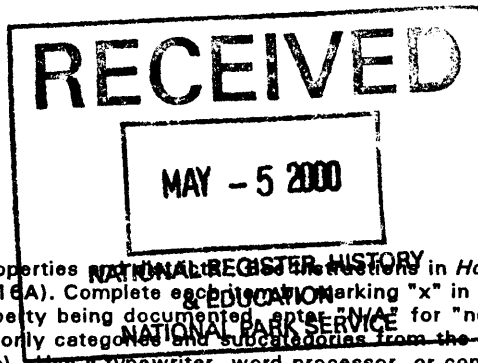


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



672

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each section by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Aldridge Hotel

other names/site number Hilton Phillips Hotel

2. Location

street & number 20-24 East 9th Street [n/a] not for publication

city or town Shawnee [n/a] vicinity

state Oklahoma code OK county Pottawatomie code 125 zip code 74801

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

<p>As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> nomination <input type="checkbox"/> request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> meets <input type="checkbox"/> does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant <input type="checkbox"/> nationally <input type="checkbox"/> statewide <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> locally. ([] see continuation sheet for additional comments).</p>	
<p><u>Bob Blackler</u> Signature of certifying official/Title</p>	<p><u>5-1-00</u> Date</p>
<p><u>Oklahoma Historical Society/SHPO</u> State or Federal agency and bureau</p>	
<p>In my opinion, the property <input type="checkbox"/> meets <input type="checkbox"/> does not meet the National Register criteria. ([] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)</p>	
<p>_____ Signature of certifying official/Title</p>	<p>_____ Date</p>
<p>_____ State or Federal agency and bureau</p>	

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the property is:
- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 - determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 - determined not eligible for the National Register.
 - removed from the National Register.
 - other, (explain): _____

Edson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

6-2-00
Date of Action

Aldridge Hotel
Name of Property

Pottawatomie County, OK
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

n/a

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

n/a

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/hotel

COMMERCE/TRADE/specialty store

COMMERCE/TRADE/organizational

COMMERCE/TRADE/restaurant

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION/Communications Facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH & EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN

MOVEMENTS/Commercial Style

LATE 19TH & EARLY 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/

Classical Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls BRICK

LIMESTONE

roof ASPHALT

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1928-1950

Significant Dates

1928

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Davis, Albon C., Architect

Carr, G. P., Contractor

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Aldridge Hotel
Name of Property

Pottawatomie County, OK
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property under 1 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 [114] [61818181710] [39111131010]
Zone Easting Northing

2 [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []
Zone Easting Northing

3 [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []

4 [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []

[] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Karen Bode Baxter, Architectural Historian; Timothy P. Maloney, Research Assistant

organization Karen Bode Baxter, Consultant date March 20, 2000

street & number 5811 Delor Street telephone (314) 353-0593

city or town Saint Louis state Missouri zip code 63109-3108

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the complete form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Action, Incorporated

street & number 510 W. Benedict telephone (405) 275-6060

city or town Shawnee state Oklahoma zip code 74801

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Aldridge Hotel
Pottawatomie County, OK

Narrative Description

SUMMARY

Located on the northwest corner of the intersection of East 9th Street and North Bell Avenue in downtown Shawnee, the Aldridge Hotel is just one block north of Main Street, the primary artery in the central business district. The hotel forms the northern boundary of the historic business area with the land to its north cleared of what were originally residential buildings and now used for parking. As the tallest building in the downtown, this Commercial Style, ten story, hotel building with its strong Neo-Classical design influences dominates the skyline in an area that is comprised predominantly of one to three story retail/commercial buildings. There are a few four to six story buildings in Shawnee, such as the six story Masonic Building located across the street to the south, but the Aldridge rises above them in prominence..

The hotel was built as fireproof construction, with reinforced concrete framing, floor, and roof and with twelve-inch thick brick curtain walls on all sides. Its tripartite design, the even spacing and placement of the piers and spandrels on the same plane, the flat roof, and the modest cornice projection are all indicative of the Commercial Style, essentially the early form of the skyscraper and appropriate for Shawnee's tallest building design. The use of Neo-Classical decorative elements, especially the arcaded lower level and the portico, provide the sense of grandeur at street level. The building is basically rectangular in plan on the lower elevations, but above the second floor, it becomes an L shaped plan with the northwest corner left open to provide windows for each room of the hotel. The south side of this L measures 100 feet while the east side is 110 feet long. While the building appears to be only nine stories tall, a penthouse suite in the southeast corner is set back from both street elevations enough to be obscured from the ground level, making the Aldridge Hotel a ten story building.

EXTERIOR

Street Elevations

While all exterior walls are primarily a yellow-brown brick, the two street elevations (east and south) share more elaborate Neo-Classical decorative details, especially with the use of limestone for stringcourses, sills, column pedestals and capitals, the cornice, and the portico at the main entry on the south facade. The tripartite design is typical of the Commercial Style with its base of two stories having the most distinctive and ornamental stone treatments, its shaft of six stories with its plain brick façade around the rectangular window openings, and the crown of the ninth story and the cornice. The tripartite design is accentuated by the projecting, horizontal, limestone details that separate each of these three sections: the sills at the third and ninth floor levels, the additional stringcourse that forms an entablature-like treatment of the area below the third floor sills, and the limestone cornice just below the edge of the parapet. There are eight vertical window bays on each of the street elevations; above the second floor level the rectangular window openings are evenly spaced with wooden, double-hung sashed windows and simple limestone sills. With the exception of the limestone surrounds and cornices on the pair of third floor windows that are centered above the main entry, the middle and upper sections of both elevations are dominated by a simple, repetitive fenestration pattern.

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Section number 7 Page 2

Aldridge Hotel
Pottawatomie County, OK

Narrative Description (continued)

The lower section, comprised of the ground floor and mezzanine (or second floor) level utilizes the same eight bay divisions with each bay separated by brick pilasters with Tuscan order, limestone capitals and pedestals. The outer corners of each façade have paired pilasters. At the base of the building, the limestone pedestals of these pilasters as well as the limestone bulkheads below the display windows, form what appears to be a high, limestone watertable. The pilasters appear to support an entablature formed by the double limestone stringcourses which matches the dimensions of the entry entablature. Between the pilastered bays are recessed, two story, arcaded openings consisting of ground level openings and, on the second floor or mezzanine level, round arched window openings. These round arched openings consist of a pair of multipaned steel casements surrounded by narrow multipaned sidelights and transoms. On the ground floor level, each bay has either a large wood framed plate glass display window with a grid-patterned frosted plate glass transom or one of the entries to the various street level businesses in the building. The limestone bulkheads below the display windows have rectangular air vent openings with decorative iron grills.

The south elevation is the main façade of the building with its massive limestone portico, which occupies the space of the two central bays. This shallow portico has paired Tuscan order columns on a single pedestal that support a large entablature with a dentil course below its cornice and urns at each end. Rather than two bays within the portico, there is only the single bay consisting of the rounded arched second floor window above a round arched, projecting canopy over a rounded arched main entry. This entry has a limestone frame and paired, full light entry doors with a rounded transom. The canopy is supported by massive chains and is arched, but flattens out on each side and has a pressed metal ceiling with leaded glass panels forming its sides that were originally lit by a series of electrical light bulbs along the outer rim of the ceiling. To either side of the main entry, in the center of the three bays, is an entry with paired wood framed, rectangularly lighted doors with frosted glass transoms. In addition, the bay just west of the portico also has a single, wood framed, glass lighted door with narrow sidelights and a frosted glass transom. In front of the western most bay on the façade is a stairwell leading to the basement barbershop, which has been modified by the addition of a waist-high concrete block wall around the opening.

On the east elevation, the northern three bays each contain doorways, with two wood framed, rectangularly lighted doors providing access to two separate storefronts, and the third one being the secondary entry to the north side of the hotel lobby. This lobby entry has paired, wood framed doors with large rectangular glass lights capped by the frosted plate glass transom divided into three panels (the center panel operates as an awning window). This entry originally had a flat, projecting metal clad canopy (similar in design to the main entry canopy), but it has been removed. The other lobby entry on the east elevation is in the second bay from the south corner, which provided access to the hotel's front desk, the corner storefront and the stairs leading to the basement (where the barbershop and public restrooms were located) and to the upper level rooms. This entry was not canopied, but had a round arched transom above its paired, wooden doors (with large rectangular glass lights) and sidelights.

Secondary Elevations

The non-street elevations are much simpler in design, dependent on the regular fenestration pattern, the even spacing and placement of the piers and spandrels on the same plane, and the use of the same yellow-brown brick. These elevations are also striking in their design because the northwest corner only extends two stories, creating multiple planes on what is in reality the back of the building. The windows on these secondary elevations are also sashed windows, but these are made of steel (with the same apparent profiles as the street elevation wood sashed windows) and have

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Aldridge Hotel
Pottawatomie County, OK

Narrative Description (continued)

reinforced glass and 2 over 2 sashes with concrete sills. The west elevation at the south end has three bays with the center bay forming the external, steel, fire escape. The limestone stringcourses that form the entablature-like detail on the street elevations extend around the corner onto the west elevation between the second and third floors as does the round arched window treatment in that first bay (although this is only visible at the sidewalk due to the proximity of the adjacent three story hospital building). The north elevation has three bays of windows adjacent to the east street elevation (with the ninth floor center bay window opening omitted) and with additional windows, including paired casements on the first two levels for the grand staircase (the second floor casement having a fanlight). An end wall chimney is built in the same plane as the north elevation and extends up its east corner to form a wing-wall. The interior of the L has four vertical bays of windows on both sides above the second floor level with the inner corner forming a slot for an air/light shaft with exposed concrete beams spanning the opening at each level and an angled corner at the ninth floor level.

Since the floor plan above the second floor level is basically L shaped, the northwest corner of the building is filled with a two story extension that originally housed the restaurant for the hotel. This section has round arched windows on the first floor of both its north and west elevations with only three bays per side. The windows on the first floor are 8 over 8 steel sashed windows with steel framed fanlights and the second floor windows are simple 2 over 2 steel sashed windows. There is a small arched vestibule entry attached to the north bay of the west elevation of this two story section. The brick of this vestibule is slightly different color, but it appears structurally to be an original element on the building.

INTERIOR

The interior spaces of the building are divided by function. The first floor, spanning from the main entry on the south to the grand staircase at the north end of the building, served as the hotel lobby, with the registration desk on the east side between two side entries, and with a niche for a bay of pay telephones opposite the registration desk on the west side. Utilizing the display windows along 9th Street (the south façade), there are separate rooms both to the east and west of the main entry with the one to the east being originally a pharmacy (and later a beauty shop) and the one on the west being a news and cigar stand. The eastern third of the first floor was separated from the lobby with the front portion serving as a diner and the back portion serving as a formal dining area, although in recent years the back section was remodeled into a kitchen. In addition, there were two additional storefronts on the Bell Avenue (east) side of the building at the north end in the corner between the north staircase and the entrance north of the registration desk. Most of these separate rooms had doorways connecting to the lobby as well as doorways to the public sidewalk. In addition to the grand staircase at the north end of the lobby, which provided access only to the mezzanine level, there was an additional staircase just south of the registration desk that provided access to the basement, mezzanine, and third floor. The staircase that provides access from the third floor up to the penthouse is positioned along the south hallway, around the corner from the staircase south of the registration desk. The second floor originally was a mezzanine level with the center section open to the lobby and with the surrounding rooms used as suites for lounges, the beauty parlor, the radio station, and meeting rooms. The third through eighth floors have essentially the same layout with two hallways intersecting at the southeast corner to form an L, with rooms on each side of these hallways and the elevator lobby located about midway down the south leg of the L on the interior (or north) side and the stairwell located on the east end of the interior side of the south leg of the L. The ninth floor has essentially the same floor plan except that the north half of the east leg of the L is the hotel ballroom and the small angled hallway connecting the interior corner of the L plan led to the kitchen facilities on the south leg, north and east of the elevator lobby. The penthouse suite is an asymmetrical shape, utilizing most of the southeast quadrant of the building's footprint and is the tenth floor of the building. In addition, the basement is partially finished with what were originally public restrooms and a large barbershop. The boiler rooms and storage areas are located there as well.

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Aldridge Hotel
Pottawatomie County, OK

Narrative Description (continued)

The interior finish on the first floor and mezzanine level provided a sense of elegance and opulence to the hotel. While most walls and ceilings were plaster, the entry foyers, columns and the lobby use tan marble as high wainscoting, and this same marble is also used on the lobby floors, the sides of the reception counter, and staircases. The black baseboards appear to be marble as well. The lobby was originally defined by the two-story atrium flanked by octagonal columns with decorative iron balcony railings between the columns on the surrounding mezzanine level. These decorative columns disguised the structural concrete columns. The concrete support beams between these columns form an integral component in the design of both the first and second floor. Their crown molding, recessed panels, and spandrels provide the sense of coffered ceiling panels in the areas surrounding the opening between the lobby and mezzanine. This same crown molding is used around the perimeter of the lobby. The grand staircase, at the north end of the lobby, has massive marble balustrades, rounded newel posts and railings. The upper level of this double-return staircase has decorative iron railings on the mezzanine level, as does the dog-legged staircase between the basement and third floor near the southeast corner of the building. The storefront in the southeast corner (originally the pharmacy) has marble baseboards and a small hexagonal ceramic tile floor. Originally, the lobby had a series of tiered chandeliers and ceiling lights. The elevator doors, as well as the doors within some of the rooms on the first floor and mezzanine (such as to the café and within the ladies parlor) had multipaned glass.

The upper levels utilized few decorative details, with plaster ceilings and walls and with what appears to be marble baseboards. These baseboards have been painted, though, and they may be molded plaster. The windowsills are marble. The elevator lobby on each level had a ceramic, wall mounted, water fountain which provided ice water. The window and door framing on these levels is a simple molded casing made from metal (as part of the fireproof construction). The paneled doors (one small recessed panel above a tall recessed panel) are wood. The bathrooms in each unit had ceramic tile floors and most had a built-in bathtub.

The ballroom on the ninth floor has more elaborate moldings where the coved ceiling joins the walls, including an egg and dart molding and a row of dentil molding. The doors on either side of the south wall entries into the room are paired french doors. The floors are oak. Centered on the north wall is a slightly projecting bay with a niche recess (similar to an oversized fireplace mantel) that has a wooden platform (approximately twelve inches high) that served as a stage.

The penthouse suite had even more decorative details, including the use of metal casement windows and fireplaces in both the living room and dining room. The floors of the penthouse were oak strips. There is a doorway leading to a rooftop patio, which is surrounded by the main building's parapet, giving it the appearance of a high brick garden wall.

ALTERATIONS AND INTEGRITY

Overall, the building retains its integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, and association. It even retains its original main entry canopy and the decorative marble on the interior as well as the original floor plan and room configuration. Structurally, the building appears to be unaltered and in good condition, but many of the finishes have deteriorated, especially since the building was vacated in 1994. On the exterior, the original canopy on the east entrance is gone and the one over the main entrance has some damage to the leaded glass area, but is otherwise intact. A number of windowpanes have been broken and boarded-in temporarily, but the window frames appear to be solid, with a few exceptions. Most of the storefronts and the entries are original. Probably in the 1950s, aluminum awnings were added to the first floor openings and many of the transoms were boarded over at that time, but many are intact underneath.

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Section number 7 Page 5

Aldridge Hotel
Pottawatomie County, OK

Narrative Description (continued)

In recent years the building (especially the lobby) has been used for storage and has been subjected to some vandalism, which gives the interior the appearance of great deterioration but is little more than cosmetic damage and dirt. The floor areas that were originally carpeted and the upper level hallways have had various attempts at replacement carpets and tile, all of which is in poor condition today. The walls and ceilings are in good condition structurally, but in need of cosmetic repairs and on some of the upper levels acoustical ceilings have been installed in the hallways. Until the building closed in 1994 it retained most of its original decorative details but the hotel's management company began stripping out the valuable chandeliers and other light fixtures (literally leaving dangling wires on all levels), as well as the grand piano, hoping to return for all of the marble wainscoting and staircase railings before the local Main Street manager stopped them.

Changes to the exterior have been minimal and there are only a few apparent major alterations to the interior. The most significant change was the enclosure of the open atrium in between the lobby and mezzanine levels, which has created an additional room (with simple wood trim and sheetrock walls) in the center of the mezzanine level and decreased the visual height of the lobby. The original dining room in the rear (northwest corner) of the building was converted into a kitchen at some point, although traces of the original pressed metal cornices are still intact along with most of the original fanlighted casement windows. Since the café remained open until the building closed in 1994, some alterations to its original decor are evident. The doorway into the hotel lobby was closed, but it appears that the heavy stucco on the walls is original. The basement barbershop was apparently converted into a nightclub in recent years and the public restrooms no longer have any fixtures.

As a consequence, with few exceptions, the building retains its high degree of historic integrity, both inside and out, and is in good condition, despite its initial appearance.

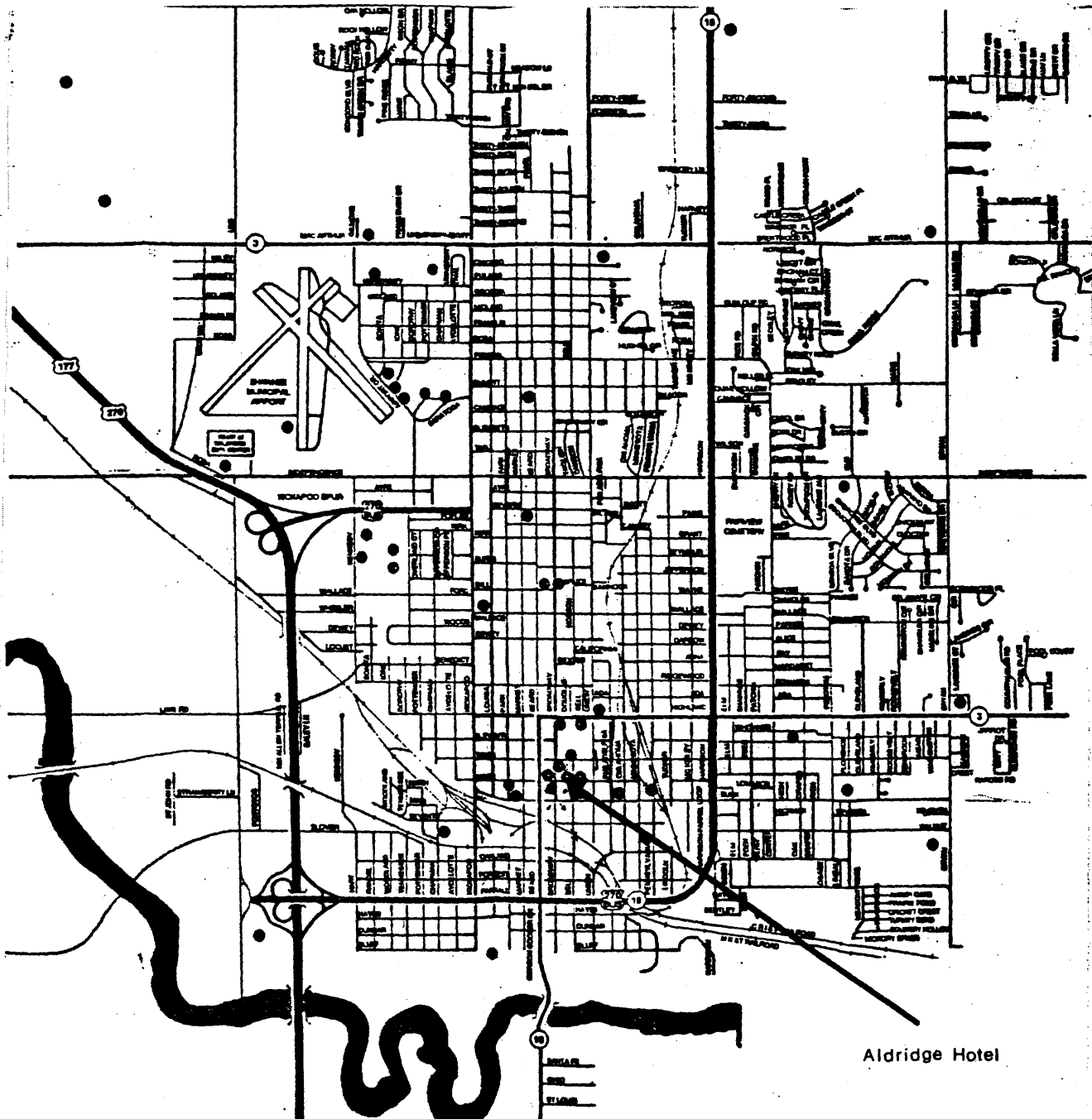
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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 6

Aldridge Hotel
Pottawatomie County, OK

Map of City of Shawnee, OK Locating Property



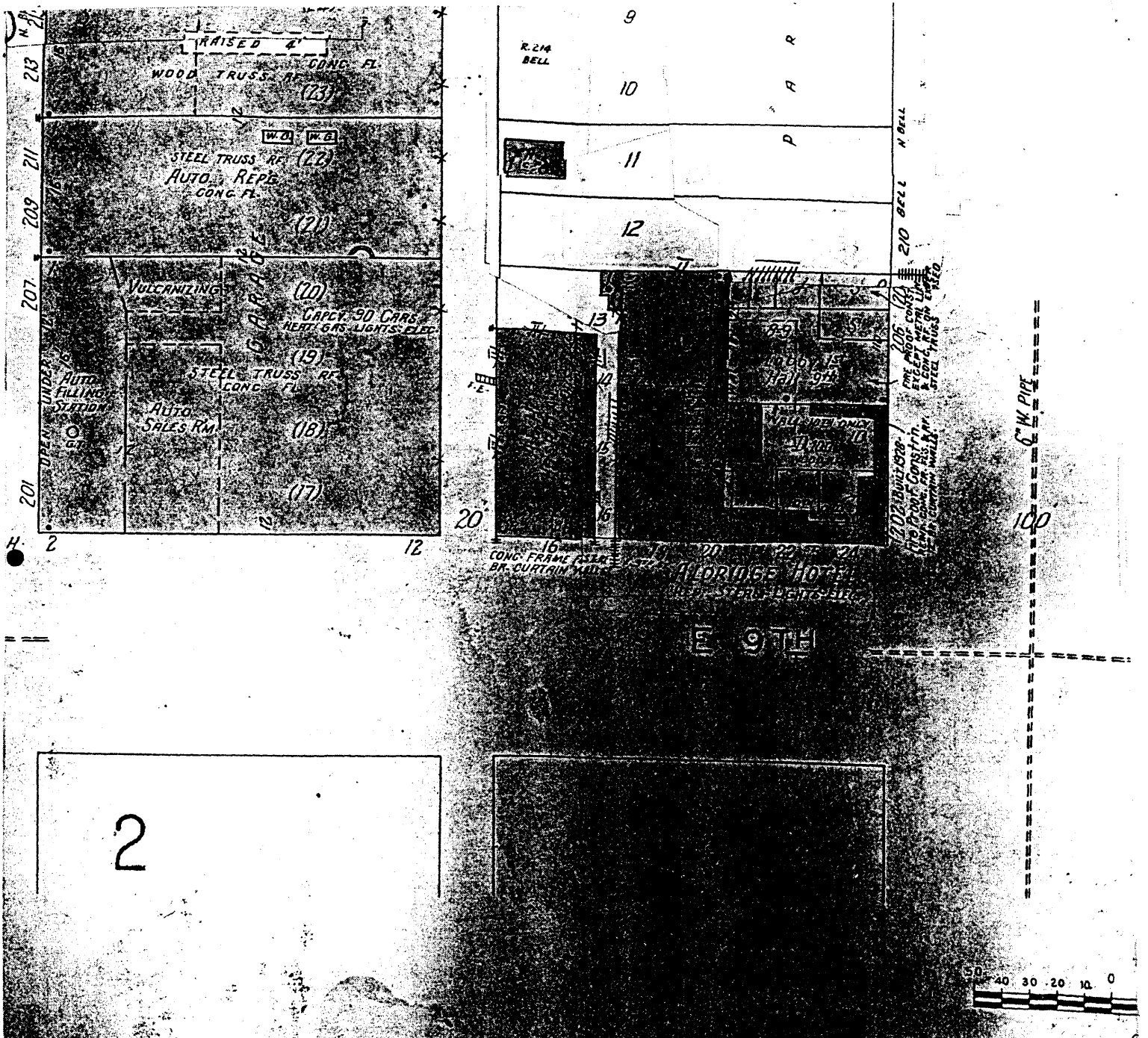
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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 7

Aldridge Hotel
Pottawatomie County, OK

Site Plan of Property Taken from 1952 Sanborn Map



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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 8

Aldridge Hotel
Pottawatomie County, OK

Narrative Statement of Significance

The Aldridge Hotel at 20-24 East 9th Street, Shawnee (Pottawatomie County) Oklahoma, is significant for its role in the commercial development of Shawnee under Criterion A: Commerce. In addition, the Aldridge Hotel is significant under Criterion C, Architecture, for its architectural importance in downtown Shawnee as the best example of Shawnee architect, Albon C. Davis' work.

SUMMARY

Finished in February 1929,¹ the Aldridge Hotel represents a significant stage in the history of Shawnee. Its construction marked the beginning of a new era of commercial development, an era identified with the oil boom in central Oklahoma. Besides being Shawnee's premier hotel through the 1940s, it housed several other important businesses: a fine dining restaurant, a coffee shop, a cigar stand, a barber shop, a beauty parlor, and the offices of several businesses. The Aldridge Hotel also served as a focal point for the local business community as the headquarters for the Chamber of Commerce, as the community's premier conference and meeting location, and as the studio for the area's radio station. It was utilized for the offices of numerous oil investors, either as their official address or in the hotel lobby where numerous oil leases were regularly sold.

Promoted as Shawnee's "first real skyscraper,"² when it was completed, the Aldridge Hotel is also significant in the architectural history of Shawnee. This Commercial Style, ten-story building is an excellent example of the tripartite design that was becoming popular for taller buildings and its use of Neo-Classical Revival decorative details provides a sense of prestige and grandeur to the edifice. In addition, the hotel's architect, Albon C. Davis, established an important architectural firm that operated in Shawnee for nearly fifty years and was responsible for a number of Shawnee's major buildings with the Aldridge Hotel being his most important design locally.

SHAWNEE'S HISTORY

Although a number of Indian tribes had been deeded the land surrounding Shawnee after the Civil War, in the 1870s, mounting pressure on the federal government eventually opened Indian lands to white settlement beginning in 1889. In 1891, most of what is present-day Shawnee was opened for settlement, but the townsite's future looked bleak until the Choctaw, Oklahoma and Gulf (later Rock Island) Railroad came through at the south end of the downtown. When the Choctaw Railroad relocated its main repair shops and its terminal facilities to Shawnee, it provided the impetus for the building boom that would make Shawnee a close rival to Oklahoma City in these early years of Oklahoma's development. In addition to the Rock Island Railroad, by 1904, the Santa Fe and Katy Railroads also laid tracks and built stations in Shawnee. Since Shawnee was located in the heart of cotton, peach, wheat, and potato country and had the transportation network needed by area farmers, it quickly became an agricultural center. It had the largest cotton-seed oil mill in the Southwest and one of the largest flour mills in the region. In the first decade of the twentieth century, the community acquired many of the amenities of modern life: a well established and diversified commercial area of two and three story brick buildings along Main Street, paved streets, nearly forty different factories, a public park just two blocks north of Main Street (and only one block north of what would become the hotel property), a Carnegie Library, a recreational area (with its swimming pool, skating rink, roller coaster, and picnic areas), a streetcar system, electrical service, a public waterworks, a country club, and even two colleges.³

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 9

Aldridge Hotel
Pottawatomie County, OK

Narrative Statement of Significance (continued)

By 1910, it was clear that the town would continue to prosper, but it could no longer compete for pre-eminence with Oklahoma City, which had won the state capital election that year. Although the population had grown rapidly, reaching 12,500 by 1910, the pace slowed considerably and in 1920 the population had only grown by 3,000.⁴ Prior to statehood in 1907, the local liquor industry had prospered, but died when prohibition passed with statehood. Besides prohibition, a national panic in 1907, the post-World War I depression, a 1924 tornado (which destroyed a twenty-three block area), as well as the 1920s national railway strike (which closed the railroad shops), and the flood in 1928 (which destroyed much of the southern part of the city), all contributed to severe economic loss for the community and ended the golden era of Shawnee's early development.⁵

By the mid-1920s, the town's growth had stagnated, but the discovery of oil nearby in the Cromwell, Earlsboro and St. Louis fields broke the downward swing in business and Shawnee began an unprecedented wave of prosperity. As the nearest large supply base for these oil fields, Shawnee became the location of many new businesses and industries catering to the oil industry's needs, but without the uncontrollable growth or negative features suffered by smaller communities in the midst of the oil fields. As the "Hub of the World's Largest Oil Fields,"⁶ vacant houses filled rapidly, property values more than doubled, and by 1927 the demand for space led to a building boom with over \$1,000,000 in building permits each month for nearly two years.⁷ At the same time, the population had soared from 15,384 in 1920 to an estimated 30,000 in 1927.⁸ Included in this late 1920s building boom were numerous new commercial buildings in the central business district spurred by the construction of the new hotel built by Hilton Phillips in 1928-29 (and known as the Aldridge Hotel after 1930), including: the new, six-story Masonic Temple Office Building completed in 1930 across the street on the south; the Gaskill undertaking building on North Union; the Plaza Hotel (at 9th and Union, one block east of the Aldridge Hotel); the Union Bus Terminal at the same intersection; the Shawnee News building on Bell (one-half block north of the Aldridge); a group of business buildings on North Broadway (one block west of the hotel); the Blue Front store on East Main; the State National Bank building; the Bison and Criterion theaters; as well as numerous remodelings of businesses along Main Street.⁹ Although the downtown is still dominated by small retail establishments today with approximately 80 percent built prior to statehood in 1907, this late 1920s building boom, set off by the new hotel's construction,¹⁰ expanded the boundaries of the central business district, provided some of its most outstanding architectural achievements, and provided much needed facilities that catered to the needs of the Greater Seminole Oil Field and twentieth century consumers. Unfortunately, the devastation to the cotton crops caused by the boll weevil and declining agricultural prices of the 1920s were joined by a nationwide depression of unprecedented proportions in 1930, ending the building boom and the prosperity in Shawnee. With World War II and the development of Tinker Field east of Oklahoma City, Shawnee would once again experience prosperity, this time as a bedroom community in the Oklahoma City Metropolitan Area, but there have been few significant additions to the central business district's building stock since 1930.¹¹

COMMERCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

In 1927, in the midst of the oil boom, Shawnee's junior Chamber of Commerce merged with the senior commerce body and the new organization's new manager, Ford C. Harper, was given as his first task the goal of providing Shawnee with an adequate first class hotel. The Chamber of Commerce raised \$40,000 to purchase the site, receiving a 99-year lease for office space in return for the donation, and their organization wooed Hilton A. Phillips, who had made a small fortune in his Earlsboro oil holdings, to build what is now the Aldridge Hotel.¹² Announced on August 25, 1927 to the public, the hotel was promoted as Shawnee's "first real skyscraper, being a full eight stories for rooms above the mezzanine floor, literally making it a ten-story structure."¹³

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Aldridge Hotel
Pottawatomie County, OK

Narrative Statement of Significance (continued)

Known initially as the Hilton Phillips Hotel (still evidenced on the main entry's canopy by the embossed HP), the plans called for a main floor and lobby fronting on Ninth Street where there would be a dining room, coffee shop, the manager's office, accounting departments, telephone booths, a cigar stand, and several retail spaces (including a drug store and haberdashery). The mezzanine originally opened onto the lobby from the colonnaded railings surrounding the lobby's atrium. The mezzanine had a number of meeting rooms as well as lounges, a beauty parlor, and the offices of the Chamber of Commerce. By 1930, the town's new radio station, KGFF, moved into a portion of this space and, from 1933 until 1970, the M and P grocery store chain's offices occupied three rooms. Floors three through eight contained 200 guest rooms, each with their own bathrooms, ceiling fans, circulating ice water, outside exposure, and furnishings with matching woodwork (including beds, dressers, writing desks and chairs). The ninth floor had special suites, including the governor's suite, as well as the ballroom facilities, and the tenth floor consisted of the penthouse suite,¹⁴ which was originally occupied by Hilton Phillips and his wife (until his death in 1938 at the age of 36).¹⁵ The basement housed the barber shop, furnaces, laundry facilities, public restrooms, and storage areas.¹⁶ The hotel provided what were touted as special services, including individual mailboxes, an elevator operator, safety deposit boxes, police security, an on-site physician, a modern laundry (including laundry and cleaning service), mail and telegraph service, taxi service, news stand, sample rooms for salesmen to display their wares, and an in-house notary public and full-time public stenographer.¹⁷

The hotel building was designed to be Shawnee's premier hotel. Phillips told the architect, A. C. Davis, to spare no expense. As such, only top quality materials were used in its construction,¹⁸ "There was no asbestos or cardboard in this building, just concrete and brick and marble . . . marble everywhere! And my bathtub! They don't make tubs like that anymore."¹⁹ Designed as "fireproof construction" the structural support was provided by poured concrete columns supporting the slab concrete floors and the outside walls were clad in twelve-inch thick yellowish-brown brick curtain walls.²⁰ It cost \$750,000 to complete and the hotel alone employed 85 people.²¹ Neo-Classical design details supplied the sense of grandeur to the "skyscraper," especially the two-story classical portico over the entry and the lobby with its marble floors and wainscoting, hexagonal two-story columns, marble staircase, and open atrium to the mezzanine level. The sense of splendor was enhanced by the numerous leather furnishings and chandeliers in the lobby, the brass handrails around the mezzanine and staircases, copper mail chutes,²² the solid brass spittoons, the classy green-trimmed uniforms of the bellhops, a bank of telephone booths in the lobby, private phone lines to guest rooms, the grand piano in the lobby, the small group of musicians who played during evening dinner hour, and frequent music concerts in the lobby.²³

Its grand opening, on February 26 and 27, 1929, included two full nights of activities, and many of the town's elite actually booked rooms for the celebration. The schedule included a variety of musical entertainment, dinner, dancing, and speeches, with special addresses by Walter Ferguson, the vice president of the Exchange National Bank in Tulsa and J. F. Owens, the manager of Oklahoma Gas and Electric Company.²⁴ The program for those activities acclaimed

The opening of the Hilton Phillips Hotel marks a noteworthy civic accomplishment. The edifice is not only an architectural addition to the city of Shawnee, but the fulfillment of the requirements for a modern hostelry in the community. It is a tribute to the progressiveness of those who planned it and made the realization possible . . . A show place of the city, from which the community and its many industries will derive untold benefits.²⁵

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Narrative Statement of Significance (continued)

Utilizing numerous photographs of the interior, the brochure expounded upon the lobby as "luxurious in atmosphere, but unpretentious in furnishings and decoration . . . a home-like, friendly welcome greets every guest who crosses the threshold."²⁶ Even the menus for both nights were designed to impress the guests as well. On February 26th, included:

Cream of Tomato Bouillion
Salted Nuts
Celery Hearts and Mix Olives
Rainbow Trout en Papplette
Cucumber Rings
Breast of Chicken, Virginia Style
New Potatoes, Parsley Fancy Green Peas en Croustade
Raspberry Sherbert
Ladies' Delight Salad French Dressing
Ice Cream en Rose Form
Coffee Mints

On February 27th, the menu listed:

Assorted Hors d'oeuvres Paste
Fruit Cocktail Supreme en Baskets
Celery Hearts Colossal Ripe and Green Olives
Filet Mignon Mushroom Sauce
New Potatoes Fresh Asparagus, Drawn Butter
Orange Sherbet Surprise
Aligator Pear Salad
French Dressing
Fancy Form Ice Cream
(Favor Apple)
Coffee Mints²⁷

Sixty years later, one local resident remembered the opening, ". . . and oh, what an incredible event! No one who was there could ever forget it."²⁸

After it opened, the hotel quickly became the center of civic and social functions in the city. Not only was it the location of the Chamber of Commerce, its several dining and banquet rooms had a capacity of ten to four hundred persons each, making it the logical choice by numerous civic clubs, community functions, weddings, banquets, dances, conventions, and other social events.²⁹ The dining room opened at 7 a.m. and served until 8:30 p.m., to provide the "highest class a la carte service, club breakfast, business lunches and table d'hote dinners."³⁰ The coffee shop alone seated 125 and stayed "open from 6 a.m. until midnight, offering the 'best food at moderate prices,'"³¹ and it quickly became the location to take a coffee break and get caught up on local news for community leaders and businessmen, including: the newspaper staff, office employees from nearby buildings, the Chamber of Commerce, the radio station staff, and many oil people. The radio station, on the mezzanine, had big windows on the inside so that you could watch their shows live.³² One local resident

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Narrative Statement of Significance (continued)

recalled, "that ballroom up here was the scene of social activity every night, music, clubs, big band dinner clubs, strictly black tie. Oil men begged for rooms. . . the hotel [was] always full, being the center of civic functions as well."³³ Since it was only one block from the municipal auditorium, the hotel also hosted many celebrities performing there.³⁴ It was "well known to traveling men and tourists as the ideal place for a night or a month's stay."³⁵ Several prominent persons lived at the Aldridge in nicely decorated apartments of up to six rooms each, the first being Hilton Phillips, but also including Rose Porter (the KGFF manager), and Beachy Musselman (the News-Star publisher), Fred McDuff (oil man who later ran for governor) as well as others.³⁶ In addition, several oilmen had offices in the building (including at various times prior to 1950: Lillard and Perry Insurance and Oil, Ike Berry Oil, Bill Meagol Oil, Robert Brown (geologist), Irving Townsend Oil Properties, F. W. Cooper Drilling Company, Claude M. Tyler Oil Properties, A. B. Hostick (royalties), the Shawnee Oil Exchange, and Hilton Phillips Inc.).³⁷ Others utilized the hotel's lobby to conduct their negotiations (earning them the nickname, "Lease Hounds"), [Memories] making it the headquarters for the Greater Seminole Oil Field and the reason the hotel employed a full-time public stenographer and notary.³⁸ Politicians often spent time in the lobby since it served as the gathering point for many of the community's business leaders.³⁹

Hilton Phillips sold his hotel in 1930 to the Aldridge Hotel company of which E. C. Aldridge was president.⁴⁰ Although Phillips was extremely significant in the development of the hotel project and its construction, throughout most of its history, except for that first year, it has been known as the Aldridge Hotel. This small hotel chain had locations in McAlester and Ada, Oklahoma; as well as hotels in Dallas, Dennison, Port Arthur, Paris, Texarkana, and Waco, Texas; Lake Charles, Louisiana; Joplin, Missouri; Fort Wayne, Indiana; and Muskegon, Michigan.⁴¹ The Aldridge Hotel in Shawnee continued to be the center of the city's civic and social functions even in the 1950s.⁴² In a town that had 23 hotels when the Aldridge first opened, by 1951 there were only 3 remaining, a precipitous drop from 17 just 2 years earlier, but the Aldridge remained open. However, its heyday had passed⁴³ and by the 1970s, it no longer fared as well, even falling far enough behind on their city water bill payments that the mayor had the city commission eat in the dining room in exchange for credit toward their delinquent bills.⁴⁴ In the 1980s, the building had few tenants and had started being billed as the Aldridge Hotel and Apartments.⁴⁵ By 1994, when the U.S. Department of Labor forced the closing of the hotel because of extensive asbestos in the boiler room,⁴⁶ the Aldridge had only 7 residential tenants, a barber shop, and the café (although the café remained open until 1996 since it had separate heating facilities).⁴⁷ The building is now vacant, but plans are underway to rehabilitate the historic hotel building as apartments.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Besides its immense importance in the commercial life of Shawnee and its role as the civic center of the community, the Aldridge Hotel is significant architecturally as well. It is one of only two known examples of the application of the Commercial Style to taller buildings in Shawnee, a style popularized to accommodate these early "skyscrapers." The other example is directly across 9th Street, the Masonic Temple Office Building, completed the year after the Aldridge and only six stories high in comparison to the ten stories of the Aldridge. The Aldridge is an excellent example of the Commercial Style, since they are usually five to sixteen stories with straight fronts and deriving their character from the fenestration to which ornament is subordinate. The Aldridge has the characteristic regular pattern of window openings.

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Narrative Statement of Significance (continued)

The piers and spandrels are on the same plane, reinforcing the skeletal appearance of the poured concrete frame and providing a fairly even balance between the horizontal and vertical lines of the brick masonry. In addition, the Aldridge utilizes the tripartite design commonly found on Commercial Style buildings, with a base of two stories distinctly adorned and treated separately from the middle band or shaft, floors 3 through 8, which lack any decorative adornments, and which is separate from the top band or cap, the ninth floor, with its cornice and the parapet.

In addition, the design of this building, like other Commercial Style buildings, utilized stylistic influences popular during the era of its construction, in this case, the Neo-Classical Revival. This is most evident in the two-story portico with its Tuscan columns supporting a large entablature as well as the pilasters between the openings of the base of the building, its first two floors with the round arched, multipaned windows of the mezzanine level extending the arcaded appearance of the street level openings. In addition, the use of smooth limestone as a plinth-like base around the building and on the portico, cornice, and stringcourses (separating the base, shaft, and cap of the building) as well as its use of a light colored brick, are all common characteristics of the Neo-Classical Revival in the early twentieth century. The symmetry of the façade, the use of at least three horizontal divisions, the unadorned roofline, and the specific use of the attic floor also characterize this style, making the Aldridge the best example in Shawnee of the Commercial Style with Neo-Classical Revival characteristics.

The grandeur of the interior, especially the two story columns clad in marble, the marble railing on the grand staircase, the bronze railings on the other marble stairs, coffered ceilings, and the open mezzanine all visible from the main entry recalls an era in design noted for the opulence of its luxury hotels, the likes of which Shawnee has never again seen .

Designed by Albon C. Davis, an architect who came to Shawnee in 1901, the Aldridge Hotel is his most significant commission in Shawnee. The firm he established would remain in Shawnee and remained in existence at least through 1946. In the early 1920s, he had been joined by his son in the firm and Branson Davis apparently also worked on the Aldridge Hotel project. A. C. Davis was the architect for other notable early twentieth century Shawnee buildings including the Estes Building, the Pottenger, the Mammoth, the Chrisney Building, and at least two churches (Catholic and Baptist), as well as the first brick ward school. His firm survived nearly 50 years, most of the time with A. C. at the helm, much longer than any other architectural firm in Shawnee. Typically, other architects in town only operated for a few years and there were never more than two other offices in town. Although not much else is known about A. C. Davis, it is obvious that he had an important impact on the architectural heritage of Shawnee and the design of the Aldridge Hotel provided him excellent publicity (his photo was even included in the hotel's grand opening program).⁴⁸ As his tallest known design, the Aldridge is an excellent monument to his career, having stood the test of time and even having survived two tornadoes without any damage (except for the loss of a sign).⁴⁹

CONCLUSION

From its completion in 1929 until 1950, the Aldridge Hotel served Shawnee not only as a fine hotel but as the city's civic center and the center of many of its business activities, making it eligible under Criterion A: Commerce as one of the community's leading businesses. In addition, it is an excellent example of the Commercial Style with Neo-Classical Revival detailing, as well as the premier design in Shawnee of local architect, A. C. Davis, making it eligible under Criterion C.

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Narrative Statement of Significance (continued)

ENDNOTES

¹ Souvenir Programme, Hilton Phillips Hotel, Shawnee, Oklahoma, February 26-27, 1929, Aldridge Hotel Files, Santa Fe Depot Museum, Shawnee, Oklahoma.

² "New Hotel To Be Ten Stories," *Shawnee Weekly Herald*, 25 August 1927, p.1.

³ John Forsten, *Pott Country and What Has Come of It; A History of Pottawatomie County*. (Pottawatomie County Historical Society, 1936), pp. 35-43; John W. Morris, "Regional Multi-Purpose Cities," in *Cities of Oklahoma*, ed. John W. Morris (Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Historical Society, 1979), pp. 50-51; Pottawatomie County History Book Committee, comp. and ed., *Pottawatomie County Oklahoma History*. (Claremore: Country Lane Press, 1987), pp. 46-51; *Shawnee, Oklahoma 1895-1930 Forgotten Hub of Central Oklahoma*, reprinted by permission for the Historical Society of Pottawatomie County, Result of Planning and Survey Grant from the Historic Preservation Office of Oklahoma and the City of Shawnee. Director of the Survey was Dr. Dale Soden, Professor of History at Oklahoma Baptist University. Assisted by Dr. Gary Farley and Steve Hicks. Survey conducted between February 1984-May 1985, pp. 5-7, 11.

⁴ *Shawnee, Oklahoma 1895-1930 Forgotten Hub*, p. 7; Morris, p. 51.

⁵ Morris, p. 51; Forsten, p. 45.

⁶ "The Shawnee Chamber of Commerce," advertisement, *Economic Survey of Shawnee, 1930-31*, p. 16, clipping, Shawnee Chamber of Commerce Files, Santa Fe Depot Museum, Shawnee, Oklahoma, *Shawnee, Oklahoma 1895-1930 Forgotten Hub*, pp. 7-8; Forsten, p. 45; Morris, p. 51.

⁷ Forsten, p. 45.

⁸ Morris, p. 51.

⁹ *Shawnee, Oklahoma 1895-1930 Forgotten Hub*, pp. 13-14; Forsten, p. 46; Untitled, 1931 Historical Edition, *Shawnee Morning News and Evening Star*, Newspaper Clipping, Aldridge Hotel Files, Santa Fe Depot Museum, Shawnee, Oklahoma.

¹⁰ *Shawnee, Oklahoma 1895-1930 Forgotten Hub*, p. 13.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, p. 8; Morris, p. 51.

¹² Forsten, p. 45; Ernestine Gravley, "Renewed Interest in Aldridge Hotel Sparks Memories," undated newspaper clipping, reprinted from *Shawnee Living* (Spring 1987), Aldridge Hotel Files, Santa Fe Depot Museum, Shawnee, Oklahoma; Untitled, 1931 Historical Edition; "Three Years' Successful Accomplishments," *Economic Survey of Shawnee, 1930-31*, p. 69, clipping, Shawnee Chamber of Commerce Files, Santa Fe Depot Museum, Shawnee, Oklahoma.

¹³ "New Hotel To Be Ten Stories."

¹⁴ Jim Bradshaw, "Earlier, More Elegant Days of Aldridge Recalled," undated newspaper clipping, Aldridge Hotel Files, Santa Fe Depot Museum, Shawnee, Oklahoma; Virginia Bradshaw, "Aldridge Hotel on Verge of Closing," *The Shawnee News-Star*, 25 May, 1994, pp. 1, 6, Aldridge Hotel Files, Santa Fe Depot Museum, Shawnee, Oklahoma; Convention Headquarters in Shawnee," advertisement, clipping circa 1940, Shawnee Chamber of Commerce Files, Santa Fe Depot Museum, Shawnee, Oklahoma; Forsten, pp. 52-53; Ernestine Gravley, "The Aldridge: Part of the History of Shawnee's Heyday," undated newspaper clipping, Aldridge Hotel Files, Santa Fe Depot Museum, Shawnee, Oklahoma; "New Hotel To Be Ten Stories;" Souvenir Programme.

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ENDNOTES (continued)

¹⁵Gravley, "Renewed Interest."

¹⁶"New Hotel To Be Ten Stories."

¹⁷Virginia Bradshaw, "The Aldridge," p. 1; Thelma Lewis, "Memories of 'One of Shawnee's Important Places,'" untitled newspaper clipping, 16 March, 1995, p.17, Aldridge Hotel Files, Santa Fe Depot Museum, Shawnee, Oklahoma; Souvenir Programme.

¹⁸Gravley, "Renewed Interest."

¹⁹Aline Christian, quoted in Ernestine Gravley, "Renewed Interest."

²⁰Sanborn Map Company, "Shawnee, Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma," 1919, 1952; Virginia Bradshaw, "The Aldridge," p. 6.

²¹Virginia Bradshaw, "The Aldridge," p. 6; Forsten, pp. 52-53.

²²Observations based upon physical inspection and examination of photographs in the Souvenir Programme and Virginia Bradshaw, "Fixtures Stripped from Aldridge; Owner Sought," undated newspaper clipping, pp. 1, 4, Aldridge Hotel Files, Santa Fe Depot Museum, Shawnee, Oklahoma.

²³Jim Bradshaw; Virginia Bradshaw, "Fixtures;" Lewis; Souvenir Programme.

²⁴Mrs. Adam Hornbeck quoted in Gravley, "Renewed Interest;" Souvenir Programme; Virginia Bradshaw, "Aldridge," p. 6.

²⁵Souvenir Programme.

²⁶*ibid.*

²⁷*ibid.*

²⁸Hornbeck quoted in Gravley, "Renewed Interest."

²⁹"Aldridge Hotel Building," advertisement, Aldridge Hotel Files, Santa Fe Depot Museum, Shawnee, Oklahoma; Jim Bradshaw; Virginia Bradshaw, "Aldridge," p. 6; "Convention Headquarters;" Forsten, pp. 52-53; Gravley, "The Aldridge;" "Shawnee's Hotel Facilities," *Shawnee Today* (Summer 1936), clipping, Aldridge Hotel Files, Santa Fe Depot Museum, Shawnee, Oklahoma.

³⁰Virginia Bradshaw, "Aldridge," p. 1; Souvenir Programme.

³¹Souvenir Programme.

³²Virginia Bradshaw, "Aldridge," p. 1; Lewis.

³³Christian quoted in Gravley, "Renewed Interest."

³⁴Jim Bradshaw; "Convention Headquarters;" Gravley, "Renewed Interest;" Lewis.

³⁵"Convention Headquarters;" "You Are Invited," advertisement, 1945, clipping, Shawnee Chamber of Commerce Files, Santa Fe Depot Museum, Shawnee, Oklahoma.

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ENDNOTES (continued)

³⁷Lewis; *Polk's Shawnee (Oklahoma) City Directory*. (Kansas City, Missouri: R. L. Polk & Co., Publishers, 1930), p. 383; *Ibid.*, 1931, p. 309; *Polk's Shawnee (Pottawatomie County, Okla.) City Directory*. (Kansas City, Missouri: R. L. Polk & Co., Publishers, 1935), p. 358; *Ibid.*, 1937, p. 359; *Ibid.*, 1939, p. 343; *Ibid.*, 1941, p. 339; *Ibid.*, 1946, p. 336; *Ibid.*, 1949, p. 314; *Ibid.*, 1952, p. 286.

³⁸Forsten, p. 52; Lewis.

³⁹Lewis.

⁴⁰Forsten, p. 52.

⁴¹ Aldridge Hotel, stationary, Aldridge Hotel Files, Santa Fe Depot Museum, Shawnee, Oklahoma; Alisonett Hotels, Menu, Aldridge Hotel, Shawnee, Oklahoma, Files, MetroPlains Development Inc. Saint Paul, Minnesota; "Shawnee's Address of Distinction, Aldridge Hotel," advertisement, *The Shawnee Guide*. (n.p., 1950), clipping, Shawnee Chamber of Commerce Files, Santa Fe Depot Museum, Shawnee, Oklahoma.

⁴²"Convention Headquarters;" "Shawnee's Address of Distinction;" "You Are Invited."

⁴³*Polk's Shawnee (Oklahoma) City Directory*, Classified Section, 1930, pp. 436-437; *Ibid.*, 1931, p. 351; *Polk's Shawnee (Pottawatomie County, Okla.) City Directory*, Classified Section, 1935, p. 438; *Ibid.*, 1937, p. 439; *Ibid.*, 1939, p. 418; *Ibid.*, 1941, p. 419; *Ibid.*, 1946, p. 440; *Ibid.*, 1949, pp. 394-395; *Ibid.*, 1952, p. 403.

⁴⁴Jim Bradshaw.

⁴⁵1988 *Shawnee Oklahoma City Directory*. (Dallas: R. L. Polk & Co., 1988), p. 7; *Polk Shawnee Including Tecumseh Oklahoma Yellow Pages and City Directory*. (Dallas: R. L. Polk & Co., 1992), p. 3; *Ibid.*, 1993, p. 3; *Ibid.*, 1994, p. 2; *125th Polk City Directory Anniversary Edition 1995 Shawnee Oklahoma*. (Detroit, Michigan: R. L. Polk & Co., 1995), p. 3.

⁴⁶Virginia Bradshaw, "Aldridge," p.1.

⁴⁷*Ibid.* p. 1; *Polk Shawnee Including Tecumseh Oklahoma Yellow Pages and City Directory*, 1993, p. 3.

⁴⁷ Pottawatomie County History Book Committee, p. 52; Souvenir Program; *R. L. Polk & Co.'s Shawnee City Directory Including Tecumseh*. (Sioux City, St. Paul, Detroit: R. L. Polk & Co., Publishers, 1914), p. 76; *Ibid.*, 1925, p. 84; *Polk's Shawnee (Pottawatomie County, Okla.) City Directory*, 1941, p. 81; *Ibid.*, 1946, p. 81; *Shawnee City Directory*, The Star Directory Company, comp., September 1, 1901. (Shawnee, Oklahoma: The Quill Printery, 1901), Classified Section, p. 95. *R. L. Polk & Co.'s Shawnee City Directory*, Classified Section, 1909, p. 245; *Ibid.*, 1912, p. 251; *Ibid.*, 1914, p. 241; *Ibid.*, 1916, p. 264; *Ibid.*, 1919, p. 262; *Ibid.*, 1923, p. 314; *Ibid.*, 1925, p. 327; *Polk's Shawnee (Oklahoma) City Directory*, Classified Section, 1928, p. 450; *Ibid.*, 1930, p. 406; *Ibid.*, 1931, p. 331; *Polk's Shawnee (Pottawatomie County, Okla.) City Directory*, Classified Section, 1935, p. 415; *Ibid.*, 1937, p. 415; *Ibid.*, 1939, p. 395; *Ibid.*, 1941, p. 391; *Ibid.*, 1946, p. 413; *Ibid.*, 1949, p. 373.

⁴⁹Jim Bradshaw; Gravley, "Renewed Interest."

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Verbal Boundary Description

East 100 feet of lots 13, 14, 15, and 16 of Block 14, Amended Plat of the City of Shawnee, Oklahoma

Boundary Justification

These boundaries incorporate all of the property that has been historically associated with this building. The property's current legal description includes additional lots, which are vacant land, north of the building, but these originally had residential buildings at the time the hotel was built and are not part of the historic property. Except for public sidewalks and a narrow strip of land on the west side of the property where the fire escape is located, the building encompasses the entire lot.

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**Aldridge Hotel
Pottawatomie County, OK**

Photo Log

Photographer: Karen Bode Baxter
March 2000
Negatives with Oklahoma Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma City, OK

- Photo #1: Exterior, south and east elevations, facing northwest
- Photo #2: Exterior, west and south elevations, facing northeast
- Photo #3: Exterior, detail of front entry on south façade, looking north
- Photo #4: Exterior, north and east elevations, facing southwest
- Photo #5: Exterior, detail of northwest section of building (original dining room) facing southwest
- Photo #6: Interior, detail of southeast corner storefront (original pharmacy, later beauty parlor), facing north
- Photo #7: Interior, detail of café west of lobby, facing north
- Photo #8: Interior, lobby, facing south to front entry from main staircase
- Photo #9: Interior, detail of column and support beams in lobby
- Photo #10: Interior, main staircase at north end of lobby, looking north
- Photo #11: Interior, staircase in southeast corner of building from mezzanine, facing east southeast
- Photo #12: Interior, main staircase at north end of building from mezzanine, facing east
- Photo #13: Interior, typical guest room, 4th floor, east hallway, east side, looking northwest
- Photo #14: Interior, penthouse apartment living room, looking northeast
- Photo #15: Interior, ballroom, 9th floor, looking north northwest