### **National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms

For NPS use only received DEC 27 1982 date entered

Type all entries	s—complete applicat	ole sections	•	
1. Nam	ne			
historic	Hotel Mealey			
and/or common	Hotel Iowan			
	ation			
street & number	10 2 S <del>outh</del> Fred	derick Ave,		not for publication
city, town	Oelwein	vicinity of		
state	Iowa	code 19 county	Fayette	065 <b>code</b>
3. Clas	sification		·	
Category district building(s) structure site object	Ownership public xx private both Public Acquisition to in process being considere	yes: restricted	Present Use agriculture _XX commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park private residence religious scientific transportation other:
4. Own	er of Prop	erty		
	Associate Partne	·		
street & number	340 East Wiscon			
city, town	Lake Forest	vicinity of	state	Illinois 60045
	ation of Le	gal Description	on	
courthouse, regis	stry of deeds, etc.	Fayette County Courth	ouse	
street & number				
city, town		West Union	state	Iowa 52175
6. Repi	resentatio	n in Existing	Surveys	
title n/a		has this pro	perty been determined of	eligible? yes no
date			federal st	ate county local
depository for su	rvey records			
city, town			state	

### 7. Description

Condition  excellent deteriorated good ruins fair unexposed	Check one unaltered _—≫altered	Check one  XX original site  moved date	
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#### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Hotel Mealey (1896-8) is a well designed and intact example of an elegant midwestern railroad center hotel building. The building combines hotel and commercial uses, and represents by its physical evolution a successful adaptation to changing hotel tastes and to a changing local economy. Described as "...a building of architectural beauty" just prior to its completion, the building filled a long felt and growing need to have "... more commodious hotel accompodations."

This four story brick building is square on plan (100' square) on the first floor and "U" on plan above that level, the Frederick (east or front side) wing being both slightly broader and longer than is the rear (west) wing. An open courtyard with southern exposure is three stories in height and separates the wings. Skylights in this inner courtyard lighted the hotel office, while courtyard windows provided natural light for each of the hotel's original seventy rooms. The structural system combines cast iron columns with interior and exterior load bearing walls. Exterior brickwork is of pressed brick, laid in running bond. Stone and galvanized iron are used to ornament the exterior. Yellow pine and antique oak were used for the interior woodwork.

The hotel's first floor provided commercial space for three storefronts. These flank the main South Frederick Street entrance and anchor the S.E. First Street side of the hotel. The storefront at the northeast corner featured a chamfered corner entrance with a cast iron column with capital for structural support. The main hotel entrance featured three stone segmental arches supported by cast iron columns, with corbelled brickwork that forms quoins on flanking pilasters. These same pilasters define the edges of a three story projecting pavilion which is highlighted by a second story palladian design and a pedimented parapet with nameplate above the top floor. An identical second floor palladian theme and pedimented parapet was centered on the north face without a projecting pavilion. A heavy projecting cornice originally separated the first and second floors, and a dentilated cornice traced the ro ofline base along the ro ofline parapet. Heavy stone lintels and thin stone sills define each window. Third floor fenestration is not consistently alligned with that of the second floor, but is alligned with the fourth floor fenestration.

The hotel employed electricity on a large scale, including over night display window lights, bo asted an elevator as well as a private stairway for those ladies who wished to by-pass the hotel office in order to reach their accomodations. This latter feature was important in an age when the railroad hotel was primarily a "man's world", being frequented by salesmen and strangers in general.

Major alterations are limited to the addition of a fourth floor in 1916 and to the expected first floor modernization of storefronts. The replacement parapet wall has inlaid brick panel designs which match those on the new floor. A replacement pedimented parapet is incorporated into the parapet proper with a similar nameplate and a concrete coping. Recent restoration efforts have removed the modern marqueee and brick veneer which had hidden the original entry way arches and a string course which separated the first and second floors. Two fires, in 1916 and 1933 caused damage on the fourthfloor. When first built, the hotel was located in a residential area, in close proximity to the railroad yards, the Winders Opera House, and the original business area to the immediate north.

### 8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 1800–1899 1900–	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic agriculture xx_ architecture art commerce communications	community planning conservation economics education engineering exploration/settlement	landscape architectur law literature military music philosophy politics/government	e religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theaterX transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	1898	Builder/Architect Marve	l & DeMoney, Chicag	o (Architects)

#### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Hotel Mealey is a well preserved and elegantly appointed late 19th Century architectural work. Its construction, design and scale were directly linked with the growth of Oelwein that resulted when the "largest railshops west of the Mississippi" were constructed beginning in 1894.

The town of Oelwein was founded in the 1870's in conjunction with the coming of the Burlington, Cedar Rapids and Minnesota Railroad. The Minnesota and Northwestern Railroad (later the Chicago, St. Paul & Kansas City Railroad in 1887, and the Chicago Great Northwestern Railroad after 1892) reached Oelwein in 1886 and had its main shops in South Park, Minnesota. Because of its rapid growth the company was increasingly in need of locating centralized shops to serve its far flung service area. The economic panic of 1893 along with a fear of organized labor's strength in the major issues forced the issue. In that same year the company rebuilt its Oelwein roundhouse and relocated several managerial offices to that town. An agreement was made in 1894 with the town of Oelwein that land and \$200,000 would be given to the company to defray the costs of the move and new construction. The community organized the Oelwein Land Company which purchased, platted and sold three subdivisions in order to raise the funds. The railroad facilitated the spe culative nature of these local activities by beginning grading operations in June 1894. The actual dedication of the shops was to take place on September 28, 1899, fully five years after the original agreement was reached.

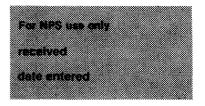
The shop location decision triggered a local building boom in Oelwein and the construction of the Hotel Mealey nighlighted the busiest construction year (1897) yet experienced by the town. That year saw the completion of twenty five new homes and four commercial buildings along with a \$90,000 expenditure by the railroad. The hotel construction came about when O elwein citizens approached Michael Mealey, a wealthy Irish-born St. Paul businessman, and father of James Mealey, an Oelwin merchant, and convinced the senior Mealey to build a hotel in Oelwein. A small locally generated bonus expedited the plan. The architects were Marvel and DeMoney of Chicago. Mr. Thomas Fitzp atrick, "a contractor of note" of St. Paul was given the contract for the \$35,000 building job. Work began in July 1896. O. A. Cummings, long time manager of the Union House (which was described as being "Oelwein's leading home for the traveling public."), considered "one of the most experienced landlords in the state" was the first manager of the Hotel Mealey (1898-1906). James Mealey first managed the corner dry goods firm at the hotel. As the hotel dedication neared, the local newspaper noted "There is not a vacant store building in the city, and the demand for residences far exceeds the supply notwithstanding the erection of many new ones the past season." The dedication on February 21, 1898 drew railroad officials, local community leaders and representatives from throughout Northeastern Iowa. The occasion was both a building dedication and an acknowledgement of the railroad's role in promoting city growth. President A. B. Stickley here first indicated publicly that in 1898 alone the railroad would build seven shop buildings adding four hundred new jobs and producing a total railroad yearly payroll of half a million dollars. Thirty years of sustained railroad expansion would follow. The expansion of the Hotel Mealey in 1916 would parallel this growth.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation Sheet

		<del></del>	
10. Geographi	cal Data		
Acreage of nominated property _ Quadrangle name _O_elwein UTM References	less than an acre	G	Quadrangle scale1/24,000
	7 2 5 2 9 0 orthing	Zone Easting	Northing
C			
G	<u> </u>	H	
Verbal boundary description Lots 1,2 3 & 4, Blo	-	dition to Oelwein.	tar
List all states and counties f	or properties overlapp	ing state or county bou	ındaries
state <sub>Iowa</sub>	code 19	county Fayette	<b>code</b> 065
state	code	county	code
11. Form Prep	ared By		
name/title James E. Jacobse	n National Regist	er Coordinator	
T CLEDO	ii, National Register	,	1/ Dogombon 1000
organization Iowa SHPO Historical	Building	date	14 December 1982
	and Grand Ave.	telephone	515–281–4137
city or town Des Moines		state	Iowa 503 <b>∮</b> 9
12. State Hist	oric Preser	vation Offic	er Certification
The evaluated significance of this	xx	is: local	
As the designated State Historic (665), I hereby nominate this propaccording to the criteria and proc	erty for inclusion in the Na edures set forth by the Na	ational Register and certify	vation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89– y that it has been evaluated
title Executive Director	Iowa State Historia	cal Department	date 24 November 1982
For NPS use only I hereby certify that this pro	perty is included in the Na Ent Was	ational Register ered in the ional Register	date 1/27/83
Keeper of the National Regist			date
Chief of Posietration	그 그 그 그 그 그 그 그 그 그 그 그 그 그 그 그 그 그 그	<ul> <li>In Medical Edition Technical States (Companies)</li> </ul>	그는 그들이 살아보다 그 이번 그가 들어왔다면서 그리고 하는 사람들 목대가 되는 것은 것 같아요?

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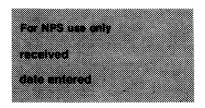
Continuation sheet Description

Item number

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Continuation sheet Significance

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The Hotel Mealey, enjoying the good times, would add a floor in 1916. Managers included C. B. Miller, G. W. Weaver (in 1907), and Ed Boss, the latter of whom operated a chain of fifteen midwestern hotels by 1920. The Boss chain operated the Mealey until 1969. The Hotel Mealey survived the demise of the small town hotel industry but finally yielded to the decline of railroad fortunes. In 1964 the Chicago Great Western and Northwestern Railroads merged and a gradual withdrawl of operations from Celwein resulted, culminating in the cancellation of an ongoing major hotel lease in 1980, which resulted in the closing of the hotel. Last known as the Hotel Iowan, plans were almost immediately formulated to remodel and restore the building for commercial and residential uses.

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Continuation sheet Bibliography

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