

PH 0509051

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED NOV 7 1977  
DATE ENTERED MAR 20 1978

# 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 \*\*  
Weatherford Hotel  
AND/OR COMMON

## LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER  
23 N. Leroux St.  
CITY, TOWN  
Flagstaff  
STATE  
Arizona  
VICINITY OF  
CODE  
04  
COUNTY  
Coconino  
CODE  
005  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
3  
NOT FOR PUBLICATION

## CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

## OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME  
Lloyd and Henry Taylor  
STREET & NUMBER  
23 N. Leroux  
CITY, TOWN  
Flagstaff  
STATE  
Arizona

## LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Coconino County Courthouse  
STREET & NUMBER  
San Francisco and Birch Streets  
CITY, TOWN  
Flagstaff  
STATE  
Arizona

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE  
DATE  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
CITY, TOWN  
STATE  
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Weatherford Hotel is a substantial structure which stands on the West corner of Leroux and Aspen facing East. The building was constructed of brick and faced with local red sandstone, coursed and rough faced, which contrasts with the light-hued foundation stone.

The lot slopes sharply to the rear, leaving the basement 9 feet in the clear at the back. The original building was 30' X 100' and two stories high. The ground floor contained the general store and a storage room, while the second floor had a large parlor, eight bedrooms, and a bath. An addition to the South side was made in 1899 and increased the size to 50' X 100'. The ground floor of the original building continued as a store and the second floor became guest rooms. In the new section the ground floor contained lobby, office, dining room, and kitchen. The second floor had 8 rooms and two baths and the third floor had three guest rooms and a large sun parlor in the rear. The basement had a bar. The ground floor of the original building had 19 foot ceilings and the second floor ceilings were 12 feet high. In 1920 the first floor was divided into two floors in a remodeling that enlarged the lobby and added 17 rooms to the hotel. Six rooms were added on the main floor behind the lobby, six on the new second floor on the North side and five in the sun parlor. The 50 rooms had steam heat, hot and cold running water, and Navajo rugs. The oriel window room was set aside as a parlor for women and contained a piano and a writing desk.

The balcony, which served three sides of the building, was extended along the addition. Access was by French doors to the airy balcony, with its turned posts and spindlework railing, which also formed a shade over the sidewalk.

The third floor East Corner is adorned with an oriel window. Three one-over-one windows are topped by round windows and the spaces between are faced with fish scale shingles. The oriel was originally topped by a steep cone-shaped cupola.

Third floor windows on the Southeast side are capped by stone labels. On the Northeast side these alternate with arched windows with radiating voussoirs. Windows in the original building are separated by pilasters and paired pilasters frame the main ground floor entrance. The stone facade was modernized in the 1940s.

The original roof line had a denticulated cornice and two pediments, one of which gave the name of the hotel and the other the date. All of these and the cupola and balcony were removed in 1929.

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CONTINUATION SHEET DESCRIPTION ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

In 1901, four sample rooms were added to the basement. At this time, the lot was fenced to be used as a chicken yard, but the following year the area was used for stables and storage. In 1907, the dining room and kitchen were moved to the basement, the stairway was moved, the office was enlarged, and a large fireplace was installed in the office. In 1912, the Lyric Theatre moved into the rooms occupied by the store. A few years later, this section became a billiard hall and barber shop. In the 1920s, the North side of the basement was a pool hall.

In 1915, the porch pillars were removed so a concrete sidewalk could be laid. The balcony and cupola were damaged in a 1929 fire and removed. The interior of the hotel was redecorated in 1925 with new carpets, furniture, and chandeliers. Telephones were installed in each guest room at that time. No extensive remodeling has taken place since then, but the lobby has been expanded to include the east corner of the building. In this section, the original pressed metal ceiling of the store can be seen above the recently added lobby mezzanine. The old lobby's black granite fireplace was torn out about 1941.

The cafe building on the southwest side of the hotel was the old telephone building constructed by Weatherford about 1912. The telephone company occupied the building until the 1920s when son Hugh decided to raise the rent.

The original stairs to the family quarters on the second and third floors remain. The third floor of this section has the original redwood wainscoting. The original arched windows of the southwest side, third floor, now look onto the hallway.

The oriel room has three round colored windows in yellow, pink, and orange. This room was used as a studio by an artist at one time.

The two rooms west of the bridal suite were sometimes occupied by Zane Grey, who described the hotel in The Call of the Canyon.

The basement of the building is now used only for storage.

The present owners are gradually repairing the building and restoring it as much as possible.

# 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 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 checked="" 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 1898-1900

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Weatherford, for three decades the leading hotel in the city, exemplifies the rise and decline of old downtown Flagstaff. The business area was not the original settlement but was moved to this location when the railroad came through Flagstaff in 1882.

The 1888 Bank Hotel (nominated to the National Register) was built across the street from the depot and the Weatherford was built in the same block 10 years later. The railroad continued to play a dominant role in the commercial life of the town for several decades.

However, Flagstaff is also a hub for major highways and the nearest large community to the Grand Canyon. The increase in automobile traffic, which became an explosion after World War II, led to the proliferation of motels and the dispersion of commercial facilities along the highways. The old downtown began to fade but the turn-of-the-century buildings, like the Weatherford Hotel, were so substantial that much of the atmosphere of the section has been retained.

John W. Weatherford (1859-1934) was born in Fort Worth and raised in the town of Weatherford, Texas. In 1878 he went to New Mexico to raise cattle then went to Tombstone, Arizona where he spent some years as a supply agent to mining camps. About 1884 he went to Mexico, where he pursued the same occupation. He returned to Arizona in 1886, spent 4 months in Phoenix and arrived in Flagstaff in 1886 where he became a merchant. From 1887 to 1889 he also served as justice of the peace.

Early Flagstaff was plagued by fires and after a particularly bad series of blazes in 1897 the city passed an ordinance requiring all buildings in the business area to be constructed of brick, stone, or iron. The following year saw a small building boom as structures destroyed by the fires were replaced and new ones added to the district.

Among the new buildings of 1898 was the one which became the Weatherford Hotel. The original two-story building was intended to house a general store on the ground floor and the Weatherford family upstairs. Building commenced in March with Herman Deitzman contracting the stone work, G.B. Wilson engaged as a carpenter, and G.N. Baty as painter. By mid-June the stone work was done.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See attached list.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/2

UTM REFERENCES

A 12 441000 38951020  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B           
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 19, 20, 21 of Block 6, Flagstaff

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Carl Edenhofer, Cindy Laucher, Joe Westling, Gail Bonelli

ORGANIZATION

DATE

TIPS, NAU

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Box 15700, Northern Arizona University

779-1533

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Flagstaff

Arizona

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL   

STATE X

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

*Dorothy H. Hall*

TITLE

SHPO

DATE

11-4-77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*W. M. ...*

DATE

3-30-78

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

*Mathew ... Cole*

DATE

3-17-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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In January of 1899, P.R. Weatherford, who was a brother of John and had been a clerk for the Babbitts (prominent Flagstaff merchant and ranching family) went into partnership with Dr. C.F. Roberts of Williams to lease the Weatherford store, opening on March 1st. In 1902, Roberts bought out his partner and in 1903 he sold the store to the Babbitts, who remained in the building a year before selling out to another firm. In 1910 the Babbitts leased the store for a furniture and curio store. Two years later the rooms were occupied by the Lyric Theatre but before the decade was out the theater had been replaced by a billiard hall and barber shop.

In March of 1899, J.W. Weatherford began construction of a three-story hotel addition to his new building. The addition cost \$10,000 and had its grand opening on New Years Day of 1900. For many years it was the largest and most important hotel in Flagstaff and entertained many prominent guests, including artist Thomas Moran and William Randolph Hearst. In 1909 a reception was held in the sun room for Frank H. Hitchcock, Postmaster General of the United States, later chairman of the Democratic National Committee, and a strong supporter of statehood for Arizona. The sun room was also used for recitals, dances, and card parties, while the dining room was engaged by numerous clubs and civic groups. The business and Professional Men's Association of Flagstaff was founded there.

In 1910, the Babbitts leased the hotel and installed John Shea as manager. The Weatherford family had moved into a house on Leroux Street. In 1912, the hotel lease went to George W. Black, Jr., who kept it only until 1914 when it went to H.B. White.

In 1920, Mrs. Lulu Hall leased the hotel for five years for \$18,000 at \$300 a month. Weatherford, as agreed in the lease, spent \$18,000 on remodeling, which included five rooms in the sun parlor, the office, the basement pool room and sample rooms, and a new kitchen.

When the lease came up for renewal, Hall and Weatherford signed a new lease but Mrs. Weatherford wanted the hotel for her son Hugh and contested the validity of the lease in court. Since the hotel was community property and she had signed neither lease, she regarded Hall as a tenant-at-will. The jury agreed and Hugh and his wife took over management of the hotel. Hall appealed to the state Supreme Court and won in 1927 but decided the short time remaining on the lease would make it unprofitable so the building stayed under the management of the Weatherfords.

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The law suit had caused a good deal of bitterness locally as Hall was socially prominent and popular. Most of the clubs which had made the hotel their meeting place now moved to other quarters. John and his wife separated because of the disagreement and the property was divided, the hotel remaining with Mrs. Weatherford and her son and the theater remaining with Mr. Weatherford. The hotel was mortgaged in 1925 and was lost to the mortgagor, Fred Boyd in 1933, who sold it to M.J. Pilkington in 1937. A. & M. Hall owned the hotel from 1949 to 1961 when it was taken over by the Valley National Bank for a year. The next owner was A.B. Hall (1962-1966) and then Spur Land and Cattle Company (1966-1975). The present owners are Lloyd and Henry Taylor, members of a prominent Holbrook hotel family.

The hotel was not Weatherford's only architectural contribution to Flagstaff. In 1903, he built the Mountain States Telephone building and in 1917 he built the Opera House, which later became the Orpheum Theater. He is also credited with laying the first concrete sidewalk in the city.

However, the project in which he took the greatest pride was the road to San Francisco Peaks. Weatherford first visited the Peaks in 1895 and was so struck by the spectacular view that he began a long campaign to have a road built to make it more accessible. The road, for which he was the contractor, was finally completed in 1926 in spite of the financial losses in connection with the hotel.

In addition to these projects, he was an active Democrat, a charter member of the Flagstaff Lodge of the BPOE, and a prime factor in getting a territorial college established in Flagstaff. The school opened in 1899 and is now Northern Arizona University. Weatherford died in Phoenix in 1934 after an illness of several weeks.

The lengthy litigation, which caused financial loss, the alienation of Hall and her supporters in town, and the breakup of the Weatherford family contributed to the decline of the hotel. In addition, the business suffered from the changing tourist pattern. During WWII the hotel served for a while as a dormitory. About 1949 the basement was used for Flagstaff's second radio station, KCLS. In the late 1950s and early 1960s, the VFW used the basement as headquarters and following that it was used for several years by the Flagstaff Boys' Club.

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The Weatherford recently served for several months as a residence for State Vocational Rehabilitation clients attending nearby Northern Arizona University before returning to its original function as a hotel.

Local interest in preserving and restoring the old downtown area, of which the Weatherford is a key part, is increasing steadily. The present owners support this trend and are restoring the building as much as possible.



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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

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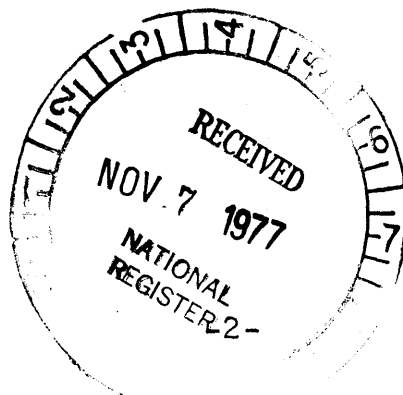
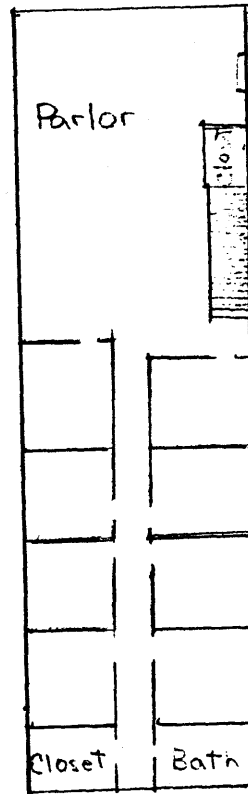
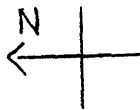
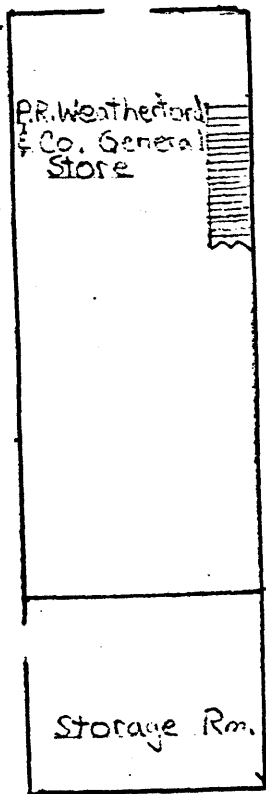
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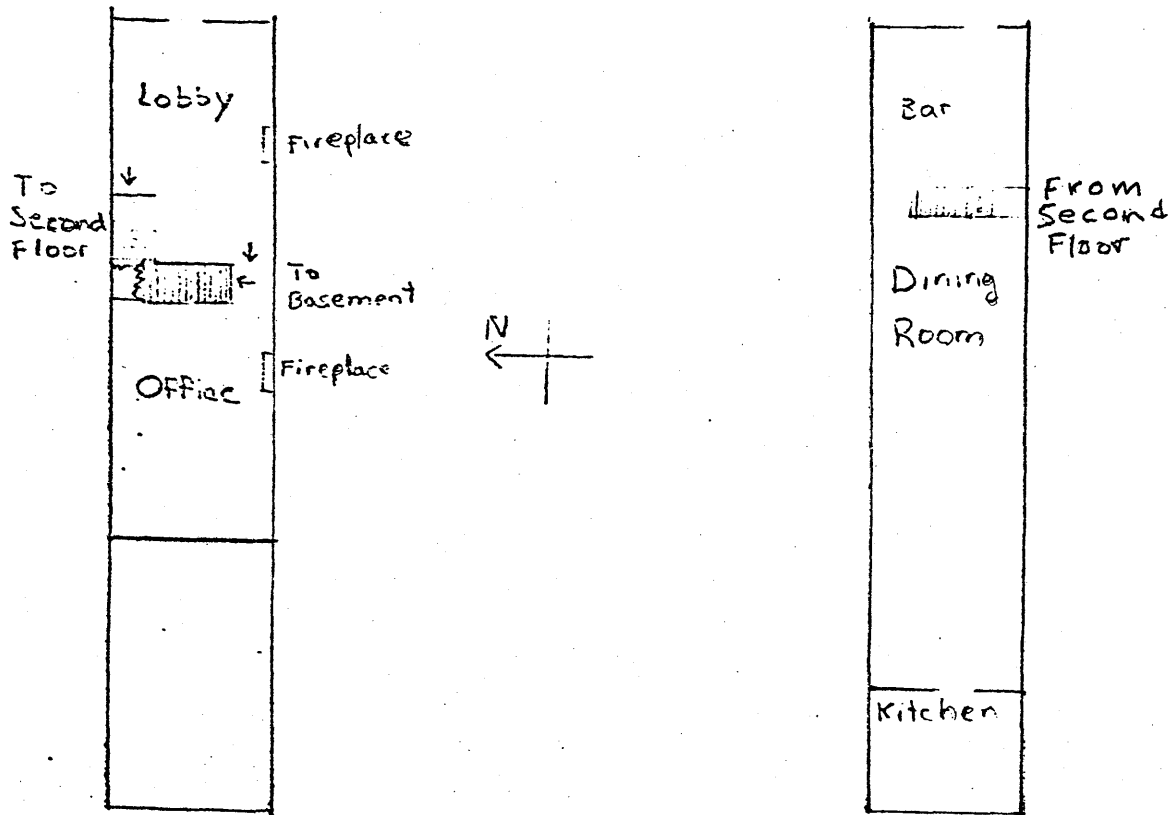
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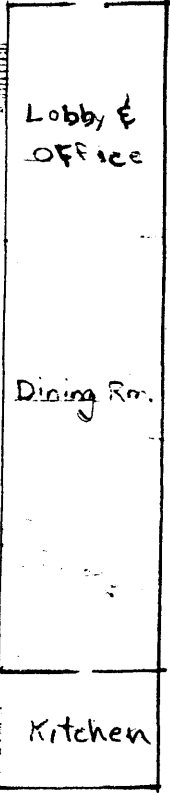
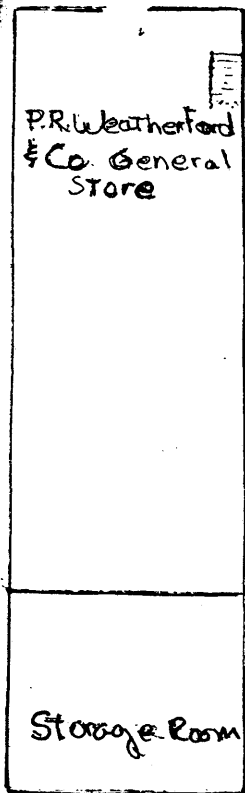
On April 16, 1898 John W. Weatherford of Flagstaff, Arizona commenced the construction of the Weatherford building.<sup>1</sup> The building would be situated on lots 19, 20, and 21 of block 6 of Flagstaff, Arizona.<sup>2</sup> The two story structure (30' x 100') would be made of sandstone, which would be locally quarried.<sup>3</sup> After the completion of the building it would house the P. R. Weatherford and Co. General Store and on the second floor the living quarters for J. W. Weatherford and family.<sup>1</sup> The following floor plans are the basic assumed design of the structure;



April of 1907 brought changes to the Featherford Hotel. The office had been enlarged, and a large fireplace added to the office. The main stairway would now lead from the office to the second floor. The dining room had been moved to the basement with the kitchen being placed behind the dining room. The dining room stairway led from the office to the basement. The following diagram illustrates the changes; <sup>12</sup> changes;

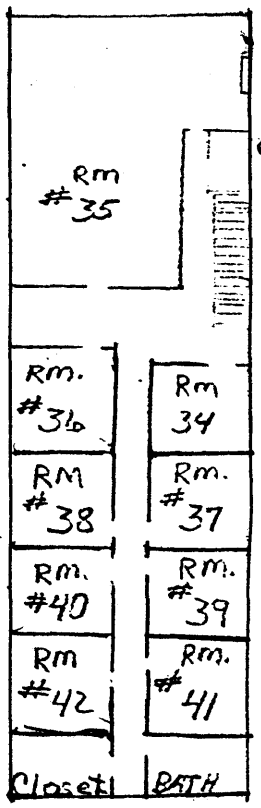
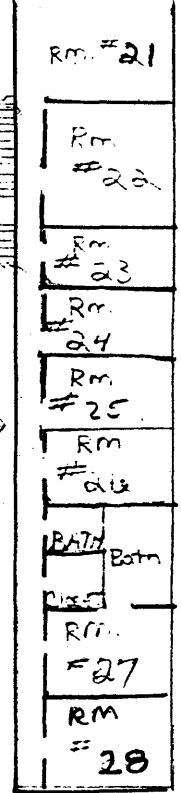


MAR 30 1978



Ground Floor  
North South  
Sides

Second Floor  
South



Second Floor  
North

Third Floor  
South

