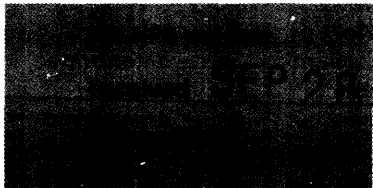


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



1982

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Lentz House Hotel (Hotel Sheller)

and/or common Hotel Sheller

2. Location

street & number Walnut and ^{2nd} ~~Second~~ Streets, N/A not for publication

city, town North Manchester N/A vicinity of ~~Congressional district~~

state Indiana code 018 county Wabash code 169

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mrs. Jane Sheller

street & number Corner of Second and Walnut

city, town North Manchester N/A vicinity of state Indiana 46962

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wabash County Court House

street & number Wabash Street

city, town Wabash state Indiana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Indiana Historic Sites
title and Structures Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1980 federal state county local

depository for survey records Indiana Department of Natural Resources

city, town Indianapolis state Indiana

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date <u>c. 1881 (frame portion)</u>

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Hotel Sheller is situated on the northwest corner of Walnut and Second Streets, and one block north of Main Street in the town of North Manchester. Located in the commercial district, the hotel is surrounded by several other 19th and early 20th century buildings.

Constructed in 1881, the main hotel building is a 2½ story, rectangular, red brick building. Utilizing the corner location, the builders of the Hotel Sheller gave it two main facades of similar design, the east elevation on Walnut Street and the south on Second Street. An angled corner, slightly recessed for emphasis, joins these two elevations. Despite its square massing, the structure has a vertical emphasis, created by the angled corner, the window style and arrangement, and the sloping mansard roof.

The main entrance, located at the center of the angled corner, consists of a pair of doors with long, narrow lights and beveled panels. The lights and beveled panels are outlined with cream-colored trim. The door has an arched transom and brick architrave with pendants. Large, square windows flanking the entrance have cornices and do not appear to be original. The other doors across the first story have segmental arches with hood molding made of brick, similar to that over the door. All trim is painted a cream color to contrast with the wall surface.

The first story also features a simple wood porch which wraps around the building on its two main facades and angled corner. Turned wooden posts support the shingled roof of the porch. At the intersection of the porch roof and the exterior wall, a metal "cornice" marks the top of the first story and emphasizes the three-sided shape of the building. This cornice stops short of the end of the porch roof on the south elevation. The posts and cornice are painted cream.

On the second story, all windows are one-over-one, double-hung with segmental arches, and are capped with decorative brick arches like those below. The east elevation has three windows, while the longer south elevation has four. One window is centered in the angled corner.

Two metal string courses, painted red to match the bricks, run around the building at the top edge of the second story, forming a frieze punctuated by small windows and metal brackets. Frieze modillions support the cornice.

The third story, which was added in 1896, consists of a flat-topped mansard roof. Slightly gabled dormers are placed directly over the second-story windows and the small frieze windows. A narrow frieze above the row of dormers emphasizes the top edge of the building. A red brick chimney stands flush against the mansard roof on the south side.

On the north end of the main building is a three-story wing, which was added in 1896. A single wooden door, with beveled panels and a single upper light is the entrance on the wing's one-bay, south elevation. All windows are one-over-one double-hung, with segmentally arched tops. Awnings shade the first floor windows on the east side. Third-story windows are slightly smaller than those on the other two stories. A cornice of corbeled brick wraps around the top of the wing.

West of the main portion of the hotel is a two-story frame wing, constructed in 1847. This wing is the original structure on the site. It has been covered with asbestos siding, and painted red and cream to match the rest of the building. Two single doors are placed side-by-side on the north (rear) elevation. Three six-over-six, double-hung windows, presumably original, line the second story of this elevation.

Inside the main entrance is the lobby, with the dining room and kitchen behind. The kitchen still contains an original marble counter-top. From the lobby area on the first floor, a wide walnut staircase leads to the second floor. The arrangement of the hotel's 20 guest rooms remains much as it was originally.

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 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 1847/48 1881 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

The Hotel Sheller is significant as a rare local example of Second Empire architecture, and for the role it has played in the community of North Manchester. Although it began as a modest operation in a two-story frame building, the Sheller experienced two periods of expansion to become the premier hotel in North Manchester during the last two decades of the 19th century. The hotel has become something of a landmark in North Manchester with its Second Empire detailing, particularly the arched windows and hood moldings, ornate brackets, and mansard roof. It has played a significant role in the commercial life of North Manchester by providing accommodations for salesmen and businessmen. The Sheller is the oldest surviving hotel in the town.

In 1847 Henry Lentz built a frame, two-story structure on this site. At that time, the operation was known as the Lentz House. The Lentz House was only a second-rate establishment during this period. The nearby American House, with its business meeting rooms, saloon, restaurant, and barber shop was the leading hotel at this time.

In 1881, Rufus Grimes, owner of the American House, purchased the Lentz House and changed its name to Grimes House. After the American House burned to the ground during the winter of 1883, Grimes began to improve the Grimes House into a more substantial operation. Grimes moved the two-story frame structure 120 feet west on Second Street. He then constructed a two-story brick addition which is the present main building. In 1892, Mr. Grimes sold the hotel to Hollie B. Sheller, father-in-law of the present owner, who added the mansard third floor.

With its increased capacity, the Sheller Hotel became the leading hotel in North Manchester. Because of its proximity to the business district, the Sheller became an important stop for businessmen who rode the trains from town to town. Salesmen used the first floor rooms of the frame building as showrooms for their wares. Because of its prime location, the hotel became the residence of many local bachelor businessmen.

In recent years, the Sheller Hotel has provided facilities for meetings and social functions of various community groups, including the North Manchester Women's Club, the local Rotary Club, Tri Kappa, the Fine Arts Club, and the Business and Professional Women's Club.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Please see continuation sheet #2

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name North Manchester North, Indiana

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	6	6	0	3	5	4	0	4	5	3	9	3	2	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

Please see continuation sheet #3

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Stephen A. Batzka, President

organization North Manchester Historical Society date January 30, 1981

street & number P.O. Box 361 telephone 219/982-2343

city or town North Manchester state Indiana 46962

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

title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer

date 9-22-82

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Lawrence Ann Ormrod

date 11/19/82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Lentz House Hotel

Item number 7, Description

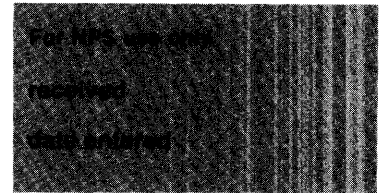
Page 1

On the northwest corner of the property, behind the hotel, is a small garden filled with annual plants and flowers. A Japanese magnolia stands in the northwest corner of the garden.

OWB NO. 1324-000
1/2/84

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
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Continuation sheet Lentz House Hotel

Item number 9, Biblio. Refs.

Page 2

Billings, W. E. "Tales of the Old Days," The News Journal (North Manchester, Indiana), 1926.

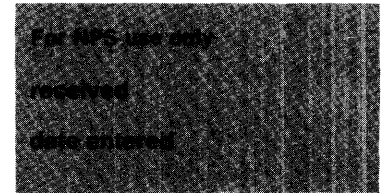
Hensley, Dennis D. "Lillian Russell Slept There," The South Bend Tribune, Sunday, January 11, 1981.

Interview with Mrs. Jane Sheller, November 1, 1980.

Weesner, Clarkson W., comp. History of Wabash County, Indiana, Vol. II. Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1914.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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Lentz House/
Continuation sheet Hotel Sheller

Item number 10, Verb. Bndry. Desc. Page 3

Lot number forty-eight (48) and the east twenty-eight (28) feet and four and one-half (4½) inches of Lot Number forty-seven (47) in the original plat of Town of Manchester, now North Manchester.

Except therefrom, the north forty (40) feet thereof.