

NORTH DAKOTA CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY

Base Data Form

- 1. County Grand Forks, North Dakota 2. Site Number GF14
- 3. Site Name (s) Iddings Block (Downtown Grand Forks)
- 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: <sup>No. 3rd</sup> 9 Third Street N. Sec. 3 T 151 N / R 50 W  
 Plat: Original Townsite Block 23 Lot 7  
 UTMG: A. 14.647090.5309680. B. \_\_\_\_\_  
 C. \_\_\_\_\_ D. \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. Access: visible  
 Location: the west side of North Third Street between DeMers and First Avenue North  
 Acreage: less than one acre  
 Verbal boundary: the building sits on Lot 7 (50 X 140 feet), the building proper is 50 X 100 feet
- 8. A. General description of site: this is a rectangular, three-story, brick flat-roofed structure in a commercial vernacular style. Built in 1892, it is substantially unaltered except for the first floor store front. (Cont.)  
 B. Condition of site: Good
- 9. Owner's name/address: Downtown Realty, Inc. Box 1616 Fargo, ND 58102
- 10. Occupant's name/address: Ruettelle's (vacant)
- 11. Historic Register value: Nat.  State  Unedt.  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 Properti
- 17. Environment: Elevation \_\_\_\_\_ Nearest Water: Type \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_ Distance \_\_\_\_\_ Direction \_\_\_\_\_  
 Soil conditions: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Soil Texture: \_\_\_\_\_

17. Environment, Cont. Site Number GF14

Ground Cover: \_\_\_\_\_

Terrain: \_\_\_\_\_

18. Local contact person or organization: \_\_\_\_\_

19. Photos: No B/W x Color Prints Slides Comments/ID code \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Print: Roll 1, Frame 29

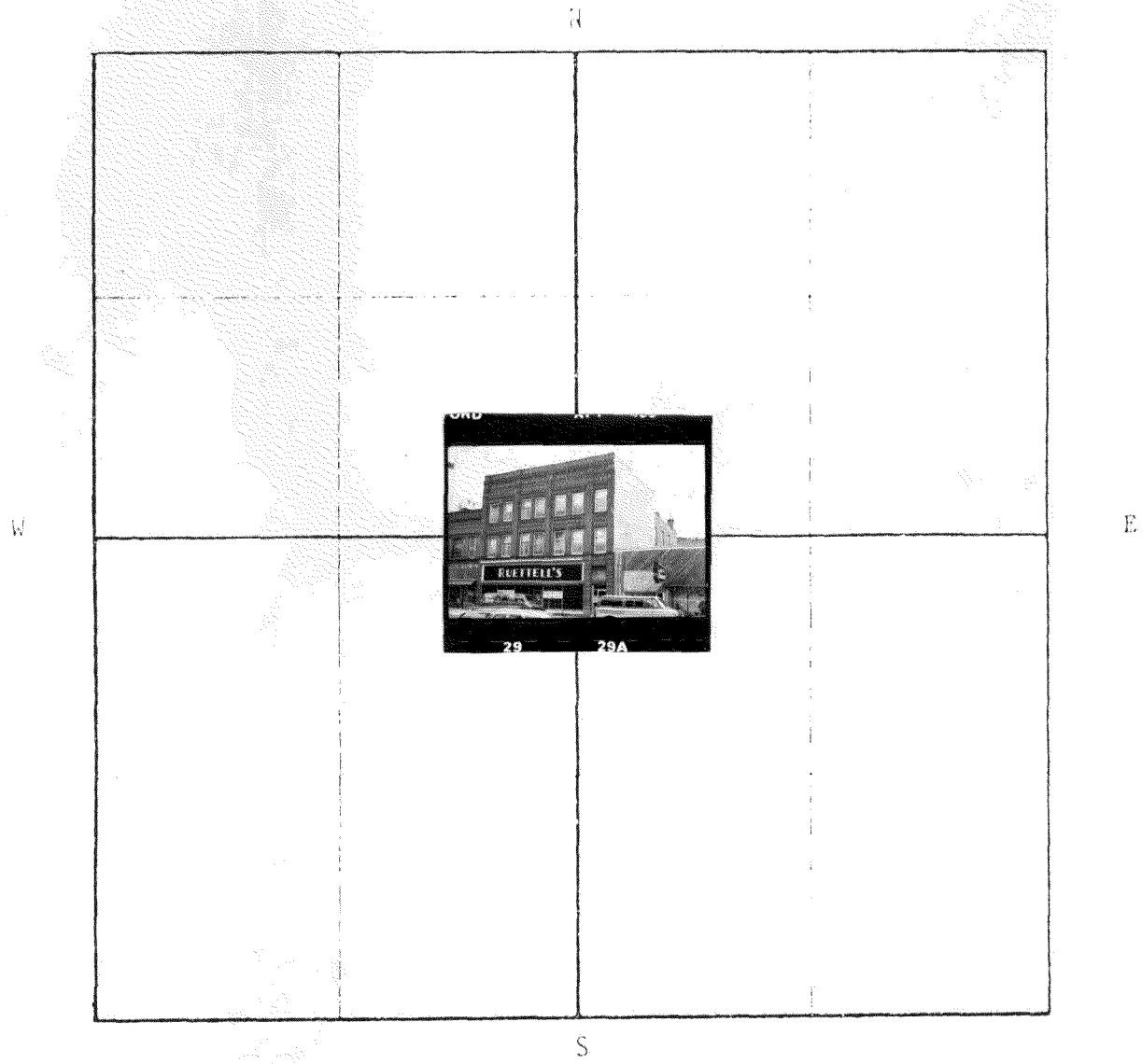
8 X 10 Glossies: Roll 150, Frame 32, 33, 34

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: C. Kudzia Date July, 1981

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 Architecture/commerce 28. Date or period 1892
- 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 Commercial vernacular with classical detailing
  - B. Architect/engineer \_\_\_\_\_
  - C. Contractor/builder \_\_\_\_\_
  - D. Original use Commercial:books, stationary, crockery
  - E. Present use Commercial, vacant; residential
  - F. Number of stories 3 G. Basement: Yes  No  Partial
  - H. Foundation Material \_\_\_\_\_
  - I. Wall Construction Brick
  - J. Wall Treatment Brick with stone trim
  - K. Roof type and material Flat
  - L. Number of bays: Front 4 Side \_\_\_\_\_ M. Plan shape Rectangular
- 31. Frontage 50' 32. Distance from road 0
- 33. Number of outbuildings \_\_\_\_\_ 34. Description of outbuildings \_\_\_\_\_

35. Changes

36. Information sources/References

The Iddings Block, built in 1892,<sup>1</sup> was one of thirteen new business blocks constructed in downtown Grand Forks that year.<sup>2</sup> These blocks were generally built of brownstone, pressed brick, iron and plate glass (fronts).<sup>3</sup> The Iddings Block measured 50X100 feet, was red brick trimmed in stone, and cost \$25,000.<sup>4</sup> (Cont.)

37. Reason for significance:

Architecturally, the Iddings Block is one of two fine extant and virtually unaltered examples of the nineteenth century commercial vernacular style discussed above (see #36). Historically, the Iddings Block is significant for its associations with the wholesale trade in Grand Forks during the late nineteenth century, particularly with the F.W.Iddings Book and Stationary Company. Between its construction in 1892 and ca. 1906-09, the building housed Iddings and Co.,<sup>6</sup> the largest wholesale and retail supplier of books, stationary, and office and school supplies in the state.<sup>7</sup>

Recorded by C. Kudzia (Cont.) Date 7/81  
 Revised by Norene and Joe Roberts, Gary Henrickson Date 9/81

## NORTH DAKOTA CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY

Continuation form

Site Number GF14Item No. 8.A. General description of site (Cont.)

8.A. The first story of the principal facade has been altered by the application of commercial glass windows, metal trim, and vitreolite panel sheathing. The south corner of this elevation and the north corner and entry remain in rusticated sandstone block piers. A sandstone string course and brick course above the store windows are carried vertically to the parapet. The transom above the door to the upper floor apartments on the north side has been infilled with vertical boards, and one-over-one aluminum storm windows have been added to the upper story windows.

The second and third stories are dark red brick laid in a stretcher bond with butter joints. Five giant order brick pilasters incorporating sandstone plinths and vegetable motif capitals divide the facade into four bays. Three of the bays are composed of four double-hung, one-over-one, windows (two on each floor). The northern-most bay has one double-hung window on each floor. The windows are surmounted by rusticated lintels of sandstone and the bays are divided horizontally by recessed brickwork panels. The lintels on the third story windows are topped by cornice moldings.

The pilaster capitals are tied together by a string course just below the bracketed and corbeled cornice. The pilasters are carried through their capitals, through the cornice, and onto the parapet which is capped by a string course of rusticated sandstone.

The north facade is painted tan over common brick. The side and rear elevations are undecorated. Rear and north facade windows and storms have replaced the original windows set below the segmented arched lintels. A one story addition has been added to the rear of the building composed partly of brick and partly of block.

36. Information sources/References (Cont.)

In style, it was nineteenth century commercial vernacular, similar in design to many of the new business blocks being built in 1892, including the Peerless, Deering, and Birkholz Blocks.<sup>5</sup> Of these blocks, only Iddings and the Roller Office Supply Block (1888-92) (adjacent to Iddings on the south) are extant. Architecturally, Iddings and similar business blocks from the period averaged 50 feet wide and 100 feet deep, were two or three stories high, were constructed of red brick, and featured stone trim, a decorative brick cornice, brick piers and/or decorative brick spandrels.

37. Reason for Significance (Cont.)

Iddings and Co. had a well-lighted art gallery on the third floor displaying etchings, engravings, paintings and art supplies,<sup>8</sup> and also did a brisk business as commercial printers of books, stationary, and calling cards.<sup>9</sup> The company supplied public school libraries at wholesale prices from book lists recommended by the state superintendent of public instruction and state teachers' association.<sup>10</sup> (Cont.)

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37. Reason for significance (Cont.)

The business was owned by F.W. Iddings, who came to Grand Forks in 1878. The Reverend Mr. Iddings was one of three Presbyterian ministers commissioned by the Board of Home Missions to organize the First Presbyterian Church in Grand Forks in 1879.<sup>11</sup> Rev. Iddings stepped down from his ministerial duties with the church in 1881,<sup>12</sup> but remained in Grand Forks. By 1889, a local newspaper noted that Iddings had been quietly carrying on an extensive loan and real estate business amounting to \$150,000 for several years on farmlands in the vicinity of Grand Forks.<sup>13</sup> By 1892, Iddings and Co. had moved into the Iddings Block at 9-11 N. Third in the heart of the Grand Forks business district. Here the business remained until ca. 1906-09, when the Iddings Block as well as the adjacent Roller Office Supply building was taken over to house the expanding Ontario Department Store at the corner of DeMers and N. Third St.<sup>14</sup>

Notes

<sup>1</sup>City Assessor's description #217 incorrectly indicates 1890 as date of construction. However, The Record magazine 1(3):25 gives the date 1872, as does the Sanborn Insurance map of 1892, which notes "Fr ame bldgs. being removed. Brick block to be built."

<sup>2</sup>The Record (July 1895) 1(3):25.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid.

<sup>5</sup>Ibid.

<sup>6</sup>Sanborn Insurance maps, 1892, 1897, 1901, 1906; Grand Forks City Directory, Pettibone and Co., 1909.

<sup>7</sup>Gifford, n.d., n.p.; City Directory of Grand Forks, Plaindealer Co., 1898, frontispiece.

<sup>8</sup>Dudley, 1897, p.33.

<sup>9</sup>The Record magazine (August 1895) 1(4):35.

<sup>10</sup>Dudley, 1897, pp.95-96.

<sup>11</sup>Manual of the City of Grand Forks, 1885, pp. 51-52; Ronaele Sayre, "Methodists started first Grand Forks church," Grand Forks Herald, Sunday, June 23, 1974, Section 2B.

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Notes (Cont.)

<sup>12</sup>Dudley, 1897, p.18.

<sup>13</sup>Grand Forks Plaindealer, Special Edition, May, 1889, n.p.

<sup>14</sup>City Directory of Grand Forks, Pettibone and Co., 1909, 1911; Sanborn Insurance map, 1912.