



---

**6. Function or Use**

---

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/HotelCommerce/Business

---

---

---

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Social/Civic

---

---

---

---

**7. Description**

---

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Second Empire/Mansard

---

---

---

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concretewalls wood/weatherboard

---

---

roof wood/shingleother                     

---

---

---

**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

The Pavillion Hotel is located at the junction of Murry Street and U.S. Highway 183 in Taylor, a small town in the north-central Nebraska Sand Hills. The two story, with full attic floor, frame hotel has undergone interior and exterior alterations throughout the years to accommodate a range of businesses including the local newspaper and a small grocery store. The mansard style building is the region's only extant example of a first generation, wood-frame latitudinal block hotel. A prominent regional landmark since its construction in 1887, the hotel exhibits good integrity. The nomination consists of one contributing building.

-----

The Pavillion Hotel is located at the intersection of Murry and Third Streets (U.S. Highway 183) in Taylor, Nebraska, a north-central Sand Hills county seat community (population 183; 1980 census). The town features a one block square public park surrounded on all sides by businesses and a one-story, 1950's courthouse. The majority of buildings surrounding the park are one story with some vacant lots between buildings. The frame mansard roof hotel is the largest structure in the community and has occupied a visually prominent site northeast of the public square since 1887.

Built by Vermont native Herman Carter in anticipation of the railroad's arrival, the hotel remained open and functioned as a hotel, apartments, and commercial space although the entire county was ultimately bypassed by the railroad. One of the remaining structures associated with the town's early commercial development, the Pavillion is a good example of a first generation, wood-frame hotel. Although interior and exterior changes have occurred through time to accommodate the building's various commercial uses, it retains characteristics of a latitudinal block hotel. The Pavillion is also an unusual Sand Hill's example of the Mansard style; the third floor features a shingled, mansard roof with full length dormer windows.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

---

The hotel measures 42 by 55 feet, forming a rectangular mass; the two main facades--south and west--front Murry Street and U.S. Highway 183, respectively. An early photograph, (c.1890) depicts the building's original hotel block form and signage. The main entrance was centrally located on the south, or widest facade with the words, "Pavillion Hotel" painted on the building between the second and third floors. The other entrance was located near the southwest corner of the west facade; the word "Pavillion" was painted on the west side between the second and third floors. The photograph also provides evidence of the original kitchen, a one-story gable roof addition which extended from the north side of the building.

The hotel's full attic floor has a distinctive mansard roof with patterned shingles and full length, pedimented dormer windows on the west and south facades. Originally the number and placement of the dormers matched the fenestration of the second floor; three on the west facade and five on the south. An additional dormer was located on the east. Prior to the 1930's, the attic floor was converted into apartments which divided what had originally been a ballroom. At that time, or during subsequent remodelling in the 1950's, several dormer windows were removed; four on the south facade and one on the east.

A circa 1910 postcard view of the building indicates that the addition of a porch was also an early remodelling. The porch, with simple classical columns, extended the length of the west facade, then curved around to the south entrance. According to a county history (Smith, 1940), by the late 1930's the hotel was being used for office space and apartments. A c.1935 photograph shows the south section of the porch enclosed; by the 1950's the remaining porch areas were also enclosed.

The Pavillion has accommodated a variety of commercial and professional uses in addition to providing lodging. The first-floor rooms were originally used as the owner's living area, lobby, and hotel dining room which was open to lodgers and the general public. The one-story kitchen wing, located on the building's north side, was removed in the 1950's. By the 1930's, the hotel was also used for office space by professionals such as a judge, and the first floor housed such businesses as the local newspaper. In the 1940's and 1950's the first floor has housed a

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

---

variety of small businesses including a corner grocery store. Today the space is used by a non-profit organization, Prairie Pantry, which provides aid to local rural families in need.

The building's second floor retains the hallway and room arrangement which characterize it as a latitudinal block hotel. These buildings are multiple story, rectangular or predominantly rectangular structures with rooms located above first-floor public space (e.g. lobby, dining area). Because of the large number of block hotels, the type has been subdivided into latitudinal and longitudinal, which refers to the spatial relationship between the main entrance and the corridors. The Latitudinal block type, such as the Pavillion, is characterized by a main entrance on the widest facade of the building's rectangular mass; the upper floor corridor with rooms, thus extends parallel to the main entrance facade.

Seven rooms and one bathroom are located off the second-floor corridor. The hallway forms a "T" shape where it extends approximately 15 feet along the interior stairwell to access the third floor. The second floor rooms are located on both sides of the corridor and at each end, and are approximately 9 by 15 feet. One large room, measuring 15 by 16 feet is located at the southeast corner and may indicate a later remodeling. The attic floor ballroom is not intact; the space was divided into apartments prior to 1930 and the original dance floor was removed later.

A prominent regional landmark since its construction over one-hundred years ago, the building has undergone some deterioration. Local support for its preservation and listing in the National Register, however, has been tremendous; a county historical society which had been inactive for 30 years reorganized when the building's future seemed uncertain. The local historical society, along with the current owner and other area residents, hope to see the Pavillion reopened to the public, possibly as a local history museum.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)  
Commerce

Period of Significance  
1887-1939

Significant Dates  
na

Cultural Affiliation  
na

Significant Person  
na

Architect/Builder  
Carter, Herman

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Pavillion Hotel, constructed in 1887 in Taylor, has been compared to similar properties on a statewide basis and was found to be significant on a regional level under Criterion A. It has been evaluated within the Retail Commerce context for the Sand Hills Region and found to be significant for its association with the commercial development of the village and as a representative of first generation hotels, built between 1854 and 1900. The hotels built during this period, as exemplified by the Pavillion, were typically two-story wood-frame buildings of the general property type, Hotel Blocks. In many instances these commercial structures were constructed in anticipation of the railroad passing through the town, or in response to business activity that resulted from an existing railroad line. Not only is the Pavillion a good example of a first generation wood-frame hotel, it is also a rare example of a hotel that continued to operate despite the fact that the railroad bypassed the community. Placed within this context, the importance of the Pavillion Hotel is clear. The period of significance begins in 1887 when the hotel was built and ends in 1939 which marks the fifty-year minimum age criterion of its continuing commercial significance to the community.

In 1887 Herman Carter, a Vermont native who had moved to Nebraska just two years earlier, built the Pavillion Hotel in Taylor, a small settlement in north central Nebraska. Carter believed that in the near future the railroad would arrive in Taylor--it had reached Burwell, thirteen miles to the east earlier that year--and he wanted to be ready with a fine new hotel. Unfortunately for Carter and the settlement of Taylor, the railroad did not arrive. Despite this, the Pavillion Hotel

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Miller, Greg. "Retail Commerce: Towns in the Sandhills Region." Historic Context Report 12.02.08. Lincoln, NE: Nebraska State Historical Society, 1989.

Murphy, David R. "Hotels." Property Type Analysis 12.3.1. Lincoln, NE: Nebraska State Historical Society, 1989.

Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office: "Final Report for Reconnaissance Survey": Blaine, Brown, Cherry, Grant, Hooker, Loup, Rock and Thomas Counties. Lincoln, NE: Nebraska State Historical Society, 1988-89.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property Less than one acre.

UTM References

A 

1	4
---	---

4	6	18	5	10	10
---	---	----	---	----	----

4	16	2	4	2	6	10
---	----	---	---	---	---	----

  
 Zone Easting Northing

B 

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

  
 Zone Easting Northing

C 

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D 

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Lot 7, West 8 feet of Lot 8, Block 3, original town plat of Taylor, Loup County, Nebraska.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses all land historically associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Carol Ahlgren, Architectural Historian/Greg Miller, Preservation Historian  
 organization Nebraska State Historical Society date August 1989  
 street & number 1500 R Street telephone (402) 471-4787  
 city or town Lincoln state Nebraska zip code 68501

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 2

remained open and has served the town and region in a variety of capacities for over one-hundred years.

While the construction of the Pavillion Hotel may be interpreted as a speculative venture, in 1887 it was a sound business investment. Within two years of its opening, several railroad companies had filed articles of incorporation and many miles of grade were being built throughout the county. At the time, a severe drought and the beginnings of an economic depression postponed laying of track. Loup County, however, had approximately 18 post offices, new businesses, and several frame hotels, including the Pavillion, built in anticipation of the railroad's arrival.

By the early 1890's the economic depression and drought were in full force; settlers who had not left the area were on relief. A major railroad company, the Chicago Burlington & Quincy, had established nine miles of grade through the county, then it, too, abandoned plans for laying track. The miles of established railroad grade would later be used for portions of state and local highways. Potential rail transportation to Taylor, however, terminated at Burwell, 13 miles east in Garfield County and at Sargent, less than ten miles south in Custer County.

Only two Loup County towns--Almeria and Taylor--survived the lack of railroad lines. Although Taylor's population has never been greater than a few hundred people, its continued existence was assured when it obtained county seat designation in 1883; Almeria was never incorporated.

The Pavillion Hotel is significant as one of the remaining structures associated with the development of commerce and the settlement of Loup County and the surrounding area. The two story with full attic floor mansard roof building exhibits a scale and stylistic elaborateness that is a testimony to its builder's anticipation of prosperity. Although there would be rumors of rail extention to Taylor even after the turn of the century, Taylor and the entire county would be bypassed. The Pavillion Hotel nonetheless remained open and was utilized by a variety of Taylor's commercial interests. As the most substantial commercial building in the area, the hotel also provided office space for a variety of professionals, including a judge and the local newspaper.

Several first generation frame hotels--the Union Hotel, the Farmer's Hotel, and the Snurr House, were built in Loup County in

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 3

---

the 1880's; none are extant. The on-going Nebraska State Historic Buildings Survey (NEHBS) has been completed for the northern Sand Hills region which includes Loup County. Other regional non-railroad towns--in Blaine, Cherry, Hooker, Loup and Thomas counties--have no extant hotels. On a statewide basis, two first generation wood-frame hotels, the Hendee Hotel in Cozad (DS02-004) and the Hotel Defair (GT02-002) in Grant County, were listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979. Both hotels, however, were built in railroad towns.

The Pavillion Hotel is a good example of a first generation, wood-frame, hotel that clearly contributes to the significance of the Retail Commerce context for the northern Sand Hills region under Criterion A. Unlike many other hotels that survived because of the railroad in other parts of the state, the Pavillion remained open although the railroad bypassed Taylor; its continued use for various commercial interests demonstrates its importance to the community and region.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 2

---

Smith, Thurman. "Loup County," in Who's Who in Nebraska.  
Lincoln, NE: Nebraska Press Association, 1940.

Switzer, Colleen. The Settlement of Loup and Blaine Counties.  
Broken Bow, NE: Purcell's Inc., 1977.