

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

PH0694711

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JAN 8 1979
DATE ENTERED MAR 9 1979

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

Ansorge Hotel

AND/OR COMMON

Ansorge Hotel

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

corner of River Street and Railroad Ave.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Curlew

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

5th - Thomas S. Foley

STATE

Washington

CODE

53

COUNTY

Ferry

CODE

019

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

X OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

X BUILDING(S)

X PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

X COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

X PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

X YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

Mrs. Louella Burns, Curlew, Washington

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Lembcke

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Curlew

VICINITY OF

STATE

Washington

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Ferry County Auditor

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 498

CITY, TOWN

Republic

STATE

Washington

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Ferry County Cultural Resource Survey

DATE

1978

FEDERAL STATE X COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Ferry County Planning Department, P.O. Box 305

CITY, TOWN

Republic

STATE

Washington

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 Ansonge Hotel is a rectangular, two story, wood frame building. It occupies a corner lot at the foot of a hill and is the first building of Curlew's business district to be seen when entering the town from the southeast. The second story front facade boasts rectangular corner window bays and a central balcony, both rather unusual locally. A wide, overhanging cornice is present on the three sides of the building fronting on the street. These project from the top of a parapet enclosing the structure's shed roof. The exterior of the building is finished in sheet metal stamped to resemble rusticated stone. This sheeting is painted a pale grey while the window trim, the balcony and the decorative entablature surrounding the building at the second story floor level, are white. The inner surface of the parapet is faced with similar metal sheeting in an unpainted state.

The side of the building facing away from the street (North) was once attached to an older frame saloon known as the "Ansonge Annex". The Annex has been removed and replaced with a modern shed-roofed structure housing the Curlew Laundromat. This recent addition does not appear to have damaged the basic structural integrity of the building and could easily be removed.

The hotel is surrounded on three sides by a boardwalk. A double-paneled door in this walk gives access to a partial cellar finished in the same random rubble masonry that makes up the building's foundation.

Early pictures of the Ansonge do not show any significant departures from this description. One photograph taken prior to World War I, shows the hotel a darker color but local residents do not recall this. It may be a picture of the newly finished building prior to its first coat of paint.

The ground-floor interior is divided into four main rooms, the staircase, and a small toilet cubical. There is no evidence of major structural changes here. The interior finishing, though much worn, appears identical to that shown in photographs from 1918. Many existing items of furniture can also be identified in the photographs. The only obvious changes are the replacement of the coal-oil lights with electricity and the addition of a modern heating plant and kitchen appliances.

The second story is divided into nine irregularly shaped rooms, a central bath room, a hallway surrounding the bath, and a small closet. It, like the ground floor, has undergone no major changes other than wiring. Efforts have been made to furnish the rooms in appropriate style with the exception of two small rooms used for storage. Photographs of the upstairs rooms in their original state have not yet been found but the paint and woodwork on this floor appear to agree well with early photographs of other parts of the building.

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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1907

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Local carpenters, Wm. Ansonge

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

There are three areas in which the Ansonge Hotel can be considered historically significant. This striking building is best known as a local landmark and a former center of social life and communication in the Ferry County area. Its close association with the area's early railroads gives it a firm place in Curlew's economic history and its final claim to significance is the strong possibility that it once, briefly, housed the well known industrialist, Mr. Henry Ford.

William Ansonge, builder of the hotel which bears his name, arrived in Curlew in 1900. This was the same year that the first railroad in the area, the Republic and Kettle River Railway Company, was incorporated. This privately funded line was intended to connect the booming gold fields of the Republic mining district with the railways and smelters of southern British Columbia. A railroad "boom" was predicted and Curlew, as the railroad center of the area, looked forward to prosperous days.

Mr. Ansonge, who had a background in the restaurant and hotel business, sought to join in the coming boom by opening a hotel and restaurant to cater to the railroad trade. Accordingly he purchased a corner lot at the intersection of Railroad Avenue and River Street and constructed a simple frame building to serve as his place of business*. In 1906 he acquired the two adjoining lots and the following year the valuation of improvements on them increased suddenly by \$2300. Presumably this indicates the construction of the present building.

The Ansonge at this time was an unusually elegant and well equipped hotel for the area. Its amenities included a pay phonograph with a selection of cylindrical records (still in place and functioning in the lobby) and one of the first gravity-feed water systems in the area. The water was pumped to a cistern on the roof.

The older building was retained and was moved to the back of the lot, where it was attached to the main building and became known as the "Ansonge Annex". The business flourished and came to include a bakery, a butcher shop, stable, feed store and a barber shop which operated in the hotel lobby. In 1909 Mr. Ansonge purchased the three adjacent lots in block seven to make room for his expanding business. He applied for a liquor license the same year and the "Annex" became a saloon.

Curlew's boom days were short-lived. The railroads, to whose fortunes the Ansonge's prosperity was so closely linked, had come to the area too late. The productivity of the Republic gold fields had peaked in 1900. By the time the first R. and K.R.

* There is some disagreement on this date. Local residents state that the hotel was built in 1903 but the auditor's records show that Mr. Ansonge did not acquire the lots on which it sits until 1904.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Kettle River History Club, Reflections of the Kettle River Region

Grand Forks, B.C. The Orris Press 1976

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

QUADRANGLE NAME Curlew

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:62,500

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,1 | 38,2 | 8,7,5 | 5,4 | 1,5 | 5,5,0

B | | | | |

C | | | | |

D | | | | |

E | | | | |

F | | | | |

G | | | | |

H | | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The building nominated occupies the three southernmost lots in block seven of the Curlew townsite at the junction of Railroad Avenue and River Street.

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

Madilane A. Perry, Historic Preservation Planner

ORGANIZATION

Ferry County Planning Department

DATE

10/11/78

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 305

TELEPHONE

(509) 775-3801

CITY OR TOWN

Republic

STATE

Washington

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Juanita M. Welch

TITLE

Dep. S.H.P.O.

DATE 12-25-78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Chuck Peterson

DATE 3/9/79

ATTEST: *W. Ray Luce*

DATE 3/8/79

for CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

train arrived in Curlew in 1902, the rush was over. Neither the arrival of the Great Northern line a short time later nor the merger of the local line with the Spokane and British Columbia Rail Road in 1905 produced the long-awaited boom. (The latter rail road is still remembered locally as "the Hot Air Line" due to the discrepancy between its promises and its performance.)

In 1912 Mr. Ansorge was imprisoned for selling liquor to an Indian. In his absence his wife's family, the Keihls, took control of the hotel and leased it, the four lots and various out buildings, to George and Augusta Thomas for three years. It is during this period or very slightly earlier that telephone company signs first appear in photographs of the Ansorge, signaling the installation of its first telephone. From this time until the mid 1950's it housed Curlew's only long-distance telephone.

When the Thomas's lease expired the hotel was managed briefly by Bill Keihl who turned the management over to Mr. Leo Strassburg in 1917. For the next 39 years Mr. and Mrs. Strassburg managed the hotel. Mr. Strassburg also served as barber in the hotel barber shop, Justice of the Peace, Notary Public and Registrar of Births. It was early in this period that Henry Ford's name became connected with the hotel. The guest register for July 31, 1917 bears the signature of a "Henry Ford, Detroit Mich." and local residents agree that this was the Ford of the Ford Motor Company. The signature is similar to reproductions of Mr. Ford's signature in his biographies but not identical. A photograph of the signature in the register has been sent to the Ford Motor Company and definite identification should be forthcoming. It was also during this period (1922) that the hotel dining room was closed due to diminishing trade.

During the 1950s the hotel functioned sporadically and was tenanted by various members of the Keihl family. It was sold in 1964 to the current owners. Recent owners have made a considerable effort to preserve the hotel's turn-of-the-century ambiance and to recover or replace missing items of the original furniture. The Ansorge's lobby now houses the Ansorge gift shop and the bar room is used for storage but the hotel still functions on a modest scale. It is still possible to rent a room with a bay window overlooking Railroad Avenue and watch the infrequent trains go by.

ANSORGE HOTEL
CURLEW, WASHINGTON
key to floor plan
ground floor



- A kitchen, original plumbing and paint from its hotel kitchen days appear to be in place, modern appliances have been added, the door into the laundromat addition is no longer functional
- B served as a bar at one time, during prohibition was used as soft-drink bar and pool room, contains modern heating plant and is used for storage
- C toilet cubical
- D lobby, once used as barber shop, much original furniture still present, including counter and cigar case shown in 1930s photograph. The lobby now houses Ansorge Gift Shop.
- E stair to second floor
- F dining room, now used with very little modification as a living room
- G boardwalk surrounding hotel on three sides
- H trapdoor in boardwalk leading down into partial masonry cellar

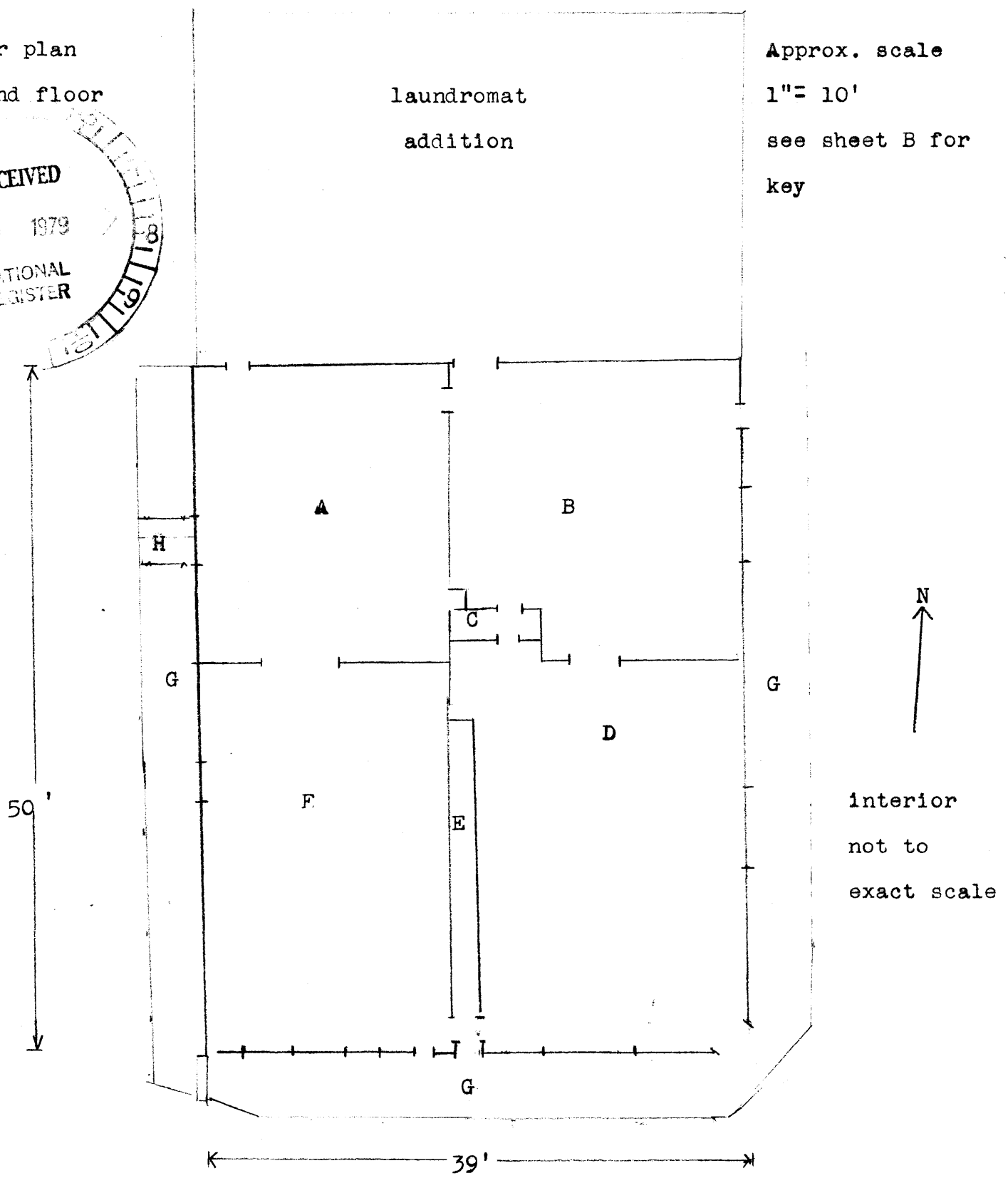
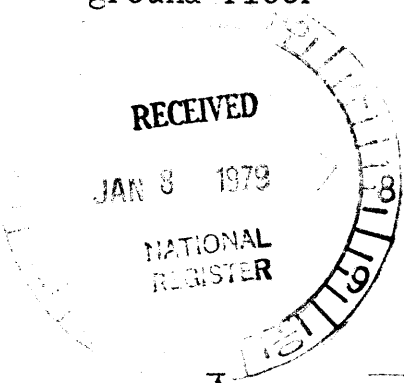
ANSORGE HOTEL

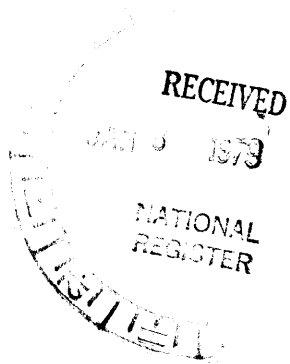
CURLEW, WASH.

floor plan
ground floor

laundromat
addition

Approx. scale
1" = 10'
see sheet B for
key





ANSORGE HOTEL
CURLEW, WASHINGTON
key to floor plan
second floor

- A public parlor, appears to have been the only room in the hotel with a picture rail, which is still in place, furnished entirely with turn-of-the-century material
- B though F appears to have been the original hotel rooms. The letter designations on the floor plan correspond to the letters painted on the room doors. B,D,H,I, and G are still rented as hotel rooms occasionally. The hallway and all rooms, with the exception of B, are painted in pale shades which meet the white of the ceiling about eight inches from the ceiling. An effort has been made to furnish the rooms with appropriate items and some of the original furniture has been preserved.
- B finished in a floral print wall paper, separated from the white of upper wall and ceiling by a gold band
- C currently in use as living quarters
- D A yellowed sheet of "house rules" can still be seen on the inside of the door.
- E and F currently used for storage

RECEIVED
JAN 8 1979

G The north window of room G opens into the attic of the
laundromat addition

H and I hotel rooms of no particular distinction, view on
the main street of Curlew's business district

J bathroom, modern decor, fixtures appear to be older*

K rectangular window bays overhanging the boardwalk.
The eastern bay overhangs the main entrance to the lobby.
Both bays have folding doors with multiple small glass
panes and can be shut off from the rooms.

L balcony, access through parlor only, directly over hall
door and dining room door

M closet with shelves, possibly for linens

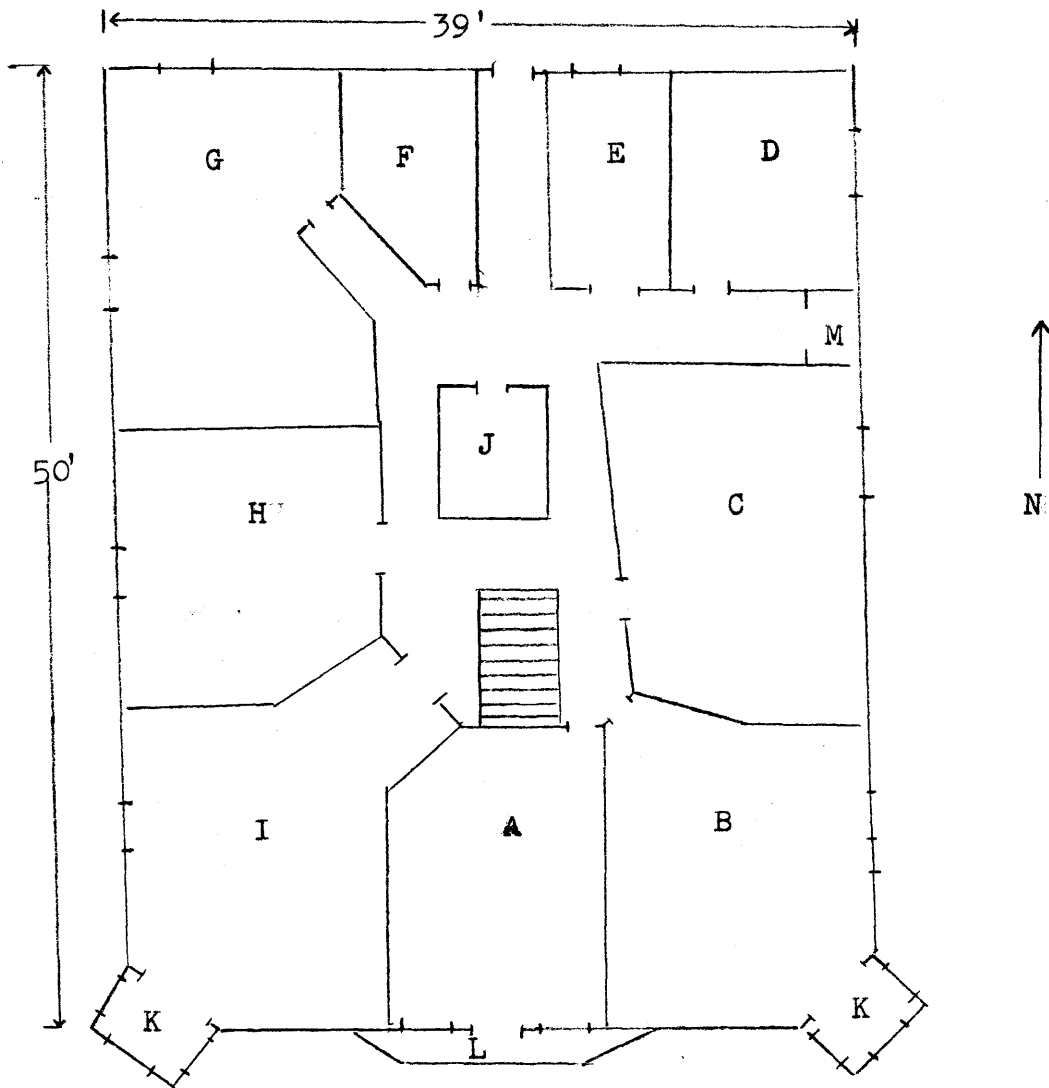
* The bathroom, in addition to its modern electric lighting,
is served by a small, rectangular sky light.

ANSORGE HOTEL
CURLEW, WASH.



Floor plan, second floor, interior not to exact scale,

Approx. scale 1" = 10'



see sheet D for key