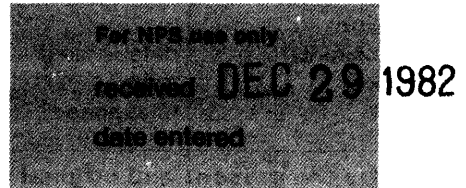


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



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

1. Name

historic Fairmont Creamery Company

and/or common Fairmont Creamery Company

2. Location

street & number 801 2nd Avenue North N/A not for publication

city, town Moorhead N/A vicinity of Congressional district 7th

state Minnesota code 22 county Clay code 027

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

4. Owner of Property

name Fairmont East and West, a Minnesota United Partnership  
Del-Con, Inc. as General Partner

street & number Box 369

city, town Moorhead N/A vicinity of state Minnesota 56560

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Clay County Courthouse

street & number 807 North 10th Street

city, town Moorhead state Minnesota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date N/A N/A federal N/A state N/A county N/A local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A state N/A

# 7. Description

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

## Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Fairmont Creamery in Moorhead, Minnesota is a very good example of industrial architecture of the 1920's. Its site on First Avenue North, selected for its proximity to the railroad, is on the periphery of the City's central business district. The Creamery, located on the S. W. corner of the site is a three story structure with basement measuring 123' x 124'. Attached to the east is a rectangular shaped one story structure that accomodated storage and a heating plant. It measures approximately 69' x 124.

Built in 1923, the main building consists of a concrete structure clad with non-bearing brick walls. The south and west facades feature a decorative brown face brick and are rhythmically articulated by brick piers, stepped out to express the structural bays and to frame large window openings. Decorated with stone inlays, these piers are terminated at the top in gabled stone weatherings. On the south facade, the center bay of the three-story structure steps up to a height of four stories. The symmetry this suggests is further enhanced by the introduction of smaller, punched openings and suggested pediment roofs to the end bays. The east and north walls of the building are constructed of common brick, light brown in color. The attached insurance map indicates the location of the building and later additions.

# 8. Significance

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

**Specific dates** 1923

**Builder/Architect** D. I. Davis & Associates Engineers

## Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Fairmont Creamery is significant as a harbinger responsible for the introduction of diversified agriculture to the Red River Valley region of Minnesota and as a good representative example of 1920 industrial architecture.

The bonanza boom agriculture which became a popular form of farming in the Red River Valley in the latter part of the 19th century contributed greatly to the development of the valley, but did little in bringing farming to a state of economic maturity. The valley during the 1890s was dependent primarily on the raising of wheat and potatoes. The intensive planting of these crops realized quick profits for farmers, but tended to deplete the fertility of the soil and led farmers to overlook more diversified operations, causing them to stake their financial stability on the success or failure of a single crop. The shortcomings of single crop farming in the valley was due in part to the attitude of farmers toward diversification. Many were in debt for land or equipment and further investment in livestock meant an additional outlay of money. The farmers preferred to gamble on grain as the best means of repaying their obligations.

In spite of the farmers' reluctance to adopt different farming practices, attempts were made to investigate diversification by the University of North Dakota's Agricultural Experiment Station. Aided by their research in animal nutrition and use of new forage crops and feed grains grown on area farms potential advances in dairying became possible. With the market expanding due to rail systems and general increased demand, not only did farmers steadily acquire more dairying cattle, but the number of smaller creameries in the valley rose dramatically and dairy factories established a large network of cream collecting stations in the area.

Officers of the Fairmont Creamery Company had been observing this area and its potential for a number of years. Having originated in Fairmont, Nebraska in 1884, the firm had expanded rapidly and by the early 1920s had successful factories and sales houses in sixteen cities throughout the country. Believing that the time had come for a livestock system of farming in the Red River Valley, and in need for a new plant to supply their growing outlets, the Fairmont Company began construction, in 1923, of the largest creamery and produce plant in the Northwest. J. H. Deems, the local manager of the Fairmont Creamery wrote in the Fairmont's Magazine, "Confidence in the future development of the Country and not the immediate requirements promoted the building of the Moorhead plant at its present site."<sup>1</sup> The development included efforts by the Company to establish a market for cream products and poultry products which lead to the development of experimental farms.

<sup>1</sup> Fairmont Creamery Company. "Moorhead - The Gateway of the Great Northwest," Fairmont's Magazine, (October, 1928.), p. 10.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Murray, Stanley Norman. "A History of Agriculture Of The Red River Valley Of The North, 1812-1920." University of Wisconsin.

\_\_\_\_\_. The Valley Comes of Age, 1812-1920. Fargo: North Dakota Institute for Regional Studies, 1967.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1

Quadrangle name Fargo North Quad, North Dakota-Minn.

Quadrangle scale 7.5

### UMT References

A 

1	5	6	7	0	2	0	0	5	1	9	3	6	8	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The property nominated is the S. W. corner of a square block (approximately 300.00' x 301.00'), measuring approximately 124' x 248'; bounded on the North by 2nd Avenue North on the East by 8th St. N. and south by 1st Avenue North.

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

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Rod Eggleston

organization Richard Burns Associates

date March 4, 1982

street & number 11 South 8th Street

telephone (701) 235-7242

city or town Fargo

state North Dakota

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Russell W. Fridley  
Russell W. Fridley

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 12/15/82

For NPS use only

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

Rover Mar Dwyer

date 2/10/87

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
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Fairmont Creamery Company, Moorhead, MN; Clay Co.

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

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8. Significance continued.

These were model farms promoting the planting of such crops as corn, alfalfa and clover, and feeding turkeys with "Fairmont Flake Buttermilk" and then exporting these products to markets in the east. 12,325,000 "Cream Checks" were mailed to farmers between Fairmont's opening in 1924 through 1929. "Let Your Cows and Fairmont Checks Pay Your Bills" was a company slogan and advertisements pointed out the advantages of a 10 gallon can of ice cream verses one acre of wheat.

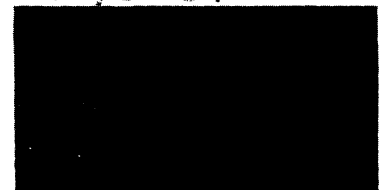
The Fairmont Creamery continued its operations, promoting agricultueal diversification and providing a stable dairy market, until its purchase by the Cass-Clay Creamery in 1980. The Creamery closed in 1981. Present plans include the rehabilitation of the building into elderly rental housing.

The Fairmont Creamery, which operated in the Red River Valley for over 50 years, was a leader in the diversification of regional agriculture and was a stable economic base in an area economy which relied heavily on the manufacture and sale of agricultural produce. The building significantly represents the company's role in the regional development and national promotion and sale of agricultural products from one of Minnesota's noted farming regions.

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

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Fairmont Creamery Company, Moorhead, MN; Clay Co.



Continuation sheet

Item number 9

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9. Major Bibliographical References continued

Robinson, Edward V. D. Early Economic Conditions and the Development of Agriculture in Minnesota. (University of Minnesota, Studies in the Social Sciences 3.)  
Minneapolis, 1915.

Fairmont Creamery Company. Fairmont's Magazine. Vol. III, No. 5, (October, 1928).

Interview with Eleanor Hallin, Fairmont Personal Director, Moorhead, Minnesota, 1982.

Interview with Bob Howe, Fairmont Plant Engineer, Moorhead, Minnesota 1982.

Detroit, Record. 8 March 1929.

Fairmont Creamery  
 801 2nd Ave. N.  
 Moorhead, Minnesota

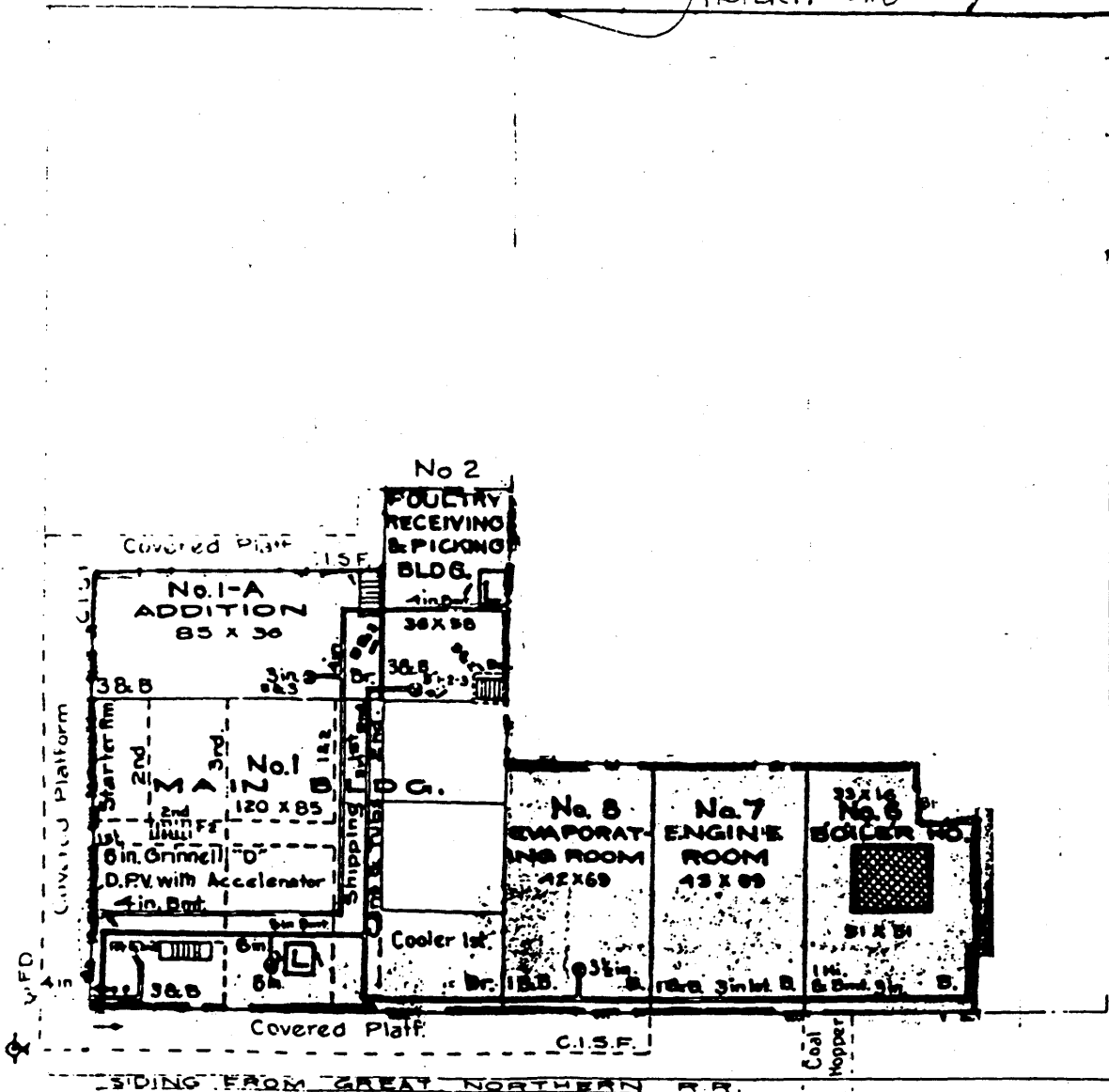
2ND AVE. NORTH

PROPERTY LINE

PROPERTY LINE

8TH STREET NORTH

9TH STREET NORTH



SIDING FROM GREAT NORTHERN R.R.

Bin Public Main Intermittent Pumping with overflow to Reservoir 51 lbs Pressure

Special Fire Pressure 90-95 lbs.

1ST AVE NORTH