

NPS Form 10-900  
(Rev. 8-86)

RECEIVED OMB No. 1024-0018

FEB 25 1993

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL  
HISTORIC

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name: Callaghan Apartments

other name/site number: Plaza Apartments and Hotel

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number: 116 East Park Street

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Thermopolis

vicinity: N/A

state: WY county: Hot Springs code: 017 zip code: 82443

=====

3. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this [checked] 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 [checked] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register Criteria. [ ] See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official: [Handwritten Signature] Date: 2/11/93

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property [ ] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. [ ] See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- [checked] entered in the National Register [checked] 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):

Signature of Keeper: Patrick Andrus Date of Action: 3/29/93

6. Function or Use

Historic: Domestic Sub: Hotel, Resort, Plaza
Current: Domestic Sub: Hotel, Resort

7. Description

Architectural Classification: Colonial

Other Description:

Materials: foundation Concrete/Stone roof Rolled Paper
walls Brick other

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Local

Applicable National Register Criteria: A

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : N/A

Areas of Significance: Commerce

Period(s) of Significance: 1917 - 1942

Significant Dates : 1918

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: William H. Callaghan/Builder
Fred E. Holdrege/Architect

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above. X See continuation sheet.

9. Major Bibliographical References

X See continuation sheet.

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- X State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: \_\_\_\_\_

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: Less Than One Acre

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing      Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>13</u>	<u>734090</u>	<u>36720</u>	B	<u>13</u>	<u>734025</u>	<u>36720</u>
C	<u>13</u>	<u>734025</u>	<u>36640</u>	D	<u>13</u>	<u>734090</u>	<u>36640</u>

N/A See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: x See continuation sheet.

Boundary Justification: x See continuation sheet.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Keniece K. Ralph

Organization: N/A Date: April 15, 1992

Street & Number: 942 Amoretti Telephone: 307-864-9442/Home 307-864-3192/Work

City or Town: Thermopolis State: WY ZIP: 82443

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7

Plaza Apartments and Hotel

Page # 1

---

The Hot Springs State Park covers 1,039 acres along the Big Horn River in Hot Springs County. As described by James McLaughlin in his address to the Department of Interior written in 1896, "The Hot Springs are up the Big Horn River about 4 miles from the mouth of Owl Creek, and about 6 miles from the mouth of said canyon, . . ." This beautiful state park is edged with the small city of Thermopolis, so named because of the mineral hot springs flowing in the park.

The Plaza Inn the Park sits on the first corner after crossing the bridge, 116 East Park Street, overlooking and facing the Big Horn River. This two story, brick structure originally housed 70 rentable rooms, divided into fourteen sections, each hall containing a common bathing room at the end of each corridor. The building is fabricated from yellow brick, speckled with red clay, in the shape of a stenciled U. The main body of the structure rests on poured concrete; the "wings" are supported by a stone underpinning. The main exterior walls extend above the roof line and are capped with red bricks laid as soldiers creating a parapet wall. The roof covering is of rolled paper and drains inward in eight places.

Fenestration is four over one double hung sash. There are six bays, each containing two four over one double hung sash windows outlined with courses of red brick laid as soldiers. The windows between the bays are four over one double hung sash, some in single, some in pairs and outlined with courses of red brick laid as soldiers. There are sixteen smaller hinged windows indicating the bath area at the end of each hallway, and again outlined with courses of red brick laid as soldiers. Each bay and corner around the building is trimmed with an arch, a decorative red brick square laid as dead soldiers in the center of each arch.

Two main access doors open on hinges into the central foyer, each door decorated with three slender beveled lights. Both doors are topped with a transom light, operating with the original transom rods. A matching set of wooden screen doors protects each entryway. On the south side of the hotel are two doors, one light centered. On the east side of the edifice encircling the plaza area are fourteen doors. Each door contains eight beveled lights, four stacked. These fourteen doors open on hinges into the corridors providing access to the guest rooms and small apartments.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Plaza Apartments and Hotel Page # 2  
=====

The plaza opens to the east catching the warm rays of the morning sun. The second story is separated from the first by a roofed open gallery overlooking the common. Twelve pillars made of yellow brick accent the veranda, each pillar containing two ice storage boxes for the convenience of hotel guest in 1918. Rooms are now equipped with the more modern refrigerators.

The fourteen hallways are numbered 1 - 15, (number 13 is, of course, omitted for superstitious reasons). Halls number 1, 5, 7, 9, 12, 14, and 15 have seven rooms with a common bath at the end of the passageway. These rooms are equipped with a small porcelain hand sink. The closet area has been adapted for a stool. The bath area comprises of a concrete bathtub measuring 63 x 76 x 23. Halls number 2, 3, 4, 8, 10, and 11 have been adapted into two and three room apartment, utilizing the bath area for guest privacy. Though at one time these bath areas ran mineral water, the system is now provided with city water. Most rooms have kitchen facilities. And all rooms are trimmed in with the original wood work, with restoration finding the beauty of the initial wood used on the doors, windows, closets, and built in dressers. Carpeting is now covering the wooden floors in one half of the rooms, while tile covering is in the remaining rooms.

Inside the hotel the main lobby is enhanced with a brick fireplace accented with a soapstone mantle piece. Ashes are dispensed through an ash shoot into the basement for easy clean up. The bath/spa area is located on the north wall, while private apartments spoke off the south wall. The spa area is separated by a main wall; one side for women and one side for men. Each area is the mirror image of the other, containing four soaking tubs made of concrete, fortified with pumice block and concrete, and an aromatic, steam sauna heated with mineral water piped directly from the Big Spring. The mineral water pulsating into the sauna bath area is about 127 degrees. In order to cool the water for bathing purposes, the mineral water is piped in a loop under the Big Horn River. This system provides cooler mineral water to mix with the hot mineral for adequate temperatures when bathing.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Plaza Apartments and Hotel Page # 1  
=====

The Plaza Inn the Park is being nominated to the National Register of Historic places under Criterion A. This building is significant because it is the sole remaining hotel/apartment building left in the Hot Springs State Park and represents the beginning of commercialization in the State Park which started in the early 1900's. At one time there were over six facilities to provide the sick and ailing access to the healing waters of the Big Spring, the most famous being the Carter Hotel and Sanatorium which was demolished in 1966. In recent years the Plaza has retained its integrity and is still presented to the public as a hotel and spa, using the same relaxing techniques as were used when the hotel was built in 1918.

Restoration of the building is ongoing. Over 70% of the structure is in its original state, while 30% of the structure has been updated to accommodate guests with private bath facilities. An upstairs apartment is being utilized by the hotel owners as living quarters.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

James McLaughlin, United States Indian Inspector, reported to the Department of the Interior in 1896, his findings and opinions on what is now known as the Hot Spring State Park. "The water of this spring is said to possess wonderful curative properties and to be very beneficial for rheumatic and other ailments, and although the temperature is 132 degrees it is not unpleasant to drink, and with salt and pepper added tastes very much like fresh chicken broth." (Senate Document No. 247, 54th Congress, 1st Session.)

The park was purchased by the government from the Shoshone and Arapahoe Indians in 1897, and hence the birth of the Hot Spring State Reserve.

The commercial explosion and development of Hot Springs State Park Reserve emerged soon after a small settlement located at the mouth of the Owl Creek moved to the Hot Springs. The birth of Thermopolis (Greek meaning "Hot City"), sprang to life with tourist activity when a series of hotels began construction in the new state park.

Several doctors recognized the value of the healing water. Dr. J. A. Scheulke of Lander, WY.; Dr. L. A. Gates relocated from Marceline, MO.; Dr. C. Dana Carter who was instrumental in the construction of the famous Carter Hotel and Sanitorium; and many more. The State Board of Charities and Reform began

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8

Plaza Apartments and Hotel

Page # 2

=====

leasing property to pioneers in the field of medicine and construction in order to meet the demand of the public. Word of the healing power of the mineral water had spread and ailing people poured into the area seeking relief from their pains.

The first hotel in the Reserve was the Big Horn Hot Springs built entirely of sagebrush and best known as the Sagebrush Hotel. In 1902, M. D. Gree constructed the McGannon Inn; in 1905, Gam Griffeth built the Griffeth House; A. L. Owen built the Mineral Springs Hotel; V. T. Mildward built the Washakie Hotel in 1908; the Maret Apartments were built in 1911, by W. K. Maret; Dr. C. Dana Carter built the famous Carter Hotel in 1917; and the last constructed hotel and only remaining structure from this time period was built in 1917-1918 by brick layer James Callaghan.

James Callaghan, a master brick layer with brick yards in Cheyenne, Lander, and Thermopolis, Wyoming, obtained a lease from the State Board of Charities and Reform dated the 8th day of December, 1917, to commence on January 1, 1918, for a term of 98 years at the rate of \$500 per year for the first two years.

Mr. Callaghan built firing kilns along the banks of the Big Horn River. The bricks were made from soft mud and clay from the surrounding area and formed into rectangles using wooden molds. The clay baked in the sun for 4 days and then the bricks were place inside the kilns to be burned for 28 days.

Construction began in November 1917, and by June of 1918, the Callaghan Apartments were ready for guests. Mr. Callaghan and his wife Hazel ran the hotel a short time. Mr. Callaghan employed several nurses and a masseur named Ruddy who was considered "very good" according to P. J. Callaghan, Mr. Callaghan's brother in a letter dated Aug. 7, 1977.

"The train was met each evening with a team of horses and surrey with the fringe on top. Patients arrived in wheelchairs, on crutches, or with the aid of a cane. Treatments were given daily and many patients who found relief built stone monuments on the top of a hill (now know as Monument Hill), also located in the Hot Springs State Park," writes P.J.

In 1921 Dr. P. W. Metz purchased shares in the Callaghan Apartment Company, Inc. and ownership was legally transferred. Dr. Metz renamed the hotel Plaza Apartments and Hotel. Since then it has been referred to as the Plaza. Ownership has changed many times since then, but the business at hand has always been the same service: to provide guests of the Plaza access to mineral baths and service to the public. Martha Omenson Healy, daughter of Katherine Parr Omenson (a nurse and owner of the Plaza during the late 1920's and early 1930's until her death, then which Martha took over as owner until she and her husband sold to the Norquist's in the 1950's) remembers as a young girl dressing up as a cowgirl to help entice tourists to the hotel.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Plaza Apartments and Hotel Page # 3  
=====

"Plaza, Plaza, Plaza Hotel and Apartments, anyone for the Plaza?" In an interview with Martha, she remembers being six years old at the time.

She also remembers the dances held every night in the Reserve. The dancing at the pavilion would last until midnight, after which there had to be peace and quite for the hotel guests to rest.

Today the Plaza Inn keepers grant the same four step spa treatments as have always been provided. Guests may first enjoy the steam sauna to help the body release toxins through sweat. The guest is then rinsed in a warm, deep bath of mineral water to help wash the toxins away. In the third step the guest is wrapped in warm cotton sheets to cool the body slowly. And in the final step the guest relaxes with a body massage to penetrate tired muscles. Guests can choose from a variety of different size apartments, ranging from one room up to the larger four room apartments. No matter which room a guest chooses a spectacular view of the park is to behold. And as in the 1900's, the swimming facilities, big spring, terraces, park and State Bath House are within walking distance.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Parks Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 9 Plaza Apartments and Hotel Page # 1  
=====

Callaghan, P.J., Letter dated August 7, 1977 to Vera Hausauer.

Healy, Martha Omenson. Interview dated August, 1992.

History of Wyoming, by Bartlett. S. J. Clark Publishing Company, 1918. Vol. I, II, III.

Hot Springs County Court House, Book 11 Miscellaneous, page 196.

Hot Springs County Museum and Cultural Center provided listing of hotels and establishments in State Park history.

Milek, Dorthy, The Gift of Bah Guewana; A History of Wyoming's Hot Springs State Park. Page 94.

Senate Document No. 247, 54th Congress, 1st Session. Copy Provided by the Wyoming State Archives and Historical Department.

Stories of Early Days in Wyoming, by Tacetta B. Walker. Copyright 1936, page 191.

Thermopolis Record, Thursday, November 15, 1917; Front Page.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 10 Plaza Apartments and Hotel Page # 1  
=====

Verbal Boundary Description:

Tract No. five (5), as shown on the new landscaping plan of the Big Horn Hot Springs State Reserve, Hot Springs County, State of Wyoming, adopted by the State Board of Charities and Reform, February 5th, 1916, on file in the office of the Secretary of State Board of Charities and Reform of the State of Wyoming. This lot is commonly known as 116 Park Street, Thermopolis, WY. The southern boundary for the Plaza Inn follows the north side of Park Street. On the east, it is bounded by the west side of Pioneer Street. The boundary on the west follows the westernmost curb of the parking lot. The boundary on the north is an arbitrary line located 50 feet north of the north end of the hotel and running from the curb of the parking lot on the west in a straight line to Pioneer Drive on the east.

Boundary Justification:

The boundaries of the building measures 160 feet by 80 feet. It is located on its own lot, defined by historic lawn, landscape, sidewalk and parking area.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

**SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD**

**NRIS Reference Number: 93000231**

**Date Listed: 3/29/93**

**Callaghan Apartments  
Property Name**

**Hot Springs            WY  
County                    State**

**N/A  
Multiple Name**

-----  
This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Patrick Andrews  
Signature of the Keeper

3/29/93  
Date of Action

=====  
**Amended Items in Nomination:**

**Name:**            The nomination is amended to add Plaza Inn the Park under "Other Name" in order to reflect the property's current name.

**Certification:**  
The nomination originally contained an incomplete certification block. The documentation is amended to acknowledge that the materials were submitted as a nomination, for a property that meets the National Register criteria. The state certifying agency is WYSHPO.

**Function:**  
The nomination is amended to add Health Care as a general category in association with the sub-category Resort for both the historic and current functions, and to delete the subcategory Plaza since the nomination does not discuss the significance of this element.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

### SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 93000231

Callaghan Apartments  
Property Name

Hot Springs  
County

WY  
State

N/A  
Multiple Name

page 2 of 2

**Description:** The architectural classification has been amended to read Colonial Revival to reflect the building's early twentieth-century design origins.

**Significance:** The SHPO has confirmed that the name of the Architect/Builder can be correctly provided as either James Callaghan or William H. Callaghan. The two names refer to the same person. Documentation substantiating the historical usage of the names is provided as additional documentation.

**UTM:** The U.T.M. coordinates are revised to read a single point centered on the building with the proper coordinates of 12 725840 4836700.

This information was confirmed by telephone with Sheila Bricher-Wade of the Wyoming SHPO.

**DISTRIBUTION:**  
National Register property file  
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)