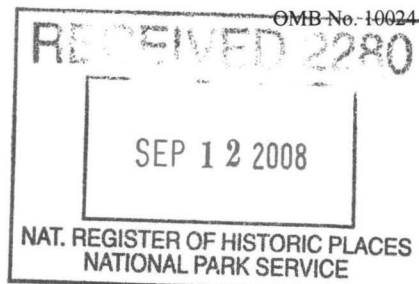


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Hill, Taylor, Hotel

other names/site number Taylor Hotel/ Site # JO0033

2. Location

street & number 409 Alabama Street

☐ not for publication

city or town Coal Hill

☐ vicinity

state Arkansas code AR county Johnson code 071 zip code 72832

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 for 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
☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Archie Thomas
Signature of certifying official/Title

7/28/08
Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

☒ entered in the National Register.

☐ See continuation sheet

☐ determined eligible for the
National Register.

☐ See continuation sheet

☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register.

☐ removed from the National
Register.

☐ other, (explain:) _____

for
Edson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

10.21.08
Date of Action

Hill, Taylor, Hotel
Name of Property

Johnson County, Arkansas
County and State

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

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	1	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
3	1	Total

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

N/A

**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)

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER/I-house

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE
walls WOOD/Weatherboard

roof METAL/Tin
other

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Summary

The Taylor Hill Hotel is a good example of the I-house form in the folk, or national folk, tradition. The hotel was located directly across the street from the railroad depot and was the center of a thriving business community. Constructed in the traditional folk I-house form with a large rear addition, the proprietor added Folk Victorian, or Victorian elements to enhance the hotel and give it a more sophisticated feeling.

Elaboration

The Taylor Hill Hotel is a large, two-story structure located in Coal Hill, Arkansas, two blocks south of U.S. Highway 64 on Alabama Street. The construction date and craft persons are unknown though it was thought to be built circa 1890. The building is a good example of the National Folk, I-house form with Folk Victorian and Greek Revival elements in the town of Coal Hill. The Folk Victorian style of architecture was common in residential structures in Coal Hill built at the end of the nineteenth century. One of the few remaining examples, the Bowman House, built circa 1890, is one example.¹

The building might properly be called National Folk in the long tradition of the I-house form. The building is primarily an I-house structure with a rear-facing T. In this specific instance, the linear form has a long central hall running from the front to the rear through the rear wing. The exterior decoration is simple as was common to Folk homes. A three-quarter width, two-story porch on the front of the home has plain balusters; but the hotel also has turned columns and mass-produced decorative carpentry work on the porch giving a bit of Folk Victorian detailing. Additional Folk Victorian elements can be seen in the partial porch to the west elevation of the rear wing.

The hotel sits on a rough-cut stone foundation set in an irregular course. There were no fireplaces installed in the hotel, instead the hotel was heated with wood stoves on the upper and lower floors; one interior brick chimney remains. The exterior wall covering is lapped siding with cornice raking in the pediments. It has a wide cornice under the shallow boxed eaves, vernacular Doric pilasters on six of the eight corners, and door surrounds more commonly associated with Greek Revival architecture.

The selection of the I-house or National Folk form of architecture for this hotel is not surprising. Primarily a rural farming community into the late 1870s, the town of Coal Hill had only a few dry goods and grocers prior to the arrival of the railroad. The carpenters and craftsman who settled in the community would certainly have been familiar with home construction in many of the folk forms. Economics and the inability to obtain inexpensive building materials would have made folk forms like the I-house or the front-gable and wing preferred building stock.

¹ Editors Note: The Bowman House (JO0031) is, in the opinion of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, unfortunately not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places due to the application of artificial siding, replacement of windows, and removal of chimneys. Though it is ineligible it still has the basic form and decorative elements of a Folk Victorian structure.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

The community was settled largely by immigrants from Tennessee and Alabama. Homes in the hall-and-parlor and I-house forms had long existed as derivations from original English housing stock in these states. The architectural traditions from the east like the hall-and parlor, the I-house, Folk Victorian, and Greek Revival learned by carpenters in the east migrated across the South as settlement moved westward. In this way it is not uncommon to find folk building forms with dated architectural details such as the Greek Revival details on the Taylor Hill Hotel.

A burgeoning coal industry was the reason that the Little Rock & Fort Smith Railway constructed its Coal Hill Branch in the middle to late 1880s. The arrival of the railroad spurred adaptations to pre-railroad folk forms in Coal Hill. Mass produced, decorative carpentry elements could now be ordered and shipped by rail at greatly reduced costs. This is when we see the construction of the Queen Anne style, Dr. Coyle House—built circa 1890—and the Folk Victorian, Will Hunt House—built circa 1890, destroyed 2002. Taylor Hill, or his carpenter, was able to order decorative carpentry elements and have them delivered relatively inexpensively. In this way he could give his folk I-house structure a more, elaborate or fashionable appearance by the addition of Victorian elements.

Achieving the appearance of a more high style feel was an important consideration for Taylor Hill. His was one of two hotels in Coal Hill. Directly across from the railroad station, the hotel was one of the first buildings seen by passengers arriving in, or passing through, Coal Hill. With the main land office of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain, and Southern Railroad located in the town and with Coal Hill being the center of the Johnson County coal fields, the hotel was certainly trying to attract a clientele accustomed to finer hotels in larger cities. It was in their best interest to design a hotel that was both economical to construct—the traditional I-house form—and one that gave the appearance of high style and finer living—the Folk Victorian and Greek Revival elements.

South Façade/Front

A common, two-story I-house form, the Taylor Hill Hotel was built facing the Little Rock & Fort Smith Railway on, what was at that time, Railroad Street. The front elevation is fenestrated by two double-hung, two-over-one windows on the lower floor and two double-hung, two-over-two windows on the second floor. Centered directly in the façade are two unglazed, panel doors. These doors, the upper floor and main floor, are both accentuated by square sidelights of clear glass. Door surrounds for both doors feature pilasters reminiscent of classical columns and are topped with entablature. The main entry door on the first floor, in addition to having square sidelights, has a two-pane transom and a substantial entablature with a prominent cornice and frieze.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

As was common to many southern folk I-houses, a porch was added on the front of the structure to provide additional living space and a cooler place to reside in the era before air conditioning. This porch on the Taylor Hill Hotel is a two-story, shed roof porch. The wooden porch is supported by four square columns on the lower level and four turned columns on the upper floor. The cross-gabled, symmetrical form of the south elevation is topped with a cornice and frieze entablature under a shallow, boxed eave.

East Façade/ Side

Two bays make up the east elevation of the home; the southern bay is the side-gabled end of the I-home, the northern bay is the east façade of the rear wing. The southern bay is fenestrated by two double-hung, two-over-two windows. The lap siding extends into the pediment which is topped by a steeply pitched gable roof; shallow, boxed eaves; and cornice raking.

The northern bay is fenestrated by three double-hung, two-over-two windows on the upper story. The lower story has one double-hung, two-over-two windows, one paneled door, and one replacement double-hung, horizontal, two-over-two aluminum window. Lapped siding extends to the entablature at the eave. All the windows, with the exception of the replacement, on this elevation have architrave trim.

North Façade/ Back

The rear elevation is the northern end of the rear wing and consists of three bays: the eastern width of the main body of the hotel, the rear wing, and the northern façade of what was originally the kitchen. There are few fenestrations on this northern façade. The eastern bay has no fenestrations and the only architectural decoration is the classically styled pilaster on the northeastern corner of the main I-house. There are three windows in the rear wing. The wing is two widths wide, it has its original lap siding and there are three original, double-hung, two-over-two windows set asymmetrically in the façade and one door located on the north side of the structure. The westernmost bay is the north façade of what was once the kitchen. This bay is fenestrated by one modern door. The wall covering on this bay is plywood sheeting, painted white.

West Façade/ Side

The western elevation is comprised of three bays, the first, or northernmost, is the kitchen bay; the second is the west side porch; the third is the main body of the I-house. On the northern bay, the western wall of the original kitchen is fenestrated with an original double-hung, two-over-two window. The original lap siding has been replaced with metal siding, but only on this one exterior wall. Above the kitchen bay is the northern end of the second floor porch which extends to the rear of the building.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

The middle bay is the partial side porch of the home. Like the front porch, the side porch was originally decorated with turned columns on both upper and lower floors and decorative detailing at the top of each post. The bay is fenestrated with three double-hung, two-over-two windows on the upper floor and two double-hung, two-over-two windows on the lower floor. A simple, paneled door leads off of the porch into the home. After 1972 the lower floor of this side porch was enclosed with a screen. To facilitate the screening of this porch the original turned columns and decorative work were removed. The upper porch columns, balustrade and decorative carpentry remain intact.

The southern bay of this elevation is a match to that on the eastern elevation.

Contributing Structures

There are two contributing structures to the Taylor Hill Hotel. The first structure is a well house constructed circa 1900 to the northeast of the hotel. The frame structure sits on a stone and poured concrete foundation and covers the well that formerly supplied water for the hotel. The gable roof building is fenestrated by one simple wooden door.

The second contributing structure is a gable-roofed, frame shed built in 1948. This shed sits on a poured concrete foundation and is fenestrated by only one door on the southeast corner of the east elevation. Clad in weatherboard, the shed has a corrugated steel roof and is oriented on a north-south axis.

Non-Contributing Structures

There is one non-contributing structure associated with the Taylor Hill Hotel, a gable-roofed three bay garage. The garage was built in 1959 using heavy 8 inch by 8 inch timbers. Clad in corrugated steel siding, the garage faces to the south and is accessed by an unpaved, grass covered drive.

Integrity

Though the one hundred and seventeen year old Taylor Hill Hotel is showing its age, it remains a good example of the national folk I-house. Many of these homes in Arkansas have been lost or heavily modified. The Dr. Will Hunt House (JO0030), a Folk Victorian with Queen Anne elements, was lost prior to 2002. A five ranked, side-gable example of the I-house form in Coal Hill, the Old Whittle Home (JO0034) was torn down in 1975. Even within Johnson County the I-house folk structure is becoming more and more difficult to find. The Old Stagecoach Inn, Clarksville vic. (JO0024), a circa 1840 example of the I-house form, was torn down in 1965 and the Knoxville Hotel, Knoxville (JO0039), a structure very similar to the Taylor Hill Hotel, constructed circa 1870 is also no longer extant. Additionally the Taylor Hill Hotel is the only remaining example of a hotel in Coal Hill, the other is no longer extant.

Hill, Taylor, Hotel
Name of Property

Johnson County, Arkansas
County and State

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5

There have been some modifications to the hotel, primarily as a result of its conversion to private residence. One of the original windows has been replaced. The room listed as being a kitchen on the 1913 Sanborn Fire Insurance Company map has been resided on its northern and western exposures. The porch on the west side has been enclosed. The entire structure is in its original state with the exception of the two lower porches. Both lower porches have cement floors, which were hand poured by Donald Rector Hurst, owner, and son Donald Ray Hurst in 1950.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Hill, Taylor, Hotel
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Johnson

DATE RECEIVED: 9/12/08 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 9/29/08
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 10/14/08 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 10/26/08
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 08001007

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 10.21.08 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.



1. HILL, TAYLOR, HOTEL
2. Johnson County, AR
3. SARAH MARICKS
4. JULY 2008
5. Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Little Rock, AR
6. South Elevation (Front) looking North
7. # 1



1. Hill, Taylor, Hotel
2. Johnson Canty, AR
3. SARAH MARKS
4. July 2008
5. ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION Program, Little Rock, AR
6. EAST ELEVATION looking WEST
7. #2



1. Hill, Taylor, Hotel
2. Johnson County, AR
3. SARAH MARICS
4. July 2008
5. ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION Program, LITTLE ROCK, AR
6. North Elevation (REAR) looking South
7. # 3



1. HILL, TAYLOR, Hotel
2. Johnson County, AR
3. SARAH MARKS
4. July 2008
5. ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION Program, Little Rock, AR
6. WEST ELEVATION looking EAST
7. # 4



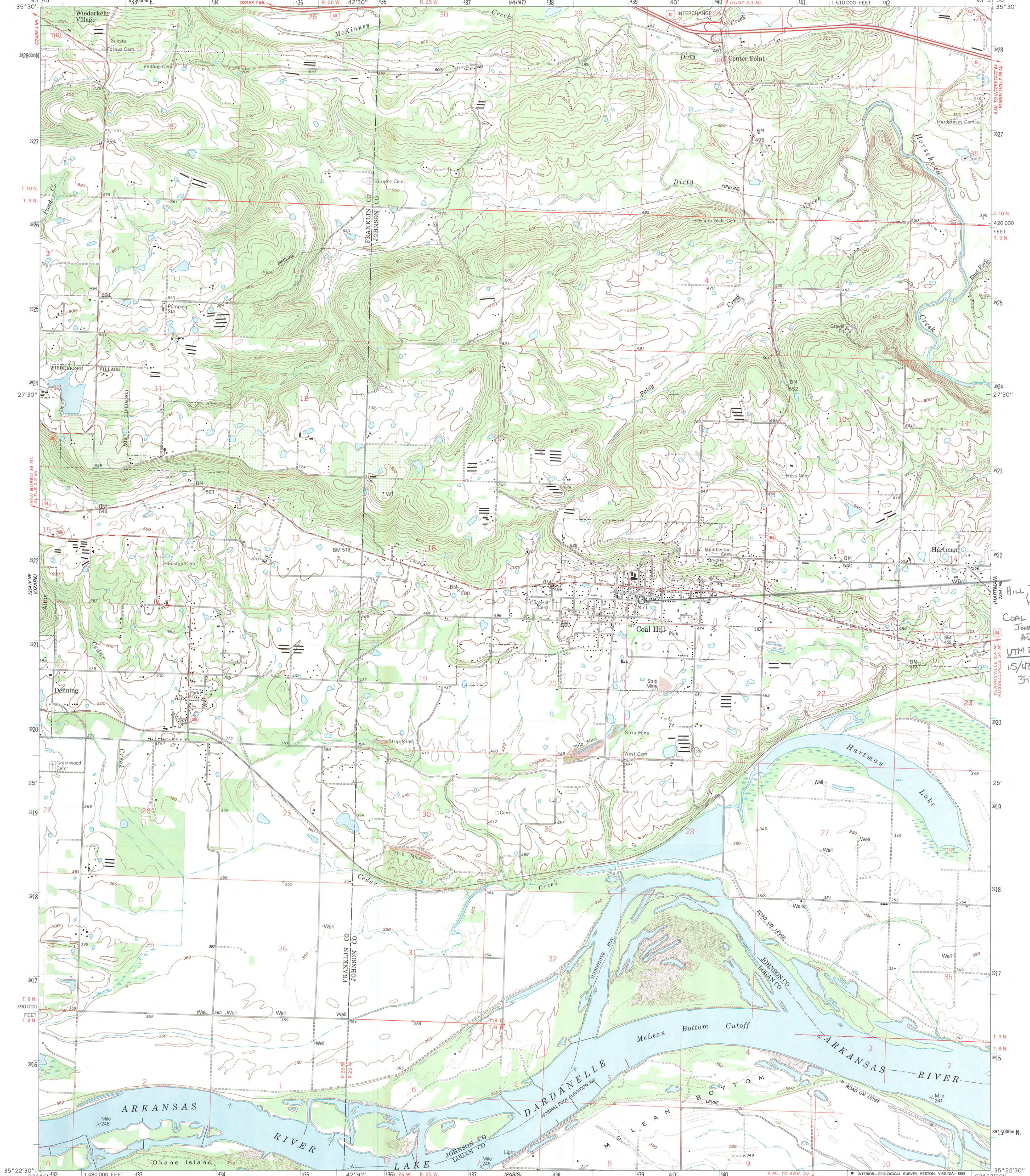
1. Hill, TAYLOR, HOTEL
2. Johnson County, AR
3. SARAH MARKS
4. July 2008
5. Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, LITTLE ROCK, AR
6. Well House West Elevation looking EAST
7. # 5



1. Hill, Taylor, Hotel
2. Johnson County, AR
3. SARAH MARKS
4. July 2008
5. ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION Program, Little Rock, AR
6. SHED East Elevation + North facade looking south west
7. #6



1. Hill, Taylor, Hotel
2. Johnson County, AR
3. SARAH MARKS
4. July 2008
5. Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Little Rock, AR
6. GARAGE South Elevation looking North
7. # 7





The Department of
**Arkansas
Heritage**

Mike Beebe
Governor

Cathie Matthews
Director

Arkansas Arts Council

*

Arkansas Natural Heritage
Commission

*

Delta Cultural Center

*

Historic Arkansas Museum

*

Mosaic Templars
Cultural Center

*

Old State House Museum



Arkansas Historic
Preservation Program

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August 6, 2008



Dr. Janet Matthews
Chief of Registration
United States Department of the Interior
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
8th Floor
1201 Eye Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20005

RE: Taylor Hill Hotel, Coal Hill, Johnson County

Dear Dr. Matthews,

We are enclosing for your review the above-referenced nomination. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has complied with all applicable nominating procedures and notification requirements in the nomination process.

If you need further information, please call Van Zbinden of my staff at (501) 324-9789. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Cathie Matthews
State Historic Preservation Officer

CM:vz

Enclosure