

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED AUG 9 1978
DATE ENTERED SEP 21 1978

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

AND/OR COMMON

Flatiron Hotel

(D009:1-45)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1722 St. Mary's Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Omaha

VICINITY OF

Second

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Nebraska

CODE

031

COUNTY

Douglas

CODE

055 ✓

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Union Casualty Underwriters

STREET & NUMBER

100 Aquila Court

CITY, TOWN

Omaha

VICINITY OF

STATE

Nebraska

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Register of Deeds, Omaha/Douglas Civic Center

STREET & NUMBER

1819 Farnam Street

CITY, TOWN

Omaha

STATE

Nebraska

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Omaha City Architecture

DATE

1977

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Cynthia Schneider, 314 North 67 Street

CITY, TOWN

Omaha

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 DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The triangular-shaped Flatiron Hotel is located in downtown Omaha on a block bounded by 18th Street, Howard Street, and St. Mary's Avenue, prominently displayed to the westbound traffic on the arterial St. Mary's Avenue (see photo #6). Augustus F. Kountze, prominent local banker and land-owner, had the building erected in 1911-12 for commercial/office use. Within two years it was adapted into a hotel by Payne & Slater, local realtors.

The steel frame structure faced with brick and limestone trim was designed in the Georgian Revival style with symmetrical facades and simple detailing. The main entrance is placed in the center of the St. Mary's Avenue side. The wall above the entrance projects slightly as was typical of the style and topped by a wall cornice, frieze, and metal railing. The cut-stone lintels, keystones, and skewbacks and corbelled brick and metal cornice are prominent features of the facades. The circular corner tower is strategically placed at the apex of the triangle and is high-lighted by elongated brick chaînes and the stone antepagment around the second story window with its iron balustrade above the console-supported sill.

The main floor plan, divided into several rental units, is presently rather complicated in internal arrangement. The original condition is not presently known. The original entrance from St. Mary's Avenue presently leads to a small lobby with access to a finely detailed curved stairway which occupies a triangular-shaped space at the center of the building. Above, the plan becomes more coherent. Suites and rooms occupy the perimeter of the building. Access is via the triangularly arranged hallway which surrounds the triangular stairway, adjacent light-court and three interior rooms. A double-loaded hallway extends from the apex of the triangular hall to provide access to the acute corner of the building.

The first floor frontage originally had large glass windows with transoms separated by piers; however, it has been remodeled several times. The main entrance has also been altered and the Howard Street entrance was added in 1948 (see photo #2).

The Flatiron has been operated as a hotel to the present day by several different owners. Rehabilitation as an apartment house is currently being planned.

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-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1911-12; 1913-14 ~~BUILDER~~/ARCHITECT George B. Prinz, Omaha

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The major significance of the Flatiron Hotel lies in its unique contours in the Omaha streetscape. The Flatiron took advantage of the unusual-shaped site to create a three-sided landmark in downtown Omaha. A triangular block is most unusual in Omaha which was platted on a grid plan and no other building in the city has used a triangular site as dramatically as this. St. Mary's Avenue is the only street which cuts diagonally through downtown. For several blocks east of the hotel, the Flatiron dominates the two street views.

Architect George B. Prinz has more or less applied the Georgian Revival style to the exterior with the symmetrical facade on the St. Mary's Avenue facade, slightly projecting wall surface at the entrance and the trim. An Ohio native, George B. Prinz (1864-1946) was educated at M.I.T., possibly where he met Thomas R. Kimball of Omaha as a fellow student, and studied for two years in Europe. Prinz moved to Omaha in 1891 to work for Kimball who was starting an architectural practice. Thomas R. Kimball was Omaha's most prominent architect (see Omaha Public Library, Douglas County and Hall County Courthouse, NRHP). Prinz began his own firm in 1909 and practiced until 1940.

Augustus F. Kountze, the original owner of the building, was a member of one of the most prominent banking families in Omaha. Kountze Brothers banking office was opened in 1857 by his father Herman and his four brothers. The banking office is now First National Bank. The Kountze Brothers were extensive land owners in the city, Nebraska, Iowa, and Minnesota. The land on which the hotel stands was platted by Augustus Kountze, his uncle. The Kountze Brothers also organized banks in Denver, Cheyenne and New York and Augustus F. and his two brothers were the owners and managers of the New York bank after the death of the first generation.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Omaha North, Nebr.,--Towa

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,5	25,37,4,0	4,57,10,6,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Penelope Chatfield, Preservation Historian; D. Murphy, Architect

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Nebraska State Historical Society

July, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

1500 R Street

(402) 432-2793

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Lincoln

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

Marion D. Knott 8/1/78

TITLE

Director, Nebraska State Historical Society

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

R. B. Rettig

DATE 9/21/78

ATTEST: William Velovich

DATE Sept 21, 1978

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	AUG 9 1978
DATE ENTERED	SEP 21 1978

CONTINUATION SHEET Bibliography ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

Landmarks, Inc. file on Flatiron Hotel. MS. filed with Cynthia Schneider 314 N. 67 Street, Omaha, Nebraska.

Omaha World-Herald, Nov. 30, 1946, page 18, George B. Prinz obituary.

Sanborn-Perris Map Co., Insurance Maps of Omaha, Nebraska, New York, 1887, 1890, 1905.

Sorenson, Alfred. The Story of Omaha from Pioneer Days to the Present Times. Omaha: National Printing Company, 1923.

Votava, Benjamin A., A.I.A., Omaha, Nebraska. Measured Drawings, December 22, 1977.

Whiffen, Marcus. American Architecture Since 1780. Cambridge, Mass.: M.I.T. Press, 1969.