

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED AUG 9 1978

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**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

 John P. Rains Hotel (Colwick Hotel)

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

106-108 Tennessee Avenue South

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Parsons

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Sixth

STATE

Tennessee

CODE

47

COUNTY

Decatur

CODE

39

CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY** DISTRICT BUILDING(S) STRUCTURE SITE OBJECT**OWNERSHIP** PUBLIC PRIVATE BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION** IN PROCESS BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS** OCCUPIED UNOCCUPIED WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE** YES: RESTRICTED YES: UNRESTRICTED NO**PRESENT USE** AGRICULTURE COMMERCIAL EDUCATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL MILITARY MUSEUM PARK PRIVATE RESIDENCE RELIGIOUS SCIENTIFIC TRANSPORTATION OTHER:**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Farmers Bank

STREET & NUMBER

121 Tennessee Avenue, South

CITY, TOWN

Parsons

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Tennessee

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Decatur County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Court Square

CITY, TOWN

Decaturville

STATE

Tennessee

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historical and Architectural Survey

DATE

June 1978

— FEDERAL STATE — COUNTY — LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Tennessee Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Nashville

STATE

Tennessee

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

EXCELLENT

DETERIORATED

UNALTERED

ORIGINAL SITE

GOOD

RUINS

ALTERED

MOVED DATE _____

FAIR

UNEXPOSED

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The John P. Rains Hotel stands in downtown Parsons, the largest city in Decatur County. The two-story commercial building was erected in 1898 and a portion of it is still in use. The building is free standing with brick walls and foundation and has a sloping roof covered with tar and gravel.

Originally the building housed two stores on the first floor and a hotel on the second. The double sections of three bays each on the lower level of the facade (southwest elevation) have decorative cast iron columns which were manufactured by G. L. Mesker and Company of Evansville, Indiana. The four windows and center door of the upper story have segmental arches surmounted by label molds which are connected by a belt course; this configuration repeats on the northwest elevation. The center bay once contained a transomed door and a small wrought iron balcony, but both of these have been eliminated. The hotel was entered by a door, now closed, located near the north corner of the building. A 1905 photograph reveals that a two-story porch, which extended across the facade and northwest elevation, had been added to the building. The northwest wall is pierced by four round attic vents and has six ornamental recessed panels above these; similar decorative elements on the facade were removed ca. 1920 to provide a flat surface for a painted sign. The southeast wall is completely plain, and the northeast wall has several doors and windows.

The original first floor plan provided for two large open spaces. The second floor has a central hall flanked by small hotel rooms. A large lobby was located in the northeast end of this space.

The present owner is rehabilitating the building for re-use as a radio station, storage space for bank records, and other commercial purposes. The original hotel entrance door has been closed and the staircase removed. A new entrance has been opened in the center of the facade first floor and a vestibule created; this area will be connected to the upper level by a spiral staircase. Although the remainder of the plan will remain largely unchanged, the walls, ceilings, and floors will be repaired. The facade has been sandblasted, but the owner is considering reconstructing the porches to protect this area from excessive weathering.

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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" 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 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Tennessee Midland Railway Company constructed a twenty-four-mile trunk line which connected Lexington with Perryville on the Tennessee River in 1888-89. (In December 1895 the road passed into the hands of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad.) Henry Myracle owned land adjacent to the railroad right-of-way and sold 143-1/3 acres to the railroad; he laid out lots around the depot and named the town Parsons.

Hotels were vital in a railroad town and several were established. One of these was the John P. Rains Hotel; the building also housed a dry goods and grocery store. Rains and his family lived in the rear of the first floor. The building was sold ca. 1920 to W. D. Colwick and Son and this firm operated the hotel until ca. 1950.

The city of Parsons has had an epidemic of fires during its ninety-year history which have destroyed its nineteenth-century commercial buildings. The Rains Hotel is the lone survivor; it is the oldest commercial building and oldest hotel in the city. It continued to operate for a half century, despite the abandonment of rail service to Parsons in 1936.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Information provided by H. L. Townsend, Sr., Parsons, Tennessee.

Elmer G. Sulzer. Ghost Railroads of Tennessee. Indianapolis, Ind.: Vane A. Jones, Co., ca. 1975.

Lillye Younger. The History of Decatur County Past and Present. Southaven, Miss.: Carter Printing Co., ca. 1978.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Latitude - 35° 38' 57"

Longitude - 88° 07' 08" 36

JFT 11/17/78 - AHPC notified

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/4

QUADRANGLE NAME Parsons, TN

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A	_____	_____	_____
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	_____	_____	_____
E	_____	_____	_____
G	_____	_____	_____

B	_____	_____	_____
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	_____	_____	_____
F	_____	_____	_____
H	_____	_____	_____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION The property nominated is a rectangular lot which measures approximately 47' by 233' and is bounded as follows: beginning at a point; thence approximately 47' northwest along Tennessee Avenue, South; thence approximately 233 feet northeast; thence approximately 47' southeast; thence 233' southwest through a narrow space

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

which separates the John R. Rains Hotel from the adjacent building, to the beginning.

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE Barbara Hume Church, Architectural Historian
Robert E. Dalton, Director of Field Services

ORGANIZATION Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE May 1978

STREET & NUMBER 170 Second Avenue North

TELEPHONE (615) 741-2371

CITY OR TOWN Nashville

STATE Tennessee

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE 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

Herbert E. Hays

TITLE Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE 8/1/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Charles H. Galt
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 11-21-78

ATTEST: *Jann H. Gilmore*
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 11/20/78