

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

For NPS use only

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

received **AUG 16 1985**

date entered **SEP 12 1985**

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

1. Name

historic The Arrow Hotel (NeHBS # CU05-54)

and/or common Arrow Hotel

2. Location

street & number 509 South 9th Avenue NA not for publication

city, town Broken Bow NA vicinity of

state Nebraska code 031 county Custer code 041

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Arrow Development, Inc.

street & number 425 South 7th Avenue

city, town Broken Bow NA vicinity of state Nebraska

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Custer County Register of Deeds

street & number Courthouse; 10th Avenue & South "E" Street

city, town Broken Bow state Nebraska

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date On-going federal state county local

depository for survey records Nebraska State Historical Society

city, town Lincoln state Nebraska

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Arrow Hotel is an L-shaped, three story building of cast-in-place concrete post and beam construction with pan-cast concrete floors, brick exterior walls, cut stone cornice, and wood joist flat roof. The first and last window group of the North and East facades are adorned with a mosaic design of cut stone, black tiles and bordered with cut stone on the second and third stories only. The ground floor fenestration consists of a storefront configuration of transom lights above large plate glass windows with a brick bulkhead below. The storefront is divided into individual bays by brick piers. At the main entrance to the building's ground floor there is a galvanized iron canopy with wrought iron brackets and light fixtures. The Arrow Hotel is the only example of three-story high rise architecture still existing in its locale today.

The Arrow Hotel was constructed beginning about July 1, 1928 after a June 21, 1928 bid letting and was completed and ready to open for business December 27, 1928, at a cost of \$81,500. Originally the Arrow Hotel housed 53 hotel rooms, two stores, a barber shop, hotel lobby, dining room, kitchen, and a beauty parlor. Each business opened onto either Ninth Street or Broadway Avenue now known as South "E" Street and Nebraska State Highway #2. The north facade fronts onto South "E" Street and the East facade with the main entrance facing Ninth Street. The city square is located northeast diagonally across the intersection of South "E" Street and Ninth Street. The business district of Broken Bow (population 3,900), home of the Arrow Hotel, is situated around the four sides of the city square.

The second and third floor fenestrations of the Arrow Hotel are wood double hung windows with the upper sash divided into six small glass panes and the lower sash being one larger solid pane. The ground floor main entrance is a heavy framed wood door with full glass flanked on each side by small pane wood windows above a brick bulkhead. Above this configuration, there are three transoms, one above each window and door, and a galvanized iron canopy above these transoms.

The roof is a flat wood joist roof with a brick parapet along the north and east facades with a cut stone cornice.

The architect for the original hotel was John Latenser & Sons of Omaha, Nebraska (who was also the architect of the Custer County Courthouse in Broken Bow, a National Register property). General contractor was C. E. Atwater & Company of Grand Island, Nebraska, who also built the Walnut Jr. High School there. A local contractor, F. A. Bates, was the plumbing and heating contractor. F. C. Sutton of Lincoln contracted the wiring of the Arrow Hotel and also the Nebraska Capitol in Lincoln.

In 1931 an addition was built onto the west end of the north facade along South "E" Street. This addition housed 20 more hotel rooms and commercial rental space on the ground floor. The architect for the addition was the same as for the original hotel and he designed it with the same detailing and standards.

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

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

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet Description Item number 7 Page 2

In the early 1960's a local artist, Tom Talbot, used space in the Arrow Hotel for his art studio. During this time Talbot painted four murals which reflect the historical heritage of the community, the city's namesake and the name of the hotel itself. These murals still remain and shall remain after renovation.

Alterations to the Arrow Hotel have been very minor. One bay of the original storefront was completely removed including the brick bulkhead and replaced with aluminum storefront framing at an unknown date. Another bay of storefront has yellow tint added to the glazing and will be replaced with clear plate glass to match original. Canvas awnings were removed and replaced with aluminum stationary awnings also at a date unknown. The windows and doors on the ground floor of the 1931 addition were removed late in 1984 but are being replaced with replica windows and doors under this renovation. The detailing and design of this building still remain very much intact as the original designers, stockholders and community had intended for it to be.

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 checked="" 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 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"/> 1900-1931	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1928-31 **Builder/Architect** C. E. Atwater builder, John Latenser & Sons, Architect.

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Arrow Hotel was built in 1928 when the community saw a need for hotel accommodations of prestigious quality. Upon completion the hotel immediately became the social and community center for Broken Bow and the Southwestern Sandhills region, a sparsely populated farming and ranching community, thus playing a significant role in its history. From the hotel's beginning it has been an example of a major hostelry in a rural setting. With this and its stylistic association with the Prairie style of architecture, it has been a prominent architectural feature of the region. The Arrow is a locally prominent example of the Prairie style of architecture which found significant favor in Nebraska during this period, most particularly in principle than in stylistic detail. The hotel's architect, John Latenser & Sons, a prominent Omaha firm, designed several notable buildings in this style, including the Custer County Courthouse in Broken Bow. The same architect and architectural excellence was utilized for the 1931 addition to the hotel when the region's usage of the hotel had outgrown its original facilities.

The hotel was conceived in the members' minds of the local "Public Service Club" in late 1927. In early 1928 the Public Service Club instituted a sales campaign to raise financing for the construction and furnishing of the hotel. During this campaign a "Name the Hotel" contest was conducted in the Broken Bow High School with Helen Roberts entering the winning name of "Arrow Hotel." The Broken Bow High School also held a contest for the best essay on the need of a new hotel in Broken Bow, which was won by Opal Griffith. Both winners were given a prize of a \$5.00 gold piece. The architect was chosen in February of 1928 with the contract letting being held June 21, 1928. Actual construction began about July 1, 1928. The Arrow Hotel was open for business on December 27, 1928.

The site the Arrow Hotel occupies has been a hotel site since September of 1883 when James P. Gandy, brother of the founder of Broken Bow, Jesse Gandy, erected the two-story brick frame Commercial Hotel. The Commercial Hotel operated there for forty-four years until its demolition in 1927.

The original ownership was held by over 200 stockholders consisting of individuals and businesses. Some well-known stockholders were the American Legion, Nebraska Power Company, and J. C. Penney and Company, to name a few.

The commerce of Broken Bow and the surrounding community was directly affected by the advent of the Arrow Hotel. The hotel lobby has been referred to as the reception room of the community to its traveling guests. These guests received a greeting with pleasant decorations and furnishings, appetizing meals, as well as courteous and efficient service. The local citizens were quick to center their community and social life around the Arrow Hotel with civic and social functions being held in its banquet room and coffee shop.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property fraction of 1 acre

Quadrangle name Broken Bow, Ne

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	4	4	4	16	4	16	10	4	15	8	13	3	12	10
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

F

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

G

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

H

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots One (1), Two (2), Three (3), Four (4), Five (5), and Six (6), in Block Five (5), of J. P. Gandy's Addition to Broken Bow, Custer County, Nebraska, including all historically-related real estate.

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

state NA code county code

state NA code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Nicholas G. Powers, Project Architect

organization Oltman & Associates, P.C.

date June, 1985

street & number 425 South 7th Avenue, P.O. Box 69

telephone (308) 872-6454

city or town Broken Bow

state Nebraska

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

James A. Hanson

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Director, Nebraska State Historical Society

date 8-13-85

For NPS use only

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

for [Signature]
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 9-12-85

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet Significance

Item number 8

Page 2

Orin H. Talbot purchased controlling interest in the Arrow Hotel in 1943, in the middle of World War II, and took over management. The Talbot family operated the hotel with continuing first-class service and steady patronage.

One of the full-time residents of the hotel was the late Mariam Carleton Squires who was a musician and voice-culture teacher. Mariam came from Boston and toured nationwide with an opera entourage. Mariam also judged the Greater Chicagoland Music Contest for nearly twenty years.

Tom Talbot, a local artist, used space in the hotel for his art studio. While in the building, he painted several murals to reflect the heritage of the region. Tom Talbot has since moved to the Southwestern United States and become well known for his artwork.

Due to its location along Nebraska Highway #2 and in the business district, the center of community activities, the Arrow Hotel has been and will continue to be a landmark to travelers and local citizens alike.

The predominant horizontal facades of the Arrow Hotel along with its right angles and lack of curved features express its association with the Prairie style of architecture. Architects using this style during the early 20th century were considered pioneers due to their refusal to use the standard revival styles from the architectural past so prominent during this period.

Other hotels were built in Broken Bow before and during the life of the Arrow Hotel; however, it outlasted each and every one to stand as the only remaining monument to the hotel industry of the Southwestern Sandhills region and the era that required its services.

The Arrow Hotel is a particularly fine example on the local level of the more academic tradition in architecture. An individually distinct building, the Arrow incorporates principles of the Prairie Style of architecture which was prominently associated with both this period, and the abandonment of historicism which led to the Modern Movement. Architectural significance is enhanced by associations with the hotel's architect, John Latenser & Sons. A prominent Omaha firm, Latenser & Sons designed several buildings along Prairie style principles, including the Custer County Courthouse in Broken Bow and the Stein Brothers Building in Hastings, both National Register properties.

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

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Bibliography

Item number 9

Page 2

NEWSPAPERS:

"Beautiful New Structure Credit to Our Citizenship", Custer County Chief (January 3, 1929), Section A.

"The New Arrow Hotel the Pride of the City", Custer County Chief (January 3, 1929), Section B.

"Arrow Hotel Ends Chapter in History", Custer County Chief (October 3, 1984).

LOCAL PUBLICATIONS:

"Arrow Hotel", Centennial Inquirer (December, 1984), published by the Custer County Historical Society.

Note: On January 3, 1929, the local newspaper published two newspapers, Sections A and B, dedicated almost entirely to the Arrow Hotel. The first two listings here are those sections and information was used from many articles in these two issues.