DATA SHEET

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY – NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries – complete applicable sections)

STATE:
Oklahoma
COUNTY:
Washington

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
APR ≠ 1975	

1. NAME

COMMON:

Dewey Hotel

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Delaware & Don Tyler Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:

Dewey

Dist. No.

STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Oklahoma	40	Washington	147

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☒ Building ☐ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object	☒ Public ☐ Private ☐ Both Public Acquisition: ☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered	☐ Occupied ☐ Unoccupied ☒ Preservation work in progress	Yes: ☒ Restricted ☐ Unrestricted ☐ No

PRESENT USE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

☐ Agricultural	☐ Government	☐ Park	☐ Transportation	☐ Comments
☐ Commercial	☐ Industrial	☐ Private Residence	☐ Other *(Specify)*	
☐ Educational	☐ Military	☐ Religious		
☐ Entertainment	☒ Museum	☐ Scientific		

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NATIONAL REGISTER

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

Washington County Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:

Box 255

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE
Bartlesville	Oklahoma	40

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Office of the County Clerk

STREET AND NUMBER:

Washington County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE	CODE
Bartlesville	Oklahoma	40

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

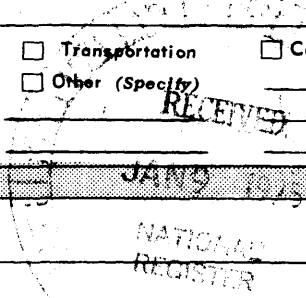TITLE OF SURVEY:

Special Dewey Hotel Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: **1967**   ☐ Federal ☐ State ☒ County ☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

Washington County Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:

Box 255

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE
Bartlesville	Oklahoma	40

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Oklahoma

COUNTY: Washington

ENTRY NUMBER

APR 4 1975

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	(Check One)					
CONDITION	☐ Excellent	☒ Good	☐ Fair	☐ Deteriorated	☐ Ruins	☐ Unexposed

(Check One) Basically	(Check One)
☐ Altered ☒ Unaltered	☐ Moved ☒ Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Dewey Hotel is basically a 35 x 85-foot, three-story frame structure in the Victorian style. (A shallow extension to the northeast gives it a 50-foot frontage on Delaware - on the east.) The 28-room building sits in the southeast corner of a 150 x 140-foot plot. Double porches with modestly gingerbreaded posts and railings enclose the street sides of the hotel's first two floors, on the south and east. The third story consists of dormers, a pair of small, ornamental towers on the northeast and southwest, and a larger, more elaborate tower, topped by weathervane, over the southeast corner entranceway. It was this third floor "cupola" or tower room that served as sometime gaming room where fortunes made in cattle and oil were occasionally wagered and lost.

Jake Bartles began construction of his hotel in the spring of 1899. Sand rock for its foundation was quarried in the Osage Hills, about five miles to the northwest, hauled to the site by wagons. The lumber, except for some oak beams and walnut lumber cut near by, was shipped in. The hotel was opened for business May 1, 1900. Though not an elaborate hostelry, it was sturdily built, comfortably furnished, and well maintained. A piano in the parlor made it a popular and fashionable rendezvous for the town when this was the largest and most impressive structure in the entire region. Oldtimers also commented appreciatively on the attractiveness of the dining room. Bartles was a gracious host and the hotel seems to have reflected much of his spirit.

In later years, of course, it declined physically, as its usefulness to the community waned. But it remained structurally sound and recent restoration work has made it once again an attractive Victorian showpiece. The first floor is now open to visitors.

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REGISTER
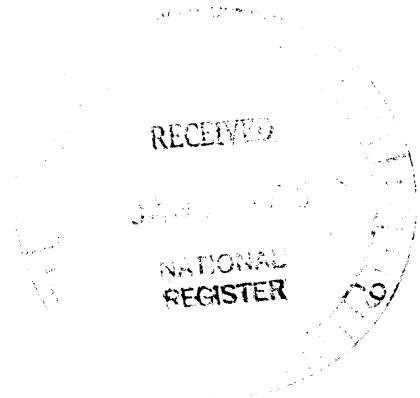
SEE INSTRUCTIONS

PERIOD *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

☐ Pre-Columbian | ☐ 16th Century   ☐ 18th Century   ☒ 20th Century

☐ 15th Century   ☐ 17th Century   ☐ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) *(If Applicable and Known)*   **1900-1967**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE   *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

Aboriginal   ☐ Education   ☐ Political   ☐ Urban Planning

  ☐ Prehistoric   ☐ Engineering   ☒ Religion/Phi-   ☐ Other *(Specify)*

  ☐ Historic   ☐ Industry   losophy   _____

☒ Agriculture   ☐ Invention   ☐ Science   _____

☐ Architecture   ☐ Landscape   ☐ Sculpture   _____

☐ Art   Architecture   ☒ Social/Human-   _____

☒ Commerce   ☐ Literature   itarian   _____

☐ Communications   ☐ Military   ☐ Theater   _____

☐ Conservation   ☐ Music   ☐ Transportation   _____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Dewey Hotel is a three-story Victorian monument to a successful Territorial businessman and the once-important frontier town he helped build.

Jacob H. Bartles, ironically enough, gave his name to the nearby oil city of Bartlesville (which he helped found in 1875). But it was on the site of Dewey -- a siding on the railroad line he and other area boosters had just built into Indian Territory from Kansas -- that he built his impressive hotel. At the time the only other building in the vicinity was a log cabin.

Bartles came to the Territory in 1873, established a log cabin trading post at Silver Lake southeast of Bartlesville. Two years later he bought a gristmill on the bank of Caney River in what is now Bartlesville, moved his store and trading post operation there. Within a year he had hauled in a dynamo, begun to produce Oklahoma's first electricity. In 1884 two of his stepsons, with another man, ran four-mule team wagons down from Kansas to establish the area's first freight line. Around his store and camp a town was beginning to develop. The bringing in of Oklahoma's first commercial oil well in 1897 (the Nellie Johnstone No. 1, now on the National Register) assured its success and it was incorporated as Bartlesville in 1897. That same year the region's first telephone line connected Bartles' store and that of a rival with Caney, Kansas. Meanwhile Bartles was working on the rail line from Caney, later sold to the Santa Fe.

Then in 1899, the year the first train arrived on the site of Dewey, I. T. (four miles north of Bartlesville), Jake Bartles shifted his loyalty to the new town and devoted the relatively few remaining years of his life to boosting it. He started construction of the Dewey Hotel in the spring of 1899, while still in the process of moving his general store up from Bartlesville. (Built of heavy walnut timber, the two-story store building was extremely difficult to move. Although steel rails on logs were put under it, oxen were able to budge it only inches at a time. Yet despite the fact it took three months to complete the move, the Bartles family continued to live upstairs and keep the store open for business!) The hotel was still unfinished in the fall of 1899 when the new town's Union Sunday School began meeting in it.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Weston, Edgar, E., _The Dewey Hotel_, Washington County Historical
Society, 1967

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY		O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES	
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		36° 47' 57"	95° 56' 15"
NE	° ' "	° ' "			
SE	° ' "	° ' "			
SW	° ' "	° ' "			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **Less than one acre**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
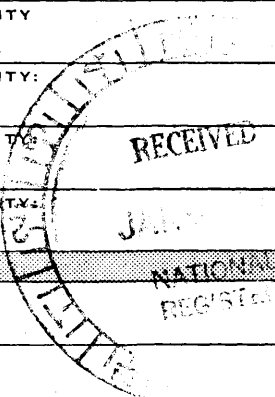
11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Kent Ruth

ORGANIZATION

Oklahoma Historical Society

DATE

August 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:

Historical Building

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE	CODE
Oklahoma City	Oklahoma	40

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☒   State ☐   Local ☐

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

_____

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

_____

Keeper of The National Register

Date APR 3 1975

Form 10-300a
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE
Oklahoma
COUNTY
Washington

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APR 4	1975

(Number all entries)

No. 8. Significance - 2

Dewey Hotel

Dewey's present Baptist, Methodist, and Christian churches are outgrowths of this Union Sunday School.

The Dewey Hotel was completed and opened for business in May 1900 and for the next several decades it served all the traditional functions of a small frontier town's leading hostelry. Its dining room was the fashionable place for Washington Countians to enjoy their Sunday dinner. The setting was comfortably impressive, the food excellent. Its parlor was a favorite meeting place, too. Mrs. Bartles often entertained in it. And in the early years school graduating classes held receptions there. As for the guest rooms, they accepted all comers -- Jake Bartles was widely recognized as a courteous and congenial host -- and as a succession of oil booms brought additional development to the region, the guest register was signed by such important industry figures as Michael Cudahy, T. H. Barnsdall, P. D. McConnell, and Frank Phillips.

The hotel's (and town's) biggest single event was undoubtedly the September 1908 Civil War Reunion to which Bartles invited the 6th Kansas Cavalry, the regiment he had served as captain. Bartles was ill then, but he wanted to see his old comrades again, to show them a good time. He arranged for a roundup featuring steer roping and bronc busting. Born then and there, the Dewey Roundup has continued to grow until it is now one of the state's best. Jake Bartles, however, was unable to do more than sit on the porch of his hotel and greet his friends. About a month after the reunion, on Oct. 18, 1908, he died.

The Dewey Hotel did not close, finally, until 1965. But as the oil booms waned and Dewey settled back into comfortable small town status (nearby Bartlesville attracted the permanent development), it declined gradually, too. Finally in 1967 it was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. O. A. Patridge and donated to the Washington County Historical Society. Restoration to its turn-of-the century appearance is now well under way. In the meantime, it is open to visitors ... a still impressive symbol of pioneer enterprise, a worthy monument to an enterprising, frontier entrepreneur with vission and the rambunctious little town he created in his own image.