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*Buffalo has two properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places - the 1916 High School and the Old Stone Church.*

## 1916 Buffalo High School

303 Pearl St. N.

The school was constructed in 1916 and was listed on the National Register in 2001. A.J. O'Shea was the architect, with the Meineke Building Company of Fargo constructing the school at a cost of \$20,000. The high school was originally added to the west section of the existing 1902 school building. The school closed



its doors in 1978 and in 2001 became the property of the Buffalo Historical Society. After demolition of the 1902 elementary school, the 1916 high school property was listed on the National Register of Historic Properties. The High School is the last remaining example of non-residential Classic Revival style architecture in Buffalo. Major restoration efforts are currently underway to make it a viable and important part of the community again.

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## SITES OF INTEREST

### Buffalo Cemetery

One mile east

Over 1000 peonies that bloom every year are rich in color and history. They were started from the first planting in 1911 by Mrs. Emma More after a tragic train accident killed her son, David. Peony comes from the Greek word meaning "the healer". Many people believe that's the reason Mrs. More chose to plant only peonies in the cemetery, hoping the flowers would help heal her broken heart. She is buried here, along with the rest of her family.

### Sibley Trail

Two miles west

General Sibley marched over this area with 3400 soldiers on August 16, 1863. A marker was placed in 1927 by the Dakota Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution.

### Buffalo Bandstand

An important part of Buffalo's history, the bandstand was donated in 1969 to Bonanzaville in West Fargo.

### U R Next Barbershop

The shop was built in 1900 and purchased by Lewis Easton in 1909. After his death in 1966, the shop was donated to Bonanzaville in West Fargo.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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*This brochure was designed and printed at the Cass County Reporter. Photographs by Rachel Hostrand.*

*Come Visit...*

# Buffalo

North Dakota



Visit our small town with a big history and relive the past on a historic tour of "Our Town on the Prairie"



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## "Our Town on the Prairie"

### Buffalo...

was laid out in May 1879 when Mary Strong Wilson donated land to anyone who would establish a business. She also donated land to be used for school and church sites.

On November 2, 1880, the plat for New Buffalo, Dakota Territory, was filed.

Fifteen sites have been selected in Buffalo for this brochure based on their historic significance as well as importance in the history and development of Buffalo. Please refer to the city map for assistance in locating these sites.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Please contact the City of Buffalo at 701-633-2356 or go to [www.buffalond.com](http://www.buffalond.com) to learn more about what businesses, services and organizations are available in Buffalo.

The information in this brochure has been compiled by the City of Buffalo Historic Preservation Commission. Established in 2001, the commission advises the City of Buffalo and its residents on matters of preservation and insures that the preservation of the history of Buffalo is considered at all levels of local government.

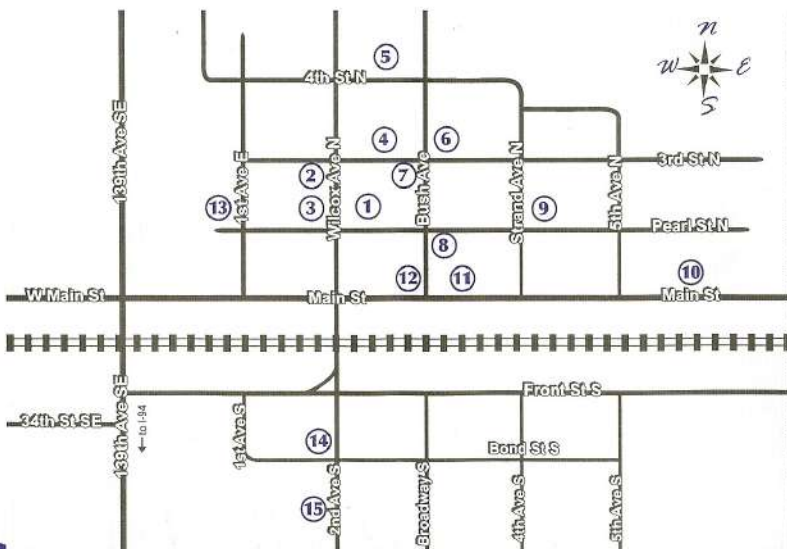
Formerly the Calvary Episcopal Chapel, this was the first church built in Buffalo. Constructed in 1885, the church was designed by noted architect George Hancock who held ND architect license #1. Buffalo resident, Angus Beaton, a Scottish stonemason and bricklayer, built the church of native prairie stone. Stained glass windows and an open-beamed ceiling completed the building. After closing in 1934, it was purchased by the Buffalo Masonic Lodge and donated to the Buffalo Historical Society in 1985. The Old Stone Church was listed on the National Register in 1996. In 1999, the Buffalo Historical Society received a National Preservation Honor Award from the National Trust for Historic Preservation for the restoration efforts to maintain and save this important landmark in Buffalo.



*Old Stone Church*

206 Wilcox Ave. N.

2



### Calvary Episcopal Church Rectory

204 Wilcox Ave. N.



The original portion of the rectory was built in 1887 and the two story front section was added in 1895. It is one of the oldest remaining in the state. The property was donated to the Buffalo Historical Society in 1995 and opened to the public in 1998 as the Margaret Fraase Library. The wood frame barn located behind the Rectory has tongue and groove siding and was built in 1900.

3

## More House

305 Third St. N.

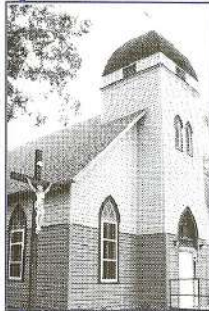


This classical revival home was built in 1901 for S.G. and Emma More. Architect Milton Earl Beebe designed this home using 2x6 foot balloon framing, clapboard siding and field stone foundation. Special features throughout the three story house include decorative painting on walls and ceilings, embossed leather wall coverings from Morocco, stained glass windows, and two fireplaces. The More's owned the entire block and built an ice house, carriage house and barn with a common American gambrel roof style. A wrought iron fence surrounded the entire property.

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## St. Thomas Church, Grotto and Crucifix Shrine

401 Third St. N.



The church was built in 1900 by the Hancock Brothers of Fargo and is an example of vernacular architecture which is the common building style of a community. It is reported that Buffalo businessman, Thomas A. Quirk, donated most of the lumber for the building and thus the name, St. Thomas, was chosen. The steeple was modified to a four sided dome top circa 1912

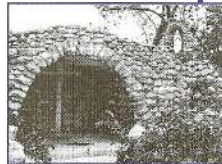
and a concrete foundation added circa 1962. Windows in the sanctuary are amber glass, gothic (painted) shape, with amber glass panes.

In 1945, a French priest began construction of the grotto, the cross on the front lawn and the interior remodeling.

The grotto has a poured concrete foundation, walls and ceiling with uncut stone on top of concrete. Instead of rebar, wheels from steam engines and other pieces of steel were used to enforce the concrete, as well as bars from the Buffalo City jail. The vaulted, arched grotto has a secondary vaulted, arched grotto structure on top containing a statue of the Madonna.

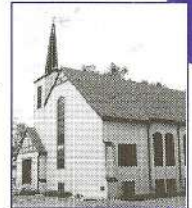
The platform for the crucifix is composed of wood, ceramic and concrete.

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## First Presbyterian Church

204 Bush Ave. N.



The First Presbyterian Church of New Buffalo, Dakota Territory, was organized September 26, 1880, and built their church in 1886.

A new church building was completed on the same site in 1928 at a cost of \$12,000.

The building was designed in the Tudor style by William Kurke, a well known North Dakota architect who also contributed to the design of the North Dakota State capitol in Bismarck.

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## Quirk House and Carriage House

105 Bush Ave. N.

The Victorian style gable front house was built in 1886 by Thomas A. Quirk and his wife, Margaret. Mr. Quirk was the original owner of the lumber business in Buffalo. The house has twelve rooms with two



screened-in porches. In 1916, it was extensively remodeled, adding a hot water system, electricity, bathroom, hardwood floors, oak woodwork, and two sets of French doors with beveled glass. Also built in 1886, the horse barn is a gable structure with a field stone foundation. It was converted to a carriage house and the stall partitions were removed, except for one stall complete with a hay box, hay chute and a stairway to the upper hay mow.

8

The Arthur and Edith Peterson residence was built by S.G. More, a prominent Buffalo banker, as a wedding gift for his daughter Edith when she married in 1915. The Classic Revival style home was designed by Fargo architect A.J. O'Shea. The interior features maple floors, oak and mahogany woodwork, open grand staircase, fireplace, stained glass windows, faux painting throughout, a servants' stairway, and a third floor ballroom. Descendants of the family lived in the house until 1966.

## Peterson House

305 Fourth Ave. N.



5

In 1907, Patrick Neary began construction on his home in Buffalo. Built in phases, it exhibits Victorian style architectural features, including a large front porch, a bay window, and several stained glass windows. He was a Civil War veteran and made his first land purchase of 160 acres in Cass County, Howes Township in Dakota Territory on May 31, 1881. One of the first pioneers of Buffalo, he was tragically killed by a train at the Buffalo crossing on May 22, 1916.

### Neary House

201 Strand Ave. N.

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Small Town,  
Big History

### Mohr House and Barn

605 Main St.

August and Dora Mohr came to Buffalo in 1904 and built this large, two story, Queen Anne style home with an open front porch. The brick foundation under the front porch is original. The house has an open stairway, stained glass windows and a front foyer that opens to the parlor and dining room with a large bay window. The property has a two story barn and carriage house, which was home to one of the first automobiles in the area.



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### Quirk Lumber Office

403 Main St.

T.A. Quirk & Company was organized in 1884. The Boomtown style office building was constructed in 1908.

At one time the lumber yard had a lumber shed, a store, three storage sheds, and coal facilities on the south side of the train tracks with a spur called the "Quirk Spur". The lumber yard had its own sled or dray wagon for delivery.



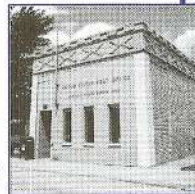
11

### Bateman Drugstore

305 Main St.

One of the original retail sites in Buffalo, this brick structure was built in 1902

by G.E. Bateman as a drugstore. The building was shortened in 1998 and the interior has been altered as the use of the building changed. The false front and the X cross work on the brick still remains.



12

I. S. Smith came to Dakota Territory in 1880. He moved to Buffalo in 1897 and built this house in 1912. The interior of the house has been extensively remodeled but is historically important as the home of one of Buffalo's prominent businessmen. Mr. Smith closed his livery stable in 1916 and erected the first garage in Buffalo.



### Smith House

200 1st Ave. N.

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### Johnson House and Garage

104 Second Ave. S.

This home was built by O.H. and Marthea Johnson in the early 1940's out of salvaged brick from a bank in Wheatland, ND. The brick was cleaned



by a young Buffalo boy, Ray Diemert, at the rate of a penny per brick. The home has a fireplace, a small gabled pediment over the front door and decorative quoins

on the corners. It can be described as a simple post World War II home. The garage was also built in the 1940's.

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### Biggers House

204 Second Ave. S.



The first record of this home appeared in the Buffalo Express on June 30, 1921. Frank Biggers Sr., a local farmer, built this Craftsman style home of Hebron brick as his town home. The house has decorative brickwork around the enclosed porch and two decorative masonry piers. The interior of the home has beautiful woodwork, French doors, hardwood floors, a fireplace, and beveled glass cabinetry. The addition of a breezeway and a garage to the back of the building were constructed using the same roof pitch and decorative open end rafter tails.

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