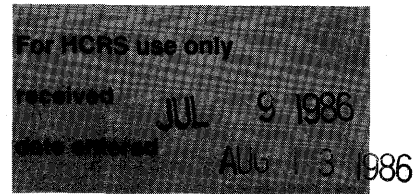


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections



1. Name

historic Barnard Mortuary

and/or common Nilson Funeral Home

2. Location

street & number 119 North Union Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Fergus Falls N/A vicinity of N/A congressional district

state Minnesota code 22 county Otter Tail code 111

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	<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
	N/A being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Bruce Nilson

street & number 420 East St. Charles Avenue

city, town Fergus Falls N/A vicinity of state Minnesota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Otter Tail County Courthouse - Register of Deeds

street & number 100 Block, West Junius

city, town Fergus Falls state Minnesota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Survey of Historic Resources has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date September, 1982 federal state county local

depository for survey records Minnesota Historical Society - Fort Snelling History Center

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Barnard Funeral Home is situated mid-block on North Union, two blocks west of the central business district in Fergus Falls.

Situated on a hill, the two storey building features a walkout basement with parking facilities at the rear and a drive way through to the street along the south facade. Designed by local architect, Walter R. Dennis and completed in November, 1930, the building features a Mission Revival style primary facade. A projecting entry bay has paired entry doors flanking a fixed sash window with a four lite art glass transom. Above the window is a bracketed, barrel tile, pent roof. At the second level are rectangular windows with four over one lites set into recessed arches and a balconet with french doors and wrought iron balustrade. Below the balconet is a second fixed sash with art glass transom. This window treatment continues around the corner to the first bay on the south facade. The following two bays have fixed sash with clear lite transoms set into arched openings. The primary facade continues beyond the building, sweeping to the south where it forms a porte cochere.

The funeral home's interior originally contained an office, chapel, reception room, preparation room and "slumber rooms" all on the main floor. The basement provided casket display rooms, garage and heating plant while the second floor contained a large flat. Now greatly altered, the reception room contains only its original dark oak Mission style entry doors. The chapel contains original millwork but, unfortunately, it has been refinished in the blonde mode of the 1950s.

Fortunately, the exterior of the building remains virtually intact. A single window on the rear facade has been altered and aluminum storm windows and exterior doors have been added. The building is in good condition and stands on its original site.

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 type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1930 **Builder/Architect** Walter R. Dennis

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Builder: J. P. Johnson

The Barnard Funeral Home is significant as an exceptionally well preserved and singular local commercial example of the Mission Revival style of architecture. Designed by Minneapolis architect, Walter R. Dennis, the building was completed in November, 1930. Stylistic elements of the Mission Revival style exhibited in the design of the facade include round arch forms, balcony, barrel tile, shaped gables with curvilinear lines and smooth stucco surfaces. The building's construction, at the beginning of the Depression, suggests that its owner was a man with a forward view to the future. That man was Edward T. Barnard, an early pioneer of the community. Barnard was born and educated in Minneapolis, arriving in Fergus Falls in 1880. He went to work at the Fergus Falls Journal where he traveled the county selling subscriptions. Around 1900, Barnard left the Journal to begin his own business - furniture and mortuary. In 1930 he closed out his furniture business to devote himself entirely to the mortuary business and built the funeral home to accommodate what he saw as a changing need of his clientele for a modern facility which would perform a variety of services. Barnard was an active member of his community, involved in the Red Cross and Rotary Club as well as being instrumental in the formation of the Otter Tail County Historical Society and the development of its museum. Barnard retired in 1946, selling his business to Otto and Ben Benson who, along with Earl J. Wheeler, continued to serve the community until the early 1950s. At that time the business was sold to Daniel Gearhart who in turn sold it to its present owner, Bruce Nilson, in 1962. The Barnard Funeral Home (now the Nilson Funeral Home) continues today to serve the Fergus Falls community in the fashion for which it was originally built.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet - page 1.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Fergus Falls

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>4</u>	<u>7</u> <u>2</u> <u>5</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>	<u>5</u> <u>1</u> <u>2</u> <u>9</u> <u>5</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

D			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

E			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

F			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

G			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

H			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 3, Block 10, Original Plat.

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

state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A
-------	-----	------	-----	--------	-----	------	-----

state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Camille Kudzia, Preservation Consultant

organization N/A

date August, 1984

street & number 2110 - 24th Avenue South

telephone (612) 338-6123

city or town Minneapolis

state Minnesota

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Russell W. Fridley

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 7/1/86

For HCRS use only

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

[Signature]
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 8-13-86

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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

Barnard Mortuary, Fergus Falls, Otter Tail County, Minnesota

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet Resource Count Item number 8 Page 1

The Barnard Mortuary Nomination contains 1 contributing building.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Barnard Mortuary, Fergus Falls, Otter Tail County, Minnesota

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

"Ben Benson Dies at 77 After Stroke," Fergus Falls Journal. June 21, 1965.

"Ed T. Barnard, Early Pioneer Citizen Dies," Fergus Falls Journal. May 9, 1953.

"E. T. Barnard To Erect Modern Mortuary Here," Fergus Falls Journal.
August 16, 1930.

"Services Monday for Daniel Gearhart," Fergus Falls Journal. July 12, 1968.