

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED JAN 14 1980

DATE ENTERED

7

**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

~~The~~ Whitestone Hotel

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Northeast corner Second Avenue East and Main Street

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Lava Hot Springs

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second

STATE

Idaho

CODE

16

COUNTY

Bannock

CODE

005

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

ACCESSIBLE

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Jon C. Barrett

STREET & NUMBER

2267 Gail Drive

CITY, TOWN

Pocatello

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Idaho

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Bannock County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Pocatello

STATE

Idaho

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Idaho State Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

1972

__FEDERAL STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Idaho State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Boise

STATE

Idaho

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Whitestone Hotel is a low and massive two-story stone building which occupies a prominent corner lot on the Main Street of Lava Hot Springs, a block from the narrow strip of park which lies between the commercial street and the Portneuf River. The first story is rusticated and terminates in a pair of belt courses; the second is smooth and capped with a second pair of belt courses, a corbeled cornice and a parapet with cast stone crenellations; the effect of this arrangement is to emphasize both horizontal articulation and vertical progression of texture. The pair of double-arched openings on the Main Street side--the one nearest the corner originally a lobby window, the one furthest an entrance to the theatre under the same roof--visually approximates an arcade, and is coupled with flat-arched windows on the second story. Further classicizing elements are the keystone arches, and perhaps the dense, dentil-like disposition of the brackets under the cornice. All of these design elements recall, on a humble scale, the Renaissance Revival style.

The Whitestone is an eclectic example of that style, however, for the crenelated parapet displays a medieval taste, and the short corner entrance wall a happy pastiche of decorative motifs. An ornament in the shape of a truncated triangle is at the roofline, the corbeled cornice below. A transomed balcony door with a double-scroll lintel opens onto a rectangular balcony, originally with flat walls, probably of cast stone, pierced with a few large diamond and oblong shapes. (Only the balcony floor, supported on large consoles, is extant today.) The flat-arched main entrance, finally, is surmounted by a semi-circular stone panel segmented in "fan-light" fashion.

The predominant fabric of the hotel is a local sandstone so soft in texture that sawmarks are visible on the surface. Concrete has been used for the crenellation and, it would appear from early photographs, for the vanished balcony wall. The double-arched theatre entrance is terra cotta trimmed.

The building is unoccupied, and except for the loss of the balcony and the boarding of openings, unaltered. It is in stable condition externally, but is suffering internal damage as a result of roof and plumbing failures.

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 checked="" 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 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 1919 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Maranoni Brothers, Builders

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The architectural significance of the Whitestone Hotel is as a local example-- the lone local example--of the Second Renaissance Revival style; and as one of the two most pretentious commercial structures in this small southeast Idaho resort town.

It is an apt reflection of much of the history of Lava Hot Springs that its two most significant commercial structures are hotels. Both the Whitestone, which opened in 1919, and the Riverside Inn, a 1914 Georgian Revival building on the same block but facing the river rather than the street, were built during a period of intensive commercial and public development of a cluster of natural hot springs on the Portneuf River, beside which the village had developed. The grand hotels, the state natatorium and sanitorium across the river from them, and the more modest brick hotels further up Main all date from the 'teens and 'twenties, a period when Lava was growing from an informal resort for early settlers to a self-conscious and ambitious, if still tiny, spa.

William Godfrey, a rancher from nearby Dempsey, was among the first entrepreneurs to take out commercial claims on the hot springs. It was Godfrey who built the Riverside, a 1979 National Register site which still maintains its original hot mineral baths in the basement. Within two years after the completion of the Riverside, a group of Lava business people had purchased a part of the John T. Hall homestead and laid plans for a second big hotel. The corporation consisted of Truxton Ramsey, David Seppi, Dominic Gregory, Florence Prevedel, and the Mence and Maranoni brothers. The Maranonis, as it happened, were stonemasons of Italian descent, and they received the contract for the building.

Native white sandstone from a quarry about a mile southwest of the town was used in the construction. Work was progressing on the ballroom and cabaret by 1919, and the grand opening was held on July 4th of that year. A pipeline from the springs was run into the building and free hot mineral baths provided for the guests. The theatre opened in the same year; both stage and film productions appeared there during its long career. Both theatre and hotel functioned, under the eventual ownership of the same Ramsay family which had been represented among the early incorporators, until the late 'sixties, a time of general decline for the hotel trade in the area.

Although unoccupied and deteriorating at present, the big Main Street hotel is a particularly potent and visible reminder of an enthusiastic and expansive passage in the history of the town. If recognized and restored in the manner of the nearby Riverside and at least one of the small brick hotels further

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Historical Sketch of Whitestone Hotel and Theater," prepared by Ruth Ann Olson and Rebecca Frandsen; on file at Idaho Historical Society, Boise, Idaho.

Walton, Elizabeth. "Auto Accomodations," in Space, Style and Structure, V. 2, ed. Thomas Vaughn and Virginia Guest. Portland, Oregon: Oregon Historical Society, 1974.

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Lava Hot Springs

QUADRANGLE SCALE 7.5

UTM REFERENCES

A 1, 2 | 4, 1, 7 | 2, 8, 0 | 4, 7 | 1, 8 | 8, 6, 0

B [] | [] | [] | [] | [] | []

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C [] | [] | [] | [] | [] | []

D [] | [] | [] | [] | [] | []

E [] | [] | [] | [] | [] | []

F [] | [] | [] | [] | [] | []

G [] | [] | [] | [] | [] | []

H [] | [] | [] | [] | [] | []

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION This nomination includes the Whitestone Hotel at the north-east corner of Second Avenue East and Main Street, Lava Hot Springs, Idaho, and the property on which it stands, legally described as: tax 18 equal to two lots, block 1; Hall's First Addition to Hall City.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Patricia Wright, Architectural Historian

2 Jan 80

ORGANIZATION

Idaho State Historical Society

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

610 Julia Davis Drive

TELEPHONE

384-2120

CITY OR TOWN

Boise

STATE

Idaho

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

Mede Wells

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

2 Jan 80

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

4/7/80

ATTESY:

W. Ray Luce
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

4-7-80

[Signature]
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

from the river, it could make an unusual contribution to the sense of time and place in a small Idaho town oriented, as ever, towards tourism.