

NORTH DAKOTA CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY

Base Data Form

16

- 1. County Grand Forks, North Dakota 2. Site Number JR 3
- 3. Site Name (s) Grand Forks City Hall (Donation from City of Grand Forks)
- 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: 404 ~~Second~~ ^{N. 2nd} Ave. N. Sec. 3 T 151 N / R 50 W
 Plat: Original Townsite Block 14 Lots 9 and 10
 UTMG: A. 14 646860 5309700 B. _____
 C. _____ D. _____
- 7. Access: visible
 Location: on NW corner of Second Ave. N. and 4th St. N.
 Acreage: less than one acre
 Verbal boundary: city lots 9 and 10 roughly 100 x 100 feet
- 8. A. General description of site: The City Hall is a two and 1/2 story building with a raised basement about 6' above grade, set back the width of the sidewalk with basement windows visible in the west, south and east elevations. There is no greenery around those facades. The north wall nearly joins a commercial building on the north. On the west, a fire hall which shares the City Hall lot has been condemned and scheduled for demolition, allowing space for greenery in the future.
for architectural description, see continuation sheet
 B. Condition of site: excellent (original site)
- 9. Owner's name/address: City of Grand Forks 404 Second Ave. N. City 58201
- 10. Occupant's name/address: city offices
- 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 Properties)
- 17. Environment: Elevation _____ Nearest Water: Type _____
 Name _____ Distance _____ Direction _____
 Soil conditions: _____
 Soil Texture: _____

17. Environment, Cont.

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 4

8 x 10 glossies (attached): Roll 52 Frames 11, 12, 13

Negatives stored at: Division of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

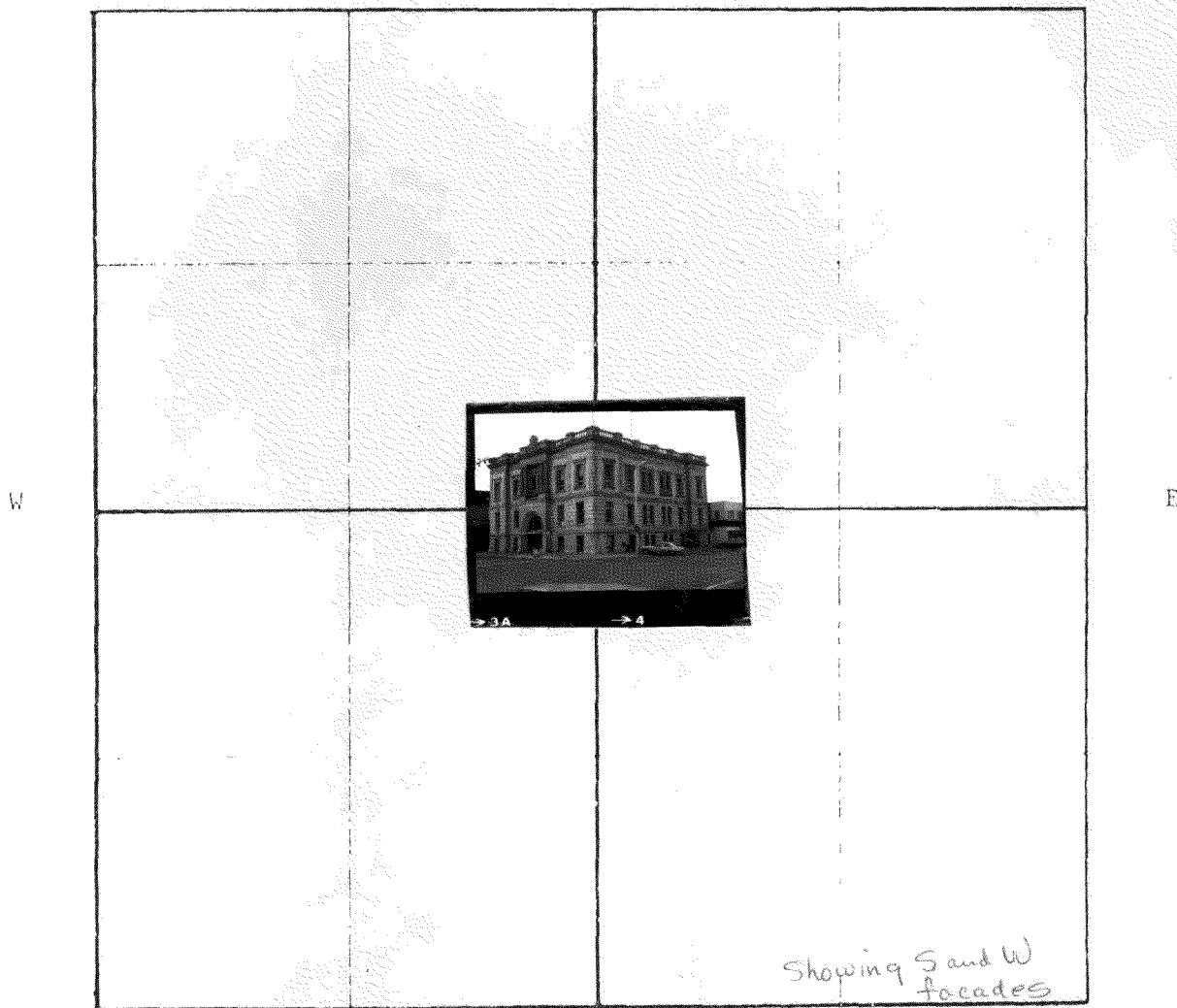
State Historical Society of North Dakota

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

20. Sketch Map of Site:

Scale: _____

N



Recorded by: Joe Roberts

Date 7/81

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 Politics/ Government 28. Date or period 1911
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 Beaux Arts Classicism
- B. Architect/engineer John W. Ross
- C. Contractor/builder Northern Construction and Engineering Company
- D. Original use City Hall
- E. Present use City Hall
- F. Number of stories 2½ G. Basement: Yes No Partial
- H. Foundation Material masonry
- I. Wall Construction Fireproof; reinforced concrete walls and roof; brick walls
- J. Wall Treatment Masonry and brick
- K. Roof type and material flat
- L. Number of bays: Front 3 Side 3 M. Plan shape square
31. Frontage ca. 80 feet 32. Distance from road 0
33. Number of outbuildings none 34. Description of outbuildings _____

35. Changes The building is substantially original, with no major additions. Minor alterations are: 1) Glass windows and anodized aluminum frames on first and second story windows replacing one-over-one double hung original windows, and glass bricks in basement windows; 2) Glass and aluminum enclosed front entry and metal canopy in front arched entry; 3) Interior alterations to basement hallway and rooms (1981); and 4) lighting and carpeting to offices and central stairway.

36. Information sources/References

City Assessor's description Number 141, on file City Hall, (const. 1911).

Permit Index Book 1, p.88, City Inspector's Office, City Hall (original permit dated February, 1913; original cost \$82,000)

37. Reason for significance:

The City Hall is one of four surviving Classical Revival buildings constructed in Grand Forks, the County seat of Grand Forks County, between 1900-1920. In style and material, the City Hall conforms to Central High School (1917) directly across Second Avenue North which faces Fourth Street, and to the U.S. Post Office and Courthouse (Federal Building) across from Central High School facing Fourth Street North, which was designed by James Knox Taylor in 1906. These three buildings represent the "City Beautiful" movement in architecture and form a visual focus to the public area of the Central Business District reflecting the City's regional importance to a vast agricultural hinterland in the Red River Valley at the turn of the century.

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8A Architectural Description:

The building is two full stories above grade over a half basement, and has a flat parapeted roof. The principal (2nd Ave. N.) and Fourth Street North facades are symmetrical in design. The style is Beaux-Arts Classicism.

The principal (2nd Ave. N.) facade has three bays and measures approximately 80 feet. The two end bays, approximately 15 feet wide, are slightly jutting. The central bay contains a slightly jutting front entry with a smooth cut limestone central rounded arch sloping toward the entrance in a voussoir pattern. Above the central arch at the second story is a central double pedimented window separated by a pilaster strip and flanked by paired fluted shafts topped by Roman Ionic capitals. The architrave is smooth-surfaced limestone under a bracketed frieze, inscribed "City Hall". A balustraded parapet surmounts the building on the 2nd Avenue North and 4th Street North facades, and is decorated with a large cartouche on the principal facade.

The 4th Street North facade is symmetrical in design with three bays. End bays of 15 feet in width are slightly jutting with a recessed central bay on approximately 50 feet. The central bay contains two double windows flanked by a single window at each end.

The building is faced with cream yellow brick and cut limestone; the basement is sheathed in cut limestone. The building is constructed of wall bearing masonry with reinforced concrete beams and floor slabs.

The Grand Forks City Hall is composed of four horizontal zones. The basement story walls are of smooth-faced cut limestone surmounted by a limestone sill course. Basement windows have no surrounds. The second zone is articulated by the first story windows surmounted by another limestone sill course. On the first floor, this zone is faced with yellow cream brick, limestone window sills with no surrounds, and segmented brick lintels. The stretcher bond brick pattern has one recessed course of brick every 7 brick courses repeated 7 times. The third zone is the second story. The second story is faced with yellow brick accented by cut limestone corner quoins at the end bays and limestone Renaissance Revival window surrounds. The fourth zone is composed of the balustraded parapet, of alternating balusters and piers with raised panels continuing vertically the pattern of alternating solids and voids. A central cartouche projects above the balustrade at the center of the principal facade.

The west and north (rear) sides of the building are less elaborate. The building is faced with yellow cream brick. Second story windows have limestone keystones. The west facade is accentuated by a limestone basement and sill course between the first and second stories. This side contains a flat brick chimney from the boiler room. The balustrade continues 15 feet down the jutting front bay on this side. The rear of the building is similar to the west side. However, the parapet extends only three feet down this side, and the basement is yellow brick.

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8A. cont. Architectural Description, cont.

The interior plan is a central square hallway around rooms on the four perimeters. The foyer on the ground level opens to a central half story stairway to the first floor with two end stairwells to the basement. The central stairway is ornate iron balusters trimmed with oak bannisters. The stairway to the second floor is offset to the east (4th Street North) side. Door surrounds on the basement floor are white marble as is the wainscoting on the basement and first floor. Oak surrounds characterize the first floor. Walls and ceilings are smooth plaster. The foyer is white and black terrazo tile. Floors are stone.

36 Information sources/ references, cont.

Bladow, Eldon, exec. ed. They Came to Stay, Grand Forks, North Dakota Centennial 1874-1974.
1974 Jet Printing, Inc., Grand Forks, p. 44.

Dudley, William L.
1897 City of Grand Forks Illustrated. Grand Forks, North Dakota.
The Herald, Printers and Binders, p. 85-6.

Pettibone Directory Co., Publishers
1895-1940 Grand Forks - East Grand Forks City Directory. Grand Forks, North Dakota

Polk Co.
1895-1940 Grand Forks City Directory
St. Paul, Minnesota