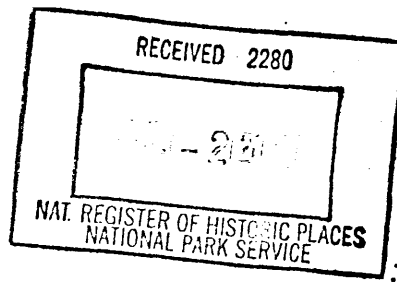


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable". For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name Hotel Chadron
Other names/site number Railroad YMCA, Olde Main Street Inn, DW03-23

2. Location

Street & number 115 Main Street Not for publication
City or town Chadron Vicinity
State Nebraska Code NE County Dawes Code 045 Zip code 69337

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Wendell Sommer
Signature of certifying official
Director, Nebraska State Historical Society
State or Federal agency and bureau

6/26/02
Date

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

State or Federal agency and bureau

Date

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 see continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.
 see continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): _____

Frank McCallum 8/15/02

Signature of Keeper Date of Action

Hotel Chadron

Name of Property

Dawes County, NE

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- x Private
Public-local
Public-state
Public-federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- Building(s)
District
Site
Structure
Object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows for Buildings, Sites, Structures, Objects, Total. Values: 1, 0, 0, 0, 1.

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC-Hotel
SOCIAL-Civic (YMCA)

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC-inn
COMMERCE/TRADE-bar/restaurant

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ITALIANATE

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Foundation STONE

Walls BRICK

Roof ASPHALT

Other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Hotel Chadron

Name of Property

Dawes County, NE

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** Removed from its original location.
- C** A birthplace or a grave.
- D** A cemetery.
- E** A reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** A commemorative property.
- G** Less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE

MILITARY

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

Period of Significance

1890-1952

Significant Dates

1890, 1891, 1903

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Unknown

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 for additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: _____

Hotel Chadron

Name of Property

Dawes County, NE

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than one

UTM References (place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet).

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1.	13	663452	4743899	3.			
2.				4.			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Michael Anderson, Master of Arts candidate
organization Chadron State College date 12/7/01
street & number 527 King Street telephone 308/432-6817
city or town Chadron state NE zip code 69337
name/title Bill Callahan
organization Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office date 4/8/02
street & number 1500 R Street telephone 402/471-4788
city or town Lincoln state NE zip code 68501-2554

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name/title Jeanne Goetzinger
street & number 115 Main Street telephone 308-432-3380
city or town Chadron state NE zip code 69337

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determined eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, (15 USC 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Hotel Chadron

Name of Property

Dawes County, NE

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Section 7 Page 1

The Hotel Chadron is located in Chadron, Nebraska (2000 pop.5,634) the Dawes County seat. Chadron is located in the Pine Ridge section of Nebraska's Panhandle, an area characterized by steep, pine-covered bluff and hill formations intersected by river and creek bottoms. The Pine Ridge, in the far northwest of the Panhandle, is often viewed as the out runner of the Black Hills of South Dakota. Chadron is approximately twenty miles south of the South Dakota border, sixty miles from the Wyoming border and 425 miles northwest of the state capital, Lincoln. Chadron's older commercial district, where the Hotel Chadron is located, is situated towards the bottom of a low ridge, which rises southwards into residential neighborhoods and Chadron State College. The Hotel is located at the corner of First and Main, just north of the historic alignment of the Fremont, Elkhorn and Missouri Valley railroad (later the Chicago & Northwestern). Northward, the city ends within a few blocks, and the view is of a vast landscape towards the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and the Black Hills.

The Hotel Chadron was built in 1890, and is a three story brick building constructed in the Italianate style. The Hotel is approximately 68' X 76'. The first floor primary (east) façade has two entries, one in the center and one on the south end. A large picture window, just north of the entry, was created by combining two original window openings. Three windows remain to the left (south) of the central entry and one single window remains to the right (north) of the picture window. The first floor secondary (north) façade windows were bricked in, with one window converted to a new entry in the 1970's.

On the south side of the Hotel, a 1 ½ story 1980's police station virtually abuts, though is not attached to, the building, covering the first floor windows and partially covering the second floor. The south end door, added to provide egress to the upper level rooms, replaced a window and was added to the hotel when the police station was built.

The second and third stories each have seven 1/1 double hung windows on the primary façade and three on each floor of the north secondary façade. The original arched window openings are clearly visible, however the openings themselves have been reduced in size to accommodate smaller windows by recessed, infill plywood. The smaller openings accommodate double-hung windows. With the two door exceptions noted above, changes in the window and door openings were all apparently done during the Hotel's period of significance, sometime in the 1940's by the Ford family (see Sec.8, P.3).

The rear of the Hotel is a two story addition apparently completed in 1903. There is some circumstantial evidence that the addition is some ten years earlier, though no concrete evidence exists to mitigate evidence that the addition was constructed in 1903. (Sec. 8, P.3) The exterior of this addition, not readily visible from the public right-of-way, has good integrity from its date of construction. On the alley adjacent to the addition the current innkeeper maintains a semi-formal garden and meditation space.

The window openings of the Hotel Chadron retain the rounded arch configuration typical of Italianate architecture. The Hotel retains its relatively heavy, decorative pressed-metal Italianate cornice, and retains a symmetrical appearance, again indicative of the Italianate style. A stone stringcourse runs between the first and second and second and third floors at the ceiling level.

The original hotel lobby was converted into a lobby/bar in the early 1950's by the Glover family (see Sec. 8, P.3), a use for which it continues. Behind the bar/lobby, which runs almost the entire north/south axis of the building, original public and service spaces continue to be used as public spaces. Further west on the first floor, the 1903 addition, originally a YMCA recreational space, retains much of its open character in its use as a dining hall, kitchen and service area.

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Hotel Chadron

Name of Property

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Section 7 Page 2

The second floor of the 1903 addition was converted into living space by the Ford family, and is currently a four bedroom living area for the current owners/proprietors of the Olde Main Street Inn. This space opens out onto the innkeeper's semi-formal garden.

The second and third floors of the Hotel Chadron maintain their basic configuration since construction. The hallways and entry/egress remain from the historic period. However, the original twenty six overnight rooms from 1890 have been connected and converted into four suites and six individual rooms, with two more of the original spaces having been converted into storage.

With the exception of the construction of the adjacent police station and associated door, the addition of a door on a secondary (south) façade, and some of the recent conversions of original rooms to suites, all of the changes in the Hotel Chadron occurred during the building's period of significance, 1890-1952. According to the latest data available from the Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey, the Hotel Chadron is one of only four 19th century hotels extant in the entire Nebraska Panhandle. The hotel has been a working hotel, YMCA and Inn for 112 years, and the majority of the changes made to the building do not detract but enhance the historic character of the Hotel.

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Hotel Chadron

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Section 8 Page 1

The Hotel Chadron was built in 1890 by Peter and Margaret O'Hanlon, after their previous hotel endeavor, the Chadron House, was destroyed by fire.¹ The Chadron House was constructed in 1885, the same year Chadron was incorporated, in order to service travelers and workers on the Fremont, Elkhorn and Missouri Valley railroad. Surveyors from the FE&MV platted Chadron, and the town served as this important regional railroad's western terminus for about a year.² The Chadron House was located adjacent to the FE&MV tracks and the Hotel Chadron, built to replace it, was constructed on the same spot.

The Hotel Chadron was formally opened to the public on August 8, 1890. The need for a hotel in the vicinity was made plain by the local paper, which crowed: "...the hotel is already almost full with steady boarders and it will soon be the chief headquarters for railroad men and get a great portion of the transient trade for which it is so well adapted."³ When opened, the Hotel Chadron boasted forty-six total rooms* and twenty-nine rooms "...fitted up in first class condition for the public...there not being a room in the house without a transom." The room rate was two dollars per day.⁴

In late December, 1890, four months after the Hotel Chadron opened, a band of Miniconjou and Hunkpapa Sioux led by Chief Big Foot left the Pine Ridge Indian agency just northeast of Chadron. Though mostly unarmed, the band was considered hostile and was intercepted by the U.S. Army 7th Cavalry. On December 29th, nearly 300 of Big Foot's band, including women and children, were massacred at Wounded Knee creek by the 7th Cavalry. Wounded Knee was (is) in the new state of South Dakota, a little over sixty miles northwest of Chadron.

On December 30, Major General Nelson A. Miles arrived in Chadron with 190 men and officers and established his headquarters at the Hotel Chadron.⁵ Previously, Miles had been quartered in Rapid City, South Dakota. However, that city was (is) located farther from Wounded Knee than Chadron, and Chadron was (is) located only about twenty miles from Fort Robinson. Fort Robinson was the primary military installation in the region, and the closest to Wounded Knee. Indeed, elements of the Eighth Infantry and Ninth Cavalry, based at Fort Robinson, were the first additional Army units on the scene after the massacre.⁶

Nelson Miles was a bona fide Civil War hero, eventually being awarded the Medal of Honor for his service during the War, and reached the rank of brevet Major General. After the war, he was retained in the regular army as an officer with the rank of full Colonel. Miles was an integral and significant military leader during the United States war on Native Americans at the end of the frontier period. In December 1890, when the Wounded Knee massacre occurred, Miles was in command of the Department of the Missouri, the command structure under which U.S. forces in the Pine Ridge area operated.⁷ To his credit, Miles had for some time been attempting to convince his superiors in Washington D.C. of the volatility of the situation at the Pine Ridge. In Miles' opinion, this volatility was due primarily to the lack of adequate provisions provided to Native Americans sequestered in the area.⁸

Immediately after the Wounded Knee massacre, Miles moved his headquarters to the Chadron Hotel to lead the investigation of the tragedy.⁹ Within two weeks he excoriated the officer directly responsible for the massacre, writing: "To

* The *Democrat* article refers to 46 total rooms, which apparently include dining, public, service and office areas, as well as rooms for rent.

¹ Chadron *Democrat*, "Hotel Chadron" August 7, 1890

² Dewing, Rolland, ed. *Chadron, Nebraska Centennial History*. (Freeman, SD: 1985) pp. 22-23

³ Chadron *Democrat*, August 14, 1890.

⁴ Chadron *Democrat*, "Hotel Chadron" August 7, 1890

⁵ Chadron *Democrat*, "At Wounded Knee" January 1, 1891

⁶ Buecker, Thomas R. et al *Fort Robinson National Historic Landmark boundary revision*, April 2001. Section 8, pp. 11-12

⁷ Official Web Site of the Arlington National Cemetery. www.arlingtoncemetery.com/namiles.htm

⁸ Wooster, Robert. *Nelson A. Miles & the Twilight of the Frontier Army*. (Lincoln, NE 1993) P. 185

⁹ Jensen, Richard R., Eli Paul and John Carter, *Eyewitness at Wounded Knee* (Lincoln:1991) P. 48 and Chadron *Democrat*, "At Wounded Knee" January 1, 1891.

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Hotel Chadron

Name of Property

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Section 8 Page 2

overcome the failures caused by others, either through blind stupidity or criminal indifference, I have had much additional work (to prevent further bloodshed). I think Col. Forsyth's action about the worst I have ever known. ... There must have been nearly 100 women and children killed."¹⁰

It is unclear how long Miles stayed at the Hotel. Some indications are that he was there only a short time, perhaps as little as part of one day. However, regular newspaper advertising for the Hotel was suspended for two weeks after Miles arrived, indicating some type of activity continued there. In any event, after more than one hundred years the words "Wounded Knee" still evoke images of tragedy and outrage, and the Chadron Hotel had a minor but visible role in the drama, regardless of the amount of time Miles himself spent there.

Peter and Margaret O'Hanlon ran the Hotel Chadron until 1901, when they closed the doors and trekked to California.¹¹ In January of 1903, the building was sold to the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad Young Men's Christian Association (Y.M.C.A.). The Chicago and Northwestern Railroad donated money to buy the building, and in turn the Y.M.C.A. was utilized by the C&N to house train crews. Additionally, the "Railroad Y" constructed a two-story addition to the original hotel. There is some circumstantial evidence that the addition was completed before the Railroad Y opened. However the most solid evidence points towards the addition being completed by the Y.

This addition, on the rear of the building, was built to house a leisure center which included a tennis court, bowling alley, boxing ring, wrestling facilities and a basketball court. The Railroad Y's stated aims were to furnish "A place for recreation and social gathering under wholesome conditions and under Christian supervision for the men, women and boys and girls of Chadron and Dawes county" and to provide "Low-priced and convenient rooms for railroad trainmen running into Chadron."¹²

The Railroad Y recreational facilities were also used by the Chadron Academy, a Congregational Church school and the first school in Dawes county to provide what we would now call a post-secondary education. Later, the Chadron Normal School, now Chadron State College, used the Railroad Y's facilities. The Railroad Y's use by the Normal School was prompted in part by a response to the Nebraska State Board of Education's report that established the school. The report stressed the import of physical training, and the provision of an existing facility must have had great appeal when electing Chadron for the home of the Normal school over competitors such as Alliance and Gordon.¹³ In 1917, a telegraphy school was established at the Railroad Y, offering the era's version of communications training to the area.¹⁴ The Railroad Y operated until September 4, 1931, when the building was foreclosed upon, perhaps the victim of the Great Depression.¹⁵

Ed and Ada Ford purchased the former Hotel Chadron and Railroad Y building in 1932, and re-opened it as the Commercial Hotel. The Fords made the first major change in the building since the Railroad Y built their recreational facility by partially closing the hotel windows with smaller sashes, adding the large picture window and eliminating one entry. The Fords operated the Commercial until the early 1950's, when it was purchased by John and Maude Glover. The Glovers made the next major change to the building, converting the lobby space into a new type of public space: a bar.¹⁶ Finally, the Hotel was sold to Evva Gore-Bracken in 1969. At that time, Ms. Gore-Bracken converted the old Y space, long since deteriorated into a dirt-floor open space used for storage, into a bar and service area. Currently, the Olde Main

¹⁰ Johnson, Virginia W. *The Unregimented General: A Biography of Nelson A. Miles*. (Boston:1962) pp. 289, 294-295

¹¹ Hourt, Moni. "Chadron Hotel Stitched into History" The Crawford Clipper 1992 Summer Edition, P.26

¹² *Automatic Time Book, Chicago Northwestern Ry. Year 1930*. (Rapid City, SD:1929) P.6 and Hourt, Moni. "Chadron Hotel Stitched into History" The Crawford Clipper 1992 Summer Edition, P.27-28

¹³ Marshall, Con. *The Story of Chadron State College: 1911-86*. (Freeman, SD: 1986) P. 15

¹⁴ Hourt, Moni. "Chadron Hotel Stitched into History" The Crawford Clipper 1992 Summer Edition, P.27

¹⁵ Building Abstract

¹⁶ Hourt, Moni. "Chadron Hotel Stitched into History" The Crawford Clipper 1992 Summer Edition, P.28

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Hotel Chadron

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Street Inn is operated by Evva's daughter, Jeanne Goetzing, as a bar/restaurant and Bed and Breakfast. The Olde Main Street Inn operates four suites and six single rooms in the original Hotel Chadron. Two more of the original living spaces are currently used for storage. The public space layout of the living (hallways, entry, egress and stairway) areas are historic, and the small original overnight rooms have been expanded to accommodate the suites. For the most part, however, the original configuration of the rooms are in evidence. The first floor of the Railroad Y addition is used as a dining and service area, and the area above this space is reserved for the residence of the current owner/operators. The converted lobby continues to operate both as a bar and as the lobby for incoming guests.

A data search of the Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey reveals twelve possibly extant hotels in the eleven county approximately 37,000 square mile Nebraska Panhandle region. Of the twelve hotels thought to be extant, four have been so significantly altered as to be nearly unrecognizable. Of the remaining eight hotels in the NEHBS Panhandle inventory, only four were constructed in the 19th century. One of these, the Phelps Hotel in Deuel county, (NRHP 1970) is a small frame structure. Of the other three, the Crawford Hotel, last field checked in the late 1980's, has unknown physical integrity, and has a competing construction date of 1912 indicated in the database. Another is the 1888 Blaine Hotel in Chadron, which has significant integrity problems, and has never been evaluated by the NESHPO for National Register eligibility. The DeFair Hotel in Hyannis, Grant County (NRHP 1976), just outside the Panhandle region, is a 1898 wood frame Second Empire structure. Though significantly altered the DeFair is still a remarkable building, yet not comparable in scale or type of construction with the Hotel Chadron, located @ 135 miles northeast of Hyannis.

In sum, according to field investigation and the most current NEHBS data, the Hotel Chadron is, by any definition, one of a rare type of historic structures in this part of Nebraska. The Nebraska Panhandle is an immense, sparsely populated region that was literally one of the last areas of the continental United States to be occupied by white settlers. As the NEHBS data indicates, 19th century hotel structures are exceedingly rare. The Hotel Chadron, though physically altered through time, still exhibits the fundamental aspects of a 19th century hotel, and the most significant alterations have taken place within the Hotel's period of significance. Although non-historic alterations made over time (primarily the conversion of the Y recreation facility into living and business uses) preclude nominating the Hotel Chadron under Criterion C, the alterations are not sufficiently egregious as to preclude the Hotel's ability to convey its significance under Criterion A.

The Hotel Chadron has served the City of Chadron as a place of accommodation, recreation and conviviality for 112 years. It has also born witness to one of the most tragic and notorious episodes in the long and sad history between Native Americans and the U.S. government. The Hotel Chadron's connection to Wounded Knee, through association with General Miles' stay, is a small but significant aspect of Western United States history, and the Hotel is the only known civilian building in Nebraska known to be associated with the tragedy. The Hotel Chadron, constructed only five years after the City of Chadron was incorporated, has prevailed through the "Indian Wars" years, railroad boom periods, the Great Depression and through to the modern area. Though still a railroad and ranch town at it's heart, the City of Chadron has grown beyond that to become a center of higher education and a tourist destination, a regional center of commerce with a nearly mythic Western history. Through all this, the Hotel Chadron has changed with the City, moving from a tough railroad hotel to a public facility and on to its current use as a popular tourist Bed and Breakfast. The Hotel Chadron, still looking much as it did when Nelson Miles knew it, has been and remains an integral part of Chadron's history.

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Hotel Chadron

Name of Property

Dawes County, NE

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Section 9 Page 1

Bibliography

Abstract of Title to the lots 17, 18,19,20 and 21, Block 4 of the Original Town of Chadron, County of Dawes, State of Nebraska

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www.arlingtoncemetery.com/namiles.htm

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Buecker, Thomas R. et al Fort Robinson National Historic Landmark boundary revision, April 2001. Located in files of Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office

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Chadron Democrat, August 14, 1890

Chadron Democrat, January 1, 1891

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Continuation Sheet**

Hotel Chadron

Name of Property

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Section 10 Page 1

Verbal Boundary Description:

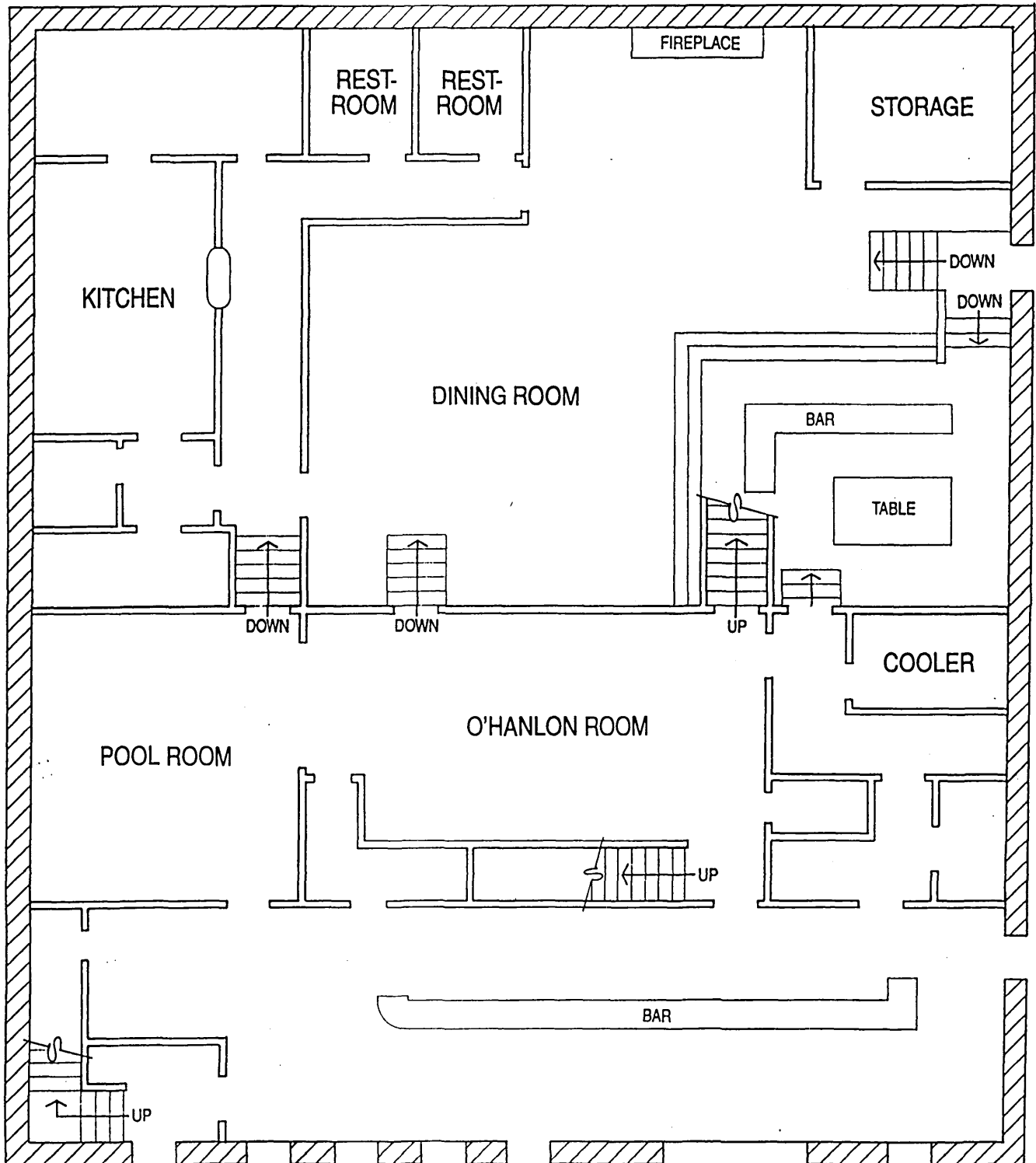
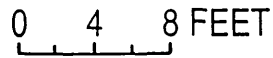
Lots 17-21, Block 4 of the Original Town of Chadron, Dawes County Nebraska.

Boundary justification:

This nomination includes all the space historically occupied by the Hotel Chadron.

Hotel Chadron
Dawes County, Nebraska
NEHBS #DW03-023

1st FLOOR



Hotel Chadron
Dawes County, Nebraska
NEHBS #DW03-023

2nd FLOOR 0 4 8 FEET

