

NORTH DAKOTA CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY

Base Data Form

(23)

- 1. County Grand Forks, North Dakota 2. Site Number JR 27
- 3. Site Name (s) Masonic Temple (Downtown Grand Forks, ND)
- 4. Type of Resource: A. Archaeological Historical Architectural Paleontological
 B. District Site Building Structure Object
- 5. Map Reference: USGS Quad. Grand Forks, N. Dak-Minn, 7.5' 1963 (photorevs'd 1979)
- 6. Location: 413-421 Bruce Avenue Sec. 3 T 151 N / R 50 W
 Plat: Original Townsite and Viets' Addn. (Partly Lots) Block 34 Lots 2,4,6
 UTMG: A. 14 647290 5309270 B. _____
 C. _____ D. _____
- 7. Access: visible
Location: NW corner of Bruce Avenue and S. 5th St., facing Bruce Ave.
Acreage: less than one acre
Verbal boundary: city lots 2, 4, and 6 roughly 140 x 150 feet
- 8. A. General description of site: Built in 1913 by Joseph Bell DeRemer after the original Masonic Temple was destroyed by fire, this second Temple remains in virtually original condition today. The Temple is a rectangular brick building of three stories with a flat parapeted roof over a raised basement. The front and side facades are symmetrical; the front is composed of five bays divided by six Tuscan pilasters; the sides are nine bays divided by ten pilasters. The rear of
 B. Condition of site: excellent (original site)
- 9. Owner's name/address: Masonic Building Corporation 423 Bruce Ave. City 58201
- 10. Occupant's name/address: same
- 11. Historic Register value: Nat. State Undt. None On Reg. In District District
Multiple Resource
- 12. Open to public: Yes No 13. Preservation Underway: Yes No
- 14. Endangered by: Nothing
- 15. Survey Project: Title Hist. and Arch. Survey of G.F., ND Director Norene and Joe Roberts
 Other surveys in which included none
- 16. Recommendations: being nominated to NRHP in MRN: Historic Resources of downtown Grand Forks, North Dakota (Partial Inventory: Historic and ARchitectural Properties)
- 17. Environment: Elevation _____ Nearest Water: Type _____
 Name _____ Distance _____ Direction _____
 Soil conditions: _____
 Soil Texture: _____

17. Environment, Cont.

Ground Cover: _____

Terrain: _____

18. Local contact person or organization: _____

19. Photos: No B/W xColor Prints Slides Comments/ID code _____

Contact print (attached): Roll 2 Frame 28

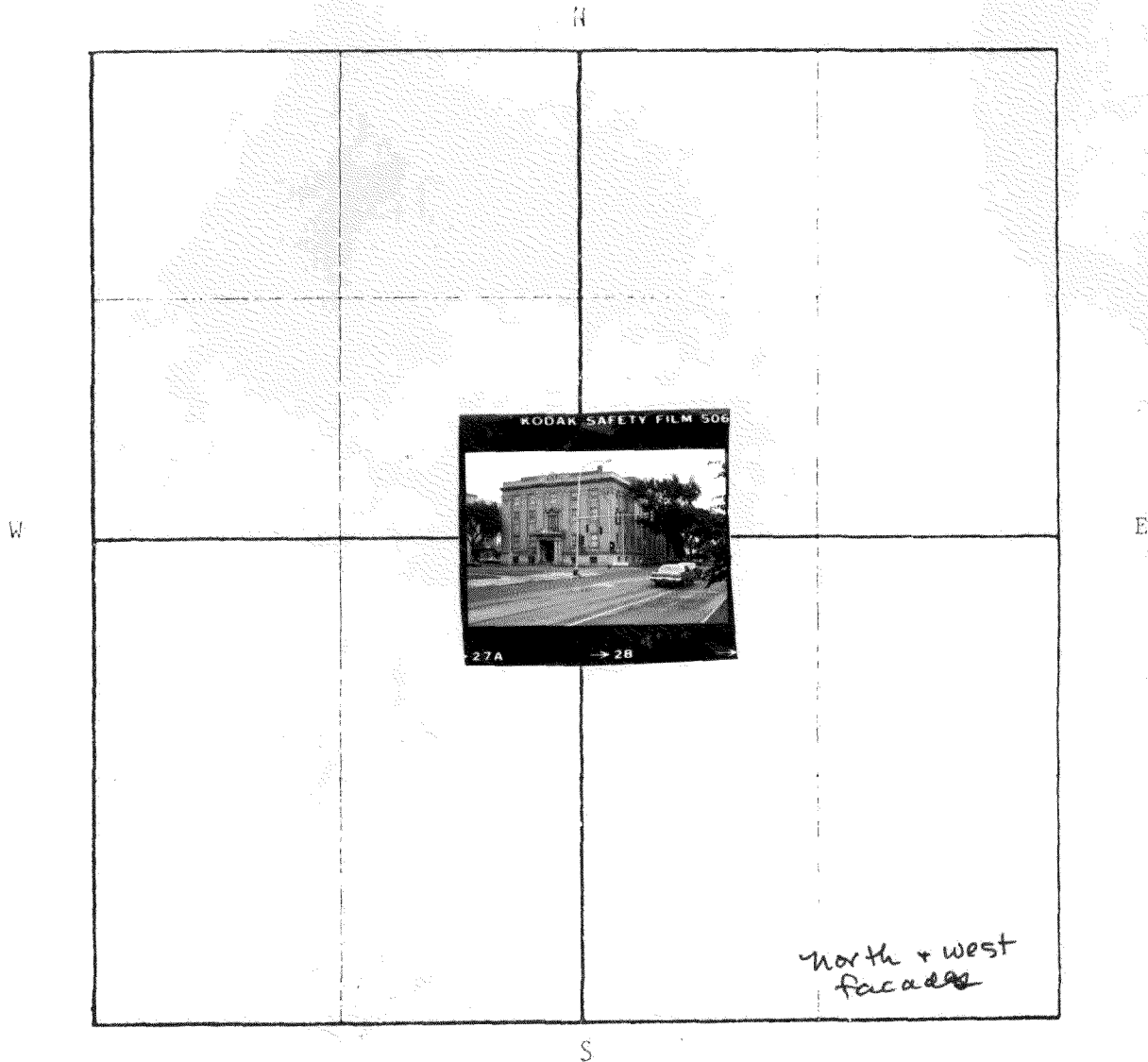
8 x 10 prints (attached): Roll 53 Frames 19, 20, 21, 22

Negatives stored at: Division of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

State Historical Society of North Dakota

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

20. Sketch Map of Site: _____ Scale: _____



Recorded by: J. Roberts Date 7/81

Revised by: Norene and Joe Roberts and Gary Henrickson Date 9/81

Historical Research, Inc. 5406 Penn Avenue S.
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55419

27. Thematic category Civic/ social 28. Date or period 1913
29. Structures: Number standing _____ Number collapsed _____
 Number of foundations only _____ Number of earthworks _____
 Number of basement depressions _____ No structural remains observed _____
30. Architectural/Structural Detail:
- A. Style or design Renaissance Revival
- B. Architect/engineer Joseph Bell DeRemer
- C. Contractor/builder Dinnie Brothers
- D. Original use Masonic Temple
- E. Present use Masonic Temple
- F. Number of stories 4 (w/ raised basement) G. Basement: Yes No Partial
- H. Foundation Material Granite
- I. Wall Construction Brick
- J. Wall Treatment Brick with brick and stone detailing; metal cornice
- K. Roof type and material flat
- L. Number of bays: Front 5 Side 10 M. Plan shape rectangular
31. Frontage 100' 32. Distance from road 0
33. Number of outbuildings none 34. Description of outbuildings _____

35. Changes Virtually original condition. West entry portico removed. All interior oak trim is original. The original dining hall is in the basement; first floor lodge hall; auditorium on second floor with scenery and stage furniture is all in original condition.

36. Information sources/References

City Assessor's description number 26. 01-54 (const. date 1913).

Permits Index Book 1, City Inspector's Office, City Hall (indicated permit was taken out in 1913 for a \$110,000 building).

37. Reason for significance: This building was designed by Joseph Bell DeRemer in 1912, the year he was master of Acacia Lodge, York Rite Shrine, after the first temple on DeMers Ave. was destroyed by fire on January 18, 1912. ¹ Grand Forks Masons were housed temporarily for two years after the fire in the St. John's Block while a campaign was conducted to erect another and larger temple. "It was felt, with the addition of the Scottish Rite and the Shrine, more room was necessary. The present site ... was purchased and the building erected in 1913 and 1914, financed largely by personal loans in the form of mortuary bonds, payable at death, without interest, and by donations from the different Masonic bodies. This temple, costing approximately \$200,000 was dedicated June 15, 1915." ² (cont.)

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Continuation form

Site Number JR 27

Item No.

8A Architectural Description; cont.:

the building is functional and unadorned. The style is Renaissance Revival.

The building is composed of three horizontal zones. The first zone is a raised basement which features rusticated polished granite courses surmounted by a limestone sill course. Fenestration is simple: the windows are 1/1, without molding, and with 5" reveals.

The second zone is constructed of Hebron cream brick with butter joints and limestone molding. It is articulated by the first, second, and third story windows and Giant Order engaged Tuscan pilasters. The corner pilasters are ornamented just below the capitals by garlands positioned astride the pilaster astragals. Between the pilasters, window bays incorporate (top to bottom) 6/3, 3/3, and 1/1 double hung windows with no molding and little ornamentation except that brickwork accents the window openings and window sills. Window brackets under the sills are subtly differentiated from floor to floor. This pilaster and bay arrangement is carried around both sides of the building except that the sides have nine bays and ten pilasters. In the central bay of the front elevation, the first story entrance is composed of a portico of six rusticated columns surmounted by a parapet decorated by the Masonic symbol. The doors and transom feature extensive grillwork. Between the first and second stories and above the portico a modified Gibb's surround encircles a leaded window of cruciform glass. The surround is topped with a pediment. The third story of this central bay matches the other third story bays. The central bays on the side elevations are similar to the front elevation except that the portico has been removed on the west elevation.

The third horizontal zone begins with a limestone architrave above the pilaster abaci followed by a brick frieze and a metal dentilated cornice. Except for the acroterium, these elements are carried around and along the side elevations. Centered over the central bay, an acroterium in the shape of a double-headed eagle is mounted in front of a brick parapet.

36 Information sources/ references:

Turner, James E., Oscar C. Nygaard, and J. Walter Hawkins. Masters of Acacia Lodge: A Report by the Historical Committee. December 1, 1961. On file: Myra Museum, Grand Forks County Historical Society.

Turner, James E., Paul B. Griffith, John McIver, Dan S. Letnes, Felix J. Vondracek, and Henry J. Tomasek. "Acacia Lodge No. 4, Grand Forks, North Dakota," October 28, 1965. In: James E. Turner Papers, Myra Museum, Grand Forks County Historical Society.

Sanborn Map Company. Sanborn Insurance Maps of Grand Forks for 1916, and 1927 updated through 1960. Grand Forks, North Dakota.

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37, cont. Reason for Significance:

Of the many classical revival buildings designed by Joseph Bell DeRemer between 1902 and 1912 (when he left for California for 7 years, returning in 1919), the Masonic Temple is the only building remaining in the downtown area in original unaltered condition. His other buildings (razed) from this period were: the Clifford Block, Y.M.C.A., Carnegie Library. DeRemer buildings severely altered are: Griffiths department store (infilled over all the bays with concrete and altered with metal covering the cornice) and Panovitz Store (Corliss Block) in the City Center Mall on Third Street (with the Mall enclosure cutting the front facade and destroying the setting, large 2nd story front facade window infilled, and side windows infilled with brick). The Widlund Block in city center Mall, also by DeRemer, has been destroyed by City Center Mall.³ The Masonic Temple is the only pure Renaissance Revival DeRemer designed building left in Grand Forks. It was constructed by Dinnie Brothers.⁴

¹ Turner et. al.(1961), n.p.

² Turner et. al.(1965), p. 5.

³ For DeRemer, see: Grand Forks Herald Silver Anniversary Edition, June 26, 1904, and History of the Red River Valley Past and Present. Herald Printing Company and C.F. Cooper Company, Chicago, 1909, pp. 1001-1002. Vol. 2.

⁴ Lounsberry, Clement A. North Dakota: History and People. S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, Chicago, Ill., Vol. III, 1917, P.49.