United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



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

1. Name

historic Sacajawea Hotel

and/or common

city, town

2. Location

street & number #5 Main Stree	et, Corner of Ash and	Main	not for publication
city, town Three Forks	vicinity of	congressional district]
state Montana	code 30 county	Gallatin	code 031
3. Classification			
Category Ownership district public building(s) private structure both site Public Acquisition object in process being considered	Status occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible yes: restricted yes: unrestricted no	Present Use agriculture x commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park private residence religious scientific transportation other:
4. Owner of Prop	erty		
name Roger Jenkins			
street & number Sacajawea Hot	el		
city, town Three Forks	vicinity of	state	Montana
5. Location of Le	gal Description	on	
courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.	Gallatin County Cour	-thouse	
street & number			
city, town Bozeman		state	Montana
6. Representatio	n in Existing S		······································
itle None	has this pro	perty been determined el	egible? yes r
date		federal sta	
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depository for survey records		·	

state

7. Description

Condition excellent good fair	deteriorated ruins unexposed	Check one X unaltered altered	Check one <u>X</u> original site <u>x</u> moved date <u>1910</u>
	unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Sacajawea Hotel was constructed in 1910 by combining the parts of an old 1882 hotel and the construction of a central lobby, hotel rooms and dining room building. This combination formed a "U" shaped plan that incorporated the old "Madison House", which had been moved to the site from its original location one mile away, as the northeast apartment wing and the southeast wing private dining room and main kitchen. The halves of the "Madison House" were then integrated into a $2\frac{1}{2}$ story main lobby building with a south dining wing that connected the kitchen, and a hallway at the north that connected the apartments (the front half of the "Madison House").

The overall exterior design then became an integrated combination of gable roofed buildings and lapped wood siding with a wrap-around porch veranda that stylized the buildings. The windows are similar throughout as double-hung one-over-one, two-over-two and four-overfour sash windows on both the first and second floors of the complex. The use of palladian windows on the gable ends of the main building as well as four-over-four windows on the dining wing add to the exterior detail.

The most outstanding exterior element is the veranda that runs the length of the east and north sides of the main building. The veranda is supported by groups of paired doric columns spaced approximately fourteen feet apart. The columns frame the centralized front entrance which has a gabled pediment extending from the veranda. The columns have paneled base pedistals that line the edge of the veranda deck. The veranda is now partially screened on the east side. The main building houses the lobby and hotel rooms. There are three dormers on either side of the main building roof.

The south wing of the complex is a combination of 1910 construction that is attached to the severed back half of the "Madison House". The addition is not noticeable as lapped siding has been used to cover the joint and combine the structures. This wing is a simple gable ended two story building that houses the main dining room, private dining room, kitchen and a pantry addition on the north side. Hotel rooms occupy the second floor.

The north wing is composed of the front section of the "Madison House" and is connected to the main building by a hallway. This wing is a $2\frac{1}{2}$ story, four gable ended roof building. It has a similar pedimented portico over the front entry that was used in the main building veranda. This was designed in 1910 to stylistically intergrate the new and old buildings. The interior is broken up into apartment units.

The main lobby interior is the most significant design feature of the building's interiors. It is a bungalow arts-crafts style interior of vertical wood wall framing panels with plaster insets and exposed beams and recessed ceilings. The woodwork is stained dark brown in combination with the hardwood floors. The vertical and horizontal wood bands are combined to add a sense of textural relief to the walls of this large open lobby space. Similar wood bands follow the corridors and hallways to symbolize wainscoting in the interior.

The Sacajawea Hotel is a combination of architectural styles that provides a functional hotel with a formal exterior appearance to the town of Three Forks. The eclecticism of styles leaves this building as a unique structure in the State of Montana.

8. Significance

prehistoric 1400–1499	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic agriculture x architecture art commerce communications	heck and justify below community planning conservation economics education engineering x exploration/settlemer industry invention	Iandscape architectur Iaw Iterature military music philosophy politics/government	e religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	1910	Builder/Architect J	.Q. Adams - Fred Wil	son

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Sacajawea Hotel is significant to the development of Three Forks, Montana as the major early-day social center, a major symbol of economic prosperity, and as an architectural adaptation of buildings and architectural styles to provide for the housing of hotel guests and entertainment facilities. The Sacajawea Hotel is significant under criteria A and C of the Criteria for Evaluation for its contributions to the history of local events and as a distinguishable building whose combined components form a defined interior and exterior design style.

The Sacajawea Hotel was built in 1910 by John Q. Adams. Adams was the purchasing agent for the Milwaukee Railroad and in conjunction with the boom-town development of Three Forks, realized that a new, high quality hotel was needed to accomodate railroad travelers, would-be settlers, and the public in Three Forks. The Three Forks Milwaukee Railroad Depot was located to the northeast and across the street from the hotel and provided for the flow of travelers through the area.

Mr. Adams was a man of economy and decided that with the completion of the Milwaukee Railroad in the area in 1908, that townsite development should occur approximately one mile up the Missouri River from the original townsite established in 1863. The abondonment of the "oldtown" caused many buildings to be moved to the new town of Three Forks between 1908 and 1910. The "Madison House" was one such building and was cut in half and moved one mile to be incorporated as part of the wings of the Sacajawea Hotel in 1910. The new townsite provided railroad access, solid building ground and room to expand, that the "old town" lacked. A roundhouse, a car yard and a dispatcher's office were built and the town became a division point for the railroad.

The Madison House was moved from the "old town" townsite of Three Forks on rollers and hauled by teams of horses. The moving involved being mired down in mud and the moving contractor losing his horses in a poker game and having to win them back to complete his moving contract and meet the owner's deadline.

The front half of the Madison House was used as an apartment wing on the northeast end of the hotel while the rear half now forms a small dining area and the main kitchen on the southeast wing of the hotel that connects to the main dining room. The newer 1910 portion of the hotel houses the main lobby and hotel rooms. This portion was connected with the parts of the old "Madison House" to form a "U" shape plan. The new hotel became the center of social activity in Three Forks in 1910.

The Chamber of Commerce predicted that by 1915 the population of the town would reach 10,000 - this was the year the Milwaukee Railroad electrified its tracks between Harlowton, Montana and Avery, Idaho and removed most of its facilities from Three Forks.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Gallatin County Courthouse, Bozeman City Library, Montana State University Library, Montana Historical Society Historical Library, Helena, Bozeman Avant Courier, Three Forks Herald, Manhattan Intermountain Press, Butte Intermountain, Gallatin County Bicentennial Committee, Lyle K. Williams and Merrill Burlingame

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state	code	county		ode
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ity or town Bozeman		state	Montana	
he evaluated significance of this national			ficer Certi	ication
as the designated State Historic Pr 65), i hereby nominate this proper ccording to the criteria and proce tate Historic Preservation Officer	ty for inclusion in th dures set forth by th	ne National Register and	certify that it has been e	evaluated
tle Acting State Historic		Officer	date 12/2	1/79

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FHR-8-300A (11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM



CONTINUATION SHEET

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Thus, the Sacajawea Hotel had served the people of the community and the travelers through years of boom, bust, and depression. During these years, the hotel housed a dining room, bar and lounge, barber shop, sample rooms, and shoe shine stands, making it the hub of activity of all types, from dining to business dealings in Three Forks, Montana.

For many years the Sacajawea Hotel served as the center for community activities; special banquets were served in the dining room, meetings were held there, and many old timers made the inn their permanent home. The deep pillared front veranda has been the favorite summer visiting place for these Gallatin pioneers.

The Sacajawea Hotel has also served as the architectural center piece for Three Forks. The combination of buildings with an integrated exterior design of revivial elements combined with a bungalow arts-crafts interior provides for a marked contrast between interior and exterior design. The original builder's intent was to provide a formal facade or exterior of the building to the public view with a less formal, although equally stylistic, interior for the hotel functions.

The colonaded veranda that runs the length and north side of the main building front poses a formal entry to the hotel. The porch design incorporates a uniform grouping of paired doric columns and a pedimented entry that follows the motif of the gable ended building. The interior lobby finish is stylized after the then prevailing use of exposed and bracket beams and walls accentuated by dark wood strips to form a panelling that typifies the bungalow style. The interior spaces create the sense of spaciousness by the rythmic decore and uncluttered design of rectangualr rooms.

The Sacajawea still survives as an intact specimen of the pioneer town grand hotel that met both the needs of the traveler and the local community. The adaptation of buildings and architectural styles combines to form an essential building to the town of Three Forks, Montana.



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