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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANC

The Wolf Hotel is an L-shaped, two and one-half story, brick and frame building located on lots eleven and twelve of Block 27 in the town of Saratoga, Carbon County, Wyoming. The short leg of the "L", or the front of the hotel, faces Bridge Street to the north, and the long leg or west side faces Wyoming State Highway 130. Where the two thoroughfares meet near the northwest corner of the Wolf Hotel, a major intersection in Saratoga is formed. From the ends of the legs of the building, fences and shrubbery extend along property lines to enclose the grounds adjoining the hotel to the east and south.

Characterized by a steeply-gabled roof, roof dormers and by many plain, rectangular windows, the Wolf is easily the most impressive historic structure in Saratoga. Since the hotel was opened to the public in January, 1894 its appearance has been changed but not drastically altered. serious alteration was made within a few years after the basic structure was erected. That is, a frame extension was built onto the south end of the west leg of the hotel, giving the building a more pronounced "L" shape and changing its dimensions from 42 feet deep by 60 feet wide to approximately 95 feet deep by 60 feet wide. A brief comparison of the original structure to the recent one reveals a number of other, however minor, changes. Three brick chimneys were removed when a central heating system was established in the basement of the building and today one central stack in the rear-central portion of the hotel is all that is needed. Compensation for the aesthetic loss was provided by the convenience to hotel tenants of not having to haul wood or coal to their individual rooms, and not having to stoke their own stoves. Among other changes are: on the northeast corner of the building has been built a single-door entrance to the saloon; on the east face of the hotel two windows have been filled with brick, but otherwise all of the many fine windows remain. A less conspicuous structural change was made when a portion of a frame extension which formed the kitchen in the rear of the hotel was removed. The roof of the remaining portion of the extension has recently been covered with aluminum to prevent water from leaking into the back room formerly used as the kitchen. tive bargeboards on the northwest gable and on the roof dormers have been removed, although the curious designs on the east gable of the wooden front porch remain today. The wooden sign, "Hotel Wolf" which once hung upon the building's northwest face has been replaced by one whose style of lettering is a duplicate of the original, but one which has been painted directly upon the brick exterior. Old neon signs and recent handpainted lettering on the exterior of the hotel and its bar are relatively modern additions.

SIGNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One or More as A	ppropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	16th Century	18th Century	🔀 20th Century
☐ 15th Century	17th Century	🔀 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable	and Known) 1893 -	present	
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Chec	k One or More as Appropri	iate)	
Abor iginal	Education	Political	Urban Planning
Prehistoric	Engineering	Religion/Phi-	X Other (Specify)
	Industry	losophy	Early Settlement
☐ Agriculture	Invention	Science	
Architecture	Landscape	Sculpture	
☐ Art	Architecture	Social/Human-	
	Literature	itarian	
Communications	☐ Military	Theater	
Conservation	Music	X Transportation	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Hotel Wolf is located in Saratoga, the principal town in the Upper North Platte-Encampment River Valley. This geographic area, flanked by two mountain ranges, is contained within a larger, political division called Carbon County. With a land area of 7,887 square miles and a 1970 population of 13,354, Carbon County is a rural area, and rural occupations provide a livelihood for about one-half of the people in the county. In addition to agriculture its principal industries are tourism, mining and lumbering. These industries have been important to the people of this area from the earliest days of white settlement.

For years the Upper North Platte-Encampment Valley was a gathering place for aboriginals and later, fur trappers. Saratoga, probably named for the famous spa in upper New York State, was a particularly popular focal point because of its hot springs, which were believed to own curative properties. It is said that during the years 1874 and 1875 a smallpox epidemic afflicted Indian tribes of the region, and the victims were hauled by travois to Saratoga for treatment. The treatment consisted of repeated dips in first, the thermal waters and second, the crisp mountain water of the North Platte. It is also said that great faith was placed in the thermal treatment afforded by the "Indian Bath Tubs" despite its failure as a remedy for illness.

In the decade of the 1860's the presence of transcontinental transportation routes---the Overland Trail and later the Union Pacific Railroad---not far to the north of Saratoga helped to stimulate interest in the Saratoga and Encampment Valley. The place was a lure to ranchers needing forage crops which could be grown in river bottomland, and offered a route of travel to those headed for surrounding mountains to cut timber. The search for precious metals induced the white man to comb the peaks and valleys of both the Sierra Madre and Medicine Bow Ranges, although the valley saw no real boom until copper strikes in the Grand Encampment Mining District during the late 1890's.

Date

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Hotel Wolf

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Physical Appearance - 2

Attached to the north or main face of the building, from its east end to its slightly protruding northwest face, is a twelve foot wide wooden porch. Like the roof of the hotel, the porch is wood-shingled. From the front porch two doors of Georgia Pine, surmounted by a stained glass panel, provide a main entrance to the hotel. Upon entering the visitor finds himself in a vestibule where visitors today can perhaps sit down in lounge chairs and read, or walk about and look at historic photographs hanging upon the walls.

Absent from the parlor today is the pot-bellied stove which once provided warmth for guests on a cold winter's day at this 6782-foot altitude. Within the parlor is the hotel register desk, behind which is a small office containing the building's original iron safe. Behind, or south of the office-lounge, is a barbershop which once was the location of the hotel bar. Behind the barbershop is the hotelkeeper's residence, originally designed for hotel rooms.

To the east of the hotel vestibule is the present hotel bar, formerly the dining room. Behind or south of the backwall of the bar is a storage room which once served as a billiard parlor, and behind the former billiard parlor is another storage space which once was a substantially furnished area containing kitchen, pantries, and linen closets. This latter portion of the building is the frame addition previously described.

On the second floor of the hotel are three hallways, a public bathroom and fourteen sleeping rooms, three of which contain complete bathroom facilities. A suite of rooms on the northwest corner of the hotel's second floor, originally a ladies parlor, is now used as a large hotel unit. Once carpeted with Brussels, the former parlor must have been an attractive feature of the building. The main room is spacious and airy, and contains several windows providing a view up and down either Bridge Street or Highway 130. These and other hotel sleeping rooms are furnished in a manner typical of an earlier era. It is possible that some pieces of furniture, and some metal and porcelain bathroom fixtures, may have been in the hotel shortly after the turn of the century. Whatever the exact date of the various furnishings may be, what will obviously be apparent to the hotel patron is his fastidiously clean room, reflecting the determination of the present owner to preserve and maintain the historic building as well as derive a livelihood from it.

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Hotel Wolf

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Physical Appearance - 3

From the second floor the staircase leads upward to the garret-like third story containing more hallways, sleeping rooms and another public bath. The ceilings of this story are low and sharply-angled because of the steep inclination of the roof and the shape of the roof dormers. Like the rooms on the second floor, those on the third floor are simply furnished and clean.

Through the years the site of the Wolf Hotel has been sought as a choice business location, and from time to time the building itself receives the interest of those who would purchase it. The location of the Wolf is commercially desirable in relation to local traffic, and is in a good position to draw the attention of outsiders such as hunters, fishermen, and others who find a wide variety of outdoor recreational activities in this part of Wyoming. A jet airport and two exclusive resorts at Saratoga also assure the hotel a certain amount of recognition from an even wider group of people. These factors are important not only commercially but also from an historic preservation standpoint. That is, the obvious commercial advantages inherent in the location of the Wolf Hotel are increased by the attraction of its historic significance. It is hoped that commercial and historical values will continue to exist in a mutually satisfactory way.



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Hotel Wolf

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Statement of Significance - 2

In 1870 William Caldwell filed on a homestead on the east side of the North Platte River at the site of the hot springs. His two-room, log cabin trading post and two-tub bath house were the initial structures at what was at first "Warm Springs", and later became a part of the town of Saratoga. One prominent, early resident of Saratoga was Taylor Pennock. Pennock left the hotel business at Fort Steele, twenty-five miles to the north to take up freighting in the Upper North Platte Valley. Saratoga became an important stopping point in the valley, being located about halfway between Fort Steele, a railhead on the Union Pacific, and Encampment, a center for mining and timbering operations twenty miles to the south. Saratoga was a supply point for ranchers, tie hacks and later prospectors and miners. In 1883 Fenimore Chatterton, a post trader at Fort Steele who later became an acting governor of Wyoming (1903-05), established a general store at Saratoga. He was joined by Wilbur B. Hugus who leased the Caldwell property. Hugus, however, decided to locate on the west side of the North Platte where a rival community had been growing since the construction of a bridge across the river in the mid-1870's. Eventually, growing up together, the two communities were incorporated as the Town of Saratoga in 1900.

At least as early as July, 1883 Hugus and Chatterton held an original patent from the United States government to the lots presently occupied by the Wolf The lots were listed under the ownership of a company run by the two men called the Saratoga Real Estate and Improvement Company. About a decade later, in the years 1892 and 1893, the lots on which the hotel is presently located were purchased from the Saratoga Company, by Frederick G. Wolf. According to the book Progressive Men of Wyoming, Wolf was a native of Germany, having been born in the state of Wurttemberg in 1845. The eldest of ten children, Wolf completed his schooling and an apprenticeship as a gardener and entered the German army at the age of twenty. He stayed in the army until 1869 when he left Germany for America where he found a job with the Michigan Central Railroad. After working with that company for a few years, he resigned to go West, and eventually found his way to Rawlins, Wyoming where he became a foreman for the Union Pacific Railroad. In 1876 he opened a liquor store in Rawlins but quit the business in 1882 and moved to the Platte Valley where he took up cattle ranching. Suffering from rheumatism, Wolf retired from that occupation and went to Saratoga in 1887, seeking relief for his illness at the hot springs. There he once again took up the liquor business until 1892 when he became involved in establishing

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Statement of Significance - 3

the Wolf Hotel. It is interesting to note that by that time Wolf was considered to be an "old-timer" in the valley. On Monday, June 26, 1893 a weekly Saratoga newspaper, the Platte Valley Lyre, announced to its readers that masons had begun work on the stone foundations and cellar walls of the new Hotel Wolf, just west of the Lyre office. Less than a month later the walls of the building were going up and already by August 24 the Lyre could announce to its readers: "The new Wolf Hotel is one of the handsomest buildings in Carbon County and don't you forget it." On the second of November, 1893 it was noted that freighter Taylor Pennock had brought to the Wolf three wagonloads of doors, windows, and ornamental woodwork from Fort Steele. Christmas passed before all of the hotel's interior furnishings arrived, but on New Year's Eve the doors of the building were thrown open for a masquerade ball. Perhaps one of the enclosed historic photographs of the Hotel may have been taken on the day of the cheerful celebration described by the Lyre.

The handsome new Wolf Hotel was thrown open to the public for the first time last Friday evening and was early filled with a merry crowd of dancers and spectators. The interior of the building had been tastefully decorated for the occasion with bunting, evergreen trees and festoons of flowers, and the word 'welcome' appeared in large letters over the archway in the dining room. Although it is quite large the dining room proved far too small for the dancers, even had there been no spectators. Landlord Wolf was here, there and everywhere, his genial face beaming a cordial welcome to every guest.

Following its description of the masquerade, an event which lasted until four o'clock the following morning, the <u>Lyre</u> noted with pride,

A banquet such as has been spread but few times in the history of Saratoga was prepared in the Gold Hill House, and the guests did full justice to the occasion when the hour of midnight approached. The tables literally groaned under their load of good things, and the feast will never be forgotten by those who partook. Long live the Hotel Wolf and its popular landlord!

By January 10 the hotel, estimated to have cost \$6,000, was ready to be opened as a hostelry. The Lyre claimed the Wolf's accommodations equal

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Hotel Wolf

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Statement of Significance - 4

to any in the State, and "much better than those afforded in the majority of places". Apparently, judging from the preceding quotes and the one immediately following, a fine hotel was for Saratoga something which was long-awaited.

REGIST

The hotel furniture is new and first class throughout. Even the dishes, silverware, kitchen utensils, etc., were used for the first time yesterday when the LYRE force, in common with many other guests, partook of a sumptuous dinner there.

Landlord Wolf is the happiest man in the State, and has cause to be proud of the new hotel, as our people have cause to be proud of the enterprise and energy which had made the hotel a reality instead of a paper project. We be speak for it a liberal patronage and trust that its owner may meet with success in a much greater degree than has fallen to the lot of Saratoga hotel keepers heretofore.

The Hotel Wolf is significant not only as a prominent piece of local architecture, but also as an early commercial establishment, a structure which was visited by many who have since been identified as local and state pioneers. Upon reading the 1898 Hotel Wolf register, one who is familiar with the history of the Upper North Platte Valley specifically, and Wyoming generally, will recall the names of individuals such as Frank Mondell, George Ferris, Ed Haggerty, Robert Deal, James Rumsey, Guy Nichols, and William T. Peryam. Some of these, no doubt, made a stopover at Saratoga and the Wolf as they traveled through the valley on C. M. Scribner's stageline. From Walcott Junction to the north or Encampment to the south wayfarers left at 7:30 in the morning and arrived at the Wolf in time for a noon meal. A picture of a team of six white horses hitched to a Scribner stagecoach has been included in the nomination in order to document that aspect of the Wolf's history.

Enterprising Frederick Wolf died in Denver, Colorado in 1910 and nine years later his widow Christina sold the property to George W. Sisson for \$10,000. In 1935, the year that Mr. Sisson died, the hotel building and lots were appraised at only \$6,000. Two years later Sisson's widow sold the property to J. Earle Moore. Although Mr. Moore died in 1947 the hotel and adjacent property have remained in the Moore family from 1937 to the present day.

## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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Hotel Wolf

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

Statement of Significance - 5

Under the ownership of the Moore family the Wolf has been and still is, the site of a hotel, barbershop, bar and liquor store. The hotel restaurant has not been operated since about 1940.

As noted in the <u>Description</u> of this nomination form, alterations have been made in both the exterior and interior of the Wolf Hotel. However, the building is essentially the same as it was over 80 years ago. Furthermore, conscientious maintenance of the building and its furnishings by the present owner has helped to preserve this fine old structure, and it stands as one of the oldest and most impressive buildings in Saratoga and the Upper North Platte River Valley. Today the hotel serves not only the traveler looking for a night's rest or the comforts of a saloon, but its rooms and furnishings serve as a type of museum where one can feel the past and learn a little of the way of life established by the people who settled this part of Wyoming. Enrollment of the Hotel Wolf in the National Register of Historic Places will be a satisfaction to those who have visited and admired the Wolf, and to those who believe that the prestige of National Register status may further help to preserve this historic structure.



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