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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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NATIONAL REGISTER

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Letona Hotel  
other names/site number Resource #WHO072

2. Location

street & number N/A  not for publication N/A  
city, town Letona  vicinity N/A  
state Arkansas code AR county White code 145 zip code 72085

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>          </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:  
Historic and Architectural Resources of White County, Arkansas

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.  See continuation sheet.

Catherine H. Buford 5-13-90  
Signature of certifying official Date  
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this 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.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Patrick W. Andrews 9/13/91  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)  
Domestic/ Hotel

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)  
Domestic/ Multiple Dwelling

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

Other: Frame/ irregular plan

foundation concrete

walls novelty siding

roof metal

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1

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Description

Standing amidst several large shade trees, the Letona Hotel is one of the few visual reminders left from the days when this small White County town was a lumber shipping point on the Missouri and North Arkansas Railroad line. The hotel, which is now used as a duplex, is intact and in good condition, and has undergone only a few minor alterations since its construction around 1910.

The two-and-a-half story, irregular floorplan is frame and covered in novelty siding. The alterations to the building include three new windows along the north, south and east elevations, a new balustrade on the second-story porch, and a brick interior chimney on the north side replacing one on the south elevation that was destroyed by fire.

The hotel's front porch extends halfway across the front (east) elevation and is divided into upper and lower levels. The lower porch is supported by large columns, while the upper porch has turned posts, a shed roof and the new balustrade. There is another porch extending halfway across the rear (east) elevation that is also supported by turned posts, although it is only a single story in height. All of the hotel's windows are one-over-one, double-hung sash. Its two original front doors leading into the interior are still intact. The foundation consists of continuous block footing; the original roof is a gable-on-hip shape covered in metal.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

COMMERCE

Period of Significance

c. 1910

1910-1939

Significant Dates

c. 1910

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

See "Historic and Architectural Resources of White County, Arkansas," Section H.

See continuation sheet

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- 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

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data** *maps*

Acreage of property \_\_\_\_\_

**UTM References**

A 

Zone	Easting	Northing
------	---------	----------

C 

--	--	--

B 

Zone	Easting	Northing
------	---------	----------

D 

--	--	--

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Jill Bayles, Historian  
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date 21 March, 1990  
street & number 225 E. Markham, Suite 300 telephone 501-371-2763  
city or town Little Rock state Arkansas zip code 72201

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**Section number   8   Page   1  

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Significance

The Letona Hotel is being nominated under National Register Criterion A with local significance for its association with and contributions to the economic development of the community of Letona. As stated in Historic Context 3: Railroad Era, Letona's birth was primarily caused by the growth of the Doniphan Lumber Mill located nearby. When the Missouri and North Arkansas Railroad line was laid through the area in 1908-09, the Doniphan Company made the necessary connections to it by building a logging railroad from the planned Letona townsite to the Ozark Plateau and then using the M & NA tracks to reach the mill from Letona. After its establishment in the early 1900's, Letona quickly grew under its milling and railroad influences. Several sawmills were constructed in town, and the hotel was built directly across from the railroad depot to house the railworkers and the lumber agents who began traveling in the area. When the Doniphan Company relocated their branch line north of Pangburn in search of uncut pine, Letona continued to ship lumber from its own sawmills and concentrated on its agricultural industry, but with its great lumbering asset gone, the need for a hotel was diminished.

Architecturally, the hotel was not built in any particular style, a practice that is distinctive of most small railroad boom towns from the turn of the century. Vernacular architecture, even for large, nonresidential buildings, was the common construction method while the railroad tracks were being laid, because the goal was to provide expedient and inexpensive housing for the rail workers, merchants and residents who quickly populated the new town. Therefore, although it does not express high artistic values or the work of a master, the Letona Hotel is a good representation of a type, period and method of construction found during the railroad era in White County, and for this reason should also be considered eligible under Criterion C with local significance.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
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Acreege of property: Less than one

UTM References:

A 15/606365/3913640

Verbal Boundary Description:

Lots 1-7, Block 25, Original Town of Letona, Arkansas.

Boundary Justification:

This boundary includes all the property historically associated with this resource.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

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White County MPS  
ARKANSAS

Date Listed

91001193	✓ Hunt, Thomas, House	7/22/92
91001325	✓ Hutchinson, L. D., House	7/22/92
91001241	James, Dr., House Substantive Review	9-13-91
91001266	Jameson--Richards Cafe	9-5-91
91001279	Jameson--Richards Gas Station	9-5-91
91001214	✓ Joiner House	7/22/92
91001197	Jones, Mark P., House	9-5-91
91001234	Judsonia Community Building Historic District	9-5-91
91001232	Judsonia High School Gymnasium Substantive Review	9-13-91
91001190	Kelly, C. D., House	9-5-91
91001252	Kimbrough, S. A., House	9-5-91
91001273	Klotz, Henry W., Sr., Service Station Substantive Review	9-13-91
91001285	✓ Klotz, Henry, Sr., House	7/22/92
91001235	✓ Larned, Capt., House	7/22/92
91001215	Lattimer House	9-5-91
91001256	✓ Laws--Jarvis House	7/22/92
91001270	✓ Lea, Harvey, House	7/13/92
91001339	✓ Leggett House	7/13/92
91001254	✓ Lemay House	7/20/92
91001329	Letona Hotel Substantive Review	9-13-91
91001224	✓ Lightle House	7/20/92
91001244	Lightle House	9-5-91
91001216	Lightle, Ben, House	9-5-91
91001226	Lightle, William H., House	9-5-91
91001315	Little, Jim, House	9-5-91
91001287	✓ Livestock and Equipment Barn, Glenn Homestead	7/20/92
91001355	✓ Lone Star School	7/20/92
91001314	✓ Lovell, Dr., House	7/20/92
91001359	✓ Maddox, E. D., Farm Chicken House	7/20/92
91001288	Marsh, Walter, House	9-5-91
91001328	✓ Marsh, Wesley, House SR 164305	7/20/92
91001330	✓ Martindale Corn Crib	7/20/92
91001319	✓ Mason House	7/20/92
91001242	Mayfair Hotel	9-5-91
91001289	McAdams House	9-5-91
91001300	McAdams, Dr., House Substantive Review	9-5-91
91001368	✓ McDonald, Emmett, House	7/20/92
91001344	✓ McRae Jail	7/20/92
91001278	✓ Methodist Episcopal Church, South	7/20/92
91001237	✓ Miller, Emmett, House	7/20/92
91001220	Mills House	9-5-91



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Letona Hotel

MULTIPLE NAME: White County MPS

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, White

DATE RECEIVED: 8/01/91 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/15/91  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 8/31/91 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/15/91  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 91001329

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 9/13/91 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

This frame hotel is architecturally significant as an example of the vernacular building types used even for public-type structures in early 20th century White County. It is also historically important as evidence of the growth of the railroad-dominated lumbering town.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept/A&C  
REVIEWER Harper  
DISCIPLINE Historian  
DATE 9/13/91

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

CLASSIFICATION

\_\_\_count \_\_\_resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

\_\_\_historic \_\_\_current

DESCRIPTION

\_\_\_architectural classification  
\_\_\_materials  
\_\_\_descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect  
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- \_\_\_summary paragraph
- \_\_\_completeness
- \_\_\_clarity
- \_\_\_applicable criteria
- \_\_\_justification of areas checked
- \_\_\_relating significance to the resource
- \_\_\_context
- \_\_\_relationship of integrity to significance
- \_\_\_justification of exception
- \_\_\_other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

\_\_\_acreage \_\_\_verbal boundary description  
\_\_\_UTMs \_\_\_boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

\_\_\_sketch maps \_\_\_USGS maps \_\_\_photographs \_\_\_presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



LETONA HOTEL White Co  
LETONA, ARKANSAS  
PHOTOGRAPHED BY J. MITCHELL  
MARCH, 1986

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP  
VIEW FROM SOUTHWEST



LETONA HOTEL  
LETONA, ARKANSAS

White Cu

PHOTOGRAPHED BY S. MITCHELL  
MARCH, 1986

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW FROM NORTHWEST



LETONA HOTEL whitecu

LETONA, ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY J. MITCHELL

MARCH, 1986

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW FROM SOUTHEAST





LETONA HOTEL

white co

LETONA, ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY J. MITCHELL

MARCH, 1986

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

PORCH DETAIL

Please refer to the map in the  
Multiple Property Cover Sheet  
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500033