

PH# 367206

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

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FEB 20 1976  
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DATE ENTERED

OCT 29 1976

**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 *pk*  
Hotel DeFair  
AND/OR COMMON  
Hyannis Hotel

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER *WE 2*  
Southwest corner Highway #2 & Main Street

\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN  
Hyannis

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

\_\_ VICINITY OF

Third

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Nebraska

31

Grant

075

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

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

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
Doris Merrell  
STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN  
Hyannis

\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Nebraska

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Grant County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN  
Hyannis

STATE

Nebraska

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_ STATE \_\_ COUNTY \_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

## CHECK ONE

## CHECK ONE

EXCELLENT

DETERIORATED

UNALTERED

ORIGINAL SITE

GOOD

RUINS

ALTERED

MOVED

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

FAIR

UNEXPOSED

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

The Hyannis Hotel is a 2½-story frame structure topped with a mansard roof. It is basically of French Second Empire style with some Greek Revival detailing in the corner pilasters and window frames.

Built in 1898 by Mrs. Rena Fair, the hotel boasted a walkout balcony above a full frontal porch on the east entrance facade. Molded wooden columns with decorative brackets supported the second story balcony which was surrounded by a spindle work railing (see photo #1). In 1929 during a remodeling project, the front porch was closed in and the entire building was covered with stucco. An addition on the west was also added. In an abstract sense, the stuccoed porch retains something of the character of the original (see photo #2). A restaurant, lounge and office are housed on the first floor with the sleeping rooms occupying the second story.

# 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      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      S. S. Sears, contractor

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Hyannis, Nebraska emerged as a "cowtown" of the Sandhills in the 1890's. Herds of cattle were brought to this small community from area ranches to meet the railroad for shipment to market. During this early period Hyannis was one of the heaviest shipping points on the Burlington railroad line. The town was also the commercial and social center for a very large area of sparsely populated western Nebraska.

In December of 1897 Mrs. Rena Fair purchased a corner lot on Main Street and proposed in the next few months to build a first class hotel which would cater to all classes of patrons. By January 13, 1898 the ground had been broken and the foundation was being laid for the structure.

In early April 1898, the Hotel DeFair was opened for business. The building, constructed under the watchful eyes of S. S. Sears, contractor, was considered the best hotel and restaurant in western Nebraska. The new hotel boasted a separate entrance for the ladies, to spare them having to pass by the men gathered in the lobby.

By 1928 the hotel was in a bad state of repair. The community, though, did not want to lose this commercial enterprise, so a group of five men decided to renovate the structure. New steam heat, indoor plumbing and a new kitchen were installed and new furniture, linens and dishes were purchased.

The old hotel underwent considerable alteration on the exterior at this time. The front porch was enclosed, an addition was constructed on the west, and the entire building was covered with stucco.

Though the appearance of the Hyannis Hotel has changed since the colorful era of the town's early cattle shipping days, much of its historic flavor is still intact. Upon entering the restaurant and lounge area, photos of cowboys of the area, past and present, cover the walls. Whether it be a local cowboy winning the grand prize at

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Grant County Tribune, December 9, 1897-May 1898.

Merrihew, Victor H., Hyannis, Nebraska, informant

Yost, Nellie Snyder: Call of the Range, Denver, Colorado: Sage Books, 1966

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre  
 UTM REFERENCES

A	1,4	2,7,1	2,5,0	4,6,5,3	3,5,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING				ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C						D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE	
ORGANIZATION	DATE
Nebraska State Historical Society	January 9, 1976
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
1500 R Street	(402) 432-2793
CITY OR TOWN	STATE
Lincoln	Nebraska

# 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	<i>Marvin D. Knott</i>	DATE	2/6/76
TITLE	Director, Nebraska State Historical Society	DATE	

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
Acting	DATE 10/29/96
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	
ATTEST:	DATE 9.17.76
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	

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CONTINUATION SHEET    Significance    ITEM NUMBER    8    PAGE    2

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a rodeo or a group of men relaxing during a recent spring roundup, a pictorial history of the western Nebraska cattle business is documented on the walls of the Hyannis Hotel. Other features of the decor on first floor are the designs of the local ranchers' brands on the walls.

Upstairs, the sleeping rooms are comfortable, though simply furnished, and are still occupied quite regularly by tourists who want to say they have slept in the historic old hotel.

The Hyannis Hotel stands today as a landmark and reminder of the active cattle shipping days, and the impact that this business had on the settling of western Nebraska.