

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only

received

JUN 25 1986

date entered 7-24-86

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Locke Block

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 405 5th Street N/A not for publication

city, town Devils Lake N/A vicinity of congressional district

state North Dakota code 38 county Ramsey code 71

3. Classification

Category <input type="checkbox"/> district <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) <input type="checkbox"/> structure <input type="checkbox"/> site <input type="checkbox"/> object	Ownership <input type="checkbox"/> public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private <input type="checkbox"/> both Public Acquisition <input type="checkbox"/> in process <input type="checkbox"/> being considered N/A	Status <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress Accessible <input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> no	Present Use <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> museum <input type="checkbox"/> park <input type="checkbox"/> private residence <input type="checkbox"/> religious <input type="checkbox"/> scientific <input type="checkbox"/> transportation <input type="checkbox"/> other:
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4. Owner of Property

name Peter Isakson

street & number P.O. Box 888

city, town Devils Lake N/A vicinity of state North Dakota 58301

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Ramsey County Register of Deeds

street & number County Courthouse

city, town Devils Lake state North Dakota 58301

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Devils Lake Central Business District has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date Survey (Mutchler and Lynch) 1980 federal state county local

depository for survey records State Historical Society of North Dakota

city, town Bismarck state North Dakota 58505

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Locke Block is a four story steel frame retail and residential building with brick exterior walls and a flat roof. The building occupies a corner lot fronting on Fifth Street East and Fourth Avenue East. Walls of the facades are brown pressed brick. The northwest, northeast, and southwest corners of the structure are emphasized with quoins in light tan brick. Facade elevations are further enriched with a dentiled and consoled limestone cornice and a limestone coped parapet. Window openings have flat limestone lintels, and a continuous band of limestone marks the window sill level on each of the second, third and fourth stories. Window configurations in the upper three stories are single, double, and triple vertical rectangular clear lights in double-hung wooden sashes. A limestone plaque under the cornice at the center of the west elevation is inscribed "19 Locke Building 09," which is an alteration of the original "19 Locke and Gram 09."

Ground floor facades have been altered by application of a wooden pent roof over shop windows along the west elevation and the west end of the north elevation. Basic configurations of typical early 20th century commercial entries have been retained on the west facade, but original doors and windows have been replaced with metal and plate glass. Main show windows have been altered slightly from single plates to double plates. The north facade has been altered by blinding with modern materials of a show window at the west end, the blinding with concrete of a door with transom light at the extreme east end of the facade, and installation of a window to the west of an entry in the second bay from the east end. An unbroken segment of wall at the center of the north facade is original but has been refinished with concrete over the pressed brick. Original basement stairwells have been removed at an unknown date.

South and east walls are tan common brick and do not have a cornice. Window openings in these elevations have brick segmental arched heads and brick sills; windows are one-over-one double hung and single pane fixed. The building abuts a tall two-story brick commercial structure on the south elevation.

The interior of the building originally was devoted to retail shop and office space on the ground floor and basement, office space on the second floor, and residential apartments on the third and fourth floors. The interior retains original divisions of space, but the offices on the second floor have been converted to apartments and the retail/office spaces of the ground floor have been extensively remodelled. Original 12-foot high ceilings throughout the building retain ornate pressed metal sheathing but have been obscured by installation of false ceilings of acoustical panels and textured drywall materials. The metal ceilings remain exposed in portions of the basement shops, in stairways, and in rear areas of ground floor shops where false ceilings have not been completed. The southern portion of the ground floor was designed for use as a bank and retains two vaults with ornate doors and NeoClassical surrounds featuring elaborate pediments, entablatures, and egg-and-dart molding on architraves. The banking area also retains an entryway flanked by wooden columns with Corinthian Order capitals.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1909 **Builder/Architect** Valdemar Gram, Builder

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Locke Block is the best remaining example of "Chicago School" commercial architecture in Devils Lake. Construction of the building began in early April, 1909, and by May 15 of that year the brick work had reached the third story. A decision to add a fourth story was announced in late May, 1909, in response to a higher than expected demand for residential apartments. The added story would "make the building a sky scraper in comparison to the other buildings in the city," according to a local newspaper article. The building incorporated an innovative method of draining the flat roof during spring and fall periods of alternating thawing and freezing, when exterior drain pipes often became clogged with ice. The drain pipes were installed within the heating chimney of the building to convey water from the roof to a cistern in the basement.

The building was constructed by George Locke, a Devils Lake real estate agent and developer, and Valdemar Gram, a Danish-born building contractor. The building now carries only the name of Locke but originally carried both men's names in the date block. George Locke came to Dakota Territory from Illinois in 1882 and homesteaded land in the vicinity of what would become Devils Lake town-site. In later years he operated a real estate business in Devils Lake in association with his brother John Locke. Valdemar Gram was a prominent building contractor in Devils Lake from at least 1905 to 1910, during which time he constructed the St. Joseph Catholic Church and the basement of the Great Northern Hotel, both of which remain standing. Gram and Locke do not appear to have attained prominence beyond the Devils Lake community.

The building was ready for occupancy in late August, 1909, at which time the Devils Lake State Bank moved into the south end of the ground floor. In early September, 1909, A. W. Welch opened "The Bazaar," a variety store, in the north end of the ground floor. In later years a print shop, club rooms, a taylor and other retail merchants occupied the first and second floors of the building.

The Locke Block reflects "Chicago School" concepts in its simple blocky form, its continuous vertical structural and window bay arrangement, and its use of subdued NeoClassical decorative elements. Results of a 1980 architectural survey of Devils Lake indicate this is the finest remaining building of its architectural style in the city. The adoption of a then new architectural style, the scale of the building, and its relatively rich detail reflect the general optimism of the Devils Lake business community during the "Second Boom" period of land settlement and business expansion in the region between 1898 and 1910. In part because of its size and multiple-use design, the Locke Block has remained a key structure in the central business district of Devils Lake for more than 75 years.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet, Page 2.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Devils Lake ND

Quadrangle scale 7.5'

UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>4</u>	<u>5</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u> <u>4</u> <u>6</u> <u>5</u>	<u>5</u> <u>3</u> <u>2</u> <u>8</u> <u>6</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C			
E			
G			

D			
F			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

The north half of Lots 11 and 12, and the west half of the north half of Lot 10, Block 24 of the Original Townsite Plat of Devils Lake, North Dakota.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A
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state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kurt P. Schweigert

organization Cultural Research & Management, Inc. date 4/24/86

street & number P.O. Box 2154 telephone 701-258-1215

city or town Bismarck state North Dakota 58502

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature James E. Sperry

title State Historic Preservation Officer, North Dakota

date 6/13/86

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the National Register

date 7-24-86

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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Continuation sheet 1

Item number 7, 9

Page 2

7. Description (continued)

Interior walls throughout the building have been altered by application of modern drywall materials and plaster. Apartments and stairways on the upper three stories retain original dark varnished woodwork. Woodwork removed from the ground floor during remodeling has been retained by the owner. Apartment entries have original transom windows over doors, dentiled hood moldings, and doors with frosted glass panel over two horizontal wooden panels. An original hand-powered elevator serves all five floors.

9. Bibliographic Sources:

Devils Lake Bicentennial Committee, A Bicentennial History of Devils Lake, North Dakota (Devils Lake: Ness Printing, 1976), p.36.

Devils Lake Interocean, 4/9/1909, 4/16/1909, 5/14/1909, 5/21/1909, 7/2/1909, 8/27/1909, and 9/10/1909.

Devils Lake Journal, 9/24/1909, and 4/21/1909.

Sanborn Map Company, "Devils Lake, Ramsey County, North Dakota, November, 1924" (New York, 1924); "Devils Lake, Ramsey County, North Dakota, May, 1931" (New York, 1932).

Devils Lake Pioneer Daughters, "Mrs. George Locke," unpublished biographical information on file at the State Historical Society of North Dakota, Bismarck.

Mutchler and Lynch, Architects, "Devils Lake Central Business District Survey," Unpublished architectural survey report on file at the State Historical Society of North Dakota, Bismarck.