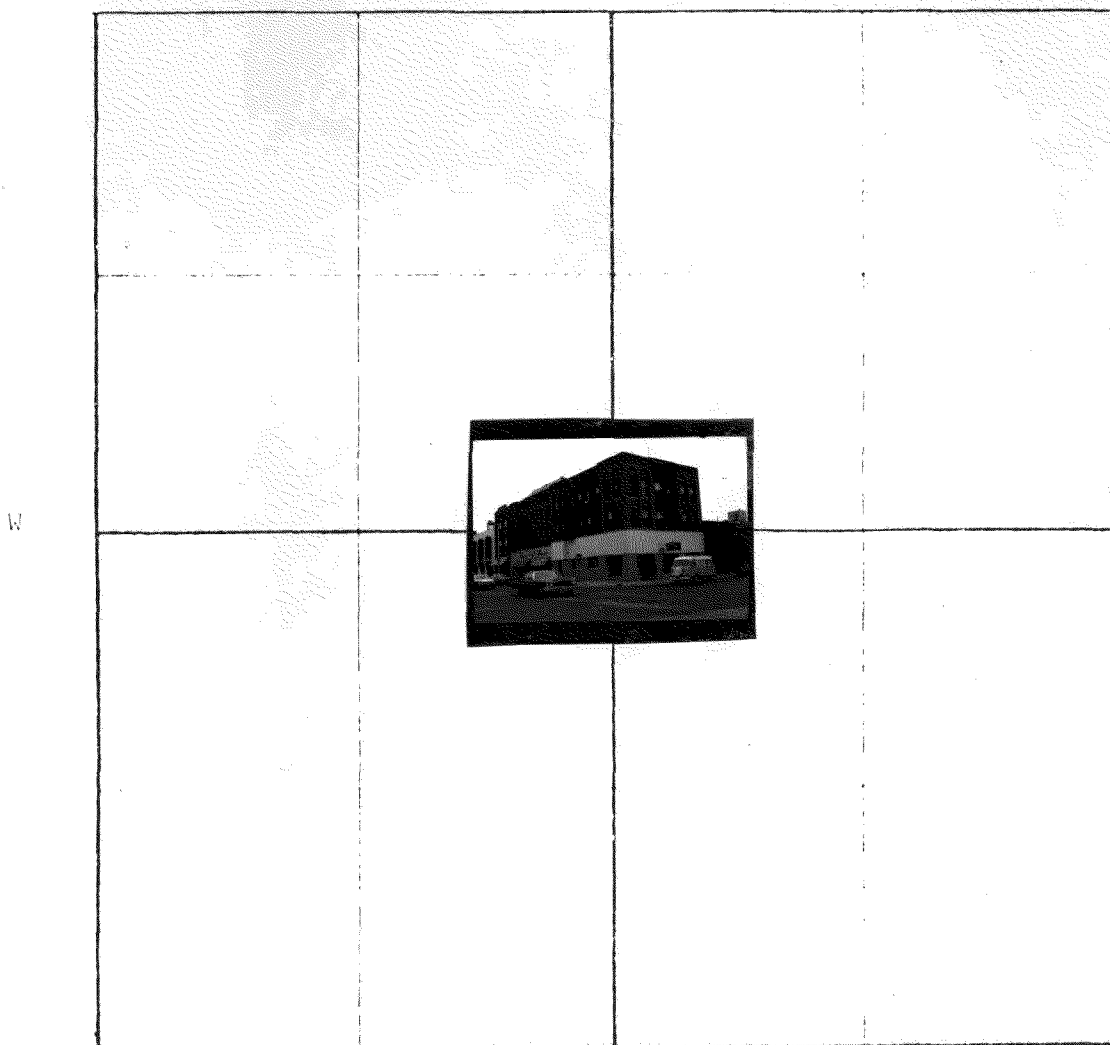
State Historical Society of North Dakota

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

20. Sketch Map of Site:

Scale: _____

N



S

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 Commerce/social 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 with romanesque detail
- B. Architect/engineer _____
- C. Contractor/builder _____
- D. Original use Commercial/residential
- E. Present use Commercial/residential
- F. Number of stories 3 G. Basement: Yes No Partial
- H. Foundation Material Brick
- I. Wall Construction Brick
- J. Wall Treatment Brick, arched windows, skylight
- K. Roof type and material Flat
- L. Number of bays: Front 6 Side 3 M. Plan shape Rectangular
31. Frontage 100' 32. Distance from road 0
33. Number of outbuildings none 34. Description of outbuildings _____

35. Changes

The original Odd Fellows meeting hall on the third floor had a very high plaster coved ceiling. About 35 years ago this meeting hall was converted to four apartments with a new false ceiling.¹ Above a central hallway leading to these new apartments can be seen the original coved ceiling of the old meeting hall. (Cont.)

36. Information sources/References

The Odd Fellows' Block was built in 1888,² at a cost of \$28,000.³ The Odd Fellows fraternity occupied "the entire third floor of the building which is fitted up with an elegant and commodious lodge room, reception rooms, ante rooms, banquet hall, and property closets," according to an early account.⁴ (Cont.)

37. Reason for significance:

Architecturally, the Odd Fellows' Block is one of three extant Richardsonian buildings remaining in Grand Forks along with the St. John's Block and Security Building. Before 1892, these three structures were the largest and grandest buildings in Grand Forks. The Odd Fellows' Block was an important center of civic and social life before the turn of the century. Many early fraternal and social groups had weekly or bi-monthly meetings in the large hall on the second floor.

(Cont.)

Recorded by C. Kudzia Date 7/81

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

NORTH DAKOTA CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY

Continuation form

Site Number CK15Item No. 8.A. Description of Site (Cont.)

8.A. The south (principal) and west elevations of the building are of commercial style with suggestions of Richardsonian Romanesque. The first floor storefronts are vitreolite and metal applied over the original storefronts and around the first floor display windows. The second and third floors of the front facade have two cream brick towers flanking a central red brick recessed bay. The tower motif continues on the west facade with two recessed bays and three towers. The corner tower is common to both facades. The towers have two stilted arches running two stories and surrounding windows except for the northwest tower with one stilted arch. The fenestration is a mixture of nine-over-nine and three-over-nine wood frame double-hung windows.

On the front (south) facade the windows have stone sills and segmented brick jack arch lintels. The sills in the recessed central bay run clear across the bay. There are contrasting brick decorative panels above the second and third story windows of the central bay and small decorative brick panels above the arches in the towers.

On the west facade, the cream colored brick towers are identical to those on the front facade except that the north tower has only one stilted arch. The recessed bay to the south is of red brick and roughly twice the width of the recessed bay in the front facade. The decorative detailing of the two is identical.

The recessed bay farthest to the north in the west facade is of cream brick. It has six arched windows on the second floor divided into two groups of three windows and seven rectangular windows on the third floor. The second story windows have an applied metal molding at the sill under each set of three windows. The third floor windows have a continuous stone sill course across the recessed bay. The contrasting brick decorative panels are the same on the west facade as those on the south, or front, facade. Rising above the roofline is a glass and wire skylight, now covered with tar paper painted with aluminum paint. This skylight once lighted the Odd Fellows meeting room on the third floor.

The four towers which once rose above the roofline have been altered by the removal of approximately three feet of projecting wall and pyramidal roofs.

35. Changes (Cont.)

The building contains apartments on the second floor which date to the original construction.

NORTH DAKOTA CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY

Continuation form

Site Number CK15

Item No.

36. Information sources/References(Cont.)

The Odd Fellows' meeting hall furnished accommodations for most of the important social and civic groups in the city in the last decades of the nineteenth century. The meeting rooms were used for three Odd Fellows' lodges and the Daughters of Rebekah, as well as for lodges of the Ancient Order of United Workmen, the Knights of the Maccabees, the Order of Foresters, the G.A.R.,⁵ and the Royal Arcanum.⁶

The Odd Fellows' Block also furnished space for the organizational meeting of the Scandia Society, a Norwegian literary society, in 1893,⁷ and for the Grand Forks public library association for several years before the Carnegie library was built in 1903.⁸ The building also served as the post office for several years before the Federal Building was erected in 1906.⁹

Over the years, many businessmen have conducted operations from the Odd Fellows' Block. The first floor offices facing Kittson were originally assigned for and occupied by the E.J. Lander investment company. E.J. Lander and Company remained in the Odd Fellows Block from 1890 to 1899 when the firm moved to their present quarters on DeMers Avenue.¹⁰ The basement of the building housed printing equipment for the periodical Progressive Observer from 1906-1916.¹¹

37. Reason for significance (Cont.)

This building today serves as a crucial anchor on the west for the historic part of downtown Grand Forks situated as it is at the corner of Fourth Street and Kittson Avenue. Its removal would detract from the historic character of the two streetscapes. The area west and south of the Odd Fellows' Block has been razed and rebuilt with newer structures in the past fifteen years. The Odd Fellows' Block marks the southwest corner of the historic area of the downtown today. It is significant for its architecture and historical associations with the early social life of the city.

Notes

- 1 Interview with Max Stern, owner, 7/16/81. Mr. Stern's father-in-law converted the third floor meeting hall to apartments.
- 2 City assessor's description #267.
- 3 William E. Gifford, Souvenir Album, City of Grand Forks, n.d. n.p. The Record magazine, Fargo, North Dakota, 1 (5) Sept.-Oct. 1895, p.17, puts the cost of construction at \$23,000.
- 4 William E. Dudley, City of Grand Forks Illustrated, 1897, p.26.
- 5 Grand Forks City Directory, Plaindealer Co., 1898, pp. 20-27.
- 6 Dudley, p.28.

NORTH DAKOTA CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY

Continuation form

Site Number CK15

Item No.

Notes (Cont.)

- 7 Alel M. Tollefson, "History of the Norwegian Settlement in Grand Forks County," M.A.Thesis, University of North Dakota, 1917, p.89.
- 8 W.B. Allen, "Early Day Beauty Spot Described," Grand Forks Herald, April 26, 1959.
- 9 History of the Red River Valley, Vol. II, p.616.
- 10 "Location of business of E.J. Lander and Co. from its inception in 1883." Typescript from E.J. Lander Papers, Manuscript Collection A 3, North Dakota Room, Chester Fritz Library, UND.
- 11 Grand Forks City Directory, Pettibone and Company, 1909, 1914, 1916; also, Sanborn Insurance Maps for 1906, 1912, 1916.