

Finding Aid to the Mort L. Mazaheri Papers

Mazaheri, Mort L.

Mort L. Mazaheri Papers, 1973 - 2009

1.8 linear ft.

Collection number: Mss 370

[Biography](#)

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OVERVIEW

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BIOGRAPHY

Mort Mazaheri was born in Iran, a native of Tehran, son of a colonel in the Iranian Army. After serving in the Iranian military he received a visa to study in America in 1957. He received his BS degree from Beloit College and MS in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Wisconsin in 1965. He was hired as a planner for Dane County in Madison, Wisconsin and also worked part-time with a university extension agency. In 1967 he was named assistant director of the three-person department that grew to a staff of 28 by the time he left in 1972. He began teaching at North Dakota State University in 1972 as Assistant Professor of Community and Regional Planning and in 1986 became director of the graduate

program in Community and Regional Planning at NDSU. He retired from NDSU in 1993, but moved full-time to MLM & Associates, his firm of community development and planning consultants.

Mort Mazaheri was elected to the Fargo City Commission in 1986, overseeing various Fargo departments. His term ended in 1990 when he decided to enter the Fargo mayoral race. Mazaheri and wife Sharon raised two children, Mark and Gretchen. They retired to Arizona in 2009.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The **Mort Mazaheri Papers** document primarily the work of the many graduate students that studied under Mazaheri in the NDSU Community and Regional Planning program as reflected in the many papers researched and written by the students. Together the papers form a valuable, historical collection related to planning and land use, particularly in Fargo, N.D. and to a lesser extent in Moorhead, Minn. and North Dakota in general. The graduate papers have been organized into topical series, many reflecting the original organizational structure of the papers as received. In addition there is a small collection of correspondence to Mazaheri by North Dakota's congressional delegation that spans from 1973 to 2009, while the subject files series are files kept by Mazaheri while he served as Fargo City Commissioner and document primarily planning issues related to Fargo.

Added to the papers in 2011 is Mort Mazaheri's reminiscence of the years he served on the Fargo City Commission, titled "My Years on the Fargo City Commission, 1986-1990." It begins with a 31-leaf reminiscence that discusses his election to the commission and the various issues that arose during his tenure. Each topic covered is listed in a table of contents. The bulk of the contents in the binder consists of appendices (A - T) of photocopies of documents, correspondence and newspaper clippings related to his narrative. This reminiscence provides a wonderful insight into both the politics and important issues confronting the commission and the City of Fargo in the late 1980s.

The **Correspondence Series** consist of two sub-series. The first is letters received from the North Dakota Congressional delegation spanning from 1973 to 2009. The letters cover a wide range of topics and reflect Mazaheri's active contact with all the North Dakota senators and representatives over the years. Although few in number, there are several letters from North Dakota governors. The Enderlin correspondence file (1998-2000) reflects his work with the town government leaders in preparing several community development studies. The final, published studies have been removed and cataloged into the Institute's book collection.

The **Fargo Bridge Series** is organized alphabetically by title with the author or authors listed and the date of the paper, as is true with all the other topical series. This series includes two papers on the 12th Avenue North bridge and the controversy in its being built. As is the case with most of the papers, the students were assigned to look into aspects such as 'impact,' 'issues,' 'alternatives,' and controversies.'

The **Fargo Central Business District Series** is one of the most comprehensive in terms of size and topics covered, all related to some aspect of the CBD. Of particular interest is the paper evaluating the Red River

Mall that was constructed on downtown Broadway in Fargo in the early 1970s. There is also a paper by Mazaheri that surveys the retail businesses in downtown Fargo as of 1885.

The **Fargo History Series** is a series of general histories done by students in two different courses in 1985-1986 that emphasis the development of Fargo, its downtown as well as business and transportation environment. The second sub-series is of interest in that it breaks down the historical development of Fargo by decade from 1890 to 1960.

The **Fargo, N.D. General Series** includes papers that cover areas other than the downtown of Fargo, including the western growth area of the 1980s, land-use planning, mobile homes, traffic and bridges. Of note is a study done by the Fargo Planning & Development Office of the Cole Hotel (home of the Pink Pussycat bar) at the corner of 4th Street North and N.P. Avenue. The 12 – 15 Neighborhood Association issued a memorandum in 1966 discussing transportation and bridge issues, particularly in the near-north side of Fargo.

Placed in the **Fargo, N.D. – Moorhead, Minn. Series** are papers that cover topics related to both cities to include annexation policy, bus transportation, a history of medical facilities, student housing and migrant workers.

The **Floodplain Management Series** of papers and documents was developed by Mazaheri and includes a wide range of items, all related to flood issues in Fargo-Moorhead and the Red River. The papers include coverage of specific floods, such as 1965, 1966, 1969, 1979 as well as by decades of 1950s through 1970s. Other topics include characteristics of various floods, floodplain management, responses by agencies to floods, flood prevention and the N.D. Floodplain Management Act of 1981.

The **Moorhead & Clay County, Minn. Series** includes two papers specific to Moorhead, a study of mobile home housing and a plan for developing the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd congregation.

The **Neighborhood Analysis Series** includes four studies including for Island Park, Near Northside and West Central in Fargo and the Park School area in Moorhead. They all were done in the 1970s. These analysis were done by students and came as a single file.

The **North Dakota Rivers and Water Series** was developed by the archives staff to include papers that are broader in scope than Fargo-Moorhead flooding. In addition to general water policy issues is a study on the Sheyenne River regarding policy, land and water management.

The **North Dakota General Series** includes the raw data compiled regarding land use estimates for all North Dakota towns, done by Mazaheri and Susan Neis, a paper on vanishing towns in North Dakota, and a Lewis and Clark Region study.

The **Subject Files Series** are mostly papers associated while Mazaheri served on the Fargo City Commission. The file titles used by Mazaheri have been basically retained in the listing. Almost all deal in some aspect with Mazaheri's interest in city planning, whether infrastructure, transportation, engineering, or incorporation of adjacent communities. There is his campaign proposals issued while

campaigning for the city commission position, incorporation requests from Round Hill and Oxbow, and a document on the 12th Avenue North bridge issue.

SEPARATION RECORD

The following materials have been removed from the Mort Mazaheri accession and sent to the sections indicated

Video cassettes (Accession 2885)

- Ten VHS tapes on: North Dakota Centennial Air Show, 1989 (3); Fargo Air Show, 1995 (1); Fargo Food, 1989 (1); Profile of Fargo, 1989, 1991, 1992 (3); Kiwanis Club 75th Anniversary, 1996 (1); and Oak Grove High School Choir, 1996

Publications

- Numerous publications were added to the Institute's book collection related to planning and land use in North Dakota. No comprehensive list was made; however each book was gift-plate with Mazaheri's name.

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

Box/Folder	Content
1/1	Finding aid, and Biographical information
4/1	"My Years on the Fargo City Commission, 1986-1990," 2011
	Correspondence Series
	Congressional correspondence—
1/2	1973-1984
1/3	1985-1992
1/4	1993-1998
1/5	1999-2002
1/6	2003
1/7	2004-2006
1/8	2007-2008
1/9	2009
1/10	Enderlin, N.D. project correspondence, 1998-2000
	Fargo Bridges Series
1/11	"The Impact of Proposed Bridges on Fargo-Moorhead," by Douglas Holden, 1977
1/12	"The Proposed Twelfth Avenue North Bridge: The Issues and the Alternatives," by John A. Molinaro, 1980
1/13	"The 12 th Avenue Bridge Controversy," by Henry S. Alcott, 1982

Fargo Central Business District Series

- 1/14 "C.B.D. Land Value Study," by Andresen Pattee, 1983
- 1/15 "Central Business District Questionnaire/Survey," by Patrick Nasi, 1983
- 1/16 "Current and Projected Population for Fargo's Central Business District," by Steve Andreson and Pam Kramer, 1983
- 1/17 "Downtown Fargo, an Evaluation to Ensure Esthetics within the Historic District," by David E. Martin, 1983
- 1/18 "Downtown Fargo Skywalk Pedestrian Circulation Patterns," by Terry A. Messmer and Carey Dreher, 1985
- 1/19 "An Evaluation of the Red River Mall," by Gerald McCullough, 1985
- 1/20 "Fargo Central Business District, Design Project," by Jeff L. Sjoquist and Rick L. Engebretson, 1970 (from NDSU Architecture Department)
- 1/21 "Fargo, North Dakota's Central Business District: The Future Role," by Mark B. Baker and Debra J. Norby, 1985
- 1/22 "Goals, Objectives, Policies, and Strategies for Fargo's CBD Concerning Aesthetics, Culture, and Entertainment," by David Martin and David Jacobson, 1983
- 1/23 "Historic Building Analysis and Building Conditions in Downtown Fargo," by David Martin and Jon Ness, 1983
- 1/24 "Housing and Resident Characteristics in the CBD," by Chein Min Chang and Edlyn Vathauer, 1983
- 1/25 "Inventory of Office Space in the C.B.D.," by Dave Jacobson and Mike Pattee, 1983
- 1/26 "Inventory of Retail Uses and Vacant Structures," by Joel B. West and Pat Nasi, n.d.
- 1/27 "Land Use Inventory for Fargo CBD, 1983," by Joel B. West, Chang, 1983
- 1/28 "Land Use Standards for Fargo's CBD," by Jon Ness, 1983
- 1/29 "1985 Downtown Parking Supply and Use Inventory," by T.A. Messmer, C. Dreher, M. Baker, D. Norby, 1985
- 1/30 "A Survey of Retail Businesses in Downtown Fargo, North Dakota," by Mort L. Mazaheri, 1985
- 1/31 "Utility and Street Condition Analysis for the Fargo Central Business District," by Dave Jacobson and Pam Kramer, 1983
- 1/31a "Meeting Regarding Problems – Downtown Broadway" 1989.

Fargo History Series

- Planning 531 course, 1985—
 - 1/32 "Early History of Fargo to 1900" by Kim Lee
 - 1/33 "Fargo, 1900-1930," by Lindberg S. Ekola
 - 1/34 "A History of Fargo, North Dakota, 1930-1960," by Gerald T. McCullough
- Planning 509 course, 1986—
 - 1/35 "Fargo 1890-1900," by Larry Haukos
 - 1/36 "Fargo, North Dakota, 1900-1910," by Paul Z. Fairbanks
 - 1/37 "A Fargo Study, 1920-1930", by Rebecca Lewis
 - 1/38 "Fargo, North Dakota 1940-1950," by B. Kirmis

1/39 "Fargo North Dakota 1950-1960, a Survey of Events," by James D. Johnson

Fargo, N.D. General Series

- 1/40 "Fargo's West Fringe Area Study (Section #3)," by Auggaphol Brickshawana and Victor Ugbomah, 1985
- 1/41 "Fargo's Western Fringe, a Study of Area Four," by Mary Edgerly O'Neil and Tim Magnusson, 1985
- 1/42 "Land use Planning Project, Fargo, North Dakota 1984 (Location: South of 12 Ave. N., West of I-29, East of 45th St. N., North of 7th Ave N.)," by Craig Mostad and Auggaphol Brickshawana, 1984 (Includes series of 20 slides)
- 1/43 "Mobile Home Living in Fargo, North Dakota 1971 to 1979," by Lynn Gimbel, 1979
- 1/44 "An Overview of the Proposed 45th Street Interchange," by Timothy J. Magnusson, 1984
- 1/45 "Population, Employment, and Income Statistics for Fargo and Cass County of North Dakota, prepared by NDSU Department of Community and Regional Planning, Spring 1987."
- 1/46 "Senior Citizens Hi-rise Apartment Building: A Study of Housing Turnover in Fargo, North Dakota, by Graduate Program in Community and Regional Planning in Conjunction with the Planning Department, City of Fargo, North Dakota, May 1977"
- 1/47 "3-87 Urban Renewal Plan for Cole Hotel Project, Fargo, North Dakota," prepared by Fargo Planning & Development Office, 1987
- 1/48 12 – 15 Neighborhood Association (Memorandum to 'All interested Property Owners, City Officials' regarding 'Transportation Plans, City of Fargo), 1966

Fargo, N.D. – Moorhead, Minn. Series

- 1/49 "Annexation in Fargo-Moorhead," by Ken Foster, 1977
- 1/50 "Fargo-Moorhead Bus Transportation Surveys," by Robert L. Sullivan, Donald F. Schwartz, 1970
- 1/51 "History of the Medical Institutions in Fargo/Moorhead: 1879 to 1987," by Marjorie Mattson, 1987
- 1/52 "History, Survey, and Analysis of Student Housing in the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Area," by Adnan Sharabi and Stanley M. Kvinge, 1970
- 1/53 "Migrant Worker Housing Study for the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Area," by David A. Smedsrud (in cooperation with F-M Metropolitan Council of Governments), n.d.

Floodplain Management Series

- 1/54 "Characteristics of the 1979 Spring Flood in the Red River Basin," by Larry Remmen
- 1/55 "The Flood Characteristics in the Red River Basin for the Spring Flood of 1965," by Kyung W. Lee
- 1/56 "Floodplain Management Planning in the Red River Valley," by Mark Baker, Debra Norby and Kim Lee
- 1/57 "Floods and Flood Responses in Fargo-Moorhead," by Robert Ferguson and Laurie

Heupel

- 1/58 "The Identification of Program Efforts for Flood Prevention in the Red River Basin for the Years from 1970 to 1979," by Smorit Soonthornrungsi and Jai Young Bang.
- 1/59 "A Profile for the 1966 Flood Characteristics in the Red River Basin," by Jai Y. Bang
- 1/60 "A Profile of the Characteristics of the 1969 Spring Floods in the Red River Basin," by Diana Pulcini
- 1/61 "A Profile of the 1975 Spring Flood in the Red River Basin of the North," by Custer Huseby
- 1/62 "Profile the Flood Characteristics in the Red River Basin for 1978," by Somrit Soonthornrungsi
- 1/63 "Program Efforts in the Red River of the North, 1950-1959," by R. Barua and D. Marske
- 1/64 "Program Efforts of Federal, Regional, and Local Agencies to Reduce Flood Damages for the Period 1960-1969," by Diana F. Pulcini and Kyung W. Lee
- 1/65 "A Review of the North Dakota Floodplain Management Act of 1981," by Steve Smutko
- 1/66 "Spring Flood of 1959, Red River of the North Basin," by Dean Marske
- 1/67 "Urban Flood Control," by Richard Trader
- 1/68 Untitled paper, no authors given

Moorhead & Clay County, Minn. Series

- 1/69 "Mobile Home Housing in Clay County, Minnesota," by Larry M. Weil, 1979
- 1/70 "A Policy Plan for Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd," by John A. Molinaro, 1982

Neighborhood Analysis Series

- 1/71 "Island Park Neighborhood Study, Graduate Program in Community and Regional Planning at North Dakota State University in conjunction with Island Park Neighborhood Association & City of Fargo Planning Department," 1976
- 1/72 "Near Northside Neighborhood Study," Graduate Program in Community and Regional Planning, 1975 (Fargo, N.D.)
- 1/73 "Park School Area Study," by Ross Stanton Reagan, 1974 (Moorhead, Minn.)
- 1/74 "West Central Neighborhood, A Land Use Dilemma," by Lewis Lubka, 1979 (Fargo, N.D.)

North Dakota Rivers and Water Series

- 1/75 "Basic Water Rights, Their Implications for North Dakota," by John Wynne and Gordon A. Hydukovich, 1976
- 1/76 "Identification of Problems and Issues in the Red River Basin with General Recommendations," by Gordon Hydukovich, Tracey Johnson, Michael Stewart, John Wynne, 1977
- 1/77 "Population Projection for the Red River Basin, 1980, 1990, 2000, Implications for Water Consumption," by Tracey L. Johnson, 1977
- 1/78 "River Basin Planning, Land and Water Management Problems of the Lower Sheyenne River Basin," by Ross Stanton Reagan, 1975
- 1/79 "Water Management in North Dakota: Who is Involved and Reasons for a Regional

Approach,” by Allen DeKrey, 1976

North Dakota General Series

- 2/1 “Land Use Estimates of North Dakota Cities, prepared by Susan Neis for Professor Mort Mazaheri,” 1985
- 2/2 “Land Use Planning for North Dakota” (text for slide-tape presentation)
- 2/3 “Lewis and Clark Regional Development Study,” by Claude Netterville, Warren Greenwell, 1980
- 2/4 “Use of Land in North Dakota Cities prior to 1980”
- 2/5 “Vanished and Vanishing Towns in Region 6, North Dakota,” by Jon Ness, 1983

Subject Files Series

- 2/6 “An Agenda for Action: A Proposal by Mort Mazaheri, Candidate for Fargo City Commission”, 1986
- 2/7 “Engineering Report, Abutment Replacement, Clay County Bridge 90817, North Broadway Bridge, August 24, 1987,” by Houston Engineering
- 2/8 Flood plain management, 1971-1985
- 2/9 Fargo Civic Auditorium, 1987-1988 (Centennial Center)
- 2/10 Fargo Engineering Dept. – Annual report submittal letters, 1979-1989
- 2/11 Fargo Engineering Dept. – ‘Cost Estimate 45th Street – I94 Interchange,’ 1989?
- 2/12 Fargo infrastructure, 1988-1989
- 3/1 Fargo population and economy, 1888-1989
- 3/2 Fargo Public Works Dept. – ‘Funding Need, Infrastructure Improvements’, 1991
- 3/3 Fargo water, plant, source, 1989
- 3/4 Housing construction, 1986-1989
- 3/5 Incorporation (Round Hill and Oxbow), 1987-1988
- 3/6 Labor relations, 1988-1990
- 3/7 “McCormick Park Neighborhood Facility,” 1976 (photocopy)
- 3/8 Municipal utilities analysis, 1986-1989
- 3/9 “1988 Mill Levy/Value Information, City of Fargo”, 1988
- 3/10 North Dakota 100
- 3/11 “Recommendation for Basement Construction in the Flood Plain of the Red River Valley of Minnesota and North Dakota (application to US HUD Federal Insurance Administration, 1974)
- 3/12 Streets, 1989
- 3/13 Transportation, highways, 32nd Ave. South, 1986-1989
- 3/14 12th Avenue North Bridge, 1985-1987

North Dakota State University Libraries