

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED AUG 21 1979
DATE ENTERED OCT 1 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

Brooklyn Hotel

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

154 Front Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Brooklyn

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

First

STATE

Iowa

CODE

COUNTY
Poweshiek

CODE

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

__DISTRICT

__PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

__AGRICULTURE

__MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

__UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

__PARK

__STRUCTURE

__BOTH

__WORK IN PROGRESS

__EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

__SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

__ENTERTAINMENT

__RELIGIOUS

__OBJECT

__IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

__GOVERNMENT

__SCIENTIFIC

__BEING CONSIDERED

__YES: UNRESTRICTED

__INDUSTRIAL

__TRANSPORTATION

__NO

__MILITARY

__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Robert H. Lawson

STREET & NUMBER

154 Front Street

CITY, TOWN

Brooklyn

VICINITY OF

STATE

Iowa 52211

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Poweshiek County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Montezuma,

STATE

Iowa

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

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 Brooklyn Hotel, although believed to have been built as a residence about 1875, has for nearly all of its history been a hotel. It is located at the western end of the town's business district, with residential areas to the west and north, and a large modern grain elevator complex across the street.

The hotel is built of brick, with double walls of about 18" total thickness. Window sills are of limestone taken from a nearby quarry. The exterior form is asymmetrical the building consisting of three two-story intersecting masses with open gables facing north, south and east. The rear (north) mass is the largest, being three bays long (the other two are two bays long) and about 1½ times as wide. In the angle formed by the south- and east-facing masses is a square, 3-story tower, the first story acting as a vestibule inside the main entrance. The tower is topped with a mansard roof with flared eaves.

Window and door openings are either segmentally or round arched, each with a hood of brick (painted white; the exterior walls are painted red). The gable roofs have side eaves with large pendant brackets. On the west side, the roof edges are broken by large, triangular open gables.

On the south and east sides are first-floor projecting polygonal bays of brick, each with shallow roof and bracketted eaves. Toward the rear on the east side is a long, two-story enclosed porch of wood frame construction which is divided into two rooms on each floor. The front veranda (and probably the east porch) is of late 19th century construction: it features plain columns on short pedestals and square posts which support a flat roof with wide eaves and cornice suggesting an entablature. The roof bears a shallow triangular pediment above the porch steps.

Despite the irregular exterior form, the interior plan is relatively straightforward. A center hall separates the two front parlors which occupy the entire first floor of the south- and east-facing gables. Beyond these rooms, the hall opens into a large dining room, with smaller rooms off each side, and the kitchen, laundry, and service stairs at the extreme rear. On the second floor, the center hall runs the full length of the building, with rooms of varying sizes to each side. Many of these rooms have been equipped with private baths formed by simple panelled partition

Much original woodwork remains, including main stair case, wide molded door frames and a large arched opening between the east parlor and the dining room. There is a fine marble fireplace in the east parlor, and etched glass in the door leading from this room onto the front porch. The walls of the west parlor, an upstairs bath, and the wall above the east parlor fireplace are covered with mountain and lake scenes, painted in a primitive style in the early 1960's by an indigent hotel patron who signed each painting "Valentine". All the rooms are simply, yet comfortably furnished, with pieces ranging from antique to "early attic", giving the hotel a decidedly domestic, rather than commercial, atmosphere.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1875

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

attrib. John Byers

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Brooklyn Hotel is a locally-significant vernacular adaptation of the Italian Villa style. It exhibits the more obvious characteristics of this style, in the asymmetrical composition of intersecting gabled masses accentuated by the prominent three-story tower; the wide, bracketed eaves; and the hooded round and segmental arches of the window and door openings. The front veranda, while not original, has certainly been in place long enough to become an integral part of the character of the house. An 1892 Bird's-Eye view of Brooklyn shows the house without porch, but the porch is in place by the Sanborn fire insurance map of 1894. The size and form of the building, as well as its prominent siting on a large, elevated lot, make it a notable element in this small community, particularly as it exists in such close proximity to the commercial area.

According to local historical sources, the house was built in 1875 by John Byers, who ran a grocery and billiard hall in Brooklyn in the late 1870's, before moving out of the community to engage in farming. Subsequent owners used it as a hotel, except Dr. Charles Busby, who operated a small hospital there early in the 20th century. Its name, Brooklyn Hotel was in use as early as 1894.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Orr, Mrs. Gay A. Brooklyn: The First 100 Years. Centennial publication, privately printed, 1950.
 Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1894, 1899, 1916.
 Brooklyn Chronicle, 1 January 1892, p. 1.
 History of Poweshiek County, Iowa. Des Moines: Union Historical Co., 1880, p. 824.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

QUADRANGLE NAME Brooklyn, Iowa

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

545 A	1 5	5 4 4 9 6 10	4 6 1 9 5 5 10	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lot 1 in 5 NE NW Extension; Lot 3 5-23-80-14, Brooklyn, Iowa.

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

M.H. Bowers, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Division of Historic Preservation

DATE

July 1979

STREET & NUMBER

26 East Market Street

TELEPHONE

319/353-6949

CITY OR TOWN

Iowa City

STATE

Iowa 52240

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

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

Adrian W. Anderson

TITLE Director, Division of Historic Preservation

DATE

8/10/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Carl Shull

DATE

10-1-79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *William H. Abraham*

DATE

9.27.79

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION