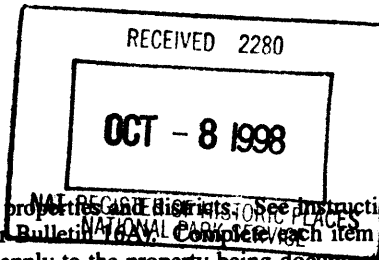


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 15A). Complete each item by marking "x" on the appropriate line or by entering the information requested. If an 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 SAVERY HOTEL
other names/site number Hotel Savery; New Hotel Savery; Savery Hotel & Spa

2. Location

street & number 401 Locust Street N/A not for publication
city or town Des Moines N/A vicinity
state Iowa code IA county Polk code 153 zip code 50309

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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.)
Patricia Oster King 9-29-98
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the 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)

Edson H. Beall 11.5.98
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

Savery Hotel
Name of Property

Polk County, Iowa
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many lines as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one line)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

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)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/hotel
DOMESTIC/institutional housing

DOMESTIC/hotel

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS
Georgian Revival

foundation Concrete
walls Brick

roof Asphalt
other Glass
Metal

Narrative Description

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

Savery Hotel
Name of Property

Polk County, Iowa
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" on one or more lines 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" on all the lines 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 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.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE
MILITARY
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1919-1942
1942-1945

Significant Dates

1919
1942
1949

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder
H. L. Stevens & Company

Narrative Statement of Significance - (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

9. Major Bibliography 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):

- previous determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Record
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historical Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository

Savery Hotel
Name of Property

Polk County, Iowa
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 | 15 | 4 4 8 0 8 0 | 4 6 0 3 9 5 0 |

Zone Easting Northing

2 | --- | ----- | ----- |

Zone Easting Northing

3 | --- | ----- | ----- |

Zone Easting Northing

4 | --- | ----- | ----- |

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 William C. Page, Public Historian; Joanne R. Walroth, Project Associate

organization Shaner Hotel Group date February 14, 1998

street & number 520 East Sheridan Avenue telephone 515-243-5740; FAX 515-243-7285

city or town Des Moines state Iowa zip code 50313-5017

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 SHPO or FPO.)

name Shaner Hotel Group Properties Two Limited Partnership

street & number 303 North Science Park Road telephone 814-234-4460

city or town State College state Pennsylvania zip code 16803

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine 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 (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 1

CFN-259-1116

Savery Hotel, Polk County, Iowa.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Savery Hotel is an 11-story commercial building constructed of steel and clad with brick veneer. Completed and first occupied in 1919, this is the second building by the name to occupy this site and the third hotel of the same name in downtown Des Moines. The condition of this building is fine, and its integrity is good.

BACKGROUND

The Savery Hotel is the second hotel building by that name to occupy this site and the third by that name in the city. Frequently another styling of its name, "Hotel Savery," has also been employed. During the planning, construction, and advertising of the present building, the names "Savery I," "Savery II," and "Savery III" were used to designate these three different buildings.

Savery I

In 1853 James C. Savery opened a small hotel in Des Moines. The success of that business prompted the construction of the Savery I, which opened in 1862. It was located on the southwest corner of 4th and Walnut Streets. Savery subsequently became the foremost innkeeper in Des Moines during the Victorian era. The hotel provided a focal point for public activities during the Civil War. Banquets and other social events took place in this building to celebrate or to mourn national happenings. Savery sold the hotel in 1878 to Eastern investors, who renamed it the Kirkwood Hotel. A major fire destroyed this hotel in the late 1920s. After its site was cleared, the present Kirkwood Hotel was constructed upon it and first occupied in 1930. This building is 12-stories in height and continues in use as an hotel today. After selling his hotel, James C. Savery relocated to California from Des Moines.

Savery II

Constructed in 1888 and historically known as the Savery II, this six-story, brick building was erected by a group of investors, which included James C. Savery, who had returned to Des Moines from California. The Savery II occupied the same quarter block where the present Savery Hotel is now situated. (See Continuation Sheet 7-7.) Like the present building, the Savery II faced Locust Street on the south. It featured a symmetrically ordered facade possessing nine bays centered on a Romanesque-arched entrance. Romanesque arches were repeated across the third floor. The central bay was flanked with rounded pilasters capped with a Romanesque-arched window on the top floor. A series of turrets was situated across the parapet of the facade. Although serving as the secondary entrance to the building, the 4th Street elevation was quite plain. (See Continuation Sheet 7-15.) The first floor of the building featured the hotel lobby, a buffet room, and a drug store. Streetcar lines ran along both Locust Street and 4th Street.

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CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 2

CFN-259-1116

Savery Hotel, Polk County, Iowa.

About 1899, an annex was constructed to this building. Located on Lot 3 of Block "D" in the Commissioner's Addition to Fort Des Moines, this site was situated adjacent to the public alley, which separated Lots 1 and 2 from Lots 3 and 4. This annex was 4-stories in height and is further described below.

Savery III

In 1918 the Savery II was razed to the ground and the present hotel building, sometimes called the Savery III, was constructed on the same site. At this time, the Des Moines city directory listed a total of 56 hotels. (City directory 1920:1790) These included residential hotels, like the new Brown Hotel at 4th and Chestnuts Streets; hotels operating under the European plan (breakfast included), such as the Hotel Wellington located on the southeast corner of 5th and Grand; and commercial hotels in downtown Des Moines, such as the Hotel Fort Des Moines, Randolph Hotel, Chamberlain Hotel, and Elliott Hotel.

The following physical description is for the present Savery Hotel, which is the subject of this nomination.

HOTEL BUILDING

The Savery Hotel possesses numerous component parts, which are delineated on a footprint drawing on Continuation Sheet 7-17. Today, these parts are all connected with one another, although they were not always so.

The main block of the hotel consists of an east wing, south wing, center section, west wing, and penthouse. The east wing, south wing, and center section form that part of the main block completed in 1919. The west wing was added to the 1919 building in the 1950s, and the penthouse was subsequently built on top of the west wing. Another way to describe the main block is to say that it is shaped like the letter "U" with the center section situated in the middle. Additionally, the hotel possesses an annex, which is a complex of buildings separated from the main block by an alley and whose construction predates that of the main block. The hotel also features a connector, which links the main block to the annex. Each of these component parts is further described below with an inventory number, which is keyed to numbers shown on the footprint referenced above.

1. **East Wing**

The east wing forms one portion of the 1919 hotel. The east wing is 11-stories in height and serves as the 4th Street facade of the building. It abuts the south wing.

The first floor of the east wing contains part of the main lobby and a restaurant. The second floor contains the Iowa Room and offices. Floors three through eleven contain

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

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Savery Hotel, Polk County, Iowa.

guest rooms. These guest rooms are variously configured into suites, standard rooms, and economy rooms. The suites and the standard rooms were created in the 1980s by the joining of several economy rooms together.

2. South Wing

The south wing forms one portion of the 1919 hotel. The south wing is 11-stories in height and serves as the Locust Street facade of the building. It abuts the west wing.

The first floor of the south wing contains a coffee shop, gift shop, and offices. The second floor contains offices. The third through eleventh floor contains guest rooms. These guest rooms are variously configured into suites, standard rooms, studio rooms, and economy rooms. The suites, standard rooms, and studio rooms were created in the 1980s by the joining of several economy rooms together. A studio room possesses a kitchenette.

The south wing contains Room 1100, which is the Presidential Suite. This suite was created through joining four rooms together. Room 1009 is also of interest. Known as "Francesca's Suite," it is decorated with many of the actual objects used to decorate the Francesca and Richard Johnson Farmhouse in the filming of the motion picture *The Bridges of Madison County*. Many members of the cast and production staff resided in the Savery Hotel during its on-site filming in Iowa during the 1990s. Following the film's success, the hotel management procured these objects through their good offices.

The south wing also contains Room 1000, which features the only remaining valet door in the hotel. This door is situated between the guest room and the hall. The valet door contains a small closet within itself, which can be opened from both inside the room and from outside in the hall. Guests placed clothing to be cleaned within the valet door. Staff picked up and delivered the clothing back to the room without disturbing guests. Many of the hotel's guest rooms probably featured valet doors originally.

3. Center Section

The center section was built during the original construction of the hotel. The center section is 2-stories in height and situated within the el formed by the east wing and the south wing.

The first floor of the center section contains portions of the hotel lobby. The second floor contains the Grand Ballroom and a reception area. The second floor can be accessed by the skywalk system.

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Savery Hotel, Polk County, Iowa.

4. West Wing and Penthouse

The west wing was built circa 1952. It is 11-stories in height and is attached to the north wall of the south wing. The first, second, and third floors of the west wing are used for service areas. Floors 5-11 are used for guest rooms. Most of the guest rooms are of standard room size. The fourth floor contains the hotel laundry.

The penthouse was built circa 1953. It is 1-story in height and is situated above the eleventh floor of the west wing. The penthouse originally served as the residential quarters for the owner of the hotel. It contains a living room, kitchen, bedrooms, family room, solarium, and other spaces. An open-air terrace is situated above the eleventh floor of the south wing in the area in front of the penthouse. The penthouse is now available for rental.

5. South Annex

A complex of buildings is associated with the 1919 hotel. This complex is separated from that building by an alley and predates 1919. The complex consists of three units--the south annex, the north annex, and a connector.

The south unit abuts Locust Street on the south. It is 2-stories in height and was built circa 1899. This unit historically bore the street address 413-417 Locust Street. It possessed three commercial rooms and was used by the Capitol City Gas Light Company as offices. (See Continuation Sheet 7-12.) The south unit subsequently served a number of different businesses. It was acquired by the Savery Hotel following World War II and converted into hotel use. Today, the second floor of the south unit serves as the Terrace Room, a banquet hall.

6. North Annex

The north unit abuts an east-west alley on the north. It is 4-stories in height and was built circa 1899 by the Savery Hotel for hotel purposes. A store room was located on the first floor, a kitchen was located on the second floor, and guest rooms were located on the third floor. (See Continuation Sheet 7-12.) Today, the first floor of the north unit serves as the offices and shop of the Engineering Department of the hotel. The second floor of the north unit now serves as the Des Moines Room, a banquet hall. The third floor is used today for storage. In the 1920s, it served as Monihan's, a speakeasy, which could be accessed from a separate entrance. The fourth floor preserves its original floorplan. It features a large, central lobby, running east and west, and is flanked by guest rooms on the north and south. Each of the guest rooms features a bathroom and a closet. The ceilings of these rooms are approximately 12' in height. Original woodwork is preserved throughout. The overall condition of the third floor interior is not good. It has remained unoccupied and

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Savery Hotel, Polk County, Iowa.

without maintenance for many years. This portion of the hotel is sometimes referred to as the WAACs annex, although the WAACs occupied the entire hotel during World War II.

7. Connector

The connector separates the hotel's main block from the annex. The connector consists of a vacated public alley on the ground floor and a skywalk on the second floor.

Vehicular access to this north-south alley from Locust Street is blocked by iron grates and a large pilaster, which supports a skywalk link directly above it. Vehicular access to the alley from the north is still possible via metal gates. (In other words, the alley has been preserved as a vehicular corridor, now privately owned by the hotel.) The alley is used for various storage purposes.

A skywalk corridor is situated immediately above the alley. The skywalk runs between the west elevation of the hotel's main block and the annex at the second floor. It was built circa 1981. Constructed of metal and glass, this corridor spans Locust Street on the south, connecting the Savery Hotel and the Capital Square office complex, and an alley on the north, connecting the Savery Hotel and Elsie Mason Manor, a retirement apartment building. This skywalk also provides a link between the main block of the hotel and the annex. (See Continuation Sheet 7-18.)

Exterior

The Savery Hotel possesses a double facade. One facade faces the east, and the other faces the south. These facades are virtually identical in design. They feature a strictly symmetrical arrangement. The first floor consists of a centrally-situated entrance flanked by three bays. These bays are defined by granite plinths situated at grade, and each of the flanking bays features a storefront window. The second floor repeats this series of seven bays. Each bay features an arched window, with the exception of the outer-most bay, which contains two sets of windows. This window treatment is then continued from the fourth through the 11th floors.

Red brick faces both facades of the building. This brick is laid in a variety of designs. The first floor and the second floor feature Flemish bond. The area below the windows on the third floor is laid in header brick. The fourth through the 11th floors features another design. There the brick is laid in one course of Flemish bond to nine courses of running bond. Throughout the facades the mortar is gray in color and deeply raked.

Limestone is employed extensively on both facades. The buff color of this material contrasts with that of the red brick. The limestone includes a classically-inspired cornice at the top of the building with corbels and a frieze; plaques with garland designs between each of the windows on the tenth and 11th floors; a double belt course between the second and third floors; and urns with draped festoons at the

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Savery Hotel, Polk County, Iowa.

corners of the third floor. Limestone stone is also used extensively to embellish the facade windows. For example, fluted columns of limestone separate the series of double-hung sash ribbon windows on the second floor. The third floor windows feature keystones, surrounds, and sills of limestone. A series of rosettes further embellish the second floor.

The north elevation of the building is constructed of common brick of a brownish color.

Interior

Although the exterior of the Savery Hotel features Georgian Revival design, the interior has always been more eclectic. For example, the second floor featured the "Venetian Ball Room," with influences of Mediterranean Revival architecture on its design. In the 1920s, the hotel featured a "Chinese Tea Room" in the southeast basement of the building, suggestive of another architectural influence. Today, the interior of the Savery Hotel presents the appearance of an hotel building substantially remodeled in the 1950s, with later remodelings to the guest rooms.

When first constructed, each guest room of the Savery possessed a private bathroom. The hotel's management featured this amenity in its advertising. A full-page advertisement in the 1920 city directory, for example, prominently announced "HOTEL SAVERY/300 Rooms 300 Baths" (City directory 1920:18) By comparison, the Hotel Wellington, whose advertisement faced the Savery's in that city directory, offered "200 rooms--50 with private bath." (*Ibid.*:19) In 1920, the Wellington charged \$.75 to \$1.75 for rooms without bath and \$1.50 to \$3.50 with bath. The fact that a private bath was twice as expensive at the Hotel Wellington suggests the luxury at that time of such an amenity. These prices also suggest the market the Savery Hotel targeted for its clientele since it featured exclusively rooms with private baths. The Hotel Fort Des Moines also targeted this market. That institution advertised "400 Rooms - 400 Baths" in the same publication. (*Ibid.*:17)

In the 1950s, the interior of the hotel was remodeled along with the construction of the west wing. The interior public spaces reflect the results of the 1950s remodeling of the building. This remodeling closed the lobby's atrium, which stood between the first floor and second floor, and converted that space and a mezzanine, which had run around it, into a reception area for the grand ballroom. Many of the lobby's features remained intact, including its light-colored marble floor and a white marble staircase to the second floor, and a registration desk. Other public spaces on the first floor--including a restaurant, coffee shop, gift shop, and bar--were also remodeled. An historic photograph pictures some of the men responsible for this remodeling. (See Continuation Sheet 8-36.)

Most of the guest rooms were also remodeled in the 1950s and subsequently have been redecorated to varying extents. These changes include the lowering of many ceilings, new plumbing, new floor and wall coverings, and new furnishings. Within this context, however, a number of economy rooms remain as originally constructed. Although they are quite small, they do feature attached bathrooms and a closet. Rooms with less desirable views were those left unaltered. Room 1131 is one example. (See Continuation Sheet 7-19.) Most of the guest room floors have economy rooms.

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Savery Hotel, Polk County, Iowa.

A health spa is located in the lower level of the main block. This spa includes men's and women's dressing rooms, a swimming pool, sauna, Jacuzzi, eucalyptus room, jogging track, massage room, apparatus room, and lounge. The spa was constructed in the 1980s. Memberships are available for the use of this spa, as well as for hotel guests.

Integrity

The Savery Hotel was connected to the Des Moines skywalk system circa 1981. This system consists of a number of pedestrian hallways, situated above the city's streets, which link downtown Des Moines buildings together at the second floor level. Skywalks join the Savery on the south and north elevations above the vacated public alley. These skywalks do not impair the integrity of the historic hotel because they are situated at the side of the building and do not impede the view of its two facades.

Circa 1981 the double-hung sash windows on the upper nine floors of the hotel were replaced with single-pane, thermal glass. (They featured a variety of multi-paned sash.) Although this alteration detracts from the historic appearance of the building, the original window bays were not affected. The historic configuration of the windows on the second floor of the hotel remain as originally constructed.

A major renovation of the Savery Hotel is planned for completion in early 1999. This work will focus on the interior of the building, and the exterior will remain unaffected. The hotel's mechanical systems and plumbing will be updated. Each of the guest rooms and public spaces will be redecorated with carpet, wallpaper, furnishings, and light fixtures. The Rocket Room, a coffee room located in the southwest corner of the first floor, will be remodeled as a restaurant. The Des Moines Room and the Terrace Room (whose interiors date from the mid-1950s) will be remodeled. The current project will retain the marble appointments in the main lobby. (Carole Chambers informant interview)

SITE

The Savery Hotel is situated on Lots 1, 2, and 3 in Block "D" of Commissioner's Addition to Fort Des Moines. This parcel includes that portion of a north-south alley, which runs adjacent to and between Lot 2 and Lot 3 in the block. The parcel measures about 133' x 218' (east frontage by south frontage) and contains less than one acre of land. Downtown Des Moines was originally platted on a grid oriented to the Des Moines River, which flows slightly northwest to southeast in this area. Consequently, the downtown is slightly skewed to the cardinal points of the compass. To the north of Grand Avenue, the city's plats were aligned to those cardinal points. An irregularity occurs in the downtown plats and streets where these two patterns abut. This irregularity occurs one block to the north of the Savery Hotel, where 4th Street bends slightly to the northeast.

The immediate site of the Savery Hotel is generally level in topography. The building is sited in the heart of downtown Des Moines, along Locust Street, which is known locally as "The Loop." Immediately to the south, 4th Street has been vacated for the construction of Capital Square, a large

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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CFN-259-1116

Savery Hotel, Polk County, Iowa.

commercial building occupying two square blocks. Nollen Plaza, an urban park, is located one-half block to the east of the Savery Hotel. The Des Moines River is situated three blocks to the east. The Iowa State Capitol is prominently sited on a hill twelve blocks to the east. It stands as a dramatic terminus to the vista along Locust Street. All of these surroundings provide beautiful views from the windows of the Savery Hotel. The view to the east--with the capitol building as its focal point--is particularly arresting.

Relatively few commercial buildings within Des Moines' central business district are presently listed on the National Register. They include the Homestead Building at 303 Locust Street (one block east of the Savery), Hawkeye Insurance Company Building at 209 4th Street, Des Moines Saddlery Company Building at 307 Court Avenue, Hotel Fort Des Moines at 10th and Walnuts Streets, Rumely-Des Moines Drug Company Building at 110 SW 4th Street, and Iowa Des Moines National Bank Building at 520 Walnut Street. Two properties are listed on the National Register within the city's East Side business district--the Northwestern Hotel at 321 East Walnut Street and the Studio Building at 524 East Grand Avenue. The City of Des Moines has designated Mies van der Rohe's 1960s Home Federal Savings and Loan Building a local landmark. It is located at 601 Grand Avenue.

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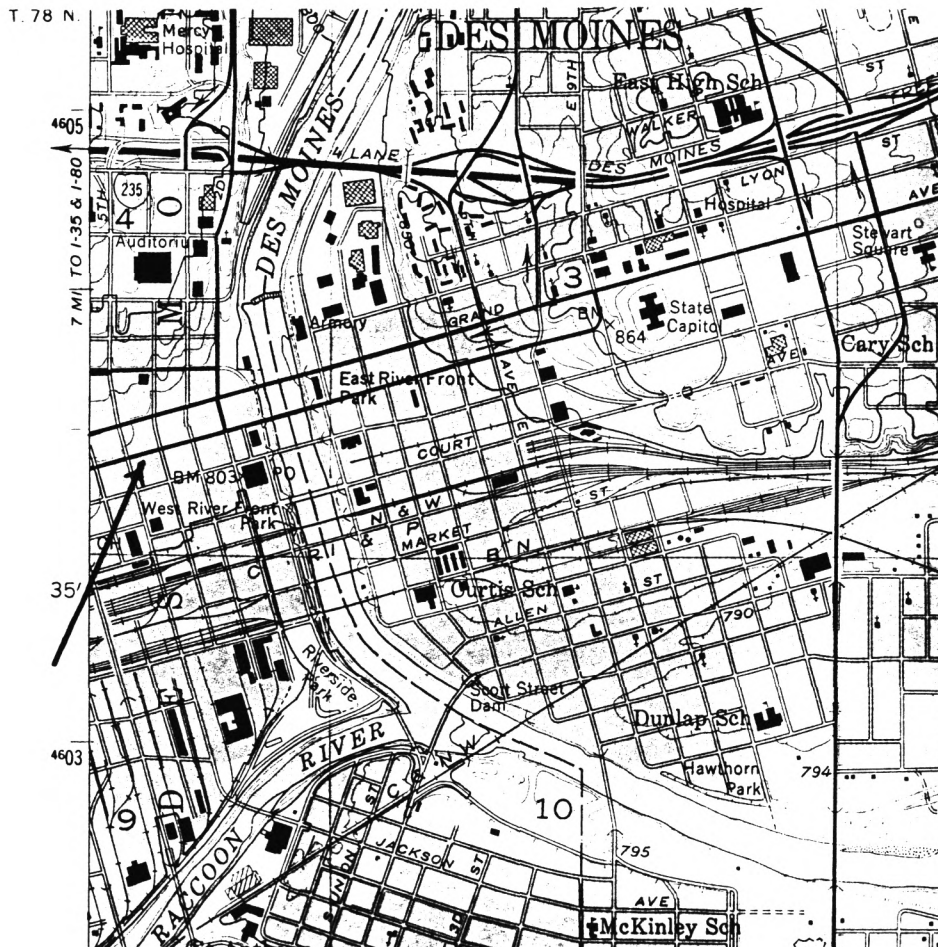
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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Savery Hotel, Polk County, Iowa.

SITE MAP ARROW LOCATES PROPERTY



Source: U.S.G.S. Map (7.5 Minute Series), Des Moines SW Quadrangle, 1956, Photorevised 1976.

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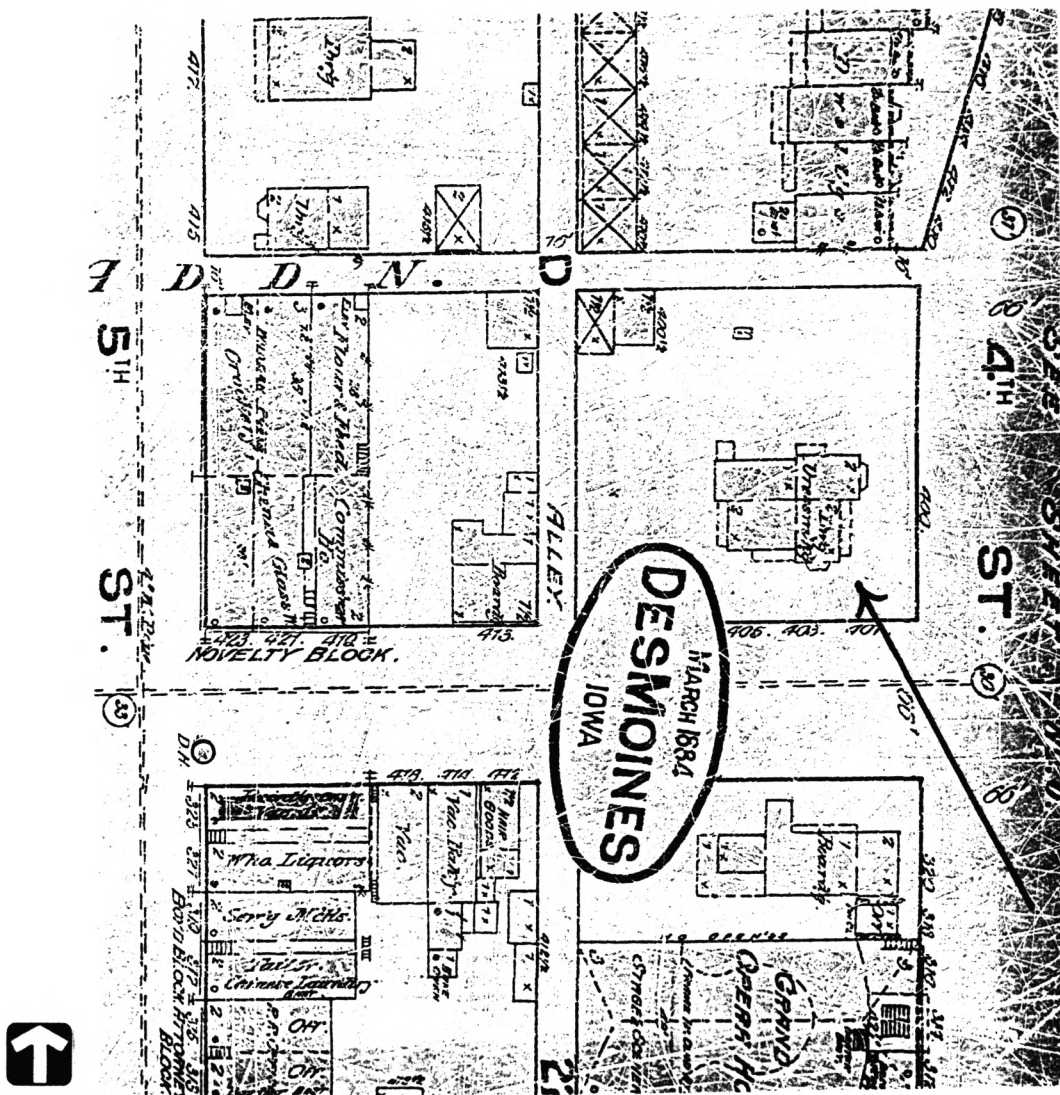
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Savery Hotel, Polk County, Iowa.

1884 FIRE INSURANCE MAP

ARROW LOCATES PREVIOUS LAND USE ON SITE



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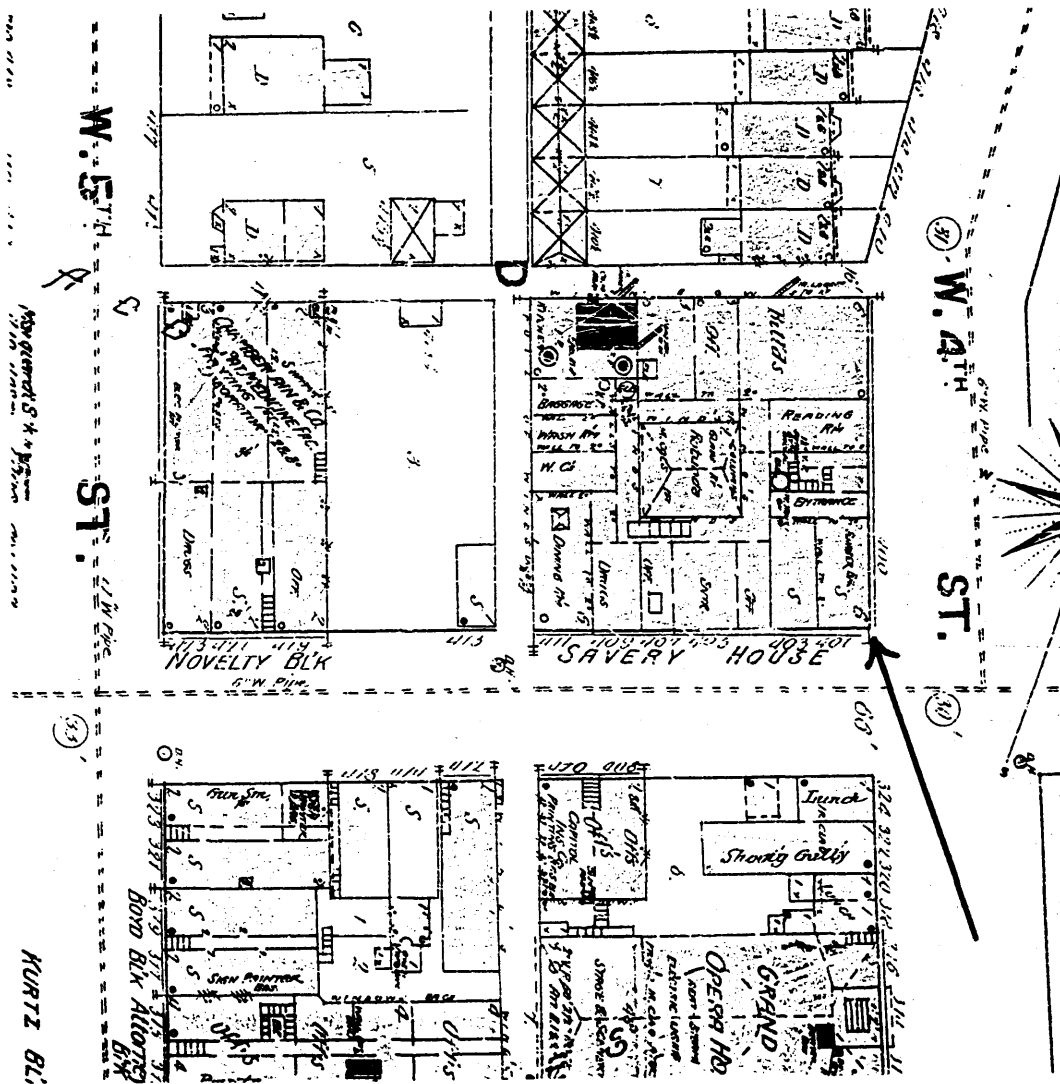
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Savery Hotel, Polk County, Iowa.

1891 FIRE INSURANCE MAP

ARROW LOCATES SAVERY II



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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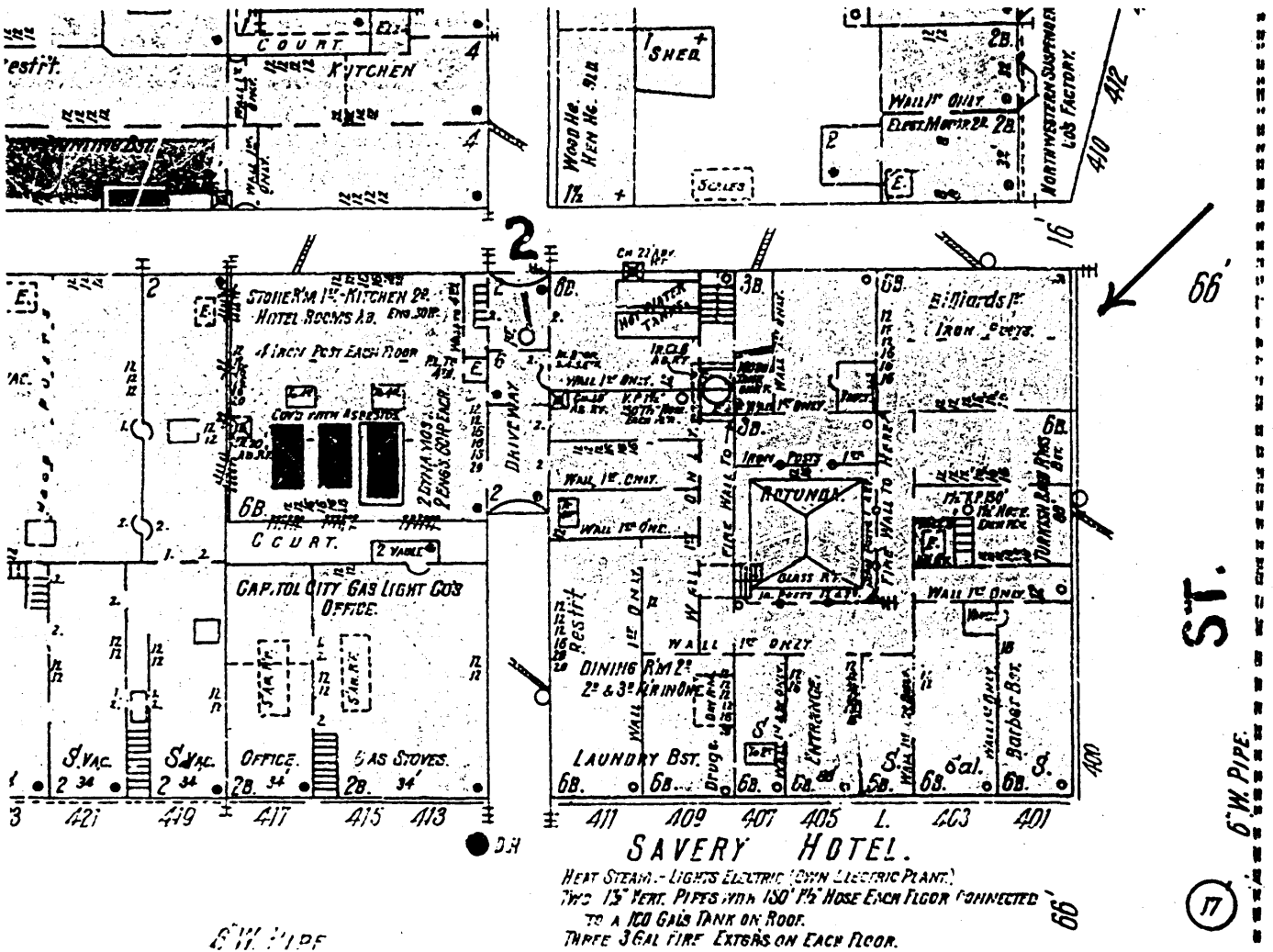
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Savery Hotel, Polk County, Iowa.

1901 FIRE INSURANCE MAP

ARROW LOCATES SAVERY II



United States Department of the Interior
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

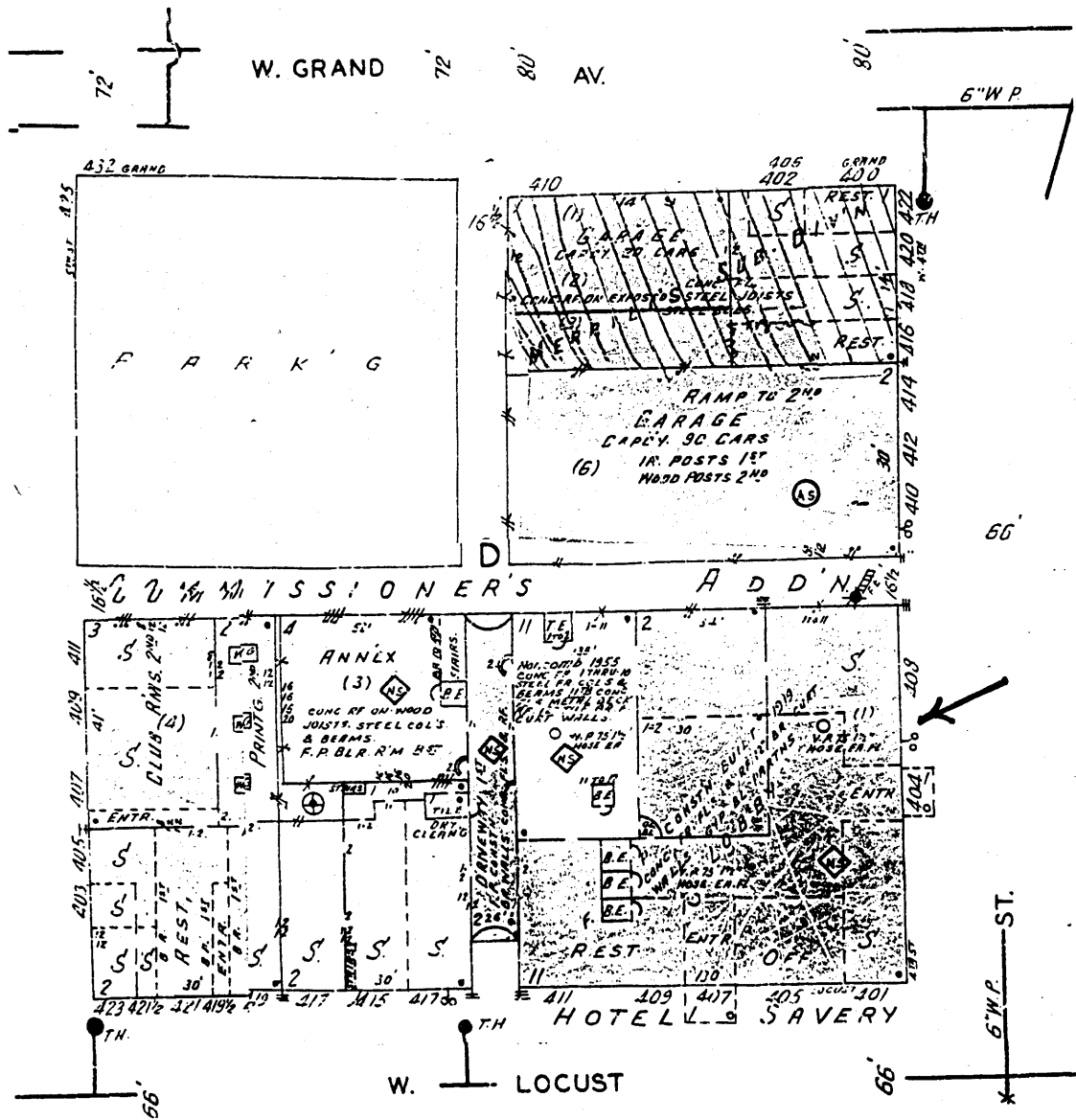
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Savery Hotel, Polk County, Iowa.

1920 FIRE INSURANCE MAP UPDATED

ARROW LOCATES SAVERY III



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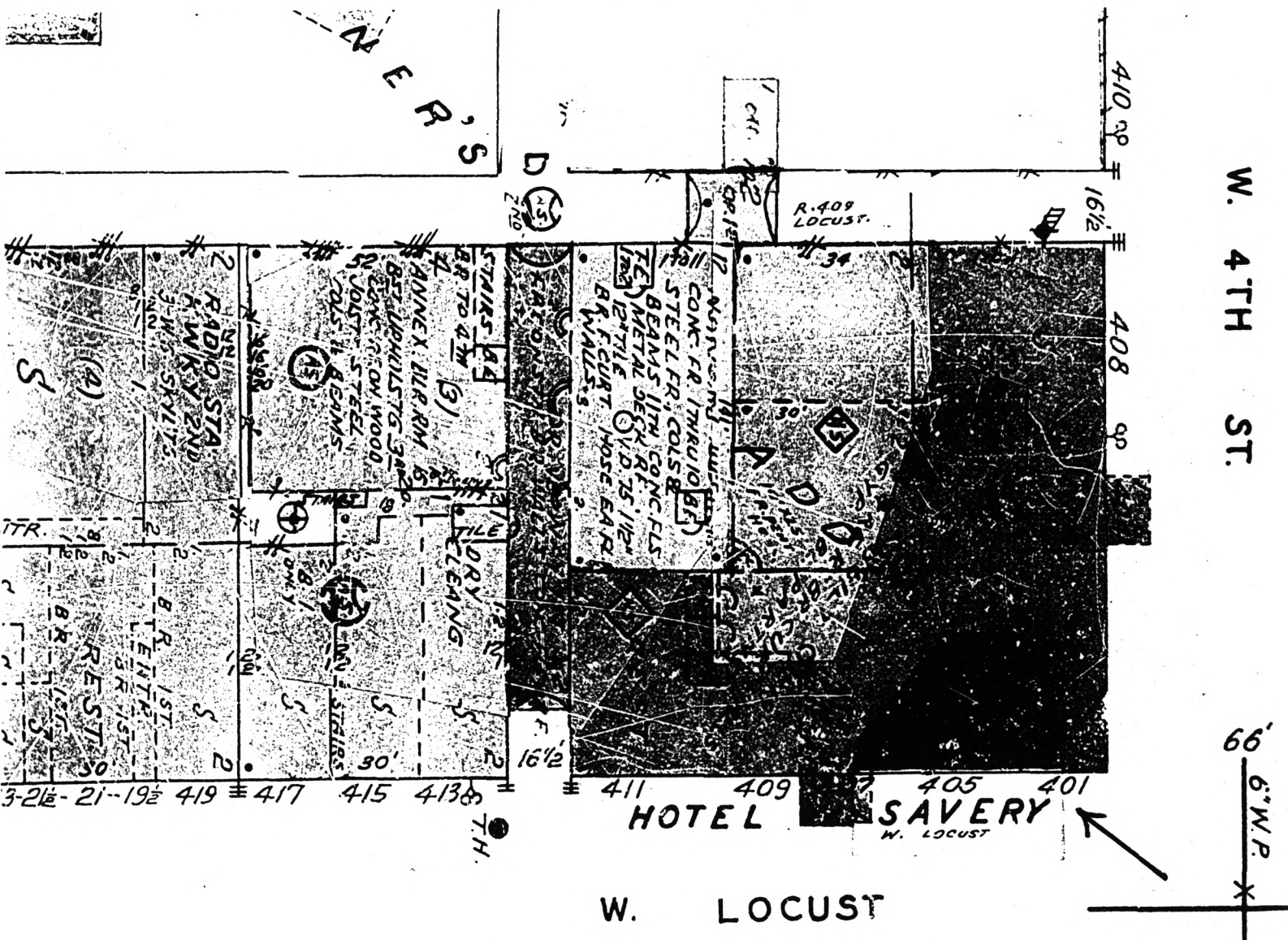
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Savery Hotel, Polk County, Iowa.

1957-UPDATED FIRE INSURANCE MAP

ARROW LOCATES SAVERY III



This fire insurance map pictures the west wing with the penthouse on the 12th floor.

Source: Sanborn Map Company, Des Moines, 1957-Updated, Volume 1A, p. 30A.



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Savery Hotel, Polk County, Iowa.

THE THREE SAVERY HOTELS

Absolutely Fireproof

350 Rooms
With Bath



Hotel Savery I



HOTEL SAVERY III

350 Rooms
With Bath



Hotel Savery II

The Newest and Most Modern Hotel in Iowa

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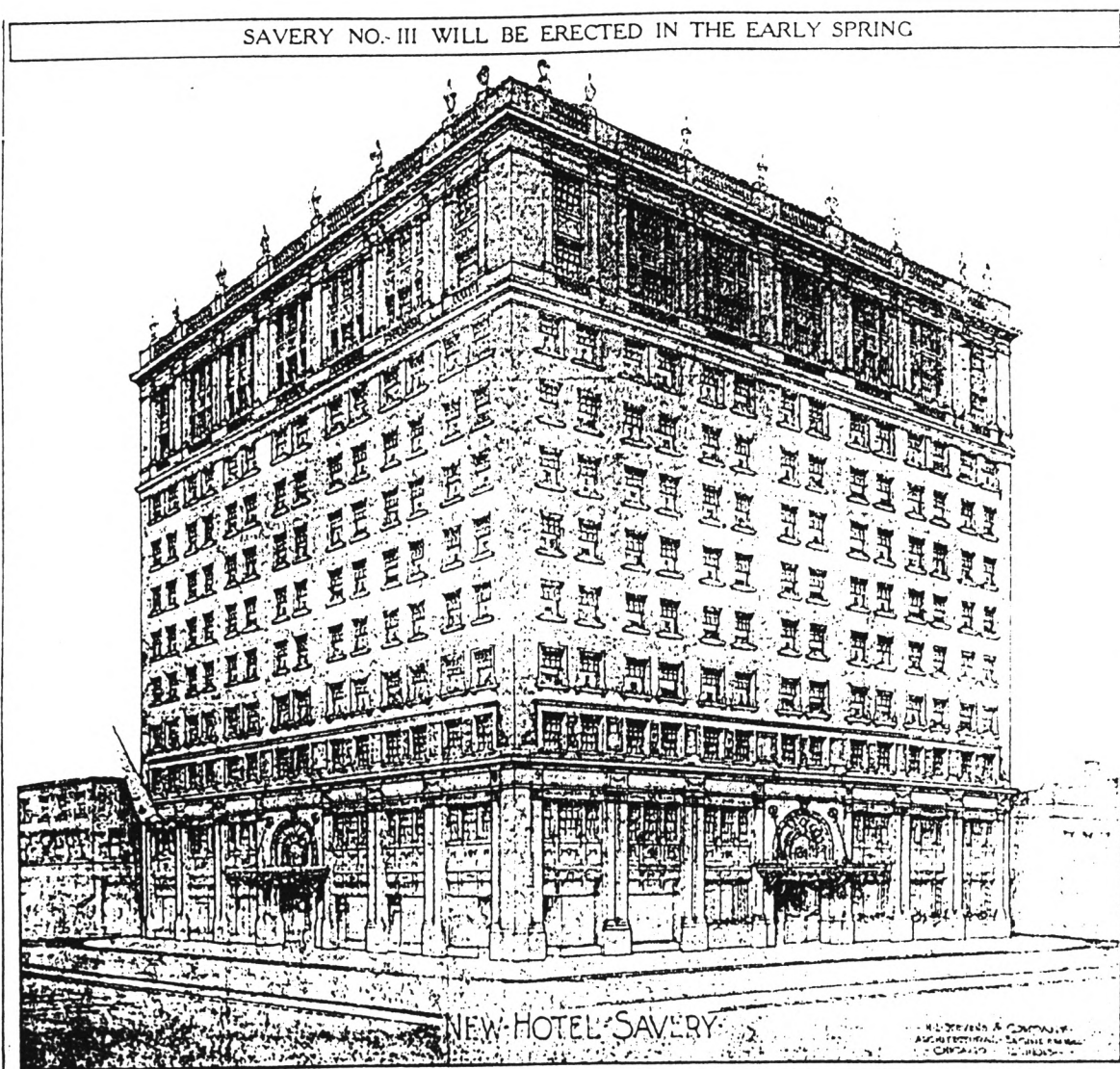
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Savery Hotel, Polk County, Iowa.

ARCHITECTS' DRAWING



Source: *Des Moines Sunday Register*, November 18, 1917.

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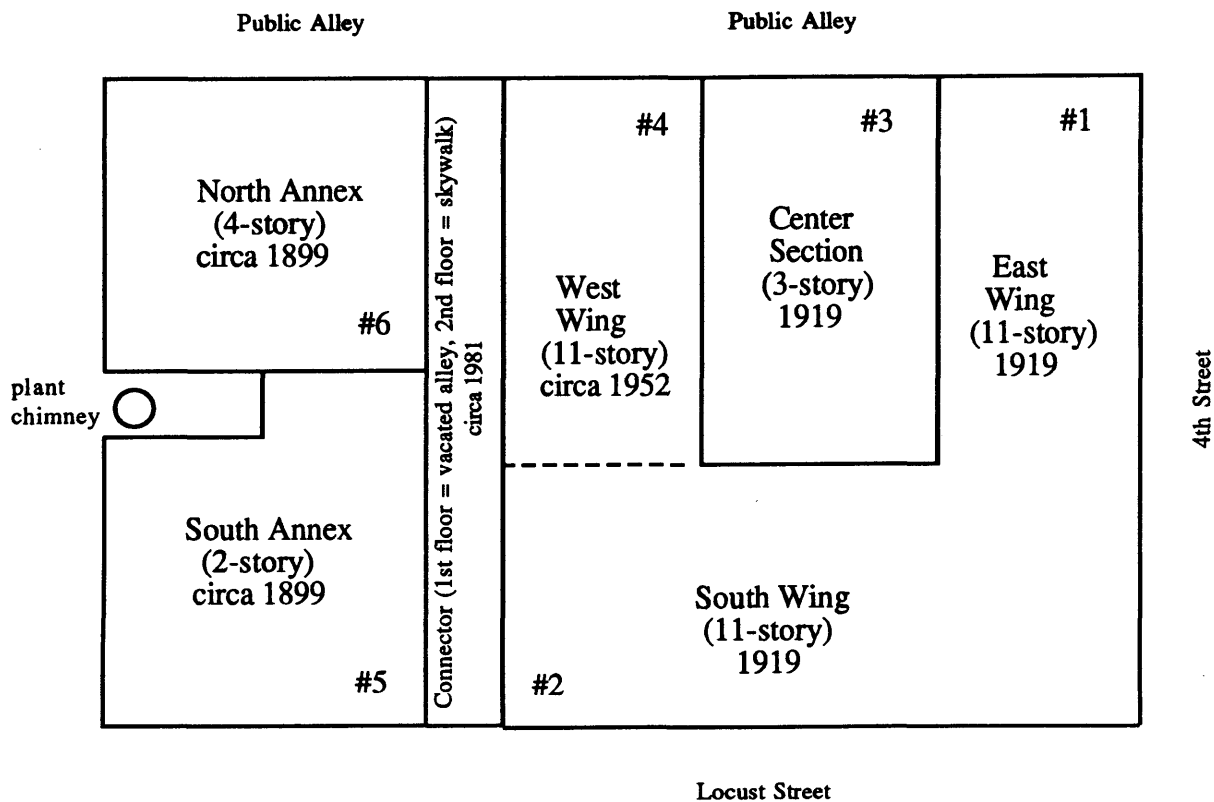
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Savery Hotel, Polk County, Iowa.

COMPONENT PARTS OF SAVERY HOTEL



The inventory numbers shown on this plan are keyed to verbal descriptions found in Section 7 of this nomination



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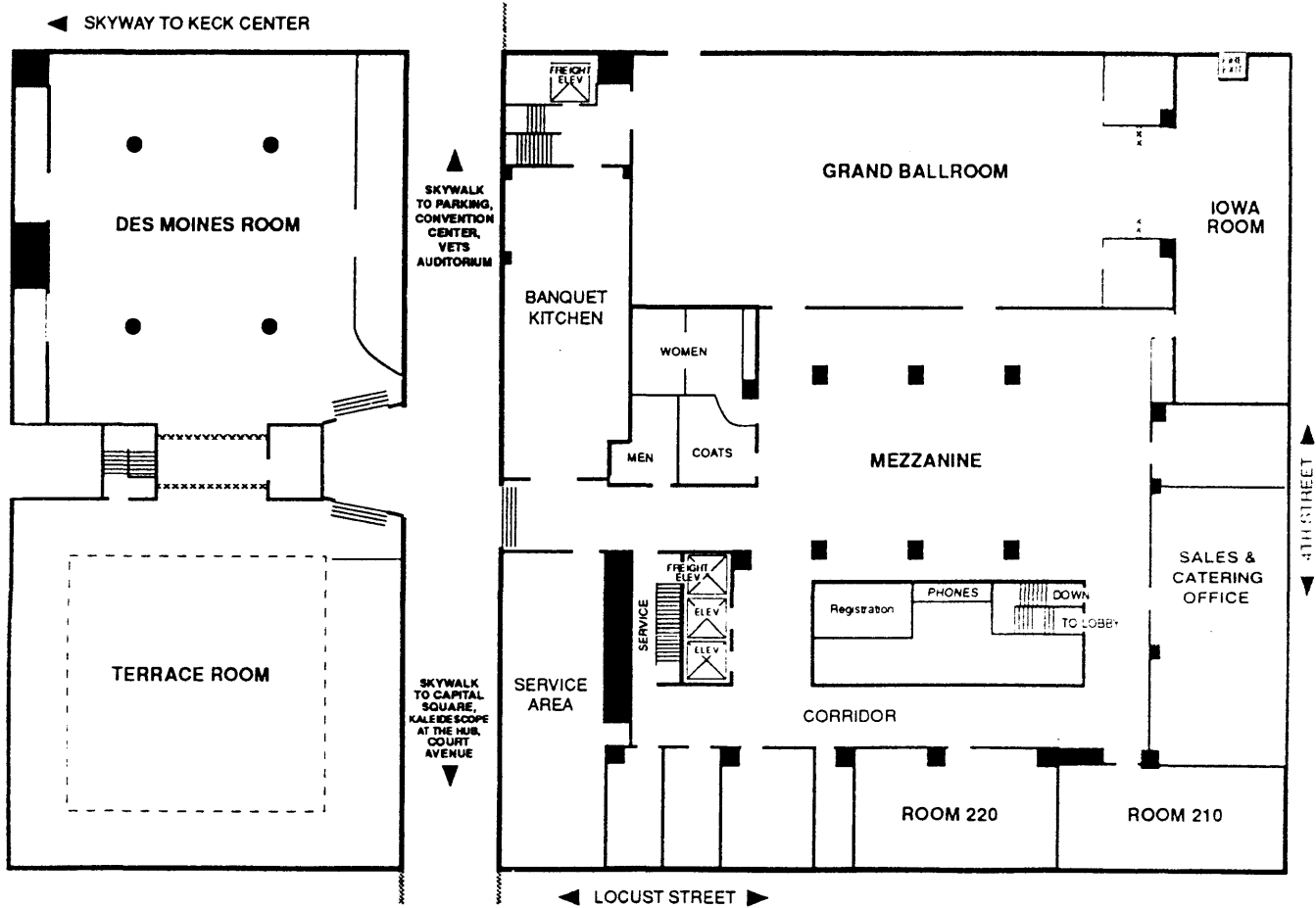
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Savery Hotel, Polk County, Iowa.

2ND FLOOR PLAN



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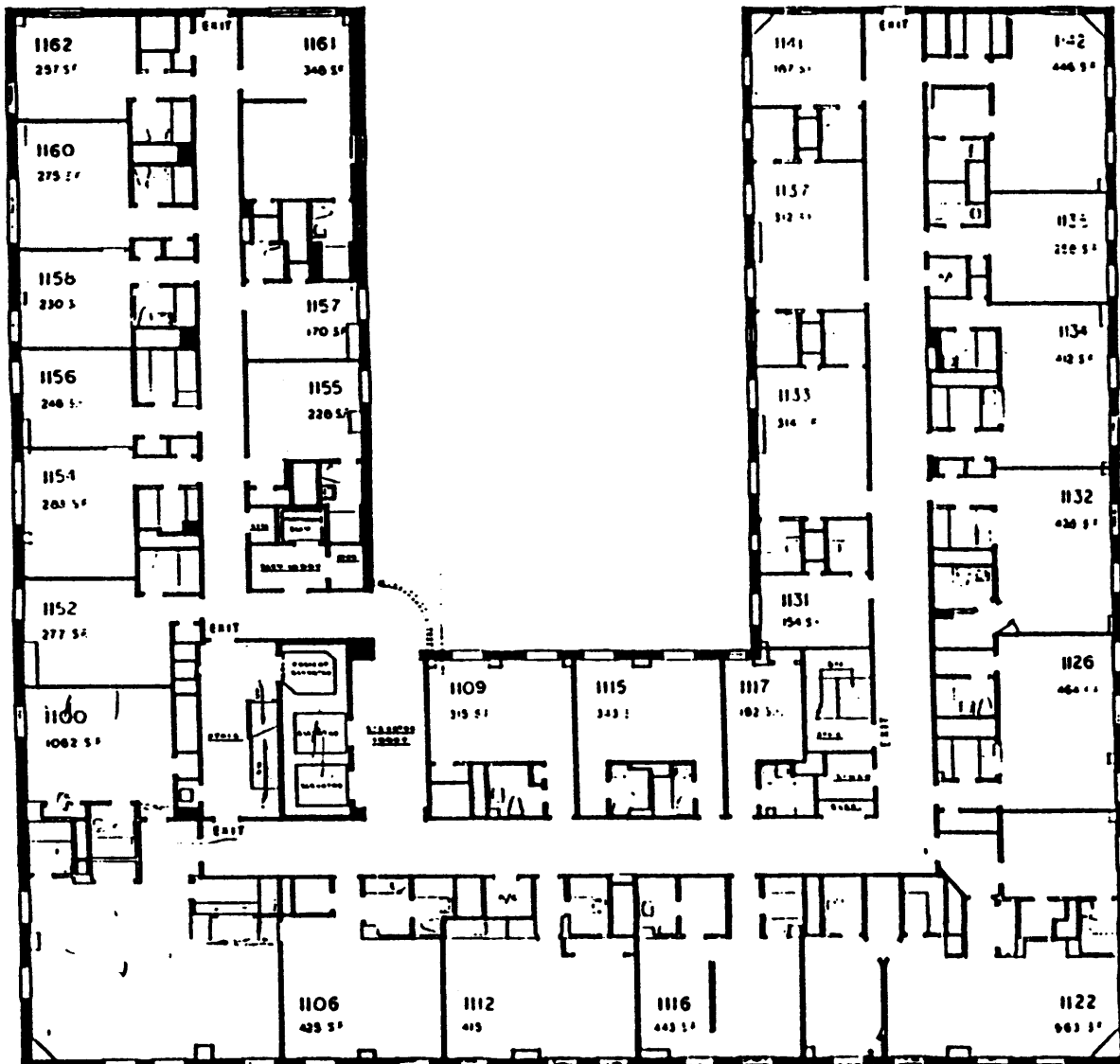
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Savery Hotel, Polk County, Iowa.

11TH FLOOR PLAN



This is a representative plan of the guest room floors.

Source: Courtesy of the Savery Hotel, 1997.



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Savery Hotel, Polk County, Iowa.

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE

Designed by H. L. Stevens & Company of Chicago, Illinois, and completed and first occupied in 1919, the Savery Hotel is significant, under National Register Criterion A, for its association with women's history and military history. During World War II, the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAACs) of the U.S. Army occupied the entire building for use as an induction center, barracks, mess hall, and classrooms to augment the facilities at Fort Des Moines III. Des Moines was the home of the first WAAC Training Center in the nation. Established in 1942 and sometimes called the "West Point for Women," this center trained more than 72,000 women for service in the U.S. Army during World War II. This mission contributed to the growing role of women in the nation's military establishment. Also as one of the city's two leading commercial hotels when built, the Savery was a focal point not only for the traveling and visiting public but as a venue for conventions, trade shows, special events, and local and statewide business. The Des Moines Chamber of Commerce officed in the Savery for 23 years along with other agencies associated with commercial travel. This reputation drew many political leaders and Broadway roadshow entertainers to lodge at the Savery.

The Savery Hotel possesses architectural significance under National Register Criterion C. Its Georgian Revival detailing is relatively rare for Des Moines' commercial architecture. Designed by H. L. Stevens & Company of Chicago, a nationally important hotel design firm, the completion of this hotel in 1919 helped inaugurate the skyscraper hotel in Des Moines.

The period of significance, under Criterion A, for the Savery Hotel is 1919 to 1945. The years from 1919 to 1942 witnessed its use as a commercial hotel. The years from 1942 to 1945 witnessed its use as quarters for the WAACs. The period of significance, under Criterion C, is 1919, the year the building was completed and first occupied.

The property contains one resource for this nomination--the building itself. The main block, annex, and skywalk are counted as one resource because they are physically connected together.

COMMERCE

The Savery Hotel is historically significant because of its role as a premier commercial hotel in the city, which provided accommodations for businesses, conventions, trade shows, and special events.

Regular Clientele

The Savery Hotel's regular clientele included business travelers and visitors to Des Moines and Iowa. During a period of time when most interstate travel was by rail, commercial hotels in downtown Des Moines provided accommodations for most of these guests. Although many hotels operated in this area, several stood out because of their large size and reputation. These hotels included the Savery Hotel and its chief rival, the Hotel Fort Des Moines. "The Fort" was completed and opened for

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Savery Hotel, Polk County, Iowa.

business in the same year as the Savery. These two institutions have competed with one another since their opening, both of which occurred in 1919.

Politics

The Savery Hotel has hosted numerous national and state politicians during visits to Des Moines and Iowa. A local newspaper article, announcing the 1919 opening of the new Savery Hotel, noted that:

Linked with this newer, finer structure are all of the memories and traditions of its predecessors, Savery I and Savery II. These hotels saw Iowa history made-- saw parties, movements and men made and broken. Here the foundation of Iowa's prosperity was planned and wrought. (*Des Moines Register* 1919b)

The Savery III continued this tradition. As noted above, Eleanor Roosevelt frequented the Savery Hotel when she visited Des Moines. When Harry Truman visited the city in 1945, he stayed at the Savery Hotel and requested a piano for his room. (Anonymous 1992:3)

At the time the Savery III was completed, the Democratic State Headquarters were housed on the seventh floor of the Observatory Building (City Directory 1920:1521). Located at 402-1/2 Locust Street, this building was situated directly across the street from the hotel. This proximity promoted a business relationship between the Savery Hotel and Iowa Democrats, a relationship which has continued over the years. Today, Iowa Democrats invariably choose the Savery as the site for their Election Night rallies. For many years, Iowa Republicans chose the Hotel Fort Des Moines for theirs. Recently, the Republicans have shifted their venues to the Des Moines Marriott Hotel.

These political lines were not so sharply drawn in earlier times. For example, in 1952, the National Committee to nominate U.S. Senator Robert Taft as the Republican presidential candidate selected the Savery Hotel as its base of operations in Iowa. An historic photograph shot at the hotel pictures five men and an automobile with Taft campaign advertising. Two of the men are dressed in pajamas and robes. A sign on top of the car reads "This Bed Reserved . . . for Two Republicans." (See Continuation Sheet 8-33.)

Entertainment

Many figures from the entertainment industry have resided at the Savery Hotel during visits to Des Moines. Their visits have added to the building's lore. Throughout the first half of the Twentieth Century, virtually all of the legitimate theaters in Des Moines were located downtown. The Princess Theater, located at 313-317 4th Street, and the Coliseum, located at 101-107 Locust Street, were within close walking-distance of the Savery Hotel. This proximity encouraged entertainers to choose the Savery Hotel for their accommodations during engagements in Des Moines.

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Savery Hotel, Polk County, Iowa.

A corpus of lore has developed around these stars and their special needs. Such special requests underline an important tenet of the hostelry business--the accommodation of guest comfort. For example, in 1982, the hotel's newly-installed fixed-in-place windows became a point of negotiation with Broadway star Carol Channing. Scheduled to appear in road-show performances of "Hello, Dolly," Channing refused to stay at the Savery until modifications were made to the windows. According to a local newspaper report:

Before she would stay at the Savery for the show's performance tonight through Sunday at the Des Moines Civic Center, Channing insisted that the hotel tear out one of its new windows, replacing it with an old-fashioned type that raises and lowers. "She wants fresh air," explained Gene Moore, hotel manager. (*Des Moines Register* 1982)

The hotel complied with Channing's request and installed a traditional a double-hung sash window.

Another entertainer, Tiny Tim, resided at the Savery Hotel for about eight years during the 1980s. Tiny Tim's funky rendition of "Tip Toe Through the Tulips" amused the nation and catapulted him into a brief period of fame.

Other Commercial Functions

The Savery Hotel has historically provided accommodations for businesses, conventions, trade shows, and special events. For example, when the new Savery Hotel opened, the Des Moines Chamber of Commerce occupied a portion of the mezzanine floor for its offices and operated the following bureaus from that site:

BUREAUS
DES MOINES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
1920

Public Welfare Bureau
Traveling Men's Bureau
Realtors Bureau
Convention Bureau
Social Service Registration Bureau
Retail Merchants Bureau
Manufacturers Bureau

Source: *Des Moines City Directory* 1920, p. 1520.

The fact that the Chamber of Commerce chose to locate its offices in the Savery Hotel is a telling indication of the hotel's stature. The Chamber continued to maintain its headquarters at the Savery for 23 years. In 1942, the following bureaus were officed in the building:

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Savery Hotel, Polk County, Iowa.

BUREAUS
DES MOINES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
1942

Department of Women's Affairs
Convention Bureau
Junior Chamber of Commerce
Manufacturers & Jobbers Bureau
Retail Bureau
Traffic Bureau
Agricultural Department

Source: *Des Moines City Directory* 1942, p. 1040.

As discussed below, the U.S. Army leased the Savery Hotel in 1942 at an 100% occupancy rate. This included the offices, which the hotel had previously leased to agencies. The Des Moines Chamber of Commerce was obliged to seek other headquarters. They relocated to the fifth floor of the Equitable Life of Iowa Building, located on the southwest corner of Sixth and Locust. (City directory 1943:178) The chamber remained at this location following the war.

Over the years, the Savery also provided accommodations for other associations connected with traveling sales representatives. In 1942, for example, the Des Moines Council of the United Commercial Travelers Auxiliary, the United Commercial Travelers of America, and the Ancient Mystic Order of Bagmen were officed in this building. (City directory 1942:1040)

Many conventions, trade shows, and special events have been held at the Savery Hotel over the years. This is a big story in its own right and further research will undoubtedly yield considerable information about it. A circa 1954 photograph of a buffet banquet in the Grand Ball Room illustrates one such event. (See Continuation Sheet 8-35.) Another 1950s photograph pictures a truck show in the Grand Ball Room. (See Continuation Sheet 8-36.)

Hotel Management

The Savery Hotel has been managed by a succession of management over the years. In 1920, it was managed by the Olmsted Hotel Company, Inc. (City Directory 1920:1520)

In 1945 Edward A. Boss purchased the Savery Hotel. In the 1950s, Boss built the west wing and a penthouse for his own residence on the top of that wing. He also remodeled portions of the east wing and south wing. Boss was a successful entrepreneur, who established the Boss Hotel Company. At its height in the early 1950s, this company owned a chain of about three dozen hotels in Iowa, including the two major convention hotels in downtown Des Moines--the Savery Hotel and the Hotel Fort Des Moines. (*Des Moines Tribune* 1976)

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Savery Hotel, Polk County, Iowa.

In 1977 William C. Knapp purchased the Savery Hotel for \$700,000. Several years later, the health spa and the indoor swimming pool were added. Gene Moore, who had joined the Savery team in 1960, stayed on and later became the manager for Iowa Realty's hotel properties, one of Knapp's business interests. (*Des Moines Register* 1983)

In 1996, Shaner Hotel Group of State College, Pennsylvania, purchased the Savery Hotel. This corporation is presently designing an interior renovation for the building.

WOMEN'S HISTORY AND MILITARY HISTORY

The Savery Hotel is significant for women's history and military history. During World War II, the hotel provided an "introduction center" and supplemental barracks for the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAACs), whose post on the south side of Des Moines at Fort Des Moines III lacked sufficient housing. The WAACs underwent basic training in Des Moines.

The Women's Army Auxiliary Corps is important within the context of women's history and military history because it contributed to the growing role of women within the nation's military establishment. Although Des Moines was but one of three sites for WAAC training (the others were at Daytona Beach, Florida, and Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia, the Des Moines post was the first commissioned for this duty. It also remained the largest reception and training center throughout the duration of the war, and the only one with an officers' training program. (Greene:30)

An *Historic American Building Survey* of Fort Des Moines III summarizes the historical significance of that facility for women's history:

Fort Des Moines is further significant as the World War II home of the first Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC, later WAC) officer and enlisted training center in the United States. The development of this adjunct for utilizing the services of women in other than nursing capacities reflected the army's recognition of the value of women as contributors in various fields to the country's war effort, as well as the patriotism of women during the national wartime crisis. More than 72,000 women completed training to fulfill diverse noncombat role that immeasurably aided the military mission. As a result, the Women's Army Corps became a permanent fixture in the organization of the United States Army. Furthermore, the existence of the WAC facility at Fort Des Moines fostered a broadening of the role of women in civil life as well, by virtue of expanding vocational opportunities that carried over into postwar American society. (Greene:33)

The Savery Hotel is significant within this context because it served from 1942 to 1945 as an introduction center for Fort Des Moines. After women enlistees arrived at the Rock Island Depot in downtown Des Moines, they were marched up 4th Street to the Savery Hotel, where they were issued their service clothing. (The hotel was usually called the Hotel Savery at that time.) The women would stay one or two nights at the hotel before being transported to Fort Des Moines III on the city's South

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Savery Hotel, Polk County, Iowa.

Side to begin their basic training. The Savery Hotel also augmented the Fort's facilities by providing living quarters and classrooms. The fort lacked sufficient accommodations to house the numbers of enlistees. Some of these newly-arrived enlistees also stayed at the Elliott Hotel and the Hotel Chamberlain in downtown Des Moines. Some enlistees also stayed at the Savery Hotel throughout their entire basic training.

In 1992, the WAACs celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the corps founding. Des Moines was chosen as the site for a reunion, and the Savery Hotel was chosen as the reunion's headquarters. Prior to their arrival, the hotel management encouraged participants to share their wartime experiences in Des Moines by letter writing. The hotel gathered together, transcribed, and shared these letters at the reunion. These letters, along with several photographs which accompanied them, provide insights into life at the hotel during the war years.

According to one WAAC:

I was in Des Moines in 1942. My company, the 33rd WAAC Department spent a week in your [Savery] hotel, November, 1942. We stayed on the tenth floor. There were two bunk beds in each of the rooms and four women to a room. Our company consisted of one hundred and fifty women, plus officers.

The first evening we were there, the fire alarm went off and you know that you don't use the elevator when that happens. We marched all the way down to the first floor before we found out it was a false alarm.

Everyone was back in their room and had settled down, it was about one o'clock when the alarm went off again. I didn't go down, I stayed in the room. I told them it must be another false alarm because I didn't smell smoke. It was another false alarm. My C.O. said that it didn't matter if it was a false alarm and I shouldn't take it upon myself to disregard orders. So, I was put on punishment. I was put on a detail in some of the unused rooms of the hotel and to count the number of beds and dressers etc. in each room. Needless to say, I was glad when my detail was over. . . Our company stayed there for about a week until our troop train was made up.

We left there on December 1, 1942, in a blazing snow storm for Ft. Huachuca Arizona.
(Mildred Moore)

According to another WAAC:

Our billet was the Savery Hotel, considered the best of the hotels being used by the military at that time.

Since our company was on the 6th floor. . . we could not use the elevators during training. We marched in a fashion up and down the 6 flight daily to all of our activities.

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Savery Hotel, Polk County, Iowa.

Column of 2 up and down the stairs! No wonder I'm in good shape. . . I still walk every where I go in town.

Eleanor Roosevelt came to the Savery. . . we "met her" . . . shook hands with her at the foot of those marble stairs!! It made my day! (Anonymous)

Another WAAC recorded how living space was at a premium:

It was exactly 49 years ago on October 24th that my company moved into the [Savery] hotel so it brought back many memories.

We were quartered in the ball room 70 of us in double deckers and a bathroom that had been put together in a nearby room. The windows were painted black and a sort of store room opened off it so we made a day room in there--just a tiny space. Everything we owned was hung on 3 hangers or kept in a footlocker--we did learn efficiency!

All of us at the Savery and Chamberlain Hotels ate in a cafeteria set up in the lobby and tables were all over including the Mezzanine--3,200 of us ate in this cafeteria.

All of us drew KP or Housekeeping about every 10 days-2 weeks. One week my job was to scrub the white marble steps down to the lobby and mop floors. The worst job on KP was cleaning the traps under the sinks.

We were in classes held in the hotel. After compulsory study hour in the evening, we dashed off to a drug store up the street where they sold wonderful hot fudge sundaes.

All told I spent 2-1/2 months at the Savery including Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years. Whenever I hear "I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas" I think of those days. The war news was grim, but we enjoyed the companionship and still maintain some of the friendships. (Jewel Langston)

Hollywood film-makers came to Des Moines during World War II. The war drama "Keep Your Powder Dry" starred Lana Turner, Laraine Day, and Susan Peters and told the story of three WAACs from different social backgrounds. Portions of the film were shot on location at the Rock Island Depot and the Savery Hotel in Des Moines. The hotel was called the Savoy in the movie. MGM released "Keep Your Powder Dry" in 1945. According to one history of film:

Just as so many films had appealed to the patriotic hearts of young men, this is the film that excited young women and caused a slight run on the WAC recruitment headquarters around the country. . .

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Savery Hotel, Polk County, Iowa.

This was a fairly authentic look at the corps, although it must be admitted that MGM laddled the glamour on when it came to make-up and off-duty clothes. (*The Motion Picture Guide*)

The film's title made a pun of the word "powder" and its double meaning for both ammunition and women's cosmetics.

Downtown provided the principle entertainment center for the WAACs during their free time in Des Moines. According to one account:

On Saturday nights you could not walk on the streets in downtown Des Moines because of the WAAC's walking 4 to 5 deep. The kids who had cars would "scoop the loop" and pick up the WAAC's in exchange for gas coupons, and take the WAAC's where they wanted to go. Most of them would go to the Mainliner Club where the Hilton is now. This casino was run by Johnny and Kay. Others would just like to ride around. On the second floor of the Savery they would play a piano and sing and dance the jitterbug on Saturdays and Sundays. Some would go to the Coliseum to the roller skating rink, on the 2nd floor, until it burned in 1945. (Anonymous)

Other downtown buildings also housed WAACs during the war years. They included the Plaza Hotel, located on the southeast corner of 5th and Grand; the Chamberlain Hotel on the northeast corner of 7th and Locust Streets; and The Coliseum at 101 Locust Street. None of these buildings remains extant today. Three buildings at Drake University also became barracks for the WAACs Second Regiment. (Long:76) Within this context, the Savery Hotel is significant because it provided the introduction center for the WAACs program in Des Moines and is the only hotel within this context standing today.

ARCHITECTURE

The Savery Hotel is architecturally significant because it calls attention to the influence of Georgian Revival styling on its design. The building also helped inaugurate the skyscraper hotel in downtown Des Moines, a relatively new architectural form in the city in 1919. The Savery Hotel also illustrates the considerable skills of H. L. Stevens & Company, architects of Chicago, Illinois.

Architectural Style

The Savery Hotel exhibits the influences of Georgian Revival styling on a large, commercial building as erected in Des Moines during the first quarter of the Nineteenth Century. The building's symmetrically conceived double facade and richly embellished decorations exhibit this influence. Each of these facades shows a careful regard to the symmetrical arrangement of its bays and decorative

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Savery Hotel, Polk County, Iowa.

elements. This emphasis on symmetry is further strengthened by the fact that both of the facades are identical.

The Savery Hotel employs many architectural details with references to classical architecture of the Eighteenth Century. These motifs include festoons, urns, garlands, rosettes, fluted columns, and balustrades. These references to antiquity, as revived by the Adams Brothers and others in the Eighteenth Century, also show the influence of Georgian Revival styling on this building.

Skyscraper

The Savery Hotel helped inaugurate a new architectural form in downtown Des Moines--the skyscraper hotel. Before the construction of this 11 story edifice and its equal-story rival, the Hotel Fort Des Moines, most hotels in Des Moines possessed only about one-half as many floors. The following table lists these and other large, downtown hotels:

SKYSCRAPER HOTELS IN DES MOINES

Name	Address	Notes
Savery Hotel	4th & Locust	11 story, opened in 1919
Hotel Fort Des Moines	10th & Walnut	11 story, opened in 1919
Hotel Kirkwood	4th & Walnut	12 story, opened in 1930
Marriott Hotel	7th & Grand	33 story, opened in 1981

OTHER HISTORIC DES MOINES HOTELS

Name	Address	Notes
Randolph Hotel	4th & Court	8 story, opened in 1912
Brown Hotel	4th & Keo	nonextant
Hotel Elliott	219 4th	6 story, face-lifted facade
Hotel Wellington (Plaza)	5th & Grand	4 story, nonextant
Chamberlain Hotel	7th & Locust	nonextant
Victoria Hotel	6th & Keo	6 story, nonextant
Northwestern Hotel	321 E. Walnut	3 story, opened in 1915

Source: Des Moines city directories, hotel business offices, and field survey.

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Savery Hotel, Polk County, Iowa.

H. L. Stevens & Company

The Savery Hotel was designed by H. L. Stevens & Company, architects and builders. The firm was officed at 900 (earlier 910) South Michigan Avenue, in Chicago, Illinois. It enjoyed a regional reputation for the design of prestigious hotel commissions. For example, the firm designed the Churchill Apartments, located at 1251-1259 North State Parkway in Chicago, Illinois. Built in 1922, this nine-story building was designed as an apartment hotel. According Meredith Taussig of the Chicago Landmarks Commission:

It is still standing and considered noteworthy by our recent survey. It is within the "Gold Coast" National Register district. (Meredith Taussig)

Taussig also notes that this building is the only H. L. Stevens & Company design she could find in the Landmark Commission's files. (*Ibid.*) The Handbook of Illinois Society of Architects includes the Churchill Apartments as one of its "Milestones in Building Construction." (*Ibid.*)

In Iowa and in addition to the Savery Hotel, the firm designed a hotel for the Iowa City Hotel Company in 1913 and an addition for the Brown Hotel Company in Des Moines in 1918. (Iowa Architects File) The Brown Hotel served for many years as a residential hotel in Des Moines. The improvement designed by H. L. Stevens & Company was a three story addition to the top of the building and cost \$75,000 to construct. The Brown Hotel stood on the corner of 4th and Chestnut Streets before it was razed in the 1960s or 1970s. The Iowa City facility possessed six stories. The *American Contractor* published announcements of H. L. Stevens & Company's commissions for each of these three projects. (*Ibid.*) In 1929 the firm was granted a license to practice architecture in Iowa. (*Ibid.*)

REPRESENTATION IN OTHER CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEYS

This building was surveyed in 1983 as part of the *Survey of Historic Sites*, a reconnaissance survey of Des Moines. In that survey, Barbara Beving Long prepared an historic overview of the area, completed an Iowa Site Inventory Form for the Savery Hotel, and noted that:

the Hotel Fort Des Moines, the Northwestern Hotel, and the Hotel Savery represent the extant important hotels dating from the early twentieth century and call attention to the significant building boom of that period. (Long:2)

The form's brief statement of significance for the building focused on James C. Savery, who was associated with the two earlier hotels bearing the same name. Long evaluated the Savery Hotel, under National Register Criterion A, as a contributing structure. While noting that the Savery Hotel "is most well known for its use as quarters for WACs during World War II" (*ibid.*:3), this area of significance

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Savery Hotel, Polk County, Iowa.

does not appear to have been factored into the building's evaluation under Criterion A. This survey did not evaluate the Savery Hotel under National Register Criterion C, and its statement that the present hotel is the first by that name to occupy this site is incorrect. It should be noted that this reconnaissance survey was an early effort at recording historic resources in Des Moines, and Long should be recognized for her pioneering work.

In 1995, Patricia A. Eckhardt conducted a reconnaissance survey of downtown Des Moines, prepared an historic context for the area, and completed a series of Iowa Site Inventory Forms. The Savery Hotel was not included among the surveyed resources. (Eckhardt:33-34)

New research into the history of the Savery Hotel, undertaken for this project, prompted a reevaluation of the resource's National Register eligibility. The building was found individually eligible for the reasons discussed above.

POTENTIAL FOR HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY

Although the site's potential for archaeological research is, as yet, unevaluated, there appears to be little in this regard. Construction of this building in 1918 disturbed its entire quarter block site. It is unlikely that subsurface features of the 1887 hotel building remain extant.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH AND REGISTRATION

The Savery Hotel has accommodated many famous entertainers and political leaders over the years. This context offers many interesting possibilities for further research. The history of conventions, trade shows, and special events at the Savery Hotel offers another subject for further research.

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Savery Hotel, Polk County, Iowa.

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

AT THE SAVERY IN THE 1930S



Source: Courtesy of the Savery Hotel.

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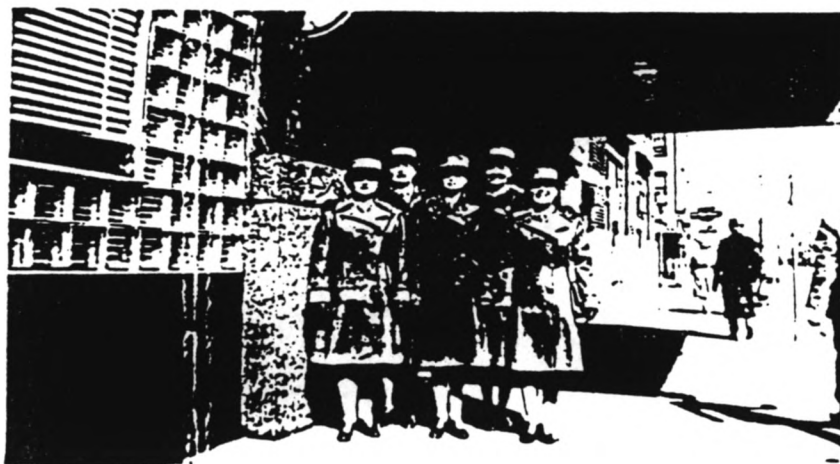
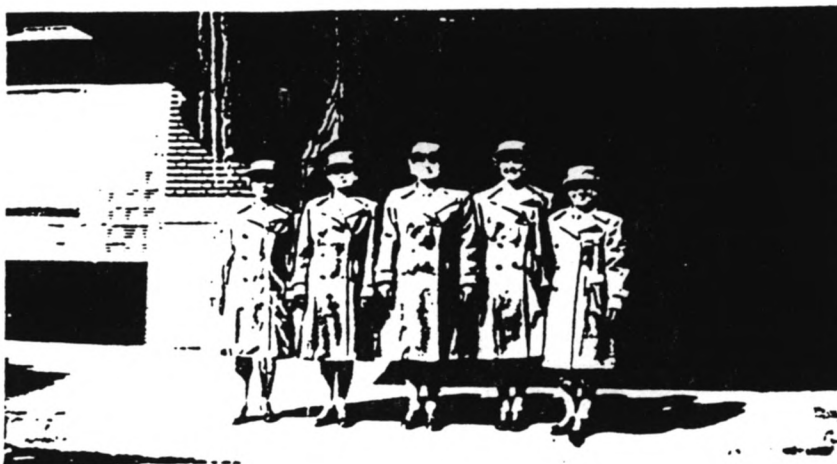
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Savery Hotel, Polk County, Iowa.

SAVERY HOTEL DURING WORLD WAR II

“ROOM MATES THAT WERE HOUSED IN ROOM 603”



ROOM MATES OF COMPANY "3"

To commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the WAAC founding, a convention of former corps members was held in Des Moines in 1992. At that time, one woman shared these snapshots. They are captioned: “These pictures were taken outside of the Savery Hotel. The photos are of the room mates that were housed in Room 603. Photos were taken late January, 1943.”

Source: Courtesy of the Savery Hotel.

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Savery Hotel, Polk County, Iowa.

AT THE SAVERY IN 1952



Source: Courtesy of the Savery Hotel.

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Savery Hotel, Polk County, Iowa.

TRUCK SHOW AT THE SAVERY

CIRCA 1954



This view pictures the Grand Ballroom on the second floor of the Savery Hotel. A freight elevator near the ballroom moved the trucks to the room from an alley.

Source: Courtesy of the Savery Hotel.

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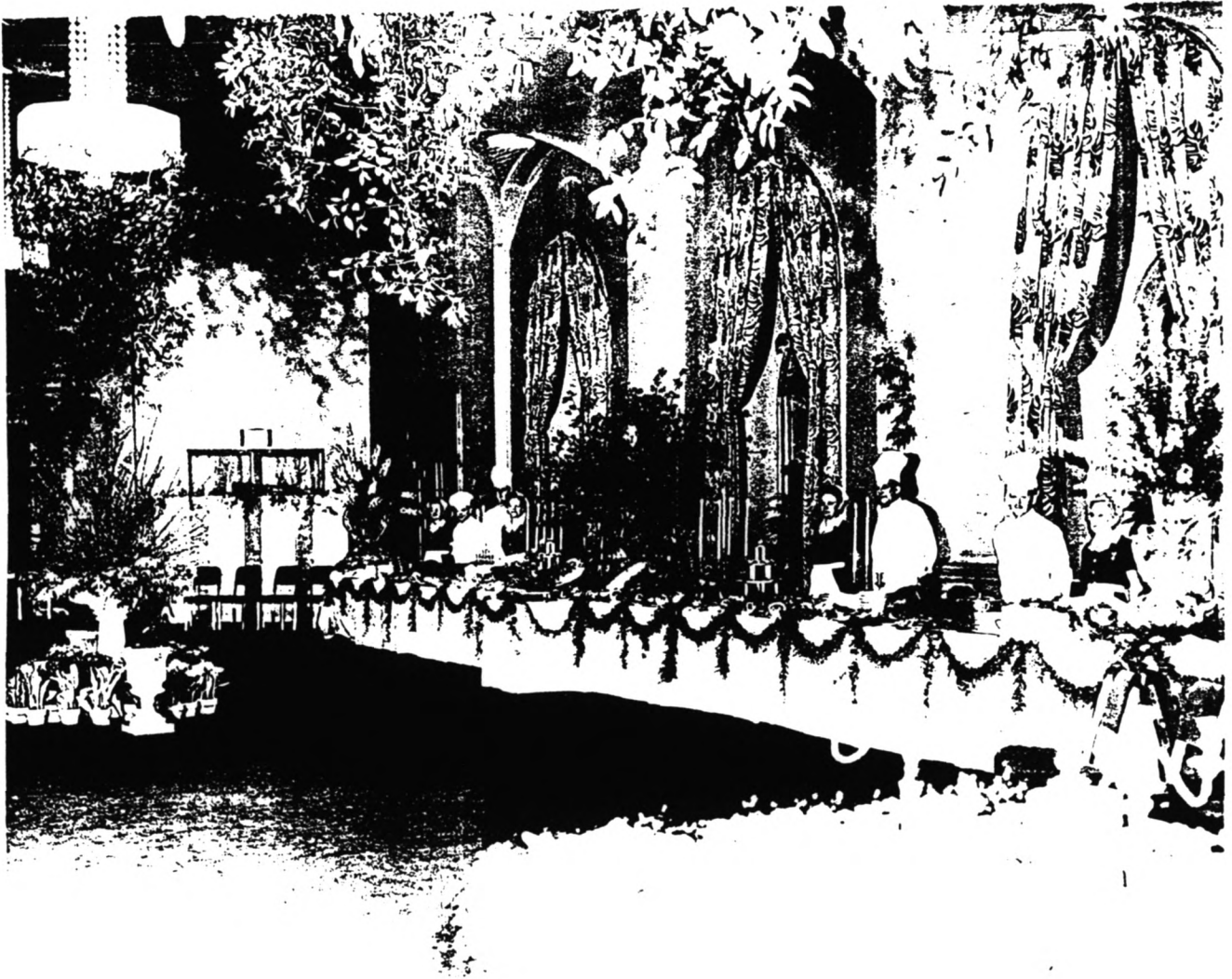
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Savery Hotel, Polk County, Iowa.

BUFFET BANQUET

CIRCA 1954



Compare this view the of Savery Grand Ballroom with that on the previous page.

Source: Courtesy of the Savery Hotel.

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Savery Hotel, Polk County, Iowa.

PLANNING THE 1950s REMODELING



Source: Courtesy of the Savery Hotel.

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Savery Hotel, Polk County, Iowa.

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Des Moines Sunday Register; November 18, 1917. "Savery No. III Will Be Erected in the Early Spring." Includes architect's drawing of Locust and 4th Street facades.

Des Moines Register; January 20, 1918. "To Wreck Savery in 6 Weeks Times, Demolition of Hotel Will Start on March 1 if Weather Permits Work."

Des Moines Sunday Register; July 28, 1918. "Tearing Down and Building Up Locust Street Business Section." Includes photograph of demolition work underway.

The old Savery hotel will soon be only a legend. Its halls and corridors almost historic, that have mutely listened to convention sessions that have helped mold the destiny of the state, are now rapidly being filled with the dust of crumbling masonry. In another week a dusty plat of ground will be all that remains to mark the spot where the Savery once stood.

The wrecking of the Savery hotel is the largest wrecking job ever done in Iowa, according to Harry D. Cohen of Cohen Bros., wrecking contractors, who are doing the job. In thirty working days, with 125 men employed, the building will be completely wrecked. One and one-half million brick will have been taken from their position, besides two carloads of pipe and 300 tons of reinforcing steel.

The workmen are the most experienced men the company has, and were brought here from its Chicago jobs. The corner will be entirely cleared of all debris and remnants of the old structure by next Saturday, according to Mr. Cohen. Immediate work will then be started on the erection of the new \$100,000 structure to replace the building now being demolished, and work will be rushed using double shifts, says Gerrard Nollen of the Savery Hotel company.

Des Moines Register; February 2, 1919a. "New Savery Hotel Rapidly Nearing Completion." Includes two photographs of construction.

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Savery Hotel, Polk County, Iowa.

Des Moines Register; September 21, 1919b. "Announcing the Formal Opening of Hotel Savery." This advertisement includes two photographs of construction. Includes images of "Hotel Savery I," "Hotel Savery II," and "Hotel Savery III."

Des Moines Register; September 21, 1919c. "Hotel Savery III Now Open." Includes three interior photographs of public rooms.

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ORAL HISTORY

Chambers, Carole; Informant interview with William C. Page; February 9 and February 16, 1998. Chambers is the general manager of the Savery Hotel. She shared information about the hotel's physical plant and its recent history.

Alshouse, Tommy; Informant interview with William C. Page; February 16, 1998. Alshouse is chief Engineer of the Savery Hotel. He shared information about the hotel's physical plant and made available the hotel's collection of architects' plans for it.

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Savery Hotel, Polk County, Iowa.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 1, 2, and 3, in Block "D" in Commissioner's Addition to Fort Des Moines, an official plat, now included in and forming a part of the City of Des Moines, Polk County, Iowa, and all that part of the vacated north/south alley lying adjacent to and between Lots 2 and 3 in Block D, Commissioner's Addition to Fort Des Moines, which lies below an elevation of 46 feet city datum, now included in and forming a part of the City of Des Moines, Polk County, Iowa.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The National Register boundary contains all land historically associated with this resource.

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Savery Hotel, Polk County, Iowa.

LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

1. Savery Hotel
4th and Locust Streets
Des Moines, IA 50309
Looking northwest
William C. Page, Photographer
February 22, 1998
2. Savery Hotel
4th and Locust Streets
Des Moines, IA 50309
(North Annex South Unit in lower left hand corner,
North Annex North Unit behind chimney at left)
Looking northeast
William C. Page, Photographer
February 22, 1998
3. Savery Hotel
4th and Locust Streets
Des Moines, IA 50309
(Detail of east facade)
Looking southwest
William C. Page, Photographer
February 22, 1998
4. Savery Hotel
4th and Locust Streets
Des Moines, IA 50309
(Floors eighth through 11)
Looking southwest
William C. Page, Photographer
February 22, 1998
5. Savery Hotel
4th and Locust Streets
Des Moines, IA 50309
Interior view of main lobby & staircase
Looking east
William C. Page, Photographer
June 2, 1998
6. Savery Hotel
4th and Locust Streets
Des Moines, IA 50309
Interview view of main lobby
Looking north northwest
William C. Page, Photographer
June 2, 1998
7. Savery Hotel
4th and Locust Streets
Des Moines, IA 50309
Interview view of 2nd floor lobby
Looking northwest
William C. Page, Photographer
June 2, 1998