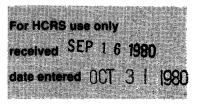
United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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	Charles E. Blair/	louse	•	
and/or common	Imperial Investmer			
2. Loca			······································	
street & number	170 N. 5th Street			not for publication
city, town	Laramie	vicinity of	congressional district	First
state	Wyoming code	056 county	Albany	code 001
3. Clas	sification			
Category district X building(s) structure site object	Ownership public private both Public Acquisition in process being considered	Status X occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible X yes: restricted yes: unrestricted no	Present Use agriculture X commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	 museum park private residence religious scientific transportation other:
4. Own	er of Proper	ty		<u>, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,</u>
name	D. Kent and Ann R	. Boswell		
street & number	PO Box 696			
city, town	Laramie	vicinity of	state _W	yoming 82070
5. Loca	ation of Lega	I Description	on	
courthouse, regis		y County Courthous	e	
street & number	Fifth Street and	Grand Avenue		
city, town	Laramie			yoming 82070
<u>6. Rep</u> r	resentation i	n Existing	Surveys	
title Wyoming	g_Recreation_Commiss	ion has this pro	perty been determined ele	egible? yes _X_ no
date 1967 (1	revised 1973)		federal <u>X</u> stat	e county local
depository for su	rvey records 604 East	25th Street		
city, town Che	eyenne		state W	yoming 82002

7. Description

Condition		Check one	(
<u>_X</u> excellent	deteriorated	unaltered	-
good	ruins	X altered	-
fair	unexposed		

Check one X original site

__ moved date _

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Charles E. Blair House is a local landmark located within the urban setting of Laramie, Wyoming, a small High Plains community. Its immediate environs are typical for Laramie and much of Wyoming in that through demolition and subsequent construction they have lost what homogeneity they had once enjoyed. Sited on a corner lot, the house faces east, with the original cast iron fence extending along the north and east lot lines at the sidewalk and a frame garage in the northwest corner on the alley that bisects the block.

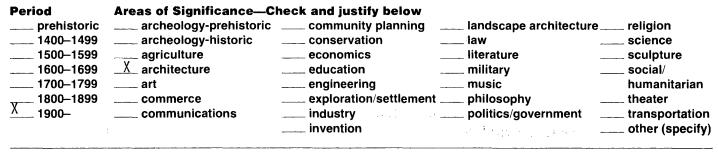
The two-and-a-half story house is basically rectangular, with projections for the chimney breasts and three two-story, slanted bays. The exterior walls are sided with brick fired from clay quarried in Rawlins and are set upon raised stone foundation walls; all exterior trim, columns, sashes, jambs, soffits, etc., are made of wood presently painted dark brown. Fenestration consists largely of one-over-one double hung windows with unequal sashes, some of which contain beveled glass panels. The windows are framed by plain brick heads and rusticated stone lug sills.

The building is capped by an asymmetrical assemblage of bell-cast gable and hipped roofs, which, in the Victorian tradition, are picturesque in their massing. Large pedimented gables cover the projecting bays, extending out from the central mass of the roof and forming cross gables. Small Palladian windows are centered in these cross gables; they feature decorative wood keystones and stained glass in the center round arch sashes. The eaves are broad, with beaded-board soffits and molded fascias, and are supported visually by molded wood modillions at the bays. Three corbelled brick chimneys, which are braced to the building by decoratively scrolled iron rods, penetrate the roofs at the eaves flares, creating prominent features of the house.

A single-story raised porch extends along the front (east) face of the house, sheltering the entry. The porch steps and front door sill are made of stone shipped to Laramie from Fort Collins, Colorado. The porch is covered by a shallowly pitched, hipped roof, which is supported by paired Ionic columns. The columns stand upon brick pedestals; balustrades at one time spanned between the pedestals but have been removed. A shallow pediment is asymmetrically placed on the south end of the front face; centered beneath this pediment is the front door, a paneled casement flanked to the left and right by sidelights.

The interior of the Blair House is organized in a typical late Victorian pattern, with the principal rooms of the first floor accessible directly one-to-another through large, embellished openings rather than indirectly via a central hallway. Typically, the entry hall is located in a corner of the building with a quarterturn stair to the second floor running along the outside walls. The stair features an enclosed stringer with paneled sidewalls, turned balusters, a massive square newel with applied decorations and an attached entry bench, all made up of golden oak. Additional features of the first floor rooms include: one-inch oak flooring

8. Significance



Specific dates Nov. 1911-Nov. 1912 Builder/Architect Wm Redding & Son, Denver, Colorado

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The architectural distinction of the Blair House lies in the fact that it is a wellpreserved example of a late Victorian house form, built a decade after Victorianism's official "death". The asymmetrical massing of the building, picturesque roofline, variety of textures and materials, classical motifs, and interior spatial organization earmark the building as a holdover from the Queen Anne Style, which had remained popular throughout the state long after its abandonment elsewhere in the country. The building's somewhat late construction is indicated by its use of blond brick, unavailable in Wyoming before the turn of the century, and relatively austere use of applied ornamentation. The Blair House is also representative in that its architect was brought in from out-of-state, a common occurrence at the time. A visual anchor for the neighborhood and an example of a genre that is becoming increasingly rare, the house also serves as a successful illustration of commercial adaptive reuse in Laramie. Its owners, Imperial Investments Incorporated, have maintained it well and intend to take advantage of the tax and grants benefits that registration affords.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Mallory, Eleanor and Beery, Gladys B., "Historic Homes: The Charles E. Blair House". Laramie (Wyoming) Sunday Boomerang. 2 October, 1977.

Interview with Morris C. Jones, Architect WYP LIC C-347. "Residence for C.E. Blair, Laramie, Wyoming" original drawings by Wm. Redding & Son, owned

10. Geographical Data D. Kent & Ann R. Boswell, L

Acreage of nominated property <u>less than one acre</u> Quadrangle name <u>Laramie</u>, <u>Wyoming</u> UMT References

A 1, 3	450575	4 5 7 3 5 2 0
Zone	Easting	Northing
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E		
G		

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NOT	Ouagrangle scale <u>1</u> :	24,000

B Zone	Easting	Northing
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F		
н		

Verbal boundary description and justification

state	code	county			(code	
state	code	county				code	·
11. Form Pro	epared By						
name/title Clayton B. Fra	aser, Historical A	rchitect					
organization Wyoming Sta	te Historic Preser	vation Offi	ce date	April 9,	1980		
street & number 604 East	25th Street		teleph	one (307)	-777-76	95	
city or town Cheyenne			state	Wyoming	82002		
			-	<i>4</i> •		f .	
12. State Hi	storic Pres	ervatio	n Ot	ficer	Certi	TICa	ation
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Form No. 10-300a (Hev. 10-74)

> UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY			
RECEIVED	980		
DATE ENTERED	OCT	3	1980

CONTINUATION SHEET Description . ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

laid in a diagonal step parquet pattern, golden oak trim and cased archways between the rooms, two fireplaces with oak mantels and Swedish tile surrounds and hearths, and original brass door, window and fireplace hardware. The second floor, like the first, is laid out in usual fashion, with bedrooms (now offices) entering a central hallway. The third floor, originally an unfinished attic has been recently renovated to create additional office space.

Today the Blair House stands essentially unaltered from its original appearance. Changes have been minor - the removal of the front porch balustrade, addition of bronze anodized, aluminum storm windows, replacement of wood roof shinges with asphalt and alterations of the interior to accomodate a commercial rehabilitation. The building is in excellent condition, with minor deterioration of the stone sills and foundation being the most pronounced weathering.