

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received FEB 4 1986

date entered MAR 6 1986

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

1. Name

historic The Conway Hotel

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 108 Courthouse Square _____ not for publication

city, town Murfreesboro _____ vicinity of

state Arkansas code 05 county Pike code 109

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
____ district	____ public	____ occupied	____ agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	____ commercial
____ structure	____ both	____ work in progress	____ educational
____ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	____ entertainment
____ object	____ in process	____ yes: restricted	____ government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	____ industrial
		____ no	____ military
			____ museum
			____ park
			____ private residence
			____ religious
			____ scientific
			____ transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name James T. Smith

street & number 617 South Washington Street

city, town Murfreesboro _____ vicinity of state Arkansas

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Pike County Courthouse

street & number Courthouse Square

city, town Murfreesboro _____ state Arkansas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? _____ yes _____ no

date _____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records

city, town _____ state

7. Description

Condition

☐ excellent
☐ good
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Conway Hotel stands on the northeast corner of the Pike County Courthouse Square in Murfreesboro. Pike County, predominately rural, is located in the southwest of Arkansas. The hotel's facade faces the courthouse square, while the rear elevation opens directly onto North Court Street. Construction of the area's first brick hotel began in June, 1913 under the supervision of Mr. W. J. Lockeby. Owner of a saw mill, Lockeby was well known for his association with the county's timber and building industries. The hotel's architecture is basically austere with a evidence of Craftsman influence on roof, porch and interior.

The two-story hotel consists of a rectangular central hall plan. A metal hip roof, with exposed rafters, covers the brick structure. The north and south sections of the roof are distinguished by centered weatherboard dormers, also covered with the same roof configuration. A cupola is centrally placed on the roof line of the structure. One-over-one double-hung windows within plain surrounds comprise the window configurations on both stories. The first floor window openings are characterized by concrete lintels. A brick string course divides the first and second stories while creating an impression of support for the 19" pilasters, placed every 12', that relieve the otherwise one dimensional surface. A one story porch encompassing the width of the structure, distinguishes the Conway Hotel facade. Four battered wood columns mounted on concrete pedestals support the porch's hip roof. The porch covers the main entrance of the hotel. The single leaf entrance, with light transom, is flanked by two sets of three window openings.

In the interior, the first floor plan consists of the lobby area that includes the stairway to the second floor. The register's desk is located under the stairs. Guest rooms, bathrooms, kitchen, dining room and the family living quarters occupy the remaining first floor area. The second floor consists of guestrooms on either side of the central hall with a community bathroom on the north end. The brick interior walls are finished with plaster. The floors and stairs are made of wood. The decorative elements are limited to the staircase, doors and surrounds and original hardware throughout most of the hotel.

Alterations and additions occurred through the years. In 1940 a coffee shop was added to the southeast portion of the hotel. Although uncertain of the date of the additions, a number of the guestrooms feature small bathroom facilities. The hotel's chimneys were removed on the east and west elevations.

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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1913

Builder/Architect W. J. Lockeby and Falls

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

SUMMARY

During its peak years, the Conway Hotel was the finest modern brick hotel in Murfreesboro and the surrounding area. W. J. Lockeby, associated with the local timber and building industries, supervised the construction of the hotel in 1913 for a contractor, Mr. Falls. The need for a larger and more elaborate boarding facility grew out of the sudden influx of mining speculators and investors into Murfreesboro after the discovery of North America's only diamond deposits. The Conway Hotel was the main headquarters during this exciting period in Pike County's history as well as Arkansas's history. For decades, the hotel was the meeting place for the businessmen who made the important decisions concerning the commercial and economic development of the area.

ELABORATION

Through the nineteenth century and early twentieth century, Murfreesboro, the government seat of Pike County in southwest Arkansas, doubled in population. The timber industry and the development of the fruit industry, particularly peach orchards, spurred economic prosperity in Pike County. Additional interest in the area came soon after the discovery of diamonds deposits two-and-a-half miles southeast of Murfreesboro in 1906. Diamond operations continued throughout the next few decades creating a need for a modern meeting and boarding facility such as the Conway Hotel. Owned and operated by Joel H. Conway, a boarding house proprietor since 1886, the Conway Hotel continued to be the temporary home for speculators interested in developing the area's mining resources, including cinnabar, an ore from which mercury is extracted.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Abstract for the Conway Hotel. Abstract No. 2557, Guaranty Abstract and Title Company, Murfreesboro, Arkansas.

"Building Notes", Pike County Courier, 27 June 1913.

Sanborn Map Company. Murfreesboro, AR 1913 and 1919. New York, Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, 1913, 1919.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less 1

Quadrangle name Murfreesboro, Arkansas

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	5
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4	3	7	6	2	0
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3	7	6	9	1	2	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Northeast corner of the Pike County Courthouse Square, Lot 3 and 5 of Block 2 of the City of Murfreesboro, Arkansas.

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title James W. Smith - ed. by AHPP staff

organization _____ date _____

street & number 617 South Washington Street telephone _____

city or town Murfreesboro state Arkansas

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 [Signature]

title Arkansas Historic Preservation Officer date 1-31-86

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 3/6/86

for [Signature]
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date _____

Chief of Registration

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

86000384

Conway Hotel
Pike County
ARKANSAS

Working No. **FEB 4 1986**
Fed. Reg. Date: **2/3/86**
Date Due: **3/6/86 - 3/21/86**
Action: ☒ ACCEPT **3/6/86**
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

Entered in the
National Register

- ☐ resubmission
☐ nomination by person or local government
☐ owner objection
☐ appeal

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Acquisition	<input type="checkbox"/> Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

Condition	Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	
	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	
	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ alterations/integrity
☐ dates
☐ boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- ☐ summary paragraph
- ☐ completeness
- ☐ clarity
- ☐ applicable criteria
- ☐ justification of areas checked
- ☐ relating significance to the resource
- ☐ context
- ☐ relationship of integrity to significance
- ☐ justification of exception
- ☐ other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title _____

date _____

13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



Conway Hotel

Pike County

Don Brown, Photographer

Fall 1984

Negative on file at AHPP

viewed from south



Conway Hotel
Pike
Murfreesboro
Conway Co.

Conway Hotel
Pike County
Don Brown, Photographer
Fall 1984
Negatives on file at AHPP
viewed from northwest



Conway Hotel

Pike County

Don Brown, Photographer

Fall 1984

Negatives on file at AHPP

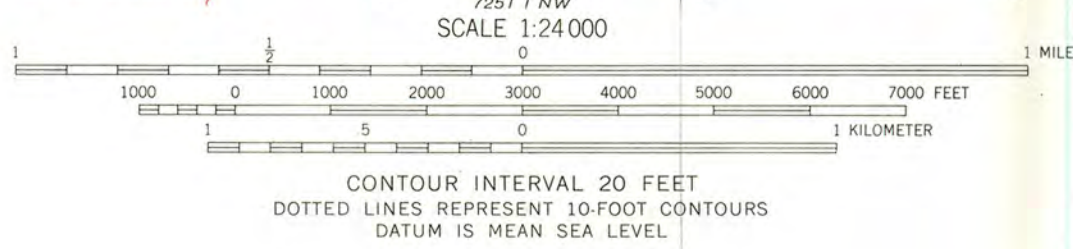
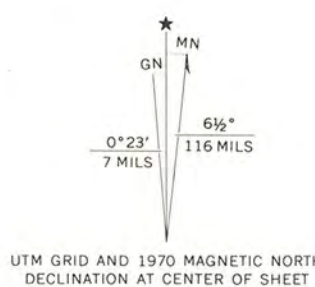
viewed from east

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

MURFREESBORO QUADRANGLE
ARKANSAS
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

Conway Hotel
Quadrangle Name: Murfreesboro, AR
Scale: 1:24000
15 437620/3769120

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1968. Field checked 1970
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Arkansas coordinate system, south zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 15, shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

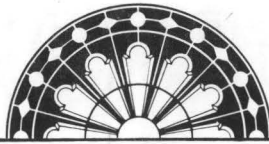


THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242
AND BY THE ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72201
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Secondary highway, all weather, Light-duty road, all weather,
hard surface improved surface
Unimproved road, fair or dry
weather
State Route

MURFREESBORO, ARK.
N3400-W9337.5/7.5
1970
AMS 7252 II SW-SERIES V884



FEB 4 1986

ARKANSAS
HISTORIC
PRESERVATION
PROGRAM

January 30, 1986

Carol D. Shull
Chief of Registration
United States Department of the Interior
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
1100 "L" Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20240

Re: Conway Hotel
Murfreesboro - Pike County

Dear Carol:

We are enclosing for your review the nomination for the Conway Hotel. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has complied with all applicable nominating procedures and notification requirements in the nomination process.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Wilson Stiles
State Historic Preservation Officer

WS/JW/do

Enclosure/s

