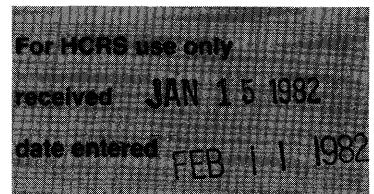


**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Palmer House Hotel

and/or common Palmer House Hotel

## 2. Location

street & number 500 Sinclair Lewis Avenue <sup>10</sup> not for publication

city, town Sauk Centre vicinity of congressional district 6th

state Minnesota code 22 county Stearns County code 145

## 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	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input 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 Al Tingley c/o Dauntless Inc.

street & number 500 Sinclair Lewis Avenue

city, town Sauk Centre vicinity of state Minnesota 56378

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Stearns County Courthouse

street & number

city, town St. Cloud state Minnesota

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Survey of Historic Resources has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1980  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Minnesota Historical Society - 240 Summit Avenue

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota

# 7. Description

**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Palmer House sits at the principal intersection of Sauk Centre on the northwest corner of Sinclair Lewis Avenue and Main Street. The three story brick structure has round-arched window and door openings along the principal south and east facades. Upper story windows are rectangular, double sash. Raised decorative brickwork emphasizes the arched openings and marks the sill line of the second-floor windows. Brick pilasters separate the building bays on the upper floors. Low parapets, originally located at the corners of the roof, have been removed. The hotel originally had twenty-four rooms. A rear addition, replicating the original design, added twenty rooms in 1916. St. Cloud architect, Roland C. Buckley, designed the addition. The forty-four rooms have been re-designed to thirty-seven rooms today. The lobby and restaurant on the first floor are lined with the hotel's main decorative asset - arched, stained glass windows imported from Vienna.

## 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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" 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** 1901, 1916 **Builder/Architect** ~~Builder~~ Roland C. Buckley (1916)

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Palmer House is significant as an example of the once-common salesmen's hotel. It is a focal point at the principal intersection of Sauk Centre's business district and is located just over a block from the railroad depot, through which passed most of the hotel's early lodgers. The hotel was the model for Sinclair Lewis' Minnemashie Hotel, as Sauk Centre was the model for Gopher Prairie. (Lewis worked as a desk clerk for two summers.) The Palmer House was constructed as a modest hotel by Richard L. Palmer in 1901 and enlarged by the second owner in 1916. It has continued in operation as a modest establishment and is in the process of renovation by the present owners. Several rooms are being restored with furnishings including original desks.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Mitchell, William B. History of Stearns County, Minnesota. H.C. Cooper & Co., Chicago. 1915.

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

UTM NOT VERIFIED

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than one acre.

Quadrangle name Sauk Centre, MN

Quadrangle scale 7.5

### UMT References

A 

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

East 50' of Lots 1, 2, & 3, Block 17, Original town.

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

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Thomas Harvey, Research Historian

organization State Historic Preservation Office date September 1980

street & number 240 Summit Avenue telephone 296-9072

city or town St. Paul state Minnesota 55102

# 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 *Russell H. Fridley*

title \_\_\_\_\_ date 12/18/81

**For HCRS use only**

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register Entered in the National Register date 2/11/82

*Selma Ryan*  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
Chief of Registration