

NORTH DAKOTA CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY

Base Data Form

- 1. County Grand Forks, North Dakota 2. Site Number JR 21
- 3. Site Name (s) Stratford Building
- 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: 311 DeMers Avenue Sec. 3 T 151 N / R 50 W  
 Plat: Original Townsite Block 26 Lot NE 65' of  
 Lot 2 & 4 and  
 UTMG: A. 14. 647130. 5 309590. B. NE 15' of NE 65'  
 C.  D. of Lot 6
- 7. Access: visible  
Location: south side of DeMers Avenue between South Third and Fourth Streets  
Acreage: less than one acre  
Verbal boundary: above city lots roughly 65 x 100 feet
- 8. A. General description of site: The Stratford Building is a flat-roofed, three-story brick and tile commercial building of rectangular plan. The back and side walls are of brick, and the main facade is constructed of brick tiles. The west wall adjoins a two-story business building, and is not visible. The other three elevations are. The back (south) wall has patent cast iron porches attached at the second and third stories, with a spiral cast iron staircase descending from the second story porch. The east wall overlooks the alley. The north (main) facade is set back the width of the sidewalk from DeMers Avenue. (continued)  
 B. Condition of site: good
- 9. Owner's name/address: Irvin Mandel, Allan Mandel, and Frances Ashe
- 10. Occupant's name/address: 313 DeMers Avenue, Grand Forks 58201
- 11. Historic Register value: Nat.  State  Untd.  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  
 Other surveys in which included none Roberts
- 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 Color Prints Slides Comments/ID code \_\_\_\_\_

Contact print (attached): Roll 2 Frame 22

8 x 10 glossies (attached): Roll 51 Frames 32,33,34

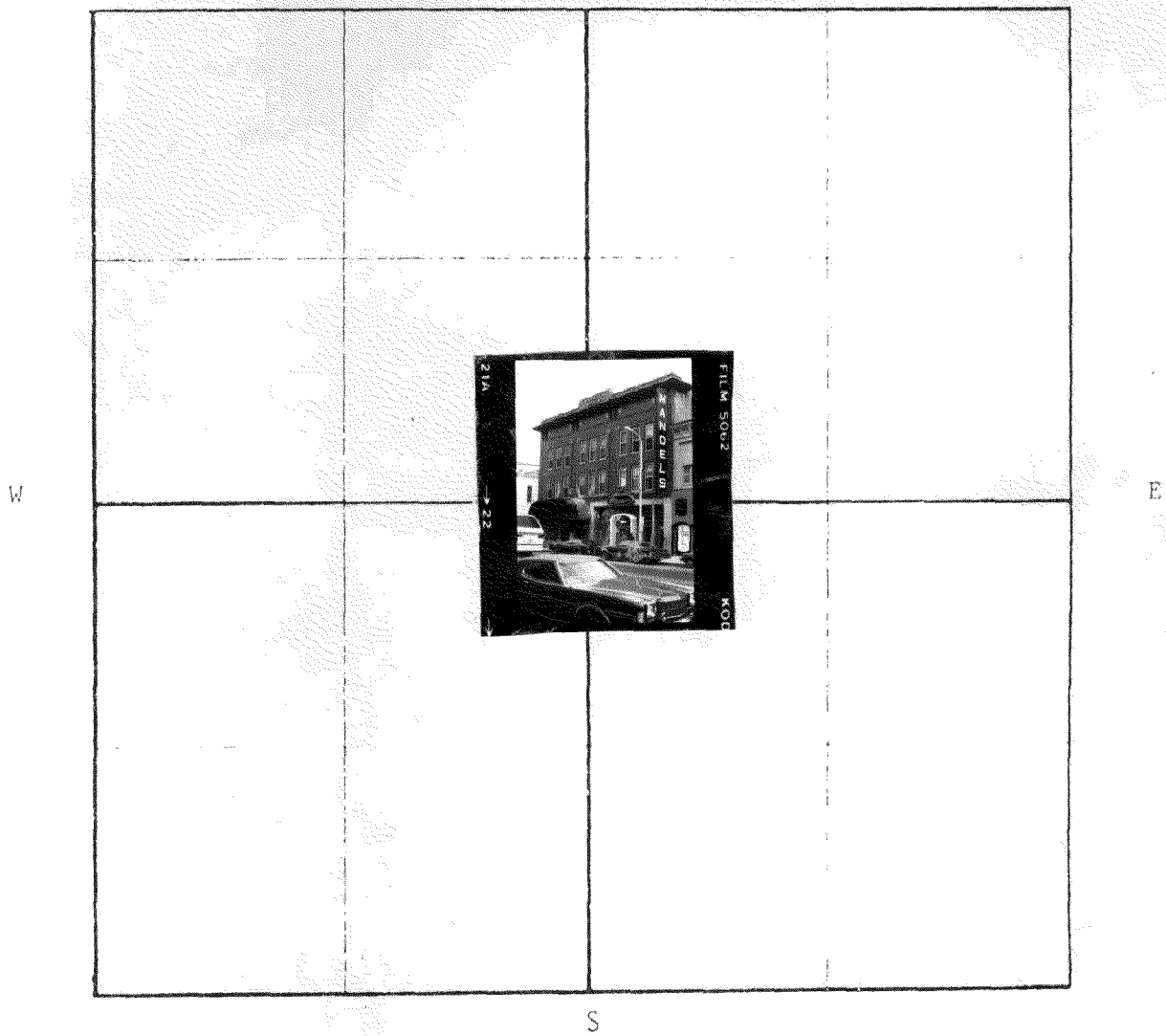
Negatives stored at: Division of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

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: \_\_\_\_\_

it



Recorded by: Joe 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 Architecture 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 vernacular commercial - Craftsman commercial
- B. Architect/engineer \_\_\_\_\_
- C. Contractor/builder \_\_\_\_\_
- D. Original use stores; apartments
- E. Present use stores; apartments
- F. Number of stories 3 G. Basement: Yes  No  Partial
- H. Foundation Material brick
- I. Wall Construction brick; fireproof except exposed steel in roof
- J. Wall Treatment brick and tile brick
- K. Roof type and material flat
- L. Number of bays: Front 3 Side - M. Plan shape rectangular
31. Frontage 65 feet 32. Distance from road 0
33. Number of outbuildings none 34. Description of outbuildings \_\_\_\_\_

35. Changes **Front facade storefront alterations**

36. Information sources/References

The Stratford Building is a 1913 reconstruction of Grand Forks' first Masonic Temple, which partially burned on January 18, 1912.<sup>1</sup> The Masonic Temple building was originally constructed in 1902. The Stratford Building was reconstructed in 1913, for commercial and residential use, retaining parts of the first floor of the 1902 building. (Cont.)

37. Reason for significance:

The architectural style of this building is consistent with the best of downtown Grand Forks' commercial buildings dating from the surge of building activity in the years ca. 1905-1915. The Stratford Building is distinctive in material and style. The original 1902 building was refaced after the 1912 fire with low-cost, locally manufactured, hollow red brick tile accented with glazed green ceramic squares and triangles. This material is unique as a building facing material in Grand Forks although it was used extensively as fireproofing for interior wall construction after 1910.<sup>3</sup> Stratford is also the only Craftsman style commercial building in downtown

Grand Forks.

Recorded by J. Roberts

Date 7/81

Revised by Norene and Joe Roberts, Gary Henrickson

Date 9/81

## NORTH DAKOTA CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY

Continuation form

Site Number JR 21Item No. 8.A. Architectural Description (Cont.)

The first story of the front facade has been almost completely renovated. All that remains of the original facade is a sandstone pier on the east corner. Two ceramic, metal, and glass storefronts, one with a canvas awning, obscure the rest of the original facade.

The second and third stories are faced with hollow tile red brick laid in a Flemish bond. The stories are tied together by three projecting bays each of which is comprised of three, 9/1 double-hung sash windows on each story. The bays are defined by projecting brickwork. The base of each bay has a sill course of stone which also ties the second floor windows together. The upper right and left corners of each bay are marked by green glazed ceramic tiles with an ornamented "S" in their centers.

The bays are surmounted by a corbel strip and a "frieze" composed of decorative brick work and applied green glazed ceramic tiles in the shape of squares and triangles. Craftsmen paired brackets "supporting" the metal cornice intrude into this decorative zone. Above the cornice, the brick parapet is raised in the center where it carries a name block. The parapet is capped with a stone course.

The brick work and decorative elements of the front elevation are carried through a single-window width bay on the east elevation. The remainder of the east elevation is common brick laid in American bond.

36. Information sources/References (Cont.)

For example, the stone piers at the front and rear of the east side and the date block on the front pier and the large round-headed brick arches on the first floor rear facades are still extant from the 1902 building.<sup>2</sup>

## Notes

<sup>1</sup>"Recall Masonic Temple Fire," Grand Forks Herald, January 18, 1942; City Assessor's description #261.

<sup>2</sup>Sanborn Insurance maps, 1912, 1916, 1927 updated to 1960.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid.