

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

4/12/77

STATE: West Virginia	
COUNTY: Tyler	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 001 5	DATE 1972

1. NAME

COMMON:
The Wells Inn

AND/OR HISTORIC:
The Wells Hotel

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
316 Charles Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Sistersville

STATE West Virginia	CODE 26175	COUNTY: Tyler	CODE 095
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <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 (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
J. Wells Kinkaid, Sr.

STREET AND NUMBER:
500 S. Wells Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Sistersville

STATE: West Virginia	CODE 26175
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Tyler County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Middlebourne

STATE: West Virginia	CODE 26149
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
An Historic Preservation - Economic Development Study for Sistersville, West Virginia.

DATE OF SURVEY:
January 1971

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Sistersville Planning Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
Sistersville City Hall

CITY OR TOWN:
Sistersville

STATE: West Virginia	CODE 26175
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7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The following is from the WEST VIRGINIA DAILY OIL REVIEW, January 16, 1895. "Hotel Wells Opened Last Night."

"Front of pressed brick and it has for relief two fine verandas, one on the first story and one on the story above the latter supported by columns of the colonial period...The prevailing color of the woodwork is light, quartered sawn oak being the wood used almost exclusively. The walls are pure white, giving the room a cheerful appearance. On going through the main entrance an artistic piece of Mosaic floor tiling strikes the eye. In the center are the words 'Hotel Wells'. Going through the inner doors one comes into the huge and roomy office proper. The counter is to the right. Beyond this is the private office, a room nicely furnished with desk and a library bookcase. Off from these rooms is a cloak room, barber shop and lavatory. The latter is complete in every detail even to an elegant bath room...In the rear are the rooms devoted to the culinary departments and they are models of...with a serving and store room adjoining...The dining room is large, airy, and light. Chairs and tables are of antique oak. My 'Grandfather's Clock' gives a delightful 'ticktick tick' in one corner and not far away is a handsome modern sideboard. The room will seat fifty guests. To the left of the main entrance is the ladies entrance. Guests as they enter will find in a reception room...The floor is covered with a dark red velvet carpet of the finest texture. Regulation reception chairs are placed around the apartment, and to one side is a rich oak center table...In the left corner of the first floor is the gentleman's writing and reading room. A long cloth covered table extends almost through the entire length of the room and the white walls are relieved by oak wains-coating. Across the hall is the commercial sample room and it is in keeping within the pale of truth to state no handsomer room was ever furnished for the 'knights of the grip' to spread their wares before customers. The floor is covered with linoleum and furnished in a view of making the occupants comfortable. A tiled fireplace is one of the striking features of this room. At the head of the main stairs is the Ladies' parlor... The foot sinks into the finest velvet carpet. The furniture is of various woods covered with raw silk of the latest and most fashionable shades. The windows are curtained with creamy lace of handsome design. A fine piano, the gift of M.F.R. Wells completes the furnishings. Of sleeping rooms, there are 28 for guests. All are furnished in first class style, with gas and steam heat from registers. Six are furnished with mantels tiled and some richer than the others for state guests. On the second floor is a ladies bathroom that cannot be well approved upon. The house throughout is furnished with hot and cold water; steam and gas; and connectors are made with convertors for incandescent Electric lights. In the basement is a Trimble and Luts automatic feeding furnace for furnishing heat and in the rear is a fully equipped laundry...The cost of the building as it stands with furnishings was \$30,000...The brick and carpenter and wood-work was done by Contractor Black of Parkersburg, the plumbing by Bear & Son of Hannibal, Ohio, painting and hardwood finishing, furnace and furnishings were supplied by Horse & Herman of Wheeling; the china, queensware by Hall & Hall of Sistersville and the silverware of N.L. Marsh our well known jeweler, while the handsome office clock was the gift of the Misses Temp and Martha Wells."

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

6. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1894-5**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Hotel was built by Ephraim Wells, grandson of the first significant settler, Charles Wells. During the 'Oil Excitement' it was the meeting place of many of the prominent oil dealers. Many great 'business deals' were transacted here. It was started April 1894, and opened January 15, 1895. The building was designed by W. H. O'Neil. John Rea and Mr. O'Neil, both from Hannibal Ohio, shared the construction. Two years later, Mr. Wells had the annex built by these same gentlemen, and moved into it with his family to use it as a private residence. The Hotel continued with varying success under many different managers until the 1920's when it was sold to Pittsburgh interests. In 1929, a local corporation of the town's businessmen, who felt it was necessary to have a good hotel in the town, formed and bought the Hotel, remodeled it and operated it until the 1940's. It was purchased in 1948 by Everett Doak. J. Wells Kinkaid, grandson of the builder, purchased the Hotel in 1965 and extensively remodeled it with the decor of the 1890's. His son Jack, is the present manager.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

DAILY OIL REVIEW, January 16, 1895. "Hotel Wells Opening Last Night".
 SISTERSVILLE DAILY REVIEW, April 2, 1930.
 TYLER STAR NEWS, June 28, 1967. "Remembers Wells Opening".
 DAILY OIL REVIEW, INDUSTRIAL EDITION, February 1896, "The Hotel Wells."

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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "		39° 33' 47"	80° 59' 48"	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: .7

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Mrs. Laura A. Bryant, Field Research Agent, for

ORGANIZATION: West Virginia Antiquities Commission

DATE: August 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:
 Old Mountainlair, West Virginia University

CITY OR TOWN: Morgantown

STATE: West Virginia 26506

CODE: 54

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: Dr. Carolyn J. Ryan

Title: State Liaison Officer

Date: July 24, 1972

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

Robert W. Utsey
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 10/5/72

ATTEST:

William J. Mumby, Jr.
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 10-3-72