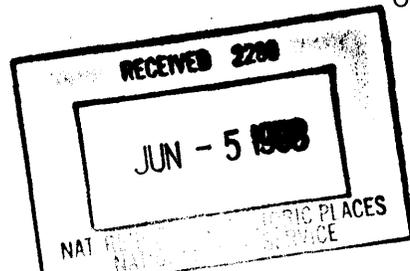


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form



822

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 Rhea - Mims Hotel (preferred)  
other names/site number Millstone Inn; Mims Hotel

2. Location

street & number 335 East Broadway NA  not for publication  
city or town Newport NA  vicinity  
state Tennessee code TN county Cocke code 029 zip code 37821

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.)

Herbert L. Anzures 5/26/98  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission  
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:) \_\_\_\_\_

Ernest H. Beall \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action  
7.1.98

Rhea - Mims Hotel  
Name of Property

Cocke County, Tennessee  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

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

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing

Noncontributing

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
2	0	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**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: hotel  
COMMERCE: restaurant

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Craftsman

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE  
walls STONE  
roof TERRA COTTA; ASPHALT  
other WOOD

**Narrative Description**

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

**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 N/A**

(Mark "x" in all boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** moved from its original location.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property
- G** less than 50 year of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE  
 COMMERCE  
 OTHER: TOURISM

**Period of Significance**

1923 - 1948

**Significant Dates**

1923

**Significant Person**

(complete if Criterion B is marked)

NA

**Cultural Affiliation**

NA

**Architect/Builder**

Brown, \_\_\_\_\_ (contractor)  
Leeper, \_\_\_\_\_ (stone mason)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A**

- 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:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

Rhea - Mims Hotel  
Name of Property

Cocke County, Tennessee  
County and State

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**10. Geographical Data**

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**Acreage of Property** approximately one acre Newport 173 NW

**UTM References**

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>17</u>	<u>303100</u>	<u>3982180</u>	3	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	4	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

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**11. Form Prepared By**

---

name/title Kimberley Murphy/Historic Preservation Planner  
organization East Tennessee Development District date April 1998  
street & number Post Office Box 19806 telephone 423/584-8553  
city or town Knoxville state TN zip code 37939

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**Additional Documentation**

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submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets****Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO) or FPO for any additional items

---

**Property Owner**

---

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Newport Housing Authority, c/o Leon Bryant, Executive Director  
street & number 375 Alex Street telephone 423/623-1575  
city or town Newport state TN zip code 37821

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**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 listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Rhea - Mims Hotel  
Newport, Tennessee

## DESCRIPTION

The Rhea - Mims Hotel is located directly across from the Cocke County Courthouse, in Newport (1990 pop. 7,123), in the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains. Approximately forty-five miles east of Knoxville, the hotel is located on U. S. Highways 25/70, once designated the Dixie Highway and the major route between Knoxville and Asheville, North Carolina, before the construction of Interstate 40.

The site contains two buildings, the original 1923 Rhea - Mims Hotel was constructed of uncoursed field stone quarried from the site. A smaller Annex, also of stone construction, was constructed east of the main hotel in 1939. There is a paved driveway leading from both ends of the main building to a parking area in the rear. This drive was originally constructed of concrete but has been paved over with asphalt in recent years.

The two story, multi-bay Craftsman-style hotel is constructed of uncoursed field stone which was quarried from the site. It has a stone foundation, hipped roof of clay tile, and wood sash windows. There is a stone arcade-style porch across the primary (north) elevation of the building. The hipped clay tile roof overhangs the walls, exposing the rafter tails and eaves. The eaves are clad with tongue-and-groove boards which are painted white. The exposed rafter tails are square cut. Large millstones are set into the walls at various locations. There is a large stone exterior end chimney on the west elevation. A cornerstone on the northwest corner reads "Mims 1923".

The porch on the primary elevation has seven arches, each separated with a wide pilaster. Above each arch, in the second story, are paired nine-over-one double-hung wood sash windows. The windows rest on concrete sills and have flat arch lintels. Three sets of poured concrete steps provide access to the porch at regular intervals. The porch floor is clay tile. There is a portable concrete flower planter on the porch with cobblestones set into one side. The cobblestones form the figure of a person and spell out "Rhea - Mims." The planter is an interesting example of the type of rustic folk art which was popular in the 1930s. The primary entrance into the lobby is located at the east end of the arcade and has a full-length beveled glass door in a wood (oak) frame. The windows on either side of the entrance are large picture windows. There are large millstones set into the central staircase, one corner of the arcade, and into the west facade. The windows in the building are nine-over-one wood sash windows on concrete sills with flat arches of stone forming the lintels. There are three doors into the primary elevation from the porch, creating the following pattern in four divisions, east-to-west: W-D-W-W W-W-W-W W-D-W W-W-D-W. The doors are paneled wood and glass with nine lights above the lock rail.

The west elevation has an exterior end chimney of stone construction with a millstone set into the base. It appears to have a concrete cap. There is a set of concrete steps leading to the arched entry of the porch. Windows on the west elevation are multi-light wood casements with concrete sills and flat arch lintels.

The rear (south) elevation is interesting. The clay tile hipped roof is only for show, as it gives way to a lower profile asphalt shingle roof across the rear. There is a stone chimney in bad condition in the rear ell, between the kitchen and dining room. Windows in the rear elevation are nine-over-one double-hung wood sash windows on concrete sills. The kitchen wing is hidden by invasive growths of kudzu. The rear elevation faces the side of a cliff and is not at all visible from the street in any direction.

The east elevation is two stories, with a centered paneled wood and glass door leading to an interior hallway. Windows are nine-over-one double-hung wood sash on concrete sills with flat arch lintels. There is an iron fire escape leading from the second floor to the ground. It will have to be replaced with a wider escape that meets fire codes.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Rhea - Mims Hotel  
Newport, Tennessee

The public spaces on the interior were once elegant. The lobby has a large stone fireplace in the west wall which dominates the room. The solid stone walls are left undressed in the public areas of the interior, which include the reception area/lobby and dining room. The window sills are of oak on the interior. The dining room is elevated three steps higher than the lobby and is separated by a wall of paneled oak and glass. Hardwood steps with curved ends and a brass handrail lead to the centered doorway. Above the doorway is a stylized "M" [for "Mims"] etched into the glass transom. The large beams in the ceiling are finished with beading and dark stain. The ceiling of the lobby and the dining room is pressed metal in a coffered design. The lobby floor is clay tile. Located in the southeast corner of the lobby, a paneled oak staircase with simple square rails and posts leads to the second floor. There is an original white porcelain water fountain in the lobby.

The guest rooms extend eastward from the lobby. There is one wing on the first floor with several rooms located off a central hallway. The walls are plaster and the doorways are trimmed in dark stained oak. Each room has a paneled wood door. Each room has a bathroom which is elevated one step above the floor of the bedroom. Dropped ceilings have been installed, possibly circa 1980. The walls are plaster. There is an open area at the top of the staircase and several rooms are located off of this common area. Some are two-room suites connected by a bathroom. A long hallway with more guest rooms is located in the east wing, above the rooms on the first floor.

East of the hotel is a two-story, five-bay annex constructed of stone in 1939. The Annex suffered fire damage in January 1998. The roof has deteriorated and the interior suffered from fire and water damage. Although the Annex appears to lack the decorative features of the hotel, its design is still in keeping with the character of the Rhea - Mims. The Annex has two small lobbies on either side of the foyer. There is a hallway on an east-west axis running the width of the building, with stairs at each end. There are rooms in the rear of the first floor. The second floor was not accessible. Windows are one-over-one double-hung sash windows. The stone is not laid as carefully and is a rougher cut than that of the original hotel building. The Annex is presently considered a contributing resource. It is in poor condition, but it retains the majority of its historic character.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

Rhea - Mims Hotel  
Newport, Tennessee

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Rhea - Mims Hotel is one of the most recognizable buildings in Newport, and one of the most notable in Cocke County. It is located directly across the street from the Cocke County Courthouse. Begun in 1923 and completed circa 1925, the hotel is significant under Criteria A and C in the areas of architecture, tourism and commerce. The building is an excellent example of a Craftsman style hotel. Situated along the Dixie Highway, significant twentieth century tourism route, the building also stands as a testament to the importance of tourism in the early twentieth century.

The Rhea - Mims Hotel is a fine example of the Craftsman style and is the only hotel of this style in Cocke County. The use of natural materials like the uncut, uncoursed stone in the walls and fireplaces, the exposed rafter tails, and the combination of tile, wood, and stone in the porch are character-defining elements of the Craftsman style. The public areas of the hotel contain the hallmarks of Craftsman influence: the use of uncut stone in the lobby and dining room, the polished wood paneling and wood stairs, and etched glass. The hotel should be preserved as a significant architectural resource in Newport and is significant as such under National Register Criterion C.

The design and operation of the hotel by Lucia Rhea Mims and its association with the burgeoning tourism industry that began with the development of interstate roadways through Appalachia makes the building eligible for listing under National Register Criterion A. Newport is located on the Dixie Highway and is on the route to Knoxville, Chattanooga, and Nashville for travelers from Virginia and North Carolina. Tourism increased in the region after the United States Congress authorized the creation of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in 1925. Tourism has been an important impetus for growth in the region and many of the early hotels, motels, motor lodges, and auto camps have been lost. The Rhea - Mims Hotel stands as an excellent example of these early hotels.

The Rhea - Mims Hotel was owned and operated by Charles and Lucia Rhea Mims. Its predecessor was the original Mims Hotel, located in the Newport home of Drury A. and Margaret McSween Mims, a place for drummers (traveling salesmen) to lodge. Drury Anderson Mims (1830–1916) worked as a teacher before opening his first mercantile store in nearby Parrottsville. He married Margaret McSween in 1858 and relocated his family ten miles southeast to Newport in 1868. He purchased a two story frame house on Main Street possibly constructed by Captain S. W. Cromer in the early 1860s. In 1870, Mims purchased the adjacent property on Main Street and constructed a general store of brick which operated until circa 1930. These buildings have been replaced by the Newport Utilities Board building.

The original Mims Hotel was close to the East Tennessee, Virginia, and Georgia Railroad (now the Southern) and served as a rest stop for incoming trains. Passengers and crew alike dined at the Mims Hotel before continuing their journeys.

A railroad had been proposed for Newport before the Civil War. The earliest survey was probably conducted in 1841 by the James and Tennessee River Railroad Company. Soon after that, the East Tennessee and Georgia Railway began extending its lines out from Knoxville. Local citizens of Newport organized a company to promote the construction of a railroad to Newport, electing Alexander E. Smith as its president. The company financed the construction of a railroad before selling out in 1857 to the Cincinnati, Cumberland Gap and Charleston Railroad. It was to be another ten years, however, before the first steam engine rolled into town on Christmas Eve, 1867, on the rails of the East Tennessee, Virginia, and Georgia Railroad.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4

Rhea - Mims Hotel  
Newport, Tennessee

The original Mims Hotel flourished as a railroad hotel and Drury and Margaret added two wings to the rear of the house to accommodate their guests. Margaret offered the back rooms of the hotel to salesmen who wished to display their goods while passing through town. Drury died in 1916 and Margaret continued to operate the hotel until her death in 1917. Her son Charles B. Mims (1859–1938) and his wife Lucia took over the operation of the hotel in that year.

Lucia Rhea Mims was the granddaughter of General Alexander E. Smith, a wealthy gentleman farmer and Confederate veteran who inherited Greenlawn plantation [N. R. listed 1975, demolished] from his father, Colonel Alexander Smith. Lucia's mother, Mary E. Smith Rhea, was a founder of Newport's First Women's Club in 1874 and Lucia's father was Dr. A. W. Rhea, a surgeon in the Confederate Army.

According to an article published in the *Newport Plain Talk* in 1929, Mrs. Mims "was not driven by necessity into the business world, as so often happens, but entered purely for the delight of accomplishment. . . . After rearing seven children while helping promote the social and religious life of her town this granddaughter of a wealthy slave owner looked about for new fields to conquer."<sup>1</sup> Around 1916, Lucia Mims purchased an old clubhouse at Crestmont, North Carolina, had it torn down and with the lumber, had several houses built in the Northport area of Newport, in the vicinity of Lucia and Rhea Streets.<sup>2</sup> Northport is a section of Newport located across the French Broad River from downtown Newport. The houses are small frame dwellings and one is of stone construction. These houses have been altered and are not eligible for the National Register.

As Newport grew, the Mims recognized the need for a larger, more modern hotel. According to Lucia Rhea Mims, "a town can't grow without adequate hotel facilities."<sup>3</sup> After managing her mother-in-law's hotel for several years, Mrs. Mims and her son, newly returned from World War I, "set to work to realize the mother's dream of a stone house 'by the side of the road and at the base of the mountain.'"<sup>4</sup> Charles Mims deeded the family's backyard to his wife and construction began on the new hotel in 1923. Mrs. Mims herself directed the planning and construction of the stone hotel of forty rooms.

A vein of limestone found on the site was quarried and the rock was used in the construction of the building. A Mr. Brown was selected as the building contractor and moved his family to Newport from Charlotte, North Carolina.<sup>5</sup> He brought a Mr. Leeper from Scotland to supervise the masonry work. Lucia Rhea Mims appears to have had a hand in the design of the hotel and collected millstones from all over the county to incorporate into its exterior walls. The stone above the window in the lobby came from the Rhea farm. The largest wheel, which was not really a millstone, came from a tannery in nearby Del Rio and weighs around 3000 pounds. The millstones in the chimney

<sup>1</sup>*Newport Plain Talk*, 15 January 1929, 1.

<sup>2</sup>Duay O'Neil, "Newport Owes Much to Mims Family," *Newport Plain Talk*, 12 August 1983.

<sup>3</sup>*Newport Plain Talk*, 15 January 1929, 1.

<sup>4</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>5</sup>There is no listing for "Brown" as a contractor in the Charlotte (North Carolina) City Directories for 1921, 1922 or 1923. He might have worked for a larger contracting firm in that city.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5

Rhea - Mims Hotel  
Newport, Tennessee

and the front steps came from the Smokies and were contributed by a man named Brice. The millstones along the front porch have been attributed to Native Americans and were found on Greenlawn plantation, the home of Lucia's grandfather, General Alexander E. Smith. The circa 1775 sideboard originally used in the dining room also came from the Smith place. The stones seen in the dining room are said to be stalactites and stalagmites from local caves. Lucia had also planned to build tourist cabins behind the hotel.<sup>6</sup> It is not known why the cabins were not constructed.

The earliest road through Cocke County was probably the Catawba Trail which followed the south side of the French Broad River from North Carolina and continuing north to the Cumberland Gap. An early stage road is known to have run between Wilkesboro, North Carolina, to Knoxville through Elizabethton, Jonesboro, Greeneville, Newport, and Dandridge. By the 1840s, there were three primary roads through Newport: one came from North Carolina through Johnson City and Newport before continuing to Knoxville; a second came directly from Asheville to Newport and on to Knoxville and Nashville; a third road came from Warm Springs, Virginia through Newport to Maryville and then south to Huntsville, Alabama.<sup>7</sup> A turnpike through Cocke County has also been documented as the principal thoroughfare between Tennessee and South Carolina, upon which moved "an immense number of cattle, horses and hogs [and]. . . a large amount of merchandise is constantly transported for merchants of the interior. . ." <sup>8</sup> The construction of the Dixie Highway, however, had the greatest impact on the growth of Newport since the coming of the railroad.

The Rhea - Mims Hotel was located along the Carolina Division of the Dixie Highway, leading from Knoxville through Dandridge (Jefferson County) and Newport before entering North Carolina. It followed what is now designated as US 25/US 70. The route of the Dixie Highway through Cocke County proved to be one of the more difficult to construct, due to the mountainous terrain. The state highway department surveyed the route as early as 1920, but Cocke County voted down its match to pay for the highway project twice. The Dixie Highway Association threatened to bypass the county until it finally approved its share of the funding in 1922. Disagreements with the Southern Railroad over rights-of-way on the banks of the French Broad River also slowed construction. More construction delays and political battles postponed the completion of the Dixie Highway through Cocke County until 1928.<sup>9</sup>

The Rhea - Mims Hotel is an example of the downtown hotels which were built along the Dixie Highway to encourage tourism. Automobile clubs and tourist bureaus sponsored tours of local natural and historic attractions and published brochures outlining suggested travel routes. Pre-paid scenic tours became popular and usually included accommodations, meals, and entertainment in the cost. The Rhea - Mims Hotel is included in "Circle Tour #1 from Knoxville" in the 1926 edition of the Great Smoky Mountain Tourist Bureau Booklet "B"

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<sup>6</sup>Jean Herndon Clevenger, comp., *The Road to Yesterday: A Cocke County Scrapbook*, (Knoxville, TN: Jean Herndon Clevenger, 1986), 42.

<sup>7</sup>Ruth Webb O'Dell, *Over the Misty Blue Hills*, (Easley, South Carolina: Southern Historical Press, 1982), 73.

<sup>8</sup>Charles Lanman, "Letters from the Allegheny Mountains," in Ruth Webb O'Dell's *Over the Misty Blue Hills* (Easley, South Carolina: Southern Historical Press, 1982), 76.

<sup>9</sup>Martha Carver, "The Development of the Dixie Highway and its Influence on Material Culture," 17.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 6 Rhea - Mims Hotel  
Newport, Tennessee

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"1st Day Start 8:30 a.m. Sight-seeing drive in and around Knoxville: 54 miles drive through the valleys of the Holston and French Broad Rivers; lunch, sight-seeing drive, dinner, dancing, Rhea - Mims Hotel, Newport, Tennessee."

Breakfast was served the next day at the hotel before a schedule departure of 10:00 a.m. The "All Expense Deluxe Motor Coach Scenic Tours Through the Great Smoky Mountains" were reasonably priced and all inclusive, with prices ranging from \$24.25 to \$34.25 for a three day tour.

The hotel was described in the *WPA Guide to Tennessee* in 1939 as "built of stone, most of it quarried from the hillside near the hotel. Millstones used by Indians adorn the porch that extends along the front of the building. In the dining room is a large collection of rocks of various kinds."<sup>10</sup> A 1975 tourist directory lists the Rhea - Mims Hotel under "Motels & Hotels—Newport & Cosby."<sup>11</sup>

Curiously, the hotel is not mentioned in examples of AAA literature from the 1920s and 1930s.

A two story detached annex to the hotel was constructed circa 1939 on the eastern corner of the property. It was used as a clinic for a Dr. Mims and it could have been used for additional guest rooms or it may have been used as an office complex. Although it, too, is constructed of stone, it lacks the defining architectural style of the Rhea - Mims Hotel. The annex has been vacant for years.

The Rhea - Mims Hotel continued to operate until the middle or late 1970s. It was left vacant for several years and restored in the early 1980s in time for the 1982 World's Fair in Knoxville. It was at that time that the name was changed to the Millstone Inn.

The unusual in situ use of limestone and distinctive use of millstones in the building's construction make it architecturally significant as an excellent example of a Craftsman style hotel built in the early days of interstate travel. It is also a rare resource still intact along the historic Dixie Highway.

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<sup>10</sup>Works Progress Administration, *The WPA Guide to Tennessee*. (New York: Viking Press, 1939; reprint, Knoxville, TN: University of Tennessee Press, 1986.), 431.

<sup>11</sup>Knoxville Tourist Bureau, "East Tennessee Tourist Directory," (Knoxville, Tennessee, 1975).

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 7

Rhea - Mims Hotel  
Newport, Tennessee

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## **MAPS\***

*Auto Trails Map of Kentucky and Tennessee*. Chicago: Rand McNally, circa 1923-1925. Included in Carver, "The Development of the Dixie Highway and Its Influence on Material Culture."

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

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number   9   Page   8  

Rhea - Mims Hotel  
Newport, Tennessee

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"Outline of the Dixie Highway." *The Dixie Highway*. October, 1921. Magazine published by the Dixie Highway Association. Three issues included with the Chattanooga Automobile Club Collection. Special Collections, Local History, Chattanooga-Hamilton County Bicentennial Library, Chattanooga, Tennessee. Included in Carver, "The Development of the Dixie Highway and Its Influence on Material Culture."

\*Map references courtesy of Martha Carver, Tennessee Department of Transportation Environmental Planning Office, Nashville, Tennessee.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 9

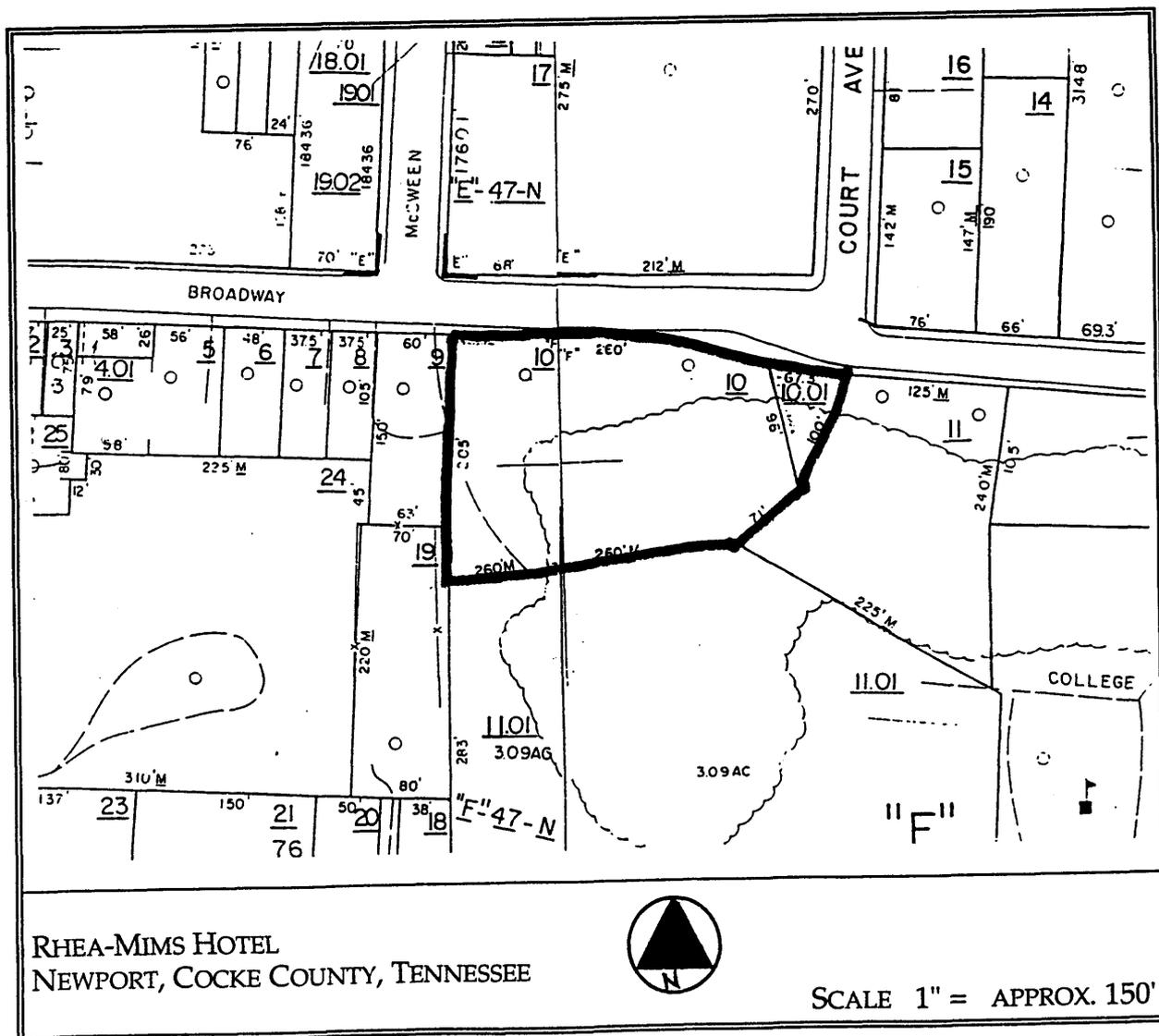
Rhea - Mims Hotel  
Newport, Tennessee

### BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nomination boundary is the lot containing the original Rhea - Mims Hotel, also known as the Millstone Hotel, as shown on the accompanying property map. The boundary includes the original Rhea - Mims hotel as a contributing property and the circa 1939 dilapidated annex as a non-contributing structure.

### BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nomination represents the historic boundary of the property.



RHEA-MIMS HOTEL  
NEWPORT, COCKE COUNTY, TENNESSEE



SCALE 1" = APPROX. 150'

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number      photos      Page      10Rhea - Mims Hotel  
Newport, Tennessee**PHOTOGRAPHS**{PRIVATE }

Property: Rhea-Mims Hotel  
Location: Cocke County, TN  
Photographer: Kimberley Murphy, East Tennessee Development District  
Date: 9 April 1998  
Negative: Tennessee Historical Commission

#	Description	View	Neg. #
1	Primary (north) elevation	SE	A-3
2	Primary (north) elevation	SW	A-7
3	East elevation	W	B-6
4	Rear (south) elevation	N	A-12
5	West elevation	SE	B-9
6	Primary elevation with steps and neon sign	E	B-10
7	Primary elevation with steps	W	B-5
8	Porch on primary facade	W	A-1
9	Detail showing light, rafter ends and eaves under porch roof	W	A-2
10	Detail showing millstone in northwest corner of porch	S	B-8
11	Detail showing windows in west elevation	SE	B-13
12	Interior - lobby	NE	A-16
13	Interior - lobby	NW	A-15
14	Interior - showing wall between lobby and dining room	SW	B-2
15	Interior - dining room	NW	A-23
16	Interior - dining room	SW	A-13
17	Interior - hallway from lobby on main floor	E	A-18
18	Interior - guest room, showing bathroom	S	A-17

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

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number photos Page 11

Rhea - Mims Hotel  
Newport, Tennessee

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19	Annex, primary elevation & streetscape	SW	A-10
20	Annex, primary elevation	S	A-9