

NR listed

3/6/86

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

received
date entered

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

1. Name

historic The Conway Hotel

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 108 Courthouse Square ___ not for publication

city, town Murfreesboro ___ vicinity of

state Arkansas code 05 county Pike code 109

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name James T. Smith

street & number 617 South Washington Street

city, town Murfreesboro state Arkansas

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Pike County Courthouse

street & number Courthouse Square

city, town Murfreesboro state Arkansas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes ___ no

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Conway Hotel stands on the northeast corner of the Pike County Courthouse Square in Murfreesboro. Pike County, predominately rural, is located in the southwest of Arkansas. The hotel's facade faces the courthouse square, while the rear elevation opens directly onto North Court Street. Construction of the area's first brick hotel began in June, 1913 under the supervision of Mr. W. J. Lockeby. Owner of a saw mill, Lockeby was well known for his association with the county's timber and building industries. The hotel's architecture is basically austere with a evidence of Craftsman influence on roof, porch and interior.

The two-story hotel consists of a rectangular central hall plan. A metal hip roof, with exposed rafters, covers the brick structure. The north and south sections of the roof are distinguished by centered weatherboard dormers, also covered with the same roof configuration. A cupola is centrally placed on the roof line of the structure. One-over-one double-hung windows within plain surrounds comprise the window configurations on both stories. The first floor window openings are characterized by concrete lintels. A brick string course divides the first and second stories while creating an impression of support for the 19" pilasters, placed every 12', that relieve the otherwise one dimensional surface. A one story porch encompassing the width of the structure, distinguishes the Conway Hotel facade. Four battered wood columns mounted on concrete pedestals support the porch's hip roof. The porch covers the main entrance of the hotel. The single leaf entrance, with light transom, is flanked by two sets of three window openings.

In the interior, the first floor plan consists of the lobby area that includes the stairway to the second floor. The register's desk is located under the stairs. Guest rooms, bathrooms, kitchen, dining room and the family living quarters occupy the remaining first floor area. The second floor consists of guestrooms on either side of the central hall with a community bathroom on the north end. The brick interior walls are finished with plaster. The floors and stairs are made of wood. The decorative elements are limited to the staircase; doors and surrounds and original hardware throughout most of the hotel.

Alterations and additions occurred through the years. In 1940 a coffee shop was added to the southeast portion of the hotel. Although uncertain of the date of the additions, a number of the guestrooms feature small bathroom facilities. The hotel's chimneys were removed on the east and west elevations.

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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1913

Builder/Architect W. J. Lockeby and Falls

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

SUMMARY

During its peak years, the Conway Hotel was the finest modern brick hotel in Murfreesboro and the surrounding area. W. J. Lockeby, associated with the local timber and building industries, supervised the construction of the hotel in 1913 for a contractor, Mr. Falls. The need for a larger and more elaborate boarding facility grew out of the sudden influx of mining speculators and investors into Murfreesboro after the discovery of North America's only diamond deposits. The Conway Hotel was the main headquarters during this exciting period in Pike County's history as well as Arkansas's history. For decades, the hotel was the meeting place for the businessmen who made the important decisions concerning the commercial and economic development of the area.

ELABORATION

Through the nineteenth century and early twentieth century, Murfreesboro, the government seat of Pike County in southwest Arkansas, doubled in population. The timber industry and the development of the fruit industry, particularly peach orchards, spurred economic prosperity in Pike County. Additional interest in the area came soon after the discovery of diamonds deposits two-and-a-half miles southeast of Murfreesboro in 1906. Diamond operations continued throughout the next few decades creating a need for a modern meeting and boarding facility such as the Conway Hotel. Owned and operated by Joel H. Conway, a boarding house proprietor since 1886, the Conway Hotel continued to be the temporary home for speculators interested in developing the area's mining resources, including cinnabar, an ore from which mercury is extracted.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Abstract for the Conway Hotel. Abstract No. 2557, Guaranty Abstract and Title Company, Murfreesboro, Arkansas.

"Building Notes", Pike County Courier, 27 June 1913.

Sanborn Map Company. Murfreesboro, AR 1913 and 1919. New York, Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, 1913, 1919.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less 1

Quadrangle name Murfreesboro, Arkansas

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	5	4	3	7	6	2	0	3	7	6	9	1	2	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

Northeast corner of the Pike County Courthouse Square, Lot 3 and 5 of Block 2 of the City of Murfreesboro, Arkansas.

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title James W. Smith - ed. by AHPP staff

organization date

street & number 617 South Washington Street telephone

city or town Murfreesboro state Arkansas

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature [Signature]

title Arkansas Historic Preservation Officer

date 1-31-86

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

Conway Hotel

Quadrangle Name: Murfreesboro, AR

Scale: 1:24000

15 437620/3769120







