

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Formreceived JUL 18 1985
date entered AUG 15 1985See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections**1. Name**historic Columbian Hoteland/or common Columbian Hotel**2. Location**street & number 305 N.W. Second StreetN/A not for publicationcity, town Ortonville N/A vicinity ofstate Minnesotacode 22county Big Stonecode 011**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 type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: residential

4. Owner of Property

hotel

name Larry Ischestreet & number 305 N.W. Second Streetcity, town Ortonville N/A vicinity ofstate Minnesota 56278**5. Location of Legal Description**courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Big Stone County Courthousestreet & number 20 S.E. Second Streetcity, town Ortonvillestate Minnesota 56278**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**Minnesota Statewide Historic
title Sites Surveyhas this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ nodate 1983-84☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ localdepository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office, Fort Snelling History Centercity, town St. Paulstate Minnesota 55111

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 type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Columbian Hotel is located at the northwest corner of Second Street and Jefferson Avenue at the north end of Ortonville's business district, 1½ blocks east of Big Stone Lake. The hotel is surrounded by circa 1900 commercial buildings and two parking lots.

The hotel, completed in 1892, is a good example of Victorian commercial architecture and is the largest brick commercial building standing in Ortonville. Unfortunately, the architect and contractor of the three story, L-shaped building are not known. The hotel was built on a stone foundation and is faced with soft, five course American bonded brick painted gray. The building's design is dominated by a two story woodframe tower at the southeast corner which has rectangular 1/1 sash and decorative panelling at the base of each story. The tower was once topped by a polygonal "witch's cap" roof with a flared base and a ball finial. The east facade of the building is spanned by a recessed open porch which supports the east edge of the second story. The porch is supported by fluted Tuscan columns on raised bases. Within the porch are the entrances to the lobby and the hotel restaurant, each located within a cast iron storefront with fluted piers. The lobby and restaurant areas are lighted by large rectangular windows and there was once a secondary entrance on the south facade.

The east and south facades of the hotel feature rectangular 1/1 sash on the second story and rounded arched 1/1 sash at the third story, both linked horizontally by bands of decorative brickwork near the top of each window. The building is further ornamented with a metal cornice with dentils above the first story and rockfaced limestone sills and lintels. The brick cornice at the roofline was once somewhat taller, and the brick piers dividing the bays on the east and south facades originally projected above the cornice with ball and urn-like finials. The north and west facades of the building are relatively plain, with tall segmental arched 1/1 sash. Because the hotel was built into a hill, four stories are exposed at the rear of the building. The exterior of the hotel is in fair condition and basically intact. Alterations to the exterior include painting the building gray, replacing the windows, removing the tower roof in 1959, removing a portion of the brick cornice, and installing fire escapes.

The Columbian Hotel was designed to contain a large lobby on the south side of the first story, a dining area and kitchen on the north side, a grand stairway to the upper floors, and approximately fifty rooms. Interior alterations have included redecorating the lobby with new wall coverings and a suspended ceiling obscuring the original metal ceiling, partitioning the dining area into several small apartments with temporary walls, and installing fire doors. The interior retains oak woodwork with decorative cornerblocks in the lobby, ornate pressed metal ceilings above the stairway and dining area, metal columns with ornate capitals supporting the dining room ceiling, an oak staircase, and a front desk with an oak call box used to communicate with hotel guests. The buildings is now used as a residential hotel and is for sale.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1892 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Columbian Hotel, built in 1892 at 305 N.W. Second Street in Ortonville, is architecturally and historically significant as one of western Minnesota's vanishing number of large Victorian hotels, as a good example of Victorian hotel architecture, as a building which has served as a visual and social focal point in downtown Ortonville since the 1890's, and as a hotel which contributed to Ortonville's importance as a regional trade center, seat of county government, and turn of the century resort area.

Ortonville, located at the South Dakota border on Big Stone Lake, was platted in the early 1870's, received rail service in 1879 when the Hastings and Dakota branch of the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Railroad reached the town, and became the county seat of Big Stone County in 1881. The community soon grew to become the largest town in Big Stone County and by the 1890's had a healthy business district which spanned four city blocks.

The Columbian Hotel was built during the summer of 1892 for owner Holver O. Jarsaw (1853–1899), an unmarried Norwegian-born businessman. The architect and contractor for the building are not known, although local workers Eric Borg and Henry E. Klatte and the Charles H. Betcher Lumber Company of Ortonville filed liens against the property in 1893 for materials and labor. The hotel officially opened in November of 1892 with Jarshaw as proprietor. Early advertisements boasted that the Columbian was the only "first class" hotel in Ortonville and featured forty-eight elegantly furnished rooms, steam heat, electric call bells, baths and other modern conveniences, and rates of \$2.00 and \$2.50 per day.

For over seventy-five years the Columbian remained Ortonville's largest and most luxurious hotel. It became the headquarters for travelling salesmen who arrived in town on the train and sold merchandise to retailers and individuals in the Columbian's large sample rooms. The hotel catered to farmers and businessmen trading in Ortonville, politicians and officials staying in Ortonville on government business, and travellers passing through town on the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul railroad. Located only 1½ blocks from Big Stone Lake, the Columbian became an important tourist hotel providing accommodations for summer visitors who fished and swam in the lake, visited two nearby "healing" springs, and enjoyed public and chartered excursions on the lake. From 1889–1922 the Big Stone Lake Association held Chautauques each summer on the shore of Big Stone Lake across from the hotel. The Milwaukee Road offered special rates to the crowds who attended the camps, and many participants stayed at the Columbian. The hotel dining room was the scene of many important social, political, and cultural events held in the community, and in later years the hotel accommodated hundreds of pheasant and duck hunters to visited Ortonville each fall.

Two years after the hotel was built, in 1894, it was sold to Minneapolis investor John D. Van Norman for \$9,000. From 1893–1897 the hotel was operated by Holver Jarshaw's neice, Nellie Jarshaw Scholberg, and her husband S. H. Scholberg. In 1898 the hotel was sold to George Kahler (1868–1945), a member of the Kahler family which operated a number of hotels and early hospitals in Rochester, Minnesota. George Kahler owned hotels in California and Dundas, Northfield, and Appleton, Minnesota before purchasing the Columbian. He lived in Ortonville and operated the Columbian and the Lake House, a smaller hotel built in 1881 one block north of the Columbian, until his retirement in 1908. Kahler's brother, Roy

9. Major Bibliographical References

Ortonville Independent, Oct. 13, 1932; Nov. 29, 1945; and May 14, 1980.

Big Stone Lake Assembly, Chautauqua brochure, 1893.

Sparrow, Magdelene. Unpublished research on the Columbian Hotel, Big Stone County Historical Society, Ortonville.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Less than one

Quadrangle name Ortonville Quad.

Quadrangle scale 7.5

UTM References

A 14 700080 5020040
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 9-10-11-12, Block 9, Original Plat of Ortonville.

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

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan Granger, Field Assistant

State Historic Preservation Office

organization Minnesota Historical Society

date July 1984

street & number Fort Snelling History Center

telephone (612) 726-1171

city or town St. Paul

state Minnesota 55111

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

 national state X 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 Russell W. Fridley

title Russell W. Fridley
State Historic Preservation Officer

date 6/27/85

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 8-15-85

for Helmut Eyer
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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

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received

date entered

Continuation sheet Columbian Hotel

Item number 8

Page 1

Item #8 (Significance) continued:

Kahler (1880-1932), owned and operated the Columbian from circa 1913-1932 after owning a hotel in Granite Falls, Minnesota.

The Columbian remained in the Kahler family until 1952. During the last twenty years of Kahler ownership hotel business declined considerably, largely due to widespread increases in automobile use which caused a decline in railroad passenger business, allowed tourists to travel farther from home, provided travelling salesmen with the freedom and convenience of their own cars, and reduced the number of people who stayed overnight in Ortonville on business. As competition from automobile-oriented motels increased, the Columbian's transient business declined even further and it became primarily a residential hotel. The Columbian has been owned for the past twenty-eight years by Larry Ische, but it is presently for sale.