

**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 in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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.

## 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Farren Memorial Hospital

Other names/site number: Farren Care Center

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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

## 2. Location

Street & number: 330-340 Montague City Road

City or town: Montague State: Massachusetts County: Franklin

Not For Publication:  x N.A Vicinity:

## 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

\_\_\_ national      \_\_\_ statewide      \_\_\_ local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

\_\_\_ A      \_\_\_ B      \_\_\_ C      \_\_\_ D

<p>_____  <b>Signature of certifying official/Title:</b></p>	<p>_____  <b>Date</b></p>
<p>_____  <b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b></p>	

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In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
_____ <b>Signature of commenting official:</b>	_____ <b>Date</b>
_____ <b>Title :</b>	_____ <b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- \_\_\_ entered in the National Register
- \_\_\_ determined eligible for the National Register
- \_\_\_ determined not eligible for the National Register
- \_\_\_ removed from the National Register
- \_\_\_ other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of the Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private: X
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s) X
- District
- Site

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Structure

Object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

HEALTH CARE/hospital

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

WORK IN PROGRESS

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Property

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Beaux-Arts  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: brick

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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### Summary Paragraph

The original Farren Memorial Hospital, designed by Wilson Eyre, Jr, is an eclectic and restrained American Renaissance/Beaux-Arts building. Constructed in 1889-1900, the Farren is a two-and-a-half-story brick building, with each story separated by intermediate cornices. A triangular pediment tops the projected entrance. In keeping with the Beaux-Arts style, among its features are symmetrical proportions, brick masonry construction, decorative pilasters, triangular pediment, arched windows and doors, an elevated first story and ornamental chimneys and cupola. It is a unique building within the town of Montague. Only the Neo-Classical Carnegie Library in Turners Falls, designed by William McClean, has similar stately features to those of the Farren.

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## Narrative Description

The imposing original east-facing building, approximately 20,137 sf., is situated at the end of a circular drive approximately 150 feet from the entrance point on Montague City Road. On the west is an open field and beyond that the Connecticut River. Non-contributing additions were attached in 1965 and 1975 to the original structure on the south side. A large parking lot is located on the further south side. To the north is a lot and a few recent residences.

A lack of systematic maintenance over several years has led to deterioration of interior elements. The masonry envelope is in need of repointing. The metal roof is in dire need of replacement. We judge the building to be in fair condition. Many of the initial exterior design elements are extant.

Eyre's attention to detail is paramount in so many of the features. The central projected massing that traverses the entire building is arresting. Flanked by symmetrical three-bay, recessed, cross-gabled extensions on both sides, the Farren presents an imposing front elevation. Among the notable design elements are the rectangular corbels supporting the central cornice and the punctuated engaged pilasters that separate the windows, dividing the building into distinct bays. From photographs taken approximately 10 years after the construction, the existing blind windows atop the pilasters in the central mass were an original feature. The original architraves are still in place. Blind arches, still in evidence, framing rectangular double-hung windows were also part of Eyre's original intention. The low-sloped dormers are still present on the cross-gabled roofs. The ocular window with a rusticated masonry surround beneath the central pediment is still in place. The colored glass and mullion pattern seems to have been altered at some point over the last 50 years. The large end chimneys with open-work masonry cowls are still existing, as are the blind ocular upper windows with rusticated surrounds on the middle-level of the cross-gabled extensions.

Photographs from 1910-1920 show two balconies at the upper level in the middle bays. These were removed at an unknown date. The most unfortunate destruction was the removal of the wooden ornamental lantern cupola with a spiral finial. Only the base of the dome remains. As noted, the main elements of the original building are still in place. As is common with under-valued historic buildings, many alterations have occurred over the last 120 years. The most notable was the construction of a new brick south and west wing in 1928 that doubled the square

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footage of the original building. Given the erection of this extension nearly a century ago, we deem this addition as part of the original building.

Other significant alterations are the following: removal of the ornamental cupola; addition of a portico onto the main entrance; wood-framed dependencies on the north and south sides; removal of the wooden dependencies and construction of a masonry addition to the north side of the main building. It has proven impossible to assign specific dates to these alterations with the exception of the addition of the portico over the original entrance, albeit in a different form from the present enclosure, and the erection of the wooden-framed dependencies. A 1920 photograph shows that both alterations were in place at this time. Judging from the masonry work on the newer north dependency, it was likely constructed in the 1940s.



c. 1911 (Note cupola)

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c. 1920: Note cupola, portico and wood-framed dependencies.

The most significant recent alteration was an addition built in 1965, funded in part by a \$400,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health. (Public Health Service Grants and Awards by the National Institutes of Health, 1964). The addition housed an 82-bed ancillary unit and a diagnostic and treatment center. The rectangular, brick masonry building addition is not harmonious with the original built form and is not a contributing resource. Additional construction occurred in 1975 when an extension of the 1965 wing was completed. This is not a contributing resource.

Despite these alterations, the original Farren Memorial Hospital remains present and still presents itself as a distinctive and important structure.

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**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. **X** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.



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- 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.)

- 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

INDUSTRY  
HEALTH/MEDICINE  
RELIGION  
SOCIAL HISTORY  
ARCHITECTURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1899-1972

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1900

1928 addition

1965 addition

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Bernard N. Farren

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Wilson Eyre, Jr.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Farren Memorial Hospital at 330-340 Montague City Road in Montague, MA meets National Register of Historic Places Criterion A: Association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history, in this case industrialization, religious charity, medical history, and social history in Southern New England; Criterion B: Association with the lives of persons significant in our past, namely Bernard N. Farren; and Criterion C: Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction and represents the work of a master, most notably Wilson Eyre, Jr. Bernard N. Farren, a contractor and engineer whose talents greatly benefited Montague and Franklin County during late 19th Century industrialization, built the Farren Memorial Hospital in 1900 in Montague City

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as a memorial to his son. The hospital also reflected Farren's desire to offer the community medical care of the highest standards to treat injured mill and construction workers and all Franklin County residents, having been witness to injuries on the job. A devout Catholic, in a community of immigrants that included French Canadian, Irish and Polish/Bohemian Catholic residents, Farren entrusted this important work of medical care to the Sisters of Providence, which first began work in Massachusetts in Holyoke. Renowned architect Wilson Eyre, Jr. designed the hospital, which is an eclectic and restrained American Renaissance/Beaux-Arts building. Through 2021, the hospital (and later a care center) became an anchor in the community: a source of pride, employment, and commitment to helping those in need, with talented doctors, nurses, and clergy, and through volunteerism and fundraising.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Industrialization was a leading factor in the decision to build the Farren Memorial Hospital in the village of Montague City in the town of Montague. The infrastructure and mill work in the planned industrial community in the neighboring village of Turners Falls created the career and subsequent wealth of the hospital's donor and created workplaces in which injuries were in need of medical attention. Early Montague City history is notable for its navigation canal, as it sought to become a port city on the Connecticut River in the 1790's. Railroads supplanted the need for the navigation canal by the mid-1800s, however. By the 1860s, Montague City instead became an important link to the industrialization of its neighboring village, Turners Falls. Several Montague City brickyards supplied the bricks for Turners Falls' new mills, housing, and businesses, in addition to shipping bricks all over Southern New England including several million for the Hoosac Tunnel project.<sup>1</sup> The Turners Falls Historic District was designated in 1982, highlighting the historic significance and continued integrity of the planned industrial

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<sup>1</sup> Gregory, Ed, *The Brickmakers of Franklin County Massachusetts* (Ed Gregory, 2012), 30-31, newspaper articles September 9, 1872 and January 27, 1875.

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community there.<sup>2</sup> Alvah Crocker, the main driving force in the founding of Turners Falls, met Bernard N. Farren while they were both working on the Hoosac Tunnel in North Adams. In the 1860s Crocker quickly encouraged Farren to build the new canal for Turners Falls beginning decades of industriousness by Farren in Turners Falls, Montague City, and the region. Farren made his summer home in Montague City, spending winters in Philadelphia, and was an active participant in Turners Falls and Montague City businesses at least through 1905.

In 1900, Bernard Farren built the hospital in Montague City as a memorial to his son and as a solution to what he saw was an important need in the county: health care. "His tender heart had also been often stirred by the sufferings of men in his employ who had been injured while in the performance of their duties in the rough work in which they were engaged, and fully realized the want of suitable provision for their care and comfort while in the surgeon's care. He had even seen his own brother, William, go to his death on one of these sad occasions. After much thought, he decided to erect and endow as a memorial to his son, B. Frank Farren, a hospital which should be open to the public without regard to the patient's creed or religion."<sup>3</sup> Farren accumulated great wealth during late 19th Century industrialization in Montague and Southern New England such that he was able to act on his charitable feelings and build a hospital to alleviate suffering. Newspaper accounts after 1900 show that mill workers injured in Turners Falls and nearby Millers Falls were promptly attended to at Farren Memorial Hospital for decades afterwards.<sup>4</sup>

Bernard Farren was born January 14, 1828 in Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania, and died on January 20, 1912.<sup>5</sup> He started work young as a stone mason and worked with his brother to construct a stone interleaved railroad bridge near Philadelphia.<sup>6</sup> From there his contracting and engineering talents led him to a number of projects in Massachusetts and around the country. He had two lucrative contracts for the Hoosac Tunnel in North Adams, MA. He used coal-mining techniques that he learned in Pennsylvania to get through a quicksand area on the west end of the Hoosac Tunnel which had confounded previous contractors, and later he had a contract to line the tunnel with bricks so that debris would not fall on the tracks and trains.<sup>7</sup> He then went on to build the railroad from Greenfield to the Hoosac Tunnel. At the invitation of Alvah Crocker, Farren visited Turners Falls and "he saw an opportunity to get in on the ground floor" of industrialization

<sup>2</sup> Massachusetts Historical Commission, MACRIS, Turners Falls Historic District, MNT.H. <https://mhc-macris.net/#!/details?mhcid=MNT.H>.

<sup>3</sup> Thompson, Francis M, "Bernard N. Farren," in History and Proceedings of the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association 1912-1920, vol. Vol. VI (Deerfield, MASS: Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association, 1921), 22.

<sup>4</sup> *The Turners Falls Reporter*, May 6, 1903, July 8, 1903, January 13, 1904, January 27, 1904, January 20, 1904, February 17, 1904, June 7, 1905, July 12, 1905, January 10, 1910, May 21, 1913, October 29, 1913, February 16, 1916, April 30, 1919, December 10, 1919, October 13, 1920, March 2, 1921, December 21, 1910, and August 6, 1919.

<sup>5</sup> Thompson, Francis M, "Bernard N. Farren," in History and Proceedings of the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association 1912-1920, vol. Vol. VI (Deerfield, MASS: Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association, 1921), 19.

<sup>6</sup> *Gazette and Courier, Greenfield, MASS*, January 27, 1912, 7.

<sup>7</sup> Warner, Charles Forbes, *Picturesque Franklin* (Wade, Warner and Company, 1891), 113-114.

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there.<sup>8</sup> “After the death of Crocker [1874], Mr. Farren probably did more to develop Turners Falls than any other man.”<sup>9</sup>

The list of Farren’s contributions to the region is long. He became a gifted contractor, engineer, a wealthy stockholder, businessman, and also a mentor and philanthropist. The immediate need for the new village of Turners Falls was a dam and a canal which Farren worked on at the suggestion of Alvah Crocker in the 1860s.<sup>10</sup> Right away, he had contracts to expand the old defunct navigation canal in Turners Falls and convert it to use for hydropower for mills. He took stock in the company employing him at the same time, the Turners Falls Company. After Alvah Crocker’s death, Farren became president<sup>11</sup> of the company for a time, and remained on the board of directors for decades. Farren took a contract to build the foundations for the John Russell Cutlery, and took stock in it at the same time. He helped build the Turners Falls Pulp Company, which later merged with the Montague Paper Company, took stock in it, and was on the board of directors.<sup>12</sup> After Alvah Crocker’s death, he became president of the Montague Paper Company,<sup>13</sup> and also later owned stock in it after it became International Paper Company in 1898.<sup>14</sup> He was contracted to build the foundry and machine shop for the Clark & Chapman machine company, and was on the board of directors.<sup>15</sup> He was on the board of directors for the Keith Paper Company.<sup>16</sup> He gathered funds with his fellow Turners Falls businessmen and built the Farren House on Avenue A in Turners Falls, later known as the Grand Trunk Hotel.<sup>17</sup> Farren also started businesses with his colleagues. First, the Turners Falls Paper Company in 1879<sup>18</sup> and then the Montague City Rod Company in 1885.<sup>19</sup> He invested in Goss’ Brickyard in Montague City.<sup>20</sup> He was involved with the bridge connecting Greenfield and Montague City.<sup>21</sup> And, he also grew acres of tobacco<sup>22</sup> and owned significant real estate.

A man of many talents, Farren’s influence extended beyond Montague. Farren could build railroads, buildings, roads, canals, bridges, dams, and tunnels. He worked on water works in

<sup>8</sup> *The Turners Falls Reporter*, January 24, 1912.

<sup>9</sup> *Gazette and Courier, Greenfield, MASS*, January 27, 1912, 7.

<sup>10</sup> *Gazette and Courier, Greenfield, MASS*, January 27, 1912, 7.

<sup>11</sup> *The Turners Falls Reporter*, January 13, 1875.

<sup>12</sup> *The Turners Falls Reporter*, January 24, 1912, and *Gazette & Courier, Greenfield, MASS*, Monday, May 6, 1872.

<sup>13</sup> *Turners Falls Reporter*, June 2, 1875.

<sup>14</sup> *Paper Trade Journal* 40th Year (February 8, 1912).

<sup>15</sup> *Gazette & Courier, Greenfield, MASS*, Monday May 23, 1870 and Monday May 6, 1872.

<sup>16</sup> *Turners Falls Reporter*, June 4, 1879.

<sup>17</sup> *Turners Falls Reporter*, July 31, 1872.

<sup>18</sup> *Turners Falls Reporter*, June 4, 1879.

<sup>19</sup> “MHC Reconnaissance Survey Town Report MONTAGUE Associated Regional Report: Connecticut Valley,” 1982, 14, and Stone, Orra L., *History of Massachusetts Industries Their Inception, Growth and Success*, vol. I (S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1930), 466.

<sup>20</sup> Gregory, Ed, *The Brickmakers of Franklin County Massachusetts* (Ed Gregory, 2012), 33. Newspaper article October 18, 1882.

<sup>21</sup> *Gazette and Courier, Greenfield, MASS*, January 27, 1912, 7.

<sup>22</sup> *Gazette and Courier, Greenfield, MASS*, September 9, 1879.

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Lawrence, MA.<sup>23</sup> He worked on the Chestnut Hill Reservoir in Boston, the water works of Pueblo, Colorado, railroads in Kentucky, the Gould tunnel on the Nickel Plate road in Steubenville, Ohio, the Boston, Barre and Gardner Railroad, and the Troy and Greenfield Railroad. In Turners Falls, his railroad work included the canal railroad, which became part of the New York, New Haven & Hartford railroad.<sup>24</sup> He invested in the Lake Megantic Pulp Company in Canada.<sup>25</sup> He had the contract to demolish Fort Hill in Boston, and was among the first to use a steam shovel. The fill was used for Atlantic Avenue, making for a lucrative contract.<sup>26</sup> Farren's fortune was either \$2.5 million or \$5 million at the time of his death, depending on the obituary.<sup>27</sup>

In addition to his donations to churches and the Farren Memorial Hospital, Farren's generosity extended to mentorship, including for brickyard owner John Thomas, who became Farren's "first lieutenant,"<sup>28</sup> and W.R. Farnsworth, discovered by Farren to be a talented master mechanic at Montague Paper Company.<sup>29</sup> One of his motivations for starting the Turners Falls Paper Company, with his colleague, was to help younger men get started in the paper business. "All his life time he was disposed to be of help and assistance to all worthy people. His advice was sought after, and very many men owe most of their success in life to Mr. Farren. ... About this time Mr. Farren, always on the lookout to help his really and truly friends, suggested to Mr. Marshall that they put up a new mill to be owned partially and run wholly by the bright young men coming up. Mr. Farren would put in 60 percent of the money, and the others were given liberal opportunities to get in on the ground floor, after it had been carpeted."<sup>30</sup>

Bernard Farren was a self-made, self-educated man. He was a keen observer, well-traveled, sophisticated, and well-read. "He was suavity personified, tactful, dignified, diplomatic and most gracious in manner and speech, no matter how much irritation might be below the surface. He was always delegated by his associates to pacify the unruly, and explain how delightful it was for brethren to dwell together in unity."<sup>31</sup> Well regarded among his peers, he had the ear of three Massachusetts governors, Talbot, Rice, and Butler.<sup>32</sup> "Franklin County is a better place to live in for having been the home of that captain of industry – Bernard N. Farren."<sup>33</sup>

Farren's contributions continued from the time of his first arrival until after the Farren Memorial Hospital was built. "B.N. Farren, Esq. has been for considerable over a quarter of a century

<sup>23</sup> *Gazette and Courier, Greenfield, MASS*, November 10, 1873.

<sup>24</sup> *Gazette and Courier, Greenfield, MASS*, January 27, 1912, 7.

<sup>25</sup> *Turners Falls Reporter*, August 26, 1903.

<sup>26</sup> *Turners Falls Reporter*, January 12, 1912.

<sup>27</sup> *Gazette and Courier, Greenfield, MASS*, January 27, 1912, 7 and *Paper Trade Journal* 40th Year (February 8, 1912).

<sup>28</sup> *Greenfield Recorder*, Friday, December 17, 1982.

<sup>29</sup> *Turners Falls Reporter*, January 4, 1899.

<sup>30</sup> *Turners Falls Reporter*, August 5, 1908.

<sup>31</sup> *Turners Falls Reporter*, January 24, 1912.

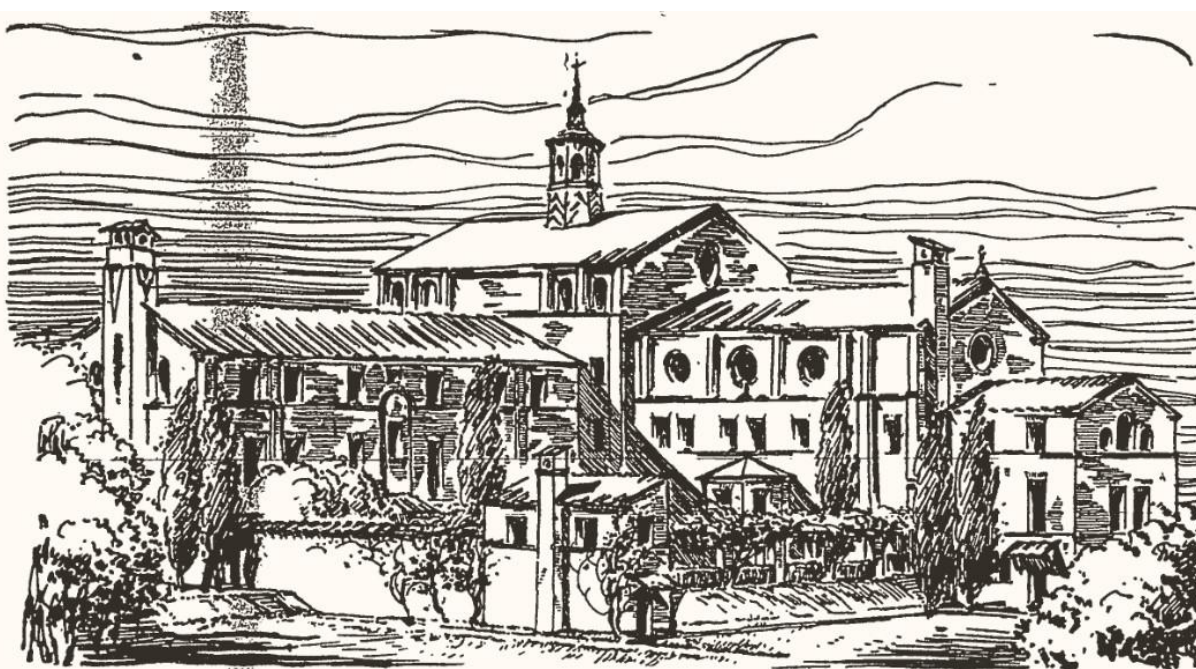
<sup>32</sup> *Gazette and Courier, Greenfield, MASS*, January 27, 1912, 77.

<sup>33</sup> Thompson, Francis M, "Bernard N. Farren," in *History and Proceedings of the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association 1912-1920*, vol. VI (Deerfield, MASS: Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association, 1921), 23.

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Montague's most distinguished and helpful citizen. Coming to Massachusetts, and this county, some forty two years ago as a young man to enter upon engineering undertakings of considerable magnitude, notably in the construction of the Hoosac Tunnel, which was then considered one of the wonders of the world, he soon became interested in the development of Turners Falls and he has ever since been a constant and sincere friend to the town and all its industries, a kindly personage among its people. The general public little know to what extent we are indebted to his great skill, consummate business foresight, and financial courage, for much if not all of our industrial success. And above all he has called his home here, although his business interests were very largely in other directions, something all can appreciate among a general cry of evils of industries controlled by foreign capital, where no sympathy is shown for the place developed whether dividends come or vanish."<sup>34</sup>



THE FARREN MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AT MONTAGUE CITY, MASS.  
(Northwestern Exposure.)

Farren Memorial Hospital, Montague City, Franklin County, Massachusetts, unknown illustrator, 1899, Northwestern view.

The local Turners Falls Reporter newspaper provided a detailed account of the hospital construction plans in August 1899 and the above sketch. "Mr. Farren unfolded his plans to one of the most notable architects in the country, Wilson Eyre, Jr. of Philadelphia, and the result of his work is exceedingly pleasing to Mr. Farren, who is critical in such matters, and has deep knowledge of the subject in a practical way and from observation in extensive travel.

Mr. Eyre viewed the surroundings early in the spring, and completed his studies of the subject begun with Mr. Farren in the winter. As soon as the matter of the purchase of adjoining land

<sup>34</sup> Bagnall, Cecil T., "The Farren Memorial Hospital," *The Turners Falls Reporter*, August 2, 1899, 1

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could be arranged, Mr. Farren began work on what will be to him the pride of his later life. The building will be set back from the Main street a good comfortable distance. The foundations are the solidest of masonry, to carry walls beginning at twenty inches, which have center air spaces throughout.

The cut we show herewith is a view of the northwestern exposure of the building as being the best point from which to get an idea of the structure, although it must be remembered that the larger wing in the left is duplicated on the right and hid from view by the center wing. The reader will be looking from an avenue in the rear from Main street.

The hospital will consist of a main building made up of a central portion and two wings, to which is attached a central rear wing.

The main building measures 160 feet wide by 33 deep, with basement, first and second floors. The basement will contain boiler rooms for heating purposes, dining rooms for the convalescents and employees, and store rooms. The two floors above contain general and private wards, with baths, linen rooms and diet kitchens. There will be accommodation altogether for about 50 patients. The central portion of the main building has a third floor, which is given up to the library and recreation room for the convalescents.

The rear wing measuring 60X32 feet, is for administrative purposes. It has a basement, first, second, and third floors. The basement contains the laundry, kitchen, store rooms, cold rooms, and coal bins. On the first floor are the etherizing and operating rooms, physician's office, pharmacy, matron's office, a refectory, and a community room for the nurses and sisters. The second floor is given over to bedrooms for the officers and nurses, with a large infirmary. The third floor contains the chapel, having a seating capacity of about 40, with a chancel, vestry and organ room.

The building will be of brick with trimmings of stone, and will follow an early Renaissance style. It will be lighted throughout by electricity and heated by steam with a gravity system of ventilation. There will be a hydraulic elevator and dumb waiters and modern plumbing and fixtures.

The small building in the foreground is the morgue, with a fumigating room in the second story. The enclosed gardens are for recreation grounds for the nurses and others connected with the institution. The small building against the center wing to the right of the morgue is the surgeon's operating room. The towers on the various wings contain the ventilating air shafts."<sup>35</sup> It is possible that scholars of Wilson Eyre, Jr. may learn more about his contributions to architectural history with study of the Farren Memorial Hospital, in addition to learning construction and engineering techniques of industrialist Bernard Farren.

For the Farren Memorial Hospital, "dedication day, October 23, 1900, was one of the most notable events in the history of the town of Montague. It was important in the history of Franklin

<sup>35</sup> Bagnall, Cecil T., "The Farren Memorial Hospital," *The Turners Falls Reporter*, August 2, 1899, 1.



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County too, for the sick from all towns are given kind and tender care by the nurses and Sisters of Providence who manage the institution.”<sup>36</sup> Farren continued to be associated with the hospital after it was dedicated, as one of the incorporators, he was Vice president and on the executive committee.<sup>37</sup> The Farren Memorial Hospital in Montague City was representative of late 19th century Western Massachusetts Catholic efforts that prioritized health care for new immigrants in the industrialized communities of Holyoke, Springfield, Worcester, and Montague.

The Sisters of Providence began their work in Western Massachusetts in Holyoke, MA in 1873 “to address the charitable needs of the City’s poor immigrant population, particularly the young Irish and Scottish girls working in the mills. Over the next 19 years, these Sisters labored under very difficult circumstances ministering to the sick and dying, caring for the orphaned and elderly, and teaching boys in St. Jerome’s Institute. They admitted their first patient to their ‘House of Providence’ on December 2, 1873 and with that admission established a ministry that would come to be known as Providence Hospital—the first Catholic Hospital in Western Massachusetts.”<sup>38</sup>

The Sisters of Providence mission was a good match for Farren’s interests in his memorial in the form of a hospital. “B. N. Farren, Esq. ... has decided to create and endow for the benefit of mankind locally a hospital that shall be the home and shelter of the invalid poor without fee or without price...”<sup>39</sup> Funding for certain projects at the hospital came from the Springfield, MA Diocese. The religious affiliation of the donor, Bernard Farren,<sup>40</sup> is reflected in the inclusion of the St. Francis of Assisi chapel for the hospital. It includes an organ. “Highlighting the small chapel are the seven round stained glass windows, made in Europe, and depicting events in the life of Christ.” For communion, “the pipe from the sink goes right into the ground, so if ever Holy water goes down the drain, it doesn’t mix with regular town water.”<sup>41</sup> On the day of its dedication, a “formal presentation was made by Bishop Corrigan of New York, a personal friend of the donor.”<sup>42</sup> “The first staff was four sisters and their work hours were long and arduous.”<sup>43</sup> Officers of the hospital through the years included bishops (of the Springfield Diocese), clergy and nuns.<sup>44</sup>

A devout Catholic, Farren also contributed significantly to Holy Trinity church in Greenfield, buying the lot it was built on and donating a bell,<sup>45</sup> and also donating to St. Anne’s church in

<sup>36</sup> *Town of Montague Massachusetts 1754-1954 Historical Review and Complete Celebration Program*, 1954, 84.

<sup>37</sup> *The Turners Falls Reporter*, November 7, 1900, 1.

<sup>38</sup> “Sisters of Providence Website,” accessed February 1, 2022, <https://www.sisofprov.org/legacy/our-history/>.

<sup>39</sup> *The Turners Falls Reporter*, April 13, 1899.

<sup>40</sup> *The Turners Falls Reporter*, January 24, 1912.

<sup>41</sup> *Greenfield Recorder*, Saturday, January 31, 1981, A4

<sup>42</sup> *Town of Montague Massachusetts 1754-1954 Historical Review and Complete Celebration Program*, 1954, 84.

<sup>43</sup> *Town of Montague Massachusetts 1754-1954 Historical Review and Complete Celebration Program*, 1954, 84.

<sup>44</sup> *Town of Montague Massachusetts 1754-1954 Historical Review and Complete Celebration Program*, 1954, 84.

<sup>45</sup> *Gazette and Courier, Greenfield, MASS*, January 27, 1912, 7.

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Turners Falls, including a parochial school, a pipe organ, and money toward the bell fund.<sup>46</sup>

“During his extensive travel in Europe his reputation as a man of great liberality and devotion to the interests of the Roman Catholic church, obtained for him audience with His Holiness the Pope at Rome.”<sup>47</sup>

Nationwide, new technology such as x-rays and advancements in medicine contributed to interest in creating fully equipped hospitals.<sup>48</sup> The Farren Memorial Hospital represented this trend and with Farren’s generosity was “completely equipped” when it opened its doors.<sup>49</sup> “In 1902 the hospital cared for 217 patients. Its tremendous growth is evidenced by the fact that nearly 5,000 patients were treated in 1953. A training school for nurses, opened in 1905, continued successfully until 1941, when it became necessary to suspend it. In 1919 a small cottage adjacent to the hospital on Main Street was purchased as a residence for the chaplain and intern. A large and well-equipped laundry was installed in 1925 ... Up to 1928 the hospital had a bed capacity of 36 but this was more than doubled with a complete addition of the new south wing that year. In 1954 the hospital had 75 beds and eight bassinets. This wing alone houses a complete surgery with operating rooms, a pharmacy, x-ray department and physiotherapy department. Fourteen years after it opened the hospital became possessor of its first automobile ambulance. The shiny vehicle was purchased at cost of \$3,300.”<sup>50</sup>

The 1928 addition and subsequent additions reflected the hospital’s successes, as did the deep level of community involvement and pride in operations and fundraising, providing a glimpse into the social history of the town of Montague and Franklin County. “In 1935 the hospital made its first public appeal for funds. In 1943 the Turners Falls Women’s Club adopted as an annual drive the ‘Farren Memorial Hospital Donation Day’ ... On May 6, 1948, a drive was started for an elevator fund, and by the time the new elevator was installed Feb. 7, 1949, more than \$12,000 had been raised.” The Rotary Club of Franklin County raised \$8000 for a new ambulance in 1952.<sup>51</sup>

In 1963, “the Farren Memorial Hospital drive for \$600,000 has yielded \$587,570, or 97.96 per cent of its goal. ... There will be no one to quarrel about the Farren’s sincere need for improvements. This in itself went far towards meeting the financial goal set as the very minimum required to modernize present facilities and add a new wing. ... From reports of campaign workers and chairmen it is apparent that a lot of heart as well as dollars and community effort went into the Farren Hospital campaign. Donations ranged from a few pennies to \$15,000 from a

<sup>46</sup> *The Turners Falls Reporter*, January 24, 1912.

<sup>47</sup> Thompson, Francis M, “Bernard N. Farren,” in *History and Proceedings of the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association 1912-1920*, vol. VI (Deerfield, MASS: Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association, 1921), 18.

<sup>48</sup> *Greenfield Recorder*, Saturday, May 8, 1976.

<sup>49</sup> (Town of Montague 1754-1954)

<sup>50</sup> *Town of Montague Massachusetts 1754-1954 Historical Review and Complete Celebration Program*, 1954, 84.

<sup>51</sup> *Town of Montague Massachusetts 1754-1954 Historical Review and Complete Celebration Program*, 1954, 84.

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member of the Bernard Farren family representing the founder of the institution.”<sup>52</sup> The money raised resulted in a new modern wing of the hospital being built in 1965.

Prudence “Prue” O’Donovan recalled being a candy striper at the Farren in the 1960’s. ““I remember quite vividly what we were allowed to do,’ she wrote, launching into a list of duties. ‘We handed out or refreshed water glasses, delivered and/or collected meal trays, and collected mail from downstairs and delivered any, the same with flowers. We ran errands for the staff, collected things from the pharmacy or lab, and took messages to staff on other floors. We made beds when rooms were vacated, and generally visited and talked to patients. ‘At Christmas, we sang carols in the halls,’ she continued. ‘We produced our own newspaper with the help of Sister Mary Mercy. At the end of each school year, we had a presentation event and were given awards for hours of service — this could be our caps or badges to wear. ‘It’s a happy memory and we loved it,’ she concluded, noting the volunteers were roughly between the ages of 15 and 18. ‘Collectively, we gave hundreds of hours as volunteers to the Farren Memorial Hospital.’”<sup>53</sup>

The hospital made donations back to the community also. The Farren Memorial Hospital Guild Nursing Scholarship was awarded to Greenfield Community College students as recently as 2014,<sup>54</sup> contributing to workforce development. The hospital also offered space for draftee examinations for World War II.<sup>55</sup> A successful float in the town of Montague’s 200th Anniversary celebration, is a true indicator of Farren Memorial Hospital’s relevance to the community.<sup>56</sup> The Farren Care Center had a 100 year anniversary celebration in October 2000.<sup>57</sup>

Farren Memorial Hospital operated as an independent facility until 1984, when it was joined with Providence Hospital and Mercy Hospital, both western Massachusetts facilities, into Providence Systems and then Sisters of Providence Health Systems. Farren Memorial Hospital operated as a general care facility until 1988,<sup>58</sup> when it was converted to a long-term care facility, re-opening in 1990.<sup>59</sup> The occupied, fully functional facility was bought in 2020 by Trinity Health New England and closed in 2021.<sup>60</sup> The hospital is currently vacant but being minimally maintained.

<sup>52</sup> *Greenfield Recorder Gazette*, Saturday, November 16, 1963.

<sup>53</sup> Cade, Estelle, “The Girls in Stripes,” *The Recorder*, October 27, 2018, 2.

<sup>54</sup> *The Recorder*, Greenfield, MA, July 3, 2014, Section: Community Bulletin Board.

<sup>55</sup> *Turners Falls Herald*, Feb. 7, 1941.

<sup>56</sup> *Town of Montague Massachusetts 1754-1954 Historical Review and Complete Celebration Program*, 1954, 84.

<sup>57</sup> Varnon, Andrew, “100 Year Celebration,” *Greenfield Recorder*, October 16, 2000.

<sup>58</sup> AP, “Hospital Dropping Acute Care Operation,” *Boston Globe*, September 9, 1988, 22.

<sup>59</sup> Mohl, Bruce, “Dukakis Overrules Barresi on Hospital Plan,” *Boston Globe*, August 9, 1990, 31

<sup>60</sup> Singleton, Jeff, “State Approved Borrowing For Farren Repairs in 2018,” *The Montague Reporter*, October 1, 2020.

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Architecture: Wilson Eyre, Jr.:

Wilson Eyre, Jr., was born in Florence, Italy, in 1858 to a Philadelphia family, and did not return to live in the United States until he was eleven years old. Eyre briefly attended M.I.T., but never earned an advanced degree in architecture.

He began his architectural career in the Philadelphia office of James Peacock Sims in 1877. After Sims' death in 1882, Eyre took over the practice and worked independently until 1911, when he formed a partnership with John Gilbert McIlvaine in 1911 and opened a second office in New York City. The firm of Eyre & McIlvaine continued until 1939.

He served as president of the Philadelphia chapter of the American Institute of Architects from 1897 until 1902.

Eyre quickly became one of the most sought-after architects on the east coast, receiving commissions in Philadelphia, Connecticut, New York, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts. He is best known for his residences, particularly those in the shingle style, but he also designed, with Alexander Calder, the Swann Memorial fountain and a number of churches, offices, clubhouses, the Farren Memorial Hospital and other public buildings. He was also known for his rendering and sketching techniques. He used charcoal, pencil and ink with equal facility, and drew bird's eye perspectives with amazing speed. His extant drawings and papers are now housed at the Columbia University Library and at the University of Pennsylvania. ..

For his most important early houses such as "Angelcot" (1883) and "Farwood" (1884-85), he used a simple plan: a line of asymmetrical public rooms stretching along a single axis, extending even outside to a piazza. Like many Shingle Style architects, he employed the open "living hall" as an organizing element: all of the main first floor rooms connecting to the hall, often through large openings. In addition, he used staircases to extend the space of the hall to the second floor. According to architectural-historian Vincent Scully: "This sense of extended horizontal plane and intensified "positive" scale evident in Eyre's work becomes later a basic component in the work of Frank Lloyd Wright."<sup>61</sup> Prior to Wright's rise to prominence, Eyre was arguably the best-known domestic architect in the U.S. among foreign designers.

Following his early success, Eyre became a leader in the international country life architects. He was one of the first U.S. architects to be featured in the Arts & Crafts magazine *International Studio*. He was also the first editor of *House and Garden*.

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<sup>61</sup> Vincent J. Scully, Jr. *The Shingle Style and the Stick Style* (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1955, revised 1971), p. 124.

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Eyre had a number of connections with the University of Pennsylvania. From 1890 to 1894, Eyre taught at the School of Architecture of the University of Pennsylvania, and in 1926, he was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Fine Arts (D.F.A.) from the University of Pennsylvania. He was one of the architects of the University Museum, working on the West Court (1893-1899), the Rotunda (1912-1914), and a number of additions and alterations done during the 1920s and 1930s.

He died in Philadelphia in 1944.

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**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Property

\_\_\_\_\_  
County and State

- 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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** \_\_\_\_\_

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreege of Property** approximately 7 acres including gardens, parking lots and unbuilt space.\_\_\_\_\_

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |                 |               |
|-----------------|---------------|
| 1. Latitude: 42 | Longitude: 72 |
| 2. Latitude: 35 | Longitude: 34 |
| 3. Latitude: 10 | Longitude: 35 |



Name of Property

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4. Latitude: N

Longitude: W

**Or**

**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

- |          |           |           |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary of the entire campus, including additions, is bordered by Montague City Road on the west, Farren Road on the north, Cabot Street on the south and an empty lot behind.

Name of Property \_\_\_\_\_

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**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

Assessors plot plan, Town of Montague

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Janel Nockleby

organization: \_\_\_\_\_

street & number: 14 3rd St. Apt. C

city or town: Turners Falls state: MA zip

code: 01376

e-mail janel.nockleby@gmail.com

telephone: (413) 204-0889

date: 02/02/2022

name/title: Christopher Sawyer-Laucanno Preservation Consultant

Name of Property \_\_\_\_\_ County and State \_\_\_\_\_  
organization: CSL Architectural Consulting  
street & number: 70 Prospect St.  
city or town: Turners Falls state: MA zip code: 01376  
e-mail csl@mit.edu  
telephone: 413-863-3027  
date: February 8, 2020

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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



- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

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Name of Property

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### **Photographs**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### **Photo Log**

Name of Property: Farren Memorial Hospital

City or Vicinity: Montague

County: Franklin

State: MA

Photographer: Christopher Sawyer-Laucanno

Date Photographed: 2/7/22

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of \_3\_.

Name of Property

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1 of 3 East-facing elevation of Original Building with non-contributing addition

Name of Property

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2 of 3 East Elevation of Original building with masonry dependency

Name of Property

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3 of 3 East Elevation of Main Entrance

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for nominations 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. 460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

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Name of Property

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County and State

- Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
- Tier 2 – 120 hours
- Tier 3 – 230 hours
- Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.