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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Slade Hotel at the corner of Second and Main Streets in Adrian is typical of the once common small-town brick hotel buildings which were executed in the eclectic late nineteenth century Italianate/ Komanesque mode. It is a two storey structure which has retained its original exterior appearance. The front (original) section measures seventy by forty five feet and was constructed by a builder named McKennan (from Sioux Falls, South Dakota) in 1891. A rear section (60 feet) was added in the same style about five years later to supply a demand for more accommodations. The front facade is divided into two sections -- one comprises the entry and lobby of the hotel and the other formerly housed the Adrian State Bank. The section formerly occupied by the bank is presently vacant.

The exterior is a soft-glazed brick which has evidence of years of weathering but has been periodically repointed and deteriorated brick replaced. At present, the exterior of the building is in an excellent state of preservation.

Actually, three storeys comprise the interior system of the hotel. Now a storage area, the basement level, which can be entered from the street formerly sported a saloon and card room. The ceilings in this level are nine feet nine inches in height and the area is finished in pressed metal.

The first level contains the hotel lobby, staircase, former dining room and kitchen spaces. The dining room and kitchen ceased to function as such in 1910 and have since been converted into quarters for the proprietors. Much of the original furnishings may be found in this...

The upper storey is devoted to rooms. The front portion has retained the rooms in original configuration, whereas, several of the rooms in the rear portion have combined into efficiency apartments.

All woodwork and the desk in the lobby have been preserved in excellent condition. Original hardware, fixtures, trim, and window sashes are in use and well maintained.

Of merit is a small frame building to the rear of the hotel. This was used as a "Salesmen's Sample room" or "drummer's room" in the early years of the hotel's economic life. In this building, travelling salesmen (or "drummers") would display and sell their wares. The building is in fair condition, showing effects of weathering and deterioration, however, it has not been modified from its original appearance and greatly adds to the historic merit of the hotel complex. It is rare in Minnesota to find a sample room extant in conjunction with a turn-of-the-century hotel.

ERIOD (Check One or More as			
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George Slade and his wife homesteaded a farm near Adrian, Minnesota in 1873. After ten years of farming and selling butter, cheese, poultry, and other dairy products the Slade's moved into Adrian where they purchased the old Central Hotel. They changed the name of the hotel to the Slade Hotel and operated it until 1891. At that time the old frame structure was moved off the site and the present brick hotel was constructed. The hotel became a popular community gathering place and stopover for travellers. Mrs. Slade operated the hotel and set up dining facilities which further attracted guests, while George Slade continued to operate the farm to supply meat and vegetables for the hotel. In addition Slade operated a livery stable to the rear of the hotel which provided facilities for about thirty horses. An adjacent barn housed several cows which provided milk, cream, and butter for the hotel kitchen.

The hotel continued to play an important part in community life well into the twentieth century and up to the present day. After the death of George Slade in 1936, control and operation passed to his son, Fred Slade, who is the present owner. Fred Slade, was born in Room 6 of the hotel on 2 April 1896 and has spent his entire life in direct association with the family's enterprise.

The Slade Hotel is significant to the town of Adrian as part of the community's social and economic history, but further, it represents what is believed to be the oldest family-operated hotel in Minnesota. It has been carefully maintained and preserved in a turn-of-the-century flavor. Hotel records from the time of Slade's purchase in 1883 are extant, and together with the building, make a valuable contribution to the interpretation of Minnesota's history.



SEE INSTRUCTION

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9. MAJOR	BIBLIOGRAPHICAL R	EFERENCES										
Hot	el <u>Records</u> , Sla	le Hotel, A	drian									
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## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUN 06 1975

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CONTINUATION SHEET	Sl <b>a</b> de Hotel	<b>ITEM NUMBER</b>	8	PAGE	1	(Nobles County)

Architecturally, the Slade Hotel is the finest unaltered example of late Victorian commercial design in the municipality of Adrian and in the general geographic area. It has received continual meticulous maintenance which has greatly aided in enhancement of its architectural merit. Extreme care has been devoted to interior and exterior details, even to the extent of retention of the more-thansix-foot high wooden storm windows and screens throughout. No other building in the commercial district of Adrian has survived the advent of plasticized storefronts and "modernization" treatments which have served only to conceal the local brick. With exception of the metal finials, the ornamental treatment of the Slade Hotel is integral, and not of the "applied" nature common to late nineteenth century buildings throughout the state.