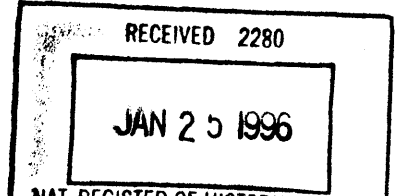


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions on the back of this form. Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Hannah C. and Peter E. Thompson House
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 361 Second Street N.E. not for publication N/A
city or town Barnesville vicinity N/A
state Minnesota code MN county Clay code 027 zip code 56514

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Ian R. Stewart 1-2-96
Signature of certifying official/Title Ian R. Stewart Date
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
State or Federal agency and bureau Minnesota Historical Society

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Edson H. Beall 2/23/96
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
Entered in the
National Register

Hannah C. and Peter E. Thompson House
Name of Property

Clay County, Minnesota
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
	1	sites
		structures
		objects
1	2	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals:
Classical Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Granite
walls Weatherboard
Shingle
roof Shingle
other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Hannah C. and Peter E. Thompson House
Name of Property

Clay County, Minnesota
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is: N/A

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Community Planning and Development

Period of Significance

1902-1920

Significant Dates

1903

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Thompson, Hannah C. and Peter E.

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Hancock, George (architect)

Hancock, Walter B. (architect)

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Clay County Historical Society, Moorhead

Hannah C. and Peter E. Thompson House

Clay County, Minnesota

Name of Property

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References Barnesville, Minn. 1981
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 4	6 9 7 5 6 0	5 1 7 0 0 0 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title See Continuation Sheet

organization _____ date _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

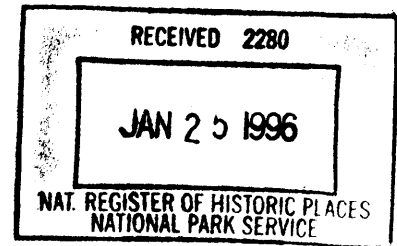
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet



Section number 7 Page 1

Hannah C. and Peter E. Thompson House
Barnesville, Clay County, Minnesota

7. DESCRIPTION

The Hannah C. and Peter E. Thompson House, built in 1902-1903 in Barnesville, Minnesota, is located on a lot on the eastern side of Whiskey Creek (also known in some sources as Willow River), in the eastern part of the city, north of downtown. The house stands on the western side of Second Street Northeast. This portion of Second Street runs in a northeasterly and southwesterly direction, following the creekbed. The house is positioned approximately in the center of the block and is surrounded by houses to the northeast, southeast, and southwest. Whiskey Creek flows a few hundred feet from the rear of the house. The main facade, which faces Second Street Northeast, is approached via a concrete walkway. A driveway also approaches from the street and encircles the house. A one story, two-car woodframe garage sits approximately 75 feet southwest of the house. The remains of a carriage house are located approximately 100 feet northwest of the house. The lot is landscaped with a grass-planted lawn and mature deciduous trees and shrubs. Historic photographs suggest that the original landscaping was similar.

The Hancock Brothers, an architectural firm from Fargo, North Dakota, apparently designed the Thompson House which was constructed in 1902-1903. The house is an excellent and intact example of the Classical Revival style, a style used extensively throughout the United States in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The massive 2 1/2 story woodframe residence rests on a granite block foundation. It has boxlike massing with a two-story hipped-roofed rear wing. It has a steeply-pitched truncated-hipped roof and is sheathed in clapboard siding. The attic story is clad in square-cut wood shingles. The overhanging eaves of the roof are decorated with modillions. The roof is covered with wood shingles and has two brick chimneys. The larger chimney extends from the central flat section of the roof which is surrounded by a "widow's walk" balustrade. The other, more narrow chimney is located on the roof of the rear wing.

The main (eastern) facade is basically symmetrical and is dominated by a one story, flat-roofed open porch approached by wooden steps. This porch, which extends the entire width of the front facade and wraps around the northeastern corner, is supported by pairs and trios of Tuscan columns resting on clapboard bases. Between the column sets are open balustrades with turned balusters. The columns support an entablature with a smooth frieze and dentils. An open wooden balustrade, which is a recent replacement of the original, encircles the top of the porch roof. At some time the porch was extended along the northern facade to the sidewall bay window. A door entered the northern side of the house within the porch. This door opening has been covered with clapboard and the porch has been returned to its apparent original dimensions.

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Barnesville, Clay County, Minnesota

The first story of the main facade has a central entrance with a single-leaf paneled door. There is a large fixed pane window south of the door. North of the door is a one story projecting bay with three 1/1 sash windows. There are simple architraves above the window and door frames.

The second story of the main facade has a central oval window with keystones. Flanking the oval window are two large rectangular window openings, each with a large 1/1 sash window flanked by smaller 1/1 sash windows. The sills of the windows are set on a horizontal band of wood which encircles the house. The lintels of the windows join a simple frieze beneath the overhanging eaves. At the center of the main facade at the attic level is a hipped dormer with two windows. Each window has several small square panes of glass. There are similar dormers on the southern and western facades.

The northeastern and southern facades of the house each feature a 2 1/2 story projecting bay window topped by a polygonal roof. The northern bay window has a small, single fixed-pane window on the first story. At the second story, which encompasses a stairwell, there are tall 1/1 sash windows on all three sides of the bay, with fixed panes over the sashes. Three square, fixed windows with diamond-shaped panes are located at the attic level. The southern bay window features 1/1 sash at the first and second stories.

The northern, southern, and western (rear) facades of the house have rectangular 1/1 sash on the first and second stories. At the southwestern corner is a rare, intact rear porch with a flat roof. The porch is supported by Tuscan columns set on clapboard bases, and has an open balustrade. Wooden steps approach it. Within the porch are two 1/1 sash windows and two doors. The porch roofline has a cornice with dentils and supports a second-story balustrade with square balusters.

The front entrance opens into a vestibule area that leads through another door into a hall. The hall is the entry into several other rooms on the first floor, as well as to the front stairway. The lower walls of the hall are finished in paneled wainscot, while the upper walls are plastered and covered with wallpaper. The ceilings of the hall are finished in plaster with painted detailing. Floor baseboards are molded. All of the front rooms have hardwood flooring. Doors which are located around the hall are five paneled. There are simple architraves above the interior window and door frames.

The front stairs feature a square paneled newel post, turned balusters, paneled wainscoting on the wall, and square finials projecting from the ceiling. The stairs ascend to a landing at the base of the northern facade's bay window. A turned post balustrade edges the top of the stairs in the upstairs hall.

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Barnesville, Clay County, Minnesota

The room located in the northeastern corner of the first floor is a small parlor, lighted by the front-facing bay. This room is distinguished from the hall by a set of wooden columns with Corinthian capitals resting on paneled wood bases.

Southwest of the hall on the first floor is a larger parlor. This room is entered through a wide doorway with pocket doors. The northern wall is canted and features a fireplace with a colored tile surround and floor. A mantel, presumably wood, was once located around the fireplace but has been removed. The exposed plaster where the mantel once stood exhibits handwriting, apparently signed by workers who did interior finish work in the house. The inscription reads "L. Johnson, Fargo, N.D., Sign Peterson, Moorhead, Minn., January 16, 1903."

The parlor opens through a pocket door into the dining room to the west. This room is lighted by the southern bay window, and has ornate ceiling treatment including a painted relief design in the center of the ceiling where the light fixture is set. A door with an oval window exits through the western wall onto the back porch.

The dining room exits into a hallway which is between the kitchen, at the rear of the house, and a library, which is in the center of the northern side. The hall terminates in an open cloak room. The most interesting feature of the hallway is a dumb waiter which is located behind a full-size closet door and is approximately three feet by three feet in dimension.

The kitchen, located in the western portion of the first floor, has been altered from its original design. Two windows in the southern wall replace an original fixed-pane window. At the southwestern corner of the room is a door to the back porch. A door leading to the back stairs is also located on the northern wall in the kitchen.

The second story floor plan features two bedrooms against the eastern wall, another on the northern side, and a bathroom and another bedroom on the southern side. The rear rooms of the second story are reached by a hallway. The door to the attic is located on the southern wall next to the door for the dumb waiter. Another bathroom and small bedroom are located in the rear of the house. Some of the second story woodwork retains its original hand-painted wood grain finish and some has been painted. The second story floors have been painted.

The attic is accessed by stairs located on the southern wall. The stairs terminate in an open room with slanted ceilings. The room features a skylight and tongue-in-groove wainscoting. The room extends to the south where it enters two separate rooms. The room located on the northern side is

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Barnesville, Clay County, Minnesota

small, with the bay window creating a multi-faceted ceiling. The other room, located in the southeastern corner of the attic story, is illuminated by the southern and eastern dormer windows. This room features new cabinets and counters and is used as an office.

The garage is a one story, woodframe, gable-roofed building on a concrete foundation. It houses two cars, and is accessed through a hinged door. It was moved to this location sometime in the early 1950s. The garage is non-contributing to the property.

The foundation of the carriage house, which was contemporary with the house, are located northwest of the house on the slope which leads down to Whiskey Creek. The foundation is stone and is covered with a concrete floor. Historic photographs of the carriage house indicate that it was a two story woodframe building with a jerkinhead roof. The superstructure of the carriage house was removed from the site sometime in the 1950s by Julian Thompson. The remains of the carriage house are non-contributing to the property due to loss of integrity.

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Hannah C. and Peter E. Thompson House is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C in the area of Architecture, and under Criterion B in the area of Community Planning and Development. The house is believed to have been designed by the Hancock Brothers, one of North Dakota's most prominent architectural firms, and is an intact and locally rare example of the Classical Revival style. The Thompson House is historically significant as the only surviving property in Barnesville which is strongly associated with Hannah C. and Peter E. Thompson, locally regarded as the founders of Barnesville and persons who made outstanding contributions to the early development of the city. The property is significant within the statewide historic context entitled "Railroads and Agricultural Development 1870-1940."

CRITERION C

Built in 1902-1903, the Thompson House is almost certainly the work of the Hancock Brothers of Fargo, one of North Dakota's most prolific and talented architectural firms. Several pieces of evidence strongly support this attribution. First, the Thompson House is nearly identical to the Hancock Brothers' W. J. Howe House in Fargo, which was built in 1898. The original drawings for the Howe House show a house almost exactly like the Thompson House, except that the Thompson House has a rear wing. The interior floor plans, drawings of porch details, and interior hall and stair details shown on the plans are also very similar.

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Secondly, in a journal kept by Hannah Thompson regarding the Thompsons' expenses from 1905-1907, a check was written to the Hancock Brothers on November 4, 1907, for \$11.60, indicating that the Hancock Brothers did some work for the Thompsons and suggesting that they probably designed the entire house (P. E. Thompson Collection).

Finally, the Hancock Brothers designed the home of the Thompsons' friend, attorney Charles S. Marden, which was built next door to the Thompson House in 1902. Like the Thompson House, the Marden House is a large, ornate, woodframe Classical Revival style house with a basically symmetrical facade (see photograph in Harrison 1982, 259). Both houses are typical of the Hancock Brothers' work of the period, and their similarity suggests that they were designed by the same firm. Furthermore, it is unlikely that a competing architect would have copied the Hancocks' design for the Howe House and then used it directly next door to another of the Hancocks' commissions. (The Marden House was moved from Barnesville to Lincoln Avenue in Fergus Falls in 1934.)

George and Walter B. Hancock designed the Thompson House in 1902-1903 at the height of their careers. The house is typical of their residential work of the early 20th century, and is significant as one of few works of the Hancock Brothers known to be standing in Minnesota.

George Hancock (1849-1924), the son of a Gloucestershire, England farmer, received a four-year scholarship to attend the Department of Science and Art at the South Kensington Institute, now the Victoria and Albert Museum in England. The Hancock family attended an Episcopal church at Uley, England, which was designed by architect S. S. Teulon. This church was one of several fine examples of Gothic Revival architecture in the area, and may have inspired Hancock's early work. Also, a large country house at Woodchester Park, two miles from George Hancock's boyhood home, was being built in the 1850s by architect Benjamin Bucknall, one of the most extreme of the Gothic Revivalists. Architectural historian Ronald Ramsay, who has studied the Hancocks' work extensively, wrote in 1980: "Aside from the sophisticated ideas which must have circulated at the school, the only other clues to Hancock's early architectural experiences exist in the vicinity of his childhood" (Ramsay 1980, 9). Ramsay suggests that these experiences influenced George Hancock's later designs in the United States.

In 1882 George Hancock opened an architectural firm in Fargo, Dakota Territory, approximately 30 miles northwest of Barnesville. Walter B. Hancock (1863-1929), 15 years younger than this brother George, followed George from England to Fargo in circa 1882 and first served as an apprentice in the firm. Within a year of opening the office, George Hancock drew the attention of Episcopal Missionary Bishop William David Walker, the first Episcopal bishop of North Dakota. Bishop Walker authorized the construction

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of 12 new churches within the first five years he was bishop, and of those 12 Hancock designed at least seven beginning with Grace Church in Jamestown (Ramsay 1980, 10). One of the most notable designs was St. Stephen's in Casselton, North Dakota, built in 1885, which was financed by General George W. Cass, President of the Northern Pacific Railroad, as a memorial to his sons. The design of these churches, most Gothic Revival in style, launched George's career as a designer in the U.S. and undoubtedly provided him with leads to many subsequent commissions (Ramsay 1995).

Thanks in large part to the Episcopal church commissions and to the tremendous expansionary settlement of the so-called "Dakota Boom" of 1878-1888, the Hancocks' business flourished. By 1886 they had expanded into both Minnesota and Montana and had opened a branch office in Bozeman, Montana, 600 miles west of Fargo. "This period of their career is interesting not only because [their practice] spread simultaneously east and west over a distance of 800 miles--a formidable task even today--but also because it was Episcopal church design which continued to play a pivotal role in their practice. In 1890 the Hancock Brothers designed churches at Bozeman and Anaconda, Montana, and Marshall, Minnesota, continuing the themes that George had developed in North Dakota during the previous decade" (Ramsay 1980, 11). By 1889, however, North Dakota was in the grips of a severe drought and agricultural depression and the construction of Episcopal churches in the state began to slow.

During this period, Walter enrolled in a three-year architecture program at Syracuse University in New York, graduating in 1889. He returned to Fargo and joined George as a full partner in the firm. Ramsay writes that Walter's contribution to the firm "seems to have been the introduction of the Richardsonian Romanesque style he had seen as an architectural student at Syracuse" which expanded the firm's range beyond the Gothic Revival, Stick Style, and Romanesque Revival modes in which they had been designing. Ramsay speculates that Walter may, in fact, be responsible for introducing the Richardsonian Romanesque into the state of North Dakota (Ramsay 1980, 11). Between 1891-1893, the Hancocks designed a number of the state's best examples of the style, including the First Congregational Church at 224 S. 8th St. and the Unitarian Church at 121 S. 9th St., both in Fargo, Old Main at North Dakota State University (N.D.S.U.) in Fargo, and the North Dakota State Reform School at Mandan (Ramsay Horizons, 7).

The economic crash of 1893 drove most practicing architects out of North Dakota, leaving the Hancock Brothers as premier in the field. Then in June of 1893, a huge fire devastated 90 percent of downtown Fargo and business overflowed for the Brothers. They closed their operations in Montana and focused on the massive rebuilding effort in Fargo. Ramsay writes, "Several 'carpetbagger' architects came to town to cash in on the building bonanza, but George and Walter had been [in Fargo] through good times and bad and the

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city repaid them with the lion's share of the work" (Ramsay Horizons, 7). The Hancock Brothers were well-connected socially and undoubtedly secured many commissions through their associations with the Episcopal Church, Masonic and other fraternal organizations, and various social and professional clubs. Walter Hancock also served on the board of directors of the Dakota National Bank and the Dakota Trust.

Following the Chicago Columbian Exposition of 1893 (which occurred the year of the Fargo fire), the Hancock Brothers, like many architects in the Midwest, took a renewed interest in Classical and Beaux-Arts styles. These influences are seen in at least 15 extant commercial buildings in downtown Fargo which were designed by the Hancock Brothers between the mid-1890s and the 1920s, and numerous residences, including the Thompson House. In Fargo, the Hancock Brothers designed a number of large, woodframe Classical Revival style houses in the exclusive residential neighborhood south of downtown including the Thomas Baker Jr. House (circa 1897), the William Rentschler House (1899), the Frank F. Grant House (1899), the John C. Hunter House (1898), the Frank E. Corson House (1898), and the E. P. Sundberg House (1905) (Roberts 1983, 99-101, 103).

The Hancock Brothers were prolific during a practice which lasted more than 40 years. They designed churches, commercial buildings, institutional structures, and residences. Among their best-known works in Fargo are the Lewis Bandstand in Island Park, the Waldorf Hotel, Gethsemane Cathedral, Ceres Hall at N.D.S.U., the First Unitarian Church (1892) at 117-21 9th St. S., the Poritt Building (1896), the Buffalo-Pitts Building (1901), St. John's Hospital (1904), the Walter L. Stockwell House (1914), the E. C. Geary House (1900), the Eva L. Bush House (1907), and many other buildings in the central business district (Roberts 1983, 97-98). During the early 20th century, they also published a monthly promotional magazine entitled Architecture from their offices at 113 Broadway Avenue in Fargo. At least ten issues were published between November 1906 and August 1907. Issues in 1907 featured plans and drawings of such works as the Feeble Minded Institution in Grafton, St. Michael's Hospital in Grand Forks, St. John's Hospital and St. John's Nurses Home in Fargo, St. Luke's Hospital in Fargo, the Carnegie Library in Fargo, the Waldorf Hotel in Fargo, the Bristol and Sweet Building in Fargo, the Masonic Temple in Fargo, St. John's Orphanage in Fargo, a fire station in Fargo, the Gardner Hotel in Fargo, the Episcopal Church in Bozeman, the Hancock Brothers' Buildings in Fargo, and numerous residences.

In 1924, at the age of 74 years, George Hancock died. Walter continued the practice until his death in 1929.

The Hancock Brothers' work in Minnesota is less well documented and a complete list of their commissions in the state has not been compiled. Their works in Minnesota include the St. Mark's Episcopal Church (1890) in

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Marshall, St. Paul's Episcopal Church (1892) in Pipestone, St. Helen's Episcopal Church (1895) in Wadena, the Thompson House (1902-1903) in Barnesville, the Marden House (1902) in Barnesville (moved to Fergus Falls), and the Hotel Kaddatz (1914) in Fergus Falls (listed on the NRHP on February 2, 1983). Interestingly, Barnesville, Fergus Falls, and Wadena are located close to Fargo. Ramsay also indicates that buildings designed by the Hancock Brothers also probably stand in Moorhead (located across the Red River from Fargo), and that the firm may have designed buildings in the area of Detroit Lakes, about 30 miles east of Fargo-Moorhead, where the Hancocks maintained a summer home (Ramsay 1995).

In addition to its importance within the work of the Hancock Brothers, the Thompson House is significant locally as one of Barnesville's largest and most intact turn-of-the-century homes and as one of the town's most elaborate examples of the Classical Revival style. There are approximately three other houses in Barnesville which are as large and as early as the Thompson House, including the Queen Anne style McGrath House (1897), the Queen Anne style Patterson-Hernandez House (circa 1898) (listed on the NRHP on May 7, 1980), and the Solum House (1907) which is a blend of the Classical Revival and Craftsman styles. The Thompson House is one of the most intact of the three. In addition, Barnesville has several architecturally distinctive houses which are smaller and later than the Thompson House including the Craftsman style Halvorson House (1913), the Craftsman style Huxley House (1914), and the Colonial Revival style Patterson House (1922). The vast majority of pre-World War II homes in Barnesville are relatively small woodframe examples of late 19th and early 20th century vernacular designs. While some commercial buildings and residences in Barnesville retain some elements of the Classical Revival, the Thompson House is the building which best displays the influence of the 1893 Columbian Exposition in the largest and most ornate local example of the style.

CRITERION B

Barnesville, located in the fertile Red River Valley approximately 30 miles southeast of Fargo-Moorhead, is now the second largest town in Clay County with a population of about 2,000 people. The town grew as a result of the building of railroad lines across western Minnesota which allowed the agricultural resources of the area to be developed and exported. By 1871, the Northern Pacific and the St. Paul and Pacific Railroads had laid tracks from Minneapolis-St. Paul to Moorhead and Breckenridge respectively. One year later, the St. Paul and Pacific constructed a rail line known as the St. Vincent Extension which crossed the Northern Pacific line at Glyndon and extended northward past Crookston to Pembina. Then, on December 17, 1879, the tracks of the St. Paul and Pacific, extending northwest from St. Cloud, were built to the site of present-day Barnesville.

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The first settlement near Barnesville was born in 1874 when grain buyer George Barnes (1840-1912) established a store and grain collection center in a railroad boxcar at the southern end of the St. Vincent Extension crossing, approximately seven miles from present-day Barnesville (Harrison 1982, 6; Barnesville Record-Review 1982). Three years later, when the extension was linked to the main line at Breckenridge, Barnes transplanted his store east by six and one-half miles. When the St. Paul and Pacific was built to the site of present-day Barnesville in 1879 Barnes again followed the dominant railroad line and moved his business eastward (Harrison 1982, 6; Barnesville Record-Review 1982).

The Thompsons became associated with Barnes' growing enterprise in 1878 when Peter Thompson began to work as a clerk in the store. The two had met several years earlier in Glyndon, Minnesota, where Thompson worked for Barnes and later purchased his store. Peter E. Thompson had been born in Dane County, Wisconsin, in 1852, and had moved to Pelican Rapids in the early 1870s where he purchased a piece of land for farming. By 1875, Thompson had left farming to work as grain dealer with Barnes in Glyndon. Two years later, he had married Hannah C. Ohlsen of Evansville, Minnesota.

Thompson soon became part-owner of Barnes' store at present-day Barnesville. He bought the rest of Barnes' share in 1880, succeeding him in the mercantile business which became the core of the settlement of Barnesville. It was the first of a handful of general stores, hardware stores, groceries, drug stores, and implement dealerships which were established in Barnesville to sell goods to pioneers who were establishing new farms in surrounding Clay County and elsewhere in the Red River Valley.

The P. E. Thompson Company store was located in various buildings in Barnesville, all of which have apparently been razed. One of the first stores, a small woodframe structure, was moved on skids to several different locations (Barnesville Record-Review 1982). (A building which was constructed circa 1915 by a successor firm, the Thompson-Phillipi Company, still stands in Barnesville but has been altered considerably (Clay County Illustrated, 110; Haugen 1995).)

Barnesville's growth was assured in 1885 when the Great Northern Railroad (successor to the St. Paul and Pacific) established a division repair operation in Barnesville. The facility included a roundhouse and repair shops, employed an average of 100 workers, and increased the per capita income in Barnesville substantially (Barnesville Record-Review 1982; Turner and Semling 1918, 104; Moorhead Independent Jan. 5, 1900; Snell 1898, 24). Since the railroad shops were located several blocks east of downtown Barnesville, merchants moved their businesses closer to the shops. "New Barnesville", as this area was called, had been previously platted by the Thompsons in 1878 (Harvey 1982, 236; Turner and Semling 1918, 102-103;

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Simison 1963, 2).

Competition developed between those who had invested in the two portions of Barnesville, and in 1885, some Barnesville residents pushed successfully to incorporate New Barnesville as a separate village. The two halves remained separate until April of 1889 when a joint city charter was enacted. Thompson was chosen to serve as mayor during the first election after joint municipal incorporation (Moorhead Independent Jan. 5, 1900).

Thanks to jobs provided by the railroad shops and the expansion of farming in the region, Barnesville continued to flourish. By 1890, the population had reached 1,069 and just ten years later it rose to 1,326 (Barnesville Record-Review 1982).

As Barnesville grew, Peter Thompson emerged as a prominent leader and was often referred to as the "Father" of the community. He served as the first postmaster from 1878 to 1885, was elected the first justice when Barnesville was incorporated as a village in 1881, was elected to the city council in 1884 and served on the council for many years, was elected mayor in 1889 after the two sections of the town united, and served on the county board of commissioners. Thompson was then elected to the Minnesota legislature and served two terms beginning in 1891. The Barnesville Review stated in 1898, "He has seen every building in town erected, and no one is more thoroughly familiar with the ups and downs of the village during its up-building. . . . He was the first man who saw the advantages the place possessed and took advantage of them" (quoted in Barnesville Record-Review 1982, 4). The Thompsons also donated land for Barnesville's first school building, for Our Savior's Lutheran Church, for the Congregational church, and for a city park (Barnesville Record-Review 1982; Tornell 1987).

The Thompsons invested in a number of other businesses in Barnesville, in addition to operating the general store for 19 years until 1899. For example, in 1894 Peter Thompson became the first Vice President and a director of the newly-organized First National Bank. Thompson speculated heavily in real estate. He platted large portions of the Barnesville townsite and bought and sold thousands of acres of farmland in the area (Barnesville Record-Review 1982; Harrison 1982, 24). In February of 1902 he returned from a business trip to Salt Lake City and Denver during which he "made arrangements to bring a colony of Mormons to Clay County" (Barnesville Review Feb. 13, 1902).

The Thompsons lived in various buildings in Barnesville, beginning with quarters in the rear of their store where they lived from circa 1878-1880. In about 1880 they built a house on Front Street (razed) which was reportedly the first house built in Barnesville (Barnesville Record-Review 1982). The Thompsons also apparently lived for a short time in other houses which they

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had speculatively built and then sold. They purchased the building site for their new house in 1888.

The name of the contractor who built the Thompson House in 1902-1903 is not known. It may have been built by D. W. Tulley who built the Marden House next door in 1902 which was also designed by the Hancock Brothers. An article in the Barnesville Record dated April 17, 1902, noted that Thompson's \$20,000 house would stand as the "finest in Clay County" (Garven 1992, 16). When the Thompsons occupied their new house in 1903, Peter was 50 years old and Hannah was 45.

In 1904, a year after the Thompson House was completed, Peter Thompson became a partner in Thompson, Felde and Company, another general merchandise firm. This company was succeeded by the Thompson-Phillipi Company which remained in the family after Peter Thompson's death. At this time Thompson was also still serving as Vice President of the First National Bank, had been president of the Building and Loan Association for several years, was again alderman for the first ward, and was first district deputy for the local Knights of Pythias lodge (Barnesville Review May 2, 1902; Barnesville Record-Review Jan. 26, 1905).

The relationship between Peter E. Thompson and the community of Barnesville is typical of a pattern seen in many small railroad communities in western Minnesota. Thompson was a Middle-Westerner of "Yankee" or Old Stock American descent. He arrived in the Barnesville area with capital in hand, previous business experience, and professional and business connections with other entrepreneurs elsewhere. Many of the towns of western and southern Minnesota were similarly settled by Yankee or Old Stock Americans who saw the nascent towns as business opportunities ripe for development. In addition to establishing stores, grain elevators, banks, and mills, these early citizens often founded many of a community's governmental, religious, and social institutions. Many Yankee entrepreneurs were acquainted with the stockholders and developers of the railroad lines which were built across the region in the 1870s-1910, and used these connections to speculatively purchase real estate for townsites and farm land.

Unfortunately, much less has been recorded of the contributions of Hannah C. Thompson. Born September 8, 1857 at Port Washington, Wisconsin, she moved with her parents Peter and Marie Ohlsen to Evansville, Douglas County, Minnesota in 1867. She married Peter Thompson in 1877 in Downer, Clay County, Minnesota where they resided till 1878, when they moved to the Barnesville area. She was the first woman to live permanently in Barnesville, and "to find a home, rear a family and to give out her whole life work to enrich this community" as the local newspaper wrote (Barnesville Record-Review June 24, 1920).

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Hannah Thompson served Barnesville through civic, charitable, and church work. This pattern is typical of many women in her social position in newly-established Minnesota communities who often accepted the challenges of transforming crude frontier villages into towns with cultural, educational, and social amenities. Since women were generally blocked socially from holding elected office and were unable to vote, they often concentrated on civic projects as an outlet for public service. Hannah was active in developing the Barnesville Cemetery, assisted in the home chapter of the Red Cross, and organized and assisted Red Cross branches in neighboring townships. She was also one of Barnesville's premier hostesses, and many of her large luncheons and other gatherings are described in the Barnesville newspaper through the 1910s.

Hannah was the mother of seven children and is also regarded locally as the "Mother of Barnesville." The Barnesville Record-Review wrote,

In the early days homes here were small and scarce; the growing enterprises of her husband needed the services of many helpers and they were recruited from the boys and young men of the countrysides of Barnesville. Though Mrs. Thompson had the care of her own growing family, there was always 'room for one more' in her household for these young employees and she made each one feel welcome. . . . Her home from the beginning was always open to ministers and their families who came here to conduct services and it mattered not whether they were in the service of her own church, the Lutheran, or not, and many an early pastor and their families can bear testimony of her generosity to them in those days when money and the necessities of life were very scarce (Barnesville Record-Review June 24, 1920).

Following her husband's untimely death in 1905, Hannah Thompson continued her community work. The Record-Review wrote of Hannah's civic projects:

Her hospitality and generosity was in no way confined to those early days, but continued in a simple and unostentatious way to the end of her life, and especially at Christmas time she found her greatest joy in bringing good cheer to the aged, ill, and afflicted who needed a friend. As her children grew up and financial independence relieved her of many former home duties, she did not interpret that as an opportunity for ease and an idle life, but rather as a call for a greater public service to this community, and to that end she continually kept abreast of the times and kept in close touch with every movement for the public welfare (Barnesville Record-Review June 24, 1920).

After Hannah's death in 1920, the house was occupied her son George Thompson. In 1953, another son, Julian, moved to the house. He lived there until his death in 1975 (Garven 1992, 16).

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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description:

Lot Ten (10), Thompson's Subdivision of Government Lots One (1) and Two (2),
Section Thirty (30), Township 137 North, Range Five (5) West of the 5th P.M.;
and Lots Seven (7), Eight (8), Nine (9), Ten (10), and Eleven (11), excepting
the South 10 feet of Lot 11, plus that portion of Lots 11 and 12 as will be
cut off from the Northwestern corner as follows: Beginning 10 feet of the
Southeastern corner of said Lot 11; thence running in a Northwesterly
direction (which is the South line of the above described property) 136 feet
parallel with the South line of Lot 11, thence running 75 feet due West to
Willow River, all in Block 1, Thompson's First Addition to the City of
Barnesville.

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Boundary Justification

The boundary of the nominated property includes the parcel historically associated with the Hannah C. and Peter E. Thompson House.

11. FORM PREPARED BY

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