

## NORTH DAKOTA CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY

## Base Data Form

1. County Grand Forks, North Dakota 2. Site Number CK48
3. Site Name (s) Edgar Building (Remains Grand Forks, N.D.)
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: 314 Kittson Ave. Sec. 3 T 151 N / R 50 W  
Plat: Original Townsite Block 26 Lot Rear  
UTMG: A. 14.647220.5309520. B. 24'9 1/4" of  
C.  D. Lots 14 & 16
7. Access: visible  
Location: the north side of Kittson between an alley (east) and a vacant store (west)  
Acreage: less than one acre  
Verbal boundary: lots listed above, roughly 24'9 1/4" X 100 feet
8. A. General description of site: this is a two-story, flat-roofed, brick commercial structure of rectangular plan. The west wall adjoins the east wall of a vacant store and is not visible. The other three elevations are entirely visible. The south (main) facade is set back the width of the sidewalk from Kittson Avenue. The north (back) wall of the building overlooks a parking area. (Cont.)
- B. Condition of site: Good
9. Owner's name/address: Edgar A. Hauntz 1029 Lincoln Drive GF 58201
10. Occupant's name/address:
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.

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Ground Cover: \_\_\_\_\_

Terrain: \_\_\_\_\_

18. Local contact person or organization: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Contact Print: Roll 4, Frame 15

8 X 10 Glossies: Roll 50, Frame 8, 9, 10

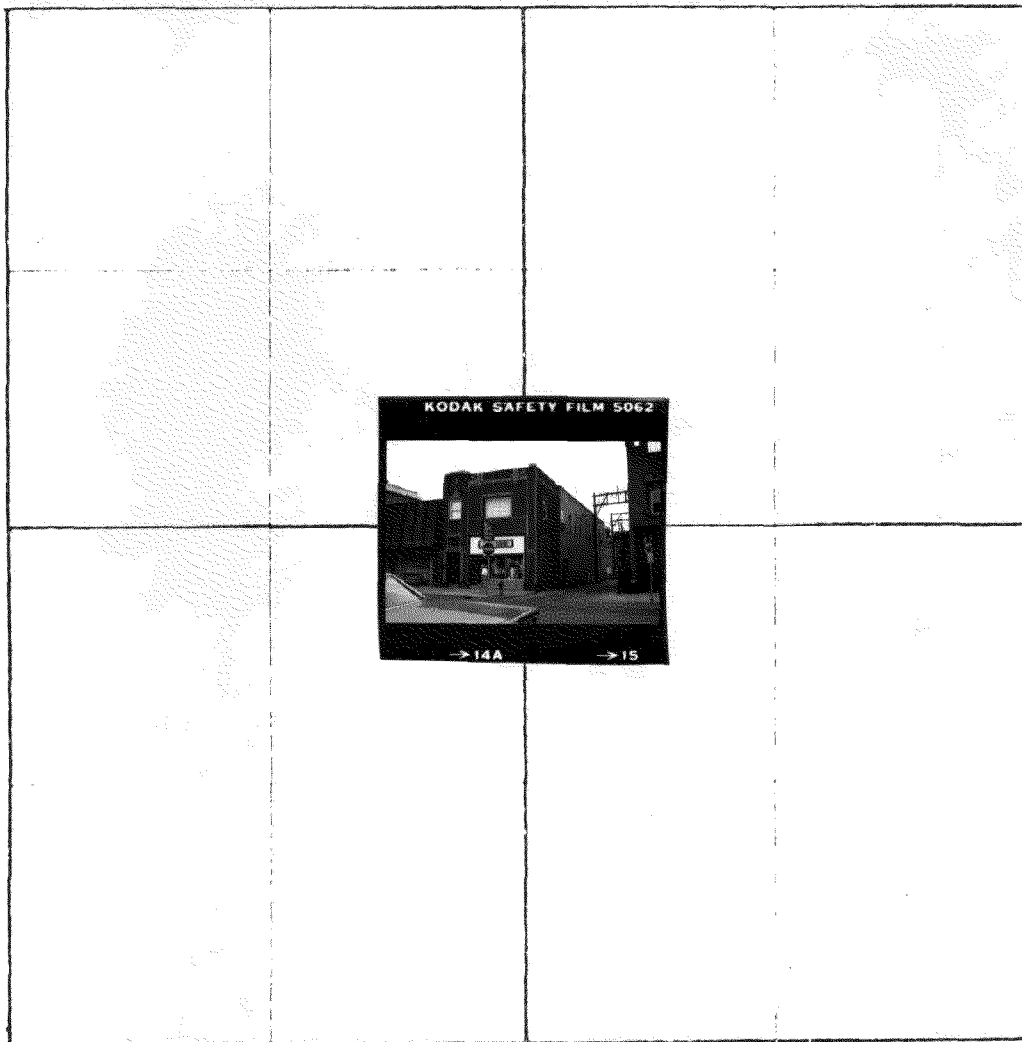
Negatives stored at: Division of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

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: \_\_\_\_\_



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

9/1/81 ✓

Continuation form: Historic Sites

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27. Thematic category Communication 28. Date or period ca.1901-06
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 Art moderne (Zigzag phase)
- B. Architect/engineer \_\_\_\_\_
- C. Contractor/builder \_\_\_\_\_
- D. Original use Commercial
- E. Present use Commercial/Residential
- F. Number of stories 2 G. Basement: Yes  No  Partial
- H. Foundation Material Brick
- I. Wall Construction Frame
- J. Wall Treatment Brick
- K. Roof type and material Flat
- L. Number of bays: Front 2 Side \_\_\_\_\_ M. Plan shape Rectangular
31. Frontage 25' 32. Distance from road 0
33. Number of outbuildings none 34. Description of outbuildings \_\_\_\_\_

## 35. Changes

This building can not be dated with certainty. The City Assessor (description #268) lists construction as of 1890. However, the building does not appear on the 1901 Sanborn Insurance map. It first shows up on the 1906 Sanborn map. The front facade differs from the present configuration on the 1916 Sanborn map in that the east front corner (Kittson Avenue) is cut...(Cont.)

## 36. Information sources/References

## 37. Reason for significance:

The Edgar Building is architecturally interesting as an example of the zig-zag modern style executed in polychrome brick. Yellow and red brickwork forms geometrical and parallel lines around the fenestration with chevrons at the cornice. This facade treatment is similar to that found on another building in the downtown area at 308-314 First Avenue North used as an automobile garage and showroom. The style was not particularly common in post-1910 buildings in the city. This facade treatment appears to be a face-lift of an older building in the case of 314 Kittson. (Cont.)

Recorded by C. Kudzia Date 7/81Revised by Norene and Joe Roberts, Gary Henrickson Date 9/81

9/81

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8A. Architectural Description (continued)

The front (south) elevation of 314 Kittson Avenue is faced with red Hebron brick laid in a Flemish bond. Yellow Hebron brick laid in end and stretcher courses is used to ornament door and window openings, to suggest first and second story bays, to define the corners of the building, and to serve as applied ornamentation near the cornice. Two of these ornaments are shaped like shields. Three brick pilasters divide the building into two bays. The west bay is much narrower than the east bay, and is framed by brick pilasters capped with stone to form a slightly projecting parapet. The east bay is defined by the shared middle pilaster and an east corner pilaster capped in stone. This east bay has no coping nor cornice, but the shield ornaments are capped in stone. The east bay has been altered at street level by a new door and storefront of aluminum and glass with vertical frame infill above and new brick below the store window. The first floor door in the west bay leads to apartments on the second floor and features leaded quarrels. The pilaster on the east corner and the shield ornaments are capped with a stone coping. The brick work under the display window does not appear to be original.

The brickwork and yellow brick ornamentation of the front facade is carried for several feet on the east facade. The remainder of the east, west, and north facades are of common brick laid in American bond and painted tan. The windows have either jack arched or segmented arched lintels and brick sills. Many of them have been bricked up.

35. Changes (Cont.)

...at a diagonal next to the alley on the east. This diagonal is squared off on the 1927 Sanborn map updated to 1960.

This building also appears to have been totally refaced on the front elevation and for about 18 feet down the east side. This refacing in red brick with a Flemish bond meets older Grand Forks common brick on the east and north elevations. Original fenestration on the older portion of the building was vertical narrow windows with brick sills and jack arch and segmented arched lintels. The windows on the refaced portion are less vertical and more modern in shape and include a picture window at the second story on the front facade. The building appears to have had a total face lift which updated the front facade to an Art Moderne style in polychrome brick, with contrasting geometric brick work and chevrons. The earliest building permit dates to 1960 when new storefront glass and brick was added.<sup>1</sup> The refacing, probably done in the 1920s or 1930s, can not be dated with regards to the front facade. Based on the 1901 and 1906 Sanborn maps, the probable date of construction of 314 Kittson is ca. 1901 to 1906.

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37. Reason for significance (Cont.)

However, this structure and its site are primarily significant for their historical association with the Normanden Publishing Company. From 1893-1927, the Normanden Publishing Company published the Normanden, which was printed in Norwegian and catered to Norwegian-speaking Scandanavians and Norwegians in the Red River Valley of the North. The Normanden was established in Grand Forks in 1886 as a temperance paper. It was associated with the Farmers Alliance in North Dakota and by 1890 became its official organ.<sup>2</sup> After populists won the elections in 1892, the Normanden was bought by a corporation headed by Scandanavians in Grand Forks and vicinity. This corporation, the Normanden Publishing Company under president P. O. Thorson, published the Normanden.<sup>3</sup> The paper began to achieve influence and stability and by 1897 the Normanden was the largest paper in North Dakota as well as the leading Scandanavian paper in the region.<sup>4</sup>

Thorson, manager of the Normanden, resided at 314½ Kittson in 1898,<sup>5</sup> and remained at that address until 1924.<sup>6</sup> The Normanden was published in Grand Forks at the building at 314 Kittson until 1927, at which time the publishing operations moved to Fargo.<sup>7</sup> The Normanden Publishing Company remained at 314 Kittson throughout 1928,<sup>8</sup> by which time the company was publishing another Norwegian language newspaper, the Grand Forks Scandnav.<sup>9</sup> In 1930, the Scandinav moved its operations to a building at 407 4th Street S. in Grand Forks.<sup>10</sup>

The continued significance of the Normanden is that it spoke for the large Grand Forks and vicinity Norwegian people and maintained its reputation as the largest paper circulating to this group. The Edgar Building is the only remaining building associated with the Normanden Publishing Company in either Grand Forks or Fargo. The Edgar Building is intimately associated with the successful years of the Normanden, as it achieved prominence and its widest circulation while located in the building. The building was refaced while the Normanden Publishing Company operated there, since according to Sanborn maps the refacing was done between 1916-1927. Other than the refacing, the building is essentially intact.

Notes

<sup>1</sup> City Inspector's Office, City Hall, Permit #20605, dated 3/30/60 "new storefront glass and brick for \$1,000."

<sup>2</sup> Alel Tollefson, "History of the Norwegian Settlement in Grand Forks County." M. A. Thesis, UND, 1917, p.85.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Dudley, 1897, p.69.

<sup>5</sup> City Directory of Grand Forks. Plaindealer Publishing Company, Grand Forks, 1898, p.131.

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Notes (Cont.)

- 6 Koehmstedt, 1964, p.113; Grand Forks City Directory, Pettibone and Co., 1921.
- 7 Carol Koehmstedt, "History of North Dakota Newspapers," 1964, p.113. Unpublished manuscript on file: North Dakota Room, Chester Fritz Library, UND.
- 8 See Grand Forks City Directory, Pettibone Co., Grand Forks, for the following years: 1905:180, 1909:129, 1916:149, 1919:149-150, 1921:164, 1928:218.
- 9 Grand Forks City Directory. R. L. Polk and Co., Detroit, Michigan, 1928, p. 325.
- 10 Grand Forks City Directory, Polk and Co., 1930 and 1934, p.117.