

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received OCT 16 1985

date entered NOV 20 1985

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

1. Name

historic Grinager Mercantile Building

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 37 Main Street East N/A not for publication

city, town Mayville N/A vicinity of

state North Dakota code 38 county Traill code 97

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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Goose River Investors

street & number 45 Main Street East

city, town Mayville N/A vicinity of state North Dakota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Traill County Registry of Deeds

street & number Traill County Courthouse

city, town Hillsboro state North Dakota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historical and Architectural Survey of Portions of Mayville, ND has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 8-17-82 N/A federal state county local

depository for survey records North Dakota State Historical Society

city, town Bismarck state North Dakota

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Grinager Mercantile building is a single story, commercial block constructed in 1899 and located on Main Street in Mayville, North Dakota. The building has an elaborate Victorian Gothic false front gable that breaks the roofline of the main facade. This feature is the visual focal point of the building and is embellished with stylized sandstone acanthus leaf motif frieze, sandstone bracketed cornice and coping. The center of the false front includes a brick Roman Arch framed by two brick posts that are capped with sandstone. A simple brick course with dentils forms the cornice. The building's commercial facade is constructed of rose brick which is also used on the adjoining Goose River Bank as is the acanthus leaf motif frieze. The east and west sidewalls are devoid of any architectural embellishments. These walls are constructed of a buff colored brick as opposed to the rose colored brick used on the main facade and rear of the building. Windows on south and east elevation have jack arches filled with glass block (date unknown).

Alterations to the Grinager Mercantile building have occurred both on the exterior and interior. The street level facade has been completely remodeled (1981) with natural tone vertical paneling on the kickplates and transom. Large, single pane, plate glass windows set into aluminum frames and have replaced the original windows. The main doorway also reflects similar treatment. The interior of the building was also remodeled in 1981. Carpeting was placed over the initial flooring and an acoustic ceiling with fluorescent lights were also added.

The overall integrity of the building remains fairly intact although recent alterations have compromised the building's original appearance. However, many of these are indeed reversible. The building contributes strongly to the overall rhythm and scale of the district. Its unusual facade makes the small one story building a noticeable commercial landmark.

One contributing Building.

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1899

Builder/Architect

Eberhardt Cooekin

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Grinager Mercantile building is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places due to its historical association with the Mayville, North Dakota commercial district and its distinctive architectural contribution to the community. The building is also significant in that it represents the work of a local master builder, Eberhardt Cooekin and is associated with two early Mayville merchants, Jens K. Grinager and Henry A. Springen.

The significance of the Grinager Mercantile building as a contributing landmark building in Mayville has its roots in a fire which occurred in 1899. The blaze destroyed most of the buildings on the north side of Block 33. It was in the same year that Jens K. Grinager and Henry A. Springen decided to have a brick building constructed on the block. It was built to house their general store business. The contractor chosen was Eberhardt Cooekin who may have also been the building's designer. Mr. Cooekin, although not an architect, was a skilled craftsman and was responsible for construction of another landmark building in downtown Mayville, the Goose River Bank.

The Grinager Mercantile building contains an handsome example of late nineteenth century eclectic embellishment used in a false front facade. This Victorian Gothic detail accents a relatively small one-story building and provides the illusion of a more substantial building. It provided an excellent retail space for Jens Grinager and Henry Springen. The business flourished under their tutorage and provided essential goods and services to the growing community of Mayville. In 1910, Springen sold his interest, and the business was re-organized as a stock company known as the Grinager Mercantile Co., largely under Jens Grinager's control. Henry Springen and his brother, Gundar, eventually went on to develop a very successful Ford dealership. Meanwhile, Jens Grinager continued to build his own grocery business. In January of 1938 he died and his sons, J. Wilmann and E. Haakon took over. The store was in operation until 1930 when it underwent remodeling into a department store.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .16

Quadrangle name Mayville North

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	4	6	2	6	1	4	0	5	2	6	1	8	9	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

E 1/2 Lots 7-12, Block 26 of the original Mayville Townsite

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

state N/A code county code

state N/A code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title James R. Schimmer and Daniel Cornejo

organization Cornejo-Schimmer Planners date June 20, 1985

street & number Suite 814 Black Building telephone (701) 235-3147

city or town Fargo 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 National Park Service.

James E. Sperry
State Historic Preservation Officer signature *James E. Sperry*

title State Historic Preservation Officer (North Dakota) date September 30, 1985

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

Beth Grosvener
Keeper of the National Register date 11/20/85

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation sheet

Item number 9

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Burner, Thea and Merilla Brasel

1980 Pillars of Time: A History of Pioneering on the
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Jostens/American Yearbook Company, Visalia, California.

Centennial Book Committee, pub.

1981 Saga of Two Cities, 1881-1981: A History of Mayville-
Portland and the Area of May-Port School District of
Traill and Steele Counties, Centennial Book Committee,
pub., Mayville, North Dakota.

Mayville Tribune

March 10, 1899
April 14, 1899
April 27, 1899
May 14, 1914
August 13, 1914

Mayville Tribune Farmer

February 16, 1916
November 22, 1917

Traill County Tribune

January 24, 1952
January 28, 1981

Mayville City Auditor

Building Permit Records, Mayville City Hall, Mayville,
North Dakota.

Traill County Auditor

Real Property Assessment Records, Traill County Courthouse.
Hillsboro, North Dakota.

Traill County Register of Deeds

Deed Records, Traill County Courthouse, Hillsboro, North Dakota.