

**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 HOTEL MACDOEL

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number ~~Corner of~~ Montezuma Avenue & Mt. Shasta Street \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Macdoel \_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district 1st

state California code 06 county Siskiyou code 093

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

street & number

city, town \_\_\_ vicinity of state

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of Recorder, Siskiyou County Court House

street & number 311 Fourth Street

city, town Yreka state California

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title *n/c* has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input 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 Macdoel Hotel is located at the corner of Montezuma Avenue and Mt. Shasta Street in the town of Macdoel. Macdoel is a small town situated on a flat at the south end of the Butte Valley in eastern Siskiyou County, in far northern California, some twenty miles from the Oregon-California border.

This 1909 hotel is a two and one-half story rectangular structure measuring 108' along Mt. Shasta Street and 48' along Montezuma Avenue. It contains a partial basement and is built upon lava rock, common to this region, reinforced with concrete.

While not adhering strictly to any given architectural historical tradition, the structure is representative of the period in which it was constructed, exhibiting characteristics of Colonial Revival in its careful symmetry and horizontality, but retaining Victorian design characteristics in its use of contrasting exterior siding and millwork at the bracketed eaves, balustrade, and entrance porch.

The horizontal shiplap siding of the first story and cedar shingles of the second and attic stories create an interesting contrast. The two are separated by a belt course, extending around the structure and approximating an entablature with simplified architrave, frieze and cornice. The roof is gabled with an intersecting gable centered on the facade (east elevation). Originally shingled, the roof is now covered with corrugated metal and rolled roofing material. Two brick chimneys break the roofline, symmetrically placed at either side of the front entrance, with an additional chimney at the rear of the structure. The overhanging roofline at each gable end is supported by carved triangular brackets. The principal entrance to the hotel is gained through a 24' by 10' porch, supported by squared post with carved brackets and other decorative features. A balustrade atop this porch is enclosed by a diamond pattern railing.

Fenestration in this structure is symmetrical. First story windows on the two street elevations (north and east) are four light with six light transom overhead. Second story windows and first story windows at the south and west are sixteen over one double hung sash, except for a few unmatched windows at the rear, or service, elevation.

There is a small shed-roofed extension at the south elevation, used as an apartment. Just beyond this extension is a small pump house with clapboard siding and a shingled roof. It covers the well and storage tank supplying water for this and other structures in the town of Macdoel.

The interior of this hotel is largely intact. The first story lobby retains its original brick fireplace and oak staircase. Other first story rooms include a dining room/bar, once a general store; a kitchen, once a bank; three bath rooms, a laundry room, and the small apartment mentioned earlier. The floors are hardwood. The walls are plaster with clear fir wainscoting. The Second story has 21 rooms, three baths, two with claw foot iron tubs. The attic is partially finished and used for storage.

# 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1909 **Builder/Architect** D.D. Hufford

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Mcdoel Hotel is significant for its association with events important to the settlement of California's Butte Valley. The hotel served as the focal point for a colonization effort involving the Union Pacific Railroad, the Butte Valley Land Company, and the Church of the Brethren, designed to bring a colony to this remote valley near the California-Oregon border. That this structure in its early years served as hotel, land company office, general store, and bank attests to the key role it played in this colonization effort. The colony ended in tragedy within a decade, but the hotel stayed on as the major structure in the community, bridging early and present settlement patterns.

The Church of the Brethren--or Dunkers, as the members were sometimes called--was among the earliest evangelical Protestant churches to relocate from Europe to the New World, the first settlement arriving from Germany to Pennsylvania in 1719. The Brethren were consistently at the cutting edge of American Western settlement, a farming people pioneering as a group in newly-opened frontier regions. The first Brethren settlement in California was in Gilroy in 1857. During the 1880s, the Church of the Brethren in Southern California experimented with a formal "colonization" mode of expansion, in which church leaders, in conjunction with land speculators, encouraged concentrated settlement by church members in specific communities partially controlled by the church. Early settlement of the town of Covina in Los Angeles County occurred in this manner.

The early twentieth century settlement of the Butte Valley by the Church of the Brethren represented a final stage in this colonization effort, first because the supply of unsettled land was rapidly diminishing, and second because the Butte Valley colony resulted in financial ruin for many colonists, forcing the church to reevaluate its policies. The Union Pacific Railroad, with extensive landholdings and a trunk line in the Butte Valley, organized the Butte Valley Land Company in 1906 to increase land sales and bulk shipments. In 1907, this company, with the cooperation of Church of the Brethren leaders, advertised heavily in church publications, encouraging a massive resettlement of church members to this remote valley. By the summer of 1907, dozens of Brethren families had moved to the area.

The Hotel Mcdoel was built in 1909, at the height of the Brethren migration to the valley. The hotel was built and occupied by the Butte Valley Land Company, but was managed by church members. The hotel was to a large extent the town of Mcdoel, serving as temporary residence for the new settlers, as well as banking facility, general store, dining room, and, of course, as land office.

In 1910, the colony began to fail, largely because the climate of the Butte Valley could not sustain the intensive agriculture envisioned by the Brethren. By 1918, only a handful of the Brethren remained, and the religious colony had become a secular community.

DATA NOT VERIFIED

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Gladys Ester Muir, Settlement of the Brethren on the Pacific Slope (Los Angeles, 1939).  
Siskiyou Pioneer, Volume 9, 1957; Volume 29, 1977.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .45

Quadrangle name Macdoel

Quadrangle scale 15' (1:62500)

UMT References

A 

1	0	5	8	2	8	1	1	0	4	6	3	1	0	0	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

Lots 5,6,7,8,21,23,22, and 24 all in block 1-s/2-w in the town of Macdoel, California all in Section 17, T46NR1W, MDM.

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

state na code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Grace Bennett, Owner

organization

date January 18, 1981

street & number Rt. A, Box 914

telephone (916) 842-4037

city or town Yreka

state California

# 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

*K. M. Egan*

title SHPD

date 11-30-81

For HCRS use only

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

*Melora Byers*  
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the National Register date 2/11/82

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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DATE ENTERED FEB 11 1982

CONTINUATION SHEET

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Dennis and Teri Bennett  
630 North Sixth Street  
Klamath Falls, Oregon 97601

David and Grace Bennett  
Route 1 Box 914  
Yreka, CA 96097

Nancy and Larry McDowell  
Third Street  
Grenada  
California 96038

FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

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DATE ENTERED FEB 11 1982

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Alterations since 1909 are few. The shedroof addition at the southern elevation is virtually original, being constructed in 1910. Conversion of the general store to a saloon dates to 1920. In 1975, the porch area was enclosed, but this alteration is easily reversible and will be accomplished by the present owners.

FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

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Since 1918, the Hotel Mcdoel has served as a focus for this small community, serving the railroad workers, ranchers, hunters, loggers, tourists, and other residing in or passing through the town. At various times, a doctor's office, dentist's office, and telephone company office have been located here. Vacant at present, the structure will soon be rehabilitated by its owners and restored to its historical role as social and commercial center for the Butte Valley..

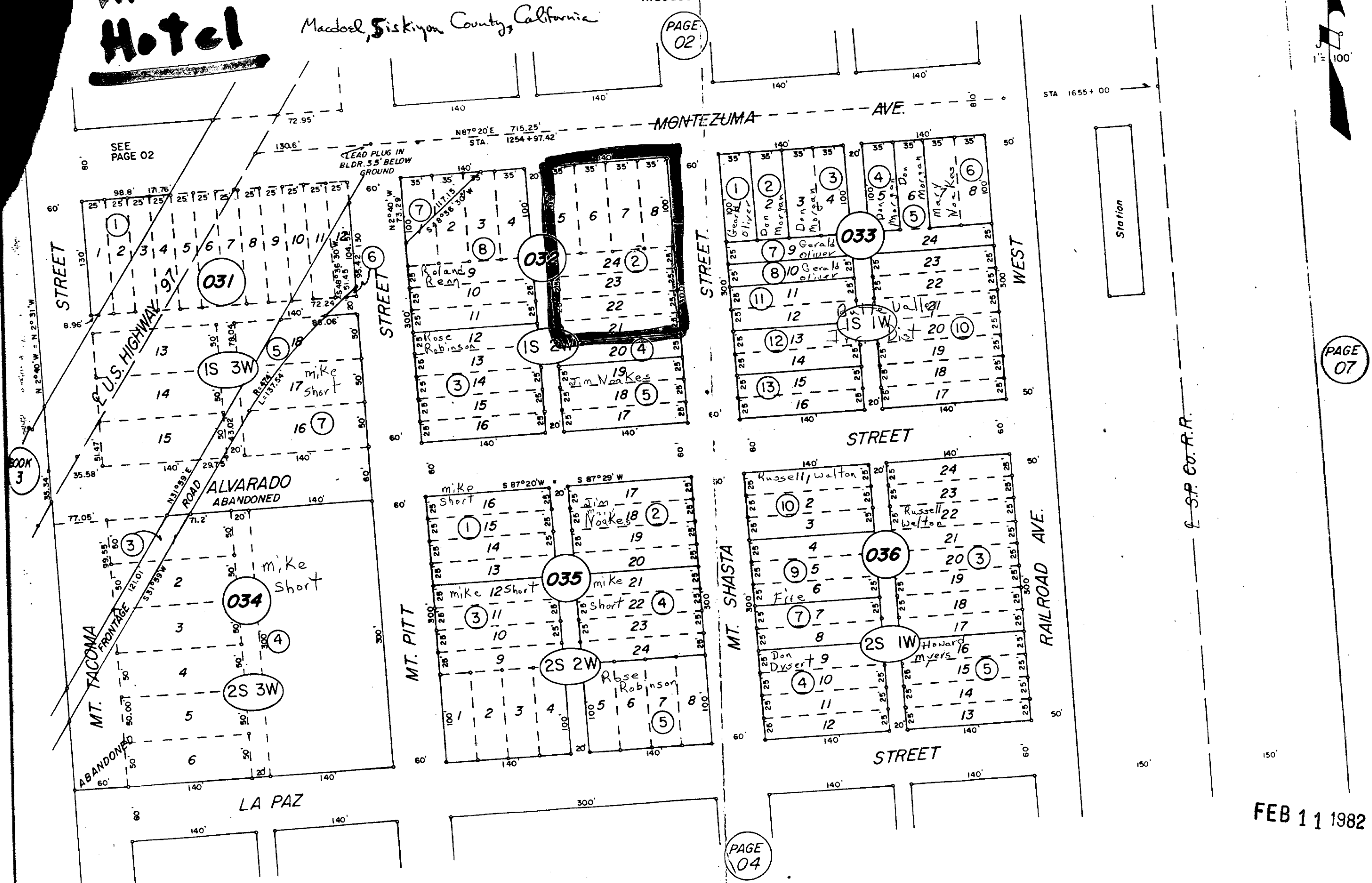
# Macdoel Hotel

Blks 1S 1W, 1S 2W, 1S 3W, 2S 1W, 2S 2W & 2S 3W  
Macdoel Townsite  
Macdoel, Siskiyou County, California

Tax Aged Code  
90-05

PAGE 02

1" = 100'



SEE PAGE 02

BOOK 3

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FEB 11 1982