



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

**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900A). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Omaha Hotel
other names/site number Hotel Paulus

2. Location

street & number	<u>317 West 7th Street</u>	N/A	not for publication
city or town	<u>Neillsville</u>	N/A	vicinity
state	<u>Wisconsin</u>	code	<u>019</u>
	code <u>WI</u>	county	<u>Clark</u>
		code	<u>019</u>
		zip code	<u>54456</u>

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] _____
Signature of certifying official/Title 1/25/13
Date

State Historic Preservation Officer - Wisconsin

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Omaha Hotel | Clark County | Wisconsin
 Name of Property | County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:
 entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

 determined eligible for the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

 removed from the National Register.
 other, (explain): _____

Barbara Weyant
 Signature of the Keeper

3-20-13
 Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count)	
		contributing	noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	1	1 buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district		sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> site		objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	1	1 Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
 (Enter "N/A" if property not part of a multiple property listing.)
 N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
DOMESTIC/hotel	WORK IN PROGRESS

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)	Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
LATE VICTORIAN	foundation Stone walls Brick
	roof Asphalt
	other

Narrative Description
 (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for the National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE

Period of Significance

1893 - 1942

Significant Dates

1893

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Omaha Hotel
Name of Property

Clark County
County and State

Wisconsin

9. Major Bibliographic References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous Documentation on File (National Park Service):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 15 690865 4936643
Zone Easting Northing

2 _____
Zone Easting Northing

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing

4 _____
Zone Easting Northing

See Continuation Sheet

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Patricia Lacey	date	March 7, 2012
organization		telephone	715-743-4799
street & number	W5055 US HWY 10	zip code	54456
city or town	Neillsville, WI	state	WI

Omaha Hotel
Name of Property

Clark County
County and State

Wisconsin

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name/title	date
organization	telephone
street & number	zip code
city or town	state

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects, (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Section 7 Page 1

Omaha Hotel
Neillsville, Clark County, Wisconsin

INTRODUCTION

The Omaha Hotel is located on the northwest corner of 7th Street and Clay Street, near the western edge of Neillsville's commercial district. A wide sidewalk separates the building from the street. Construction began on the foundation of the Omaha Hotel in November of 1892.¹ The remainder of the two story building was completed in 1893.²

Neillsville developed as an early logging community. The city was not accessed by the railroad until 1887.³ This, however, did not impede growth of the community or the construction of homes and commercial blocks of substantial size and style. In 1872, Hewett and Woods constructed a high style two-story brick commercial structure on Hewett Street. The following year George Lloyd's two-story brick commercial building was constructed directly across the street. Hewett Street is the main artery through the town traveling north and south. Seventeen commercial structures which extend from one half block south of 5th Street to 6th Street (both sides of the street) became a National Register Historic District in June of 2000. Because of the location of O'Neill Creek, most of the commercial development occurred to the south of the O'Neill Creek. Several streets radiating to the west of Hewett Street, 5th Street, 6th Street, 7th Street, and 8th Street, saw considerable commercial development. This clustering commercial development created a central core which focused retail and social activity.

The Omaha Hotel represents a two-part commercial block design, a type built in small towns across American from as early as 1850 to as late as 1900.⁴ The bracketed cornice, tall narrow windows topped with segmented projecting brick hoods, cast iron fluted columns, and narrow paired entry doors exhibit the continued influence of Italianate architecture on commercial design.

The two-story building is rectangular (45' X 42') in plan with a one-story (10' X 14') wing extending outward from the east elevation. The building rests on a stone foundation that encloses a full basement. The exterior walls are comprised of locally manufactured red clay bricks laid in running bond. The south and west elevations face the juncture of 7th Street and Clay Street, abutting both the south and west sidewalks. The south and west elevations are crowned by a continuous, highly intact bracketed metal cornice which serves as a strong and elaborate terminus to the structure. The off-street east and north walls are treated in a utilitarian manner.

¹ Republican and Press November 3, 1892, "Local Matters" column.

² Republican and Press February 23, 1893, "Local Matters" column.

³ Franklyn Curtiss-Wedge, History of Clark County, Wisconsin (Chicago, H. C. Cooper Jr. & Co., 1918), p. 143.

⁴ Richard Longstreth, The Buildings of Main Street: A Guide to American Commercial Architecture (Walnut Creek, CA: AltaMira Press, 2000), p. 24.

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Omaha Hotel
Neillsville, Clark County, Wisconsin

The site was selected for its close proximity to the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha rail lines and the Neillsville depot. In 1893, three trains traveled in each direction from the main line at Merrilan (Jackson County), stopping at Neillsville and continuing on to Marshfield (Wood County)⁵. Because of the location of the hotel, the proprietor could take advantage of the rear wall of the hotel. A large painted advertisement announced to travelers and salesmen as they stepped down from the platform of the train station "HOTEL Rooms Rate \$1.50." The use of a building's walls as a billboard was a common practice in the late 19th century.

DESCRIPTION: HOTEL

Exterior

The corner location provides the Omaha Hotel with two major facades: one facing south onto 7th Street and the other facing west onto Clay Street. The primary façade faces 7th Street is asymmetrical in design. The first floor has two entrances. The primary entrance is through the store front located on the west half of the south facing façade. This entry accessed the saloon. The store front is 20' in width and rises to a height of 11'6". A recessed angled entry which is 3'3" deep and 7' wide has a one step cast metal stoop. The two front store windows are 6' wide and 9' high. The windows which flank the entry stoop are 3' wide and 9' high. The recessed entry contains two narrow paired entry doors. The front store windows, side store windows and the paired entry doors are topped with three foot high transoms. Two iron columns, which have leafed capitals and fluting on the upper two-thirds of the columns, flank each side of the stoop. Base paneling appears under all of the storefront windows.

The second entry is located at the approximate center of the façade. The entry door is 38" wide and is topped with a three foot transom. A large Queen Anne window (70" X 91") is located directly east of the central entry door. The central entrance door accessed the lobby, foyer and stairwell to the second floor. Both the central entry door and Queen Anne window have projecting brick segmented arched eyebrow hoods comprised of three header rows of brick.

The second floor elevation of the front façade has four evenly spaced tall narrow windows. Each window is topped with a projecting brick segmented arched eyebrow hood comprised of three header rows of brick. The windows have been sized down with single light rectangular casements surrounded by infill of vinyl siding. Historic photos indicated that all of the windows of the upper south facing façade and both the upper and lower west facing façade were one-over-one lights.

Located between the two east window openings and the two west window openings, and above the lower level door, is the location of a porch door that has now been covered over with vinyl siding on

⁵ Republican and Press, February 9, 1893, "Local Matters" column

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Omaha Hotel
Neillsville, Clark County, Wisconsin

the exterior; however, the door remains intact on the interior. The door opened onto the upper central hallway. The opening has a projecting brick segmented arched eyebrow hood comprised of three header rows of brick. Historic photos show very short porch joists projecting from beneath the door. It is believed the narrow porch supported a wrought iron balustrade. A concrete or stone plaque is visible above the porch door which reads: A. Schoengarth 1893. August Schoengarth was the local brick maker who manufactured the bricks for the building.

The west facing elevation is symmetrical and contains tall narrow window openings on both the first and second floors. The second floor has four evenly spaced windows that have projecting brick segmented arched eyebrow hoods comprised of three header rows of brick. (These currently have the same infill treatment as those on the front elevation.) The first floor currently has what appears to be four evenly spaced tall narrow windows. The window second in from the south corner has been bricked in. The window second in from the north corner was originally an entry door. All lower openings have projecting brick segmented arched eyebrow hoods comprised of three header rows of brick. Commercial lettering appears between the first and second floor windows, which reads: Hotel Paulus. James Paulus was the second owner, refurbishing the hotel in 1908.⁶

An intact pressed metal cornice extends from the east edge of the south facing façade to the north edge of the west facing façade. The cornice design has alternating brackets and raised square flower blossoms. Two larger brackets embossed with leaves appear at the southwest corner of the cornice. Identical single brackets appear at the east and the west corners of the cornice. Each bracket is embossed with a Tudor Rose. A ball finial tops each large bracket.

The north facing rear elevation is utilitarian. The first floor elevation has an entry door at its west corner. To the east of the entry door is a span of brick wall and then three tall narrow window openings are evenly spaced on the remainder of the elevation. Each window has a two-row segmented brick eyebrow which is flush with the brick wall surface. The windows have been downsized using a variety of treatments. The north wall of the wood addition is visible at the east edge of this elevation.

The second floor of the north facing elevation has a tall narrow window opening slightly to the east of the first floor entry door. The portion of the brick wall to the east of this window contains a painted advertising which reads: HOTEL Rooms Rate \$1.50. To the east of the brick span are three evenly spaced tall narrow window openings. Each window has a two-row segmented brick eyebrow which is flush with the brick wall surface. All windows have an infill with casements surrounded by vinyl siding. The drip edge of the sloped roof extends across the rear of the structure. The sloped roof is covered in asphalt.

⁶ Republican and Press, June 4, 1908, "Local Matters" column.

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Omaha Hotel
Neillsville, Clark County, Wisconsin

The east facing elevation is also utilitarian. The first floor has a one-story (10' X 14') flat roofed wing which projects 14' from the main wall. The wing begins five feet from the south edge of the east facing façade. The east facing side of the one-story wing has one centered tall narrow window opening with later infill. The window has a two-row segmented brick eyebrow which is flush with the brick wall surface. The cornice of the one-story wing has brick dentils on all three sides. A one-story aluminum sided addition extends from the north wall of the projecting wing to the northeast corner of the rear of the structure. The addition was not part of the original construction and was added at a later date.

The second floor has a door located on the north one-quarter of the east facing façade. South of the door are three tall narrow window openings which are evenly spaced. The windows and the door have a two-row brick segmented eyebrow which is flush with the brick surface. The window openings have the same infill seen on the other elevations. A three stepped parapet follows the slope of the roof from the pinnacle on the southeast corner to the drip edge at the northeast corner.

Interior

The first floor interior plan is divided in half by the enclosed stairway which leads to the second floor. Some of the original walls have been removed, but the footprints of the walls remain visible on the floor. Also, the changing widths of the hardwood floors help to indicate certain designated spaces.

A large saloon was located in the space to the west of the stairway. The outer walls of the saloon maintain their original wainscoting. None of the bar or back bar remain. A foyer, small lobby, a small formal dining room, storage room and salesmen sample room is located to the east of the stairway. The kitchen area is behind the stairwell. The walls of the kitchen maintain their original wainscoting. The dining room space is easily defined by the narrow width hardwood floor. The lobby area has wider hardwood of variable widths on the floor. A large Queen Anne window sheds colorful light into the lobby area. Directly to the east of the lobby is the small one story projecting wing. Because of the size of the room and the location it is assumed that this was the salesmen sample room. The ceilings on the first floor are twelve feet in height.

The stairway is five feet wide and is enclosed. The original twenty-stair treads and risers, as well as the handrails remain. When reaching the upper hall the original newels and balustrades surround the stairwell opening. The second floor housed small, simply furnished hotel rooms. Six hotel room doors topped with transoms open on to the upper hall. The door to the shared bath and the door to the linen room also open onto the upper hall. Two lesser hallways intersect the upper hall. The south hallway accesses one room. Three doors open onto the north hallway. The floor of the second floor is comprised of 3 ½" planks. The door and window surrounds are composed of four inch wide plain flat boards.

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Despite changes, the Omaha Hotel maintains a good level of integrity on the exterior and its original use and room configurations remain evident. The exterior of the Omaha Hotel retains the same form and configuration of openings as it did one hundred and twenty years ago. However, as noted in the description above, the original window openings now contain casement windows instead of the original style one-over-one windows. The original store front windows and entry doors are behind the false front.

Most alterations have taken place on the interior. Several walls between the second floor hotel rooms have been removed to create larger apartments. A few walls have been removed on the first floor, but the ghost of those walls can be seen on the floor. The interior walls, ceilings and floors on both the first and second floor elevations are in need of major restoration.

The current owners have restored two other one hundred year plus structures in Neillsville. They intend to restore the exterior of the Omaha Hotel utilizing historic photographs. The interior will be transformed into living and retail space.

Garage (Non-Contributing)⁷

A circa 1970 one-story front-gabled garage is located in the southeast corner of the hotel property. The garage is 22' deep by 16'2" wide and has a low pitched front gable roof. A one-car fiberglass garage door which is 9' in width is present on the south elevation. A basketball hoop is centered over the garage door. A driveway, which enters the property from 7th Street, accesses the garage. A three panel door, 32" in width, enters the garage on the west elevation. A 45" X 20" window is present on both the north and east facing elevations. The building is clad in white aluminum siding and the roof is clad with asphalt shingles.

⁷ The garage is currently scheduled for removal to another property.

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Omaha Hotel
Neillsville, Clark County, Wisconsin

SIGNIFICANCE

The Omaha Hotel is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places for its local significance under National Register Criterion A in the area of Commerce. The 1893 Omaha Hotel is an example of a late 19th century railroad hotel that was built for the specific purpose of housing the railroad traveler and the traveling salesman. It is one of two surviving historic Neillsville hotels. The Omaha Hotel was recognized in the 2003-2004 Neillsville Architectural Survey as having potential eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places as a local example of a hotel built to serve the needs of railroad travelers.⁸ Architecturally, the Omaha Hotel is a representative example of commercial vernacular architecture with Italianate influences. Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin: Volume 2 describes the characteristics of commercial vernacular architecture of the late nineteenth century as buildings that exhibit large retail windows, an emphatic cornice and simple window openings on the second story, and having simplified period motifs that are implied without any overt stylistic character.⁹

The Omaha Hotel was purposely built in close proximity to the Neillsville depot. The railroad hotel was the manifestation of a distinctly American vision of mobility. Transportation and accommodation were inherently linked, serving both the traveler and the working class. The railroad hotel provided a safe affordable place to stay and offered the opportunity to get a meal. Every town along the rail line was under pressure to make sure that it became a stopping place for travelers. When a community provided a hotel the town was demonstrating its willingness to welcome outsiders.¹⁰

The period of significance begins in 1893 with the completion of the building and extends to 1942, when its use as a hotel ended.

THE HISTORY OF NEILLSVILLE

Neillsville is located in southern Clark County and is situated at the junction of the O'Neill Creek and the Black River. Clark County was created from territory taken from Jackson County by legislation that was approved July 6, 1853.¹¹ The Black River runs north to south and divides the county into two

⁸ Rebecca Sample Bernstein, Neillsville Architectural Survey 2003-2004 (Neillsville, WI: Prepared for the Neillsville Historical Preservation Commission, 2004), pp. 63, 66.

⁹ Barbara Wyatt, Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin: Volume 2 (Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986), p. 3-10.

¹⁰ A.K. Sandoval-Strausz, Hotel: An American History (New Haven, Conn: Yale University Press, 2007), pp. 3-101.

¹¹ A.T. Andreas, History of Northern Wisconsin (Chicago: Western Historical Co., 1881), p. 230.

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Omaha Hotel
Neillsville, Clark County, Wisconsin

nearly equal parts. In the mid-1800s, the abundant virgin pine forests found in Clark County, much of which lined the Black River, drew lumbermen who harvested these resources.

James and Henry O'Neill cut the first road into Clark County. Starting in Black River Falls, in Jackson County, they traveled by oxen drawn wagon, arriving in Neillsville in 1845. A cabin and sawmill were built and the first logging operation began.¹² Over the next forty years logging concerns would cut 8 million board feet from Clark County. This harvest was valued at \$12.50 per thousand feet for a total of \$100,000,000.¹³

James O'Neill had cleared 50 acres of timber in the area of the junction of the O'Neill Creek and the Black River by 1850. He made the decision, in April of 1855, to appropriate four acres of that land for the first village in Clark County, which would be named in his honor. He instructed surveyor Allan Boardman to plat the village into lots.¹⁴ The population in the village of Neillsville was fewer than 250 people in 1860.¹⁵

The surrounding pine forests continued to attract large logging concerns and the community expanded in size in support of that industry. A substantial commercial district developed along Hewett Street (Highway 73), Neillsville's main artery. The various merchants and tradesmen provided the goods and services that everyone needed. As the century came to a close, farms began to develop on the land that had been cleared of trees. A large agricultural industry began to flourish, producing meat products, dairy products (milk and cheese), and crops. The citizens of the community enjoyed the farm products, but as growing methods improved, the day came when the surpluses were marketable. Hauling products by wagon was becoming increasingly tedious and was not practical for perishable goods. The logs were able to simply float down the Black River, but the river was not navigable for boat traffic.

PURCHASING A RAIL LINE

The forward thinking men of Neillsville realized that a time would arrive when the logging industry would wane. In 1868, not a mile of railroad track had been laid in Clark County. The citizens of Neillsville knew that, in order to keep the village a thriving community that could provide goods and services, and was a destination for travelers, a rail line needed to be built to the city.

¹² Franklyn Curtiss-Wedge, History of Clark County Wisconsin (Chicago: H. C. Cooper, Jr. & Co., 1918).

¹³ Ibid, p.117.

¹⁴ Ibid, p. 628.

¹⁵ Clark County Press, July 1, 1982, "Keepsake Centennial Edition," p. 2.

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Omaha Hotel
Neillsville, Clark County, Wisconsin

In 1868, the La Crosse, Black River Falls & Neillsville Railroad Company was formed with capital of \$100,000. Their intent was to bring the railroad from La Crosse up the valley of the Black River, via Black River Falls, to Neillsville and from Neillsville to Lake Superior. Not much progress was made by this organization, so in 1870 the Winona, Trempealeau, Black River Falls & Neillsville Railroad Company was incorporated. The intent of this organization was to begin a line at the Minnesota border near Winona, travel through Arcadia along the Trempealeau River to Black River Falls and then on to Neillsville. Again nothing transpired. In 1871, the Neillsville & Humbird Railroad Company was incorporated with the intent of building a line entirely in Clark County from Neillsville to Humbird. Again nothing transpired. These proposed railroads were simply "paper railroads." No surveys were ever made.

In 1869, the West Wisconsin Railway Company built the first rail line in Clark County. Three miles of rail lines cut across the southwest most tip of Clark County. The rail line passed through the village of Humbird in the township of Mentor. The late 1870s and early 1880s saw rail lines being built in eastern Clark County, western Clark County and northern Clark County, but none of these lines came near Neillsville.¹⁶

Action was finally taken on February 26, 1878, when Daniel Gates, James Hewett, N.H. Withee, R. J. McBride, George Lloyd, F.S. Kirkland, J. L. Gates, and F.D. Lindsay formed the Black River Railroad Company. The Company wanted to extend a rail line from the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha tracks which ran through the northern portion of Jackson County through the village of Merrilan. Merrilan was located on the west side of the Black River which meant they could avoid a river crossing.

The capital stock was limited to \$150,000. O. H. Hoffman completed a survey for bringing the rail line north along the west side of the Black River to one mile west of Neillsville.¹⁷ Grading for a narrow gauge rail bed began immediately¹⁸ and 20,000 railroad ties were contracted to be produced at seven cents a tie.¹⁹ By July of 1878, four of the thirteen mile distance had been graded. Forty rods of trestle work, together with a Howe truss bridge, spanned the sixty foot expanse over Wedge's creek. Building the crossing cost \$1,500. At this point it was estimated that it was costing \$675 per mile just for the grading.²⁰

¹⁶ Ibid, pp. 138-143.

¹⁷ A.T. Andreas, History of Northern Wisconsin (Chicago: Western Historical Company, 1881), p. 237.

¹⁸ Neillsville Press, February 23, 1878, "A New Railroad." The selection of a narrow gauge line instead building a standard gauge line would hurt the longevity of this connection.

¹⁹ Neillsville Press, July 5, 1878, "Black River Railroad."

²⁰ Neillsville Press, July 26, 1878, "Railroad Progress."

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Some difficulty was encountered in getting the townships of Pine Valley and Hewett to pass a bond referendum. This is where the determination of the men of the Black River Railroad Company needs to be recognized. The August 9, 1878 Neillsville Press reported: "The men who have commenced this enterprise are not the men to let it fail completion for the lack of a paltry \$15,000. As we understand the matter, the men comprising the Board of Directors are able to build the road alone and sooner than have the project fall to the ground a total failure, they will do it."²¹

Construction continued on the rail line and, in 1880, Pine Valley reversed its decision and issued \$10,000 in bonds. The townships of Grant, Weston and Hewett each added \$1,000 to the project.²² In 1880, the Black River Railroad Company negotiated a contract with the Chicago, St. Paul, Minnesota & Omaha Company to make their dream a reality. The terms of the contract stated that the Black River Railroad Company had to furnish the right-of-way, grade the rail bed and place the ties. The railroad would furnish the rails and operate the line.²³ By January 5th of 1881 the line was completed and a locomotive pulling two freight cars made the run to Neillsville. Attorney Richard F. Kountz stated after the road was complete: "The road was then operated out of sheer grit and public spirit."²⁴

On July 4, 1881, the new rail line was formally opened with a large celebration. A special train composed of nine coaches carried 324 invited guests from all over Wisconsin to the small train station located on the west side of the Black River. The La Crosse Light Guard military company and their band were met at the station by Neillsville's Sherman Guards who were accompanied by the entire town. A procession was formed and the two military companies led the wagons and carriages into Neillsville where a dinner for over 1,000 people had been prepared. President Garfield had been wounded in an assassination attempt two days prior. A personal friend of Garfield, Professor John M. Olin gave the opening address. He voiced the hope of everyone that Garfield would recover from his wounds. George W. Peck could not attend the ceremonies that day but he sent a letter which was read. In his letter of congratulation he wrote "I congratulate the citizens of Neillsville and of Clark County in having at last secured a railroad connection, and I will express the hope that manufactories will grow up around you, by which you can utilize your hardwood timber, as well as your pine, and that you may all become even richer than you now are." Peck went on to become a two-term governor of Wisconsin.

²¹ Neillsville Press, August 9, 1878, "Editors Opinion."

²² A.T. Andreas, History of Northern Wisconsin (Chicago: Western Historical Company, 1881), p. 237.

²³ Franklyn Curtiss-Wedge, History of Clark County (Chicago: H. C. Cooper Jr. & Co., 1918), pp. 138-143.

²⁴ Neillsville Times, January 4, 1906, "Richard F. Kountz."

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Omaha Hotel
Neillsville, Clark County, Wisconsin

The problem that did remain was the rail line was on the west side of the Black River. All travelers and freight had to be hauled by wagon from the village, over a bridge that traversed the Black River, to a small railroad station. It was not until 1887 that the Chicago, St. Paul, Minnesota & Omaha Company built a railroad trestle east over the Black River, extending the rail line east into downtown Neillsville.²⁵ In 1891, the line was extended twenty-three miles to the rail hub of Marshfield, Wisconsin.²⁶ By 1893, two passenger trains and one freight train would travel westbound and two passenger trains and one freight train would travel eastbound every day.²⁷ In an advertisement in the Neillsville Times the railroad promoted how travelers had access to Chicago, Milwaukee, Manitowoc, St. Paul, Minnesota, Ashland and Duluth, Eau Claire, Chippewa Falls, Marshfield, Hurley, and Ironwood, as well as many other towns enroute.²⁸

Rail service to Neillsville lasted approximately one hundred years. Service ended when the last train, a diesel engine pulling a caboose went through town on January 22, 1982 at 4:15pm. By that summer, crews were pulling up the tracks.²⁹

THE COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF NEILLSVILLE

Because of the extent and longevity of the logging industry in the Neillsville area, the city grew despite the lack of the railroad. Several blocks of substantial two-story brick commercial structures were built. The lumber barons constructed ostentatious Queen Anne houses. A new three story masonry Court House was constructed in 1875 (no longer extant). The business directory found in the 1875 American Sketch Book by Bella French listed Neillsville as having two banks, two newspapers, two drug stores and more than ten mercantile, grocery, and hardware stores. There were multiple blacksmiths, shoe makers and wagon makers. Two hotels were listed: the O'Neill House and the Rossman House.

The City of Neillsville was duly incorporated on March 28, 1882.³⁰ Even though the city had done quite well thus far, the prospect of finally having the railroad enter the city in 1887 offered certain additional prosperity. The population of Neillsville expanded to 1,936 by 1890.³¹ Clark County published Clark County, the Garden of Wisconsin in 1890. The book described the commercial

²⁵ Franklyn Curtiss-Wedge, History of Clark County (Chicago: H. C. Cooper Jr. & Co., 1918) pp. 138-143.

²⁶ The Railroads of Wisconsin 1827-1937, 1937, wisconsinhistory.org, Issued by the Railway & Locomotive Historical Society, p. 34.

²⁷ Clark County Press, July 1, 1982, "Keepsake Centennial Edition," p. 29.

²⁸ Neillsville Times, February 13, 1902, advertisement.

²⁹ Clark County Press, July 1, 1982, "Keepsake Centennial Edition," p. 29.

³⁰ Franklyn Curtiss-Wedge, History of Clark County (Chicago: H. C. Cooper Jr. & Co., 1918), p. 631.

³¹ Clark County Press, July 1, 1982, "Keepsake Centennial Edition," p. 2.

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Continuation Sheet

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Omaha Hotel
Neillsville, Clark County, Wisconsin

environment in Neillsville: “The manufacturing interests of Neillsville have become wonderfully developed during the past few years.” The major manufacturers included: the Neillsville Furniture Factory, the Neillsville Milling Company, Allen & Pennocks’s Spoke and Stave Factory, W. W. Taplin’s Foundry and Machine Shop, Free & Phillips’ Planing and Shingle Mill, the Neillsville Creamery, and the Neillsville Brewery.

A final promotional pitch told the reader that anyone wanting to build a factory in Neillsville would be given the land for free. They also pointed out that their railroad provided for excellent shipping access. “Neillsville holds out a welcoming hand to every enterprise.”³²

Prior to the construction of the Omaha Hotel in 1892, Neillsville had three established hotels: the O’Neill House, North Side Hotel and the Redden Hotel. The Redden Hotel was a small hotel which had been known by multiple names over the years. Several of Neillsville’s earlier hotels and rooming houses either burned or had been torn down and replaced with other structures.

Construction of the O’Neill House was started in 1858. Probably due to the onset of the Civil War, the hotel did not open for business until 1865. The city’s founder James O’Neill built the hotel.³³ It was originally built as a two-story wood frame structure. The hotel was expanded on several occasions and in later years, after O’Neill’s death, it became three-stories in height and the exterior was clad in brick. From the onset, the O’Neill house was designed to be an upscale hotel. It became the focal point for many social gatherings. The hotel included a large dining room, which maintained a reputation for serving delicious food on snow white tablecloths. A barber shop, bar and lobby were located on the first floor.³⁴ Musicians were brought in and dances were held in the dance hall on the second floor.³⁵ It was electrified in the late 1800s, and proudly promoted its many other modern improvements. Bella French reported that a mineral spring impregnated with iron was discovered when digging a well on the property. She predicted that this discovery would aid Neillsville in rivaling Sparta for health-seeking people.³⁶ It does not seem, however, that the well was ever put to that specific use. The January 4, 1906 Neillsville Times spoke about the clientele of the hotel: “at one time or another it has sheltered all the more famous men of Wisconsin and the Northwest.” The hotel burned to the ground in February of 1911.

³² Clark County, the Garden of Wisconsin (Neillsville, Wis.: Satterlee, Tift & Marsh, 1890), pp. 65 – 72.

³³ A.T. Andreas, History of Northern Wisconsin (Chicago: Western Historical Co., 1881), p. 242.

³⁴ Clark County Press, “Good Old Days Column” from the October 1894 newspaper, October 5, 1994, p. 28.

³⁵ Clark County Press, “Good Old Days Column” from the 1874 newspaper, June 29, 1994, p. 28.

³⁶ Bella French, An American Sketch Book, Volume 1 No. 5 (La Crosse, Wis.: Sketch Book, Co., 1875), pp. 210, 211.

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Omaha Hotel
Neillsville, Clark County, Wisconsin

The North Side Hotel was located on the north side of O'Neill Creek at the corner of 10th Street and Hewett Street. It was constructed as a two-story wood framed hotel which opened for business in October of 1867.³⁷ It would remain at that location for many years. However, proprietor George Huntzicker realized that with the coming of the railroad to downtown Neillsville, his hotel was in a less than ideal location. So in July of 1887, Huntzicker decided to uproot his hotel and move it to the other side of the O'Neill Creek and locate it on top of the 7th Street hill. Here it would overlook the railroad tracks and be seen by the rail traveler.

It was a herculean task to move the hotel across O'Neill Creek. They waited until the O'Neill Creek was at its lowest level in July. Flat smooth logs were first placed across the creek bed. Large round logs were placed on top of the flat logs. Substantial wood pallets were piled in high stacks within the creek bed awaiting the arrival of the hotel. The hotel was raised and the joists of the hotel were set on large logs. It was then rolled downhill to the banks of the O'Neill creek. From the opposite side of the creek, horses pulled the hotel and the pallets together as a unit over the large logs located beneath the pallets.³⁸ It was a race to get the hotel in place before the Chicago, St. Paul, Minnesota & Omaha railroad laid their rails through town. In June of 1887, worried that somehow the hotel would impede the railroad, an injunction was filed to try to stop George Huntzicker from moving the hotel.³⁹ It either did not pass or was not enforced because the hotel moved across the creek and the pending rail bed.

When the hotel crossed the creek, it was placed on the lot of the former Central Hotel which had burned in 1867.⁴⁰ George Huntzicker immediately changed the name of the hotel to Merchant's Hotel and opened it for business.⁴¹ A cellar, front addition and porch were constructed. In October they were waiting for mild weather so that they could brick veneer the entire hotel. Huntzicker had to comply with City Ordinance #43 of July 28, 1887 which decreed all outside and party walls shall be made of brick within the limits of the downtown. This followed the devastating fire in Marshfield on June 27, 1887.⁴²

The Merchant's Hotel began to cater to the railroad traveler. It provided transportation service to the depot for any and all trains for fifteen cents.⁴³ In 1902, the Merchant's Hotel advertised that it was the only hotel with bathrooms and steam heat throughout. In an attempt to lure salesmen to the hotel, it promoted that its salesmen's sample rooms were equipped with beautiful marble topped tables. A

³⁷ Clark County Press, "Good Old Days Column" from the October 1867 newspaper, October 1, 1997, p. 16.

³⁸ Clark County Press, "Good Old Days Column," October 15, 1992, p. 24.

³⁹ Republican and Press, June 9, 1887, "Local Matters," column.

⁴⁰ Neillsville Times, January 4, 1906, "Local Matters," column.

⁴¹ Republican and Press, September 1, 1887, "Local Matters," column.

⁴² Republican and Press, October 27, 1887, "Local Matters," column.

⁴³ Clark County Press, "Good Old Days Column," from the August 1898 newspaper, August 26, 1998, p. 32.

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Omaha Hotel
Neillsville, Clark County, Wisconsin

special hotel rate of \$1.00 per day was offered to the traveling salesman.⁴⁴ A few years later, the proprietor credited the patronage of tourists and traveling salesmen for his business's success.⁴⁵

Peter Weber was a saloon keeper in Marshfield. His saloon was located on the southeast corner of Central Avenue and Second Street where he kept a bar and sold liquor, wine and cigars. His residence was located above. On June 27, 1887, Peter Weber lost his business and residence to the great Marshfield fire. When the losses were tallied, he was listed as not possessing insurance.⁴⁶

Five years later on November of 1892, Ed and Peter Weber began construction of the basement for their new hotel.⁴⁷ They had procured a lot in Neillsville whose north boundary abutted the property of the Chicago, St. Paul, Minnesota & Omaha Railroad. The Neillsville Depot was less than a block away. The choice of the name Omaha Hotel produced the perceived notion that the hotel was connected with the railroad.

Their two-story brick hotel was completed in 1893.⁴⁸ The first floor contained a saloon⁴⁹, a small lobby, a small dining room, a kitchen, storage room, and a salesmen's sample room. An enclosed stair well provided access to the second floor. There, several small rooms opened onto intersecting hallways. The hotel was operated on the European plan which meant no meals were included with the price of the room.⁵⁰

The Omaha Hotel was never intended to be a luxury hotel. It was built to house the middle-income traveler as well as the business traveler. The hotel rooms were small and simply furnished with a bed and a chair with perhaps a hall tree or wall hooks on which the traveler could hang his clothes. Train travelers could clearly see the back of the Omaha Hotel as they stepped down from the platform of the train station. A large painted advertisement on the back of the hotel read: "HOTEL Rooms Rate \$1.50." The Neillsville Times, in their 27th Anniversary issue, referred to the Omaha Hotel as a fine two story solid brick building.⁵¹

⁴⁴ Clark County Press, "Good Old Days Column," from the October 1902 newspaper, October 16, 2002, p. 32.

⁴⁵ Clark County Press, "Good Old Days Column," from the October 1928 newspaper, October 8, 2008, p. 16.

⁴⁶ Don Schnitzler, The Marshfield Story, Vol. 2: Windows to Our Past (Marshfield, WI: Marshfield History Project, 2000), pp. 21-24.

⁴⁷ Republican and Press, November 3, 1892, "Local Matters," column.

⁴⁸ Republican and Press, February 23, 1893, "Local Matters," column.

⁴⁹ Republican and Press, May 25, 1893, "Local Matters," column.

⁵⁰ Republican and Press, November 3, 1892, "Local Matters," column.

⁵¹ Neillsville Times, January 4, 1906, "Omaha Hotel."

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Omaha Hotel
Neillsville, Clark County, Wisconsin

James Paulus purchased the Omaha Hotel in 1908 and changed the name to the Hotel Paulus. He refurbished the interior and added new furnishing. A new furnace was also installed.⁵² The Hotel Paulus accommodated the traveling salesman as well as the tourist. A J.R. Wadkins Medicine Company salesman kept his stock at the Paulus Hotel where his outstanding accounts could also be paid.⁵³ Although the name "Hotel Paulus" would remain on the west side of the hotel until this day, the hotel became known as the Hamilton Hotel in the 1920s. The hotel was operated by Clarence Hamilton.⁵⁴ By the early 1940s, the hotel was standing vacant. In July of 1945, Herbert Lowe a prominent furniture dealer and undertaker purchased the building and converted the upstairs hotel rooms into apartments and utilized the downstairs for furniture storage.⁵⁵

AREA OF SIGNIFICANCE - COMMERCE - RAILROAD HOTEL

The Industrial Revolution was having an enormous impact on daily life in America in the mid-1800s. Mechanization and the introduction of steam power was easing the amount of labor needed to complete a task or produce a product and was greatly enhancing production. As technology advanced two more important developments would change America: the expanding railroad and the harnessing of electricity.

The steam locomotive was introduced in 1830 with the Tom Thumb locomotive. At the time of the outbreak of the Civil War most major eastern cities were connected by the railroad. During the Civil War, railroads were second only to waterways in providing logistical support for both armies.⁵⁶ When the war was over, the railroad aided the westward expansion of the United States. Even though towns such as Neillsville began their development years before the railroad would reach them, the railroad would be imperative for their continuing survival. The railroad provided a means to move produce, consumer goods and people that was independent of the weather, poor roads and undependable waterways. With the rise of mail-ordering from catalogs, people were given access to products at reasonable prices that were not currently available from their local merchants. This desire for new products would give rise to the traveling salesman.⁵⁷

The railroad saw the laying of track and keeping the trains operational as their principal responsibility. With the exception of the National Parks where railroads did build hotels as destination points, it was

⁵² Clark County Press, "Good Old Days Column," from the June 1908 newspaper, June 4, 2008.

⁵³ Neillsville Times, July 1, 1909, advertisement.

⁵⁴ 1910 United State Census Neillsville, Wisconsin, Ancestry.com.

⁵⁵ Clark County Press, July 5, 1945, "Local Matters" column.

⁵⁶ "Railroads Critical Role in the Civil War," www.history.com/railroads-critical-role-in-the-civil-war.htm, accessed February 2012.

⁵⁷ A.K. Sandoval-Strausz, Hotel: An American History (New Haven, Conn: Yale University Press, 2007), pp. 3-101.

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Omaha Hotel
Neillsville, Clark County, Wisconsin

generally left to the local townspeople in the communities along the rail lines to provide for and serve the traveler. If you wanted your town to be an overnight stop or a destination for the travelers, adequate hotel rooms and restaurant facilities needed to be provided. The hotels that sprang up along the rail lines facilitated human mobility and can be seen as part of the generalized effort to improve transportation. The hotel facilitated the continued intensification of commerce in the United States.

In many cases the traveling salesmen were the mainstay of the railroad hotel. They went from city to city promoting elixirs, household goods, farm machinery, and almost any item. In 1860, the traveling salesmen numbered 60,000 with their numbers expanding to 200,000 by 1883. The salesmen wanted an affordable room with basic amenities and an area where they could display their wares.

The traveler who was not wealthy was also looking for an affordable hotel. With the aid of the National Hotel Directory and any rail line's guide book, a traveler could plan a complex journey throughout the United States and calculate the cost of every ticket and every hotel bill.⁵⁸

The Omaha Hotel is a fine and intact example of a simply designed late Victorian small to midsize 1890s railroad hotel. The hotel offered clean short-term lodging at a reasonable rate. Entrepreneurs Ed and Peter Weber saw an opportunity to place a hotel in close proximity to the Chicago, St. Paul, Minnesota & Omaha railroad depot. Both Weber and Paulus realized the train traveler needed an overnight room that was reasonably priced. The 1909 Wisconsin Hotel Directory shows that the Hotel Paulus was priced at \$1.50 while the O'Neill House and the Merchants Hotel were priced at \$2.00.⁵⁹

In conclusion, it is believed that the Omaha Hotel is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places for the role that it played in the commercial life of Neillsville in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

⁵⁸ A.K. Sandoval-Strausz, Hotel: An American History (New Haven, Conn: Yale University Press, 2007), pp. 3-10.

⁵⁹ "James McKeand & Catherine Gibson Records" ancestry.com, accessed February 2012,
<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~russellkeir/paulushousewisconsin1909>, p. 1.

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Neillsville, Clark County, Wisconsin

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French, Bella. An American Sketch Book, Volume 1 No. 5. La Crosse, Wis.: Sketch Book, Co., 1875.

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Clark County Press, July 5, 1945.

Clark County Press, July 1, 1982, "Keepsake Centennial Edition," pp. 2, 29, 32.

Clark County Press, October 15, 1992.

Clark County Press, October 1, 1997, column "Good Old Days."

Clark County Press, October 16, 2002, column "Good Old Days."

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Clark County Press, June 4, 2008, column "Good Old Days."

Clark County Press, October 8, 2008, column "Good Old Days."

Neillsville Press, July 5, 1878.

Neillsville Press, July 26, 1878.

Neillsville Press, August 9, 1878.

Neillsville Times, February 13, 1902.

Neillsville Times, January 4, 1906.

Neillsville Times, July 1, 1909.

Republican and Press, September 1, 1887.

Republican and Press, October 27, 1887.

Republican and Press, November 3, 1892.

Republican and Press, February 9, 1893.

Republican and Press, February 23, 1893.

Republican and Press, May 25, 1893.

Republican and Press, June 4, 1908.

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Omaha Hotel
Neillsville, Clark County, Wisconsin

Web addresses

“James McKeand & Catherine Gibson Records” ancestry.com,
<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~russellkeir/paulushousewisconsin1909>, accessed
February 2012.

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Historical Society, 1937, p. 34, accessed February 2012.

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Section 10 Page 1

Omaha Hotel
Neillsville, Clark County, Wisconsin

Verbal Boundary Description:

Lots (13), (14), and (15), Block (1) of James Hewett's Addition to the Village (Now City) of Neillsville, Clark County, Wisconsin.

Boundary Justification:

This is the parcel historically associated with the property. The lot appears today as it did on the Sanborn Perris Map Company, December 1897, for Neillsville, Wisconsin.

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Section Photos Page 1

Name of Property:	Omaha Hotel
City or Vicinity:	Neillsville
County:	Clark
Name of Photographer:	Patricia Lacey
Date of Photograph:	February 2012
Location of Original Digital Files:	W5055 US HWY 10, Neillsville, WI 54456
Number of Photographs:	7

Photo #1 of 7

Main south facing elevation and west facing elevation, camera facing northeast

The information for the following photos is the same as the above, except as noted:

Photo #2 of 7

East facing elevation, camera facing northeast

Photo #3 of 7

North facing elevation, camera facing southeast

Photo #4 of 7

Queen Anne window in lobby area, camera facing south

Photo #5 of 7

Enclosed stairway to second floor, camera facing north

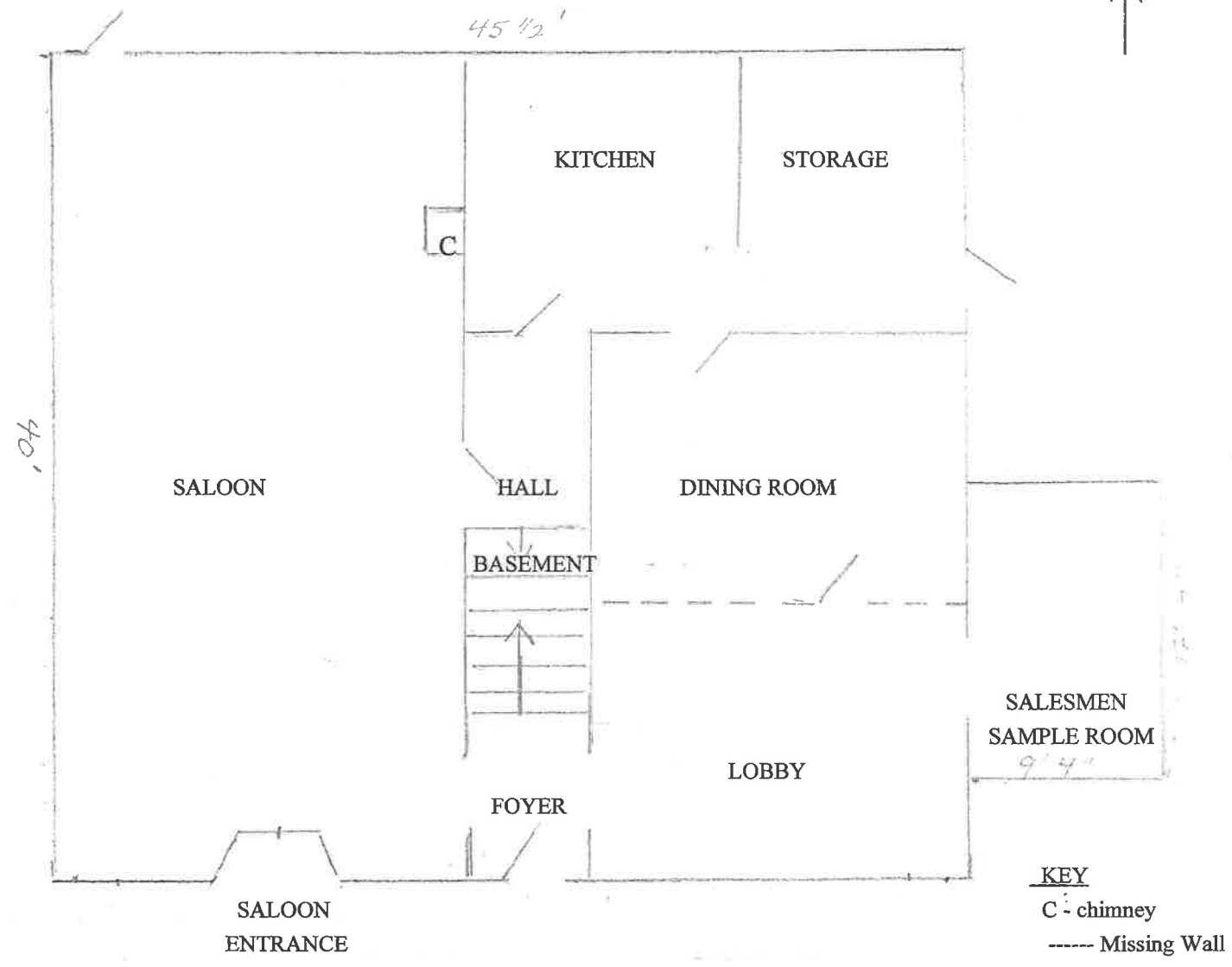
Photo #6 of 7

Hotel room door with transom, camera facing southeast

Photo #7 of 7

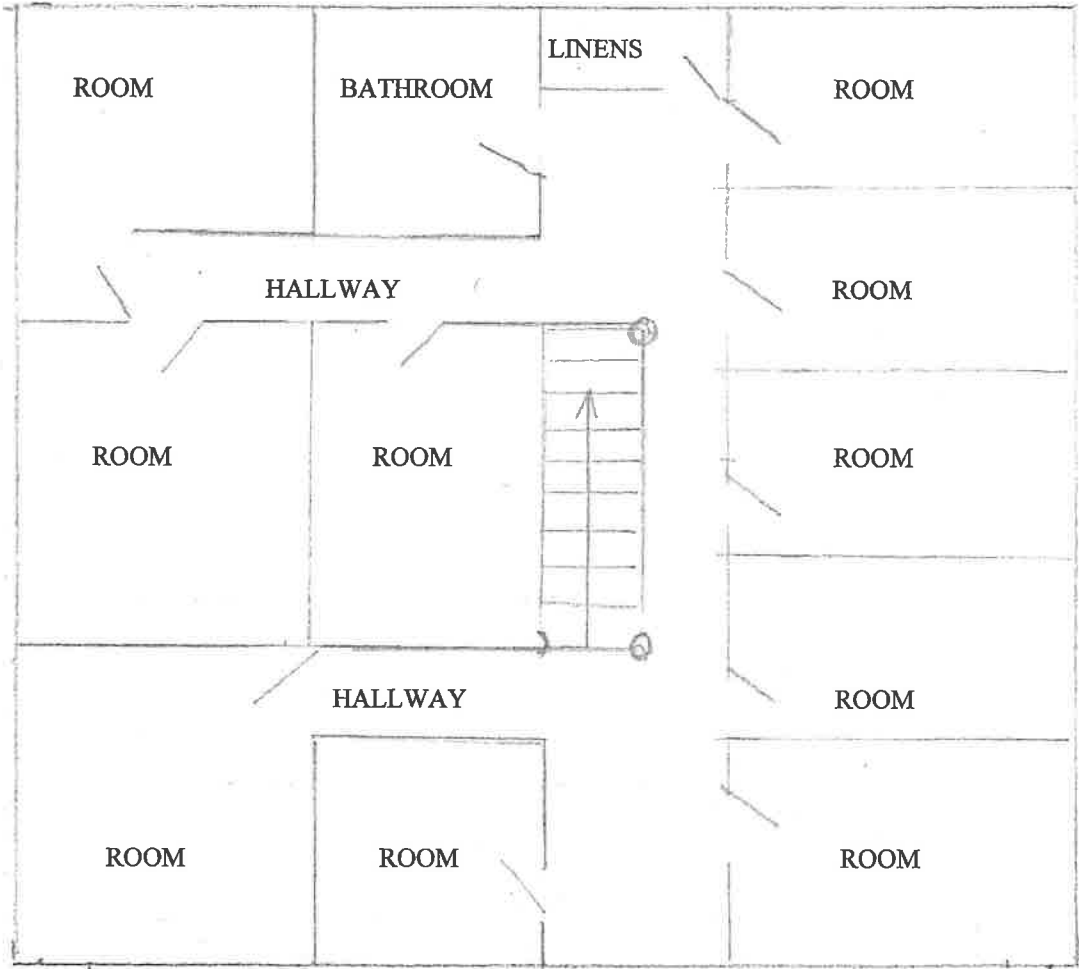
Second floor hallway, camera facing south

**FIGURE 1:
OMAHA HOTEL
NEILLSVILLE, CLARK COUNTY,
WISCONSIN**

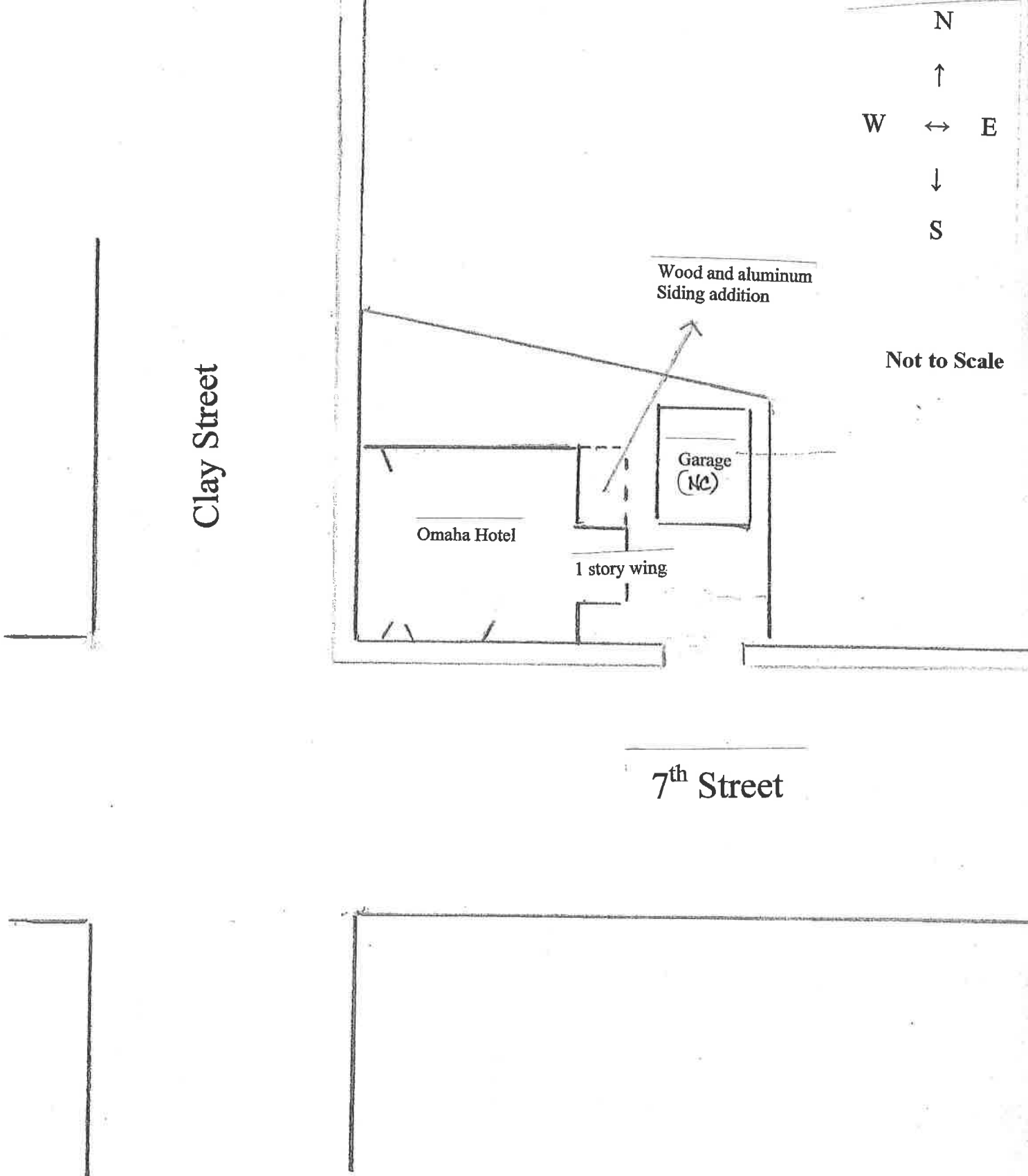


First Floor

**FIGURE 2:
OMAHA HOTEL
NEILLSVILLE, CLARK COUNTY,
WISCONSIN**



Second Floor

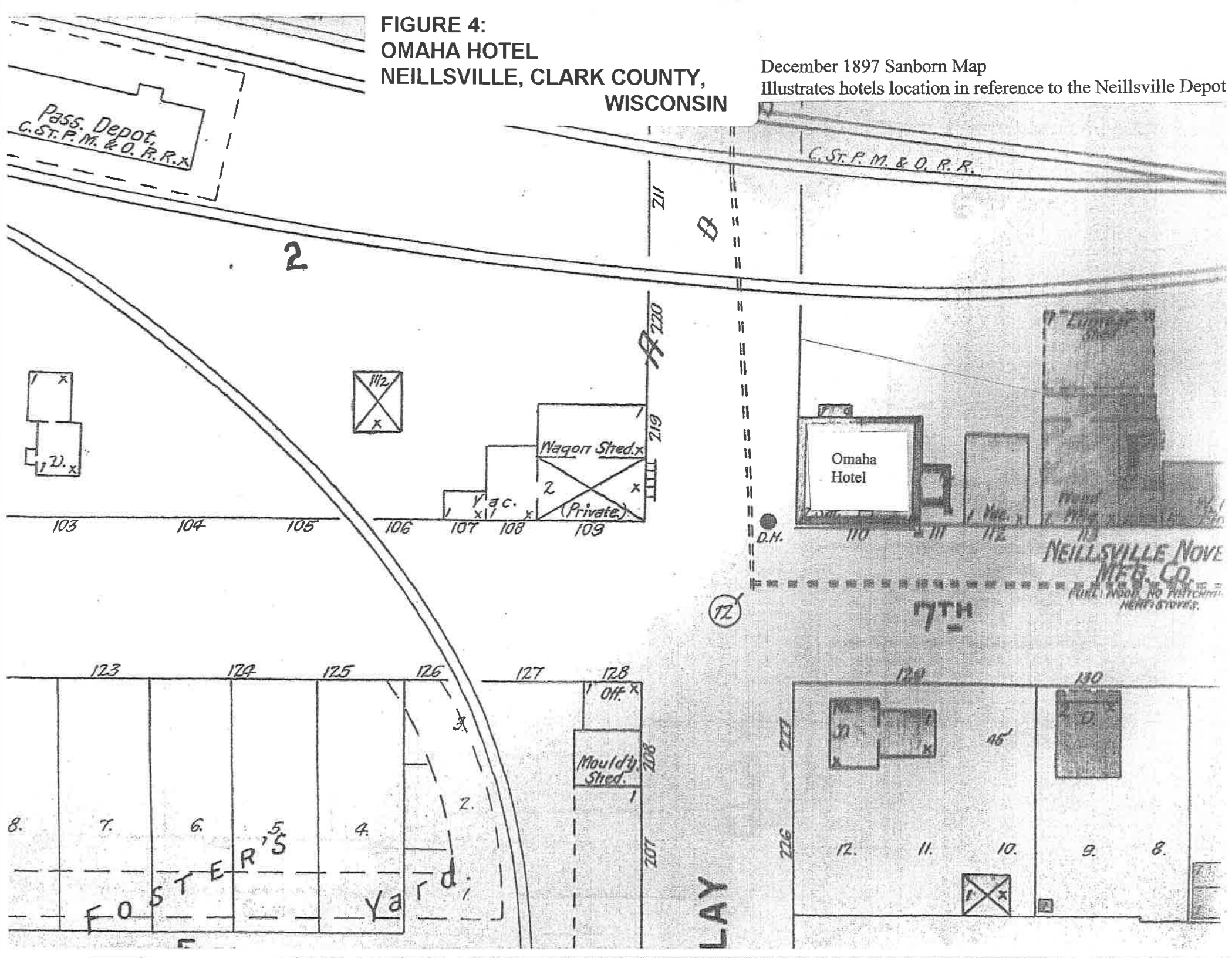


Lot Map

**FIGURE 3:
 OMAHA HOTEL
 NEILLSVILLE, CLARK COUNTY,
 WISCONSIN**

**FIGURE 4:
OMAHA HOTEL
NEILLSVILLE, CLARK COUNTY,
WISCONSIN**

December 1897 Sanborn Map
Illustrates hotels location in reference to the Neillsville Depot



J. R. WATKINS REMEDIES

Standard medicines that have been
used for years and found
excellent; also

**EXTRACTS, SPICES AND
TOILET ARTICLES**

Put out on Free Trial Plan

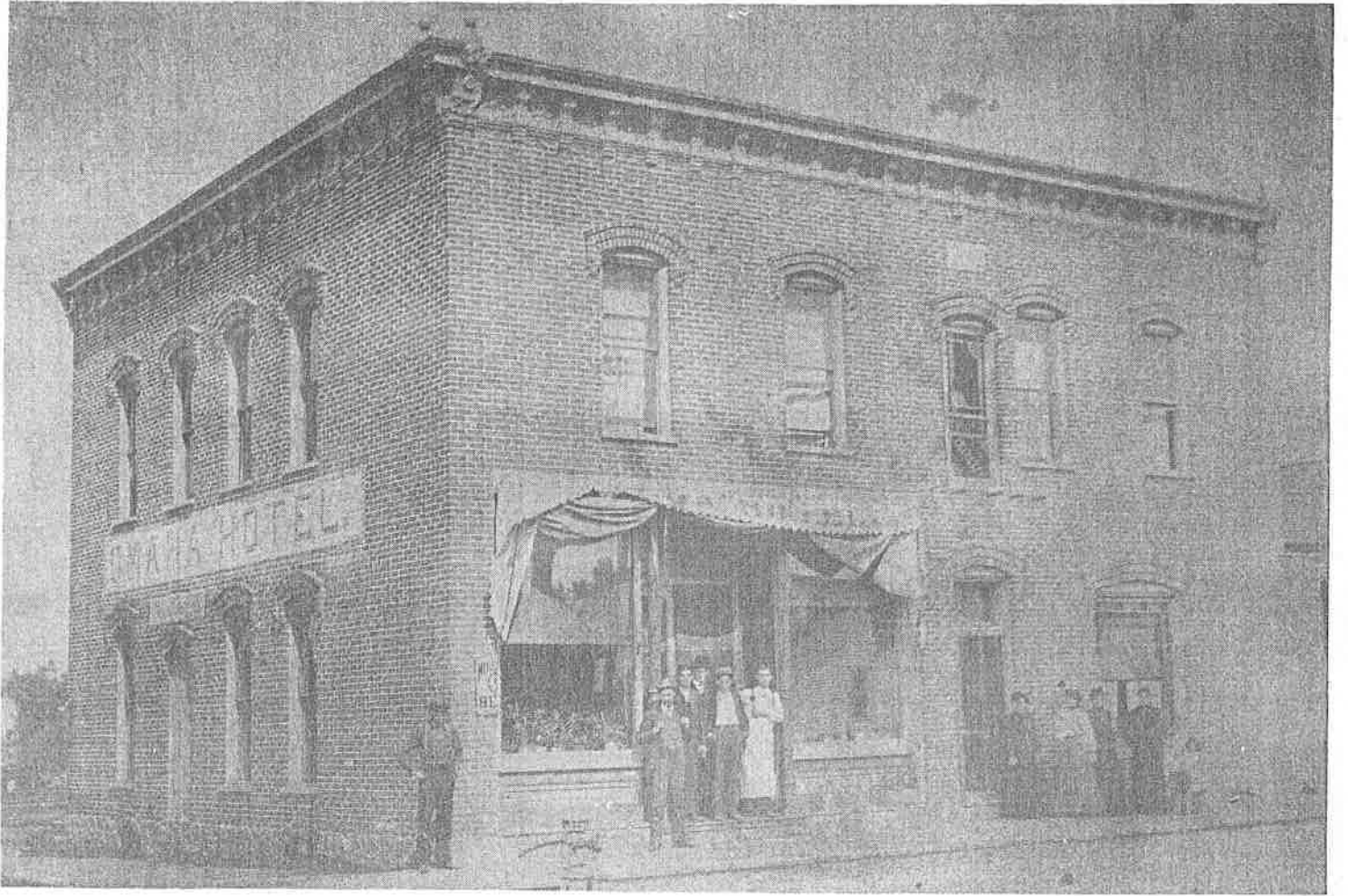
BLUCHER PAULUS, Salesman

will canvass the county. A full supply always on
hand at Paulus House, Neillsville, where those who
are out can secure a supply at any time.

Republican and Press Newspaper

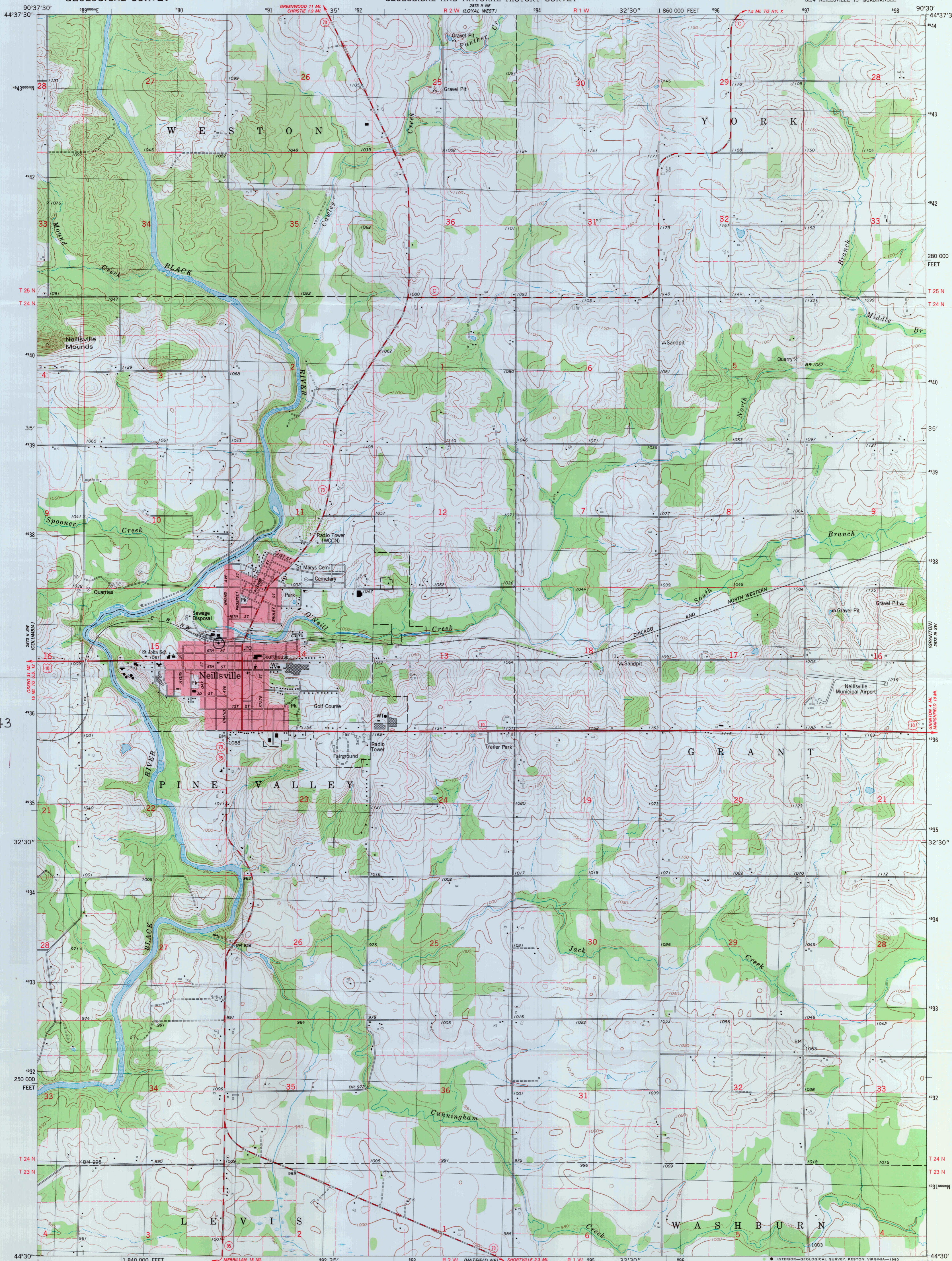
July 29, 1909

FIGURE 5:
OMAHA HOTEL
NEILLSVILLE, CLARK COUNTY,
WISCONSIN



Omaha Hotel circa 1900

**FIGURE 6:
OMAHA HOTEL
NEILLSVILLE, CLARK COUNTY,
WISCONSIN**



Omaha Hotel
Neillsville,
Clark County
Wisconsin

UTM Coordinates:
Z E N
15 690865 4936643

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey in cooperation with the Wisconsin Division of Highways and Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey

Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA

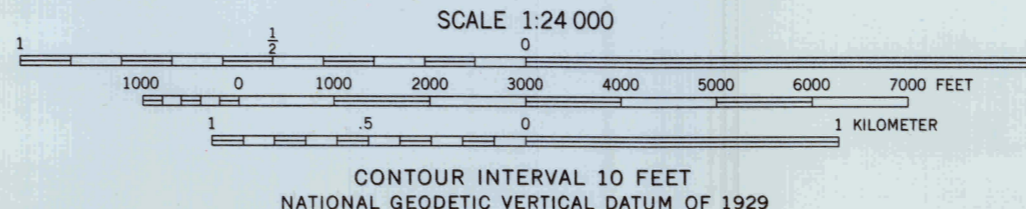
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1976. Field checked 1977. Map edited 1979

Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Wisconsin coordinate system, central zone (Lambert conformal conic) 2000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 15 1927 North American Datum

To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection lines 6 meters north and 11 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks

Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

UTM GRID AND 1979 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092 AND WISCONSIN GEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY, MADISON, WISCONSIN 53706 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U. S. Route
	State Route

NEILLSVILLE, WIS.
SE4 NEILLSVILLE 15' QUADRANGLE
N4430-W9030/7.5







1906

SHUTTERS









UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Omaha Hotel

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: WISCONSIN, Clark

DATE RECEIVED: 2/01/13 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 3/05/13
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 3/20/13 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/20/13
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 13000101

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: Y PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 3-20-13 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

The Omaha Hotel is listed in the National Register under Criterion A for its local significance in Commerce. The period of significance is 1893-1942, reflecting the period it was used as a hotel in Neillsville, Wisconsin. The two-story brick building has a two-part commercial design, with an intact bracketed cornice. Although in poor condition and with siding material placed over the windows, the hotel's integrity is good underneath the applied materials and on the interior.

RECOM./CRITERIA A
REVIEWER Barbara Wyatt DISCIPLINE Historian
TELEPHONE 202-354-2252 DATE 3-20-13

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

City of Neillsville

Steven J. Mabie
Mayor

Common Council - Telephone (715) 743-5662 Office (715) 743-3811 Home
E-mail mabieu@yahoo.com

Regular Meetings Second and Fourth Tuesday Each Month

City Hall, 118 West 5th Street
Neillsville, Wisconsin 54456



October 12, 2012

Daina Penkiunas
National Register Coordinator
Wisconsin Historical Society
816 State Street
Madison, WI 53706

Dear Ms. Penkiunas:

We on the Neillsville Historic Preservation Commission would like to recommend for eligibility the following property for nomination to the National Register: The Omaha Hotel located at 317 W Seventh Street in Neillsville, WI. This recommendation is in accordance with the Certification of Agreement between the City of Neillsville and the Wisconsin State Historic Preservation Review Board.

If you should have any question regarding our nomination of this property, please feel free to contact me at (715)937-4360 or at ja.counsell@gmail.com. The Commission is excited with the possible placement of another of our beautiful historic properties on the State and National Registers.

Sincerely,

Julie Counsell-Chair
Neillsville Historic Preservation Commission



WISCONSIN
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY



TO: Keeper
National Register of Historic Places

FROM: Daina Penkiunas

SUBJECT: National Register Nomination

The following materials are submitted on this 25th day of January 2013,
for nomination of Omaha Hotel to the National Register of Historic Places:

1 Original National Register of Historic Places nomination form

 Multiple Property Documentation Form

7 Photograph(s)

1 CD with electronic images

1 Original USGS map(s)

6 Sketch map(s)/figure(s)/exhibit(s)/

1 Piece(s) of correspondence

 Other: _____

COMMENTS:

 Please insure that this nomination is reviewed

 X This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67

 The enclosed owner objection(s) do _____ do not _____
constitute a majority of property owners.

 Other: _____