

JAN 23 1982

Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JAN 26 1982

DATE ENTERED MAR 9 1982

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

Thayer's Hotel

AND/OR COMMON

St. Andrew's Inn

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

136 Main St.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Littleton

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2

STATE

New Hampshire

CODE

33

COUNTY

Grafton

CODE

009

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Donald C. and Margaret Smith

STREET & NUMBER

136 Main St.

CITY, TOWN

Littleton

VICINITY OF

STATE

New Hampshire

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Grafton County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Rte. 10

CITY, TOWN

North Haverhill

STATE

New Hampshire

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The main block of the hotel is a 3½-story temple form with a Greek Doric order monumental portico. Corner pilasters with arched panels support a molded cornice with frieze and entablature. The steeply-pitched roof has seven gabled dormers on either slope, and a large octagonal cupola with corner pilasters, paired round-arched sash, and a tent roof.

The highly symmetrical fenestration is 5 x 3 bays. The portico features a large 12-over-12 gable window capped by a pointed-arch louvre with drip molding. In front, the ground level shows French windows with 1-over-1 sash (originally 9-over-9). On the side elevations, two-tiered oriel windows have arched lights, bracketed cornices, and stick-style brackets below. All other windows have 6-over-6 sash and peaked headboards.

The front elevation, behind the portico, has a strong vertical orientation, in the center bays. The main entrance has large double doors with paired, round-arched lights, a large glazed transom, and plain pilasters. On the second and third story center bays, directly above the entrance, enormous scroll consoles with pendant drops support identical balconies with decorative pierced balustrades. Double doors with arched lights and rectangular surrounds of transom, sidelights, and pilasters open onto the balconies from inside.

The hotel's interior plan uses wide central halls on all four floors, each lighted at the gable ends by large windows or glazed doors. Connecting these halls in the center is a grand staircase, in which a single continuous rail on turned balusters ascends from a spiral Newell post in the lobby to the cupola. The rail and well are curved rather than angled at all corners. The first and second floor doors and windows have wide molded surrounds with brief shoulders and heavy cornice heads. Crown moldings, ceiling panels, and some original hardware and fixtures are also intact.

The only significant changes in the building's appearance occurred c. 1885, when the side elevation oriel windows and cupola roof were added, and c. 1907, when a commercial block to the south of the hotel was razed. This event afforded the addition of two connected wings to the main block: a one-story dining room in front, with a Georgian Revival storefront, now used as a small shopping mall, and a plain, three-story bedroom wing in the rear. It was also at this time that the attic-level ballroom was converted to bedrooms and steam heat and private baths were installed.

At the rear of the property is a one-story 50' x 20' garage, c. 1930, which is presently used for storage. The garage is constructed of single clay block. Stepped parapets at the gable ends flank a slightly rounded roof. The garage is in very poor condition ie. roof rotten and mortar crumbling with patches of improper repointing. The building is characteristic of early 20th century garages.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input 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

1843-50

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

UNKNOWN

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Andrews Inn is significant as an outstanding example of a mid-nineteenth century small town hotel, and as one of the earliest of the great resort hotels for which this part of the White Mountains became famous. The original plan, drawn in 1843 by an unknown architect, builds on the basic Greek temple form employed in nearly all public buildings of the Greek Revival period. Although this motif, characterized here by a monumental Doric portico and absolute bilateral symmetry, provided the appearance of grandeur sought in hotels of that era, the architect tempered the classical formalism with elements of the anti-Greek Picturesque movement. These included arches, peaked window heads, and a steeply-pitched roof with dormers and a large cupola. The elaborately decorative front balconies combine with the portico to effect the traditional hotel piazza. The resulting transitional style, one of the earliest of its kind in northern New England, reflected a growing dissatisfaction with the starkness and inflexible proportions of Greek forms, and foreshadowed the trend toward anti-form eclecticism in the second half of the century.

The inn was first opened in 1850, as Thayer's Hotel, in anticipation of the coming of the railroad to Littleton. It has since played an important role in the town's social life, providing a popular public house for receptions, political gatherings, and daily tavern-goers. It achieved a national reputation after the Civil War, when the surrounding White Mountains became a resort for America's upper classes. During New Hampshire's long history as the first stop on the national presidential campaigns, politicians from U.S. Grant and Horace Greely to Nelson Rockefeller, Richard Nixon, and Jimmy Carter visited the hotel and made speeches from the front balconies. In 1906 Harry K. Thaw, the jealous murderer of architect Stanford White, and thus the center of a sensational national scandal, was held in custody here for a month after his arrest in Littleton. In the 1930's Henry Ford attempted to buy the hotel's portico, balconies, and grand staircase to use in his museum of Americana at Dearborn, Michigan. Today, the hotel remains a key visual focal point in the downtown Littleton streetscape, and continues to serve as an important public gathering place.

UTM NOT VERIFIED
UTM NOT VERIFIED

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Child, Hamilton, Gazetteer of Grafton Co., N.H. (Syracuse, 1886), I, 496.
Jackson, James R., History of Littleton, N.H. (Cambridge, 1909), I, 337, 503.
Paulsen, Greta, and Stewart, Virginia, 175th Anniversary Cookbook, First Congregational Church of Littleton (1978), p.48.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 m/0/1

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 9	2 7 8 7 0 0	4 9 0 9 4 5 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at an iron pin in the Main St. sidewalk, 23 feet northwesterly of the St. Andrew's Inn portico, the property line runs South 59° East along the sidewalk for 109 feet, thence South 29° West for 93 feet, thence South 35° West for 170 feet, to the bank of the Ammonoosuc River. The line then follows the northerly bank of the river for 138 feet, at a bearing of North 80° West, thence North 30° East for 309 feet, to the southerly side of Main St. and the point of beginning. Parcel #U15-27.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A			
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

John C. Page

ORGANIZATION

North Country Historical Foundation

DATE

Sept. 20, 1980

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 54

TELEPHONE

603-838-6370

CITY OR TOWN

Lisbon,

STATE

New Hampshire

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

TITLE Commissioner, Dept. of Resources & Economic Development DATE

NH State Historic Preservation Officer

March 18, 1981

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Lynn A. Beebe for Acting Keeper

DATE

March 9, 1982

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

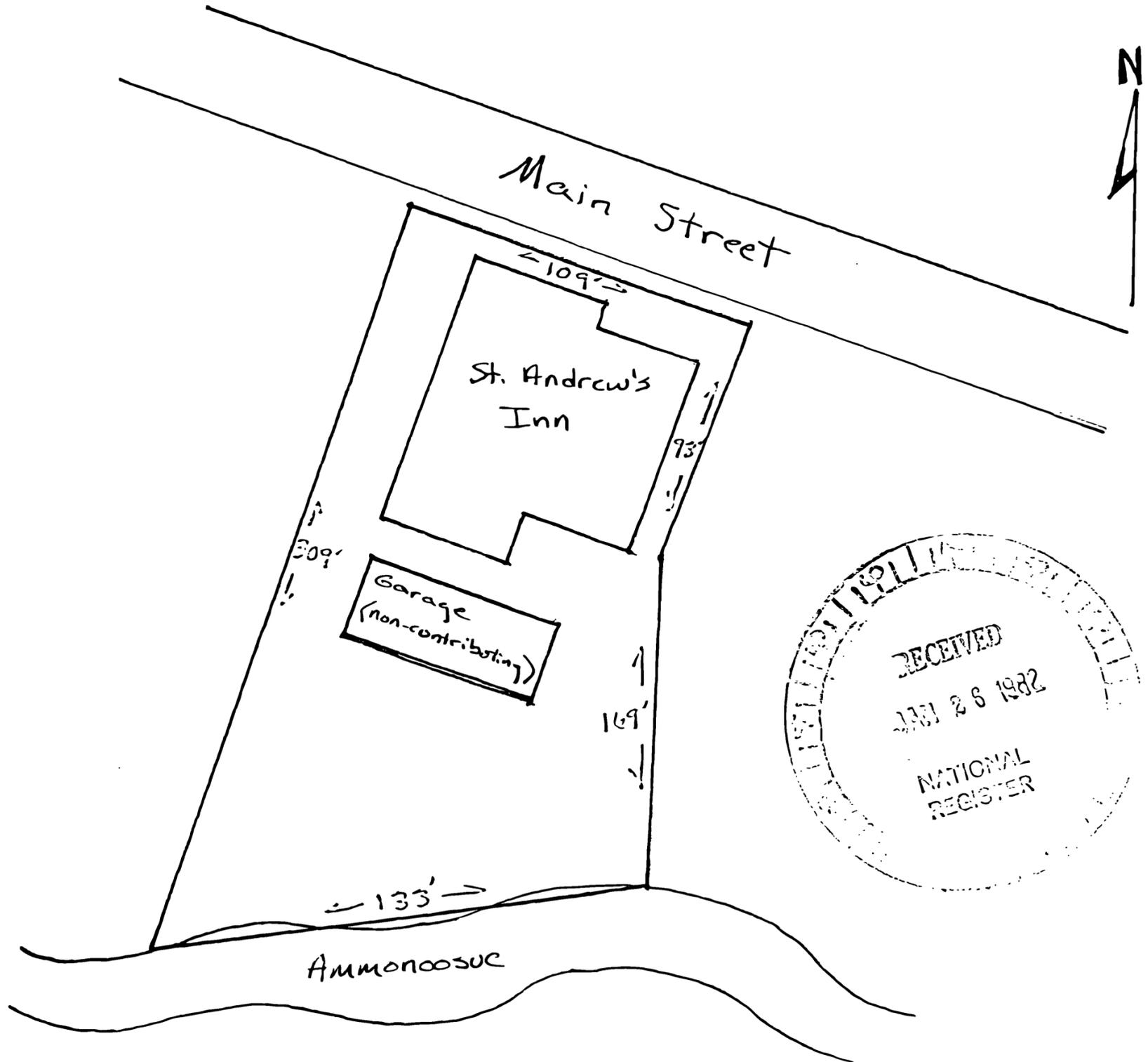
DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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CONTINUATION SHEET #1-SKETCH MAP ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2



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NATIONAL REGISTER

Sketch Map of
St. Andrew's Inn property

(not drawn to scale)

John C. Page - 9/20/80
for North Country Historical Foundation