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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED JUN 14 1977

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

Bedford House

AND/OR COMMON

Hotel Garland

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

306 Main Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Bedford

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

Fifth

STATE

Iowa

CODE

COUNTY

Taylor

CODE

173

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mrs. J.B. Whitaker

STREET & NUMBER

306 Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Bedford

STATE

Iowa

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Taylor County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Bedford

STATE

Iowa

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Bedford House hotel experienced three building phases, from 1857 to 1910. Each phase is clearly discernable, with the first (1857) and third (1910) forming rear wings to the larger, 1877 phase, which fronts on the town's main street. The overall design is simple, made of locally manufactured brick: flat roofed, rectangular, with segmental arched windows. The two rear sections have no exterior ornamentation (since they are not visible from the street). The 1857 section has been stuccoed, though this is now wearing away. The earliest section has two stories, the others, three.

Exterior design interest is concentrated in the front elevation of the 1877 section. It is symmetrical, seven bays wide with a center door and five-bay wooden porch. The 2/2-light windows have flat, concrete hoods. The door bears an attractive fanlight and single, four-light sidelight. Two windows to the left of the door have been joined by a double plate-glass window, but the separate hoods from the original openings remain. A pressed-tin cornice across the front is supported by single brackets, and features a central, protruding panel and low, ornamental balustrade. Six round, shaped wood columns support the flat roof of the porch.

To a remarkable extent, the interior of the hotel has preserved a small-town, early 20th-century character. Noteworthy is the marble mosaic on the lobby floor. The lobby and many of the rooms have pressed-tin ceilings, most of the original woodwork (oak or walnut) is intact, including a fine staircase with carved posts and well-shaped balusters. Furnishings, too, are typical of the period -- brass bedsteads, heavy, elaborate cupboards, commodes, and dressers. Walls are lath and plaster, covered with wallpaper. The most obvious concession to modern life are the bathrooms. The 1857 section has long been converted to apartments, where the owners live.

# 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/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1857;1877; 1910

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Although its three sections were built over a period of 65 years (1857-1910), the Hotel Garland today represents, in an unusually fine state of preservation, the typical midwestern small-town hotel, its interior appointments dating primarily from the early years of the 20th century. Hotels such as these were from their beginnings a focal point in their towns, not only for travellers seeking rest and food, but for the townspeople themselves, who found in the endless stream of strangers a source of entertainment and variety.

Hotel Garland began as the Bedford House in 1857, under the ownership of Charles Steele, a local businessman, farmer, and banker, who was later responsible for the erection of an opera house in Bedford in 1879. It was built four years after the town was laid out, the town's status as county seat assuring a good flow of business. In 1877, a fire which destroyed five commercial establishments did some damage to the hotel. That year, along with repairs to the original structure, the then owner, Willard Barrows, erected a three-story addition, fronting close on Main Street, which became the hotel's main section. Shortly thereafter, the Bedford was purchased by John Green, onetime cavalry captain and himself the son of an hotelier, who acquired the Bedford after four previous hotel ventures in Kansas and Missouri. In 1910, the third section was added by John J. Clark. Clark, politically and commercially active in the town, renamed the place the Hotel Garland after a daughter. The Whitaker family acquired the hotel in 1928 and operate it today. Under their management, the hotel has retained to an impressive degree, the character and flavor of its earlier years. Local sentiment, particularly expressed during a series of public tours last year, is similarly concerned with the preservation of this local landmark.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Atherton, Lewis. Main Street on the Middle Border. Bloomington, Ind.: Indiana University Press, 1954. Quadrangle Edition (New York Times Book Co.), pp. 59-60.  
 Crossen, Frank E. History of Taylor County, Iowa. Chicago: S.J. Clarke, 1911.  
History of Taylor County, Iowa. Des Moines: State Historical Co., 1881.  
The Bedford South West, 9 January 1875, p. 2.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

UTM REFERENCES

4600			450-3100						
A	1,5	3,5-0	4,6,0	4,4,0	0,3,1,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING			ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C						D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Two city lots along Main Street, extending to the rear for 1/2 block. Width 68'.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

A. Joe Whitaker

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Hotel Garland, 306 Main Street

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Bedford

Iowa 50833

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL     

STATE     

LOCAL X

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

*Adrian D. Anderson*

TITLE

Director, Division of Historic Preservation

DATE

4/26/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

<i>Charles Obermeyer</i>	DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	DATE	<u>6-14-77</u>
<i>Dezell Dand Jones</i>	KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	DATE	<u>6/14/77</u>