



**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 *Barnes Block*

historic *Chippewa Valley Bank Building*

and/or common *Barnes Block (preferred)*

2. Location

street & number *15-21* *15-21 South Barstow St.* not for publication

city, town *Eau Claire* vicinity of *Third* congressional district

state *Wisconsin* code *55* county *Eau Claire* code *035*

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input 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 checked="" 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 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
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name *Frank Stone, The Paul Thomas Studios*

street & number *Route 1, Box 217*

city, town *Clayton* vicinity of *Wisconsin* state *54004*

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. *Eau Claire County Courthouse*

street & number *201 West Grand Avenue*

city, town *Eau Claire* vicinity of *Wisconsin* state *54701*

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title *Wis. Inventory of Historic Places* has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date *1973, 1978* federal state county local

depository for survey records *State Historical Society of Wisconsin*

city, town *Madison* vicinity of *Wisconsin* state *53706*

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" 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 Barnes Block is a three-story commercial structure that dominates one of the most prominent commercial intersections in Eau Claire. The imposing building is faced with rusticated stone block at the first level and with a muted red brick at the second and third levels. This combination of building materials and certain key stylistic features links the building with Richardsonian Romanesque architectural design of the late 19th century.

Features that particularly distinguish the building include the round corner tower with a slate conical roof, and the round-arched entrance to the upper stories on the west side. The simple cornice is accented by three gablets, trimmed with rusticated stone finials and stone arches. Narrow, two-story molded brick piers frame the three gabled units. Rusticated stone sills, lintels, and courses highlight the fenestration, largely composed of double-hung sash.

The exterior of the building is intact, with the exception of alterations in openings on the ground story. One window in the corner tower has been converted to a doorway. Other alterations include the loss of the stone finials that topped the piers rising from the second story defining the gabled units, and the removal of some chimneys on the south side. At the north end of the first story, Carrara glass and new entrances have been added.

The interior of the building is substantially altered at the first floor, but essentially intact at the upper floors. Ceilings have been lowered, and partitions have been added at the first floor, and woodwork has been painted. Upstairs, the woodwork is a distinguishing feature. It is mostly unpainted. Decorative brass hardware is still found throughout the building. Second floor rooms still have pressed tin ceilings. The large windows, light woodwork, and high ceilings lend the rooms a light and airy feeling.

Immediately to the north of the Barnes Block is a smaller two-story brick and rusticated-stone commercial building that is considered part of the Barnes Block despite its difference in size. The two buildings share a party wall, and there is access between the buildings at the second floor. This building was allegedly designed by the same architect and built by the same contractor. A brick gablet and overlit windows with stone sills and lintels link the building stylistically to the main block, as do the construction materials. However, the decorative brick friezes on the two-story structure are more elaborate, dominating the rusticated trim. The ground story storefront has been largely modified, but the second story is intact. This building is included in the nomination. The contiguous building to the west formerly matched this structure, but alterations have obscured the facade.

The present owner is in the process of substantially restoring the Barnes Block. Restoration of the first floor windows and west storefronts will occur in the near future. Cleaning of the woodwork, removal of the tile, and a general refurbishing are presently taking place inside. Refurbishment of the first floor will occur after the present lease expires in 1980.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input 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 1893-94¹ **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Barnes Block is the best surviving example of grand-scale commercial design in the Richardsonian Romanesque mode in the city of Eau Claire. Constructed a decade after the conflagration that destroyed the city's business district in 1882, the building is part of the now early physical character of Eau Claire and an important remnant of one of the dominant building traditions of the nineteenth century. The prominent corner location of the former Chippewa Valley Bank is typical of large banking establishments, linking this building historically with others of its kind in other American cities and towns, and logically with successful bankers B. A. Buffington, H. C. Putnam, and Thomas F. Frawley, who organized the bank. Buffington, who began his business career as a grocer and logger, rose to become treasurer of the bank, University of Wisconsin Regent, and served in the Wisconsin General Assembly from 1897-1901.² Putnam, who settled in Eau Claire in 1857, was also a surveyor and Register of Deeds; he is recognized as a leading figure in the commercial history of the city. Thomas F. Frawley was admitted to the bar in 1880, and was a member of the Democratic Convention in 1892, Permanent Chairman of the State Democratic Convention from 1896 until his death in 1902, President of Eau Claire's Commercial Council, and a member of the Board of Education.

The crisp lines and texture of the contrasting stone rustication and the tight organization of elements distinguish the building as a piece of design. The added boon of the smaller complementary building next door testifies to the versatility of the architect and of the style. Extensive exterior and interior restoration promises to return the original dignity of the design.

¹Real estate assessment rolls, City of Eau Claire.

²Bailey, History of Eau Claire County..., p. 5.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bailey, Judge William F., editor, History of Eau Claire County, Wisconsin, Past and Present, C. F. Cooper, Chicago, 1914.

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property c. 0.4

Quadrangle name Eau Claire West, Wis.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	5	6	1	8	5	3	0	4	9	6	3	0	4	0
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

See Continuation sheet

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

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dr. Ingolf Vogeler, Settlement Geographer

organization University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire date January 1980

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town Eau Claire state Wisconsin 54701

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 Richard Murray

title Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin date 10/29/80

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>Thomas Van Buren</u>	date <u>1/22/82</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest: <u>Linda M. Clelland</u>	date <u>1/21/82</u>
Chief of Registration	

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Barnes Block, Eau Claire, Wisconsin

Continuation sheet

Item number 10, 11

Page 1



10. Verbal Boundary Description:

15 South Barstow: the North 15 feet of Lot 3 and the South 10 feet of Lot 4, Block 1, Drummond, Cameron and Eau Claire Lumber Co. Subdivision and Addition to the City of Eau Claire.

17 South Barstow: Lot 2 and the South 11 feet, 4.5 inches of Lot 3, Block 1, Drummond, Cameron and Eau Claire Lumber Co. Subdivision and Addition to the City of Eau Claire.

21 South Barstow: Lot 1, Block 1, Drummond, Cameron and Eau Claire Lumber Co. Subdivision and Addition to the City of Eau Claire.

11. Form Prepared By:

Barbara Wyatt, Survey and Planning Coordinator, Historic Preservation Division

State Historical Society of Wisconsin July 1980

816 State Street 608/262-8904

Madison Wisconsin 53706

Diane H. Filipowicz, Architectural Historian, Historic Preservation Division

State Historical Society of Wisconsin July 1980

816 State Street 608/262-2970

Madison Wisconsin 53706