

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only

received

SEP 13 1982

date entered

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

1. Name

historic Bismarck Tribune Building

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 222 North ^{4th} ~~Fourth~~ Street not for publication

city, town Bismarck vicinity of congressional district 1

state North Dakota code 38 county Burleigh code 015

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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 type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name John D. Kirschmann

street & number 222 North Fourth Street, Suite 385

city, town Bismarck vicinity of state North Dakota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Burleigh County Courthouse

street & number 514 East Thayer

city, town Bismarck state North Dakota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date N/A federal state county local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A state N/A

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Bismarck Tribune Building, with its long rectangular massing and use of rough deep-red brick and contrasting cream-colored terra-cotta, is a derivative of the architectural style known as Prairie School. Designed by George H. Shanley, Great Falls, Montana, the Bismarck Tribune Building is a rare application of this style in North Dakota. Built as a fireproof structure in 1920, the building's construction consists of a concrete post-and-beam structural skeleton, concrete floors, structural clay tile walls, and Hebron pressed brick exterior veneer.

Street frontage of the building extends 50 feet on Fourth Street and 140 feet on Thayer Avenue. Only two stories in height, the building has a horizontal emphasis which is broken by pilasters creating three bays on the east facade and seven on the north. Besides the horizontal expression, the influence of the Prairie School style is noticeable in the use of decorative brickwork and terra-cotta ornamentation. The dark brick of the two principal facades is laid in a running bond with header courses used to accent the pilasters and to define rectangular panels between the first and second floor windows and at the parapet level. A herringbone pattern in brick is employed on the pilasters at the parapet. Soft light-colored brick is used on the west and south elevations.

Use of glazed terra-cotta gives the Bismarck Tribune Building its unique character. A stringcourse of terra-cotta fretwork above the second floor windows is repeated in the coping that tops the parapet. The stringcourse corbels at the pilasters and extends above and below the horizontal band into a series of decorative motifs that include stylized lamps, flowers, leaves, and lotus buds. The parapet coping also expands at the pilasters in decorative patterns ending in arched caps. A rounded arch centrally located on the east facade extending above the parapet is topped by arched segments of terra-cotta. Diamondwork in terra-cotta is centered in the rectangular panels formed by the brick header courses at the parapet. Smaller diamond shapes are placed in the rectangles' corners at both the parapet and between the first and second floor windows. Squares of terra-cotta are set into the pilasters at the basement level to simulate a water table. Window sills and door surrounds are formed of terra-cotta.

The entrances on the east, or main, facade are heavily decorated with terra-cotta. An entry for second-story access is surrounded by terra-cotta moldings and is topped with a pediment. Terra-cotta quoins flank the centrally located main entry. Above the main entry, an unusual application of polychromatic terra-cotta creates a bas-relief panel reproducing the painting "The First Printers," which depicts monks practicing the printer's craft on a hand press.

The basic symmetry created by the repetitious bays is relieved by the asymmetrical fenestration. First floor windows on the east facade and in the first two bays on the north facade consist of a large single pane window with an eight-paned transom, flanked by nine-over-nine double-hung windows. The remaining first floor windows are nine-over-nine double-hung windows grouped in sets of either three or four. The lower windows set into a four-foot-high raised basement repeat the spacing of the first floor windows. Second floor double-hung windows, of either six-over-one or four-over-one panes, are spaced singly or grouped to form a double window unit. All of the building's windows are constructed of wood frames.

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Entrances to the building include the main entry and a secondary entry for access to the second floor on the east facade. A double entrance is located on the western edge of the north facade and an opening in the sidewalk surrounded by a smooth iron railing encloses steps to a basement door, also on the north. A freight elevator door and a small entrance door to the main floor provides access to the building on the west elevation.

The exterior of the Bismarck Tribune Building has undergone only minor alterations, the majority of which relate to entryway remodelling in the 1950's. The original wood casement panel double doors in the main entrance which were surrounded by multi-paned sidelights and transom, were replaced with aluminum frame and glass double doors with single-pane sidelights and transom. The secondary entry on the east is an aluminum frame glass door which replaced the original wood and glass panel door. The north entrance, which consisted of a wood and glass panel door with a glass transom, and what appears to be from historical photographs, two tall wood double panels or doors, each with an eight-paned window, has been remodeled. Although the one wood panel door was retained, the panels, or doors, were removed and replaced with a plain wood door flanked by a small fixed window, with plywood installed in the rest of the opening. A recent (1982) renovation converted the entrance to include double wood panel doors with glass panes, a fixed window, and board-and-batten in-fill. Portions of three small windows on the west had been removed several years ago and the 1982 remodelling installed wood panels in the openings.

Other alterations over the years included removal of the canvas window awnings used on the east facade and signage changes. The Bismarck Tribune sign hung from the north-east corner of the building, was up-dated at least once, and then removed entirely in 1981.

When the Bismarck Tribune Building was constructed, only the basement and first floors were occupied by the newspaper staff, and the second floor was rental apartments. As The Bismarck Tribune grew, the staff expanded into the second floor. Vacated by The Bismarck Tribune in 1981, the interior has been rehabilitated and now functions as office space.

The first, or main floor of the building originally served as the newspaper's composing room, stereotyping room, a rear loading area, and business and editorial offices. Main access to this floor is through the entrance on the east that opens into a vestibule which features terrazzo steps, marble wainscoting, and a plaster cornice with dentils and egg-and-dart moldings. Non-original double aluminum frame glass

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doors separate the vestibule from the lobby (former business office). This lobby, originally sub-divided by a wall just south of the entrance, is the building's most significant interior space. Columns and pilasters, with stylized Corinthian capitals, divide the lobby into six bays. The dentilled and egg-and-dart design of the vestibule cornice is repeated in the lobby's cornice that extends around the perimeter and exposed beams of the north portion of the lobby. The recent rehabilitation partitioned the lobby into four offices and a smaller lobby while retaining the room's decorative features.

The original composing room was just west of the lobby in a large open room. This room had been divided by partition walls during earlier remodellings. Several offices located along a central hall now occupy this space. The rooms west of the original composing room have always functioned as a service area; with stairways, a freight elevator, loading area, and toilet facilities. The latest remodelling converted an entry and bathroom area on the northwest corner into a handicapped access ramp to the first floor, a new stairway to the basement, and a doorway to connect with an existing enclosed stairway to the second floor.

Concrete walls, floors, and ceilings were left exposed in the basement which originally housed the newspaper press, mailing department, bindery, stock room, and shipping room. The press was eventually moved to a 1972 addition built across the alley to the west. Over the years, the basement was partitioned into smaller rooms and the 1982 rehabilitation created several offices with a central hall.

Ten apartments, each with two large rooms, a bathroom, and a kitchen, were built along a centrally located hall on the second floor. When The Bismarck Tribune expanded into this level, five apartments were remodeled to create larger rooms.

The original apartments were plain, with simple wood moldings, wood floors, and plaster walls and ceilings. Subsequent remodellings removed or damaged the woodwork and included modernizing the bathrooms and kitchens. Work during 1982 left the room configurations basically untouched and they now serve as office suites. The woodwork was replaced and carpeting installed on the floors. New fixtures and cabinets were installed in the bathrooms and kitchens.

The interior rehabilitation created several offices while retaining the character of the building. The Bismarck Tribune Building now provides Bismarck with unique office space.

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 type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1920 **Builder/Architect** George H. Shanley

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Bismarck Tribune Building is significant for its interpretation of the Prairie School style of architecture, but more importantly for its association with The Bismarck Tribune, which it housed for sixty years. The Bismarck Tribune, North Dakota's oldest newspaper, has been an institution in Bismarck since the first issue came off a cylinder hand press on July 11, 1873. Beginning with its first issue, in which an explanatory introduction stated the purpose of the newspaper was to give the "best efforts toward building up the town," The Bismarck Tribune has been dedicated to promoting the prosperity of Bismarck and the state of North Dakota.

Colonel Clement A. Lounsberry founded The Bismarck Tribune in 1873 and was the driving force behind the newspaper until 1884. Michigan-born Lounsberry volunteered for service after outbreak of the Civil War and rose through the ranks from private to colonel by age 22. It was while Lounsberry worked as an editor for The Minneapolis Tribune in Minneapolis, Minnesota after the war, that he envisioned publishing a newspaper where the Northern Pacific Railroad would cross the Missouri River. Lounsberry arrived in Bismarck in May of 1873 to establish a three-man newspaper office just a month before the railroad reached the Missouri. Naming the newspaper The Bismarck Tribune, out of respect for The Minneapolis Tribune, Lounsberry produced a weekly newspaper until April of 1881, when it became a daily.

Lounsberry is best remembered for astounding the nation with news of the Battle of Little Big Horn in which General George A. Custer and 261 men were killed by Sioux Indians on June 25, 1876. Mark Kellogg, Lounsberry's correspondent, traveled with General Custer to exclusively cover the campaign and was one of the few civilians to die in the battle. The steamer "Far West," located on the Yellowstone River in Montana, delivered the news of the defeat to Bismarck, enabling Lounsberry to telegraph the information to The New York Herald on July 5, 1876 and to publish a special edition, "First Account of the Custer Massacre."

In 1878 Lounsberry sold the newspaper to Stanley Huntley, a young Chicago newspaperman who became known for this sharp-edged editorials; however, six months later, Lounsberry once again owned the newspaper and retained Marshall H. Jewell, Huntley's former partner, as editor. Jewell bought the newspaper from Lounsberry in 1884 when Lounsberry left Bismarck to attend to free-lance writing, editing two Fargo publications, and serving a federal appointment with the General Land Office.

Marshall H. Jewell took an active interest in the public affairs of Bismarck and campaigned nearly twelve years for North Dakota statehood to be rewarded in 1889 when North Dakota became a state with Bismarck as its capitol. Jewell wished to see the new capitol grow, and used The Bismarck Tribune to advertise the benefits of the city.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Bismarck

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	4	3	6	3	7	3	0	5	1	8	5	0	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

Lots 1 and 2 of Block 64 of the Original Townsite, Bismarck, North Dakota

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

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

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Bonnie J. Halda, Historical Architect

organization State Historical Society of North Dakota date June, 1982

street & number North Dakota Heritage Center telephone (701) 224-2672

city or town Bismarck state North Dakota

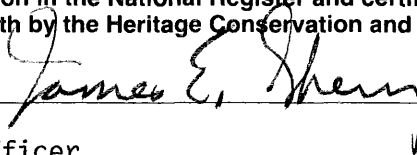
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature




title State Historic Preservation Officer

date August 17, 1982

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



Keeper of the National Register

date 10/29/82

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Among his promotional efforts was a 24-page illustrated special edition, "Bismarck, The Metropolis," published in 1902 aimed at enticing people to move to Bismarck because of its excellent location and metropolitan ideas.

Jewell was publisher of The Bismarck Tribune when the newspaper suffered two major fires. In 1885, fire destroyed the small wood frame building on Main Street that the newspaper had used for offices since 1873. Assisted by local donations, the offices were reconstructed on Main Avenue only to be burned out again during the Great Fire of 1898 that destroyed nearly the entire Bismarck business district. Under Jewell's direction, another new building to house the newspaper was constructed on the corner of Fourth Street and Broadway.

After Jewell's death in 1911, George Douglas Mann became editor of The Bismarck Tribune and purchased the ailing newspaper from the Jewell estate in 1917. The newspaper soon outgrew its quarters and moved into the brick Gussner Building on Main Avenue. Barely a month after the move, a third fire broke out on January 21, 1920 and consumed the the entire building. Shifting to temporary quarters and borrowing the use of a press owned by The Staats-Anzeiger, a German-language newspaper, The Bismarck Tribune continued its daily publication. Mann purchased the lot on the corner of Fourth Street and Thayer Avenue from Dr. E. P. Quain, retained the services of Great Falls, Montana architect George H. Shanley, and commissioned a new structure to house The Bismarck Tribune.

George H. Shanley, who was "a specialist in designing publishing plants,"¹ according to a June 5, 1920 article in The Bismarck Tribune, had a well-established firm in Montana when he was hired to design the Bismarck Tribune Building. Shanley's Great Falls range of works extended from education, commercial, residential, and hotel buildings to concrete arch bridges. Although his firm grew and Shanley added several partners over the years and finally went into partnership with his son, the Bismarck Tribune Building is the only North Dakota building known to have been designed by his firm. Some of Shanley's earlier Great Falls buildings show the influence of architect Louis Sullivan's Chicago School style, and the Bismarck Tribune Building appears to be a transition from this style to the Prairie School influence.

Construction on the Bismarck Tribune Building began in early June of 1920. Lantz and Mackley, a construction firm from Minot, North Dakota, served as the building's contractors. The building was advertised as a thoroughly fireproof structure, probably as a result of the three devastating fires in the newspaper's past. As designed, the newspaper offices were to occupy the basement and first floor of the building and ten modern rental apartments were to be located on the second floor. Completed by early 1921, The Bismarck Tribune issued a public invitation on March 19, 1921 to view their new facility and claimed that the building housed "one of the most modern publishing plants in the west."²

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Mann continued his leadership of The Bismarck Tribune with the addition of Kenneth W. Simons who joined the staff as editor in 1930. During the Depression, Mann launched a series of articles and editorials urging a "Self Help for the Dust Bowl" program which stressed a need for diversified agriculture, utilization of water conservation, and irrigation to produce a stable economy. After Mann's death in 1936, his widow Stella I. Mann, assisted by Simons and city editor Gordon MacGregor, continued the campaign which earned The Bismarck Tribune the highest accolade in American literature: The Pulitzer Prize Gold Medal. The award, announced May 3, 1938, was for "the most disinterested and meritorious public service rendered by an American newspaper during the year 1937."³

Stella I. Mann served as publisher until her retirement in 1962. One of her accomplishments was the production of a weekly war edition for overseas troops during World War II. She was responsible for expanding the newspaper's staff and in 1948 hired John O. Hjelle to serve as editor, which he did until 1979.

From the day Alton Glenn Sorlie took over as publisher in 1962 until he relinquished his position to Sanders Hook in 1982, he aimed to have good news coverage and maintain integrity and credibility. The Bismarck Tribune staff continued to grow and moved into the second floor of their building. In 1972 Ritterbush Brothers, a Bismarck architectural firm, designed a one-story concrete addition to house a new Goss printing press. The addition was built across the alley west of the main building and was connected to it by a tunnel. Even with the addition, the expansion of the newspaper's staff and services required a total move in 1981 to new quarters on South Seventh Street, thereby vacating the building that had served The Bismarck Tribune since 1920.

The Bismarck Tribune Building was purchased in 1981 by John D. Kirschmann, a Bismarck businessman, who has completely rehabilitated the building for use as rental offices. This renovation project, which preserved the building's exterior original appearance, ensured a continued use for the former home of The Bismarck Tribune.

¹ The Bismarck Tribune, June 5, 1920.

² The Bismarck Tribune, March 19, 1921.

³ The Bismarck Tribune, May 3, 1938.

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Bird, George F. and Edwin J. Taylor, Jr., History
of the City of Bismarck, Bismarck Centennial
Association, Bismarck, North Dakota, 1972.

The Bismarck Tribune, July 11, 1873.

Tribune Extra, July 6, 1876.

Special Edition, February 22, 1902.

January 21, 1920.

January 24, 1920.

January 27, 1920.

June 5, 1920.

March 19, 1921.

Golden Jubilee Edition, July 11, 1923.

May 3, 1938.

July 11, 1953.

April 23, 1954.

June 12, 1972.

Centennial Edition, July 11, 1973.

January 2, 1982.

April 17, 1982.

Polk City Directory, Great Falls, Montana, 1911, 1914, 1919.