

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: 91001542

Date Listed: 11/1/91

Gold Dust Hotel
Property Name

Wilson
County

KS
State

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.

Beth Boland
Signature of the Keeper

11/1/91
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Because there is no justification for extending the period of significance for architecture until 1941, the architectural period of significance is the date of construction, 1884. Therefore, the overall period of significance = 1884-1891.

This was discussed with Martha Hagedorn-Krass of the KS SHPO staff.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: hotel

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Social: clubhouse

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian: Italianate

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone: limestone

walls Brick

roof Asphalt

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Gold Dust Hotel (c. 1884-1885) is located at 402 North Seventh Street in Fredonia, Wilson County, Kansas (pop. 3,047). The three-story, brick Italianate hotel stands on a cut limestone foundation, a parapeted, flat roof covers the building. The building has a western facade orientation and measures 36 feet from north to south and 72 feet from east to west. The Gold Dust Hotel stands at the southeast corner of the courthouse square. The building maintains a high degree of architectural and structural integrity.

The building retains its 2/2 double hung windows, accentuated with corbelled arched lintels on the west facade and south elevation. One transomed double door pierces the west facade and two transomed double doors pierce the south elevation. A pressed metal, classically inspired, High Victorian entablature ornaments the west facade. A corbelled brick entablature projects from the southern elevation's cornice line. The lesser elevations are not decorated. The hotel's classically styled wooden porch was reconstructed in 1905, the fret frieze was replaced with a solid entablature. In the 1940s the one-story kitchen projection off of the north elevation was expanded to accommodate an additional story.

The hotel was remodeled in 1965 to include twenty-eight rooms and six apartments. In 1986 the Gold Dust Hotel was purchased by Gold Dust, Inc., a nonprofit organization, for the purpose of restoring it for use as a community center. Since 1986 the organization has restored the original floorplan on the first floor, repaired the roof, and secured the building in other ways to prevent deterioration.

Much of the original door and window surrounds, doors, baseboards, and wainscoting are intact. Some of the pressed tin ceilings are extant. The three level cantilevered, circular staircase is intact as are the screen doors on many of the sleeping rooms.

Since it was built, the Gold Dust Hotel has been a major local architectural landmark in Fredonia. Before the Gold Dust Hotel was built, all of the hotels in Fredonia were of a simple, one and two-story wood-frame type of construction. Today the Gold Dust Hotel stands as Fredonia's only extant nineteenth century hotel.

 See continuation sheet

8. Statement of Significance

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

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Social History

Period of Significance

1884-1941

1884-1891

Significant Dates

1884-1885

1884-1891

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Barton, John - Architect

Doney, J.W. - Mason

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Gold Dust Hotel (c. 1884-1885) is being nominated to the National Register under criteria A and C for its historical association with the growth and development of Fredonia and for its architectural significance as a late nineteenth century, Italianate hotel. The Gold Dust Hotel stands at the southeast corner of the courthouse square.

Fredonia, the county seat of Wilson County, is located in Center Township, near Fall River. The first building upon the townsite was erected in 1868. The growth of the new town was not rapid, five buildings were constructed in 1868, sixteen buildings were constructed in 1869. A boom occurred in 1870 with speculation that Fredonia would become the county seat, one hundred and fifty-three buildings were completed on the townsite that year. In 1871 Fredonia was incorporated as a third class city and was named the county seat in 1874.

The arrival of the St. Louis, Wichita and Western Railway in 1879 further stimulated the building boom in Fredonia and created the atmosphere for the construction of the Gold Dust Hotel. This period of growth was further aided by the arrival of the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railway and Missouri Pacific Railway lines in 1886. Fredonia's population increased steadily between 1870 and 1890, numbering 315 in 1878, 923 in 1880, and 1,515 in 1890.

The October 31, 1884 issue of the Fredonia Democrat describes Fredonia's growth in this manner:

"...there has been a steady, healthy and substantial progress, indicating the prosperous condition of the country, and responsive to the demands of trade. The frail, cheap and half finished structures common a few years ago and such as are still seen in most western towns, are very scare in Fredonia. The dwellings,

See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 1

though not distinguished by any great display of architectural effect, are substantial and convenient and withal neat and tasty. Some two or three large, commodious business houses are being built and have recently been constructed in the business part of town, that will have in the future a commanding influence in locating the center of trade. A three story brick hotel on the southeast corner of the public square is fast assuming proportions, and will fill a long felt want...."

The Gold Dust Hotel reportedly cost \$17,000 to build. Samuel Baughman, who had the building constructed, was born in Greensburgh, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, on January 6, 1842. After serving as a sharpshooter with Union forces during the Civil War, Baughman married Lenora F. Kidder (1848-1913) on October 13, 1868, in Rock Island County, Illinois. In March, 1873, the Baughmans moved to Kansas. They located near Altoona, in Chetopa Township, Wilson County, where Baughman farmed and served as township clerk for five years. Baughman was elected as the Wilson County Sheriff in 1880 and served in that capacity until 1882. Following that he managed the Planters House hotel on the northeast corner of the Fredonia townsquare until the Gold Dust Hotel opened.

On September 5, 1884 the Wilson County Citizen reported that, "John Barton of Independence, architect of Sam'l Baughman's new hotel, has been in town the past few days." On October 17, 1884 the Neodesha Register announced that J.W. Doney of Neodesha had been awarded the contract to do the hotel's brickwork and plastering. A week later the Neodesha paper reported that the hotel's foundation had been completed and that the bricklayers had begun their work. The brick that Doney used the construction of the hotel may have been produced by S.D. Welch and Brother of Fredonia.

By December, 1884 the metal cornice had been added to the building's facade and interior carpentry work commenced. During the month of April, 1885 the Gold Dust Hotel was being made ready to open its doors for business and opened on Monday, May 4, 1885 with a grand ball.

The May 8, 1885 issue of the Wilson County Citizen wrote that:

"The Gold Dust is without doubt as fine a hotel as can be found in Southern Kansas. It would be splendid hotel in a city of ten or twenty thousand inhabitants. It is not only a grand building externally but contains the most modern appointments and

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 2

conveniences of first-class institutions of this kind and is furnished in all respects in a most elegant and comfortable manner. Its ventilation is perfect and not an important essential feature for a number one hotel has been omitted."

Baughman sold the Gold Dust Hotel in 1891 and the building passed through several owners until it leased by John and Nona Farris in 1923 and subsequently purchased in 1935. The Farris' operated the hotel until 1965, when it was sold and remodeled to include twenty-eight rooms and six apartments. In 1986 the Gold Dust Hotel was purchased by Gold Dust, Inc., a nonprofit organization, for the purpose of restoring it for use as a community center. Since 1986 the organization has restored the original floorplan on the first floor, repaired the roof, and secured the building in other ways to prevent deterioration.

The three-story, brick Italianate hotel retains a high degree of architectural and structural integrity. The building retains its 2/2 double hung windows accentuated with corbelled arched lintels. Transomed double doors pierce the west facade and south elevation. Its classically styled wooden porch was reconstructed in 1905, the fret frieze was replaced with a solid entablature. In the 1940s the one-story kitchen projection off of the north elevation was expanded to accommodate an additional story.

Since it was built, the Gold Dust Hotel has been a major local architectural landmark in Fredonia. Before the Gold Dust Hotel was built, all of the hotels in Fredonia were of a simple, one and two-story wood-frame type of construction. Today the Gold Dust Hotel stands as Fredonia's only extant nineteenth century hotel.

United States Department of the Interior
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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 2

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