JOSEPH BELL DeREMER

and

SAMUEL TEEL DeREMER

Architects in North Dakota

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INTRODUCTION

The *Joseph Bell DeRemer and Samuel Teel DeRemer: Architects in North Dakota* context has been developed to provide a broad overview of the history of the resources designed by this father and son architectural firm in North Dakota between 1902 and 1955. It is designed to be used as a guide for the identification and evaluation of buildings that derive significance, entirely or in part, from having been designed by the DeRemers.

The scope of the project included archival and field research pertaining to the works by the DeRemers. The project did not include a survey of resources, although there were site visits to a number of buildings. Four research questions were identified and addressed for this context. They included (1) the historic background of the DeRemer family and architectural firm; (2) the evolution of work and design approaches; (3) a summary of the works by the DeRemers with information pertaining to quantity, distribution, chronology, characteristics, and significance of their projects; and (4) evaluation criteria and recommendations for future research and study.

Information presented in this document is the result of archival research through various records documenting the DeRemers and the body of their work. Unfortunately the DeRemer firm's drawings, plans, and records apparently have been lost, so secondary resources provided much of the information used for this research. Among these were the Joseph Bell DeRemer Papers housed in the Special Collection of the Chester Fritz Library at the University of North Dakota. The collection includes a number of drawings for proposed projects, as well as photographs of and newspaper articles about some of their commissions. Other sources included files of survey documents and National Register nominations at the North Dakota State Historic Preservation Office, files at the North Dakota State Archives, files from the Grand Forks Historic Preservation Commission, and a number of articles in the Grand Forks Herald. Information about Joseph's earliest work in Grand Forks came from an article in the Silver Anniversary Special Edition of the Grand Forks Herald, June 26, 1904, which included a list of nearly 50 projects. Some information was gathered from lists compiled by Joseph or Sam over the years and used in their portfolios for projects, such as the North Dakota State Capitol building and various school projects.

Field research consisted of visiting a small number of communities to verify the existence of and to photograph extant DeRemer buildings. These communities included Jamestown, Mayville, Emerado, Hatton, Bismarck, and Grand Forks. Confirmation of DeRemer buildings were made in all but one of these communities; in Hatton, it was not possible to discern which building in the downtown was the Hegge Business Block and further research may determine if the building is extant. Several buildings in Grand Forks are extant and photographs of several are included in this document.

The author wishes to stress that this is a working document that will continue to evolve as research and careful consideration dictate. It is intended to address a wide audience from the cultural resource management profession to the layperson interested in researching local history. There are still gaps in understanding all the DeRemer works and consequently further research and survey work is recommended.

HISTORIC OVERVIEW

Early DeRemer Family History

Joseph Bell DeRemer was born in Montana, New Jersey, a small town in Warren County, on September 14, 1871 to James K. P. and Nancy (Bell) DeRemer. His father was a contractor and builder in the nearby town of Washington, New Jersey, where six generations of the DeRemer family had worked as builders.

Lewis Crawford's *History of North Dakota* provides details of the DeRemer family in New Jersey:

> "…family is an old and honored one of France, and was driven out of that country, at the time of the Huguenot persecution, to Holland, and it was from the Netherlands that the American Founder immigrated to Montana, Warren County, New Jersey, at a very early date. The great-grandfather, Henry H. DeRemer, was born near Montana, Warren County, New Jersey, and died at Montana, Warren County, New Jersey, where his life was spent, and there he is buried. By occupation he was a carpenter and builder, and he was also interested in farming. His son, Isaac H. DeRemer, grandfather of Joseph Bell DeRemer, was born in Warren County, New Jersey, and he died at Morristown, New Jersey, but is buried in the cemetery at Washington, Warren County, that state, in which county practically all of his life was spent. He, too, was a carpenter and builder.
>
> James K. Polk DeRemer, father of Joseph Bell DeRemer, was born near Montana, Warren County, New Jersey, March 24, 1845, and he died at Washington, Warren County, New Jersey, March 12, 1913. The inauguration of James K. Polk as president of the United States occurred March 4, 1845, and as he was born a few weeks thereafter in the same year he was named in honor of the eleventh president. Reared in Warren County, New Jersey, James K. Polk DeRemer remained in that locality all of his working life, following the trades of coopering and carpentering, and later the occupation of a contractor and builder…..He married Nancy Bell, who resides in Washington, Warren County, New Jersey….the following children were born to them: Joseph Bell, who is the eldest; Seeley, who resides at Paterson, New Jersey; and James Egbert, who also resides at Paterson, New Jersey, the two operating the Washington Casket Company of that city."[1]

Joseph Bell DeRemer first attended the district school of New Village, Franklin Township, Warren County, New Jersey. He joined his father and brothers in the building trade and by the age of eighteen was considered a master craftsman.

On November 11, 1891, Joseph married Elizabeth Myers of Stewartsville, New Jersey. The DeRemers had two children, Dolores and Samuel Teel (Sam), both born in New Jersey.

The History of the DeRemer Architectural Firm

[1] Lewis F. Crawford, History of North Dakota (Chicago: The American Historical Society, Inc., 1931), 101-102.

Joseph Bell DeRemer: The New Jersey Years

Joseph continued with his father and brothers until 1896 when friends persuaded him to pursue the study of architecture at Columbia University in New York City. He enrolled in a one-year course of study, under the direction and inspiration of Professor William R. Ware, the dean of the architecture department, where he successfully completed the study of drawing and drafting, ancient architectural history and ornament, medieval architectural history and ornament, theory of architecture, specifications and building materials.[2] The completion of this course, combined with working knowledge of the building trade, qualified him to call himself an architect.[3]

Upon completion of the coursework, Joseph returned to Washington, New Jersey and established an architectural practice. According to various biographic references, he received 78 commissions for architectural work in New Jersey between 1897 and 1902. Research for this document turned up references to only two of those projects – the residence of Mr. George Anderson in Somerville (c.1900), and the Washington Star Newspaper Building in Washington (built in 1901, demolished following a fire in 1958).[4] His seventy-eight commissions in five years likely included a number of small remodeling projects in addition to the design of new buildings.

The First North Dakota Years, 1902 – 1912

According to the *Silver Anniversary Special Edition* of The Grand Forks Herald, issued June 26, 1904, Joseph relocated to Grand Forks, North Dakota in March 1902, "finding his field too limited" in Washington, New Jersey. The article goes on to explain that he had been considering a move west for some time, possibly to Seattle or perhaps one of another couple locations. On his exploratory journey westward, he stopped in Grand Forks. While visiting Grand Forks, David H. Beecher, a prominent businessman and banker, persuaded Joseph to settle in Grand Forks where the economy was booming and the city was growing.[5] Beecher was the president of a number of banks in North Dakota, including the Union National Bank in Grand Forks, the First National Bank of Park River, the Hansboro State Bank, and the State Bank of Milton; he also served as the vice-president of the Northwestern Trust Company in Grand Forks. In addition, he owned a brick company in Dickinson. His connections throughout the state served to open doors for DeRemer in several communities.[6]

It is not known how Joseph became acquainted with Beecher, but it was likely through him that Joseph was introduced to the Merrifield family (Webster Merrifield was president of the

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[2] Letter from Professor William R. Ware, Columbia University in the City of New York, 21 April 1897.

[3] Royce A. Yeater, Oxford House: A Restoration Document (Master's Thesis), 31 March 1975, 30.

[4] Washington Historical Society, *Self-Guided Historic House Walk of Washington*, 2000.

[5] Grand Forks Herald, Silver Anniversary Special Edition, 26 June 1904, 90; Yeater, 27.

[6] Report to the Comptroller of the Currency, 1900 (Vol. 2), (no publisher) 806, 822; The Mercantile Adjuster, 1908 (Vol. 22, No. 7) (NY: Mercantile Adjuster Publishing Co.), 215; The Insurance Yearbook, 1909-1910 (NY: The Spectator Co., 1909), c-133.

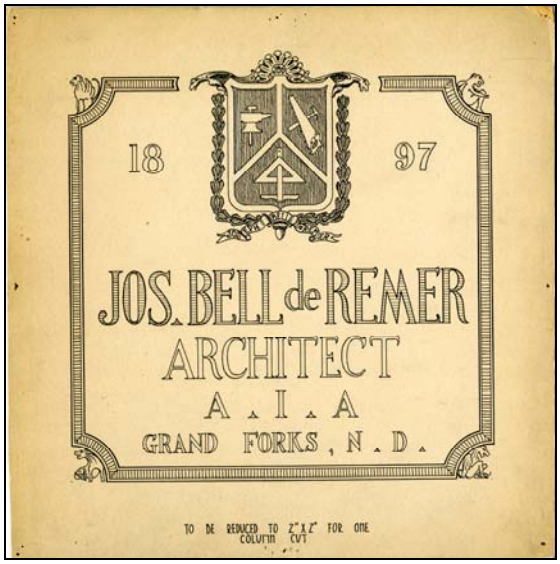
University of North Dakota at the time) and other socially prominent families in Grand Forks. Joseph's first commission in Grand Forks was to design and build a new house on the university campus for President Merrifield (listed on the NRHP as the Oxford House, 1973). The speed with which he attained this commission (he arrived in Grand Forks in March and the construction documents were dated in May) was a major boost to his career and set a path for success in Grand Forks.[7]

The President's House, University of North Dakota (1902-03)
[photo taken by M.Dennis, 2010]

Apparently his first office was located on the third floor of the Herald building, in a suite of "well appointed apartments." His practice included three office assistants and a field superintendent. Joseph, and his staff, quickly established a professional reputation in the area and worked to give "the public the very best service possible."[8]

[7] Yeater, 27-28.

[8] Ibid., 29.



DeRemer's business logo, c.1902
[drawn by DeRemer]

Joseph Bell DeRemer, c.1912
[photographer unknown]

By 1904, he had already become one of Grand Forks' prominent architects; the article in the Herald's *Silver Anniversary Special Edition* lists a "partial list" of his work since arriving in Grand Forks two years prior, which includes 50 projects in or near Grand Forks The projects on this list include several commercial buildings (banks, department stores, business blocks with offices, numerous residences and residential remodels, churches, schools, libraries, and fraternal and social organizational buildings (see Appendix A). The article goes on to claim that Joseph's success was "largely due to indomitable energy," his professional integrity, his personal one-on-one relationships with clients, and his desire to give the "public the very best service possible." [9]

The 1906 city directory includes an advertisement for "Jos. Bell DeRemer Architect" showing his office location as the Clifford Annex (NRHP 1983, destroyed by the 1997 flood and fire, de-listed in 2004),[10] a building he designed for George B. Clifford, who was a Grand Forks attorney, banker, and one of the three founders of the Cream of Wheat Company.[11] The 1909 city directory lists his office on the third floor of the Widlund Block, another building he designed and that was newly constructed in 1909.[12] This is likely the location of his office until his departure to Los Angeles in 1912.

Joseph designed and built a home for his family in 1906 at 625 Belmont (NRHP listed 1983). The neighborhood was the home to a number of prominent businessmen and professionals, including doctors, lawyers, bankers, politicians, and the city's most successful entrepreneurs. Since his arrival in Grand Forks, he had been designing and remodeling houses for these upper and middle-class families and it was a natural for him to build his family's home in this neighborhood as well.

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[9] Silver Anniversary Edition, 90-91.

[10] 1906 Grand Forks City Directory, 204.

[11] *George B. Clifford House*, National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, 1986.

[12] Grand Forks Historic Preservation Commission, Downtown Grand Forks A Historic District brochure, 2010.

The Joseph Bell DeRemer House (1906) in Grand Forks
[photo taken by M.L.Dennis, 2011]

Joseph apparently impressed UND's President Merrifield as several UND commissions came his way while Merrifield was president at the university. These included, in addition to the President's House in 1902-03, the Gymnasium building in 1907, the School of Mines building in 1908 and the Varsity Bachelor's Club in 1908. In 1909, Frank L. McVey became the president of UND and he appointed Joseph as the university's architect. Only two buildings were completed while McVey was president, both of which Joseph had initiated designs for under President Merrifield. These buildings were Woodworth Hall, completed in 1910, and the University Commons, completed in 1911. Joseph held the position of university architect until his departure for California in 1912.[13]

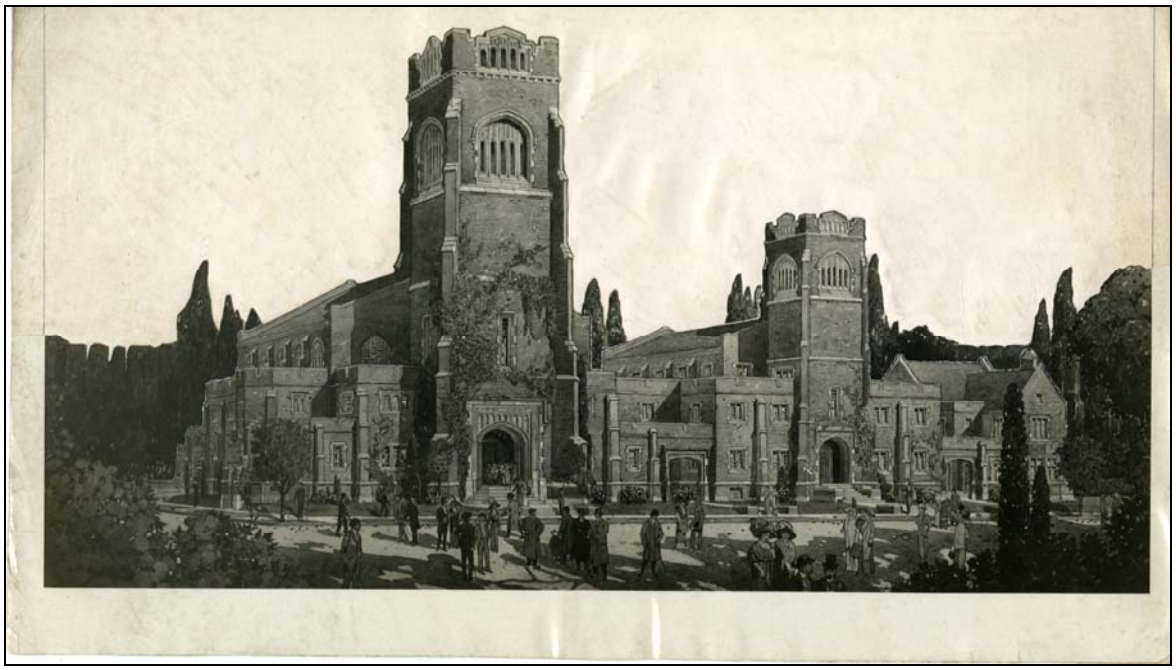
School of Mines Building (Babcock Hall), UND (1908)
[photo taken by M.L. Dennis, 2010]

[13] Michelle L. Dennis, University of North Dakota Historic District, National Register nomination (Grand Forks Historic Preservation Commission, 2010).

DeRemer in Los Angeles

In 1912, Joseph decided to sell the family's home, and relocate to Los Angeles. Joseph had been influential in the building of Grand Forks and surrounding communities for ten years, having designed several new buildings and having remodeled several more. Despite his success in Grand Forks, he continued to long for the opportunities that only a large metropolitan area could provide and he closed his office on March 15, exactly ten years after he opened his practice in Grand Forks.[14]

Joseph established his practice in Los Angeles in 1912 and located his office on the sixth floor of the Title Insurance Building. Little has been found about his work in California. According to information found among the Joseph Bell DeRemer Papers in the UND Special Collections are references to him having designed six buildings in California. With two exceptions, it is not known if these projects were actual commissions and were constructed, or if they were simply design concepts developed by Joseph in hopes of gaining these commissions. The four unconfirmed projects include the Wilshire Presbyterian Church (date unknown) in L.A., the Fifth Street School in San Pedro, a grammar school in Modesto, and a high school in Modesto. A private residence for William H. Glover was apparently built at 327 S. Normandie Ave. in L.A. in 1921, after Joseph's departure from L.A. and return to Grand Forks.



The Wilshire Presbyterian Church in Los Angeles, drawing by Joseph Bell DeRemer

The sixth project in California was actually commissioned by the State of North Dakota. Joseph designed the North Dakota State Building for the Panama-Pacific International Exposition, which was held in San Francisco in 1915. The following photo from the UND Special Collections shows a drawing prepared by Joseph, as well as a photo of the building after its completion.

[14] Grand Forks Herald, 4 February 1912.

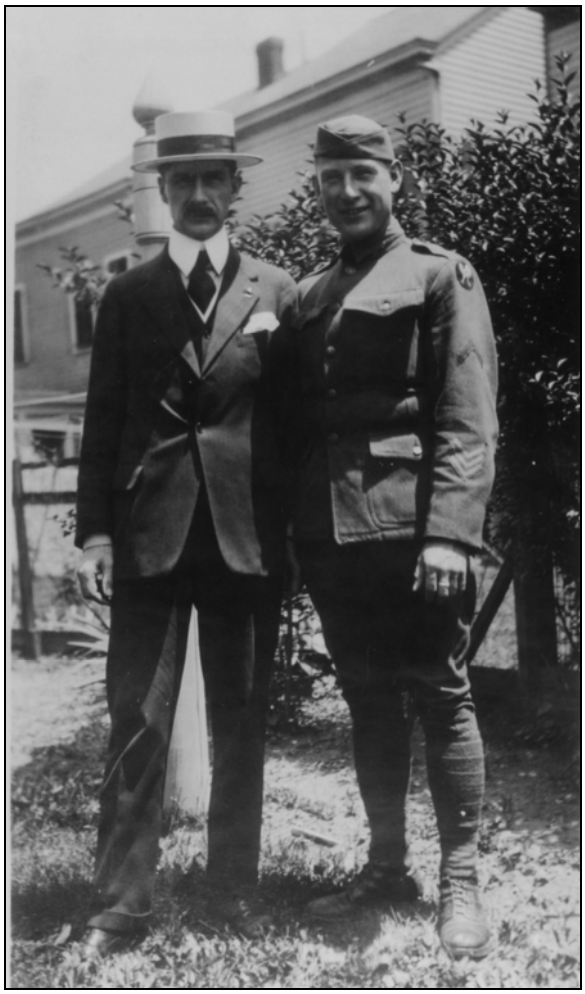
North Dakota State Building for the 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition

The Return to North Dakota: Sam Joins the Firm

Joseph closed his Los Angeles office on November 1, 1918. He returned to New Jersey, where he worked with his brothers until December 1919 as the president of the Washington Casket Co. of Paterson (his brothers had owned and operated this business for a number of years and Joseph retained the title of president of that company even after his return to Grand Forks). It is not known why he chose to leave LA when he did; perhaps the downturn in construction due to World War I left him with little work. In 1919, he and Lizzie returned to Grand Forks and re-opened his architectural business. In 1920, his son, Sam, returned to Grand Forks where father and son began an architectural partnership.

Sam was born May 15, 1894 in Washington, New Jersey. When he was eight, his family moved to Grand Forks where he attended public schools. He graduated from high school in Los Angeles after his family relocated there in 1912. Following graduation, he attended a junior college in L.A. for two years, followed by three years at the University of California, Berkeley, where he was awarded a Bachelors Degree in Architecture. He was an active member of Sigma Nu (Beta Psi chapter) while attending college. In 1918 he registered for the draft in Mariposa County, California and served with the U.S. Army Ambulance Corps assigned to France. Following his military commitment, he toured France as a member of a musical troupe performing “Let’s Go!”[15]

[15] Samuel DeRemer obituary (copy from UND Special Collection files, newspaper unidentified, 1967).



Joseph and Sam DeRemer on the day Sam
returned from Europe; taken in New Jersey
[photographer unknown]

After the war, at the age of 26, Sam joined his father's architectural firm, initially as a silent partner. The 1921 city directory shows that the DeRemers' new office was located in the Security Block in downtown Grand Forks. Joseph and Lizzie also resided in an apartment in the Security Block at that time and Sam apparently boarded with them. By 1925, Sam's residence is listed at the Bellevue Apartments, a building designed by the DeRemers in 1923.[16] The 1928 city directory indicates that the DeRemer architecture firm had relocated to an office in the Hotel Ryan, another building designed by the DeRemers in 1926. By that time, Joseph and Lizzie were residing in a home at 1518 Viets Avenue. Sam married Myrtle Haga on August 7, 1924 and by 1926 they were living in a home at 1610 Viets Avenue.[17] Sam and Myrtle had one son, Jo'Bell, born November 28, 1928 (he died in Jamestown, ND in 2002). Apparently in the mid-1930s, the office of the firm was moved to Sam's home where it remained until Sam partnered with Harrie and Kennedy in the mid-1950s.[18]

[16] Grand Forks City Directory, Pettibone Directory Co., Publishers (Fargo, ND: 1921).

[17] Grand Forks City Directory, Pettibone Directory Co., Publishers (Fargo, ND, 1928).

[18] Grand Forks City Directory, Pettibone Directory Co., Publishers (Fargo, ND, 1936,1945).

Together, Joseph and Sam maintained the firm's prominence in architecture in the greater Grand Forks area, which included northwestern Minnesota, as well as other communities across North Dakota.

There were other architects located in Grand Forks during this time, but apparently there was sufficient work to keep most of them employed throughout the 1920s. When Joseph returned to Grand Forks in 1919, three architects were listed in the directories, including W.J. Edwards and J.W. Ross (both of whom had been in Grand Forks since DeRemer's first ten years in the city), and B.D. Keck. These names appeared in the 1921 directory as well.[19] The 1923 directory shows that Edwards was no longer practicing, but VanHorn & Rittenbush had established a firm in the city. By the 1928 directory, VanHorn & Rittenbush, as well as Keck, were no longer listed, but Theodore B. Wells has established a firm in Grand Forks. For many years, DeRemer, Wells, and Ross were the architects with practices in Grand Forks.[20]

Joseph stayed true to the professional approach he developed during his earlier years in Grand Forks. Perhaps this and his prior success in the area lead to his continuation as the city's leading architect. In a letter he prepared for a potential client in the early 1930s, Joseph wrote:

> "The writer has never been ambitious in his desire to operate a large office, feeling that when he is commissioned to execute any work, that his Client is entitled to the same personal attention as he expects from his Physician, Attorney, or other professional practitioners. Therefore, all work commissioned to this office has and will receive, not only personal contact but personal attention, which can not be possible or expected of a large or commercial office."[21]

Perhaps the firm's most significant commission was the North Dakota State Capitol building in Bismarck. After the original capitol burned in December 1930, the state legislature passed House Bill No. 79 authorizing the construction of a new capitol building with a total cost not to exceed $2,000,000 (with $1.5 million set aside for actual construction costs and the remainder for architectural fees, supervisors, and incidentals). The bill also stipulated that if an architect from outside North Dakota was selected, then a North Dakota architect must be chosen as an associate architect; conversely, if a North Dakota architect was chosen, then an associate architect may (or may not) be chosen from outside the state. In addition, the bill required that local building materials and local labor be used to every extent possible.

A Capitol Building Commission of three members was appointed by Governor George Shaffer to oversee the entire process. George Bangs of Grand Forks chaired the commission. The commission toured several state capitol buildings, including Nebraska and Louisiana, and determined that the new capitol would be built for efficiency, utility and durability. There would be no dome, as domes serve no useful purpose and the cost associated with constructing a dome was an unnecessary expense.

An invitation to architects to submit qualifications was issued April 4, 1931. Approximately 70 architects responded. Two architects from North Dakota was selected to design the new

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[19] Grand Forks City Directory, Pettibone Directory Co., Publishers (Fargo, ND, 1919, 1921).

[20] Grand Forks City Directory, Pettibone Directory Co., Publishers (Fargo, ND, 1923, 1928, 1934, 1936, 1945).

[21] DeRemer portfolio for the ND State Capitol project (Section 3, Part B), 1931.

capitol – Joseph Bell DeRemer of Grand Forks and William F. Kurke from Fargo (Kurke was not only a licensed architect, but an architectural engineer as well). The Chicago firm of Holabird & Root was selected as the associate architects. Architectural drawings were finalized on June 10, 1932 and groundbreaking ceremonies were held on August 13, 1932. The design of the building was based on Holabird & Root's ideas for a capitol building that included an office tower and wing housing legislative chambers. The final detailing and architectural treatments were designed by the DeRemer and Kurke firms. Sam DeRemer's involvement is clearly demonstrated through the Art Deco stylistic influences and details throughout the building.

The nineteen-story tower is the tallest building in the state of North Dakota. It measures 241 feet 8 inches in height. The exterior is clad with Wisconsin black granite on the base and Indiana limestone on the wall surfaces above. The interior finishes are particularly fine with such materials as Yellowstone travertine, Belgian black marble, and a variety of fine woods, including walnut, oak, teak, Honduras mahogany, laurel wood, rosewood, curly maple, and chestnut.

The building was completed in August 1934.

North Dakota State Capitol (1932-34) in Bismarck
[photo taken by M.L. Dennis, 2011]

In 1934, during the early years of the Great Depression, Sam was named the "District Reconditioning Supervisor" for the Grand Forks district of the Home Owners Loan Corporation,

one of the programs adopted in 1933 as part of Roosevelt's New Deal administration. The Grand Forks district included twelve counties – Pembina, Cavalier, Towner, Rolette, Pierce, Benson, Walsh, Ramsey, Wells, Eddy, Nelson, and Grand Forks. Sam directed loans for home owners repairing, remodeling, or modernizing their residences during the years of this program.[22]

Joseph developed health problems in the 1930s and retired in 1937. Between his father's retirement and his father's death in 1944, Sam operated the architectural firm under his father's name. After his father's death, Sam changed the name of the firm to his own. The name change coincided with the post-World War II construction boom. Sam's business grew rapidly and steadily from the mid-1940s through the 1950s. An April 1949 article in the Grand Forks Herald announced that Sam was adding four assistants to his staff, including Thomas R. Baker (from Minneapolis), Eugene I. Gjerstad (from Crookston), William E. Harrie (from Fargo) and Frederick Stone (from Baraboo, WI).

In 1955, Sam expanded the firm to include partners William E. Harrie and Robert L. Kennedy and the firm became known as DeRemer, Harrie & Kennedy Architects. The firm maintained an office at the Grand Forks Savings and Loan Building on South 4th Street. Before 1960, Sam was semi-retired and involved with the firm in name only. He retired soon thereafter and the firm became known as Harrie & Kennedy Architects.

Professional Associations and Civic Contributions

Joseph was actively involved in both professional and civic associations. He was an advocate for a State Board of Architecture during his early years in North Dakota. The board was finally organized in 1917, while he was living in California. Upon his return to the state, he applied for a certificate and was awarded Certificate #40 on May 12, 1921. From 1922 through 1923, he served as the Vice-President of the State Board of Architecture. He served a three-year term as President of the board from 1924 through 1926.[23] Joseph was also actively involved in the North Dakota Association of Architects, serving a term as the organizations president in the 1920s. In addition to his participation in North Dakota, Joseph was also a member of the Minnesota chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and served a term as this organization's vice-president. He was a member of the national AIA throughout his career.

Lewis Crawford's *History of North Dakota* provides details of Joseph's active fraternal and civic life (as of 1931):

> "Always an active Republican Mr. DeRemer was honored by his party while a resident of Washington, Warren County, New Jersey, to election to the city council, and served as a member of that body for two years…..Very high in Masonry, he has been advanced through all the bodies of the Scottish Rite from Acacia Lodge No. 4, A.F. & A.M., which he served as worshipful master in 1912, and of which he is now a past master, to Jared Consistory No. 2, in the Valley of Grand Forks, in which he has been advanced to the thirty-second degree. He was also advanced through the bodies of the York rite, and

[22] Samuel Teel DeRemer scrapbook, in UND Special Collections (UND Chester Fritz Library).

[23] State Board of Architecture files, ND State Archives (Bismarck, ND).

> formerly maintained membership with the Chapter and Commandery. Originally a member of Mecca Temple, New York City, A.A.O.N.M.S., November 30, 1899, he demitted in 1909, and is a charter member of Kem Temple, A.A.O.N.M.S. Formerly he belonged to the Junior Order of United American Mechanics, of which he is a past councilor, having held membership with Oriental Court No. 9, Washington, Warren County, New Jersey; and he is past grand orient of this order. In addition, he formerly belonged to the Senior Order United American Mechanics, to the Daughters of Liberty, of which he is a past commander, and to the Knights of Malta, being a past commander of Siloam Commandery, Knights of Malta. All of these orders are of Washington, Warren County, New Jersey. He is a charter member of the Grand Forks Kiwanis Club, the Grand Forks Commercial Club, the Traffic Association of Grand Forks, the American Institute of Architects, the North Dakota Association of Architects and is its president, and the Minnesota Chapter of the American Institute of Architects."[24]

In addition to the activities listed by Crawford, other sources indicate that Joseph was also a member of the Grand Forks Town and Country Club, a director of the Y.M.C.A., and a member of the Grand Forks B.P.O.E. And although Crawford indicates that Joseph was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Grand Forks in 1931, he was apparently associated with the Presbyterian church prior to that time, as he was listed as a church officer of the Presbyterian Church he designed in Grand Forks in 1910.

Sam was also active in fraternal and civic organizations. In Crawford's 1931 History of North Dakota he indicates that Samuel belonged to "the Acacia Lodge No. 4, A.F.& A.M.; the Jared Consistory No. 2, in the Valley of Grand Forks, in which he has been advanced to the thirty-second degree; Kem Temple, A.A.O.N.M.S. of Grand Forks; and the Grand Forks Rotary Club."[25]

In 1952, Sam served as one of the judges for new designs for the new governor's residence in Bismarck. First place was awarded to Robert Englestad of Fargo.[26] Sam was also a judge for model home competition for an NDAC architectural course.

DeRemer Retirement Years

Joseph retired in 1937 after his health began to fail. There is little information about his life between that time and his death in 1944, following a second stroke. It is likely that he and his wife, Lizzie, spent time at their home and "cabin" in the woods near their house.

Joseph died February 16, 1944. He was buried at the Memorial Park Cemetery in Grand Forks. Lizzie died February 10, 1965 and was laid to rest beside her husband.

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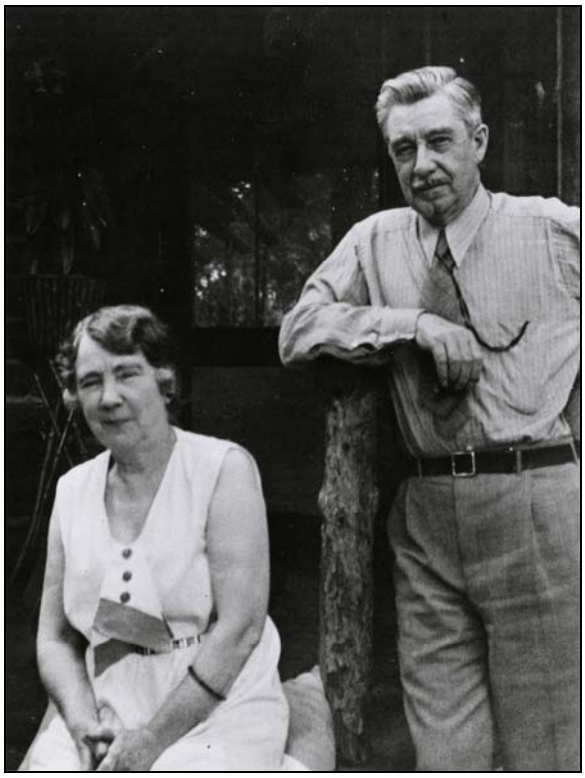
[24] Crawford, 102-103.

[25] Crawford, 103.

[26] Scrapbook.



Joseph and Lizzie at the cabin, c.1940
[photographer unknown]

Sam retired to Florida in the early 1960s before moving first to Long Lake, Minnesota and then to Bemidji, Minnesota with his second wife, Frances Vivian Vang. He died on September 18, 1967 in Bemidji and was buried in Grand Forks in the Memorial Park Cemetery. Frances died in 1987 and was buried beside her husband.

EVOLUTION OF WORK AND DESIGN APPROACHES

Joseph Bell DeRemer: The First Twenty Years

Two major events are credited with our country's renewed interest in earlier architectural styles. The Philadelphia Centennial of 1876 spurred an interest in America's colonial architectural heritage and the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago revived an interest in classical architecture. The result of each was an architectural movement drawing on traditional precedents in developing revival designs and eclectic combinations of classical architecture in stylistic adaptations.

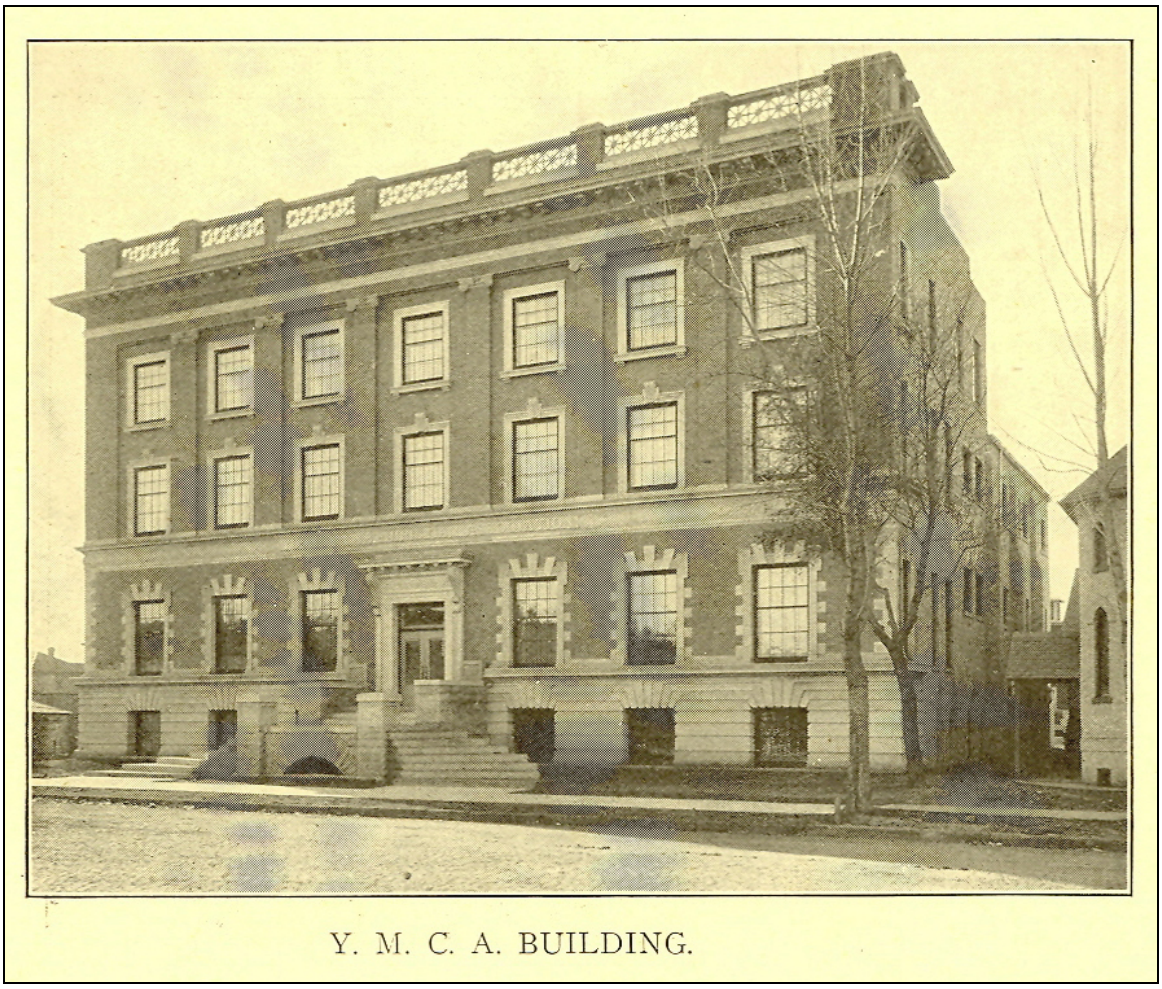
The first of these was the Colonial Revival movement following the centennial celebrations of 1876. Started in about 1880, the use of the Colonial Revival architectural style found favor throughout the country until after World War II. Colonial Revival details drew on early classical elements and included the use of symmetry, columns and pilasters for porch supports, pediments, and cornices decorated with dentils or modillions. This architectural style was especially popular for residential architecture and ranged for elaborate high style adaptations to modest, small scale homes.

The second of these was the use of Neoclassical and Beaux Arts architecture. Both of these styles are closely associated with the City Beautiful Movement following the World's Columbian Exposition in 1893 in Chicago. The planners of the exposition mandated a classical theme and the resulting designs for the exposition buildings drew largely on Classical Revival and Greek Revival architecture. Neoclassical architecture, often described as an eclectic style fusing traditional precedents together, was popular from about 1895 to 1950, and was used on various types of buildings. The more elaborate Beaux Arts style of architecture was popular from about 1895 to 1930. It, too, is eclectic in the classical elements employed.

When Joseph attended Columbia University in 1896, these new styles, based on classical architecture, were gaining in popularity. Training in classical architecture had long been a mainstay in architectural education and the program that Joseph attended was no exception. His academic training at Columbia University focused on classical architecture, with an emphasis on proportion, symmetry, geometry, rhythm and regularity. Through his studies he became proficient with classical elements and detailed classical ornamentation. The fact that classical elements were being used in current architecture styles worked well for Joseph. He appreciated classical architecture and enjoyed using classical elements in his designs. He found ways to incorporate classical elements throughout his career.

Although only two commissions have been identified from Joseph's five professional years in New Jersey, both included design elements rooted in classical architecture. The George Anderson House in Somerville, built c.1900, was a grand mansion that illustrated the "Free Classic" form of the Queen Anne style. The "Free Classic" elements included classical treatments of porch columns, Palladian windows, cornice lines and other details on a traditional massing of a large Queen Anne house. The Washington Star Newspaper building was best described as a Victorian Eclectic style of architecture. The building included elements from a number of styles popular when it was built in 1901 and included elements associated with classical architecture. No further information was found about either of these buildings.

Joseph used classical detailing consistent with his training in most of his designs during his first years in Grand Forks. Many of his designs fall into the categories of Classical Revival/Neoclassical/Beaux Arts, applied widely to various building types, and Colonial Revival (with the subtype of Dutch Colonial Revival), largely applied in his residential applications. In addition to these architectural styles, Joseph's commissions also included the use of the Chicago Style (on commercial buildings), the Tudor Revival style (used for several buildings at UND, as well as private residences), and in at least one instance each, the Mission Revival style (for the School for the Blind in Bathgate) and Prairie style for a house in Grand Forks. He used Gothic Revival architecture for his church designs. Each of these styles draws on classical precedents and in some cases, he approached his designs from a more eclectic perspective rather than a purely classical stylistic application.



The Y.M.C.A Building in Grand Forks (1904)
[photographer unknown]

The Corliss Block (1904) in Grand Forks illustrates Joseph's commercial application of classical details
[photo taken by M.L. Dennis, 2011]

University Commons (Montgomery Hall), UND (1911) illustrates
Joseph's use of Tudor Revival for early campus buildings
[photo taken by M.L. Dennis, 2011]

Illustrations of only two buildings were found from this period of Joseph's career. The first was a drawing for the Wilshire Presbyterian Church in L.A. Its style was Gothic Revival, which includes several classical elements. The second was the North Dakota State Building, constructed in San Francisco for the Panama-Pacific International Exposition in 1915. This building's style is perhaps best described as Italian Renaissance, which also incorporates classical elements. No further information was found about these buildings.

The Father and Son Team, 1919-1937

This period of DeRemer architecture is characterized by a transition from Joseph's preference for classical details to Sam's preference for modern architecture.

When Joseph returned to Grand Forks in 1919, he returned to a solid reputation for creating classically detailed architecture. This tradition was carried forward in many of the firm's commissions early in this period and was reflected in building types such as schools and commercial buildings. In addition, the DeRemers continued to favor Tudor Revival for residential applications, including the fraternity and sorority houses designed at UND. Gothic Revival continued to be the firm's choice for churches. In addition to these architectural styles, the DeRemers also used Craftsman detailing in at least one house in the 1920s and added Collegiate Gothic to their repertoire for academic buildings on the UND campus.

The DeRemer's use of Tudor Revival for residential architecture was given national recognition in 1926 when the *House Beautiful* magazine featured the G.H. Olmsted House in Grand Forks in an article about architecturally-designed small houses. The house is located at 1127 Reeves Dr (the original address of 431 Vernon was changed sometime in the 1960s.)

The G.H. Olmsted House (1920) in Grand Forks
[photo taken by M.L. Dennis, 2011]

Sigma Nu House, UND (1926) illustrates the DeRemers' use of
Tudor Revival architecture for fraternity/sorority houses
[photo taken by M.L. Dennis 2010]

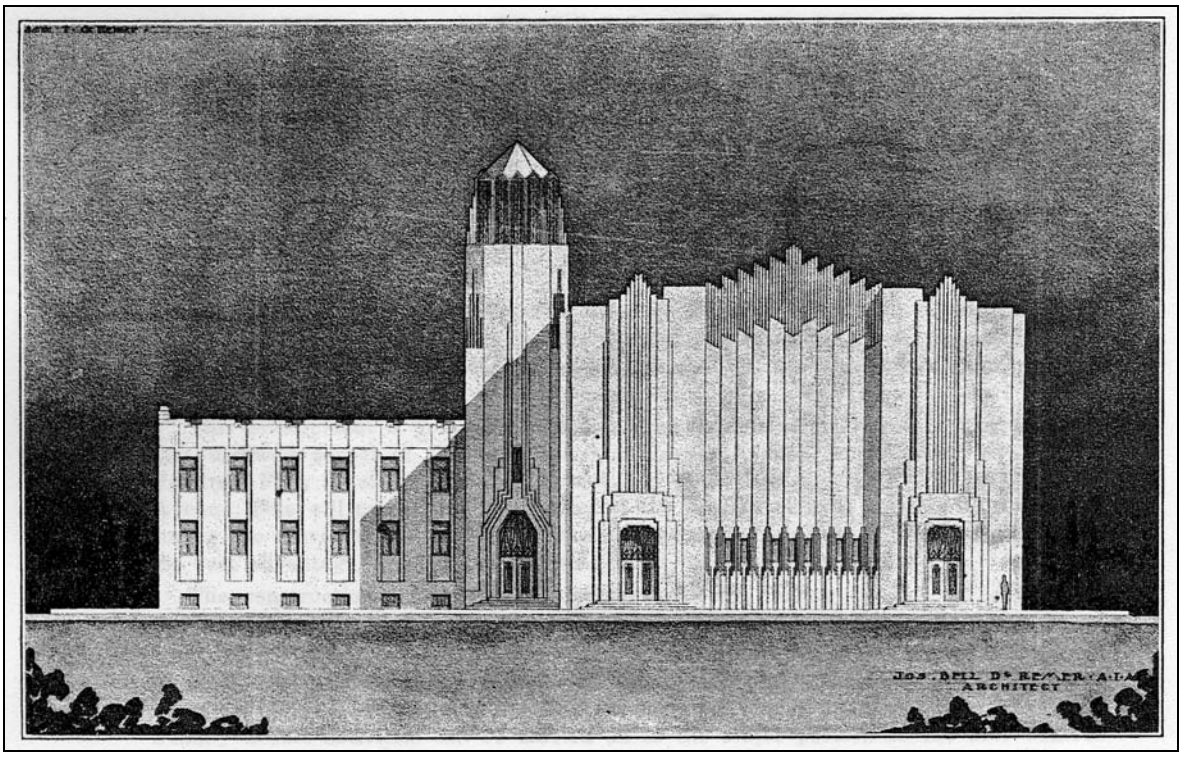
The University of North Dakota adopted a campus plan to unify the architecture of new buildings by using the Collegiate Gothic style (this style was used almost exclusively between 1918 and 1965). In 1929, the DeRemers designed the new Liberal Arts Building (later named Merrifield Hall) for UND using the Collegiate Gothic style. This building is one of the best designed on the campus.

Liberal Arts Building (Merrifield Hall), UND (1929) is the best example
of the DeRemer's use of Collegiate Gothic architecture on campus
[photo taken by M.L. Dennis, 2011]

By the end of the 1920s, new modern architectural styles were in vogue across the country. Sam embraced the shift to modern styles for a number of building types. Clearly he developed skills in designing Art Deco buildings. Although he was a silent partner in the firm at that time, it is clear that he was the principle designer of a number of the firm's commissions. In addition to this modern style, the firm also developed a modern commercial style with little or no ornamentation that they used for a small number of buildings.

Two of the DeRemers' most significant commissions are excellent examples of the Art Deco style of architecture. The first was the North Dakota State Capitol building. Details about the building can be found in the previous section of this document.

The second of the significant commissions during this time period was the United Lutheran Church in Grand Forks constructed in 1931. The church was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1991 as one of the best examples of high-style Art Deco architecture in the state of North Dakota. The architecture of the church is highly stylized and designed to resemble, in part, the pipes of a church organ. In addition to the exterior being stylized, the DeRemers also emphasized the Art Deco design for the interior spaces of the church.



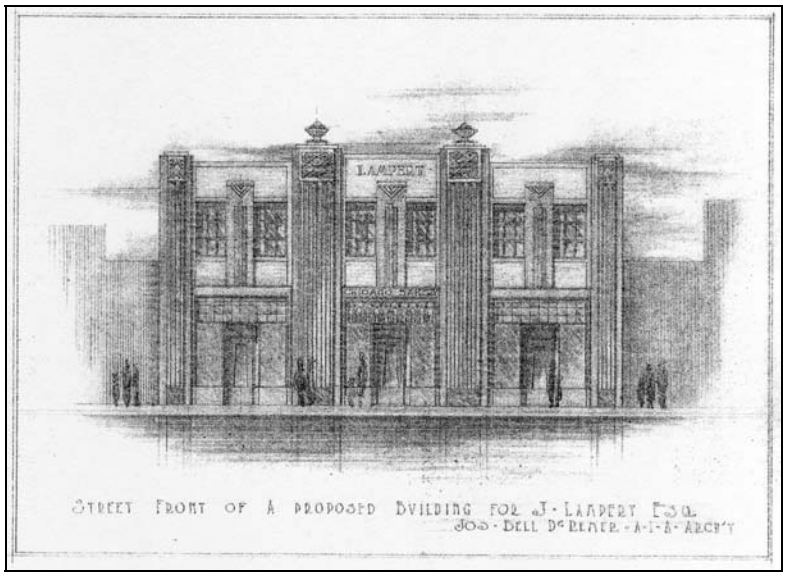
The United Lutheran Church (1931) in Grand Forks illustrates Sam's use of Art Deco architecture in a religious application

The drawing shown above has the typical "Jos.Bell DeRemer, AIA Architect" in the lower right hand corner, but also includes Sam's name as the artist in the upper left hand corner. Works during this time period often showed Sam's name even though he was still a silent partner.

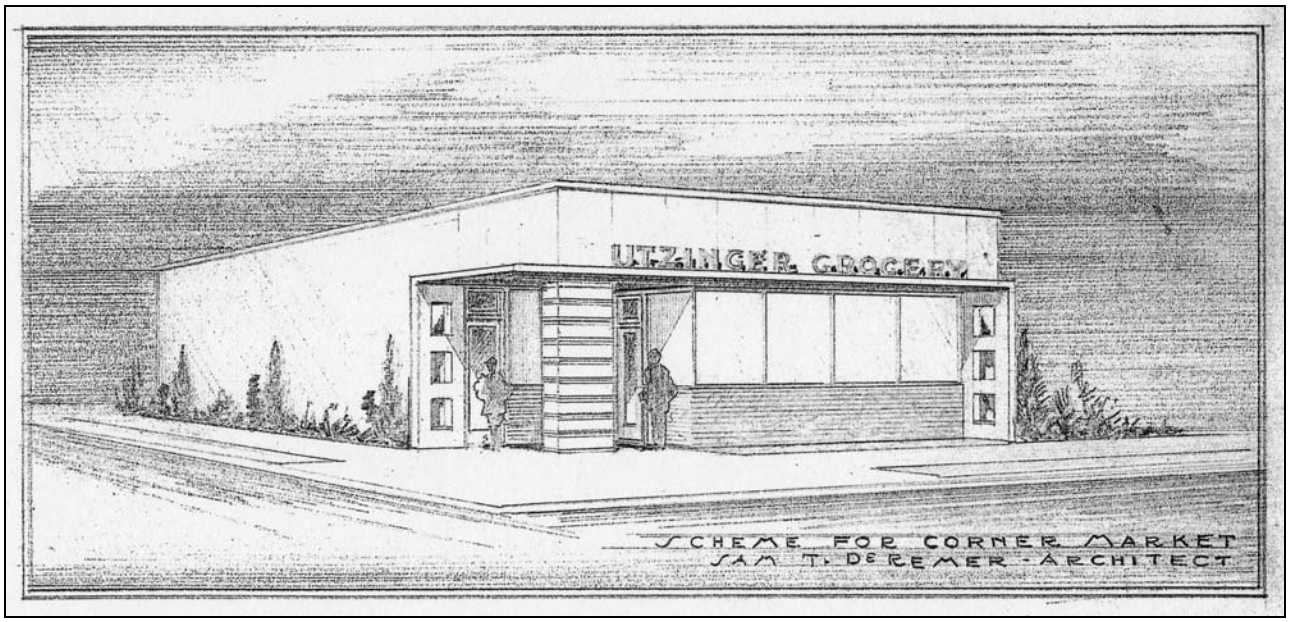
The United Lutheran Church Sanctuary (1931) illustrates
an interior application of Art Deco details
[photographer unknown]

Samuel Teel DeRemer, 1938-1955

By the time Joseph retired in 1937, Sam had established himself as a modern architect. His designs during this portion of his career continued to reflect his preference for modern styles, such as Art Deco and Moderne architecture during the early years of this time period. As the contemporary styles of the 1940s and early 1950s gained a stronghold in North Dakota, Sam's designs shifted to include more commercial buildings exemplifying the International and the Modern Commercial styles of architecture.



Drawing for the J. Lampert Building (no date, no location)
illustrating Sam's preference for Art Deco architecture



The drawing is labeled “Scheme for Corner Market” – perhaps for a business named Utzinger Grocery - Illustrates Sam’s shift to a more streamlined modern sensibility (no date, no location)

Implement Dealers Mutual Insurance Company Building (1954) in Grand Forks
[photo taken by M.L. Dennis 2012]

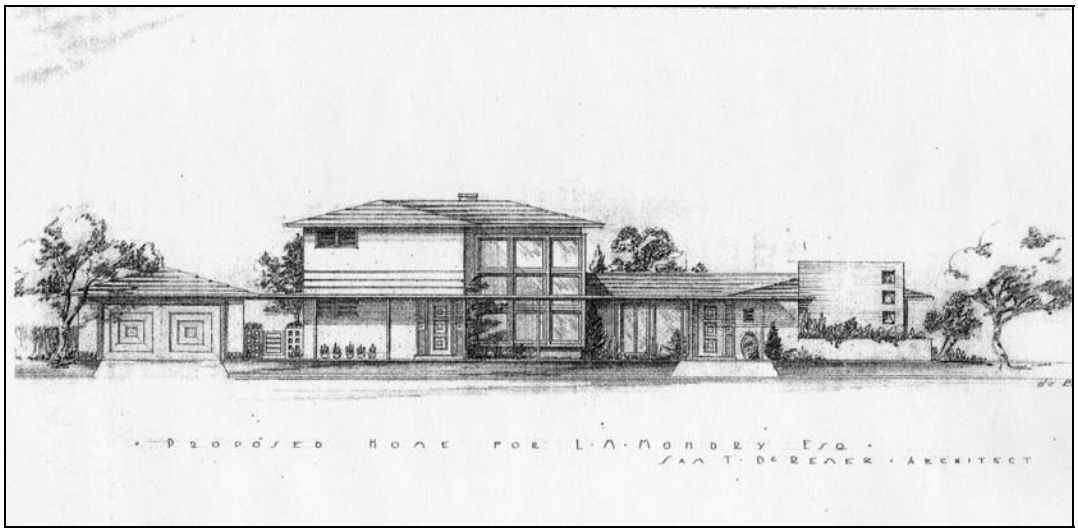
Grand Forks Building & Loan Association (1955) illustrates
Sam's use of the International style of architecture
[photo taken by M.L. Dennis, 2011]

Sam used modern designs for nearly all his commissions during this time period. Rare exceptions include the continued use of the Collegiate Gothic style for buildings on the UND campus, including his design for the 1952 Hancock Hall. Even then, the design for this building reflects a modern adaptation of Collegiate Gothic architecture.

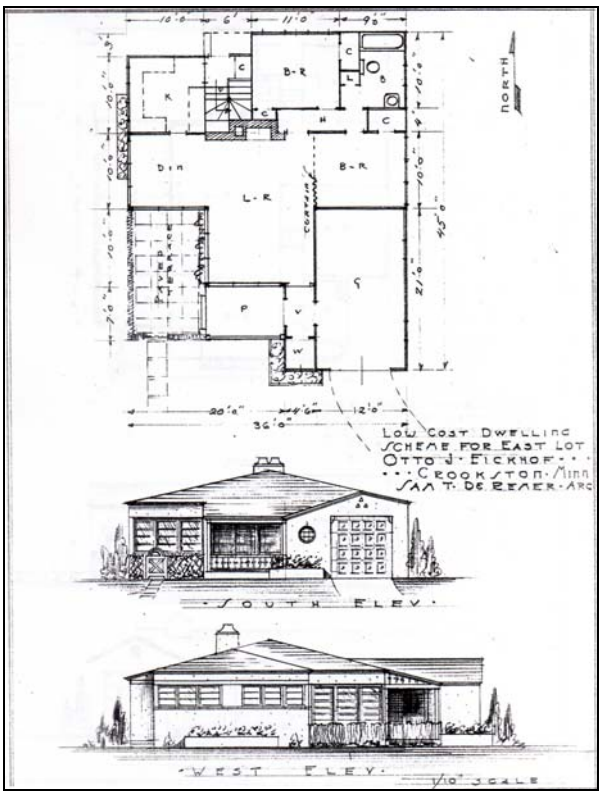
As the sensibility of school design shifted to modern, one-story structures, so did Sam's designs for school. His commissions for schools included modern buildings in Grand Forks, McClusky, and Watford City, North Dakota, as well as schools in Lancaster and Lake Bronson, Minnesota.

Lewis & Clark School (1952) in Grand Forks
[photo taken by M.L. Dennis, 2011]

Sam continued to design residential properties, although as a smaller portion of his overall design business. His modern sensibility can be seen in the homes he designed and stylistically they illustrate the Modern Ranch style, small Modern cottages, and large homes with Modern details.



Drawing of the L.M. Mondry House, location unknown;
although not dated, appears to be c.1955.



This is one of two drawings labeled as “Low Cost Dwelling Scheme”
for Otto Eickhof of Crookston, MN
no date on drawing - appears to be late 1940s or early 1950s

PROJECTS BY JOSEPH BELL DEREMER AND SAMUEL TEEL DEREMER

The DeRemers did not specialize in designing any one type of building, but rather used their talents to create designs appropriate to any type of building they were commissioned to design. The body of their work includes commercial, residential, education, religious, governmental/public, fraternal/social, and other property types.

Unfortunately the DeRemer firm's drawings and plans apparently have been lost. No comprehensive listing of the projects on which they worked was found, so the following list of commissions was compiled from a variety of sources. Among these were the Joseph Bell DeRemer Papers housed in the Special Collection of the Chester Fritz Library at the University of North Dakota. The collection includes a number of drawings for proposed projects, as well as photographs of and newspaper articles about some of their commissions. Other sources included files of survey documents and National Register nominations at the North Dakota State Historic Preservation Office, files at the North Dakota State Archives, files from the Grand Forks Historic Preservation Commission, and a number of articles in the Grand Forks Herald. Information about Joseph's earliest work in Grand Forks came from an article in the Silver Anniversary Special Edition of the Grand Forks Herald, June 26, 1904, which included a list of nearly 50 projects. Some information was gathered from lists compiled by Joseph or Sam over the years and used in their portfolios for projects, such as the North Dakota State Capitol building and various school projects.

A total of 157 projects are listed in this document. The number of projects actually completed has not been verified. It is quite possible that the DeRemers were commissioned to design buildings that never came to fruition, and some of those projects may be listed here. Further research may help clarify which commissions actually resulted in buildings constructed. Some of the buildings that appear on this list may have been built but no longer exist. Further research may help define these situations as well.

In addition, further research may identify additional projects designed by the DeRemers that are not listed here. Because they designed buildings in many small communities, it may be necessary to conduct survey work within these communities to determine if additional DeRemer resources exist. The sources from which this list was compiled may have neglected to include smaller projects in some communities.

This section of this document provides information about the DeRemers' commissions by resource type. A list of commissions organized chronologically, along with information pertaining to current status, can be found in Appendix B.

RESIDENTIAL PROJECTS

Significance

Residential projects comprise the largest number of commissions for the DeRemers. A significant number are located in Grand Forks, several of which are listed in the Near South Side Historic District or are individually listed on the National Register. Others are located in other neighborhoods in Grand Forks. There were also a small number of residential projects located in other North Dakota communities near Grand Forks.

The majority of these residential projects are single family homes; only two examples were found of the DeRemers having designed commercial apartment houses (the New Hampshire Apartments and the Bellevue Apartments). Some of these residential projects consisted of remodeling projects only. [Note: Technically the Sigma Nu Fraternity House and the Delta Gamma Sorority House provide housing for a number of students. However, because of their association with the University of North Dakota they have been included in the section on Educational buildings with the other UND buildings.]

The primary significance associated with these residential projects is the architecture of the buildings. Ranging from large scale, high-style classical designs to large scale, high-style Art Deco designs to small scale Modern designs, the DeRemers' work exemplifies excellent examples of specific architectural styles and of the eclectic use of stylistic adaptations.

Quantity and Distribution

Location	1902-1912	1919-1937	1938-1955	Date unknown	Total
Grand Forks	25	5	2	0	32
Other ND Communities	6	1	0	0	7
Minnesota Projects	2	0	2	0	4
Location unknown	0	0	0	2	2
Total	33	6	4	2	45

A total of 45 residential projects have been found associated with the DeRemers. More than three-fourths of those were designed by Joseph, primarily during his early years in Grand Forks; a number of those commissions were for remodeling projects.

The list of residential projects includes:

UND President's House, Grand Forks, 1902-03
F.P.Nash House (remodel), Grand Forks, 1903
D.M. Holmes House, Grand Forks, c.1903
R.H. McCoy House, Grand Forks, 1904
New Hampshire Apartments, Grand Forks, 1904
Lander House (porch and interior remodel), Grand Forks, 1904
Chas. Wm. Hutton House, Grand Forks, c.1904
Geo. E. Duis House (remodel), Grand Forks, c.1904
E.S. McMaster House, Grand Forks, c.1904
Wm. Perkins House, Grand Forks, c.1904
Dr. Geo. S. Thomas House, Grand Forks, c.1904
H.L. Whithead House, Grand Forks, c.1904
Dr. R.S. Ramsey House, Grand Forks, c.1904
Tracy R. Bangs House, Grand Forks, c.1904
O.T. Ellestad House, Grand Forks, c.1904
Mary Adams House, Grand Forks, c.1904
Mrs. A.C. Rae House, Grand Forks, c.1904
C.H. McManus House, Grand Forks, c.1904
F.S. Sargeant House, Grand Forks, 1905
Joseph Bell DeRemer House, Grand Forks, 1906

George B. Clifford House, Grand Forks, 1906
House at 416 4th Ave. N., Grand Forks, 1908
House at 723 Reeves Dr., Grand Forks, 1910
House at 815 Belmont Rd., Grand Forks, 1911
House at 706 Belmont Rd., Grand Forks, 1912
Geo. H. Olmsted House, Grand Forks, 1920
102 Conklin House, Grand Forks, 1922
Bellevue Apartments, Grand Forks, 1923
Samuel Teel DeRemer House, Grand Forks, 1926
House at 521 S. 6th St., Grand Forks, 1929
Coliton house (garage conversion), Grand Forks, c.1950
"Honeywood" house, Grand Forks, 1951

John A. Honey House, Edmore, ND, c.1904
H.D. Albert House, Langdon, ND, c.1904
J.G. Jacobson House, Churches Ferry, ND, c.1904
J.D. McCauley House, Joliette, ND, c.1904
W.A. Murphy House, Pembina, ND, c.1904
Mrs. J.B. Streeter House (porte-cochere), Arvilla, ND, c.1904
Katherine McCanna House, McCanna, ND, 1920

Judge Sullivan House (remodel), East Grand Forks, MN, c.1904
House at 226 Summit Ave., Fergus Falls, MN, 1908
Otto Eickhof dwellings (2), Crookston, MN, c.1950

Dr. P.W. Smith House – no location, no date
L.M. Mondry House – no location, no date

Characteristics

The majority of these projects reflect Joseph's use of classical details through stylistic adaptations of Classical Revival, Colonial Revival (including Dutch Colonial Revival), and Tudor Revival styles. Many of the houses that were built, are (were) substantial in size, although there are examples of small modest homes as well. Most of the single-family homes that have been identified are wood-framed; only a handful are clad with masonry (brick or stucco). Both of the apartment buildings designed by the DeRemers were also brick masonry.

In addition to Joseph's preference for classical details, he did design homes that reflects popular styles of the period. For example, the house located at 416 4th Ave. N. in Grand Forks is an example of his use of Craftsman detailing on a Prairie Style home.

Many of the remodeling projects undertaken by Joseph involved adding classical ornamentation to earlier style. An example of this was the Lander House; a classical detailed porch was added to an 1888 Queen Anne house.

416 4th Ave. N. in Grand Forks, constructed in 1908
[Photo taken by M.L. Dennis, 2011]

E.J. Lander House, built 1888, porch remodel 1904
[photo taken by M.L. Dennis, 2011]

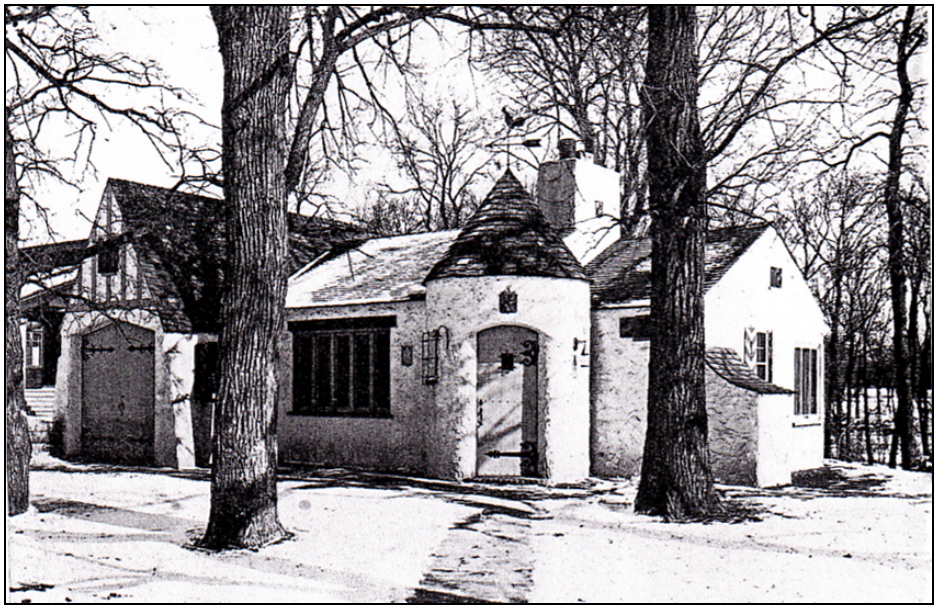
R.H. McCoy House (1904) in Grand Forks
[photo taken by M.L. Dennis, 2011]

One of Joseph's finest residential commissions was the R.H. McCoy House, built for the president of the Grand Forks Lumber Company in 1904. This house illustrates fine detailing and workmanship.

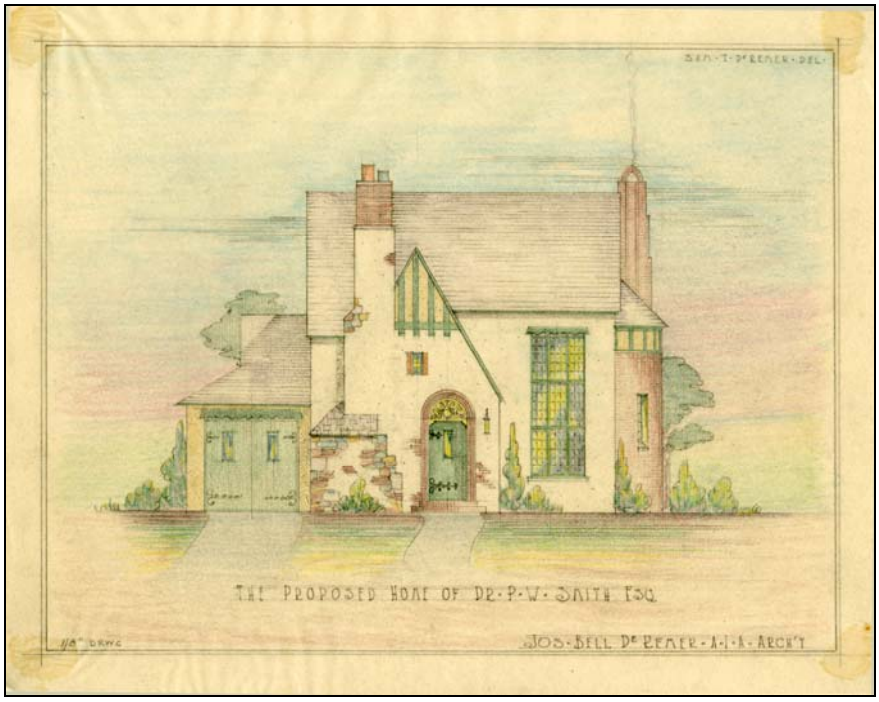
Joseph also designed a number of houses in the Dutch Colonial vein of the Colonial Revival style. In addition to the President's House at UND and Joseph's own house on Belmont Road, he designed Dutch Colonial Revival houses at 723 Reeves Drive (1910), for Chas. Wm. Hutton at 610 Belmont Road (c.1904), for William Perkins at 617 Cottonwood (c.1904), and for O.T. Ellstad at 212 Chestnut (c.1909). It may be possible that other examples of Dutch Colonial architecture in Grand Forks were also designed by him.

Chas. Wm. Hutton House (c.1904) in Grand Forks
[photo taken by M.L. Dennis, 2012]

A favorite of Joseph's was Tudor Revival, a style he used not only during his first period in Grand Forks, but until his retirement in 1937. Examples of his work in this style include the house that he and Sam designed for Sam in 1926. This house that also exemplifies the smaller homes designed by the DeRemers, which include a small number of Tudor Revival style homes, Craftsman (or California) bungalows, and small modern style houses.



Samuel Teel DeRemer House (1926) in Grand Forks (demolished)
[photographer unknown]



Drawing for the proposed house for Dr. P.W. Smith (no date, no location) –
a fine example of Tudor Revival architecture

Of the two commercial apartment buildings designed by the DeRemers, only the Bellevue Apartments (1923) survives (the New Hampshire Apartments were destroyed in the 1997 flood and fire). While the Bellevue is classified as an example of Early Brick Commercial, there are details that are somewhat reminiscent of classical massing and rhythm applied to a relatively modern building.

Bellevue Apartments (1923) in Grand Forks
[photo taken by M.L. Dennis, 2011]

EDUCATIONAL BUILDINGS

Significance

Educational buildings, including libraries and the buildings (including buildings that provide student housing) at the University of North Dakota, comprise the second largest group of buildings designed by the DeRemers. Schools were a source of pride for the DeRemers as school commissions regularly appeared on lists promoting the architects' work and a number of drawings and photos of their schools have been preserved.

The majority of these projects were located in communities other than Grand Forks (the numbers located in Grand Forks are primarily associated with the University of North Dakota). Many of the education-related DeRemer projects are listed on the National Register, some as contributing resources within historic districts.

In addition to actual school buildings (classroom, labs, gymnasiums, auditoriums), Joseph was responsible for designing three Carnegie libraries. One of these, the library in Grand Forks, has been demolished; the library in Dickinson is listed on the National Register; the status of the library in Grafton is unknown.

The significance associated with these projects is related to (a) community planning and development and the responsibility for providing education in the community, (b) the actual process of acquiring knowledge or skills through systematic instruction and study, and (c) the architecture associated with the buildings and the variety of architectural styles that the DeRemers saw fit to use for educational institutions.

Quantity and Distribution

Location	1902-1912	1919-1937	1938-1955	Date unknown	Total
Grand Forks	6	6	4	0	16
Other ND Communities	10	10	2	1	23
Minnesota Projects	0	0	2	1	3
Location unknown	0	0	0	1	1
Total	16	16	8	3	43

A total of 43 educational buildings were designed by the DeRemers. The list of identified commissions follow:

Carnegie Library, Grand Forks, 1904
Gymnasium, UND, Grand Forks, 1907
School of Mines (Babcock Hall), UND, Grand Forks, 1908
Varsity Bachelors' Club (Gustafson Hall), UND, Grand Forks, 1908
Woodworth Hall, UND, Grand Forks, 1910
University Commons, UND, Grand Forks, 1911
Liberal Arts Building (Merrifield Hall), UND, Grand Forks,1929
Sigma Nu House (Epsilon Kappa chapter), UND, Grand Forks, 1926
Delta Gamma House, UND, Grand Forks, 1926
Central High School Gymnasium, Grand Forks, 1926
St. Mary's School, Grand Forks, 1929
Central High School Auditorium, Grand Forks, 1936
Hancock Hall, UND, Grand Forks, 1952
Belmont School addition, Grand Forks, 1948
Winship School, Grand Forks, 1950
Lewis & Clark School, Grand Forks, 1952

Carnegie Library, Grafton, ND, c.1904
High School, Petersburg, ND, c.1904
School, Joliette, ND, c.1904
School, Logan School District, Grand Forks County, ND, c.1904
Rosedale School, Hansboro, ND, 1906
Blind Asylum, Bathgate, ND, 1908
Franklin School, Jamestown, ND, 1909
Carnegie Library, Dickinson, ND, 1909
Root Cellar, Mayville State College, Mayville, ND, 1911
Hospital/Presidents House, Mayville State College, Mayville, ND, 1911
School, Park River, ND, 1922
North B Hall & Annex, State School, Grafton, ND, 1923/1926

Pleasant View Girls Dorm, State School, Grafton, ND, 1926
St. Thomas School, St.Thomas, ND, c.1920s
School, Enderlin, ND, c.1920s
School, Hamilton, ND, c.1920s
School, Mountain, ND, 1928
High School, Williston, ND, 1930-31
High School, Cando, ND, c.1930s
High School, Devils Lake, ND, 1937
School, McClusky, ND, c.1950
School, Watford City, ND, c.1950
Gymnasium, Petersburg, ND - no date

Consolidated school, Lancaster MN, 1954
School, Lake Bronson, MN, c.1950s
Gym & Auditorium, Crookston, MN - no date

South Side Elementary School - no location, no date

Characteristics

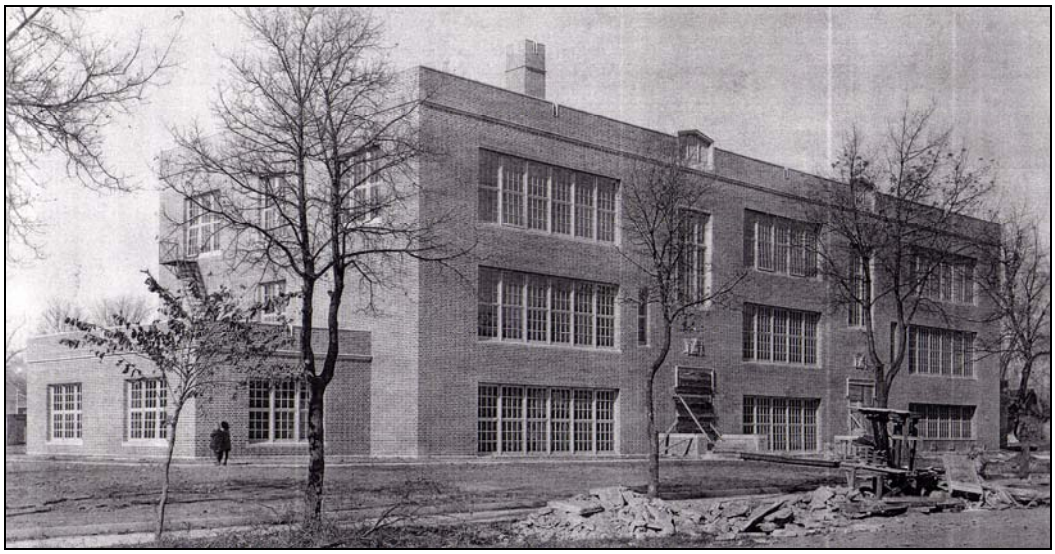
Most of the education buildings identified in association with the DeRemers are sizeable schools, most of which were located in communities other than Grand Forks. The early schools exemplify Joseph's preference for classical details; the mid-career illustrate Sam's preference for Art Deco, although there continued to be examples of schools with classical detailing. The schools dating to the years following Joseph's retirement tend to show Sam's transition to modern styles and contemporary massing and layouts.

Even with these preferences for architectural styles, the DeRemers made use of other styles in their educational building commissions. Among the best examples of this is the Mission Revival style used for the Blind Asylum in Bathgate, ND (1908) and the Tudor Revival and Collegiate Gothic buildings at the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks. In addition to buildings at these state institutions, the DeRemers designed buildings at Mayville State College and the Grafton State School (for the Feeble-Minded).

Blind Asylum (1908) in Bathgate, ND
[photographer unknown]

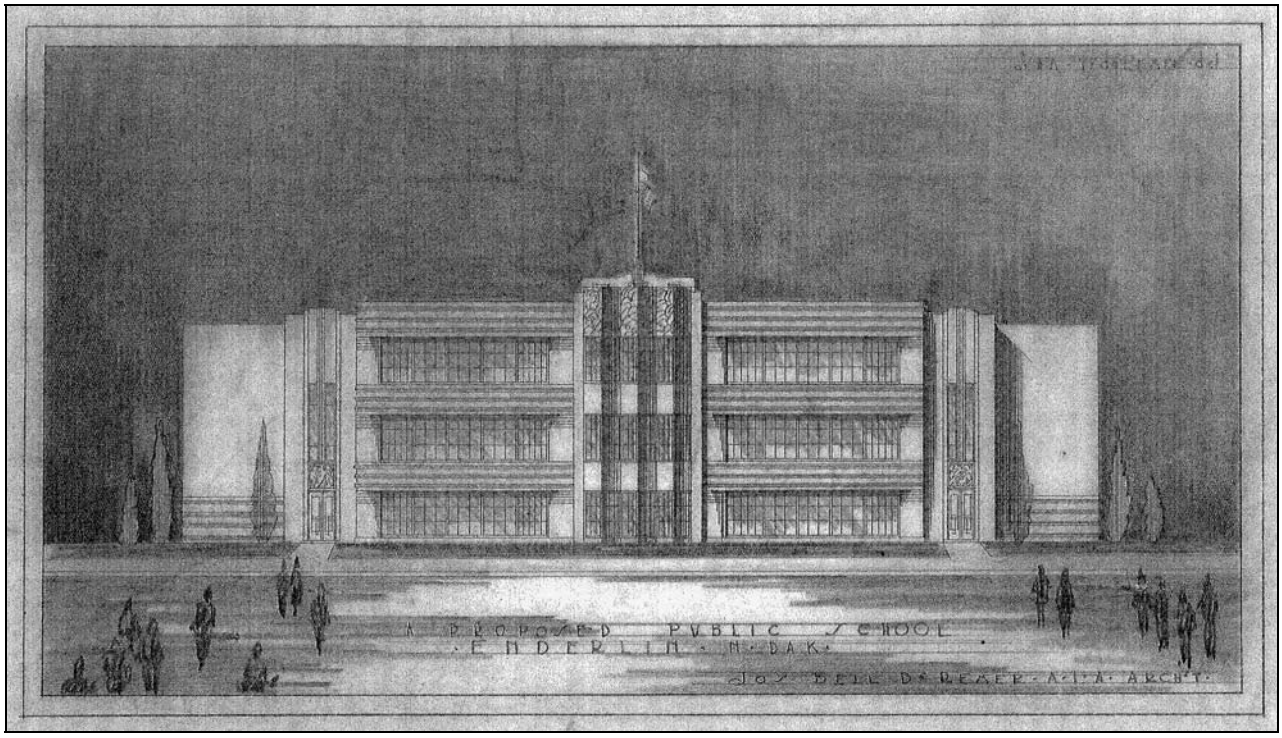
The DeRemer school buildings were mostly two and three stories in height and were constructed in masonry; the larger schools tended to be located in the larger communities or in communities where the grade schools and high schools were combined in a single building. Windows were typically grouped together in horizontal bands and appear to have been typically double-hung sash, often with multi-light upper sashes. In some cases, the DeRemers designed additions to existing schools; these additions included classroom space, gymnasiums and auditoriums.

Drawing for Park River School (1922) in Park River, ND

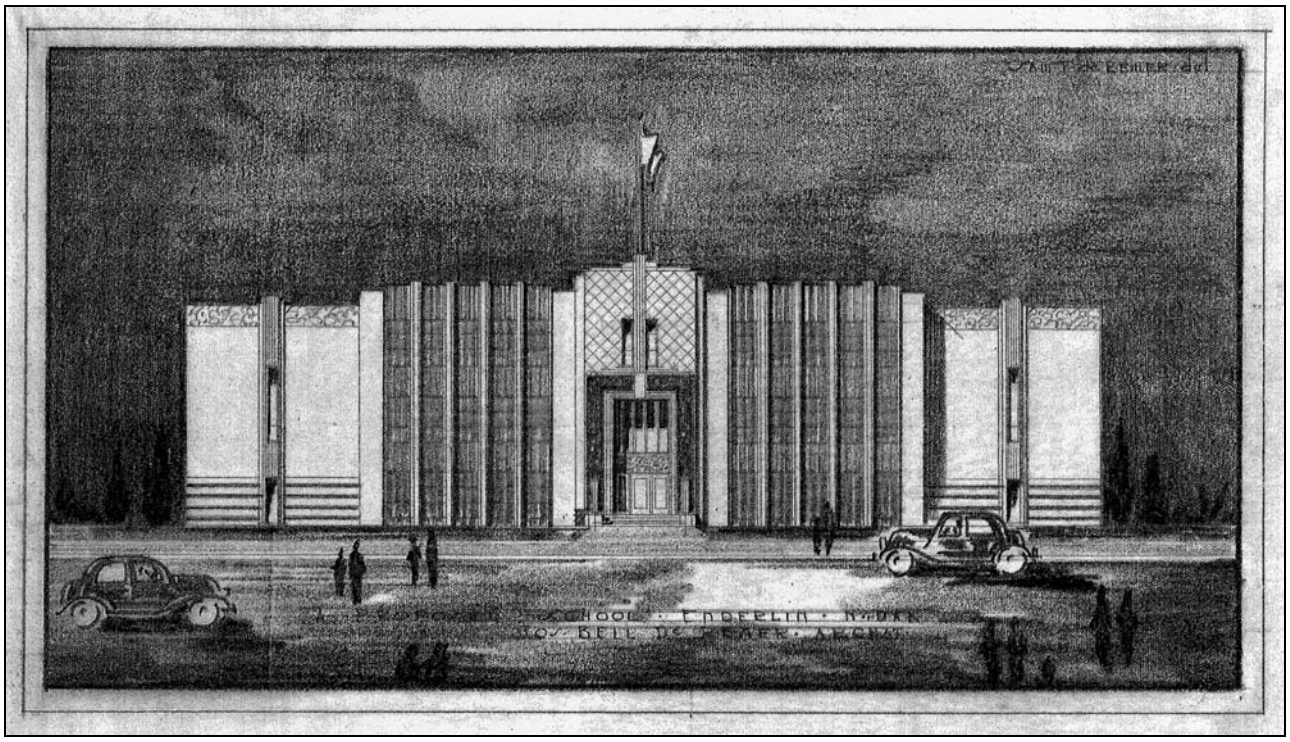


Photograph of Park River School near completion
[photographer unknown]

Drawing of School at Hamilton, ND (c.1920s)



One version of the proposed public school in Enderlin, ND (1923)

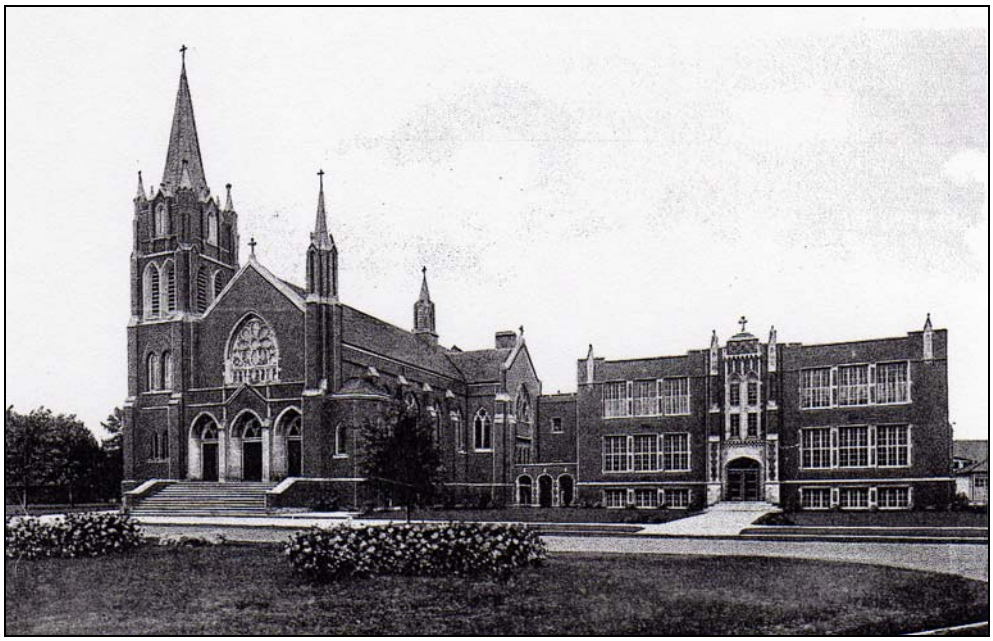


Another version of the proposed public school in Enderlin, ND (1923)

Cando Grade and Junior High School (c.1930s)
[photographer unknown]

Drawing of Devils Lake High School (1937) in Devils Lake, ND

The DeRemers designed the St. Mary's Parochial School in Grand Forks. It is the only private school known to be designed by them.



St. Mary's Church and School (school completed in 1929 as an addition to the church)

COMMERCIAL PROJECTS

Significance

Commercial projects comprise the third largest group of projects associated with the DeRemers. The majority of them date to the Joseph's early years in Grand Forks; these were fairly evenly divided between Grand Forks and other communities in North Dakota and Minnesota. Several are listed on the National Register as resources in the Grand Forks Downtown Historic District.

The kind of businesses represented through the DeRemers work is widespread. Included are business blocks that housed retail shops and professional offices, banks, hotels, restaurants, theaters, drug stores, filling stations, and laundries.

The significance of these projects is related to the commerce – the business of trading of goods, services, and commodities - conducted in Grand Forks and other nearby communities, as well as community development. In addition, these resources may significant architecturally as excellent examples of styles used by the DeRemers.

Quantity and Distribution

Location	1902-1912	1919-1937	1938-1955	Date unknown	Total
Grand Forks	8	1	5	0	14
Other ND Communities	7	0	0	0	7
Minnesota Projects	2	0	1	3	6
Location unknown	0	0	0	8	8
Total	17	1	6	11	35

A total of 35 commissions designed by the DeRemers are listed below.

Corliss Block, Grand Forks, 1904
Clifford Block, Grand Forks, 1904
Ontario Store, Grand Forks, 1906-07
Widlund Block, Grand Forks, 1908
Nash Bros. Wholesale House, Grand Forks, c.1904
Platky Department Store, Grand Forks, c.1904
Model Steam Laundry, Grand Forks, c.1904
W.H. Burr Store, Grand Forks, c.1904
Ryan Hotel, Grand Forks, 1926
Riviera Lounge (interior), Grand Forks, 1947
Westward Ho, Grand Forks, 1953
Implement Dealers Mutual Insurance Co. Building, Grand Forks, 1954
Grand Forks Building & Loan Association, Grand Forks, 1955
210-14 DeMers (remodel), Grand Forks, c.1950s

1st National Bank, Edmore, ND, c.1904
Hegge Block, Hatton, ND, c.1904
Boyd & Kalinowski Block, Crary, ND, c.1904

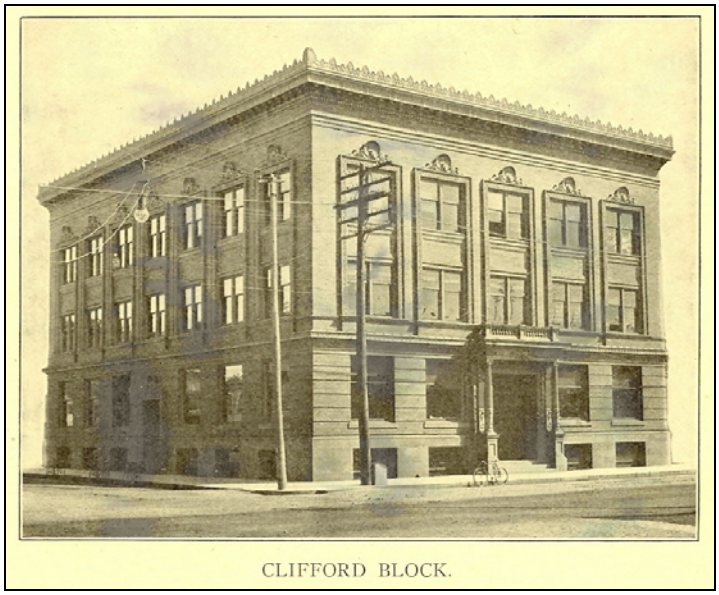
Towner Co. Bank, Perth, ND, c.1904
J.W. Boeing Drug Store, Berthold, ND, c.1904
Arnold Block, Larimore, ND 1905
F.W. Mann Co., Devils Lake, ND, 1906-07

K.J. Taralseth Building, Warren, MN, 1910
Bank of Warren, Warren, MN, c.1904
Hotel Francis, East Grand Forks, MN, c.1950
Whitey's Bar, East Grand Forks, MN – no date
New State Theatre, Red Lake Falls,MN - no date
Hotel Crookston (remodel), Crookston, MN – no date

Corner market – no location, no date
Larson-Olson Bldg – no location, no date
Nestor Tap room – no location, no date
Lukkason's Bar & Café – no location, no date
Oscar's – no location, no date
Kelly & Palmer Filling Station – no location, no date
J. Lampert Bldg – no location. No date
Goebel Motors – no location, no date

Characteristics

The earliest examples of Joseph's commercial architecture are typical of downtown commercial development. The buildings were generally two to four stories in height, relatively substantial in their massing, built of masonry construction (one of DeRemer's buildings is thought to be the first fire-proof building in North Dakota), with a regular rhythm of operable windows (often double hung sash) set in horizontal bands. Decorative detailing and ornamentation frequently included classical details.



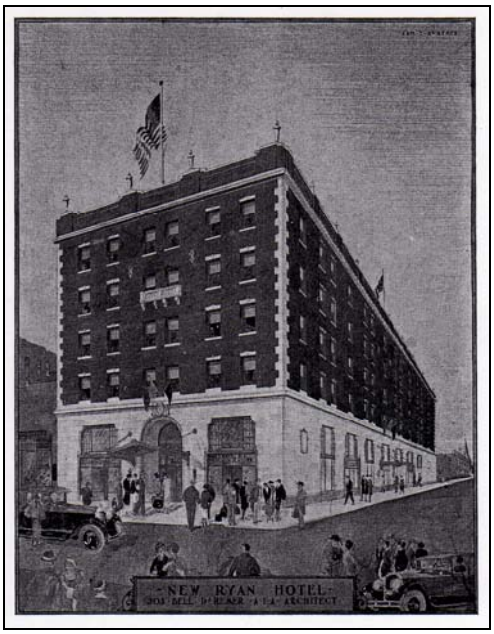
Clifford Block (1904) in Grand Forks (demolished)
[photographer unknown]

Ontario Store (1906-07) in Grand Forks
[photographer unknown]

F.W. Mann Co. Building (1906-07) in Devils Lake, ND
[photographer unknown]

Widlund Block (1908) in Grand Forks, ND
[photo taken by M.L. Dennis, 2011]

During Joseph's second period of practice in Grand Forks, there was only one commercial building identified as having been designed by him and Sam. That building was the Ryan Hotel, which clearly displayed the classical elements associated with Beaux Arts architecture.



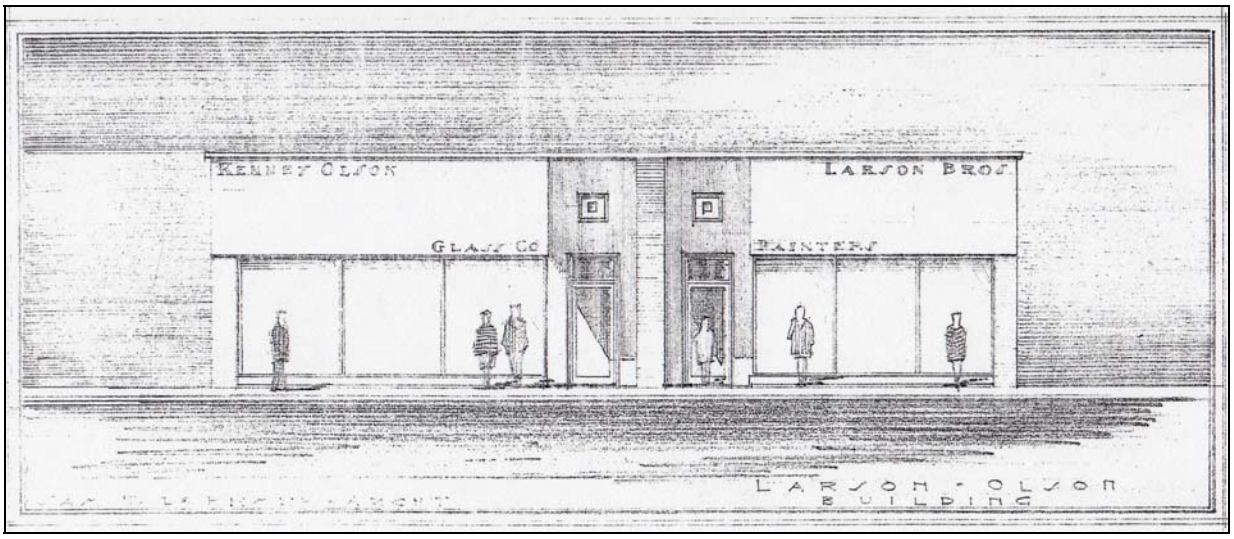
Drawing for the New Ryan Hotel (1926) in Grand Forks

Ryan Hotel (1926) in Grand Forks
[photo taken by M.L. Dennis, 2011]

More than 25 years passed between the Ryan Hotel in 1926 and Sam's modern buildings in the 1950s. This likely was due, in part, to the downturn of commercial development during the Great Depression and the DeRemers focus on other building types during this period. At least one drawing for a commercial building, the Kelly and Palmer Filling Station, appears to date to the late 1920s or 1930s. Architecturally, the design was an elaboration on Tudor Revival that might best be classified as "Storybook" architecture. There is no evidence that this building was constructed, of if it was where it might have been located, but is worth noting as one of Sam's fanciful designs.

Drawing for a Filling Station for Kelly and Palmer (no date, no location)

Sam's designs for commercial buildings transitioned to modern styles such as International and Modern Commercial. Of the known commissions from the period between 1938 and 1955, all exemplify modern architecture that have relatively flat surfaces, devoid of ornamentation, most with relatively large expanses of glass.



Drawing for the Larson-Olson Building (no date, no location)

RELIGIOUS BUILDINGS

Significance

The DeRemers designed a number of churches in and around Grand Forks. These churches range from small, intimate churches in rural areas to large, substantial churches in Grand Forks. Five of these churches are listed on the National Register; one of them as a contributing resource in a historic district.

Although the size and denomination of the churches varied, the DeRemers used only three styles of architecture for their designs. All but one of these resources were either Gothic Revival or Art Deco, most likely designed either by Joseph or Sam, respectively. The only example of a Modern Vernacular church was designed by Sam in 1947. The DeRemers enjoyed designing churches – Joseph perhaps for the opportunity to elaborate on Gothic Revival architecture and Sam perhaps for the opportunity to use the "simplicity and economy" of modernist Art Deco design.

Religious buildings, while perhaps significant for the role they played in community traditions, are most likely significant for their architecture.

Quantity and Distribution

Location	1902-1912	1919-1937	1938-1955	Date unknown	Total
Grand Forks	1	3	0	0	4
Other ND Communities	7	2	1	0	10
Minnesota Projects	0	0	1	0	1
Location unknown	0	0	0	0	0
Total	8	5	2	0	15

A total of fifteen religious buildings were identified as having been designed by the DeRemers. Included are a number of churches, a church rectory, a convent, and a synagogue. They are listed below:

1st Presbyterian Church, Grand Forks, 1910-11
United Lutheran, Grand Forks, 1931/1941 (bell tower)
Immanuel Lutheran, Grand Forks, 1936
B'nai Israel Synagogue, Grand Forks, 1937

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Rugby, ND, 1903
Episcopal Church Rectory, Park River, ND, 1903
Episcopal Church, Langdon, ND, 1904
Church, Akra, ND, c. 1904
Presbyterian Church, Crystal, ND, c.1904
Methodist Church, Cando, ND, c.1904
United Methodist Church, Bowesmont, ND, 1909
Presbyterian Church, Emerado, ND, 1928
St. Catherine's of Lomice, near Whitman, ND, 1936-38
Queen of Peace Convent, Belcourt, ND, 1955

1st Lutheran Church, East Grand Forks, MN, 1947

Characteristics

Most of the religious buildings designed by the DeRemers are relatively small, community-oriented churches. Building materials included brick, stone, and stucco and an occasional example of wood-framed with wood siding. The ornamentation is directly related to the architectural style of the building, as are the windows.

One of the larger churches designed by Joseph is the Gothic 1st Presbyterian Church in Grand Forks, built in 1910. He was also responsible for the designs of the small churches in Emerado, at Lomice near Whitman, and at Rugby. All are examples of Gothic Revival architecture.

Examples of Art Deco churches include the large United Lutheran Church in Grand Forks and the modest Jewish synagogue in Grand Forks (both are listed on the National Register).

1st Presbyterian Church (1910) in Grand Forks
[photo taken by M.L. Dennis, 2011]

Presbyterian Church (1928) in Emerado, ND
[photo taken by M.L. Dennis, 2011]

United Lutheran Church (1931/1941) in Grand Forks.
[Photo taken by M.L. Dennis, 2011]

The only known church designed by the DeRemers that was not either Gothic or Art Deco was Sam's modern vernacular church in East Grand Forks.

1st Lutheran Church (1947) in East Grand Forks, MN
[photo taken by M.L. Dennis, 2011]

In addition to designing churches, the DeRemers found favor with the Grand Forks Jewish community and were commissioned to design the B'nai Israel Synagogue in 1937. This was one of Joseph's last commissions before retiring, although the design is credited to Sam.

B'nai Israel Synagogue (1937) in Grand Forks
[photo taken by M.L. Dennis, 2011]

FRATERNAL/SOCIAL ORGANIZATION BUILDINGS

Significance

Only a small number of buildings associated with fraternal and social organizations were designed by the DeRemers. Four of the six buildings dates to Joseph's first period of practice in Grand Forks were designed for organizations to which he belonged. He was an the board of the YMCA, belonged to the Elks and Country Club, and was actively involved in the Masons. Only one of these four buildings is extant; the Masonic Temple is listed on the National Register as a resource in the Grand Forks Downtown Historic District.

The two remaining buildings, both in Minnesota, may have been designed by Sam. A drawing for the Eagles Building in Crookston indicated that Sam drew it. No information about its construction or the existence of the Elks Lodge in Thief River Falls was found.

The significance of these buildings relates to the social history of the community.

Quantity and Distribution

Location	1902-1912	1919-1937	1938-1955	Date unknown	Total
Grand Forks	4	0	0	0	4
Other ND Communities	0	0	0	0	0
Minnesota Projects	0	1	0	1	2
Location unknown	0	0	0	0	0
Total	4	1	0	1	6

YMCA, Grand Forks, 1904
BPOE (aka Golden Block), Grand Forks, 1910
Masonic Temple, Grand Forks, 1913
Grand Forks Country Club Clubhouse, Grand Forks, c.1904

Eagles Building, Crookston, MN, c.1920s
Elks Lodge & Clubhouse, Thief River Falls, MN - no date

Characteristics

The buildings designed by Joseph were substantial in size and massing, of masonry construction, and with classical detailing and ornamentation. The Masonic Temple, shown below, is three stories on a raised base, as was the YMCA building.

Masonic Temple (1913) in Grand Forks
[photo taken by M.L. Dennis, 2012]

GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Significance

Only five commissions associated with government and public buildings were found in association with the DeRemers. In addition to the North Dakota State Capitol building (described earlier in this document), the DeRemers designed the Towner Memorial Building in Cando and Sam designed the Administration Building at the Grand Forks Municipal Airport and the Grand Forks County Sheriff's Residence and Jail in Grand Forks.

The significance of these buildings is related to the activities related to the political processes of governing local, state, and national programs and legal jurisdictions. None of these buildings has been listed on the National Register, although the State Capitol Building is clearly eligible for listing.

Quantity and Distribution

Location	1902-1912	1919-1937	1938-1955	Date unknown	Total
Grand Forks	0	0	2	0	2
Other ND Communities	0	2	0	0	2
Minnesota Projects	0	0	1	0	1
Location unknown	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	2	2	0	5

The five identified commissions are:

Grand Forks Municipal Airport Administration Building, Grand Forks, 1941
Grand Forks County Sheriff's Residence and Jail, Grand Forks, 1952

Towner Memorial Building, Cando, ND, c.1920s
North Dakota State Capitol, Bismarck, ND, 1932-34

Courthouse addition, Crookston, MN, c.1938

Characteristics

With the exception of the Towner Memorial Hall, which was designed by Joseph, the designs of the rest of these commissions is credited to Sam.

The Administration Building at the old Grand Forks Municipal Airport was a good example of Moderne/Art Deco architecture. Unfortunately the building has been altered.

The other of Sam's designs in this category is the North Dakota State Capitol, which was one of his two best Art Deco designs. Information about this building is found earlier in this document.

Administration Building at the old Grand Forks Municipal Airport (1941)
[photo taken by M.L. Dennis, 2011]

Towner County Memorial Building (c.1920s) in Cando, ND
[photographer unknown]

OTHER PROJECTS

Significance

There are nine projects classified as "Other" commissions by the DeRemers. Only one of them is credited to Joseph – the 1920 Deaconess Hospital in Grafton; the rest are credited to Sam.

A majority of these commissions are health-related and include hospitals in Grand Forks, Grafton, Crookston, Red Lake Falls, as well as projects associated with nursing homes in Grand Forks and Crookston. Two of the remaining projects are perhaps best classified as "Industrial" resources and they include the Dr. Pepper Bottling Plan and the Grand Forks Seed Co. Warehouse and Elevator in Grand Forks.

Depending on the type of resource, the significance may be associated with health care and community growth and development, or perhaps with the industrial technology and processes of producing goods. Only the Grand Forks Deaconess Hospital is listed on the National Register as a resource in the Grand Forks Downtown Historic District.

Quantity and Distribution

Location	1902-1912	1919-1937	1938-1955	Date unknown	Total
Grand Forks	0	1	3	0	4
Other ND Communities	0	1	0	1	2
Minnesota Projects	0	0	3	0	3
Location unknown	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	2	6	1	9

The nine resources listed in this category are:

Lutheran Old Folks Home addition, Grand Forks, c.1928
Dr. Pepper Bottling Plant, Grand Forks, 1947
Deaconess Hospital, Grand Forks, 1949
Grand Forks Seed Co. Warehouse & Elevator, Grand Forks, c.1950s

Deaconess Hospital, Grafton, ND, 1920
Memorial Building, Lakota - no date

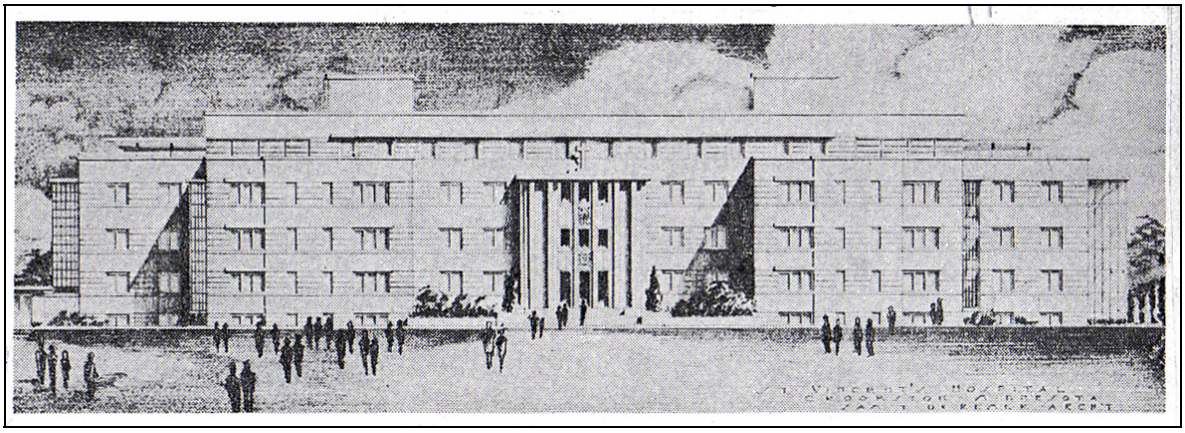
St. Francis Hospital, Crookston, MN, 1946
St. John's Hospital, Red Lake Falls, MN, 1951
Rock gardens at Sunnyrest Sanitarium, Crookston, MN - no date

Characteristics

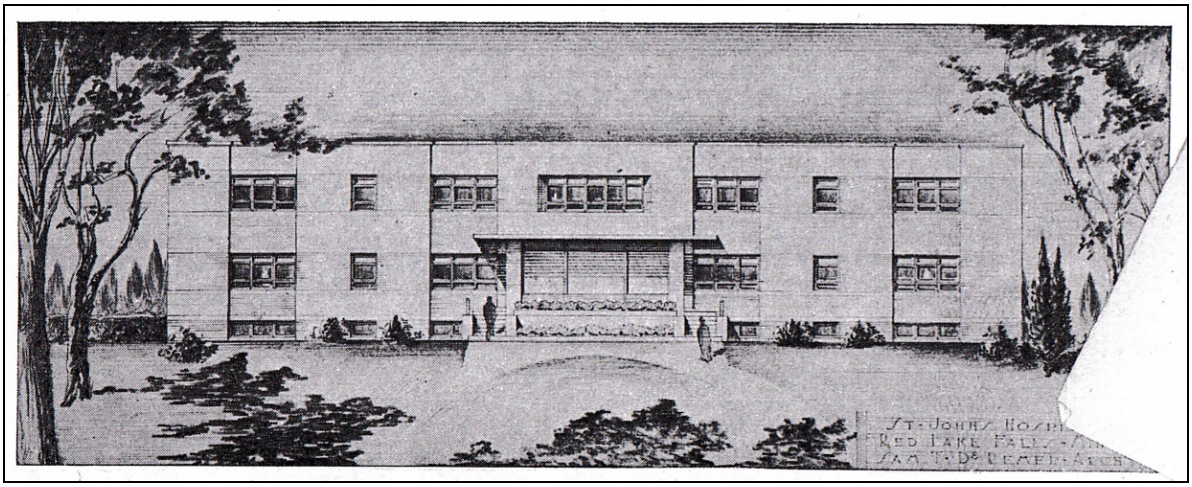
Because Sam designed all but one of these projects, they tend toward modern architecture and illustrate what was considered modern, up-to-date design in these building types. The

hospitals were characteristically clean in line, horizontal in massing, and built with modern materials. Only one of the industrial building commissions has been confirmed; the Dr. Pepper Bottling Plant was also modern in its Moderne and International stylistic adaptations.

Below are drawings for two hospitals designed by Sam.



Drawing for the St. Francis Hospital (1946) in Crookston, MN



Drawing for St. John's Hospital (1951) in Red Lake Falls, MN

EVALUATION CRITERIA

National Register Listings

A number of DeRemer buildings have been determined to be of historic significance and are already listed on the National Register, many as contributing resources within historic districts. These include the following buildings:

President's House at UND (listed as the Oxford House)(listed 1973)
St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Rugby (listed 1992)
Joseph Bell DeRemer House (listed 1983)
George B. Clifford House (listed 1986)
United Lutheran Church in Grand Forks (listed 1991)
Franklin School in Jamestown (listed 2002)
St. Catherine's Church of Lomice (near Whitman) (listed 2006)
Carnegie Library in Dickinson (listed 2008)
Williston High School in Williston (listed 2011)
B'nai Israel Synagogue in Grand Forks (listed 2011)

2 buildings at the Grafton State School (listed 1996)
12 buildings in the Grand Forks Near Southside Historic District (listed 2004)
11 buildings in the Grand Forks Downtown Historic District (listed 2005)
10 buildings on the UND campus as resources in the University of North Dakota Historic District (listed 2010)

Evaluation of additional DeRemer resources will be necessary to determine eligibility for listing on the National Register.

Evaluation Process

Evaluation is the process by which the significance of identified resources is determined within its historic context or contexts. Because age alone is insufficient grounds for historic designation, evaluation of historic resources is based on architectural, historical and/or cultural significance. As resources associated with the DeRemer architectural firm are surveyed, they should be evaluated for significance and integrity.

Generally speaking, a resource must be at least 50 years of age to be considered historic. In the case of resources associated with this context, all would meet this minimum requirement.

Criteria for evaluation are set forth in the National Register of Historic Places guidelines (see National Register Bulletin: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation). These criteria address the significance and integrity of historic resources, including buildings, structures, sites, objects and districts. In addition to the National Register guidelines, local communities may have additional criteria for evaluating resources located within their jurisdictions. It is advisable to check with the local planning office to determine if there are additional criteria to be used for evaluating a resource in that community.

Significance and integrity, as they pertain to this context, are discussed in the following sections.

Significance

The National Register criteria recognize that historic resources may have associative value, design or construction value, or informational value. When evaluated within its historic context(s), a resource must be shown to be significant in at least one of the following areas to be considered potentially eligible for listing on the National Register.

Criterion A: Events/Patterns of History

The resource is associated with an event (or events) and/or with a pattern of events or historic trend(s) that has made a significant contribution to the history of a community, the state, or the nation; or

Criterion B: Person(s)

The person(s) associated with the resource is (are) individually significant and made demonstrated contributions to the history of a community, the state, or the nation; and the resource is associated with the person(s)'s productive life, reflecting the time period in which he or she achieved significance; or

Criterion C: Design/Construction

The resource embodies distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; and/or the resource represents the work of a master; and/or the resource possesses high artistic value; or the resource represents a significant and distinguished entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or

Criterion D: Information Potential

The resources have yielded information important to history or prehistory; or the resource may be likely to yield information important to history or prehistory.

All resources identified with this context share the common associative attribute in that they were designed by Joseph and/or Sam DeRemer. Construction of these resources would have occurred between the time when Joseph established his firm in Grand Forks in 1902 and when Sam transitioned the firm to include partners Harrie and Kennedy in 1955.

All resources eligible for the National Register under this context will be significant under Criterion C as works of a master. They may also be considered for eligibility for their architectural style as many of the DeRemers' designs embody distinctive characteristics associated with Classical Revival, Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival, Neoclassical and Beaux Arts, and Art Deco styles. In addition, each resource should be evaluated for the use of building materials or construction methods that are distinctive and significant.

Resources may also be eligible under Criterion A if they also have significant associations with historic events or patterns of history. The significance may be in a category reflective of the property's original function. For example, a bank building may have been the first in a community signaling that community's pattern of development. A specific example might be

the Blind Asylum building at Bathgate; in this case the building exemplifies the pattern of state history in development state-supported run school for children with different needs.

Some reasons may also be eligible under Criterion B. To be considered eligible in this context, the resource must be associated with the person's productive life and it must be shown that the person gained importance within his or her profession or group during the time that the person occupied the property. The resource must also represent the most important property associated with the person, or be the last remaining property associated with that person, to be considered eligible. Resources in this category may be of local, state or national significance.

Criterion D is usually applied to archeological resources. It is unlikely that any resources associated with this context will be eligible under this criterion, but if a resource can be demonstrated to have yielded or is likely to yield information important to history in the context of the DeRemers is may be considered.

There are certain types of resources that usually are not considered eligible for listing on the National Register. These include properties owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes, resources removed from their original locations, birthplaces, graves and cemeteries, reconstructed resources, commemorative properties, and those that have achieved significance within the past 50 years. If a resource falls within any of these categories, it must meet the National Register Criteria Considerations (in addition to meeting regular requirements) to be considered eligible. Generally speaking, to be considered eligible in these instances, a resource will be required to derive its significance for architectural distinction or exceptional historic importance (further information about criteria considerations can be found in the National Register bulletins). That said, there are at least four DeRemer buildings that fit in the category of Criteria Considerations that have been listed on the National Register and it is possible that others may be eligible.

Generally speaking, resources associated with this context should be considered locally significant. If a specific resource represents the only known example in the state of a particular resource type or if it is one of few remaining examples of that resource type or if its history is significant to the state rather than local community, it might be considered significant on a statewide level. One example that would clearly meet the standard for statewide significance is the North Dakota State Capitol building.

Resources constructed as part of a larger complex generally are evaluated in terms of the broader contexts associated with the complex. This would be the case with complexes such as university campuses and state school campuses. At this point in time, DeRemer buildings constructed within this type of context have been listed on the National Register. If, however, additional research discovered DeRemer buildings in a similar situation, they should be evaluated in terms of a complex. It may be possible to list these buildings as part of a district.

Integrity and Condition

Integrity is the authenticity of a resource's historic identity, or its intactness of historic form and original construction materials. Integrity is essential to the resource's ability to convey its significance. Alterations, either historic or contemporary, should be examined for compatibility. There must be identifiable evidence in all or some of the seven aspects of integrity discussed

below for a historic resource to be considered eligible for the National Register. Which aspects must have integrity should be determined on a case-by-case basis, as some aspects are more important in conveying significance than others, depending on the resource type.

Condition of a historic resource should not be confused with integrity. Condition is generally defined as “state of repair.” A resource can be in poor condition but retain a high degree of integrity. The reverse may be true when a resource is in good condition but may have lot a good deal of its historic integrity. Ideally, a resource will have a high degree of integrity and be in good condition, but it is not necessary for a resource to be in good condition to be considered eligible for the National Register. The use of condition as a criterion for evaluation, however, may be useful when deciding which resources to protect and preserve. Those that are determined to be significant and have a high degree of integrity, but are in poor condition, may be a lower priority for preservation simply for practical reasons.

A resource must possess sufficient integrity to convey its significance within its context. Generally, a resource will possess several, and usually most, of the following aspects of integrity:

1. Location
2. Design
3. Setting
4. Materials
5. Workmanship
6. Feeling
7. Association

Information about each of these areas of integrity can be found in the National Register bulletins.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH AND SURVEY

Although a number of DeRemer designed buildings have been surveyed and several are listed on the National Register, there is a need to do further research and survey on the DeRemer commissions.

The research for this context document served to identify lists of projects associated with the DeRemers. However, much of the information that was found simply mentioned the projects and did not elaborate on whether or not the projects were ever seen through to completion. Consequently the lists in this document include several resources that have yet to be confirmed. Likewise, it is not known which projects may have been completed but are not longer extant. Conducting a survey would help clarify these issues.

The recommendation for future research and survey work is twofold:

First, a survey should be conducted of individual buildings identified as having been designed by the DeRemers to determine (a) if they were actually built, (b) and if so, are they extant, and (c) if they are extant, are they potentially eligible for listing on the National Register. Some of these resources are located in Grand Forks, but several are located in communities throughout northeastern North Dakota. In some cases, the research will entail locating actual address of the buildings associated with the DeRemers. At a minimum, a reconnaissance survey will suffice; an intensive level survey should be undertaken where resources are determined to be eligible for National Register listings. The buildings that should be included are those with "Unknown" noted in the "Status" column on the list in Appendix B.

In addition to these buildings, there are also a number of buildings that the author was able to determine are extant but the degree of historic integrity and potential eligibility was not determined. This is a second group of buildings to be surveyed; these buildings are largely those listed as "Extant" in the "Status" column, but a note to survey them in the "Comments" column.

Second, it is recommended that this document be used to create a National Register Multiple Property Document for projects designed by the DeRemers. This would allow for property owners to pursue National Register listings under the cover of a multiple property listing, an approach that can simplify the process greatly.

In addition to the recommendations for future research and survey work, the author recommends that individual National Register listings be considered for at least two of the DeRemer buildings known to exist. These buildings are the Blind Asylum at Bathgate (if it retains sufficient integrity as determined by survey) as the only example of Mission style architecture used by Joseph DeRemer, and the North Dakota State Capitol in Bismarck for its exceptional architectural design and detail.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: LIST OF PROJECTS IN 1904 GRAND FORKS HERALD SILVER ANNIVERSARY EDITION

(This list has been re-organized from the original; it includes projects by type and location.)

Grand Forks Projects:

President's House at UND
Gymnasium for UND
Administration Building for UND

Young Men's Christian Association Building
Model Steam Laundry Building
Corliss Block (Third St.)
New Hampshire Apartments (Third St.)
Remodeling Nash Bros.' wholesale house
Press room for GF Herald
Remodeling second floor of Platky Department Store into offices
Remodeling store building for W.H. Burr

Residence for Hon. D.M. Holmes (Reeves Ave.)
Residence for Mr. O.T. Ellestad (Chestnut St.)
Residence for Mrs. Mary Adams (Fifth St.)
Residence for Mrs. A.C. Rae (Belmont Ave.)
Residence for Mr. C.H. McManus (Belmont Ave.)
Residence for E.S. McMaster
Residence for William Perkins
Residence for Chas. William Hutton (Belmont Ave.)
Residence for Dr. R.S. Ramsey (Third St.)

Remodeling residence for F.P. Nash
Remodeling residence for H.L. Whithed

Piazza for Mr. E.J. Lander (Belmont Ave.)
Piazza for Hon. Tracy R. Bangs (Fourth St.)

Belmont School addition

Grand Forks Public Library (supervising architect)

Club House for Grand Forks County Club

Presbyterian Church addition

Remodeling for R.B. Griffith (does not indicate residential or commercial)

Projects elsewhere in Grand Forks County:

Porte-cochere for Mr. J.B. Streeter, Jr. (Arvilla)
Consolidated school building for Logan School District (Grand Forks County)

Projects in other ND communities:

Residence for W.A. Murphy (Treasurer of Pembina County)
Residence for Mr. John A. Honey (Edmore)
Residence for Hon. H.D. Allert (Langdon)
Residence for J.G. Jacobson (Churchs Ferry)
Residence for J.D. McCauley (Joliette)

Drug Store for Mr. J. W. Boeing (Berthold)
Business Block for Hon. M.F. Hegge (Hatton)
Business Block for Boyd & Kalinowski (Crary)
First National Bank Building (Edmore)

Episcopal Church (Langdon)
Episcopal Church (Rugby)
Presbyterian Church (Crystal)
Church (Akra)
Church (Cando)
Rectory for Episcopal Church (Park River)

Carnegie Library (Grafton)

School building (Joliette)
High School building (Petersburg)

Projects in Minnesota:

Bank of Warren (Warren, MN)

Remodeling residence for Judge Sullivan (East Grand Forks)

APPENDIX B – LIST OF DEREMER COMMISSIONS

The following list is a compilation from several sources. Because the records of the DeRemer firm have been lost, this list is not comprehensive or complete; it is likely that additional buildings designed by Joseph and Sam DeRemer exist and may be identified through further research and survey work.

The list is divided into tables and organized by time period and location. The resources within each table generally are organized chronologically; the Grand Forks table for commissions between 1902-1912 is further divided by UND, non-residential, and residential projects. The year listed in the "Date Built" column may be the date construction began on the building or the date construction was completed on the building in the cases where specific dates were found. No exact dates were found for many buildings and where possible circa dates have been used (those listed with a c.1904 date were collected from the list that appeared in the Grand Forks Herald's Silver Anniversary article on DeRemer's success in Grand Forks and surrounding communities).

Addresses are included where known. All commissions between 1897 and 1919 are credited to Joseph DeRemer. Commissions between the time when Sam joined the firm in 1920 and Joseph's retirement in 1937 are credited to them jointly unless specific information was available that one or the other of them was solely or primarily responsible for the design. Commissions after 1937 are credited to Sam.

The category of "Status" provides information pertaining to whether the resource still exits, and if so, whether it is listed on the National Register either individually or as a resource within a historic district. "Architectural Style/Comments" includes general information about stylistic influences (where known). No information was found about several properties, other than a mention of them in some resource or on some list, so it is not clear that these commissions resulted in actual buildings being constructed. Further research and survey will help clarify the status of these resources.

There is a final table at the end of this list that includes a number of projects that were possible commissions. They have been grouped together because there was nothing more than a mention or drawing of the project; no information about possible dates of construction were found and in several cases, no information about possible locations was found.

DEREMER COMMISSIONS IN NEW JERSEY, 1897-1902

Building	Date Built	Address	City/Town	Designer	Status	Architectural Style/Comments
Geo. Anderson residence	c.1900	Unknown	Somerville, NJ	JBD	Unknown	QA/Colonial Revival
Washington Star Newspaper Building	1901	Unknown	Washington, NJ	JBD	Burned 1958	Victorian eclectic

DEREMER COMMISSIONS IN GRAND FORKS, 1902-1912

Building	Date Built	Address	City/Town	Designer	Status	Architectural Style/Comments
President's House	1902-03	UND	Grand Forks, ND	JBD	NR listed (Oxford House)	Colonial Revival
Gymnasium	1907	UND-ND Museum of Art	GF	JBD	NR listed –UND HD	Tudor Revival
School of Mines	1908	UND-Babcock Hall	GF	JBD	NR listed –UND HD	Jacobethan (Tudor Revival)
Varsity Bachelor's Club	1908	UND-Gustafson Hall	GF	JBD	NR listed –UND HD	Tudor Revival
Woodworth Hall	1910	UND	GF	JBD	Burned 1949	Tudor Revival
University Commons	1911	UND-Montgomery Hall	GF	JBD	NR listed –UND HD	Tudor Revival

Corliss Block	1904	31 S. 3rd St.	GF	JBD	NR listed - GF DHD	Classical details; aka Panovitz Bldg
Clifford Block	1904	DeMers & 4th St.	GF	JBD	Demolished c.1960s	Classical details
YMCA	1904		GF	JBD	Demolished	Beaux Arts
Carnegie Library	1904		GF	JBD	Demolished	Classical details
New Hampshire Apts	1904	105 N. 3rd St.	GF	JBD	Demolished	Early commercial vernacular
Ontario Store	1906-07	1 N. 3rd St.	GF	JBD	NR listed – GF DHD	Chicago style; aka Griffiths Department Store
Widlund Block	1908	12 S. 3rd St.	GF	JBD	NR listed – GF DHD	Classical details
BPOE	1910	12 N. 4th St.	GF	JBD	Burned 1997	Commercial vernacular; aka Golden Block
1st Presbyterian Church	1910	308 S. 5th St.	GF	JBD	NR listed – GF DHD	Gothic Revival
Masonic Temple	1913	421 Bruce Ave.	GF	JBD	NR listed - GF DHD	Beaux Arts/Neoclassical
Nash Bros. wholesale house remodel	c.1904	5th St. & DeMers	GF	JBD	Demolished	Commercial
Platky Dept Store 2nd floor remodel	c.1904		GF	JBD	Unknown	Unknown
Model steam laundry building	c.1904		GF	JBD	Unknown	Unknown; same as Grand Forks Steam Laundry?
W.H. Burr Store remodel	c.1904		GF	JBD	Unknown	Unknown
Club House	c.1903	GF Country Club	GF	JBD	Demolished	Unknown
F.P. Nash House remodel	1903	510 S. 5th St.	GF	JBD	NR listed – NSS HD	QA/Classical details
R.H. McCoy House	1904	401 Reeves Dr.	GF	JBD	NR listed – NSS HD	Classical Revival
E.J. Lander House porch	1904	722 Belmont Rd.	GF	JBD	NR listed – NSS HD	Classical Revival porch; included interior remodeling
Chas. Wm. Hutton House	c.1904	608 Belmont Ave.	GF	JBD	NR listed – NSS HD	Dutch Colonial Revival
Geo. E. Duis House remodel	c.1904	511 Reeves Dr.	GF	JBD	NR listed – NSS HD	Colonial Revival
F.S. Sargeant House	1905	625 Reeves Dr.	GF	JBD	Demolished	Classical details
Joseph Bell DeRemer House	1906	625 Belmont Rd.	GF	JBD	NR listed	Dutch Colonial
G.B. Clifford House remodel	1906	406 Reeves Dr.	GF	JBD	NR listed	Queen Anne/interior remodel
House	1908	416 4th Ave. N	GF	JBD	Extant	Prairie style
House	1910	723 Reeves Dr.	GF	JBD	NR listed – NSS HD	Dutch Colonial Revival
House	1911	815 Belmont Rd.	GF	JBD	NR listed – NSS HD	Tudor Revival
House	1912	706 Belmont Rd.	GF	JBD	NR listed – NSS HD	California Bungalow
D.M. Holmes House	c.1903	702 Reeves Dr.	GF	JBD	NR listed – NSS HD	Vernacular 2-story
Wm. Perkins House	c.1904	617 Cottonwood	GF	JBD	Extant	Dutch Colonial Revival
Dr. Geo. S. Thomas House remodel	c.1904	515 S. 5th St.	GF	JBD	NR listed - NSS HD	Interior remodel only; 1898 house
H.L. Whithead House remodel	c.1904	517 Reeves Dr.	GF	JBD	NR listed – NSS HD	Interior remodel only; 1898 house
Tracy R. Bangs plaza	c.1904	513 S. 4th St.	GF	JBD	Demolished	Demolished
Mary Adams House	c.1904	305 S. 5th St.	GF	JBD	Gone; moved?	Possible moved to 405 S. 5th
Mrs. A.C. Rae House	c.1904	Belmont Ave.	GF	JBD	Unknown	Unknown; built?
C.H. McManus House	c.1904	Belmont Ave.	GF	JBD	Unknown	Unknown; built?
Dr. R.S. Ramsey House	c.1904	3rd St.	GF	JBD	Unknown	Unknown; built?
E.S. McMaster House	c.1904	unknown	GF	JBD	Unknown	Unknown; built?
O.T. Ellestad House	c.1909	212 Chestnut St.	GF	JBD	NR listed – NSS HD	Dutch Colonial Revival

DEREMER COMMISSIONS IN OTHER NORTH DAKOTA TOWNS, 1902-1912

Building	Date Built	Address	City/Town	Designer	Status	Architectural Style/Comments
St. Paul's Episcopal Church	1903	404 DeSmet St.	Rugby, ND	JBD	NR listed	Gothic Revival
Episcopal Church Rectory	1903		Park River, ND	JBD	Unknown	Church converted to private res; rectory extant?

Episcopal Church	1904	523 17th Ave.	Langdon, ND	JBD	Unknown	Gothic Revival
Carnegie Library	c.1904	49 W 7th St.	Grafton, ND	JBD	Unknown	Unknown
1st National Bank	c.1904		Edmore, ND	JBD	Unknown	Classical details
Methodist Church	c.1904	407 4th Ave.	Cando, ND	JBD	Extant	Gothic Revival; survey needed
Arnold Block	1905		Larimore, ND	JBD	Burned 1938	Unknown
F.W. Mann Co. Bldg.	1906-07	301 4th St.	Devils Lake, ND	JBD	Extant	Chicago School; survey needed
Blind Asylum	1908		Bathgate, ND	JBD	Extant	Mission; survey needed
Franklin School	1909	308 2nd St. SW	Jamestown, ND	JBD	NR listed	Classical Revival
Carnegie Library	1909	139 3rd St. W	Dickinson, ND	JBD	NR listed	Beaux Arts/Neoclassical
United Methodist Church	1909	Main & 3rd Sts.	Bowesmont, ND	JBD	Extant	The only remaining building in town; survey needed
Root cellar	1911	Mayville State Normal School	Mayville, ND	JBD	Extant	Early Brick Commercial
Hospital/Pres. House	1911	Mayville State Normal School	Mayville, ND	JBD	Extant	Colonial Revival
Rosedale School	1906		Hansboro, ND	JBD	Unknown	Unknown; built?
M.F. Hegge Business Block	c.1904		Hatton, ND	JBD	Unknown	Unknown; built?
Boyd & Kalinowski Business Block	c.1904		Crary, ND	JBD	Unknown	Unknown; built?
John A. Honey house	c.1904		Edmore, ND	JBD	Unknown	Unknown; built?
High School	c.1904		Petersburg, ND	JBD	Unknown	Unknown; built?
H.D. Albert House	c.1904		Langdon, ND	JBD	Unknown	Unknown; built?
J.G. Jacobson House	c.1904		Churches Ferry, ND	JBD	Unknown	Unknown; built?
J.D. McCauley House	c.1904		Joliette, ND	JBD	Unknown	Unknown; built?
Church	c.1904		Akra, ND	JBD	Unknown	Unknown; built?
Presbyterian Church	c.1904		Crystal, ND	JBD	Unknown	Unknown; built?
W.A. Murphy House	c.1904		Pembina, ND	JBD	Unknown	Unknown; built?
Mrs. J.B Streeter porte-cochere	c.1904		Arvilla, ND	JBD	Unknown	Unknown; built?
School	c.1904		Joliette, ND	JBD	Unknown	Unknown; built?
School	c.1904	Logan School District	Grand Forks County	JBD	Unknown	Unknown; built?
Towner Co. Bank	c.1904		Perth, ND	JBD	Unknown	Unknown; built?
J.W. Boeing Drug Store			Berthold, ND	JBD	Unknown	Unknown; built?

DEREMER COMMISSIONS IN MINNESOTA TOWNS, 1902-1912

Building	Date Built	Address	City/Town	Designer	Status	Architectural Style/Comments
House	1908	226 Summit Ave. W	Fergus Falls, MN	JBD	Unknown	Unknown
K.J. Taralseth Building	1910	427 Main St.	Warren, MN	JBD	Unknown	Unknown
Judge Sullivan House Remodel	c.1904		East Grand Forks, MN	JBD	Unknown	Unknown
Bank of Warren	c.1904		Warren, MN	JBD	Unknown	Unknown; built?

DEREMER COMMISSIONS IN CALIFORNIA, 1912-1917

Building	Date Built	Address	City/Town	Designer	Status	Architectural Style/Comments
ND State Building	1915	Panama-Pacific International Exposition	San Francisco	JBD	Demolished	Italian Renaissance style
Wilshire Presby Church			L.A.	JBD	Unknown	Unknown; built?
5th St. School			San Pedro, CA	JBD	Unknown	Unknown; built?
Grammar School			Modesto, CA	JBD	Unknown	Unknown; built?
High School			Modesto, CA	JBD	Unknown	Unknown; built?
Wm. K. Glover House	1921	327 S. Normandie Ave.	L.A.	JBD	Unknown	Unknown; apparently built after JBD left California

DEREMER COMMISSIONS IN GRAND FORKS, 1919-1937

Building	Date Built	Address	City/Town	Designer	Status	Architectural Style/Comments
Sigma Nu Fraternity House	1926	UND	GF	JBD/STD	NR listed – UND HD	Tudor Revival
Delta Gamma Sorority House	1926	UND	GF	JBD/STD	NR listed – UND HD	Tudor Revival
Liberal Arts Building & Class of '27 Memorial Fountain	1929	UND-Merryfield Hall	GF	JBD/STD	NR listed – UND HD	Collegiate Gothic; ND clay tiles
Geo. H. Olmsted House	1920	1127 Reeves	GF	JBD/STD	NR listed – NSS HD	Tudor Revival; address was originally 431 Vernon Ave
House	1922	102 Conklin	GF	JBD/STD	Extant	Craftsman/Other
Bellevue Apts	1923	101 4th Ave. S.	GF	JBD/STD	NR listed – NSS HD	Early Brick Commercial
Central High School Gymnasium	1926	115 N. 4th St.	GF	JBD/STD	NR listed – GF DHD	Classical details
Samuel Teel DeRemer House	1926	1610 Viets Ave.	GF	STD	Demolished	Tudor Revival
Ryan Hotel	1926	21 N. 3rd St.	GF	JBD/STD	NR listed – GF DHD	Beaux Arts
Addition to Lutheran Old Folks Home	c.1928	Almonte Rd.	GF	JBD/STD	Unknown	Unknown
St. Mary's School	1929	216 Belmont Rd.	GF	JBD/STD	NR listed – NSS HD	Gothic Revival
House	1929	521 S. 6th St.	GF	JBD/STD	NR listed –NSS HD	Tudor Revival; moved from 423 River St.; possibly the Dr. P.W. Smith House?
United Lutheran Church	1931/1941	324 Chestnut St.	GF	JBD/STD	NR listed	Art Deco; bell tower added in 1941
Central H S Auditorium	1936	115 N. 4th St.	GF	JBD/STD	NR listed –GF DHD	Moderne/Art Deco
Immanuel Lutheran	1936	5th & Division	GF	JBD/STD	Demolished	Gothic Revival
B'nai Israel Synagogue	1937	601 Cottonwood St.	GF	STD	NR listed	Art Deco

DEREMER COMMISSIONS IN OTHER NORTH DAKOTA TOWNS, 1919-1937

Building	Date Built	Address	City/Town	Designer	Status	Architectural Style/Comments
Deaconess Hospital	1920	164 W. 13th St.	Grafton, ND	JBD/STD	Unknown	Brick building replaced a 1904 wood-framed building
Katherine McCanna House	1920		McCanna, ND	JBD/STD	Extant	French county house
School	1922		Park River, ND	JBD/STD	Unknown	Classical details
North B Hall & Annex	1923/1928	700 6th St. W. (State school)	Grafton, ND	JBD/STD	NR listed –GSS HD	Classical details
Pleasant View (Girls dorm)	1926	700 6th St. W. (State school)	Grafton, ND	JBD/STD	NR listed – GSS HD	Classical details
Presbyterian Church	1928	208 Main St.	Emerado, ND	JBD/STD	Extant	Gothic Revival; survey needed
Towner Memorial Building	c.1920s	404 5th Ave.	Cando, ND	JBD/STD	Extant	Classical details; survey needed

St. Thomas School	c.1920s		St. Thomas, ND	JBD/STD	Extant	Classical details; survey needed
High School	c.1930s		Cando, ND	JBD/STD	Extant	Classical details; survey needed
Williston High School	1930-31	612 1st Ave. W.	Williston, ND	JBD/STD	NR listed	Art Deco
North Dakota State Capitol	1932-34	600 East Blvd. Ave.	Bismarck, ND	JBD/STD; Kurke, Holabird & Root	Extant	Art Deco
St. Catherine's Church of Lomice	1936-38	Whitman vicinity	Whitman, ND	JBD/STD	NR listed	Gothic Revival
Devils Lake High School	1937		Devils Lake, ND	JBD/STD	Extant	Art Deco; survey needed
School	1923		Enderlin, ND	STD	Unknown	Unknown; built?
School	1928		Mountain, ND	JBD/STD	Unknown	Unknown; built?
School	c.1920s		Hamilton, ND	STD	Unknown	Unknown; built?

DEREMER COMMISSIONS IN MINNESOTA TOWNS, 1919-1937

Building	Date Built	Address	City/Town	Designer	Status	Architectural Style/Comments
Eagles Building	c.1920s		Crookston, MN	JBD/STD		Commercial style; built?

DEREMER COMMISSIONS IN GRAND FORKS, 1938-1955

Building	Date Built	Address	City/Town	Designer	Status	Architectural Style/Comments
Hancock Hall	1952	UND	GF	STD, H&K	NR listed – UND HD	Collegiate Gothic
Municipal Airport Administration Building	1941		GF	STD	Extant	Moderne/Art Deco; Altered
Riveria Lounge	1947	109 N. 3rd St.	GF	STD	Demolished	Interior space only – Modern style
Dr. Pepper Bottling Plant	1947		GF	STD	Unknown	Moderne/International
Belmont School Addition	1948	351 4th Ave. S	GF	STD	Demolished	Modern
Deaconess Hospital	1949	212 S. 4th St.	GF	STD	NR listed – GF DHD	International style/altered
Winship School	1950	1412 5th Ave. N.	GF	STD	Extant	Modern
"Honeywood" House	1951	S. Washington St.	GF	STD	Extant	Modern ranch style
Lewis & Clark School	1952	1110 13th Ave. S.	GF	STD	Extant	Modern
Westward Ho	1953	3400 Gateway	GF	STD	Portions demolished	Substantially altered
Implement Dealers Mutual Insurance Co. Building	1954	405 Bruce	GF	STD	NR listed –GF DHD	International style
Grand Forks Building & Loan Association	1955	13 S. 4th St.	GF	STD	NR listed – GF DHD	International style
Coliton House	c.1950	417 S. 5th St.	GF	STD	NR listed – NSS HD	Garage conversion for Mrs. M.J. Coliton & her daughter, Esther
Commercial building remodel	c.1950	210-214 DeMers	GF	STD	Extant	Remodel as Modern Commercial
Grand Forks County Sheriff's Residence & Jail	1952	123 S. 5th St.	GF	STD	Extant	Unknown
Grand Forks Seed Co. Warehouse & Elevator	c.1950s		GF	STD	Not there	Unknown; built?
Goebel Motors	c.1950		GF	STD	Demolished	Moderne

DEREMER COMMISSIONS IN OTHER NORTH DAKOTA TOWNS, 1938-1955

Building	Date Built	Address	City/Town	Designer	Status	Architectural Style/Comments
School	c.1950	219 Ave. D West	McClusky, ND	STD	Extant	Modern; survey needed
School	c.1950		Watford City, ND	STD	Unknown	Modern
Queen of Peace Convent	1955	Off Hwy 5	Belcourt, ND	STD	Unknown	Modern

DEREMER COMMISSIONS IN MINNESOTA TOWNS, 1938-1955

Building	Date Built	Address	City/Town	Designer	Status	Architectural Style/Comments
St. Francis Hospital	1946-50		Crookston, MN	STD	Unknown	Modern
1st Lutheran Church	1947	217 S. 5th St.	East Grand Forks, MN	STD	Extant	Modern
St. Johns Hospital	1951		Red Lake Falls, MN	STD	Unknown	Modern
Consolidated School	1954		Lancaster, MN	STD	Unknown	Unknown
Rock gardens		Sunnyrest Sanatorium	Crookston, MN	STD	Unknown	Unknown; built?
Courthouse addition	c.1938		Crookston, MN	STD	Unknown	Unknown; built?
Hotel Francis		112-116 DeMers	East Grand Forks, ND	STD	Unknown	Unknown; built?
Otto Eickhof dwellings (2)	c.1950		Crookston, MN	STD	Unknown	Unknown; built?
School	c.1950s		Lake Bronson, MN	STD	Unknown	Unknown; built?

POSSIBLE DEREMER COMMISSIONS

Building	Date of Drawing	Address	City/Town	Designer	Status	Architectural Style/Comments
Gymnasium	No date		Petersburg, ND	STD	Unknown	Unknown; built?
Memorial Building	No date		Lakota, ND	STD	Unknown	Unknown; built?
New State Theatre	No date		Red Lake Falls, MN	JBD	Unknown	Unknown; built?
Elks Lodge & Clubhouse	No date		Thief River Falls, MN	JBD	Unknown	Unknown; built?
Gymnasium & Auditorium	No date		Crookston, MN	JBD	Unknown	Unknown; built?
Hotel Crookston remodel	No date		Crookston, MN	JBD/STD	Unknown	Unknown; completed?
Whitey's Wonderbar	No date		East Grand Forks, MN	JBD/STD	Original destroyed in flood	
Scheme for Corner Market	No date		Unknown	STD	Unknown	Modern; built?
Larson-Olson Building	No date		Unknown	STD	Unknown	Modern; built?
Nestor Tap Room	No date		Unknown	STD	Unknown	Unknown; built?
Southside Elementary School	No date		Unknown	STD	Unknown	Modern; built?
Lukkason's Bar & Café	No date		Unknown	STD	Unknown	Unknown; built?

Oscar's	No date		Unknown	STD	Unknown	Unknown; built?
Kelly & Palmer Filling Station	No date		Unknown	STD	Unknown	Unknown; built?
J. Lampert Building	No date		Unknown	STD	Unknown	Art Deco; built?
L.M. Mondry House	No date		Unknown	STD	Unknown	Modern; built?
Dr. P.W. Smith House	No date		Unknown	STD	Unknown	Tudor Revival; built? Possibly the house originally located at 423 River St., moved to 521 S. 6th St.