

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM



08001262

1. Name of Property

historic name Grand Forks County Fairgrounds WPA Structures

other names/site number Grand Forks State Fair Grounds; River Cities Speedway

2. Location

street & number 2300 Gateway Drive not for publication
city or town Grand Forks vicinity
state North Dakota code ND county Grand Forks code 035 zip code 58203

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination
request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic
Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets
does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X
locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Merlan E. Paaverud, Jr.
Signature of certifying official
Merlan E. Paaverud, Jr. SHPO

4-6-09
Date

State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- ☒ entered in the National Register
See continuation sheet.
☐ determined eligible for the National Register
See continuation sheet.
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
See continuation sheet.
☐ removed from the National Register
See continuation sheet.
☐ other (explain):

Shirley McClelland

4-21-09

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

Grand Forks County Fairgrounds WPA Structures
(Property Name)

Grand Forks County, North Dakota
(County and State)

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☐ private
☒ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s) Grandstand, Ticket kiosk, admin bldg.
☐ district
☐ site Entrance gateway
☐ structure Stone cairns at southeast secondary entry
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

Noncontributing

<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>

buildings
sites
structures
objects
Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Recreation and Culture Sub: County fairground

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Recreation and Culture Sub: County fairground

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Modern Movement; Art Deco (Grandstand)
Other; WPA Rustic Fieldstone (Gateways and other buildings)

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete
roof cedar shingles, asphalt shingles (kiosk and administrative building)
walls brick (grandstand)
granite stone (gateways, kiosk and administrative building)
other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See continuation sheets

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Grand Forks County Fairgrounds WPA Structures; Grand Forks County, North Dakota

Grand Forks County Fairgrounds WPA Structures
Grand Forks County, North Dakota

7. Narrative Description:

The Grand Forks County Fairgrounds WPA Structures are comprised of three buildings, one major entrance gateway structure, and a secondary set of entrance objects on the grounds formerly designated as the North Dakota State Fairground in Grand Forks. The site is located north of Gateway Drive and east of Columbia Road on an overall 51.0-acre parcel that is a platted remnant of the former 80.0-acre state and county fairgrounds site originally acquired and developed in 1903 by the Grand Forks County Agricultural Society. Only the three, discrete scattered parcels on which these five resources are situated (totaling exactly 78,580-square feet of the overall context setting) form the basis of this nomination.

A fairground was maintained in Grand Forks beginning in 1887 on a site adjacent to the University of North Dakota (originally platted as Eschelman Park), currently the site of University Memorial Stadium. The fairgrounds were relocated to the current site in 1903 as part of a development scheme that included extension of the Grand Forks Streetcar line to serve the fairgrounds.

The overall Grand Forks County Fairground complex was the product of a 1936 design masterplan prepared by the Grand Forks Architect Theodore B. Wells, documented in the Wells-Denbrook papers at the Orin G. Libby Special Collections of Chester Fritz Library at the University of North Dakota. Throughout this nomination, references to "WPA" refer to the role of the federal Works Progress Administration agency. (Customarily, in academic discourse, punctuation "periods" are omitted from the abbreviation WPA in referencing this agency.) The Wells masterplan illustrates a much more expansive and elaborate development of the Fairgrounds than exists today. The record of historical documents and local oral accounts reflect the more ambitious development of Fairground features that are associated with the property during the heyday of the Fair from 1937 to mid-1950s.

The remaining, extant WPA Fairgrounds features include an arched fieldstone entrance gateway (structure), a small stone walk-up ticket kiosk (building), a pair of stone gateway pillars (an object) in the far southeast corner of the site, a two-story fieldstone administrative office building, and a brick-and-steel grandstand (building). A small amount of site sidewalk paving from the WPA era also remains intact extending from the south boundary to the pedestrian entry gate.

Automobile access to the Fairgrounds site is possible from all four directions, but historically the ceremonial entrance was from the south (originally Skidmore Avenue, later renamed Gateway Drive). Streetcar access was also possible historically from the south edge of the site via the North End streetcar line.

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Grand Forks County Fairgrounds WPA Structures; Grand Forks County, North Dakota

The ornamental, fieldstone entrance gateway (structure) is the first WPA feature addressed on the site, at about the midpoint of the south boundary and oriented with its long axis running east-west. The gateway is comprised of three large Romanesque arches with a paved street extending to the gateway from the south and unpaved (gravel) driveway to the north of the gateway. The center arch is 19-feet in span, and two flanking archways are 14-feet each. This gateway can fairly be described as "ceremonial" in the sense that its dominant center arch, flanking arches, diminutive pedestrian entryway, and flagstaffs are architecturally arranged to accommodate the theatrics of circus acts and Fair visitors all arriving for the big event on Fair day, occasionally commemorated with a circus parade.

The gateway stonework is dressed, random rubble granite fieldstones with raked mortar joints recessed about 3/4-inch from the face of the stonework. Each arch features a slightly projected keystone. Individual granite stones are about 18- to 24-inches in average dimension and the wall is bonded of two wythes of stones in thickness. A two-foot thick, low (6-foot high) wall extends both east and westward from the arched center section, with pilasters extending about one foot taller than the top of the wall. The pilasters and arched center portions of the gateway structure are about 3-feet thick and the top of the gateway segment terminates in a symmetrically stepped wall cap with concrete wash. All stonework is in a reddish, grayish-to-black, and greenish color range. These granite fieldstones are of a type and color range often pushed up through alluvial topsoils by annual frost action.

The center section arch is surmounted by flagstaffs that currently fly the U.S. flag, the flag of the State of North Dakota, and the Canadian maple-leaf. Toward the top of the wall on both the north- and south-facing elevations, small squarish signs have been applied over decorative recesses in the stonework that show up on historic photos, probably originally containing some type of recessed lighting fixture that no longer exists.

To the east of the arched gateway segment that historically accommodated vehicles, two unenclosed pedestrian entrance gates are defined by a hipped-gable, cedar-shingle roof with two tall wood flagstaffs and galvanized cap flashing balls towards the ends. This low roof is supported by three square fieldstone columns and projecting 4x4 wooden brackets. Tails of the framing joists are exposed at the 10-foot high eave ends of the roof. Center posts divide the pedestrian gateways into a total of four "lanes" serving entry and egress. Electrical service to the gateway structure terminates at the east end column. A well-worn concrete sidewalk extending southward from the pedestrian gate is likely part of the original WPA masterplan for the site/landscape development.

30-feet south of the pedestrian entry gate, the second WPA fieldstone resource feature exists in the form of a six-sided (hexagonal) walk-up ticket kiosk (building). Two ticketing windows face east and southeast and an entry door to the booth faces north. The roof is a six-sided cedar shingled roof, with flared or bell-cast eaves, exposed eave brackets, and surmounted by a 6-foot tall wooden flagstaff. The interior of the ticket kiosk is finished with cement plaster stucco. The flat-linteled door and arch-topped window openings are cased surrounds with no enclosing sash or panels currently in place. Ticket counter/shelves have been removed from below the ticketing windows.

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Grand Forks County Fairgrounds WPA Structures; Grand Forks County, North Dakota

One additional, secondary set of gateway objects exists in the far southeastern corner of the site. This object feature is comprised of two stone piers (sometimes referred to as "cairns") and a cast concrete flagpole base. This grouping of objects marked a secondary entryway to the fairgrounds, entering into the area referred to on the masterplan as "machinery exhibits". In the current setting, these minor features are situated alongside a treelined pedestrian pathway where the Northern Pacific railroad tracks previously existed.

The fourth fairground fieldstone resource dating from 1939 is the two-story administrative office building. It is an eight-sided (octagonal) building about 10-feet on each side (18-foot interior dimension between each facing wall). The entry door has been replaced with a modern flush door. Each of the eight sides contains an upper-story window over a ground floor door- or window-opening. Each window opening is of a different size and detailing (some windows about 4-feet square and others a narrower 18-inch by 4-foot proportion). All window openings have arched tops and projecting stone sills. Two windows are covered with wrought iron security bars original to the historic period. Most other windows appear to have original glass sash in place, except for one upper story window where an air conditioner has been installed. Tooling marks are visible in the stonework lintel above the main entry door, and in other locations on the administrative building.

The roof of the fairgrounds administrative building has projecting flared or bell-cast eaves. In this instance, the eave brackets have been covered with non-historic metal soffit material and the cedar shingles have been replaced with asphalt 3-tab shingles. Non-historic site pavements and security control fencing encroach on the administrative building, but the historic building fabric and material integrity of the building's exterior have not been substantially impacted. Interior features of the administrative building have been altered through several renovations and essentially none of the historic interior remains. (Interior walls have been furred out, a new spiral staircase was introduced, and interior window casings have been altered.)

All the fieldstone resource-features associated with the WPA-period of fairground construction date from 1939 and may be stylistically characterized as WPA-rustic. These features are not extensively represented in the historical papers of Theodore Wells, the architect with primary design responsibility for the fairgrounds buildings and landscape.

By comparison, the central grandstand building is well-documented in the Wells-Denbrook architectural drawings collections dating from 1936. As part of the architectural masterplan that guided the WPA redevelopment of the fairgrounds, the existing grandstand was the centerpiece of a three-part set of bleacher seating, originally flanked by two sets of concrete and wood open bleachers that have been subsequently replaced with steel and wood bleachers. The historic section of the grandstand that remains in place at the time of this writing is approximately 86-feet north-south x 140-feet east-west in dimension. The central grandstand was originally constructed to seat 2500 patrons.

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Grand Forks County Fairgrounds WPA Structures; Grand Forks County, North Dakota

The grandstand building is constructed of locally-produced, common brick masonry and site-cast concrete, with an impressively-engineered, steel-trussed cantilever roof extending 38-feet from six supporting columns. This feature of the Grand Forks Fairgrounds site was reportedly the largest, costliest, and most expansive building of WPA construction accomplished in North Dakota during the Great Depression, involving the fulltime labor of 175 WPA-paid construction workers over a 6-month period (with as many as 300 workers on-site at times) from groundbreaking in December, 1936 to the building's initial dedication in June, 1937. The grandstand was later rededicated in a highly-visible public ceremony with a personal appearance by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt on October 4, 1937.

The principal approach direction to the grandstand building is from the south-facing elevation, with the grandstand seating oriented toward the racetrack on the north. The south elevation and east and west end-walls are of primarily common brick masonry construction, as are interior partitions. The south elevation is organized architecturally by six brick pilasters coinciding with the pattern of structural steel roof columns. The third bay from the west is defined by a tall breezeway opening and two entry gates. The third bay from the east contains staff service door and three walk-up ticket windows with metal security grating, sill counters, and slightly projected window hoods. On the south elevation, doors and window openings of varying sizes are organized by a horizontal soldier course of brickwork running continuously at the height of the tallest opening. The roof canopy is anchored to the south masonry wall, but is treated architecturally in a manner that appears to "float" independently of the brickwork at the top of the wall.

Stylistic embellishment of the grandstand exterior is minimal, but the exterior is modestly reflective of the geometric Art Deco motifs that influenced much of Wells' other work on the fairgrounds. The east and west elevations for the grandstand have common brick masonry extending up to a sloped parapet, forming a guardrail wall parallel to the last row of seating. Most fenestration on these east and west end elevations has been covered with newer materials, but the opening sash and transom glazing remain visible from the interiors.

Access to the grandstand seating is from one of four concrete ramps; two of which are exterior to the grandstand brick end walls and two of which form vomitories connecting the tiered seating with an east-west breezeway containing concession services on the grade level of the grandstand. Seating is on wood bleacher tiers, most of which are original and have wooden backrests. (The lower tiers of raised seating have been repaired and rebuilt in recent years.) The wood seating tiers are supported by wood raker beams that rest on the grandstand's primary steel frame. Five broad steps of site-cast concrete (from the grandstand's original construction) form the standing room area between the raised seating and the racetrack, separated by steel pipe rails. At some time subsequent to the grandstand's original construction, enclosed observation booths have been constructed at the uppermost tier of grandstand seating.

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Grand Forks County Fairgrounds WPA Structures; Grand Forks County, North Dakota

The grandstand's most distinctive architectural feature is its dramatic roof structure. The roof canopy is a very substantial, balanced cantilever, inverted truss girder structural frame, carried by six steel columns that transfer the loads down to interior pad footings. The roof slopes downward from north to south at a pitch of about 2-1/2:12. Six primary roof girders are of steel truss construction, with three lateral girders bracing the frame east to west. Secondary purlins are carried from the sloped girders, and in turn they support deep-celled corrugated metal roof decking. The roof is robustly engineered and exists in a very sound, straight and plumb condition 70-years after its original construction.

Keeping in mind that the grandstand was constructed on a very compressed schedule during winter weather that was generally inclement, this fundamental condition of integrity is a testament to the soundness of the grandstand's construction and structural engineering design concepts applied by Theodore Wells to this very important public building. The grandstand should be considered "leading edge" construction technology when it was built in 1937. Circumstances of this building's design and construction are discussed more fully under the Significance Statement section of the nomination.

Interior rooms below the grandstand building are architecturally modest, utilitarian, and generally unadorned. At the time the building was initially dedicated, the interior functions were identified as "concessions, ticket office, secretary, police and jail, livestock office, speed department, shower baths, band room, sign painting room, and large toilet rooms". Subsequently, the interior rooms have been used more for general storage, food concessions, and service purposes. Modern restrooms are accommodated in a separate building of newer construction. One interior space in the southwest corner of the grandstand was renovated in the 1950s to serve as a beer garden, and many of the fixtures from that period remain intact.

The overall context of the fairgrounds and grandstand has undergone notable change over time. Pavements and ground cover have been replaced and reconfigured. Many of the buildings originally designed and constructed according to the WPA masterplan for the fairgrounds have been demolished. Subsequent to the end of the period of historical significance, the racetrack north of the grandstand was reconfigured from a flat half-mile horseracing circuit to a 1/4-mile high-banked Sprintcar/Modified dirt track racing oval.

Grand Forks County Fairgrounds WPA Structures
(Property Name)

Grand Forks County, North Dakota
(County and State)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Social history
Entertainment/Recreation
Politics/Government
Architecture

Period of Significance

1936-1957

Significant Dates

1936 (WPA approval of design)
1937 (FDR visit for dedication)
1939 (completion of final fieldstone features)

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Theodore B. Wells, Architect

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See continuation sheets.

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☒ Local government
- ☒ University
- ☒ Other

Name of repository: Wells Denbrook Architectural Papers, Orin G. Libby Special Collections, UND Chester Fritz Library

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8. Statement of Significance:

Constructed under the auspices of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) construction programs of the Great Depression, five features (three buildings, one primary gateway structure, and one set of secondary objects) on the Grand Forks County Fairgrounds are significant under National Register Criterion A for local historical events they reflect. In the historical context of county fairgrounds, these buildings and gateways are demonstrative of local social history and the cultural importance of state and county fairs as venues for social education, recreation, and entertainment.

The three buildings and two gateways (one an object and one a structure) also reveal historical events of the national economy, local politics of federal work relief programs, and the important role of federal government in addressing the economic difficulties of the Great Depression in a typical North Dakota community. At the statewide level, the Fairgrounds resources have a direct connection with North Dakota WPA administrator Thomas Moodie, and with U.S. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt who visited Grand Forks to participate in dedication ceremonies for the fairground grandstand. The WPA's initiatives in work relief and in making improvements to public infrastructure correspond with volatile relationships in the politics of North Dakota state government involving the Non-Partisan League and populist Governor William Langer, whose programs for local work relief often ran counter to initiatives of the Roosevelt administration. In the brief 7-month period from June 1934 to February 1935, the governorship changed hands four times, involving Langer, Ole H. Olson, Tom Moodie, and Walter Welford. Thus, many of state's principal political figures had a variety of highly visible roles in sponsoring, implementing, or dedicating the Grand Forks Fairgrounds in the years immediately thereafter. With Langer, Moodie, Senator Gerald Nye and Roosevelt himself all in attendance, these political intrigues played out before the public during the dedication ceremonies for the Fairgrounds grandstand.

Buildings and related historic resources from the WPA work relief program survive in materially sound condition on the fairgrounds campus; reflecting architectural and engineering significance under Criterion C because of their materials and distinctive method of construction. Four of the five resource features are constructed of fieldstone material and architectural style so closely associated with the WPA construction programs as to be referred to stylistically as "WPA Rustic". The one surviving resource-feature not constructed primarily of fieldstone, a grandstand building, reflects technical sophistication in its engineering and construction, as well as modest stylistic treatment in the Art Deco style that was typical of the large majority of buildings built on the fairgrounds during the 1930s; most according to design concepts by Grand Forks architect Theodore Wells. In its design and engineering, the grandstand should be considered "leading edge" construction technology when it was built in 1937.

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Architectural significance under Criterion C is further substantiated by the grandstand building's association with Grand Forks architect Theodore B. Wells, whose practice extended from 1926 to 1980. Wells' designs for several individual buildings on the fairgrounds -- and particularly the overall fairgrounds masterplan he conceived and documented in eliciting financial support from the WPA program -- further reveal much about the circumstances of architectural practice North Dakota in the 1930s. The surviving buildings and construction features, together with the archival documentary record of Wells' architectural work, have local significance for their distinctive design characteristics and methods of construction that embody circumstances of the Depression-era.

During the 19th- and 20th-centuries, county fairs were an important cultural and social institution throughout the middle United States. From the very beginning years of Grand Forks' establishment as a center for culture and recreation, agricultural fairs provided a gathering spot for the state's farming communities. Harvest celebrations served as social events, educational forums and business opportunities. Fair exhibits featured modern farming techniques and current agricultural research, while livestock and horticultural displays allowed farmers to compare their products. Amusement areas, including rides, games and sideshows, kept fairgoers entertained.

Fairs also provided a forum for fund-raising and political discussion of farming issues. As early as 1887, Grand Forks' first fairground attracted large crowds of rural visitors to observe and display agricultural achievement. Horseracing and exhibitions of livestock were among the feature attractions at the annual fairs, which drew attendance not only from nearby surrounding communities, but from all of eastern North Dakota and western Minnesota. With growing emphasis on youth activities, liberal arts, scientific homemaking and technological innovation, there was spirited competition for attendance among various county fairs in the region. Fairs at Minot, Fargo, and Grand Forks soon became recognized as "state fairs" based on their broader appeal and more elaborate staging.

Two management groups were in charge of planning and promoting these fairs, and maintaining the fairgrounds as a venue for the events. They were the Grand Forks Agricultural Society (1903) and the North Dakota State Fair Association (1905). In 1903, the fairgrounds in Grand Forks relocated from the vicinity of the University to its present location (on what was then undeveloped agricultural land) at the intersection of Columbia Road and Skidmore Avenue (today's Gateway Drive/U.S. Highway 2). The setting was chosen in large part because of convenient connection with the adjacent Northern Pacific railroad line, and fairgrounds developers aggressively promoted a connection with Grand Forks' growing streetcar services.

The location of the Fair Grounds was determined by the original members of the Grand Forks County Agricultural Society, some of whom owned part of the land and some of whom were stockholders in the local street car company. These pooled their interests, sold the land to the State of North Dakota, and established an extension of the North End branch of the car line to the Fair Grounds in the hope that the street car company would make more revenue and in return greater profits for the stockholders. [-Pietsch, p.267]

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Grand Forks County Fairgrounds WPA Structures; Grand Forks County, North Dakota

The fact that state fairs were held in Grand Forks may seem an oddity to current North Dakotans who associate the permanent State Fairgrounds and annual North Dakota State Fair with the city of Minot. Historically, state fairs were sponsored and held in Minot, Grand Forks and Fargo, with three such fairs often held in the same year. Over time, numerous events and entertainments came to be associated with the Grand Forks Fair, including a 1911 appearance by Orville and Wilbur Wright; North Dakota's first aviator and airplane builder Tom McGoey (a Grand Forks native who flew over the Fairgrounds in 1911); repeated appearances by the great harness racehorse Dan Patch; and appearances by other national figures including car racer Barney Oldfield and clown-entertainer Emmett Kelly.

The architectural vocabulary of fairgrounds buildings came to be reflective of their cultural, educational, and recreational purposes. The pavilions and livestock buildings were well-ventilated and typically lightly constructed of wood. Although many of the early pavilion buildings were extraordinarily elaborate in their architectural expression, they were lightly-built and not especially durable or economical to maintain. Buildings at the state fairgrounds tended to be larger and more extravagant than was possible at the surrounding county fairs, reflecting a growing competition among communities for visibility in the fairs. The many pavilion buildings designed by Theodore Wells for the Grand Forks Fairgrounds (and documented as drawings in the collections of his historical papers) reflect this theatrical architectural treatment as well as the growing emphasis on the Fair as a venue for youth activities, liberal arts, and technological innovation, particularly during the late years of the Great Depression.

Context and infrastructure conditions at the fairgrounds in 1934 were described in detail:

The buildings are built of wood and painted white, and include demonstration sheds for stock, a liberal arts building for university exhibits, especially from the College of Engineering and Mines, and numerous halls put up by churches, fraternal or other social organizations, in order to raise funds. The buildings are widely scattered and irregularly distributed. . . . The race track and stadium are part of the Fair Grounds in order to enable farmers to compete for prizes and to obtain certificates of merit for demonstrations of better breed of stock, horses and poultry, and to hear about and see the better grades of grains and other products produced in the state and elsewhere. [Pietsch, p.265]

For example, exhibitions of products of the UND Pottery (a well-documented North Dakota initiative under the auspices of the UND School of Mines and its Ceramics Department established by Margaret Kelly Cable) were a notable feature of the Fair's Liberal Arts exhibits, synthesizing the suitability of locally-made products for homemaking, fine arts, 4H youth groups (for whom special UND Pottery promotional pieces were made), and economic development in the state.

The economic depression of the 1920s and 30s marked a time of change in the fairs as with other social and cultural institutions in North Dakota. In a sense, the fairs afforded a kind of recreational "safety valve" with affordable entertainments for visitors. Promotional advertisements emphasized opportunities to see new inventions and advancements in farming and domestic practices, and even venues for political promotion. The annual fair functioned as venue for people to gather informally to display or trade produce or goods, to parade or display animals, and often to enjoy associated carnival or "funfair" entertainments consisting of rides and games. Activities at fairs varied widely, representing important showcases for

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businessmen in agricultural, pastoral or horticultural districts, and presenting opportunities to display and demonstrate the latest machinery on the market.

Federal investment in public recreational infrastructure (like these fairgrounds) during the late years of the Great Depression had a timely and dramatic impact on economic revival in North Dakota as well as nationally. Statewide, much of that infrastructure remains useful and well-maintained, while reflecting significant patterns of historical circumstance.

Work relief activities expanded (in North Dakota) after the drought of 1936. By October nearly 61,000 persons were employed on W.P.A. projects, emergency conservation work, and the projects of other agencies. The peak relief expenditure was nearly \$18,000,000 in the last half of 1936. Late that year, about 330,000 persons (half the population) were on relief. Expenditures continued to be large."

In North Dakota the W.P.A. alone, between July 1, 1935, and June 30, 1942, built 20,373 miles of highways and streets, 721 new bridges and viaducts, 166 miles of sidewalks, 15,012 culverts, 503 new public buildings, 61 additions to public buildings, 680 outdoor recreation facilities (stadia, grandstands, fairgrounds, parks, playgrounds, athletic fields, swimming pools, and golf courses), 809 water wells, 2 irrigation projects, 39 sewage treatment plants, and 9 water treatment plants. [Robinson, (1966); p.408]

With the most immediate need resulting from years-long drought in the western part of North Dakota, economic relief programs for the unemployed made distinctions between direct relief, farm relief, and work relief programs. The first economic relief programs were oriented toward farm relief in the western parts of the state, but by the late 1930s attention turned toward work relief in eastern counties. Newspaper coverage leading up to the approval of a project for the Grand Forks Fairgrounds reflects this lag in investment.

"Some 37 per cent of the state's people were on relief, ranging from 72 per cent in Divide County in the parched northwestern corner, to none in Traill in the Red River Valley, which received its first federal help in November, 1935. The Resettlement Administration (later named the Farm Security Administration) cared for rural relief. The new Works Progress Administration (W.P.A.) would give work relief to a specified number of "employables other than farmers." [Robinson; pp. 407-408]

"Work relief costs more than direct relief, but the cost is justified. First, in the saving of morale. Second, in the preservation of human skills and talents. Third, in the material enrichment which the unemployed add to our national wealth through their labors." [Harry Hopkins, quoted in Meltzer, *Violins and Shovels*, (1976)]

Events of the Great Depression were intertwined with the career of an important early North Dakota architect, whose career affords an interesting case study of the emerging architectural profession in North Dakota during the first half of the 20th Century. In 1923, Theodore Burfield Wells (1889-1976) established an architectural practice in Grand Forks. Born in Grand Forks, Dakota Territory on September 8, 1889, Wells was educated in Civil Engineering at the University of North Dakota, graduating in 1912. Wells served with various engineering divisions of the U.S. Army during World War I (serving in France) and was discharged as a Master Engineer, Senior Grade. Though he was first-qualified as an engineer, his biographical record clearly shows that his primary focus and interest throughout his career was in architectural applications of design, having experience as an apprentice-draftsman with architectural firms in Edmonton, Alberta; Alaska, North Dakota, and Minnesota.

Actively involved as a member of many civic and fraternal organizations, in 1936 Wells served on the board of the Grand Forks State and County Fair Association. In that capacity, he assisted the fair managers with design work and submission of an application to the Works Progress Administration for needed renovation and modernization of the fairgrounds, including a plan for maintenance and designs for many new pavilion buildings.

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Grand Forks County Fairgrounds WPA Structures; Grand Forks County, North Dakota

County fair associations were not initially considered public sponsors although they were later included, permitting WPA improvement projects at 44 additional county fairgrounds in Minnesota, and at least ten in North Dakota. With almost all WPA projects originated, sponsored and architecturally designed at the local or state level, the likelihood that a particular project would be realized was largely dependent upon efforts of local individuals. District offices seem to have exerted little or no design influence over locally-sponsored designs. The architect essentially worked for the sponsor, although design documents were reviewed and occasionally recommendations were made to simplify the design in the interest of the level of skill that would be available at the work site. In historical terms, national relief programs like the WPA were clearly intertwined with the depression-era lives of local community figures. Surviving artifacts of the period are, therefore, significant both architecturally and in terms of the historical circumstances that produced them. We are fortunate that blueprints survive for a few of the buildings, allowing insight into the level of construction documentation.

[Martens and Ritari, (1997)]

Architectural record drawings from Wells' practice are archived at the University of North Dakota Chester Fritz Library and enable helpful insights into his design work and the nature of local architectural practice in Grand Forks during the Depression-era. Wells' wonderfully "loose" conceptual pencil sketches and design drawings for as many as ten pavilion buildings are also informative, as is his substantial body of architectural work extending geographically all across northern North Dakota (all the way to Crosby) and Minnesota. Many of the designs have a distinctive Art Deco character in the architectural expression they evoked.

Wells' long association with Grand Forks included two residential properties he built for himself (a duplex at 29/31 Conklin Avenue and a delightful cottage-style home at 1006 Chestnut), as well as more than 260 built architectural commissions. This is a remarkable level of productivity, considering that some of his prime years as an architect were during the Great Depression. The body of work includes many residences, fraternity and sorority houses, movie theaters, schools and university buildings, and other major public buildings. Having served on the North Dakota State Board of Architecture, Wells' generosity and graciousness in bringing a new generation of architects into his practice is described by his eventual partner, Myron Denbrook, who joined the practice in 1948. Wells retired to California and died there (February 19, 1976) after being struck by an automobile.

The drawing of his masterplan for the 1937-39 Fairgrounds rehabilitation was clearly the basis of all work funded under the WPA sponsorship application. Architectural drawings of the fairgrounds masterplan confirm the details reported soon after in the *Grand Forks Herald*.

"Plans call for a sidewalk straight from the entrance to the liberal arts building, and another 200 feet west leading to the dance pavilion, McGowan explained. The 700-foot long area will be converted into a park with trees and flower beds. The midway will be moved farther north with the entrance facing directly west, and the United Lutheran dining hall will be moved to face west. . . . Concessions will be along the outer edge of the sidewalks enclosing the park." [*Herald*, March 7, 1937]

The main unifying building completed at the fairgrounds with WPA support was the grandstand, which replaced an earlier wood-framed building that was reportedly deteriorating and undersized for State Fair events. The new design proposed by Wells was for a larger and more durable grandstand of concrete, brick and steel, with convenient interior concession services.

"Resembling a stadium stand, the new grandstand will provide offices and rest room facilities. Seats will run from the top down to the racetrack, eliminating the paddock. A 7-foot concrete wall extending 4 feet underground will be installed to guard against accidents. Theodore Wells is architect for the structure. Of the funds provided by the government, \$64,838 is for labor and \$14,515 for material. The fair association (local project sponsor) is purchasing \$17,228 worth of materials." [*Herald*, March 7, 1937]

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Grand Forks County Fairgrounds WPA Structures; Grand Forks County, North Dakota

Wells' WPA-approved masterplan also addressed muddy grounds and the need to extend underground utility services. Historically, the fairgrounds had tended to be muddy on many Fair dates, so improvements in the nature of pavements, landscaping, and oiled roadways added a practical dimension as well as organizing and unifying the fairgrounds. The masterplan is arranged ceremonially, as a planned and geometric organization that established clearly-intended relationships among the various buildings, the midway and the livestock exhibition pavilions. Extensively landscaped planting beds were part of the experience and recollection of Fair visitors. While sewer and water lines installed during the WPA upgrade of the fairgrounds are less visible in the present day than the features described in this nomination, they were an important and costly aspect of the 1936 rehabilitation of the grounds.

"Plans and specifications on a \$100,000 fairgrounds project includes construction of a steel grandstand and general repair and improvement of the grounds, according to D.F. McGowan Grand Forks state fair manager." [*Herald*, August 23, 1936]

"Tearing down the (32-year old) old grandstand and constructing the new (2,200-seat) one are included in a \$98,000 rebuilding and renovating program at the fairgrounds approved by the federal WPA which has supplied the grant for labor and materials. The project also includes tearing down of present bleachers and building new ones; tearing down of the present beer parlor and construction of a new (48 x 96-foot) one; installing of 4,000 feet of water pipe and 5,000 of sewer pipe; repairing and repainting all buildings, grading and oiling of roads, and construction of new walks." [*Herald*, December 15, 1936]

With the design approved and financial sponsorship secured, construction of the grandstand commenced with demolition of the old grandstand and bleachers during the winter of 1936-37. Erecting the new grandstand with WPA work relief labor took place between January and May of 1937; a challenging time for outdoor construction in North Dakota. Employing more than 300 workers over a two-year period from 1937-1939, clearly all the Fairgrounds work, announced locally in the *Herald* as "the state's biggest WPA venture", had a powerful impact on the local economy, construction-related employment, and work-relief in Grand Forks. The *Grand Forks Herald* periodically documented progress in the project with photos and factual summaries.

"... two crews of 100 men each are speeding work on new water mains, sewer connections, and a new grandstand. . . . Work began on December 16 with 80 men working under the direction of Roger Carroll, engineer in charge, and Oscar Russell, foreman. Since February 1, the enlarged force has been working in three-day shifts." [*Herald*, March 7, 1937]

For the WPA, the personnel includes Elwyn C. Glass, supervisor of WPA projects; C.A. Dow, chief engineer; Alf. S. Gray, project engineer; Roger N. Carroll, field engineer in direct charge of project; Oscar J. Russell, head foreman; and Ray Buck, personnel director. The new grandstand, the largest single phase of the project, will be dedicated Thursday, June 24, and participating in the ceremonies will be Thomas Moodie of Bismarck, state WPA administrator, and Howard O. Hunter of Chicago, regional director and assistant to the national WPA administrator." [*Herald*, May 29, 1937]

The grandstand was the first of the new WPA buildings on the fairgrounds to be completed, concurrently with repair and rehabilitation of other more utilitarian livestock buildings on the grounds. Theodore Wells' role as architect for the fairgrounds work clearly continued in his designs for many of the other pavilions that were constructed prior to World War II; in particular, the Biergarten (which replaced an earlier building of similar purpose), a facelift for the Liberal Arts pavilion and the Automobile display pavilion. Preliminary architectural concept sketches show the graphic "hand" and design exploration of Theodore Wells.

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Grand Forks County Fairgrounds WPA Structures; Grand Forks County, North Dakota

Constructing a large, steel-and-concrete grandstand with a dramatic roof cantilever during five short months through a North Dakota winter is no small feat of construction technology. Wells was clearly able to bring his skill to bear as both an architect and an engineer. His familiarity with construction practices allowed much of the "ironwork" to be prefabricated and enabled the erecting of much of the work in the field to be accomplished by laborers with a range of construction expertise.

Subsequent to dedicating the grandstand in 1937, design and construction work proceeded on the other three features that are subject of this nomination. Their architectural design and material vocabulary are markedly different from the grandstand and other Art Deco-influenced pavilions executed by Wells. Thorough investigation of the Wells architectural papers uncovered no documentation of the Administrative building, the arched gateway, or the small ticket kiosk. This is surprising in that all Wells' other work is so well documented in the collections. The fieldstone features exhibit a rustic architectural vocabulary that differs from Wells' usual stylistic mode. While these features are indicated on Wells' masterplan as anticipated features, they appear to have been handled more as part of the landscape development for the Fairgrounds. Though one might expect to find architectural sketches of at least the two-story administrative building, it is not inconceivable that, given the handcrafted nature of the stonework, Wells may have directed the work of laborers and stonemasons in the field without much benefit of architectural drawings.

In the absence of conclusive documentary evidence, it is, therefore, not possible to ascribe, with certainty, the design of the fieldstone features to Wells. As an architect, his body of work shows that he was clearly capable of design work in the rustic style. Given his trusted and successful working relationship with the Fair Association, it is hard to imagine that they would have gone elsewhere for design expertise. The stonework seems to have been carried out near the end of Wells' involvement with the Grand Forks Fairgrounds and has notable similarities to some other fieldstone construction being done in Grand Forks from 1938 to 1940. Research by Marsha Gunderson of the *Grand Forks Herald* affirms that cemetery features (an entrance gateway and chapel) in Memorial Cemetery and Calvary Cemetery (across Skidmore/Gateway from the Fairgrounds to the south) were WPA projects from that time, and yet none of this work shows up in the drawings and company records of Wells' practice. A number of cemeteries in Minnesota also contain stonework features built under WPA auspices, and because Grand Forks was in the same WPA region as Minnesota, it would not be unreasonable to imagine that this approach and material vocabulary may have been suggested by an unidentified WPA administrator. WPA-rustic fieldstone structures at the Fairgrounds also reflect correlations with CCC-construction projects in North Dakota, including the shelters at nearby Turtle River State Park, from the same time period at the Fairgrounds.

There has been excellent prior documentation of the inclination on WPA projects toward this kind of rustic/picturesque, Romanesque-influenced styling for park and recreational structures in Minnesota and North Dakota.¹ The Mahanomen County Fairground entrance gates

¹ see, Anderson, Rolfe. (1988 and 1993).

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(nearby to Grand Forks) are one excellent example. Building with fieldstone addressed several conditions of WPA funding, in that the cost of material could be obtained in the form of a local "match" for the WPA funds, and also because the hand labor that ensued in carrying out the stonework would justify additional work relief labor.

Tweed, Soulliere, and Law have thoroughly considered the context, character, and design sources for this kind of "WPA Rustic" as it relates to National Park Service park architecture, characterizing most of the work carried out from 1935 to 1942 as the period of decline in popularity of the rustic style as it relates to park and recreation architecture. The fieldstone features on the Grand Forks Fairground certainly establish a strong identity and architectural character that has outlasted many of the more utilitarian (and ephemeral) buildings on the grounds. The fieldstone buildings, structures and objects on the Grand Forks Fairgrounds are probably more important for their architectural motifs and the local circumstances of depression-era work relief in Grand Forks than for their assumed architectural association with Theodore Wells.

By 1939 the \$250,000 renovation and beautification project at the Grand Forks fairgrounds was completed. The *Grand Forks Herald* proclaimed, "the new parkway of trees and flowers is carpeted in brilliant new green, visible from the moment one enters through the new ornamental stone-arched gateway at the main entrance."

Much of the history of the Grand Forks Fairgrounds is illustrated by events that unfolded there subsequent to the construction of buildings and other features. Newspaper coverage and promotional Fair bills titillate the reader with the kinds of events sponsored at the State Fairs through the 1930s. In 1937, for example, the six-day Grand Forks State Fair hyped Dare Devil Crash Pilot F.F. Frakes, the beautiful Helen "Hell'n How" Howe in her Plymouth Roll-Over-Car, the lovely Miss Jean DeLuca automobile stunt specialist driving over 30 sticks of exploding dynamite (some promoters claimed it was "50-sticks"), in addition to a full slate of 4-H events, livestock shows, saddle and harness racing.

Local sponsors promoted an open invitation for Captain Frakes to "snap back to normal" with a Coca Cola from the Grand Forks bottling company, Miss Howe trusted only the "exacting safety standard of Plymouth" cars from Nomland or Valley Motor Companies, and Miss DeLuca chose exclusively Kato's Beauty Shop for her cosmetic needs while in Grand Forks. These examples may help to illustrate both the public's penchant for "drama" in Fair attractions during the Depression years, and also the imagination of local merchants in tapping into the spinoff marketability of the Fair. The transitory and temporal quality of a Fair is also reflected in memories of events that took place at the Fairgrounds. Local resident Ted Jelliff recalls taking off vacation days to observe the Barnum and Bailey Circus unloading their railroad circus cars and setting up the Bigtop tent in 1948. Working at the Fair is a part of the memories of many Grand Forks residents. Photos and newspaper accounts of livestock judging add to the historical record of the Fair's cultural importance.

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Unquestionably the most visible historic event that ever occurred at the Grand Forks State Fairgrounds was the much-celebrated visit by U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt. The context of Roosevelt's visit connects it with the architectural features of the Fairgrounds, and closely connects the Fairgrounds with North Dakota politics and national events of the depression-era. The period 1934 to 1939 was an especially volatile time in North Dakota politics, marked by in-fighting, intrigue, and backdoor political alliances. Roosevelt's Grand Forks visit can be placed within the context of North Dakota's depression-era politics.

Three viable political parties were active in North Dakota during the 1920s and 30s (Republican, Democratic, and independent Non-Partisan League). In 1934-35, North Dakota had four governors within seven months; instigated, in part, by the Roosevelt administration's lobbying to undermine the populist William Langer. Langer was removed from office in July 1934 by State Supreme Court ruling and was replaced by his Lieutenant Governor, Ole H. Olson. Thomas H. Moodie was elected to the governor's office late in 1934, but he, in turn was removed within less than a month of his inauguration, and replaced by Lieutenant Governor Walter Welford. In the background of this intrigue were self-interested politicians from all three parties, including Langer's wife, Lydia, who ran against Moodie, Senator Gerald P. Nye, and Congressman William Lemke, and John Moses who was eventually elected governor and replaced Langer after his second term in office. Perhaps it is more than incidental that FDR appointed Moodie to implement his WPA programs in the state, after Moodie was deposed from his brief stint in the governorship. Moodie's many accomplishments on behalf of the Roosevelt administration and specifically on behalf of the WPA in North Dakota probably reflect a much greater impact on the state's history than if he had served a full term.

Historians' accounts suggest that this infighting was fostered and managed, to an extent, in the interest of the Roosevelt administration seeking to implement its work relief strategies in place of those populist programs that had been initiated in the state by the Langer administration. In any case, Roosevelt's appearance in Grand Forks -- with all the principal players alongside each other in the press photos in front of the Fairgrounds grandstand -- seems to reflect remarkable stage-craft. The dedication event in Grand Forks, along the parade route and at the Fairgrounds, was expertly managed to reflect favorably on all these public figures.

FDR arrived by presidential train on October 4, 1937 to dedicate the grandstand and to promote the successes of federal relief initiatives. This well-choreographed event -- which brought together such disparate political factions as WPA administrator Thomas Moodie, North Dakota Governor William "Wild Bill" Langer, and U.S. Senator Gerald P. Nye -- was enthusiastically reported in the *Herald*:

"President Franklin D. Roosevelt will visit Grand Forks during the forenoon of Monday, October 4, stopping here several hours to dedicate the new grandstand at the state fair grounds. Mrs. Roosevelt will accompany him. . . . The new grandstand at the fair grounds, practically completed before the fair in June, now is finished in every detail, and the president had been urged to stop here for dedicatory exercises since his western trip was planned." [*Herald*, September 21, 1937]

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Under the byline "Cities Ready for Gala Welcome of Chief on Monday"; Music of 17 bands, an artillery salute of 21 guns, two cities decorated in national colors and presidential insignia and the cheers of thousands of his countrymen will welcome President Roosevelt to Greater Grand Forks Monday morning. The presidential train will arrive in Grand Forks, according to schedule, at 9:30 a.m. at the Great Northern depot. [The schedule was later adjusted for a 12:01 p.m. on-time arrival.] There will be no speech from the rear of the train, but the president will leave the train from the rear coach, opposite the express depot. He will proceed immediately to an automobile and his party will start on a trip through the two cities, ending at the fair grounds . . . where the president will give the dedicatory address for the new grandstand." [Herald, October 3, 1937]

The full text of President Roosevelt's remarks appeared in print in the October 5, 1937 edition of the *Herald*. The majority of prepared comments focused on farm recovery from Dust Bowl drought conditions, the need for soil conservation and a strategy for control of agricultural surpluses. Much light was made in local media of an off-handed comment in FDR's opening remarks to the crowd (estimated at 20,000 attendees) to the effect that, "This is the first mistake I have seen the WPA make; for in building this grandstand, they made it only half as big as it ought to be." [Herald, October 5, 1937]

From World War II to the reorganization of the Grand Forks State and County Fair Association board in 1957, changes continued to impact the maintenance and usage of the fairgrounds. Much of the success in maintaining and cultivating the Fair's infrastructure may be attributable to longtime, resident caretaker Bill Huggins (who is also noted for his ties with cemetery maintenance in Grand Forks, continuing to the early 1960s). With an increasing range of recreational and entertainment opportunities, annual agricultural fairs diminished in their central importance as a statewide cultural activity. Over time, many of the high-maintenance livestock buildings and architecturally-intriguing pavilions have been eliminated from the fairgrounds, and landscaped planting beds have largely given way to hardsurfaced parking.

Nonetheless, the Grand Forks County Fair remains an important cultural event featured annually at the historic fairground setting. The grandstand and fieldstone gateway continue to figure prominently in those events. At the time of this writing, the River Cities Speedway association does an effective job of promoting a successful sprint car racing league that makes active use of the grandstand and reconfigured dirt track. Together with the Fair Association, they have ambitious visions for rekindling annual recreational activity at a successful County Fair.

The WPA architectural resources of the Grand Forks Fairgrounds have statewide significance under Criterion A for the long history of open-air recreation and cultural events the buildings and gateways embody, and for their association with state and national politics and economic development during the Great Depression. The resource features described in this nomination have further local significance under Criterion C for their architectural characteristics, construction, style, and engineering features associated with an important, early North Dakota architect Theodore B. Wells. The extensive use of hand-cut granitic fieldstones is a hallmark of much WPA-rustic architectural work in the Grand Forks region. The overall masterplan and individual building designs reflect the Art Deco design competencies of Wells as a locally-educated architect. Though some aspects of the Fairgrounds landscape context have been diminished over time, the material integrity of the contributing resources of this nomination remain intact and connect the buildings with local and state history.

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- "Grand Forks County Fairgrounds", Wells-Denbrook Architectural Records, (OGL#1487, Folder 10; Proj. No. 3630), in the Orin G. Libby Manuscripts/Elwyn Robinson Special Collections of the Chester Fritz Library at University of North Dakota.
- "Theodore B. Wells, Architect", in *Who's Who in North Dakota*; (1958); p.200.
- *WPA Accomplishments; 1935-39*. Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, (1940). [note; North Dakota was situated within WPA Region 4, along with Minnesota, and administered under the leadership of Thomas H. Moodie]

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- "Fairgrounds Plans Submitted to WPA". *Grand Forks Herald*, (Sunday, August 23, 1936); insert, p.1
- "Fairgrounds to Have New Grandstand". *Grand Forks Herald*, (December 15, 1936); p.14
- "Rush Improvements at N.D. Fairgrounds". *Grand Forks Herald*, (March 7, 1937); p.5
- "Rush Big Improvements For Fair Opening June 21". *Grand Forks Herald*, (May 29, 1936); p.3
- "Fair Arranges Biggest Program Of Years". *Grand Forks Herald*, (May 30, 1937); p.10
- "Fair Next Week Offers Most Elaborate Exhibit Of Years". *Grand Forks Herald*, (June 13, 1937); p.12
- "F.D.R. to Visit Grand Forks". *Grand Forks Herald*, (Tuesday, September 21, 1937); p.1
- "Fix Details for President's Visit in City". *Grand Forks Herald*, (September 22, 1937); p.1
- "GF and EGF Await F.R. Arrival Here". *Grand Forks Herald*, (Sunday, October 3, 1937); p.1
- "Where President Will Speak", (photo of grandstand). *Grand Forks Herald*, (October 3, 1937); p.2
- "Thousands Here to Welcome F.R.". *Grand Forks Herald*, (October 4, 1937); p.1
- "Throng Cheers F.D.R. Here", (and "Text of Roosevelt Talk at Grand Forks Fairgrounds"). *Grand Forks Herald*, (October 5, 1937); p.1-2
- "The President and Governor Langer in Monday's Parade", (captioned photo). *Grand Forks Herald*, (October 5, 1937); p.12
- "Moodie Reports to President on Millions Expended on WPA Program". *Grand Forks Herald*, (Sunday, October 3, 1937); p.4

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Historical documentary photos of GF Fairgrounds and Grandstand,
in the Orin G. Libby (OGL-series) Manuscripts/Elwyn Robinson Special Collections of the Chester Fritz
Library at University of North Dakota, except as otherwise noted:

- "On the Pike, N.D. State Fair at Grand Forks (1907)." (Alice Hunter Papers), OGL#370-127/128.
- "Liberal Arts Building at State Fair, 1907." OGL#291-859.
- "Fairgrounds, ca. 1917." OGL#291-132.
- "Grand Forks Fairgrounds, ca. 1920." OGL#444/445.
- "Fairgrounds and a Circus; August 14, 1953." OGL#291-133.
- "Grand Forks Fairgrounds, ca. 1966." OGL#791-442, 791-436, and 791-1934.
- (untitled photos of the Grand Forks Fairgrounds); OGL 791-435/443.
- "Dan Patch, Harness Racing at the North Dakota State Fairgrounds; 1909"; OGL#291-854.

Press photos from the *Grand Forks Herald*, provided courtesy of Marsha Gunderson, from her personal file
relating to Grand Forks subject matter:

- "Parking Area between Fairgrounds and Skidmore Avenue"; (ca. 1955).
- "Fieldstone Chapel Building at Calvary Cemetery"; (undated).
- "Judging Cows (mostly Holsteins)"; (ca. 1955).
- "Dan Patch 1915".
- "Fairgrounds Aerial Photo, dated July 18, 1950."
- "Horses-Dan White's Prize Winning Team," August 25, 1940.
- "In front of Cattle Barn," July 24, 1940.
- "In front of the Fairgrounds Grandstand (on horseback)," July 28, 1950.
- "Inside the Cattle Barn, (with bunting and Guernseys)".
- "4H Youth Exhibit of an Excellent Group of Sheep," (ca. 1940; they look like Suffolks).
- "The 4H barns (and another bunch of some excellent sheep!)," (ca. 1940).
- "Fairgrounds Half-mile Racetrack, looking east" ca.1930; [with Liberal Arts Pavilion and *Grand Forks Herald* Fairgrounds building in background.].

Grand Forks County Fairgrounds WPA Structures
(Property Name)

Grand Forks County, North Dakota
(County and State)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.80-acres total (78,580 square feet on three discrete parcels) ___
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1 4 Zone	644 620 Easting	5 310 830 Northing	Grandstand building (on a parcel "A" which is 36,000-s.f. in area)
1 4 Zone	644 820 Easting	5 310 750 Northing	South entrance gateway structure (on a parcel "B"; 41,980-s.f. in area)
1 4 Zone	644 820 Easting	5 310 730 Northing	Ticket kiosk building (included within Parcel "B")
1 4 Zone	644 700 Easting	5 310 830 Northing	Administrative building (included within Parcel "A")
1 4 Zone	645 120 Easting	5 310 710 Northing	Southeast gatepost entrance objects (on a parcel "C"; 600-s.f. in area)

Property boundary coordinates (see continuation sheet)

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

See continuation sheets

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheets

11. Form Prepared By

name/title:	Steve C. Martens; Architect	date:	revised February 27, 2009
organization:	for the Grand Forks Historic Preservation Commission	telephone:	701 361 3943
street & number:	P.O. Box 5244	zip code:	58105-5244
city or town:	Fargo	state:	ND

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

See Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Property Owner

name:	Grand Forks County Fair Association (Monica Evavold, Fair Manager)	telephone:	701/330-1238
street & number:	P.O. Box 12519	zip code:	58208-2519
city or town:	Grand Forks	state:	ND

The preparation of this nomination has been financed in part with Federal funds from the National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior, and administered by the State Historical Society of North Dakota. However, the contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the United States Department of the Interior or the State Historical Society of North Dakota, nor does the mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation by the Department of the Interior or the State Historical Society of North Dakota.

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Grand Forks County Fairgrounds WPA Structures; Grand Forks County, North Dakota

10. Verbal boundary description:

See aerial photo overlay (Fig. 1) outlining boundaries of the nominated property and resource features.

Three separate groupings of site resource/features are included in this nomination.

Parcel A: Boundary for the grandstand and administrative building begins at the northwest most corner of the Fairgrounds grandstand (ramp and guardrail), extending eastward along the north edge of concrete steps at the trackside edge of the grandstand a distance of exactly 300-feet, to a point aligned 5-feet from the eastern edge of the administrative building, then southward 120-feet; thence westward 300-feet and returning northward to the point of origination. Total area of this parcel "A" as described is 36,000-square feet.

Parcel B: Boundary for the second grouping (including the arched entry gate, pedestrian ticket kiosk, and related pavements) extends along a continuous line 30-feet north of the entry arch feature, following a line exactly 10-feet from each face/surface of the stonework arched gateway feature, to a point 10-feet south of the stone gateway and 9-feet west of the edge of the paved access road, then due southward along a line 9-feet west of the west edge of Fairgrounds paved entrance road, extending 400-feet south to the right-of-way boundary of Gateway Drive (U.S. Highway 2), then eastward 85-feet (to include the 66-foot width of the paved entrance drive), turning northward 220-feet to a point exactly 25-feet due southwest of the centerpoint of the stone kiosk building, continuing east 25-feet, then turning north to follow a line exactly 10-feet east of the stone ticket kiosk to the original north edge boundary defined by a line 30-feet north of the arched entry gateway structure. Total area of this parcel "B" as described is 41,980- square feet.

Parcel C: Boundary for the third set of elements (in the far southeastern corner of the historic Fairgrounds property) originates along the pedestrian bikepath, with boundary edges 5-feet from each of three WPA-built elements; two stone piers and a concrete flagpole base. Beginning 15-feet due south from the centerpoint of the concrete flagpole base, extend westward 25-feet, thence northward 20-feet, thence eastward 30-feet, then southward 20-feet; returning 5-feet west to the point of origination. Total area of this parcel as described is 600-square feet.

10. Verbal boundary justification:

The three discrete parcel boundaries contain all areas and extant features historically associated with the Fairgrounds as illustrated on the WPA masterplan [Wells; 1936], including the last extant features that remain unaltered since the end of the period of significance (1936-1957). All other areas of the Fairgrounds site, specifically excluded under the Verbal Boundary Description, have been substantially altered since the period of historic significance. All parts of the historic Fairground site outside the three described boundary parcel areas contain buildings or constructed features that are later than the period of significance, are not connected with development of the Fairgrounds, and/or lack material integrity.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Section Additional Documentation Page 20
Grand Forks County Fairgrounds WPA Structures; Grand Forks County, North Dakota

Reference photos and captions:

**Grand Forks County Fairgrounds
Grand Forks County, North Dakota**

Photographer: Steve C. Martens

Photo date: 24 June 2008

SCMo8 101b_101 BW (Digital TIFF images);

State Historical Society of North Dakota and Grand Forks Historic Preservation Commission

Photo number 1

GF Fairgrounds entrance gate; facing northeast

**Grand Forks County Fairgrounds
Grand Forks County, North Dakota**

Photographer: Steve C. Martens

Photo date: 24 June 2008

SCMo8 101b_102 BW (Digital TIFF images);

State Historical Society of North Dakota and Grand Forks Historic Preservation Commission

Photo number 2

GF Fairgrounds entrance gate (south elevation); facing north

**Grand Forks County Fairgrounds
Grand Forks County, North Dakota**

Photographer: Steve C. Martens

Photo date: 24 June 2008

SCMo8 101b_107 BW (Digital TIFF images);

State Historical Society of North Dakota and Grand Forks Historic Preservation Commission

Photo number 3

GF Fairgrounds entry gate detail features; facing north/northwest

**Grand Forks County Fairgrounds
Grand Forks County, North Dakota**

Photographer: Steve C. Martens

Photo date: 24 June 2008

SCMo8 101b_116 BW (Digital TIFF images);

State Historical Society of North Dakota and Grand Forks Historic Preservation Commission

Photo number 4

GF Fairgrounds administrative office building; facing northwest

**Grand Forks County Fairgrounds
Grand Forks County, North Dakota**

Photographer: Steve C. Martens

Photo date: 24 June 2008

SCMo8 101b_118 BW (Digital TIFF images);

State Historical Society of North Dakota and Grand Forks Historic Preservation Commission

Photo number 5

GF Fairgrounds administrative office building; facing west/southwest with grandstand in background

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Grand Forks County Fairgrounds WPA Structures; Grand Forks County, North Dakota

**Grand Forks County Fairgrounds
Grand Forks County, North Dakota**

Photographer: Steve C. Martens

Photo date: 24 June 2008

SCMo8 101b_121 BW (Digital TIFF images);

State Historical Society of North Dakota and Grand Forks Historic Preservation Commission

Photo number 6

GF Fairgrounds administrative office building; facing southeastward

**Grand Forks County Fairgrounds
Grand Forks County, North Dakota**

Photographer: Steve C. Martens

Photo date: 24 June 2008

SCMo8 101b_129 BW (Digital TIFF images);

State Historical Society of North Dakota and Grand Forks Historic Preservation Commission

Photo number 7

GF Fairgrounds grandstand roof cantilever; facing southwest

**Grand Forks County Fairgrounds
Grand Forks County, North Dakota**

Photographer: Steve C. Martens

Photo date: 24 June 2008

SCMo8 101b_132 BW (Digital TIFF images);

State Historical Society of North Dakota and Grand Forks Historic Preservation Commission

Photo number 8

GF Fairgrounds grandstand seating and roof canopy detail; facing southeast

**Grand Forks County Fairgrounds
Grand Forks County, North Dakota**

Photographer: Steve C. Martens

Photo date: 24 June 2008

SCMo8 101b_136 BW (Digital TIFF images);

State Historical Society of North Dakota and Grand Forks Historic Preservation Commission

Photo number 9

GF Fairgrounds grandstand exterior west end and south elevations; facing northeastward

**Grand Forks County Fairgrounds
Grand Forks County, North Dakota**

Photographer: Steve C. Martens

Photo date: 24 June 2008

SCMo8 101b_137 BW (Digital TIFF images);

State Historical Society of North Dakota and Grand Forks Historic Preservation Commission

Photo number 10

GF Fairgrounds grandstand interior detail; facing east into concessions breezeway

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Grand Forks County Fairgrounds WPA Structures; Grand Forks County, North Dakota

**Grand Forks County Fairgrounds
Grand Forks County, North Dakota**

Photographer: Steve C. Martens

Photo date: 24 June 2008

SCMo8 101b_141 BW (Digital TIFF images);

State Historical Society of North Dakota and Grand Forks Historic Preservation Commission

Photo number 11

GF Fairgrounds grandstand exterior south elevation detail; facing northwest

**Grand Forks County Fairgrounds
Grand Forks County, North Dakota**

Photographer: Steve C. Martens

Photo date: 24 June 2008

SCMo8 101a_010 BW (Digital JPEG and TIFF images);

State Historical Society of North Dakota and Grand Forks Historic Preservation Commission

Photo number 12

GF Fairgrounds walk-up kiosk at pedestrian entrance; facing southeast

**Grand Forks County Fairgrounds
Grand Forks County, North Dakota**

Photographer: Steve C. Martens

Photo date: 24 June 2008

SCMo8 101a_022 BW (Digital JPEG and TIFF images);

State Historical Society of North Dakota and Grand Forks Historic Preservation Commission

Photo number 13

GF Fairgrounds entrance gateway and pedestrian entry gate; facing southwest

**Grand Forks County Fairgrounds
Grand Forks County, North Dakota**

Photographer: Steve C. Martens

Photo date: 24 June 2008

SCMo8 103a Fairgrounds Gate_k BW (Digital JPEG and TIFF images);

State Historical Society of North Dakota and Grand Forks Historic Preservation Commission

Photo number 14

GF Fairgrounds secondary entrance gate with fieldstone "cairn" piers and concrete flagpole base.

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Section Additional Documentation Page 23
Grand Forks County Fairgrounds WPA Structures; Grand Forks County, North Dakota

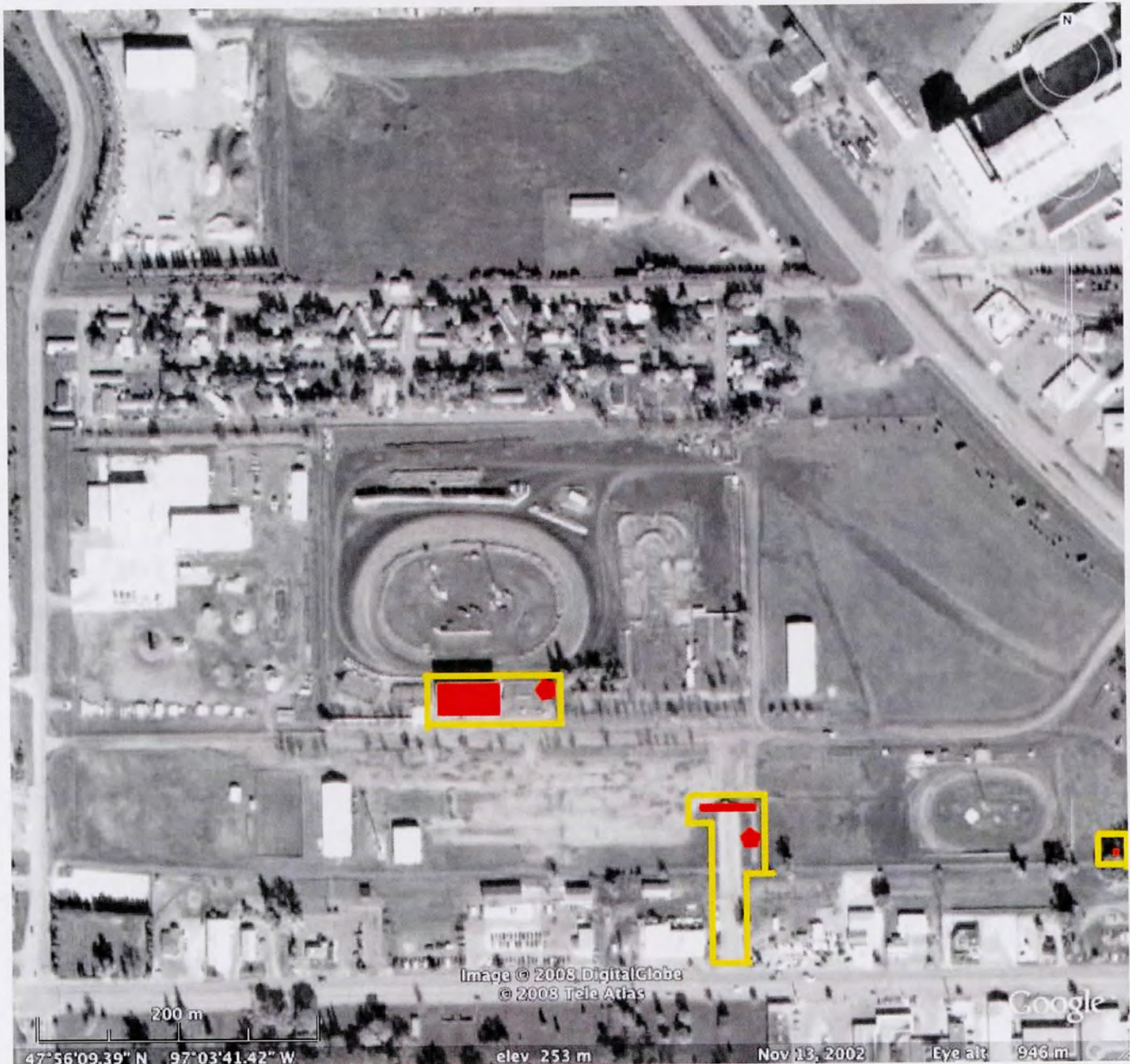


Fig. 1: GoogleEarth™ aerial photo image
©Europa Technologies (downloaded 5 July 2008)

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Legend to symbols indicated on sketch map below:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| ☆ Extant feature | △ Feature of 1936 masterplan no longer in evidence (removed) | ⊙ Reference photo location & Photo number |
| ☆ 1 Fairgrounds Ceremonial Entrance Gateway (WPA, 1939) | △ 6 former half-mile horse racing track | △ 11 Automobile pavilion (WPA, 1935-57) |
| ☆ 2 Ticket Kiosk (WPA, 1939) | △ 7 current motor speedway 1/4-mile 4:10 oval dirt track | △ 12 Biergarten (WPA, 1937-57) |
| ☆ 3 Fairgrounds Admin. Bldg. (WPA, 1938) | △ 8 Landscape plaza proposed under 1936 WPA masterplan | △ 13 Dance Hall (1939-66) |
| ☆ 4 Grandstand, flanked by bleachers (WPA, 1937) | △ 9 location of Midway designated in 1936 WPA masterplan | △ 14 4H Building, Youth Programs |
| ☆ 5 Stone cairns at secondary entry gate (WPA, 1939) | △ 10 former railroad siding and livestock pavilions | △ 15 Original Liberal Arts Pavilion (1938-42); later roller skating arena (1952-66) |

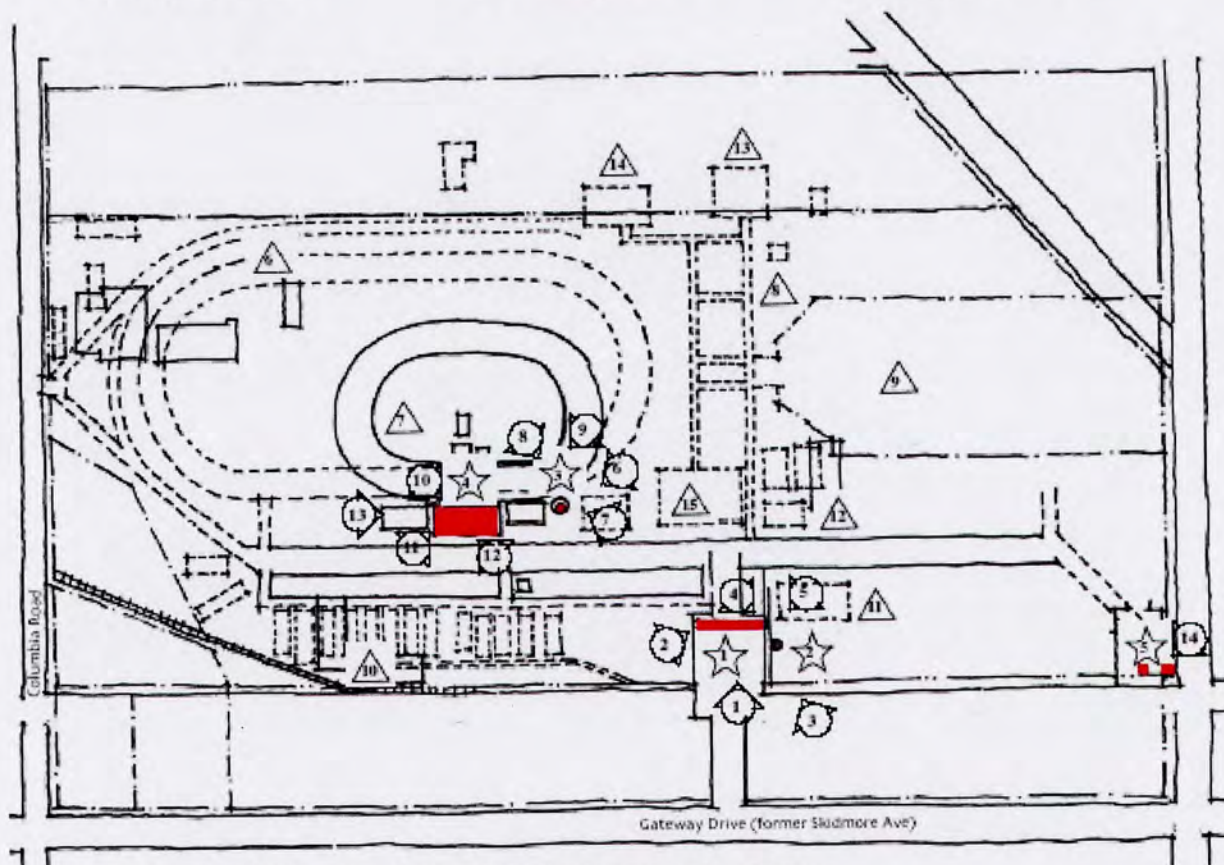


Fig. 2: Sketch map of Grand Forks Fairgrounds vicinity

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Grand Forks County Fairgrounds WPA Structures; Grand Forks County, North Dakota

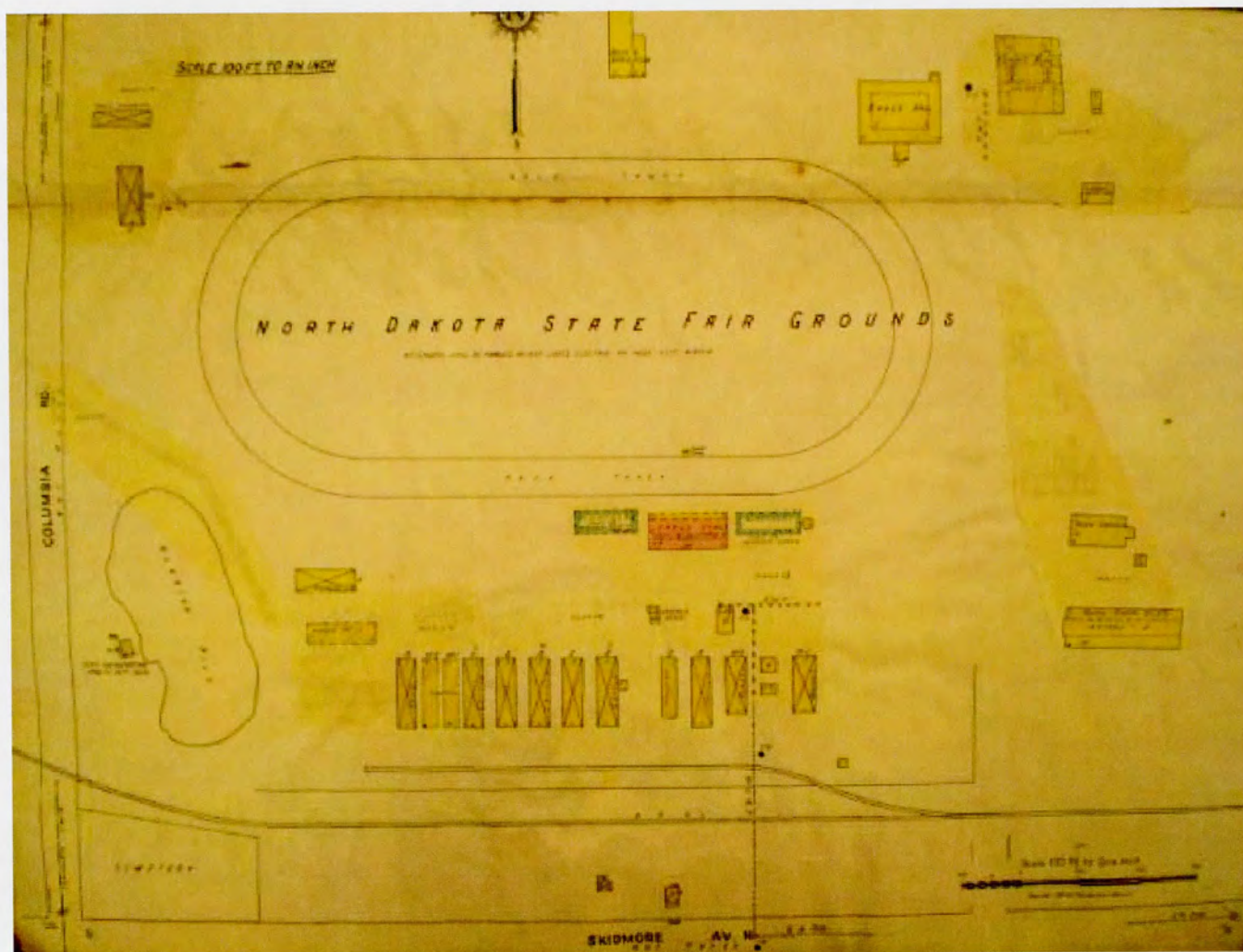


Fig. 3: 1939 Sanborn Map overlay showing GF Fairgrounds

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Grand Forks County Fairgrounds WPA Structures; Grand Forks County, North Dakota

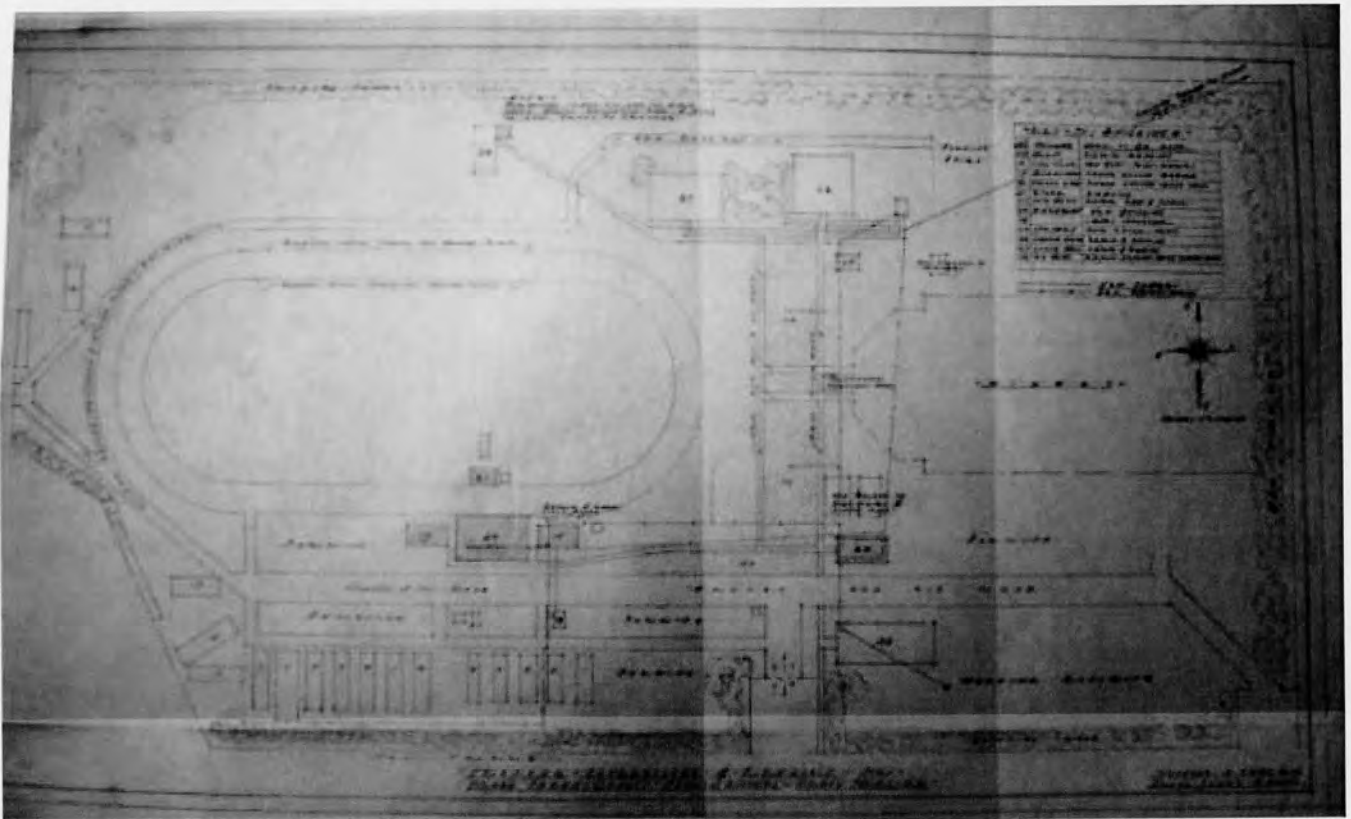


Fig. 4: Fairgrounds masterplan drawing that formed the basis of the WPA project application. Wells Denbrook Architectural Papers (1936); drawing and details from the Orin G. Libby Special Collections at Chester Fritz Library, University of North Dakota



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Grand Forks County Fairgrounds WPA Structures; Grand Forks County, North Dakota



Fig. 5: Historical reference photo; "July 1909 - Dan Patch Harness racing at Grand Forks Fairground"
From the Orin G. Libby Special Collections at Chester Fritz Library, University of North Dakota



Fig. 6: Historical reference photo; "On the Pike at the North Dakota State Fair at Grand Forks"
From the Orin G. Libby Special Collections at Chester Fritz Library, University of North Dakota

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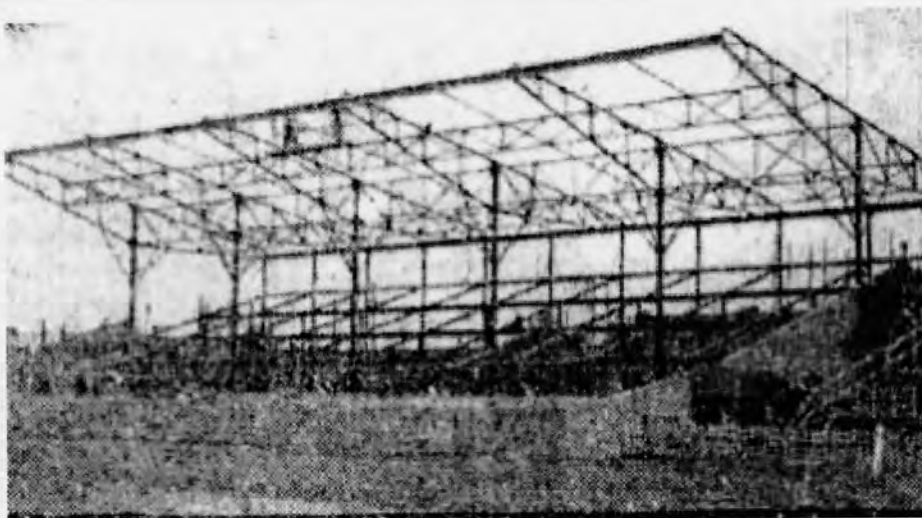


Fig. 7: Historical reference photo; "Fairgrounds Grandstand Under Construction" from the *Grand Forks Herald*, June, 1937



Fig. 8: Historical reference photo; "State Fair at Grand Forks; August 14, 1953" (aerial view toward northeast, with State Mill and Elevator upper left and Fairgrounds Administrative Building lower left)
From the Orin G. Libby Special Collections at Chester Fritz Library, University of North Dakota

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Grand Forks County Fairgrounds WPA Structures; Grand Forks County, North Dakota



Fig. 9: Historical reference photo; (untitled images), OGL 791-435/443
From the Orin G. Libby Special Collections at Chester Fritz Library, University of North Dakota



Fig. 10: Historical reference photo; "Where the President Will Speak"
From the *Grand Forks Herald*; 1937

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Fig. 11: Historical reference photo; "Fairgrounds aerial July 18, 1950"
Image provided by Marsha Gunderson, personal collections excerpted from the *Grand Forks Herald*



Fig. 12: Historical reference photo; "Livestock Barns at the Fairgrounds, and some 4H Sheep"; ca 1940.
Image provided by Marsha Gunderson, personal collections excerpted from the *Grand Forks Herald*



PHOTOGRAPH AND SLIDE IDENTIFICATION
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NORTH DAKOTA
ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
SFN 3619 (7-94)

File Number

Project	National Register of Historic Places documentation Reference photos for Grand Forks County Fairgrounds WPA buildings; Images submitted digitally as color and <i>black-and-white</i> super-high quality resolution jpeg files		
Photographed By	Steve C. Martens; Architect (SCM 2008)		
FRAME	SUBJECT DESCRIPTION/DIRECTION PHOTOGRAPHING FROM	SITE NUMBER	DATE
SCM08 101a_005	GF Fairgrounds entrance gate; facing southeast		24 June 2008
SCM08 101a_006	GF Fairgrounds entrance gate; facing northeast		24 June 2008
SCM08 101a_007	GF Fairgrounds entrance gate; facing northeast		24 June 2008
SCM08 101a_008	GF Fairgrounds entrance gate (south elevation); facing north		24 June 2008
SCM08 101a_009	Walk-up ticket kiosk alongside Fairground entry gate; facing east/southeast		24 June 2008
SCM08 101a_010	GF Fairgrounds walk-up kiosk at pedestrian entrance; facing southeast		24 June 2008
<i>SCM08 101a_010BW</i>	<i>GF Fairgrounds walk-up kiosk at pedestrian entrance; facing southeast</i>		24 June 2008
SCM08 101a_011	Interior construction details of Fairgrounds walk-up ticket kiosk; facing southeast		24 June 2008
SCM08 101a_012	Interior construction framing details of Fairgrounds ticket kiosk; looking upward		24 June 2008
SCM08 101a_013	Interior construction framing details of Fairgrounds ticket kiosk; looking upward		24 June 2008
SCM08 101a_014	Walk-up ticket kiosk alongside Fairground entry gate; facing northwest		24 June 2008
SCM08 101a_015	Walk-up ticket kiosk alongside Fairground entry gate; facing northwest		24 June 2008
SCM08 101a_016	Pedestrian entryway through Fairgrounds gateway; facing northwest		24 June 2008
SCM08 101a_017	Close-up details; pedestrian entryway through Fairgrounds gateway; facing northwest		24 June 2008
SCM08 101a_018	Details of roof construction; pedestrian entryway through Fairgrounds gateway; facing northwest		24 June 2008
SCM08 101a_019	Details of roof construction framing; pedestrian entryway through Fairgrounds gateway; facing west, looking upward		24 June 2008
SCM08 101a_020	GF Fairgrounds entrance gate (north elevation) with pedestrian entranceway in foreground; facing southwest		24 June 2008
SCM08 101a_021	GF Fairgrounds entrance gate (north elevation) with pedestrian entranceway in foreground; facing southwest		24 June 2008
SCM08 101a_022	GF Fairgrounds entrance gateway and pedestrian entry gate; facing southwest		24 June 2008
<i>SCM08 101a_022BW</i>	<i>GF Fairgrounds entrance gateway and pedestrian entry gate; facing southwest</i>		24 June 2008
SCM08 101a_023	GF Fairgrounds administrative office building; facing northwest		24 June 2008
SCM08 101a_024	GF Fairgrounds administrative office building; facing northwest		24 June 2008
SCM08 101a_025	GF Fairgrounds administrative office building; facing west/southwest with grandstand in background		24 June 2008
SCM08 101a_026	GF Fairgrounds administrative office building; facing southwest		24 June 2008
SCM08 101a_027	GF Fairgrounds administrative office building; facing southeast		24 June 2008
SCM08 101a_028	GF Fairgrounds grandstand; facing southwest		24 June 2008
SCM08 101a_029	GF Fairgrounds grandstand; facing southwest		24 June 2008
SCM08 101a_030	GF Fairgrounds administrative office building detail of cornice and upper story openings on north and northwest elevations; facing southeast		24 June 2008
SCM08 101a_031	GF Fairgrounds administrative office building detail of gated security window on north elevation; facing southeast		24 June 2008
SCM08 101a_032	GF Fairgrounds administrative office building detail of cornice and upper story openings on north and northwest elevations; facing southeast		24 June 2008
SCM08 101a_033	GF Fairgrounds administrative office building; detail of stonework around ground level entry door; facing northwest		24 June 2008
SCM08 101a_034	GF Fairgrounds administrative office building detail of cornice and upper story window openings; facing northwest		24 June 2008



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ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 SFN 3819 (7-94)

File Number

SCM08 101a_035	GF Fairgrounds administrative office building details of stonework surrounding gated security window on south elevation; facing northwest		24 June 2008
SCM08 101a_036	GF Fairgrounds, underside of east reconstructed (steel) bleacher structure; facing northwest		24 June 2008
SCM08 101a_037	GF Fairgrounds grandstand entry side exterior; facing west/northwest		24 June 2008
SCM08 101a_038	GF Fairgrounds grandstand interior; facing west into concessions breezeway		24 June 2008
SCM08 101a_039	GF Fairgrounds grandstand roof cantilever detail; facing southwest		24 June 2008
SCM08 101a_040	GF Fairgrounds grandstand roof cantilever & viewing booths; facing southwest		24 June 2008
SCM08 101a_041	GF Fairgrounds grandstand seating and exterior at east end; facing west		24 June 2008
SCM08 101a_042	GF Fairgrounds grandstand exterior brickwork at east end; facing southwest		24 June 2008
SCM08 101a_043	GF Fairgrounds grandstand tiered bleacher seating; facing southwest		24 June 2008
SCM08 101a_044	GF Fairgrounds grandstand roof cantilever detail; facing southwest		24 June 2008
SCM08 101a_045	GF Fairgrounds grandstand tiered lowest lever adjacent to track; facing east/northeast		24 June 2008
SCM08 101a_046	GF Fairgrounds grandstand tiered lowest lever adjacent to track; facing east/northeast		24 June 2008
SCM08 101a_047	GF Fairgrounds grandstand exterior brickwork at west end; facing southeast		24 June 2008
SCM08 101a_048	GF Fairgrounds grandstand exterior brickwork at west end; facing southeast		24 June 2008
SCM08 101a_049	GF Fairgrounds grandstand exterior south elevation; facing northeastward		24 June 2008
SCM08 101a_050	GF Fairgrounds grandstand exterior west elevation; facing northeastward		24 June 2008
SCM08 101a_051	GF Fairgrounds grandstand interior detail; facing east into concessions breezeway		24 June 2008
SCM08 101a_052	GF Fairgrounds grandstand interior detail; facing south into walk-in cooler room		24 June 2008
SCM08 101a_053	GF Fairgrounds grandstand interior; facing southeast toward entrance gates		24 June 2008
SCM08 101a_054	GF Fairgrounds grandstand interior; view upward from breezeway showing detail underside of fixed bleacher seating, above and west of entrance gates		24 June 2008
SCM08 101a_055	GF Fairgrounds grandstand interior detail; facing northeast in concessions breezeway		24 June 2008
SCM08 101a_056	GF Fairgrounds grandstand interior view of 1950s-vintage southwest corner Beergarden room; facing southwest		24 June 2008
SCM08 101a_057	GF Fairgrounds grandstand interior view of 1950s-vintage Beergarden room; facing west along north wall		24 June 2008
SCM08 101a_058	GF Fairgrounds grandstand interior view of 1950s-vintage Beergarden room; closeup of interior side of west wall		24 June 2008
SCM08 101a_059	GF Fairgrounds grandstand interior view of 1950s-vintage Beergarden room; closeup of interior side of west wall showing structural framing		24 June 2008
SCM08 101a_060	GF Fairgrounds grandstand interior view of 1950s-vintage Beergarden room; facing east		24 June 2008
SCM08 101a_061	GF Fairgrounds grandstand exterior south elevation detail; facing northwest		24 June 2008
SCM08 101a_062	GF Fairgrounds grandstand exterior south elevation detail; facing northwest		24 June 2008
SCM08 101a_063	GF Fairgrounds grandstand closeup exterior south elevation ticketing/entry details; facing northwest		24 June 2008
SCM08 101a_064	GF Fairgrounds grandstand interior view of southeast corner room showing historic/original interior of boarded-up windows; facing east		24 June 2008
SCM08 101a_065	GF Fairgrounds grandstand interior view of southeast corner room showing historic/original interior of boarded-up windows; facing east		24 June 2008
SCM08 101a_066	GF Fairgrounds grandstand exterior brickwork details at east end of south elevation; facing northeast		24 June 2008
GFFair SEGate_a.JPG	Fieldstone cairns at secondary entry gate; photographer facing west		19 August 2008
GFFair SEGate_b.JPG	Fieldstone cairns at secondary entry gate; photographer facing west		19 August 2008
GFFair SEGate_c.JPG	Cairns & flagpole base at secondary entry gate; facing southwest		19 August 2008



PHOTOGRAPH AND SLIDE IDENTIFICATION
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NORTH DAKOTA
ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
SFN 3819 (7-94)

File Number

Project	National Register of Historic Places documentation for Grand Forks County Fairgrounds WPA buildings; Images submitted digitally as color and <i>black-and-white</i> super-high quality resolution tiff files (selected archival prints accompanying NRHP nomination are indicated <i>bold italics</i>)		
Photographed By	Steve C. Martens; Architect (SCM 2008)		
FRAME	SUBJECT DESCRIPTION/DIRECTION PHOTOGRAPHING FROM	SITE NUMBER	DATE
SCM08 101b_099	GF Fairgrounds entrance gate; facing southeast		24 June 2008
SCM08 101b_100	GF Fairgrounds entrance gate; facing northeast		24 June 2008
<i>SCM08 101b_101 BW</i>	<i>GF Fairgrounds entrance gate; facing northeast</i>		24 June 2008
<i>SCM08 101b_102 BW</i>	<i>GF Fairgrounds entrance gate (south elevation); facing north</i>		24 June 2008
SCM08 101b_103	Pedestrian walking path along south boundary of Fairgrounds site; facing east		24 June 2008
SCM08 101b_104	GF Fairgrounds entrance gate (south elevation); facing north from Gateway Drive		24 June 2008
SCM08 101b_105	Wide-angle view; Fairgrounds entry gate features; facing northwest		24 June 2008
SCM08 101b_106	GF Fairgrounds entry gate features; facing north/northwest		24 June 2008
<i>SCM08 101b_107 BW</i>	<i>GF Fairgrounds entry gate features; facing north/northwest</i>		24 June 2008
SCM08 101b_108	Walk-up ticket kiosk alongside Fairground entry gate; facing northwest		24 June 2008
SCM08 101b_109	Walk-up ticket kiosk alongside Fairground entry gate; facing southeast		24 June 2008
SCM08 101b_110	Interior construction details of Fairgrounds walk-up ticket kiosk; facing southeast		24 June 2008
SCM08 101b_111	Details of roof construction; pedestrian entryway through Fairgrounds gateway; facing west/northwest		24 June 2008
SCM08 101b_112	GF Fairgrounds entrance gate (north elevation) with pedestrian entranceway in foreground; facing southwest		24 June 2008
SCM08 101b_113	GF Fairgrounds entrance gate (north elevation) with pedestrian entranceway in foreground; facing southwest		24 June 2008
SCM08 101b_114	Wide-angle context view toward Fairgrounds grandstand at left and administrative office building on right; facing northwest		24 June 2008
SCM08 101b_115	GF Fairgrounds administrative office building; facing northwest		24 June 2008
<i>SCM08 101b_116 BW</i>	<i>GF Fairgrounds administrative office building; facing northwest</i>		24 June 2008
SCM08 101b_117	GF Fairgrounds administrative office building; facing west/southwest with grandstand in background		24 June 2008
<i>SCM08 101b_118 BW</i>	<i>GF Fairgrounds administrative office building; facing west/southwest with grandstand in background</i>		24 June 2008
SCM08 101b_119	GF Fairgrounds grandstand; facing southwest		24 June 2008
SCM08 101b_120	GF Fairgrounds grandstand; facing southwest		24 June 2008
<i>SCM08 101b_121 BW</i>	<i>GF Fairgrounds administrative office building; facing southeastward</i>		24 June 2008
SCM08 101b_122	GF Fairgrounds administrative office building detail of gated security window on north elevation; facing southeast		24 June 2008
SCM08 101b_123	GF Fairgrounds administrative office building detail of cornice and upper story openings on north and northwest elevations; facing southeast		24 June 2008
SCM08 101b_124	GF Fairgrounds east reconstructed bleacher structure; facing northwest		24 June 2008
SCM08 101b_125	GF Fairgrounds grandstand exterior; facing northwest		24 June 2008
SCM08 101b_126	GF Fairgrounds grandstand exterior, east elevation; facing northwest		24 June 2008
SCM08 101b_127	GF Fairgrounds grandstand interior; facing west into concessions breezeway		24 June 2008
SCM08 101b_128	GF Fairgrounds grandstand seating exterior; facing southwest		24 June 2008
<i>SCM08 101b_129 BW</i>	<i>GF Fairgrounds grandstand roof cantilever; facing southwest</i>		24 June 2008
SCM08 101b_130	GF Fairgrounds grandstand exterior at east end; facing southwest		24 June 2008
SCM08 101b_131	GF Fairgrounds grandstand seating and roof canopy detail; facing southward		24 June 2008



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STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NORTH DAKOTA
ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
SFN 3819 (7-94)

File Number

SCM08 101b_132 BW	GF Fairgrounds grandstand seating and roof canopy detail; facing southeast		24 June 2008
SCM08 101b_133	GF Fairgrounds grandstand tiered lowest level adjacent to track; facing east/northeast		24 June 2008
SCM08 101b_134	GF Fairgrounds grandstand exterior at west end; facing southeast		24 June 2008
SCM08 101b_135	No image		24 June 2008
SCM08 101b_136 BW	GF Fairgrounds grandstand exterior west end and south elevations; facing northeastward		24 June 2008
SCM08 101b_137 BW	GF Fairgrounds grandstand interior detail; facing east into concessions breezeway		24 June 2008
SCM08 101b_138	GF Fairgrounds grandstand interior; facing southeast toward entrance gates		24 June 2008
SCM08 101b_139	GF Fairgrounds grandstand interior; facing southward toward entrance gates		24 June 2008
SCM08 101b_140	GF Fairgrounds grandstand interior; view upward from breezeway showing detail underside of fixed bleacher seating, above and west of entrance gates		24 June 2008
SCM08 101b_141 BW	GF Fairgrounds grandstand exterior south elevation detail; facing northwest		24 June 2008
GFFair SEGate_i.tif	Fieldstone cairns at secondary entry gate; photographer facing west		19 August 2008
GFFair SEGate_j.tif	Fieldstone cairns at secondary entry gate; photographer facing west		19 August 2008
GFair SEGate_k BW.tif	Cairns & flagpole base at secondary entry gate; facing southwest		19 August 2008

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Grand Forks County Fairgrounds WPA Structures

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NORTH DAKOTA, Grand Forks

DATE RECEIVED: 11/19/08 DATE OF PENDING LIST: DEC 8 2008
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DEC 23 2008 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/02/09
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 08001262

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

___ ACCEPT ___ RETURN ___ REJECT ___ DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Acreage needs to be corrected & 51 acres probably applied to entire fairgrounds and not to the 3 discrete parcels being nominated here. also parcel C needs to be more clearly defined and "approximately" needs to be dropped from verbal boundary description.

P.S.7 reference to "5th" building needs to be corrected.

RECOM./CRITERIA Return

REVIEWER LM Clelland DISCIPLINE History

TELEPHONE _____ DATE 1/2/09

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments (Y)N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

Grand Forks County Fairgrounds WPA Structures

Grand Forks, North Dakota

Recommendation: Return

Comments

This nomination is being returned so that the acreage can be corrected and the boundary description revised to indicate more precise boundaries.

Section 7. Description

Please make it clear in the description what resources are classified as buildings and which ones are classified as structures.

Section 8. Significance

The reference on page 8.7 to the 5th building needs to be corrected since the count indicates that there are only three buildings in the group.

Section 10. Geographical Data

Please revise the acreage to reflect only the space covered by the three groupings of resources. 51 acres is currently listed and appears to be the acreage for the entire fairgrounds rather than the area where the WPA resources are located.

Please review the verbal boundary descriptions for the three parcels, dropping "approximately" and making sure each one gives the precise boundaries. The description for Parcel C should give the dimensions of the nominated parcel and relate it to a fixed point on one of the resources. For example the southwest corner of the 50 x 40 foot parcel is fifteen feet southwest of the westernmost pier.

Please contact me if you have any questions about this return.

Linda McClelland

202-354-2258/linda_mcclelland@nps.gov

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: RESUBMISSION

PROPERTY NAME: Grand Forks County Fairgrounds WPA Structures

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NORTH DAKOTA, Grand Forks

DATE RECEIVED: 4/07/09 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/21/09
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 08001262

DETAILED EVALUATION:

___ACCEPT ___RETURN ___REJECT ___DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

This discontinuous group of resources associated with the WPA construction on the county fairgrounds represents its association with the New Deal era and ~~its~~ the characteristic stone construction work commonly associated with federally funded, state managed program. Later development has fragmented the 1930s design of the fair grounds; the three parcels being nominated ~~reflect~~ ^{strongly} reflect strong association with the past and high degree of workmanship and design that is telling of their New Deal origin and relationship to popular local entertainment and recreation.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept A & C

REVIEWER L. McQuillan

DISCIPLINE History

TELEPHONE _____

DATE 4-21-09

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N



GRAND FORKS COUNTY FAIRGROUND WPA STRUCTURES
GRAND FORKS COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA
PHOTOGRAPHER; STEVE C. MARTENS
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NORTH DAKOTA AND
GRAND FORKS HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

PHOTO #1:
GF FAIRGROUNDS ENTRANCE GATE
(SOUTH ELEVATION) FACING NORTH



GRAND FORKS COUNTY FAIRGROUND WPA STRUCTURES
GRAND FORKS COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA
PHOTOGRAPHER: STEVE C. MARTENS
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NORTH DAKOTA AND
GRAND FORKS HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

PHOTO #2:
GF FAIRGROUNDS ENTRANCE GATE; FACING NORTHEAST



GRAND FORKS COUNTY FAIRGROUND WPA STRUCTURES
GRAND FORKS COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA
PHOTOGRAPHER; STEVE C. MARTENS
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NORTH DAKOTA AND
GRAND FORKS HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

PHOTO #3;

GF FAIRGROUNDS ENTRY GATE DETAIL FEATURES
WITH KIOSK FOREGROUND; FACING NORTH/NORTHWEST



GRAND FORKS COUNTY FAIRGROUND WPA STRUCTURES
GRAND FORKS COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA
PHOTOGRAPHER: STEVE C. MARTENS
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NORTH DAKOTA AND
GRAND FORKS HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

PHOTO #4:

GF FAIRGROUNDS WALK-UP KIOSK AT PEDESTRIAN ENTRY;
FACING SOUTHEAST



GRAND FORKS COUNTY FAIRGROUND WPA STRUCTURES
GRAND FORKS COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA

PHOTOGRAPHER: STEVE C. MARTENS

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NORTH DAKOTA AND
GRAND FORKS HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

PHOTO #5;

GF FAIRGROUNDS ENTRANCE GATE W/ PEDESTRIAN ENTRY;
FACING SOUTHWEST



GRAND FORKS COUNTY FAIRGROUND WPA STRUCTURES
GRAND FORKS COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA
PHOTOGRAPHER; STEVE C. MARTENS
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NORTH DAKOTA AND
GRAND FORKS HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

PHOTO #6:

GF FAIRGROUNDS ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING (FOREGROUND)
FACING WEST/SOUTHWEST WITH GRANDSTAND IN BACKGROUND



GRAND FORKS COUNTY FAIRGROUND WPA STRUCTURES
GRAND FORKS COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA

PHOTOGRAPHER: STEVE C. MARTENS

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NORTH DAKOTA AND
GRAND FORKS HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

PHOTO #7;

GF FAIRGROUNDS ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING;
FACING NORTHWEST



GRAND FORKS COUNTY FAIRGROUND WPA STRUCTURES
GRAND FORKS COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA
PHOTOGRAPHER: STEVE C. MARTENS
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NORTH DAKOTA AND
GRAND FORKS HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

PHOTO #8;

GF FAIRGROUNDS ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING (FROM
RACETRACK SIDE); FACING SOUTHEAST



GRAND FORKS COUNTY FAIRGROUND WPA STRUCTURES
GRAND FORKS COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA
PHOTOGRAPHER: STEVE C. MARTENS
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NORTH DAKOTA AND
GRAND FORKS HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
PHOTO #9;
GF FAIRGROUNDS GRANDSTAND ROOF CANTILEVER;
FACING SOUTHWEST



GRAND FORKS COUNTY FAIRGROUND WPA STRUCTURES
GRAND FORKS COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA
PHOTOGRAPHER: STEVE C. MARTENS
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NORTH DAKOTA AND
GRAND FORKS HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

PHOTO #10:
GF FAIRGROUNDS GRANDSTAND SEATING AND
ROOF CANOPY DETAIL, FACING SOUTHEAST



GRAND FORKS COUNTY FAIRGROUND WPA STRUCTURES
GRAND FORKS COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA
PHOTOGRAPHER: STEVE C. MARTENS
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NORTH DAKOTA AND
GRAND FORKS HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

PHOTO #11:

GF FAIRGROUNDS GRANDSTAND EXTERIOR,
WEST END AND SOUTH ELEVATIONS, FACING NORTHEAST

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GRAND FORKS COUNTY FAIRGROUND WPA STRUCTURES
GRAND FORKS COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA
PHOTOGRAPHER: STEVE C. MARTENS
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NORTH DAKOTA AND
GRAND FORKS HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

PHOTO# 12;
GF FAIRGROUNDS GRANDSTAND EXTERIOR;
SOUTH ELEVATION DETAIL; FACING NORTHWEST



TIES WAY

\$5.00

BACK

GRAND FORKS COUNTY FAIRGROUND WPA STRUCTURES
GRAND FORKS COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA
PHOTOGRAPHER; STEVE C. MARTENS
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NORTH DAKOTA AND
GRAND FORKS HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

PHOTO #13;
GF FAIRGROUNDS GRANDSTAND INTERIOR DETAIL;
FACING EAST INTO CONCESSIONS BREEZEWAY



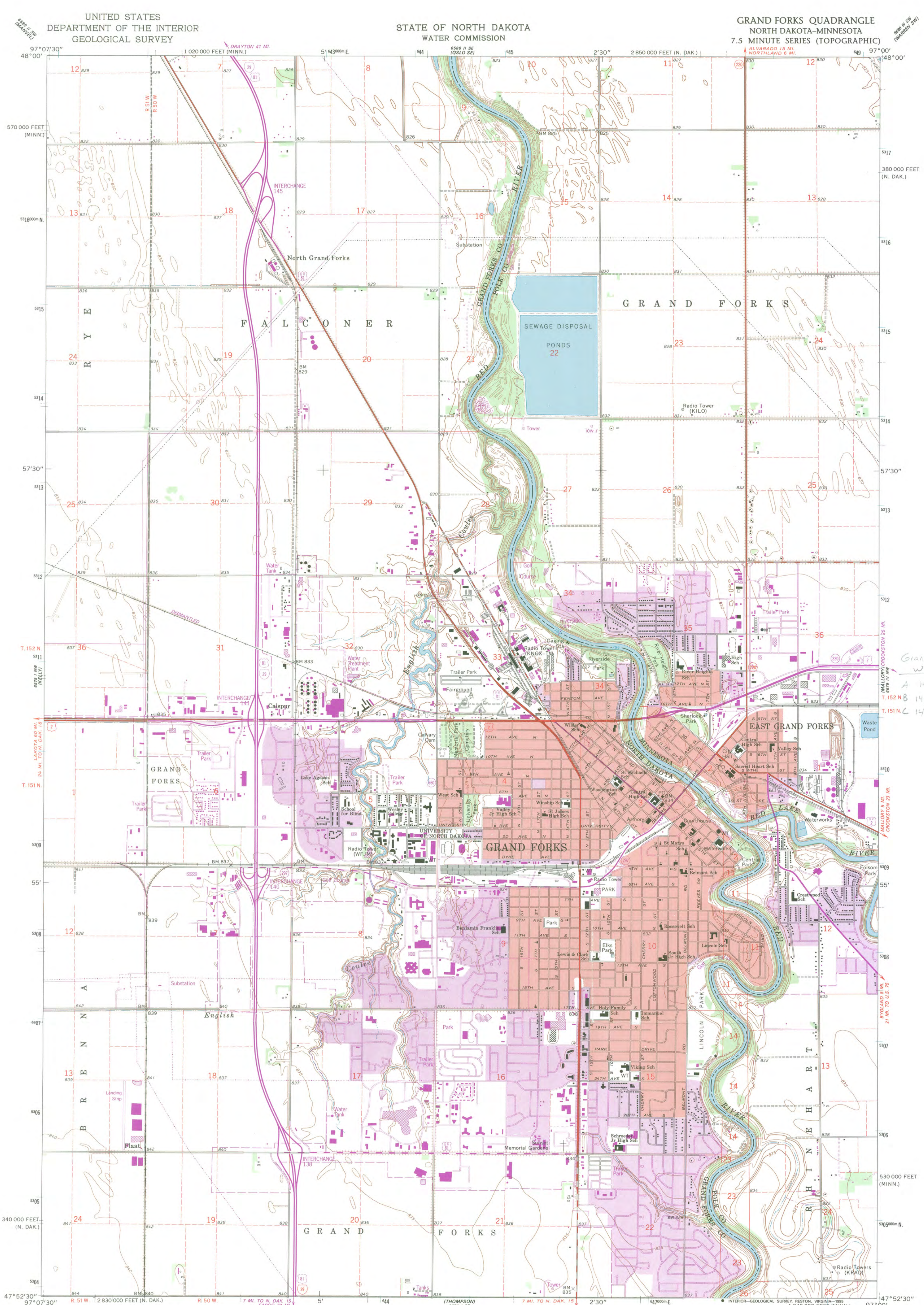
GRAND FORKS COUNTY FAIRGROUND WPA STRUCTURES
GRAND FORKS COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA

PHOTOGRAPHER: STEVE C. MARTENS

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NORTH DAKOTA AND
GRAND FORKS HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

PHOTO #14!

GF FAIRGROUNDS SECONDARY ENTRANCE GATE WITH
FIELDSTONE "CAIRN" PIERS AND CONCRETE FLAGPOLE BASE



Produced by the United States Geological Survey
Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1962. Topography by planimetric surveys 1963
North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27)
Projection: North Dakota coordinate system, north zone (Lambert conformal conic)
10 000-foot ticks: Minnesota coordinate system, north zone and North Dakota coordinate system, north zone
Blue 1 000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator ticks, zone 14
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) is shown by dashed corner ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 27 and NAD 83 for 7.5-minute intersections are obtainable from National Geodetic Survey NADCON software
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

SCALE 1:24 000
CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225
OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092 AND NORTH DAKOTA
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA 58505
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface	Light duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U. S. Route
	State Route

Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with State of Minnesota agencies from aerial photographs taken 1991-92 other sources. This information not field checked. Map edited 1994

Information shown in purple may not meet USGS content standards and may conflict with previously mapped contours

Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas

GRAND FORKS, ND-MN
47097-H1-TF-024
1963
REVISED 1994
DMA 65791 NE-SERIES W871



To: Keeper, National Register of Historic Places
From: Merlan E. Paaverud, Jr./ Lorna Meidinger
Date: 17 November 2008
Subject: National Register Nomination

The following materials are submitted on this 17th day of November 2008, for the nomination of the Grand Forks County Fairgrounds WPA Structures to the National Register of Historic Places.

_____ 1 _____ National Register of Historic Places nomination form on archival paper
_____ Multiple Property Nomination form on archival paper
_____ 14 _____ Photographs, black and white
_____ 1 _____ Original USGS map(s)
_____ Sketch map(s)/figure(s)/exhibit(s)
_____ Pieces of correspondence
_____ 1 _____ Other: _____ photo cd _____

COMMENTS:

_____ Please insure that this nomination is reviewed
_____ This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67
_____ The enclosed owner objections _____ do _____ do not constitute a majority of property owners.
_____ Other: _____



To: Keeper, National Register of Historic Places
From: Merlan E. Paaverud, Jr./ Lorna Meidinger
Date: 6 April 2009
Subject: National Register Nomination

The following materials are submitted on this 6th day of April 2009, for

the nomination of the Grand Forks County Fairgrounds WPA Structures to the National Register of Historic Places.

1 National Register of Historic Places nomination form on archival paper

 Multiple Property Nomination form on archival paper

14 Photographs, black and white

1 Original USGS map(s)

 Sketch map(s)/figure(s)/exhibit(s)

 Pieces of correspondence

1 Other: photo cd

COMMENTS:

 Please insure that this nomination is reviewed

 This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67

 The enclosed owner objections do do not constitute a majority of property owners.

 Other: