

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**



**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 Rogue Elk Hotel

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 27390 ^{OR} Highway 62 not for publication

city, town Trail vicinity of _____ congressional district Fourth

state Oregon code 41 county Jackson code 029

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 type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input 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 checked="" 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 Mr. and Mrs. Joseph D. Haselden

street & number 27390 Highway 62

city, town Trail vicinity of _____ state Oregon 97541

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jackson County Courthouse

street & number Eighth and Oakdale Streets

city, town Medford state Oregon 97501

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Inventory of Historic Properties has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1979 federal state county local

depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office, 525 Trade St. SE

city, town Salem state Oregon 97310

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		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Rogue Elk Hotel, built in 1916, was designed by Charles Power, a Medford architect, and financed by W. G. and L. E. McDonald. Architecturally it is an eclectic building and combines elements of Colonial Revival style (the balustrades and portico supported by colossal square columns) with characteristics of Western Stick style (namely, a wide veranda, exposed outriggers, and obvious selection of wood for all building purposes).

Originally a resort hotel, the Rogue Elk had a commercial use for the first forty years of its existence. It is a single building standing on the north side of Highway 62 about halfway between Medford and Crater Lake. It is currently used as a residence by its owners and is in fair condition. Little has been changed structurally on the exterior or interior, but decorative details need attention. The battered wood siding which enclosed the basement has been replaced with plaster. Balcony sections and balustrades are missing and may be replaced. Stabilization and conservation of the existing building is critical. The owners have seriously considered rehabilitation and reopening of the structure for public use.

The Rogue Elk Hotel is located in N.E.1/4, N.E.1/4, Section 36 of T.33S., R.1W., W.M., and occupies Tax Lot 700 (2.30 acres). It stands facing the highway and the Rogue River which parallels the road on its south side. The total area of the resort has been reduced in size from its original condition, but neighborhood and adjoining lands remain in appearance much the same as when the hotel was built. The area has not been highly developed and remains rural in character. The river, of course, is a prominent feature in the landscape and its proximity to the hotel is indicated on the topographical map included with the application.

The hotel is rectangular in shape and has two stories. The formal plan includes a central hall on the first story which runs from front to back with parlors and dining rooms to the side. On the second story the central hall runs the length of the building from end to end wall with ten guest rooms available. A shed addition on the east elevation which was added many years ago is in poor condition. The wood frame structure has four inch lap siding. The foundation rests partially on large rock and has been firmly reinforced underneath with log and beam shoring. Originally lap siding shielded the foundation area from view. Plaster currently serves the same purpose. Replacement of the wood siding will contribute to the integrity of the building.

The roof is flat over the main block of the hotel and a gently pitched roof covers the gable at the front which projects over the verandas and is supported by four twenty-six foot paneled columns topped with abstract capitals. The main roof is composition; the gable roof is wood-shingled.

A two-tiered veranda surrounds the front and sides of the Rogue Elk Hotel, although the top level is not covered. Central doors above the entry on the second tier allow full use of the upper veranda. Five columns on each side of the veranda contribute its support. They are topped with abstract capitals which are miniature copies of the main column capitals. Wide front steps were described at the time of construction as, "the widest of any in Jackson County." The veranda railing on the

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first level is composed of small round logs of varying dimension and remains intact. The railing on the second level of the veranda is missing on the sides of the building, but exists at the covered porch under the central gable. The balustrade around the top of the roof line is missing.

Exposed and extended rafters under the veranda's second level, and under the wide eave overhand at the top of the hotel contribute the building's Stick style character. Additional decorative details include a panelled frieze around the sides and front of the top of the portico and panelling on the columns themselves. Corner boards on the first level of the house are plain; on the second level they become wide, and panelled pilasters. The front stair railing matches railing on the main building. Two posts shown in the photograph of the Rogue Elk Hotel at its construction, are missing and have been replaced. There are two interior stone chimneys.

The windows are one-over-one double hung with plain trim and sills. On the south and front elevation are eight windows. On the east elevation are five windows and double glass doors with ten lights each. The west elevation are seven windows and double glass doors like the others. One door goes to steps and the hillside. A wooden door now gives entry to the basement area. It is wood and has large metal hinges. On the north and rear elevation are four windows on the second story, one window in a hall halfway between levels, and four windows on the first floor. There is one central wood door with three panels and one glass light. The front and central door has a large glass light, and is framed by a transom and sidelights.

The interior of the Rogue Elk Hotel retains its original spatial organization. There are four main rooms downstairs which lead from the central hall. A room on the right was a social area and contains a large river rock fireplace which is estimated to weigh 90 tons. The lodge room is served by it and the dining room, also on the right side of the hall shares its use. The owners currently are living in the space which was the dining room. On the left of the hall is one large room which was used for dancing. In the front, on the left of the central hall, is an office.

The interior wall material is lath and plaster. All doors off the central hall are wood and have five panels. The plain trim around interior doors and windows has a rustic appearance; the vertical trim boards extend up past the horizontal board. Wide wood baseboards are in the side rooms. The wood floors are fir. Large brass electric light fixtures remain in several rooms. ✓

The stairs are dark stained wood. It is a closed string, dog leg stair and there are three large newel posts; one on the ground floor, the landing and the second floor. A skylight at the top of the stair has been closed in. A large central

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hall leads to ten bedrooms on the second story. From one guest room a door leads to the veranda. Stoves were originally used for heat; a furnace has been installed to warm family living quarters.

Much of the original furniture remains, some of which was designed and constructed by W.G. McDonald. Included are commode sets, benches, mirrors, hatstands, square oak tables and chairs, bedroom sets, rockers and squarebacks.

The original park-like surrounding of the hotel has deteriorated. Mr. McDonald's widow described flower gardens and wide lawns which extended from the house to the main road, and the local paper described "twenty acres which will be cleared up and beautified as a park and general resort." ² The land remains around the building but needs complete rehabilitation. Two large cedar trees have been allowed to grow at the front and partially obscure the building from view.

A restaurant which has been constructed on the property is run by the owners as their family business and serves local population as well as tourists. A small store nearby currently houses a craft shop. A Jackson County Assessor's map gives the square footage and relative position of these non-historic buildings on the property, and is included with the application.

¹Medford Mail Tribune, July 17, 1916

²Medford Mail Tribune, January 5, 1916

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1916 **Builder/Architect** Architect: Charles Power

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Rogue Elk Hotel is a well-known vintage resort hotel in Jackson County. Built in 1916, it was planned specifically to accommodate vacationers and tourists along the highway to Crater Lake. The hotel is thirty-three miles from Medford and is located near the Rogue River at the mouth of Elk Creek. At the time of its construction, auto travel was becoming a popular pastime, and Rogue valley residents flocked out of the heat and into mountain campgrounds and vacation sites. Highway 62 led to Crater Lake and was one of the heaviest travelled area roads during the summer months. According to local tradition, Herbert Hoover and Zane Grey were among celebrities who stayed at the Rogue Elk Hotel while fishing the Rogue River.

The projected reopening of the hotel for its original use is an exciting prospect. The Rogue Elk Hotel's significance regionally as a resting place for travellers and sportsmen remains as viable today as it was sixty years ago. Architecturally, the hotel is significant because it is a distinctive example of Beaux-Arts eclecticism in which the clapboarded Colonial Revival Style is elaborated by wide overhanging eaves on outriggers and by battered base walls.

W.G. McDonald, a Canadian artist, conceived the idea for the Rogue Elk Hotel after his arrival in Medford about 1914. He hired Charles Power, a Medford architect to draw up the plans, and in 1915 Mr. McDonald and three of his brothers began building the hotel. Early in 1916 the local paper announced that the resort was nearing completion:

"...the hotel is a substantial structure, built wholly on modern lines of architecture of its type. It's interior is spacious and most conveniently designed. It will be devoted to the accommodation, convenience and entertainment of pleasure parties and tourists during the season of vacation and sport, leisurely travel and sightseeing."¹

Mr. W.G. McDonald's widow, now ninety years old, described her husband's dream of owning a resort that would attract people who had money; tourists who were travelling to view new places, as well as local people who wished to spend evenings dining and dancing. An attraction planned by W.G. McDonald was an exhibit of his paintings to be hung throughout the main resort building.²

The Rogue Elk Hotel opened for the season on July 22, 1916 under the management of L.E. McDonald. Two hundred guests motored from Medford to attend the affair.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Medford Mail Tribune, January 5, 1916, July 17, 1916, July 24, 1916.
 Oral Communication, Mrs. Gretchen Johnson, (widow of W.G. McDonald) Medford, April, 1979.
 Portland Oregonian, April 14, 1929
 Jackson County Deed Records, Volume 200, page 133.

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property 2.30 acres

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle name Trail, Oregon

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References

A

1	0	5	1	9	9	2	5	4	7	2	3	1	2	5
Zone		Easting						Northing						

B

Zone		Easting						Northing					

C

Zone		Easting						Northing					

D

Zone		Easting						Northing					

E

Zone		Easting						Northing					

F

Zone		Easting						Northing					

G

Zone		Easting						Northing					

H

Zone		Easting						Northing					

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Rogue Elk Hotel is located in NE 1/4, NE 1/4 Section 36, T.33S., R.1 W., of the Willamette Meridian, and occupies Tax Lot 700, Jackson County Oregon, Assessors Plat 33 1W 36AA.

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

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kay Atwood

organization _____ date May 16, 1979

street & number 102 South Pioneer Street telephone 482-8714

city or town Ashland state Oregon 97520

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

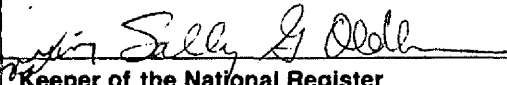
The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title State Historic Preservation Officer's Designee date December 1979

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
	date <u>2/22/80</u>
Attest: <u>W. Ray</u>	date <u>1-28-80</u>
Chief of Registration	

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"The interior of the building was beautifully decorated with masses of ferns and flowers, banked in the fireplaces and corners. The furnishings were pleasing; most of the furniture being made by the McDonald brothers and upholstered with an inlaid effect in different skins...The resort promises to be especially popular with its cool evenings, its excellent accomodations and beautiful scenery for week end parties."³

The resort operated for several years, but suffered severe financial reverses when the stock market crashed. After Mr. McDonald's death, his widow sold all their interest.⁴ The building was no longer used as a hotel after the mid 1950's and four owners owned the building before its purchase by Mr. and Mrs. Haselden. The Haselden family has occupied the hotel and used part of it as their residence during past years.

The unique eclectic quality of the Rogue Elk Hotel is created by a combination of decorative and structural elements. The frame materials, encircling veranda, tall columns supporting a portico, and wide expanse of front stair remain intact. Individual decorative details are missing; particularly noticeable is a railing around the second veranda level, and a balustrade at the top of the building. Both can be replaced without compromising the architectural integrity of the structure. The over-all feeling the building gives, the eclectic combination of classic and rustic details, continues to be entirely recognizable and intact. Alterations and additions have not detracted from the significance of the property. It's most critical need is for stabilization of the existing structure and for work to begin for its restoration.

The Rogue Elk's historical significance is tied to its location. In its appearance, structurally and decoratively unchanged, the hotel reflects accurately the time when automobile travel was just beginning and the local paper kept constant count of the number of tourists travelling along Highway 62 during the season. The brochures and travel maps printed during the first part of the century in Jackson County oftened mentioned the Rogue Elk Hotel.

"The hotel is situated about thirty-three miles from Medford on the main highway to Crater Lake. Its location has been most conveniently and happily selected as a resort. The landscape about it is, in appearance, wild, wierd and rugged. It possesses a charming grandeur peculiar to the wilds of the upper Rogue country."⁵

Fishing and hunting parties, Crater Lake visitors and week end travelers throughout Southern Oregon continue to drive along Highway 62. The hotel is still halfway to

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Crater Lake, and its location along the bank of the Rogue River make that particular road one of the area favorites. The owners' hope of restoring the hotel and providing accomodation for travelers, would be the best possible use for the building. Stabilization and restoration will preserve the architectural integrity of the Rogue Elk Hotel to complement it's continued use for the original purpose. The Rogue River, Lost Creek Lake, and Crater Lake continue to draw thousands of vacationers and sportsmen and make the potential of the Rogue Elk Hotel as promising as ever. It is unique in the southern Oregon area and its condition and promise warrant its retention and eventual use.

¹Medford Mail Tribune, Saturday, January 5, 1916

²Oral Communication, Mrs. Gretchen Johnson, (widow of W.G. McDonald), Medford, Oregon, April, 1979

³Medford Mail Tribune, July 24, 1916

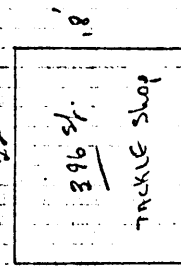
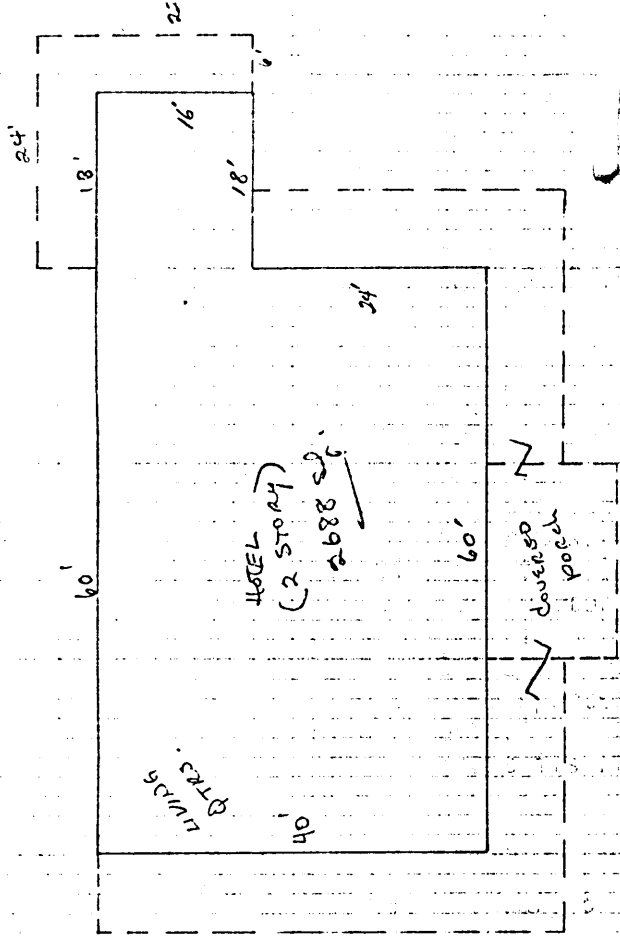
⁴Jackson County Deed Records, Volume 200, page 133

⁵Medford Mail Tribune, January 5, 1916

Rogue Elk Hotel/Restaurant

33 LW 36 AA TL 700

YR BUILT	TYPE	DIMENSIONS	AREA	TYPE	HIGH	LENGTH	AREA
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Rest. 10 x 30 = 300
22 x 22 = 1584
1884 sq.



Restaurant and Tackle Shop
are NOT as close to hotel
as map indicates.

Gravel Parking Area

JAN 14 1980