

Site Number 1

County Macon

Historic Name Donoho Hotel Historic District Open to the Public: Yes X No

Common Name same Present Use hotel/residence

Address Market Street (Hwy 151) Current Condition good

Red Boiling Springs, Tennessee Date of Construction 1916/1924

Owner's Name Patrick and Edith Walsh Original Use hotel/residence

Owner's Address Red Boiling Springs, TN Information Provided By Mrs. Edith Walsh,

Acreeage Approximately 4 acres Mrs. Louise Wilson, and Brenda Thomas

UTM Reference 16/603740/4043130 (Red Boiling Springs, TN-KY Quad)

DESCRIPTION

The Donoho Hotel Historic District is comprised of one hotel, one residence, and five outbuildings. The hotel, residence, and two outbuildings all contribute to the significance of the district. Contributing resources (C) are significant to the historic and architectural development of the district, possess compatible design elements, and maintain the scale, use, and texture of the district. Non-contributing resources (NC) disrupt the texture of the district, have little or no architectural significance, or have been considerably altered.

The Donoho Hotel (C) is a two story gable roofed hotel constructed of weatherboarded frame. It rests on a brick foundation. It was built in 1916 by Mr. Whitley, a local contractor, and local laborers to replace an earlier hotel of the same name which was destroyed by fire a year earlier.

The hotel has long verandas on both stories, running along the facade and both elevations. Four large two tier columns, which decorate the facade and the main entranceway, and 22 smaller and less decorative two tier columns support the veranda. Both the first and second story verandas feature oak tongue and groove floors and ceilings. A plain oak balustrade encloses the upper veranda.

The main entrance to the hotel is through two original wood double leaf doors, surrounded by a transom and sidelights. The lower portion of the facade has 11 wood paneled doors, 10 of which lead into individual guest rooms, and twelve 1/1 windows. An external stairway at either end of the building leads to the top veranda. The upper facade has 10 wood paneled doors leading to guest rooms, and twelve 1/1 windows. An original wood double leaf door with transom and sidelights leads to a central hallway on the second floor. Guest rooms which have external doors leading to the veranda have no access from internal hallways, either on the upper or lower level. Only one of the 17 bedrooms on the first floor has an internal doorway from the central hall. Others have exits only to the veranda.

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Accessible from the central hallway on the first floor is the lobby and parlor, a lounge, the one bedroom, the dining room, and two public bathrooms. The kitchen area, which was added to the rear of the building in the 1930s, is accessible only from the dining area and from the outside. A small cook's quarters is included in the kitchen area.

The interior of the Donoho is in good condition, with only minor alterations. The lobby features chestnut wainscoting throughout, and the original hand-painted light fixtures. A pastoral mural on the right wall of the lobby was painted around 1956, when some other remodeling was done under the supervision of the then-owner, Ed Hagen. At this time, private bathrooms were added to guest rooms. Prior to this time, there had been only two public baths on each floor. Twelve of the 34 second floor rooms still do not have private baths. Also in 1956, electricity and overhead lighting was added to each room. These additions were made in an attempt to revive the tourist industry. Despite these alterations, the hotel interior retains its integrity.

The Donoho House (C) is a two story brick building constructed in 1924 by B. W. Chitwood as a residence for the owners of the Donoho Hotel. The hip roof with flared eaves is covered with composition shingles. The wide eaves have vertical wood brackets. The original house featured a full-length one story porch with brick and wood columns, and a small entry porch with wood columns on the upper level. There is one internal chimney with corbeling in the original part of the house. One story additions have been added to both sides of the house.

The facade faces southwest, and features the original glass-paneled door, with transom lights and sidelights. Windows are double-hung, and have 4 vertical panes over 1 single pane. All windows on the facade have decorative wood shutters and stone sills. Aluminum storm windows and doors cover the original windows and doors.

The first floor of the house is made up of 3 dining rooms, a lobby with pine paneling, a kitchen area, and the owners' living quarters. The second floor consists of 5 guest rooms and one public bath. There are no private baths in guest rooms.

A 20 X 36 foot building of rough lumber with a tin roof was constructed around the same time as the hotel (1916) to serve as a washhouse and storage shed. It is still used for this purpose, although today it is called a laundry house (C). Also contributing to the significance of the property is a fruit cellar (C) built into the hillside behind the Donoho. The front of the cellar (the only part exposed from the ground) is of creek rock with a wood entrance door. The fruit cellar was built for the first Donoho Hotel in the late 1800s, and, therefore, pre-dates the present hotel building. The cellar is not used today.

Non-contributing buildings on the property are: a 10X20 foot building of rough lumber with a tin roof, built in the mid-1950s as a smokehouse (NC), and a wooden gazebo (NC) built in 1984 over one of the mineral springs wells. A red brick, one-car garage (NC),

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built in 1924 by Mr. Chitwood, is located in the district. In the 1950s, the appearance of the garage was altered when it was extended to allow for longer automobiles and modern steel garage doors replaced the original wooden double doors.

SIGNIFICANCE

The Donoho Hotel Historic District is a group of related buildings that are an excellent representation of resort architecture. The Hotel is the most representative of the early resort hotels that lined the Salt Lick Creek. Most were built along the same pattern as the Donoho, being two-story white frame buildings. Today, the Donoho is the only extant hotel of this type. The house and two outbuildings are significant to the district because of their association with the hotel and, therefore, the mineral resort industry. The hotel is still open during the summer. The house, originally the owner's residence, is now a bed and breakfast inn and restaurant (and a private residence).

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property is irregular in shape and approximately four acres in size. The boundary includes all land in tax map parcel C-27.01 and an adjacent parcel of land with a boundary that is as follows: beginning at the southeast corner of the historic site, said point being the southeast corner of parcel number C-28 on Macon County tax map 46-J where it adjoins the southwest corner of parcel C-27.01; thence northwest approximately 145 feet along the south property line along the creek to the southwest corner of the historic site; thence northeast approximately 210 feet to the northwest corner of the historic site; thence in an easterly direction approximately 70 feet to the northeast corner of the historic site, said point being located in the adjoining property lines of parcel numbers C-28 and C-27.01 on Macon County tax map 46-J; thence along said adjoining property lines approximately 220 feet to the point of beginning, which forms the southeast corner of the historic site. (See tax map) This includes sufficient land to protect the historic setting and architectural integrity of the Donoho Hotel Historic District.

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