

*See previous form*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED JUL 12 1978  
DATE ENTERED NOV 30 1978

**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

C.J. Wright House

AND/OR COMMON

C.J. Wright House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

831 Mount Faith Avenue East

\_\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Fergus Falls

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
7th

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Minnesota

CODE

22

COUNTY

Otter Tail

CODE

111 ✓

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- \_\_\_ DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- \_\_\_ STRUCTURE
- \_\_\_ SITE
- \_\_\_ OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- \_\_\_ PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- \_\_\_ BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- \_\_\_ IN PROCESS
- \_\_\_ BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- \_\_\_ UNOCCUPIED
- \_\_\_ WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- \_\_\_ YES: RESTRICTED
- \_\_\_ YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- \_\_\_ AGRICULTURE
- \_\_\_ MUSEUM
- \_\_\_ COMMERCIAL
- \_\_\_ PARK
- \_\_\_ EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- \_\_\_ ENTERTAINMENT
- \_\_\_ RELIGIOUS
- \_\_\_ GOVERNMENT
- \_\_\_ SCIENTIFIC
- \_\_\_ INDUSTRIAL
- \_\_\_ TRANSPORTATION
- \_\_\_ MILITARY
- \_\_\_ OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mrs. Elsie W. Brown ✓

STREET & NUMBER

831 Mount Faith Avenue East

CITY, TOWN

Fergus Falls

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Minnesota

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Registry of Deeds/Otter Tail County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Fergus Falls

STATE

Minnesota

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Fergus Falls Historic Preservation Commission Inventory

DATE

1977

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Fergus Falls Historic Preservation Commission

CITY, TOWN

Fergus Falls

STATE

Minnesota

# 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 C.J. Wright House is situated on an expansive wooded site on the eastern fringe of Fergus Falls, Minnesota. Constructed in 1881-82, this two-and-one-half story frame residence is executed in a variant of the stick-style mode of the Gothic Revival style which was popular in Minnesota during the late 1870's and early 1880's. In massing, however, there is an obvious tendency toward the more romanticized Queen Anne which is indicated by the irregular plan.

The primary Gothic design feature is the treatment of the gables. Each gable is adorned by a scissor-truss, with an eight-pointed star medallion at the crossing, which extends from a point near the apex of the gable and terminates in a rudimentary scroll at the end of the flaring eaveline. This truss-like decoration is utilized in each of the four gables of the main portion of the house. Within each gable, the attic story is sheathed with vertical boards, with simple pierced decoration which terminates in a sawtooth pattern at the second story level. Attic windows are pointed. The remainder of the building is sheathed in clapboard.

A spacious wraparound porch, one story in height, covers both the entire south (front) facade and the areas to the front of the projecting gables on the east and west facades. Although presently screened, the porch retains original posts with scroll-sawn spandrels; these spandrels are also in the Gothic mode as is evidenced by the utilization of the tri-foil leaf form. The roof of the porch is flat and is sheathed in metal. A scalloped-shingle parapet shields a second-story deck, which is accessible by a door on the south facade.

A low two story frame addition is located at the rear. It has a porch which is partially screened and partially enclosed. This originally served as kitchen and servants' quarters.

The interior of the house has been modified to accommodate changes in function for some of the rooms. Original black-walnut woodwork, staircase, and a fireplace mantle from George B. Wright's (C.J. Wright's uncle) house in Minneapolis remain. The residence continues to serve decendants of the original builder and remains in a good state of preservation.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input 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      1881-82      ~~HOUSE~~/ARCHITECT      G.B. Wright & C.J. Wright

---

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Charles Johnson Wright (C.J. Wright) House at 831 Mount Faith Avenue East in Fergus Falls was begun under the direction of George B. Wright in 1881. G.B. Wright came to the area after having lived in Minneapolis; he was actively involved in the surveying and land-developing of the new town of Fergus Falls and the surrounding area. While the house was still under construction, G.B. Wright's nephew, C.J. Wright, came to Fergus Falls from Vermont for the purpose of working with his uncle on the survey. Shortly thereafter, G.B. Wright contracted typhoid and died, leaving the unfinished house to his nephew. Construction was completed in 1882. It has since continued to be occupied by decendants of the Wright family. They have carefully preserved the house.

The C.J. Wright House is a fine example of the Stick-style Gothic influence on residential architecture in Minnesota during the late nineteenth century. It has retained such features as decorative scissor-trusses in the gables and black walnut interior woodwork.

The C.J. Wright House has been designated for preservation by the Fergus Falls Historic Preservation Commission and the City Council.



*Revised form*

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 C.J. Wright House

and/or common C.J. Wright House

## 2. Location

street & number 831 Mount Faith Avenue East \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Fergus Falls \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district 7th

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name Mrs. Elsie W. Brown

street & number 831 Mount Faith Avenue East

city, town Fergus Falls \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of state Minnesota

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registry of Deeds/Otter Tail County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Fergus Falls \_\_\_\_\_ state Minnesota

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Fergus Falls Historic Preservation  
title Commission Inventory has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_ no

date 1977 \_\_\_\_\_ federal \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ county  local

depository for survey records Fergus Falls Historic Preservation Commission

city, town Fergus Falls \_\_\_\_\_ state Minnesota

## 7. Description

### Condition

excellent

good

fair

deteriorated

ruins

unexposed

### Check one

unaltered

altered

### Check one

original site

moved date \_\_\_\_\_

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The C.J. Wright House is situated on an expansive wooded site on the eastern fringe of Fergus Falls, Minnesota. Constructed in 1881-82, this two-and-one-half story frame residence is executed in a variant of the stick-style mode of the Gothic Revival style which was popular in Minnesota during the late 1870's and early 1880's. In massing, however, there is an obvious tendency toward the more romanticized Queen Anne which is indicated by the irregular plan.

The primary Gothic design feature is the treatment of the gables. Each gable is adorned by a scissor-truss, with an eight-pointed star medallion at the crossing, which extends from a point near the apex of the gable and terminates in a rudimentary scroll at the end of the flaring eaveline. This truss-like decoration is utilized in each of the four gables of the main portion of the house. Within each gable, the attic story is sheathed with vertical boards, with simple pierced decoration which terminates in a sawtooth pattern at the second story level. Attic windows are pointed. The remainder of the building is sheathed in clapboard.

A spacious wraparound porch, one story in height, covers both the entire south (front) facade and the areas to the front of the projecting gables on the east and west facades. Although presently screened, the porch retains original posts with scroll-sawn spandrels; these spandrels are also in the Gothic mode as is evidenced by the utilization of the tri-foil leaf form. The roof of the porch is flat and is sheathed in metal. A scalloped-shingle parapet shields a second-story deck, which is accessible by a door on the south facade.

A low two story frame addition is located at the rear. It has a porch which is partially screened and partially enclosed. This originally served as kitchen and servants' quarters.

The interior of the house has been modified to accommodate changes in function for some of the rooms. Original black-walnut woodwork, staircase, and a fireplace mantle from George B. Wright's (C.J. Wright's uncle) house in Minneapolis remain. The residence continues to serve decendants of the original builder and remains in a good state of preservation.

# 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** 1881-82      **Builder/Architect** J.O. Crummett in conjunction with C.J. Wright  
 Leroy S. Buffington

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Charles Johnson Wright House at 831 Mount Faith Avenue East in Fergus Falls was erected according to designs supplied by noted Minneapolis architect Leroy S. Buffington and under the direction of C.J. Wright in 1881. A local carpenter, J.O. Crummett, was the builder. Shortly before construction of the house began, C.J. Wright and his uncle George B. Wright moved to Fergus Falls for the purpose of surveying for land developments within the new community. Shortly thereafter, George B. Wright contracted typhoid and died. C.J. Wright remained in Fergus Falls and saw the house through to completion in 1882. It has since been occupied and preserved by decendents of the Wright family.

The C.J. Wright House is a fine example of the Stick-style Gothic influence on residential architecture in Minnesota during the late mineteenth century. It has retained such features as decorative scissor-trusses in the gables and black walnut interior woodwork.

The C.J. Wright House has been designated for preservation by the Fergus Falls Historic Preservation Commission and the City Council.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Interviews: Florence L. DeBruyn (July 4, 1977)  
 Elsie W. Brown

Fergus Falls City Directory (1883) p. 26

Fergus Falls Weekly Journal, October 3, 1881

Narrative: "The C.J. Wright House" by Florence Lemyra DeBruyn, July 4, 1977

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 4 2/3 acres

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

### UMT References

A 

1	4	7	2	6	3	8	0	5	1	3	0	0	2	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

### 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 Charles W. Nelson, Architectural Historian

organization Minnesota Historical Society date May 11, 1978

street & number Building 25, Fort Snelling telephone 726-1171

city or town St. Paul state Minnesota 55111

# 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

Russell W. Fridley

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 11/29/79

For HCERS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	date
Keeper of the National Register	date
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	date

*Additional information added to property 11/30/79 - N. Register*