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NATIONAL  
REGISTER

HISTORIC NAME: Dokken-Nelson Funeral Home  
 ADDRESS: 113 S. Willson, Bozeman  
 LEGAL BOUNDARY: Alderson's Addition.  
 Blk B, all of lot 3 and  
 north 5' of lot 4  
 OWNER'S NAME: Rexal R. and Verlene Troth  
 OWNER ADDRESS: 520 North 10th, Bozeman  
 SPECIFIC DATE: 1936  
 ARCHITECT: Fred F. Willson  
 BUILDER: H.J. Hamill  
 ORIGINAL OWNER: H.H. Dokken  
 ORIGINAL USE: Undertaker/chapel  
 PRESENT USE: Funeral Service/storage  
 UTM REFERENCE: 12/497000/5058090  
 ACREAGE: less than one  
 U.S.G.S. QUAD: Bozeman, 1953



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:  
 Applicable Criteria: C  
 Number of Contributing Properties: 1

Built for the leading early 20th century funeral home business in Bozeman, this fine example of the Neo-Gothic Revival style is indicative of the diversity of the work of Fred F. Willson, Bozeman's prolific local architect of the early 20th century. Like many significant buildings of the period, this one is the result of collaboration between Willson and local contractor Henry J. Hamill.

The Dokken-Nelson Funeral Home was started in a section of the large, 1-story commercial block at the northwest corner of S. Tracy and W. Babcock. Hermann Dokken and Rod Nelson continued the business, moving it to this building upon its completion in 1936. Nelson remained a partner in the business until his death in the early 1950's. The funeral business still operates from the building today.

#### PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

This one-story commercial building has a rectangular plan with a projecting entry bay with an oval-transomed front entrance. The entrance is recessed and the cut limestone architecture is detailed with a carved, relief limestone surround. The facade is symmetrical and consists of the front entry and casement and fixed windows with leaded glass and wooden sashes. Limestone surrounds the doors and windows. Interpretation of English Medieval architecture with turreted coping and simulated buttresses adorn the front facade. The windows are pairs of single light casements or three-part casements with small, leaded glass lights and leaded glass transoms above. The brick construction is of running bond pattern with a header course every seven courses. It rests on a concrete foundation, and has a flat built-up roof.

The Willson Job Lists note that plans for alteration to the entrance of the Dokken Funeral Home were drawn up in 1953. It is questionable what these alterations might have involved or if they were ever executed, for the entrance vestibule appears to be in complete compatibility with the original building. There is a garage attached to the side on the

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north, which was constructed in recent years of red brick and is considered to be a non-contributing addition. The north end of the block has been cleared of other buildings that once existed, and the lot has been paved for parking, which serves to lend this rather diminutive building greater visual impact.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Joe Uhlich, Bozeman, MT, interview, January 20, 1986  
Fred Willson Job List: 1936, Job #3605 "Mortuary-Hermann Dokken;  
1938, Job #3814 "Perspective of Mortuary-H. Dokken;  
1953, Job #5324 "Alteration to Entrance Dokken Funeral  
Home."

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