

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUN 2 1975
DATE ENTERED	JUL 1 8 1975

**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

Blair Flats, (Albion Hotel)

AND/OR COMMON

Angus Hotel

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

165 Western Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Saint Paul

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

4th

STATE

Minnesota

VICINITY OF

CODE
27

COUNTY

Ramsey

CODE

123

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: apartments
under restoration

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Thomas A. Pryor, Owen Green, Thomond R. O'Brien

STREET & NUMBER

165 Western Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Saint Paul

VICINITY OF

STATE

Minnesota

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Registry of Deeds, Ramsey County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

15 West Kellogg Boulevard

CITY, TOWN

Saint Paul

STATE

Minnesota

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Statewide Historic Sites Survey/Metro Survey

DATE

1973

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Minnesota Historical Society, Bldg. 25, Fort Snelling

CITY, TOWN

Saint Paul

STATE

Minnesota

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED since 1893	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Angus Hotel dominates a prime location at the intersection of Western and Selby Avenues in the Saint Anthony Hill area of Saint Paul. The structure is divided into four distinct five storey masses separated by airways and linked on street level by stone arches. The corner portion forms the focal point and pivotal element of the building; it is dominated by a tower. The other three portions (one fronting on Western Avenue and two on Selby) are identical in mass and architectural treatment.

Architecturally, the Angus Hotel represents the high Victorian eclectic tastes of the late 1880s. A combination of materials is used throughout to accomplish design effect. Red pressed brick is used in the upper four storeys over a street level of rusticated pinkish Bayfield sandstone. Accent is provided by elaborate pressed metal bay windows which extend above the street level to the roof. The roof line is highlighted by a corbelled brick cornice above which is a handsomely moulded parapet of galvanized iron and copper. Each storey is defined by a belt-course of brick or stone which continues around diminutive tournels at the corners. These are surmounted by slate cone-shaped roofs; the similarly designed large cone over the major corner tower has been removed.

The street level retains original openings for fenestration. This level is devoted to commercial space, lobbies, dining rooms and food preparation areas. The interior of the building is constructed as to provide against spread of fire. Each area is isolated from the others by twenty-inch firewalls and floors packed with mineral wool. Stairways are of iron.

When constructed in 1887, the building was designed as apartments or flats. Each flat comprised five or six large rooms. The flats were accessible from private halls which branch off from the reception halls on each floor; these reception halls were provided with elevator access. Each flat was arranged to allow the parlor to have a large bay window with stained glass transoms and a fireplace with a cherry mantel. Other woodwork throughout is of oak. Besides the parlor were a dining room, chambers, bathroom, and kitchen. Kitchens in this building were considered extremely modern in that gas stoves were provided for cooking. In addition, the landlord provided curtains for all windows to insure uniformity when viewed from the exterior.

In 1893, the apartments were converted into hotel rooms and suites, however relatively little physical alteration was necessary. Also at that time the lobbies were paneled with oak and beveled mirrors of geometric design were installed. Since 1893 the building functioned as a hotel until it closed in 1971. It was then in a deteriorated condition, however the 1893 fixtures, decorative treatment, room arrangements, and exterior architectural elements remained. The property was purchased in 1973 and work is now in progress to restore the street level and apartments to their 1880s appearance.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input 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 1887, 1893, 1911

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Hermann Kretz and William H. Thomas

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Saint Paul architects Hermann Kretz and William H. Thomas were commissioned in 1887 to design the Blair Flats at the request of a progressive property owner named Frank P. Blair. The building was exemplary of current tastes in the high Victorian mode of architectural design and at the time of completion was considered one of the most fashionable apartment buildings in Saint Paul. It was noted in 1888 for high quality workmanship, comfort, convenience, and modern amenities. The cost totaled over \$300,000.

The building was described with reference to Blair's enterprise in 1888: "It is situated in one of the most fashionable neighborhoods of the city, and is passed, upon either side, by a principal horsecar line and cable road, making it so accessible that it is practically downtown, and yet enjoys the fresh air and residential surroundings. The man who had the courage to put enough capital into this building to make it, in every respect, a house of many homes, free from the serious objections found in a poorly-planned, cheaply-constructed building, is Mr. F.P. Blair, who has made his money in Saint Paul and is investing it here."

In 1893 the Blair was converted into a hotel and re-named the Albion. It was during this time that the apartments were transformed into suites and the building operated as a residential hotel. In 1911, the hotel changed ownership and name. It was purchased by transportation magnet Thomas Lowry and re-named the Angus Hotel to commemorate one of Lowry's oil wells. The Angus remained in Lowry's hands until 1918. From that point the hotel changed hands a number of times and the once-fashionable neighborhood went through transition and deterioration. The hotel closed in 1971.

Presently undergoing restoration, the Angus Hotel is both architecturally and commercially significant in the history of Saint Paul. It is basically unchanged since its conversion from apartments to hotel in 1893 and is one of Saint Paul's most recognized examples of fashionable Victorian architecture. The Angus Hotel also exemplifies a bygone lifestyle and economic character of a neighborhood, as well as efforts of entrepreneurs such as Frank P. Blair to develop profitable enterprises in Saint Paul.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Morrison, Andrew: Saint Paul and Minnesota (1888), p. 7 & 8. (exerp. Northwest Magazine)
 Koeper, H.F., : Historic Saint Paul Buildings, Saint Paul, 1964

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1

UTM OK
HL

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,5	49,084,0 ⁵	4,917,617,90	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Charles W. Nelson, Survey and Planning

ORGANIZATION

Minnesota Historical Society

DATE

28 April 1975

STREET & NUMBER

Building 25, Fort Snelling

TELEPHONE

612/726-1171

CITY OR TOWN

Saint Paul

STATE

Minnesota

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Russell W. Fridley

5/30/75

TITLE

Russell W. Fridley
State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

7/18/75

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

JUL 14 1975