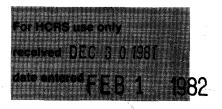
United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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

city, town

historic Fin	nch, VanSlyck and Mc	Conville Dry Goods	s Company Building	
and/or common	Finch Building			
2. Loca	tion		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
street & number	366 Wacouta Stree	t		not for publication
city, town	St. Paul	vicinity of	congressional district	4th
state	Minnesota code	22 county	Ramsey	code 123
3. Clas	sification			
Category district X building(s) structure site object	Ownership public private both Public Acquisition in process being considered	Status X occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible X yes: restricted yes: unrestricted no	Present Use agriculture X commercial educational entertainment government X industrial military	museum park private residence religious scientific transportation other:
<u>4. Own</u>	er of Proper	ty	······································	
name James	s P. Gardner, Gardne	r Management Compa	iny	
street & number	366 Wacouta Street			
city, town	St. Paul	vicinity of	state	Minnesota
5. Loca	tion of Lega	I Descripti	on	
courthouse, regis	stry of deeds, etc. Regi	stry of Deeds/Rams	sey County Courthous	36
street & number	15 West Kellog	g Blvd.		
city, town	St. Paul		state	Minnesota
	esentation i	n Existing		
title	None		operty been determined el	egible? ves no
·				
date depository for su	rvey records		federal stat	ie county loca

state

7. Description

Condition		Check one
excellent	deteriorated	unaltered
good	ruins	\underline{X} altered
fair	unexposed	

Check one X original site moved date

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Visually and logistically, the Finch Building defines the eastern perimeter of Mears (formerly Smith) Park in the Lowertown area of St. Paul. This area is located within the central business district and is within two to six blocks of railroad lines and the Mississippi River for easy access to these transportation systems.

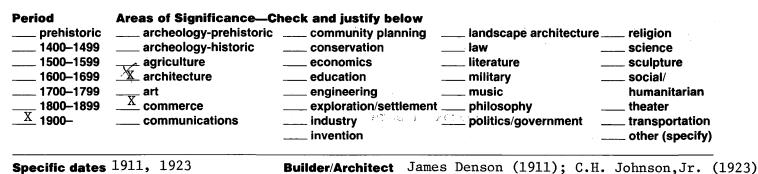
The Finch Building is an eight-story reinforced concrete structure with a buff brick exterior facing. It is executed in a simple Neo-classic style, as is evidenced by the formal entries and pilaster arrangements on the Wacouta and East Fifth Street facades. The original (southern) portion of the building was constructed in 1911 by the George Grant Construction Company of St. Paul in accordance with designs by architect James F. Denson. In 1923, the building was extended fifty feet (two bays) to the north to East Sixth Street. This work was accomplished under the direction of St. Paul architect C.H. Johnston, Jr., and gave the structure a total ground floor area of nearly an acre. Presently, the Finch Building measures 245 feet by 150 feet, not including loading docks.

Physically, the Finch Building is a reinforced concrete post and beam system supporting reinforced concrete floors capable of supporting loads of 250 pounds per square foot. Its fireproof construction was a major requirement for the dry goods operations housed in the building. Expansive double-hung windows provide great amounts of natural light into the office and interior work areas.

On the exterior, distinguishing design features include a regular progression of bays. Prior to the 1923 addition, the principal (Wacouta Street) facade was totally symmetrical, with the central eight of the ten bays accentuated by pilasters, a projecting cornice, and segmental arches (on the seventh story). This treatment conveyed the impression that the central portion of the building projected slightly from the main body. The 1911 and 1923 sections of the Finch Building are unified by the sympathetic use of identical brick for facing material and by the continuation of water-tables, band courses, and parapets throughout.

Although no longer occupied by the original tenants (and owners), the Finch, VanSlyck, and McConville Dry Goods Company, the Finch Building serves a variety of commercial and wholesaling interests and continues to be the largest structure of this function in the Lowertown area of St. Paul.

8. Significance



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Builder: George Grant Construction Co.

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Constructed in 1911 and expanded in 1923, the former Finch, VanSlyck and McConville Dry Goods Company building is significant both as one of the largest wholesaling/commercial structures erected in St. Paul, and as a symbol of St. Paul's reputation as one of the major wholesaling cities in the Midwest in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The firm which became Finch, VanSlyck and McConville began as a small retail operation in 1856 and by 1863 pioneered in becoming exclusively wholesale (this took place at the time which George R. Finch joined the firm) Operations continued to expand, resulting in a widespread distribution of products throughout the northwest, and combined sales and assets reached a record \$8 million. The construction of the mammoth reinforced concrete and brick structure at Wacouta and East Fifth Streets marked a major plateau in the firm's career and contributed to establishing St. Paul's reputation as a major wholesaling center. In 1926, the firm merged with another major St. Paul dry goods firm, Lindeke, Warner & Sons, to become the largest such establishment in the city. (The building was purchased in 1941 by the Davidson and Gardner Companies and developed into quarters for offices and mercantile and light manufacturing establishments.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Newspaper Clipping File. <u>Finch, VanSlydk, & the McConville</u>. St. Paul Public Library. Castle, Henry A. <u>History of Saint Paul and Vicinity</u>, (1912), 3 vols. pp. 680-81, 1167-68. St. Paul Dispatch: Illustrated Saint Paul (1892). Brochure: "Finch Building" (ca.1943) by Davidson & Gardner Co's., Managers.

<u>10. Ge</u>	vyrap						<u> </u>		
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Quadrangle nar		<u>Paul East</u>	:				Quadrang	gle scale.	7.5
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state			code	county	1			CO	ode
11. Fo	rm Pre	epare	d By		, i				
name/title	Charles	W. Nelsor	ı, Histori	cal Archi	tect	_			
organization	Minnesot	a Histor	ical Soci	ety	da	ate ^J	anuary 1	981	,
street & number	240 Summ	it Avenu	e		te	lephone	(612	2) 296-9	9073
city or town	St. Paul	•			st	ate	innesota	1	. v
12. Sta	ate Hi	storic	: Pres	ervat	ion (Offi	cer C	erti	fication
The evaluated si	gnificance of	this proper	rty within the	state is:					
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	e Histori		vation Of	ficer			date	12,	10/8/
	only		s included in	the National	Register				
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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DATE ENTERED	FEB	1	100	0

Finch,	VanSlyck	and	McConville	Dry	Goods	Company	Building	g, St.	Paul,	Ramsey Co.
CON	TINUATION	SHEI	T		п		R 10	PAGE	1	

alley; thence southerly along the alley a distance of 80 feet; thence westerly along said alley a distance of 50 feet; thence southerly along said alley a distance of 215 feet to its point of intersection with East Fifth Street; thence westerly a distance of 150 feet to the point of beginning.