

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

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

For NPS use only

received **JAN 12 1983**
date entered

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

1. Name

historic ~~The New West Hotel~~

and/or common Cimarron Hotel (preferred)

2. Location

street & number 203 North Main St, N/A not for publication

city, town Cimarron N/A vicinity of

state Kansas 67835 code 20 county Gray code 069

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	<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
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Douglas and Kathleen Holt

street & number 606 North Birch

city, town Cimarron N/A vicinity of state Kansas 67835

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds

street & number Gray County Courthouse

city, town Cimarron state Kansas 67835

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title none has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date N/A federal state county local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A state

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 1886 Cimarron Hotel sits close to the street, its porch shading the sidewalk in front of it at the north end of Main street in Cimarron, Kansas. Most, if not all, of the other commercial structures on Main street have been modernized at one time or another or post-date the Cimarron Hotel, leaving it as the only reminder of the boom-town days of the 1880's. Because of its almost continuous use as a hotel, the Second Empire style, three story brick building has undergone relatively few changes and retains a strong historic character.

The hotel is five bays across the front and eight bays deep, measuring 43'2" x 79' 2". The segmentally arched second floor windows on all but the rear facade have brick archivolt with decorative drip moldings. Three entrances punctuate the ground floor of the east facade; one leads into the lobby, one into the stair hall, and the third into what is now an antique shop. Running the length of the front of the hotel is a wooden porch supported on square columns with a simple wood balustrade at the second floor level.

The mansard roof with gabled dormers and the bracketed cornice with deep entablature are typical of the Second Empire style as it was interpreted at the popular level. Three dormers project from the east and west faces of the roof and eight from the north and south. The roof is covered with metal which is painted silver.

The interior has undergone minimal changes over the years. The floor plan seems to have remained much as it was when the hotel opened. On the ground floor there are two large rooms to the front, separated by a stair, and three other major rooms to the rear. Pressed metal ceilings of various patterns remain throughout most of the ground floor. The second and third floors are very simple, consisting of sleeping rooms along a longitudinal hall. Some time between 1947 and 1970 bathrooms were added on these floors.

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input 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 1886-1887 **Builder/Architect** John Opp

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Cimarron, located on the Arkansas river 17 miles west of Dodge City, was a stop on the Santa Fe trail before it became a railroad town in the 1870's. Its growth in the 1870's and 1880's reflected the economic boom and extensive settlement that was taking place in western Kansas at that time. The Cimarron Hotel, built in 1886-1887, is one of the last reminders in Cimarron of the boom days of that region.

Western Kansas grew by leaps and bounds in the last few decades of the 19th century. In 1870 there were only 61 counties in Kansas, in 1888 there were 106. Many factors contributed to the settlement and development of the region, not the least of which was the expansion of the railroad. In 1865 there were only 71 miles of track in use in Kansas, fifteen years later there were 3,104. By 1890 Kansas had 8,763 miles of track in use.

Although it was platted in 1878 and occupied even before that, Cimarron was not incorporated as a town until 1885. The boom was going full tilt at that time. In April of 1886 the local paper, the Jacksonian, reported that "such is the crowded condition of our hotels and boarding houses that persons reaching here on the midnight trains have to sit up until morning, every available foot of sleeping space from cellar to garret being occupied." That same month the newspaper also reported that at least 50 new buildings had been constructed in the preceding two months with a great many more contracted for. The Cimarron Hotel, first known as Klaine's Hotel, was a part of this extensive building boom.

Judge N. B. Klaine of Dodge City built the hotel as an investment. His architect was John Opp of Cimarron. John Opp designed the Cimarron Hotel in ^{the} then-popular Second Empire style. The characteristic mansard roof punctuated with dormers, the bracketed eaves and the segmentally arched and molded window surrounds all combined to create an elegant and imposing structure for the western boom town.

The hotel was not formally opened until May, 1887, when it was dubbed the New West Hotel. Although not completed, the hotel was in use as early as November of 1886. Early in that month a Grand Knights of Pythias ball was held there. In December of 1886 Klaine bought the New West newspaper and installed it in his hotel.

A year later the Jacksonian reported that "J.K. Rouse has leased the New West Hotel of N. B. Klaine, and as in the past, will continue to make it one of the leading hotels of Southwest Kansas."

9. Major Bibliographical References

Jacksonian April 2, 1886; April 16, 1886; Oct. 15, 1886; Jan. 1, 1887; May 13, 1887; May 19, 1887; December 2, 1887.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1 acre

Quadrangle name Cimarron Quad

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 14 381340 4185190
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

South 10 feet of Lot 7 and all of Lots 8, 9, 10, 11, & 12, Block 21, City of Cimarron.

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

state N/A code county code

state N/A code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Nora Pat Small, Architectural Historian--Historic Preservation Department

organization Ks. State Historical Society date

street & number 120 West Tenth telephone 913-296-3251

city or town Topeka state Kansas 66612

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

 national state X 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 *Joseph M. Gull*

title Executive Dir., & State Historic Preservation Officer date December 29, 1982

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the National Register date 2/10/83

Keeper of the National Register *for Deborah Byers*

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

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

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 1

The history of the hotel after that point is checkered. In the early 1890's it was billed as the New West Sanitarium, a health resort where a variety of ills were supposedly cured. It was returned to use as a hotel by the early 1900's and has continued to serve as such to this day.

THIS STATEMENT REFLECTS CURRENT KNOWLEDGE AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.