

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received APR 9 1986

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Hotel Aldridge

and or common Same

2. Location

street & number Third and Wewoka Streets N/A not for publication

city, town Wewoka N/A vicinity of

state Oklahoma code 40 county Seminole code 133

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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	N/A being considered	<input checked="" 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 Mrs. Ella Ligon

street & number Third and Wewoka Streets

city, town Wewoka N/A vicinity of state Oklahoma 74884

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of County Clerk

street & number Seminole County Courthouse

city, town Wewoka state Oklahoma 74884

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1984 federal state county local

depository for survey records Oklahoma Historical Society

city, town Oklahoma City state Oklahoma 73105

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Hotel Aldridge is a four-story, commercial building with basement floor. The wall finish is polychromatic brick laid in the running bond. It is rectangular (50' x 140') and has a flat roof with 2' parapet on all sides. The property is situated on the southwest corner of Wewoka and Third Streets with a two-story commercial building adjoining it on the north and parking spaces on remaining three sides. A square-shaped interior chimney stack, approximately 3' high, is located on northeast corner roofline.

The first story of facade includes a central entrance with double, glass-paneled, metal doors flanked by long rectangular-shaped sidelights of fixed panes. To the south of entrance is a set of three fixed pane display windows with wood surrounds. To the north of entrance is one display window with two fixed panes. Fenestration of second through fourth floors of facade include two vertical bands of 8/1 double-hung wood windows at corners and two vertical bands of 4/1 double-hung wood windows which flank a center band of three openings filled with three different window types. Second floor center window is a French-type casement with twenty lights. The third floor center window is an 8/1 double-hung wood type and fourth floor is louvered air vent.

The south side first floor consists of a large display window near southwest corner, eight 8/1 double-hung wood windows, two small 4/1 double-hung wood windows, and three wood paneled doors with transoms to the east of the basement entrance. The second through fourth floors of south side contains ten vertical bands of 8/1 double-hung wood windows, one vertical band over basement entrance consisting of French-type casement window on second and 8/1 double-hung wood windows in third and fourth floors, and two bands of smaller 4/1 double-hung wood windows on either side of the band with casement window.

The first floor of the rear has three wood paneled doors with the one nearest southeast corner a double type. All have panes in upper half and are transomed. One 8/1 double-hung wood window is located to the north of the double door. Second through fourth stories of rear have three vertical bands of openings. The two bands nearest corners are 8/1 double-hung wood type and the center band consists of three French-type doors with four lights in upper half. A metal fire escape is attached to center section.

The north side fenestration above the two-story adjacent building replicates the upper two stories of the south side.

Decorative elements are minimal, however, ornateness is applied to the building through the effective use of the contrasting red and brown colors of brick finish. The most striking uses of this treatment include the brickwork frieze of diamond-shaped patterns, quoin-like red brick marking corners, red brick rowlock sills, and red brick segmental arch and surrounds of the second story center window in facade.

Alterations include replacement of original display windows near northwest and southwest corners of building and metal canopies added over first floor facade, basement entrance of south side, and rear service door. These changes were made in the 1950s.

These minor alterations do not detract from the overall architectural integrity of the Hotel Aldridge which has remained an important historic landmark in downtown Wewoka for more than 57 years.

CONTRIBUTING RPOPERTIES

One (1) Building

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 1927-1935 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Hotel Aldridge is both historically and architecturally significant because:
 (1) it is the oldest oil boom era hotel which remains intact in Wewoka, Oklahoma, and
 (2) it is the best remaining example of Plains Commercial architecture in Wewoka, Oklahoma.

Constructed in 1927, four years after the Wewoka Pool of the Seminole Oil Field was opened, the Hotel Aldridge was the first permanent lodging facility to be built in Wewoka as a result of the boom period. Established in the late 1890s when the Rock Island railroad laid tracks through the area, Wewoka until 1923 had been primarily a trading center for the Seminole Indians and county seat for Seminole County. By 1920, population census indicate that Wewoka's inhabitants numbered 1,520.

Then came the discovery of the Seminole Oil Field near Wewoka in 1923. Wewoka's population experienced a phenomenal growth rate of more than 800 percent to 10,401 according to Morris, The Greater Seminole Oil Field (p. 12). When the boom began, there were only two blocks of business buildings along Wewoka Street. Lodging facilities, no matter how meager, were in short supply and the early "boomchasers" pitched tents, camped on the ground, or secured lodging in garages, basements, storehouses, woodsheds, or nearby farm homes. Even the Seminole County Courthouse was converted into a rooming house. Hastily erected housing, such as shotguns, followed the "tent city" stage. As the commercial and social environment of Wewoka stabilized, more permanent structures were necessary in order to accommodate oil field businessmen who migrated in and out of the fields to transact business concerning sale of lease sites, production and marketing of petroleum, and transportation of crude oil and gas to distant refineries.

Wewoka's two block business district expanded south from the Rock Island station. The new commercial buildings were primarily brick because of the dangers to wooden structures from potential oil field fires. Located in this new section of Wewoka's business district, the Hotel Aldridge was the first multi-storied brick hotel to be constructed in the oil boom town. Built at a cost of \$150,000, the Aldridge was not only the first of the permanent oil boom hotels, but also the largest and reported to be the finest facility of its type south of Oklahoma City.

Financed, owned, and operated by E. C. Aldridge, local political figure and petroleum executive, the hotel was the social and commercial focal point of downtown Wewoka during the boom years of 1927 to 1935 when production in the Seminole Oil Field began to decline. The four-story structure housed the most popular restaurant in Wewoka (Fred Berry's Waffle House), a banquet room, and office space including Aldridge's Land and Royalty Company. According to newspaper accounts and local residents, the Aldridge was the location where petroleum executives met to transact deals as well as entertain out of town visitors.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Wewoka Democrat, June 16, 1927; Wewoka Capital-Democrat, December 22, 1927; and Wewoka Times, November 30, 1966.

Barking Water: The Story of Wewoka. Oklahoma City: Semco Color Press, 1960.

Morris, John, The Greater Seminole Oil Field. Oklahoma City: Western Heritage Books, 1981.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Wewoka East, OK

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	4	7	2	8	5	5	8	3	8	9	3	1	1	0
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

South $\frac{1}{2}$ of Lot 10 and all of Lots 11-12, Block 47, Original Townsite of Wewoka, OK.

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Judy Hettich Supervised by Dr. George O. Carney

organization Department of Geography

date February, 1984

street & number Oklahoma State University

telephone 405-624-6250

city or town Stillwater

state Oklahoma 74078

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

C. Emptey

3-31-86

title

date

For NPS use only

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

William B. Bushong
Keeper of the National Register

date

5/14/86

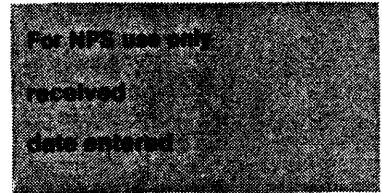
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 2

The nominated property represents the best example of Plains Commercial architecture in Wewoka.

Typical of small town Great Plains commercial buildings which evolved during the early twentieth century, the Aldridge Hotel is rectangular shaped with a flat roof and modestly decorated. Ornateness is applied to the building through the effective use of a polychromatic wall finish (contrasting red and brown brick). The most striking uses of this treatment include the brickwork frieze of diamond-shaped patterns, quoin-like red brick marking corners, red brick rowlock sills, and red brick segmental arch and surrounds of the second story center window in facade.

In 1958, Floyd Scroggins converted the hotel into the Hotel Aldridge Retirement Center which houses twenty-three apartments for senior citizens. Two businesses occupy office space in the first floor thereby retaining its historic integrity of providing housing and office space for Wewoka.

The Hotel Aldridge has remained intact for more than 57 years and stands as a reminder of its significance to the commercial history of Wewoka during the oil boom period of 1927 to 1935.