

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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

For NPS use only
received NOV 28 1984
date entered DEC 27 1984

1. Name

historic Forkenbrock Funeral Home

and/or common Geraghty Funeral Home

2. Location

street & number 234 East Pine Street

n/a not for publication

city, town Missoula

n/a vicinity of

state Montana

code 30

county Missoula

code 063

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	n/a	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Baltic Avenue: A Montana Partnership consisting of William Baldassin, Thomas Beers, Mark Connell, William Rossback, and Michael J. Sherwood

street & number 234 East Pine Street

city, town Missoula (P.O. Box 8142) n/a vicinity of

state Montana

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Missoula County Courthouse

street & number 200 West Broadway

city, town Missoula

state Montana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Resource Survey of Missoula, Montana 1981

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1981 federal state county local

depository for survey records Preservation Office, Montana Historical Society

city, town 225 North Roberts. Helena, M

state Montana

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The property is a large, two and one-half story, hipped roofed building with Colonial Revival stylistic influences evident in its detailing and massing. The structure is of brick masonry construction with a high-fired, soldier-coursed water table, and a decorative belt course at the second floor level. A large east exterior wall chimney extends through the eave and has a sloped pent. The roof is punctuated by four, hipped dormers with geometric paned windows. Roof and dormer lines flare slightly at the eave which has modillion brackets and a dentilled frieze. The front facade presents symmetrical fenestration with a central, glass entry flanked by single pane side lights and covered by a flat portico on wrought iron posts and topped with a wrought iron railing. This wrought iron work is an alteration of the original porch design. A drawing of the building, on the cover of the 1929 Missoula Polk's Directory indicates the portico was originally supported by wooden posts on square piers. These were removed during the mid-1950's due to extensive decay, and replaced with the present wrought iron features.

Opening to the railed portico are two multi-paned wood doors. On either side of the central bay are large window openings with fixed glass flanked by double-hung windows with cross-paned top sash. Other windows are 1/1 or 3/1 double hung and hopper type. To the east is an attached porte-cochere supported by wrought iron posts. The roof of the porte-cochere is flat with a slight flare at the extended eave. The entry beneath is double, full glass, wood doors. All window openings have simple, header sills and plain wood architrave. An attached single story rear garage has two bays with wood paneled overhead doors, and a truncated hipped roof with a slight flare at the eave. The garage is an original feature of the funeral home. Located to the west of the garage bays, in a separated area, was the embalming room.

The interior spaces of the funeral home originally accommodated the necessary functions of such a business. In addition to the embalming room and a large garage area, the first floor of the Forkenbrock Funeral Home originally contained a reception area, large chapel, and offices. The chapel windows were fashioned in decorative stained glass of a simple, geometric pattern. The stained glass windows flanked the east exterior wall and an interior hallway along the north-south central axis of the building. Later, expansion of the business demanded that a subsequent owner, Mr. Geraghty, create another, smaller chapel in the northwest area of the building that originally had contained offices. When Geraghty purchased the property from Merrill Mortuaries, the chapel was lit by two fluorescent fixtures. The remaining light came from lit candles. In the northwest corner of the second floor, a casket sales room was reached by a small elevator. Remaining spaces of the second floor contained an apartment where the funeral operators or employees lived. Known alterations made to the interior during Geraghty's ownership of the building include the surfacing of interior walls with textured plaster, the installation of lighting fixtures which included ceiling cove lights and the modification of interior spaces to accommodate additional business. During the past two years, the building has been adapted to the needs of a law office. The stained glass windows of the chapel were removed and placed in storage in Mr. Geraghty's garage.

The Forkenbrock Funeral Home sits prominently on a corner in a residential and commercial mixed neighborhood directly northeast of Missoula's central business district. The grounds of the building are maturely landscaped with spacious lawn and shubbery. Architecturally, the Forkenbrock Funeral Home assimilates many of the Colonial Revival forms popular in American residential design of the early 20th century, such as regular fenestration, block massing, and simple, Classical detailing. These features are strongly affected by the American Georgian, a Colonial period style originally popular between 1735 and 1800. Twentieth Century period revival architecture often borrowed the plan and basic design elements of the original Colonial forms and interpreted, rather than reproduced, the originals.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1929

Builder/Architect unknown

The Forkenbrock Funeral Home represents the significant changes in American funeral customs that occurred about 1900 and continue to the present. The architectural design, detailing, and interior use of space of this early 20th Century funeral home reflect the changes in the services offered by the funeral director and the different role of the family and religious institutions in the funeral process. The commodious Forkenbrock Funeral Home, built in the Colonial Revival style, is located on a prominent corner in an early, middle class residential neighborhood. It was the first of the residentially styled, funeral home structures to be built in Missoula expressly for the purpose of providing virtually all of the services associated with death and preparation for burial. During the first decades of the 20th Century, the traditional American funeral gradually moved from the family home into the specialized facilities of the funeral home. Historical building inventory information indicates that, to a large extent, Montana funeral directors during the 1920's and 30's gave up their commercial district offices and constructed new, specialized funeral "homes" in the popular residential styles of the period. The Forkenbrock Funeral Home well represents this historical pattern.

Until 1900, most American funerals were held in the home of the deceased or the body lay in state in the home, and a religious service was held in the church. The "undertaker" of that period was the provider of equipment. He came to the home of the deceased, directed the funeral, supplied coffin and chairs, organized pall bearers, transported the coffin from the home to the cemetery, and assured the filling of the grave. During early years of the 20th Century, the establishment of funeral associations, the development of licensing laws, the wide acceptance of the term "funeral director", and the adoption of a professional code of ethics for the funeral industry indicate a change in the services provided. Facilities designed to accommodate the expanded services usually included a combination of large parlor or reception area, a special laboratory for preparing the corpse, a salesroom where coffins were tastefully displayed, and a chapel-like room for holding the services. All of these features were included in the original plan for the Forkenbrock Funeral Home. Also, the plans for the Forkenbrock Funeral Home were purchased in 1930 by a funeral director in Kalispell, Montana. The exact same building, constructed at four-fifths scale, was erected in Kalispell that year at 345 1st. Ave. West by Sherman and Sons Funeral Home.

Historians cite several likely reasons for the dramatic change in the funeral profession: the formation of funeral associations marked a deliberate attempt to reap maximum profit for the trade; the industrialization of America lead to the break-up of the extended family, making it difficult for families to provide the services they had in the past; and, the reduced size of most residences made the holding of large funeral services in private homes impractical. ✓

John Forkenbrock, the original owner of the nominated property, acted as funeral director, embalmer, and Missoula County Coroner while associated with the Morin and Forkenbrock Funeral Home in 1927. That establishment, and the other two Missoula funeral parlors licensed at the time, operated from storefront locations within or near the central business district. A year after Forkenbrock opened his gracious, Colonial Revival style funeral home at 234 East Pine Street, he sold his business to a Utah corporation named Merrill Mortuaries. Forkenbrock retained his position as County Coroner for that year, 1930, but is not listed ✓ as living in Missoula after that time. The funeral home was operated by several different individuals and corporations over the years; its name changed from Forkenbrock Funeral Home (1929-1930) to Merrill Mortuary (1930- ca.1936), Stucky Funeral Home (ca. 1937-1947), Lucy's Funeral Home (1948-1958), and finally Geraghty Funeral Home (1959-1981).

9. Major Bibliographical References

Clerk and Recorder's Office, Missoula County Courthouse, Missoula, Montana
Polk's Directory, Missoula; 1927-1932
Mr. Thomas E. Geraghty, Missoula, Montana (interview, June, 1984)
Sanborn Company Fire Insurance maps; Missoula, Montana: 1921, 1927, 1938

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Southeast Missoula, Montana

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	2	2	7	2	1	8	0	5	1	9	5	1	3	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

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D

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Block L Lot 20, 21 Higgins Addition to the Twonsite of Missoula, Montana
Township 13 North; Range 19 West Section 22

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

state	n/a	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Christine Amos, Architectural Historian, Lon Johnson, Historical Architect

organization _____

date _____

street & number 701 South 2nd Street W.

telephone (406) 728-1733

city or town Missoula

state Montana

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Marella Shoff

title

SHPO

date

Nov 19, 1984

For NPS use only

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

date

12/27/84

for Allouez Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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date entered DEC 27 1984

Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 1

Poik's Directory, Missoula, Montana: 1929-1965.

The American Way of Death, Jessica Mitford, Simon and Schuster, New York, 1963.

Caretaker of the Dead: The American Funeral Director, Vanderlyn T. Pine, Irvington Publishers, Inc. New York.

Funeral Customs the World Over, Robert W. Havenstein and William M. Lamers, Bulfin Printers, Inc. Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 1960.