

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED APR 16 1982  
DATE ENTERED

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 BOULDER DAM HOTEL

AND/OR COMMON Boulder City Inn

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 1305 Arizona Street

n/a NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN Boulder City n/a VICINITY OF CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Nevada-at-large

STATE Nevada CODE 32 COUNTY Clark CODE 003

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 type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	n/a 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 Clifford E. McCorkle

STREET & NUMBER 275 Hill Street, Suite #24

CITY, TOWN Reno n/a VICINITY OF STATE Nevada 89501

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Clark County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER 200 Carson Ave

CITY, TOWN Las Vegas STATE Nevada 89101

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE none

DATE  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

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

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Boulder Dam Hotel filled an important function during the construction of Hoover (Boulder) Dam. The Colonial-Revival hostelry was constructed in three stages beginning in 1932. Originally U-shaped, the structure became H-shaped by 1935. It has been in continuous use as a hotel since its construction, and retains a high degree of integrity.

Oriented to the north, it is located on Arizona Street, close to the historic business district. It is in close proximity to all of the Reclamation-era governmental structures that stepped down from the promontory which overlooks the town. As the original plantings have matured, the hotel is situated close to areas of lush vegetation and trees.

The two-story structure sits on a foundation of reinforced cast-in-place concrete. The exterior walls are constructed of small-scaled concrete block. All windows are multi-paned sliding sash. The front (north) elevation is dominated by the two-story porch with square paneled columns. The main entry is topped by a pediment and is flanked by pilasters and quoins. All other elevations have a similar formal disposition of windows.

The original building was three bays wide and occupies the western-most portion of the structure. In 1934, the dining room and additional hotel rooms were added to the northeast corner. The entrance was moved one bay to the east and the porch was extended east as well. In 1935, another addition of the same size was built on the south-west corner, resulting in the H-shaped configuration.

The current owner rehabilitated the lobby, dining areas and some suites after purchasing the hotel in 1980. The rest of the rooms are basically unaltered, featuring, among other things, the original tiled bathrooms.

# 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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" 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 1933-1941

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Major P.S. (Jim) Webb

Webb Construction/ Unknown

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Boulder Dam Hotel is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places because of the unique role it played in the Hoover Dam construction project.

The bill authorizing the funds for the construction of Hoover Dam was signed by then President Calvin Coolidge in 1928. Actual construction however, did not begin until 1931. Thousands of workers were attracted to the area and most chose to live near the dam site in tents or other temporary buildings. In 1931, the Bureau of Reclamation spent some two million dollars to build a town on a high plateau seven miles southwest of the dam site. The new town of Boulder City was a "government town". It reached a peak population of around 8,000 at the height of dam building activities, but declined rapidly after the dam was completed (1935).

The construction of Hoover Dam was the largest undertaking the U.S. Government had undertaken since the Panama Canal. As a result, it became an instant tourist attraction, drawing hundreds of prominent visitors and government bureaucrats. Unfortunately, there was no place for these people to stay that was befitting their station in life. Recognizing this, a frequent visitor to the area, W.F. Grey, proposed to build a hotel in Boulder City. He applied for and was granted a building permit by the Bureau of Reclamation on April 1, 1932. P.S. Webb began construction of the Boulder City Hotel in 1932 and completed it in 1933. The hotel's grand opening was in December of that year.

In 1935, with the dam nearing completion, P.S. Webb (the builder of the hotel) recognized the tourist potential of the dam and the newly created Lake Mead. He founded Grand Canyon-Boulder Dam, Inc. a multi-faceted tourist agency based in Boulder City. One of Webb's first actions was to purchase the Boulder Dam Hotel. Heavy advertising by this tourist agency brought ever increasing numbers of people to the Boulder Dam Hotel. The hotel was a popular, elegant and prestigious resort up and into the 1940's.

The onset of World War II however, changed this pleasant and economically prosperous picture. With the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor in December of 1941, security at Hoover Dam and other strategic facilities along the west coast was greatly increased. Tours were forbidden and civilian traffic over the dam was closely monitored. These restrictions, gas rationing, and the general tone of the times greatly reduced the tourist trade. The hotel business in Boulder City plummeted.

The Grand Canyon-Boulder Dam Tourist Company began selling off its concessions. One victim was the Boulder City Hotel. Since then the hotel has gone through a series of owners and uses. Its condition deteriorated, although its integrity was never

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Las Vegas Sun Magazine - June 1, 1980 and June 8, 1980 - newspaper articles  
 The North Las Vegas Times - September 8, 1980

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/4 acre  
 UTM REFERENCES

A	1 1	6 9 5 6 6 0	3 9 8 3 6 2 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Commencing at the NW corner of Lot 15 in Block 20 (block plats of Boulder City, Nevada), thence south 86° 15' west 122.0 feet to the Point of Beginning; thence continuing south 86° 15' west 100 feet; thence south 03° 45' east 198 feet; thence north 86° 15' east 100 feet; thence north 03° 45' west 198 feet to the Point of Beginning.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A			
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Ana Beth Koval, Historical Architect and Charles D. Zeier, Archeologist

ORGANIZATION	DATE
<u>Nevada Div. of Historic Preservation and Archeology</u>	<u>June 17, 1980</u>
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
<u>201 So. Fall St., Rm. 106</u>	<u>885-5138</u>
CITY OR TOWN	STATE
<u>Carson City</u>	<u>Nevada 89710</u>

# 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

*William E. Nigro*

TITLE Alternate SHPO

DATE April 7, 1982

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
<i>William H. Brogan</i>	DATE <u>7.13.82</u>
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	
ATTEST: <i>Patrick W. Anclut</i>	DATE <u>7/13/82</u>
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Boulder Dam Hotel

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**CONTINUATION SHEET**    Significance    **ITEM NUMBER**    8    **PAGE**    2

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seriously jeopardized. The property came into the hands of its present owner in January of 1980. He has rehabilitated the lobby and restaurant and has begun on the rooms.

Visitors at the hotel included the infamous, the famous and undoubtedly, the common.

Politicians.

Harold Ickes (Secretary of the Interior)  
Senator Robert Taft (Ohio)

Far Eastern Royalty:

Maharajah of Indore

European Royalty:

Duchess of Westminster  
Crown Prince Olav & Princess Martha of Norway

Movie Stars:

Leo Garcey ("Dead End Kids")  
Boris Karloff  
Shirley Temple

Notorious:

Hellfire Evangelist Minnie Kennedy and her  
"conman" husband "Whataman" Hudson

Church Officials:

Dignitaries of Catholic Church including to be  
Pope Pius XII

Others:

Widower of Amelia Earhart (George Putnam)  
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Jordan (Fibber McGee & Molly)

The hotel is only 49 years of age. Boulder City however, is 51 years old. Therefore, the hotel does date to the earliest years of the community and draws its historical significance from the 1933 to 1941 period when it was a "king pin" in the tourist industry of the southwest. Given this context, the building does have exceptional significance as a reminder of Boulder City's early history.