

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

395

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: Hotel Bell

Other names/site number: _____

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: 505 Barnes

City or town: Alva State: OK County: Woods

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X 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 X 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 X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A ___ B ___ C ___ D

 Signature of certifying official/Title:	<u>Apr 29, 2013</u> Date
 State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

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

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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: _____)

Jon Edson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

6-14-13
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

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

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/Hotel

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/not in use

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/Classical Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

WALLS: CONCRETE; 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.)

Summary Paragraph

The Hotel Bell, located at 501-505 Barnes, in the center of downtown Alva, Oklahoma, is a six-story, three-part vertical Classical Revival building constructed of reinforced concrete framework and floors and walls of hollow clay tiles and brick, with steel-cased windows. This typifies the fireproof construction methodology of the era. Its detailing includes modest Classical elements such as shields, lozenges, and belt courses. At six stories in height, it dominates downtown Alva, and it remains the tallest building in Alva and in northwestern Oklahoma. The building retains significant historic integrity and is eligible for the National Register.

Narrative Description

Located at 501-505 Barnes (northeast corner of Barnes and 5th Streets) in Alva, Oklahoma, the Hotel Bell is a six-story, three-part vertical building in modest Classical Revival style. Spanning lots 1 through 3 of Block 50 and extending east-west along Barnes Street, the hotel lies directly south of and across the street from the courthouse block, with the long axis facing the courthouse. The viewscape of the main elevation takes in the entire courthouse block, a large park with the Woods County Courthouse in the center, as well as the entire integrated commercial block around "the square." One- and two-story brick commercial buildings surround the public block; most are original construction from the 1900-1945 period, with some alterations to the streetscape elevations. To the east of the hotel, across 5th Street on the other corner, is a historic period one-story brick building, once home to a Champlin Refining Company service

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station; buildings to the east of the station are new. To the west of the hotel, through the rest of the 500 block of Barnes, is a mix of historic and newer buildings. In its general presentation, the hotel's setting was commercial and remains so. The Hotel Bell is the dominant landmark in Alva and remains the tallest building in Woods County and in northwestern Oklahoma.

The generally plain façade is composed of brick. On south and west, "curtains" of common utility brick are set between the reinforced concrete framing members, revealing the concrete "skeleton" in a checkerboard pattern. The exterior layer of brick on the north and east elevations, the building's "public face," is facing brick, mostly dark red but with occasional black units. The outer layer of dark red facing bricks on those elevations is a veneer that completely covers the tiles and the reinforced-concrete framework. The flat concrete roof is covered with a thick layer of fabric-like roofing material. Only visible from the south, a small penthouse sits on the roof. The penthouse has been clad a waterproof panel material. This area is a mechanical room, elevator headhouse, and roof access. A steel flagpole, installed when the building was erected, still rises from the roof.

The Hotel Bell's fireproof construction comprises a framework of reinforced poured-in-place concrete pilasters, pillars, support beams, and floors, as well as brick "curtain" walls. The construction methodology led to a generally symmetrical arrangement of the openings in each elevation. In addition, in the south and west elevations all of the window units have steel frames and casings. In contrast, on the north and west elevations, the "public face," the units are of wood. In all elevations each window has a cast-stone sill.

The plan of the hotel is rectangular. The core of the building, measuring 42 by 67 feet, encompasses the six-story hotel, a total area of approximately 20,000 square feet, basement included. On the first floor is a large lobby with stairwell and elevator access to hotel rooms above. Flanking the lobby are a retail space on the east and a long, narrow coffee shop on the west, both within the core. Above the lobby are five floors of guest rooms. Outside the core, a one-story L-shaped annex historically extended approximately twenty-eight feet out from the south wall for seventy-five feet to the west and then extended around the west wall out in an eight-foot-wide strip. The extension encompassed approximately 2,400 square feet and contained the kitchen and part of the coffee shop (on the west), a dining room (center), and two small retail spaces (on the east, south of the core). The one-story extension was removed in 1971, when another building was constructed around the south and west sides of the hotel, leaving the six-story core of the building intact at 20,000 square feet and, at that time, still in use. The east part of the 1971 building (the part south of the hotel) was removed in 2007.

North (main) elevation

Visually, the Hotel Bell core is a three-part vertical block. This is apparent on the north and east elevations. The north façade is the building's formal face and contains the entry to the hotel proper. Classical Revival decorative elements divide the façade into three sections. The first part, or base, is delineated by a cast-stone footing at sidewalk level and by a projecting cast-stone belt course above the windows. First-floor openings are slightly asymmetrical. There are three entrances and three large, plate glass "store" windows. The original doors and windows are wood and have transoms. The door on the east end accessed a retail space, and the door on the west end accessed the coffee shop. The off-centered middle door led into the lobby. The original glazing remains in all of the windows and doors. The second part, or shaft, comprises

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stories 2 through 5 and is separated from the third part by a cast-stone course and has 6 bays of regularly spaced, single-hung 1x1 windows with wood frames and casings. The third part, which is the sixth story or cap, is marked by a slightly projecting, cast-stone course just above the windows. This course is set with cast-stone decorations between the window bays, five on the north side and two on the east, with multiple layers and a central "badge" or shield, with a "bar sinister." Below each are three small rectangular lozenges that, viewed with the shield design as a unit, appear to be a flame above a torch. The cap has a projecting course of dentil molding. A foot and a half above that, the parapet is capped with a cast-stone coping. On the roof, a small penthouse sits adjacent to the south parapet. Windows in the upper sections of both north and east elevations retain original wood sashes and casings, but some lack glazing, others appear to have original glazing, and others are boarded or open and covered by chicken wire.

East (secondary) elevation

The east elevation mimics the north in its vertical arrangement in three parts, including the Classical Revival details of the cap and parapet. This elevation has only three window bays. On the first floor are four openings. On the north end is a large plate glass window, and to its south is a door, a tall, narrow plate glass window, and another door. All four openings have transoms, some with original lights. The doors access the core's retail space from 5th Street. On floors 2 through 6 are three regularly spaced bays, each with a single-hung, 1x1 wood-framed and -cased window. Here again, some windows lack glazing and are boarded or covered with chicken wire. Historically, a basement stairwell, in the sidewalk at the north corner gave access for deliveries and services; it is now covered by concrete sidewalk. South of the multistory core, historically the one-story extension to the south had two retail spaces accessed only on 5th Street; the extension was removed in 1971.

South (rear) elevation

Presently the south elevation is adjacent to a parking lot where once was the south-side retail/dining room/kitchen/ extension, removed in 1971. On the first floor of the core there were never any windows, and the second floor windows were sealed in 1971. Floors 3 through 6 have six vertical symmetrical bays, each with a steel-cased and framed 2x2 single-hung window. The penthouse has three 3x4 steel windows on this side (and none on other sides). The original glazing remains the south windows. A chimney shaft rises along this wall from the basement and extends well above the parapet. Clearly visible in the south wall is the checkerboard of reinforced concrete pillars/floors and veneer of utility brick over the tiles.

West elevation

The west elevation has a one-story party wall with the adjacent building (constructed in 1971), as it did historically, although the adjacency has changed. Windows on the second floor have been removed. Floors 3 through 6 have three symmetrical vertical window bays, each with the steel 2x2 window units and original glazing. Also clearly visible in the west wall is the checkerboard of reinforced concrete pillars/floors and veneer of utility brick over the tiles. The brick veneer of the north wall projects outward past the west wall, and wraps slightly around it.

Interior

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The interior of the multistory hotel core encompasses approximately 20,000 square feet, including the full basement and the small penthouse. The lobby, which the visitor would enter first, retains its arrangement and plastered clay tile walls, concrete pillars, and pilasters. The original elevator, still in place, runs in a fireproof shaft constructed of clay tiles. The interior walls dividing the retail space and coffee shop from the lobby are made of clay tiles, protecting the lobby from fire. Original wall plaster remains in the lobby, the east retail space, and the coffee shop. The first floor retains its original terrazzo floors. The retail space, coffee shop, and stairwell areas on each floor retain their original electrical service panels, with labels appropriately indicating the rooms' functions.

The Hotel Bell offered fifty guest rooms. All five floor plans were identical: ten rooms arranged along a central east-west hallway, providing six guest rooms along the north and four on the south. Corner rooms (four) had full baths. Occupants of the other rooms shared two bathrooms along the south wall, behind the stairwell and elevator (some plumbing was added to other rooms in the 1940s). Original plaster and baseboards remain on most floors. The basement historically comprised mechanical and storage rooms.

Alterations

The six-story core of the Hotel Bell, totaling 20,000 square feet, remains intact. Original exterior materials of every variety are present: Classical Revival cast-stone decorations, and wood doors and windows, and steel windows remain as original. The interior partitions and fixtures on floors 2 through 6 were removed in 1985 in anticipation of a proposed project; the nailing strips are still visible. In 1971 the 2,400-square-foot, one-story extension on the south side for kitchen, dining, and retail space was removed to facilitate construction of a variety store that wrapped around the south and west sides of the building. Subsequently, the south-side portion of that store was removed in 2007. The extension, as originally constituted, had not been integral to the Bell's operation as a hotel and commercial space, and only the east side was noticeable from the street. Removal therefore did not seriously affect the hotel building's overall integrity. The hotel per se is identified with the multistory core, rather than the ancillary sections.

The comparatively huge Hotel Bell building has been a dominant feature of downtown Alva for 86 years since its construction in 1926. Lying east-west along the town's main downtown street, the north elevation was the "public face" that is historically associated with the hotel's image, and it continues to be so. The towering Hotel Bell retains considerable integrity of design and a high degree of integrity of materials, workmanship, setting, and other criteria, and is well able to convey appropriate information about its construction and about the history of cooperative community development in Alva.

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

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Period of Significance

1926-1962

Significant Dates

1927

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

UNKNOWN

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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 Hotel Bell, located at 501-505 Barnes in Alva, Oklahoma, represents a historical 1920s small-town pattern of planning and erecting community hotels by means of stock sales among local individuals. The Hotel Bell was physically central in Alva and was central to Alva community life from 1927 through 1968. In this context it is historically significant and is eligible for the National Register under Criteria A, Community Planning and Development.

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

A Context for Hotels and Community Planning and Development in the U.S., 1918-1945

By the mid-1920s in small towns across America prominent citizens and city councils began to think of ways to attract business to town when it might naturally flow toward larger communities. The mantra of the era was "make this a better town to live in," by building up business. City leaders touted a new, modern, fireproof hotel as one of the most important civic improvement projects that citizens make real through their own efforts. Amenities were also important, dictating new developments in hotel design. "Modern" travelers expected hotels to offer heat, indoor plumbing, electricity, dining options, and retail services. This historical pattern is well documented in John Jakle and Keith Sculle's 2009 book, *America's Main Street Hotels: Transiency and Community in the Early Auto Age*.¹

Location was very important. As Jakle and Sculle note, "community materialized in the hotel's very location and prominence on Main Street. Block-long facades of individual buildings joined side by side created an ensemble that . . . [are] an essential American type of landscape. In these ensembles, hotels stood forth, often as the tallest member mid-block or poised at the end, catching one's eye along two facades at key intersections." The authors add that "these hotels as primary visual definers were integral to people's memory of Main Street for long periods. To the degree that Main Street symbolized community, the hotel was an imperative, even though it stood forth from the architectural stage."²

In instance after instance, small-town business communities across America coalesced in an important fundraising project that would benefit them all. Incorporating a community hotel companies was a method that citizens frequently employed to facilitate a new, fireproof edifice in the center of town. The method had its advantages, and also its problems.³ Nevertheless, in the booming days of the 1920s it was an exciting option for local investors in small towns, and the hotel projects usually segued into additional building projects. This scenario was repeated in several small Oklahoma towns.

¹ John A. Jakle and Keith A. Sculle, *America's Main Street Hotels: Transiency and Community in the Early Auto Age* (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2009), 47-61.

² *Ibid.*, 57-58.

³ *Ibid.*, 53-54.

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The Hotel Bell as a Significant Community Planning and Development Project

The town of Alva was created in 1886-87 as a railroad stop on the Southern Kansas Railway (later the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway). When the Cherokee Outlet opened for homesteading in 1893, the Interior Department designated Alva as seat of M (later Woods) County. A 320-acre townsite was platted just before to the Cherokee Outlet Opening of September 16, 1893. As Alva came to be a regional agricultural service center for wheat farmers of a "surrounding trade area," defined as Beaver, Harper, Woods, Alfalfa, Major, Grant, and Ellis counties. In 1897 the Oklahoma Territorial Legislature gave the town a boost when it designated Alva to be home of Northwestern Territorial Normal School, now Northwestern State University. In time, the community was visually characterized by grain elevators where that commodity was stored before shipment on the railroad. A thriving downtown business district grew around a park-like central block where stood the Woods County Courthouse. By 1930 Alva was one of the largest towns in northwestern Oklahoma. Comparatively, Alva in 1930 boasted 5,121 citizens, compared with Woodward's 5,056. The other county seats of that region were much smaller, the only exceptions being Enid, with nearly 20,000 and Blackwell, with 9,500.⁴ Clearly, most of the agricultural business in the area headed in Alva's direction, where rail and highway met in a central location.

At the nexus of agricultural services, a state university, and various transportation routes, Alva was a destination. The 1920s newspapers report that Alva attracted numerous meetings and conventions. Examples include the Southwestern Wheat Growers' Association in 1923, the State Highway Commission's Good Roads regional meeting, the Northwestern Oklahoma Educational Association's and Northwestern State Teachers' Association's regional meetings in 1924, the Farmers' Co-Operative Association in 1928, as well as the state district court for its regular sessions and the annual northwestern state fair, a regional activity drawing thousands.⁵ Automobiles became ubiquitous, accommodations for travelers and conventioners were at a premium.

Initially, as with most small agricultural towns, Alva's hotels served visiting farmers, business people, and dignitaries but by the 1920s did not provide adequately for them. The earliest hotel, the Runnymede, had been constructed in 1889 in Kansas and in 1893 was moved to Alva at the time of the land opening. By the time of World War I there were others. They included the Alva Hotel, the Pribble, the St. Nicholas, and the Cottage. All were one-story wood-framed buildings. Of these, the Pribble was the largest and most elaborate. None but the Pribble were on the square. All were wood-framed and therefore without serious fire protection.⁶ Only the Pribble offered dining.

⁴ Donovan Reichenberger, "Alva," *Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*, ed. Dianna Everett (Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Historical Society, 2009), I: 30-31; Wayne Lane, "Northwestern Oklahoma State University," *Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*, II: 1037.

⁵ Larry O'Dell, "Trade Days," *Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*, II: 1499-1500; *Alva Record*, 21 March 1924, 9 May 1924, and 21 November 1924.

⁶ Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, Alva, Oklahoma, 1920, 1930.

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As with most communities, Alva needed a modern, fireproof hotel to draw business away from larger towns in northwestern Oklahoma. The Alva hotel project was created in 1925 when the Chamber of Commerce set up a special committee. Chaired by George W. Bell, chamber president, the committee brought lenders and contractors to look Alva over. One of the contractors brought in a "community hotel" development plan being advertised from Kansas City, Missouri. In February 1925, according to the local paper, the Stephens Community Financing Service (Ransom Stevens, proprietor) offered its standard "plan." A capital investment of \$125,000 would be necessary, and citizens would be offered one share for \$250, payable in twenty equal installments over five years. The Bankers' and Farmers' Insurance Company of Kansas City would insure each investor, loan the company the initial construction funds, and pay dividends on each share from hotel profits. Rayburn Construction of Kansas City was to be the builder. The Chamber of Commerce formed the Alva Building and Loan Company, with a state charter, and committees began selling the stock in late February 1925. The city government took options on five pieces of property location.⁷ As Jakle and Sculle note, "collective initiative and responsibility set [the community hotel] apart from all other hotels in conception."⁸

The Hotel Bell's location was decided in July 1925. The trustees of the Alva Building and Investment Company considered the five site options. Three were on Barnes Street, but only one was near the square. The site at Fifth and Barnes in Block 50 was selected because of its central location on the main street on the square at a major intersection.⁹

In a scenario reported in instance after instance by Jakle and Sculle, construction often went slowly or faltered when subscriptions were not paid. The Hotel Bell building phase proceeded slowly because of financing problems with stockholders but was begun and ended in 1926. Farmers' and Bankers' and Rayburn having exited the scheme, Enid's Garfield Building and Loan Company agreed to take over the project, if Grant Buxton Construction of Enid was chosen as builder. This brought the enterprise back into a local orbit. The hotel was downsized to 42 by 70 feet with dining/kitchen relegated to a small annex. Finally, on April 12, 1926, construction proceeded. On November 18 the hotel was named the Hotel Bell, for George W. Bell, who had died in 1925.¹⁰ As Jakle and Sculle noted, typically "numerous local suppliers and tradesmen [were hired by the developers] to build the hotel."¹¹ Many Alva companies provided the expertise and materials that the Enid construction firm needed to build the hotel. Construction completed, the Hotel Bell opened for business in a gala affair on January 1, 1927.¹²

Occupancy is useful in evaluating the significance of the Hotel Bell. Jakle and Sculle point out that customers expected modern hotels to offer amenities such as dining options, and retail services. All those were present in the Bell. With or without a dining annex, it remained a community gathering spot because it had a coffee shop and a retail confectionary/soda fountain, called the Bell Sweet Shop, patronized by high school and college crowd. Tickets for the Mid-

⁷ *Alva Review-Courier*, 14 and 28 February 1925, 23 March 1925, 21 December 1926; *Alva Record*, 19 and 26 February 1925, 5 March 1925, 23 April 1925, 4 June 1925.

⁸ Jakle and Sculle, *America's Main Street Hotels*, 52.

⁹ *Alva Review-Courier*, 15, 18, and 23 July 1925, 7 and 8 October 1925; *Alva Record*, 16 and 23 July 1925.

¹⁰ *Alva Record*, 8 October 1925, 11 December 1925 15 April 1926, 20 September 1926, 18 November 1926; *Alva Review-Courier*, 3 September 1925, 5 October 1925, 21 December 1926; *Alva Record*, 5 April 1926.

¹¹ Jakle and Sculle, *America's Main Street Hotels*, 56.

¹² *Alva Review-Courier*, 21 December 1926, 3 Jan 1927.

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Continent Bus Lines were sold in the shop from the mid-1940s and until 1962. The Sweet Shop closed in 1963; the space was subdivided and used by Western Union Telegraph Company, various oil leasing agents, and a real estate/company. The coffee shop remained open for hotel guests and businessmen until the late 1940s. Afterward, the space was rented through 1976 to a representative of the National Farm Loan Association of Alva and the federal farm loan program. Therefore, over most of its history the hotel building drew both locals and travelers for various pursuits. The Hotel Bell itself lost money in the Depression; beginning in the 1930s W. W. Starr, the local lumberman who had provided the building materials, gradually acquired all of the stock. A member of the Starr family operated the hotel until it finally closed in 1968. The family subsequently sold the building but reacquired in the mid-2000s.¹³

The creation and implementation of Alva's community hotel well illustrates an historical pattern prevalent in small-town America of the 1920s. The Hotel Bell development was more than just a good investment for a local businessman. Cooperation had wider economic consequences for Alva. As the *Daily Oklahoman* of Oklahoma City noted in September 1930, the project "has resulted in more than \$400,000 worth of brick buildings since then. The buildings represent more prosperity than that amount of money spent in one or two buildings would represent, for this money was spent in a number of buildings ranging in price from \$5,000 to \$50,000 and from filling stations to residences costing \$25,000."¹⁴

Moreover, in an associated pattern, other small Oklahoma towns created community hotels. Among those documented, the Hotel Bell movement in Alva set perhaps the earliest example, having begun in 1925 and culminated in 1927. Within the next few years at least four other stock-subscription hotel projects had been engendered, including Mangum's Hotel Franklin in 1927 (opened 1929; NR 07000520), Cushing's Hotel Cushing (opened 1928; razed) Durant's Bryan Hotel (completed 1930; extant), and Enid's Youngblood Hotel in Enid (opened 1930; extant; Enid was a medium-sized town by Oklahoma standards). A reporter for the *Daily Oklahoman* lauded the Alva edifice as "a community hotel" because of the promotion method. Similarly, using stock subscriptions, very large hotels were erected by successfully capitalized stock corporations in major cities, including Tulsa's Mayo Hotel (C. A. Mayo, principal investor, opened 1922; NR 80003303) and Oklahoma City's Biltmore (C. P. Colcord, principal investor, opened 1932; razed).¹⁵

Thoroughly modern in construction, design, and intent, the Hotel Bell was created by the Alva community and became a center of varied community activities. As Jakle and Sculle note, "The small-town or small-city hotel . . . may be called the epicenter of community, both enabling it and symbolizing it."¹⁶ They add that "hotels as primary visual identifiers were integral to people's memory of Main Street for long periods." That summation is more than true of the Hotel Bell and

¹³ Jakle and Sculle, *America's Main Street Hotels*, 55 and chapter 5 passim; *Alva Review-Courier*, 30 July 1968; Dianna Everett interview with Richard N. Ryerson of Starr Lumber Company, October 29, 2012, Alva, Oklahoma (Ryerson is W. W. Starr's grandson); Alva Telephone Directories, 1955-1982; *Alva, Oklahoma, City Directory, 1961* (Ardmore: Moorhead Directory Service, 1961), 5, 20, 60, 207; *Alva, Oklahoma, City Directory, 1964* (Ardmore: Moorhead Directory Service, 1964), 3, 27, 56, 89.

¹⁴ *Daily Oklahoman*, 21 September 1930.

¹⁵ "Hotel Franklin," National Register Nomination File, State Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma City; *Daily Oklahoman*, 19 September 1928 and 1 December 1928 (quotation); Jennifer Jones, "Change the Stars: The Story of the Youngblood Hotel of Enid, Oklahoma," *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* 83 (Summer 2005): 135; *Daily Oklahoman*, 2 January 1922, 8 March 1925, and 5 January 1929.

¹⁶ Jakle and Sculle, *America's Main Street Hotels*, 58 (quotations).

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the Alva community. The creation and implementation of Alva's community hotel well illustrates the historical pattern of hotel development prevalent in small-town America of the 1920s. As a significant representative of this trend, the Hotel Bell is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A, for Community Planning and Development.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Alva, Oklahoma, City Directory, 1961. Ardmore: Moorhead Directory Service, 1961.

Alva, Oklahoma, City Directory, 1964. Ardmore: Moorhead Directory Service, 1964.

Alva, Oklahoma, Southwestern Bell Telephone Directories, 1955-1982.

Alva Record, 1924-1927.

Alva Review-Courier, 1925-1927, 30 July 1968, and 14 November 1971.

Everett, Dianna. Interview with Richard N. Ryerson of Starr Lumber Company. October 29, 2012, Alva, Oklahoma.

Jakle, John A., and Keith A. Sculle. *America's Main Street Hotels: Transiency and Community in the Early Auto Age.* Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2009.

Reichenberger, Donovan. "Alva," *Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*, ed. Dianna Everett . 2 vols. Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Historical Society, 2009.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, Alva, Oklahoma, 1920, 1930, 1948.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- 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

Acreeage of Property Less than 1 (one) acre

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: 36.803508 | Longitude: -98.665498 |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

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.)

"Alva Original Town, Block 50, North 42 (forty-two) feet of Lots 1 and 2, East 17 (seventeen) feet of the North 42 (forty-two) feet of Lot 3, Hotel."

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

These are the property's legal boundaries as recorded on the Tax Rolls of Woods County, County Assessor's Office, Alva, Oklahoma.

Hotel Bell
Name of Property

Woods, Oklahoma
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Dianna Everett, Ph.D., Consultant (for Preservation & Design Studio, Oklahoma City)
organization: _____
street & number: 2510 Countrywood Lane
city or town: Edmond state: OK zip code: 73012
e-mail weaver25@cox.net
telephone: 405/348-4679
date: 1 April, 2013

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.)

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.

Hotel Bell
Name of Property

Woods, Oklahoma
County and State

Photo Log

Name of Property: Hotel Bell

City or Vicinity: Alva

County: Woods State: Oklahoma

Photographer: Dianna Everett

Date Photographed: 29 October 2012

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

Number of Photographs: 6

Photo 0001 North and east elevations, camera facing southeast

Photo 0002 East elevation, camera facing west

Photo 0003 South and East elevations, camera facing northwest

Photo 0004 North elevation entrance detail, camera facing south

Photo 0005 West and North elevations, camera facing southeast

Photo 0006 North elevation, camera facing south

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications 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.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding

Hotel Bell, Awa, Woods County, Oklahoma
Data Source: Google Earth
Date Retrieved: November 27, 2012
Date Reduced: November 27, 2012

36.803508 -98.665498

Imagery Date: 8/8/2012 1990

lat: 36.803508° lon: -98.665498° elev: 1352 ft

Google earth

Eye alt: 198 ft



HOLDER DRUG

2nd STREET





A multi-story brick building with a red base. The upper floors are made of red brick with white mortar joints and decorative horizontal bands. The ground floor is finished with a smooth, reddish-pink stucco. The building features numerous windows, some of which appear to be boarded up or missing panes. A tall brick chimney is located on the left side of the roofline. The building is situated on a street corner.

A single-story, tan-colored building with a flat roof. A white satellite dish is mounted on the roof. The building has a simple, industrial appearance.

A black flatbed truck with a metal frame and a spare tire mounted on the side. It is parked on the street.

A red SUV parked in a lot next to the tan building.

A red pickup truck and a black SUV parked in a lot in front of the brick building. A silver car is partially visible behind the black SUV.

A modern street lamp with a curved arm and a single light fixture, mounted on a tall metal pole.

A tall, thin metal tower or antenna structure with several horizontal cross-arms, located in the background.

A street scene in the background featuring trees, a yellow building, and a white tower. A stop sign is visible on the right side of the street.







UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Hotel Bell
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: OKLAHOMA, Woods

DATE RECEIVED: 5/03/13 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/30/13
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/14/13 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/19/13
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 13000395

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 6-14-13 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places**

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



Oklahoma Historical Society
State Historic Preservation Office

Founded May 27, 1893

Oklahoma History Center • 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive • Oklahoma City, OK 73105-7917
(405) 521-6249 • Fax (405) 522-0816 • www.okhistory.org/shpo/shpom.htm



April 29, 2013

Ms. Carol Shull
Acting Keeper of the Register
National Park Service 2280, 8th floor
National Register of Historic Places
1201 "I" (Eye) Street, NW
Washington D.C. 20005

Dear Ms. Shull:

We are pleased to transmit five National Register of Historic Places nominations for Oklahoma properties. The nominations are for the following properties:

Hotel Bell, 505 Barnes, Alva, Woods County
Danholt, 1208 May Avenue, Guymon, Texas County
International Temple, Supreme Assembly, Order of the Rainbow for Girls, 315 East Carl
Albert Parkway, McAlester, Pittsburg County
McGranahan Portion of the Chisholm Trail Roadbed, Yukon, Canadian County
Mager Mortgage Company Building, 231 NW 10th Street, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
County

The member of the Historic Preservation Review Committee (state review board), professionally qualified in the field of prehistoric archeology was absent from the public meeting at which each of these nominations was considered and the recommendation to the State Historic Preservation Officer was formulated. However, the member possessing the requisite professional qualifications for evaluation of each nominated property was present and participated in the recommendation's formulation.

We look forward to the results of your review. If there may be any questions, please do not hesitate to contact either Lynda S. Ozan of my staff or myself.

Sincerely,

Melvena Heisch
Deputy State Historic
Preservation Officer

MKH:Iso

Enclosures