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DEC 13 1995

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

AHPP

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

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1. Name of Property

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Historic Name: Bacon Hotel

Other Name/Site Number: Sunrise Hotel / PO 0015

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2. Location

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Street & Number: SE Corner of the Railroad & Homestead Rd.

Not for Publication: N/A

City/Town: Whitehall

Vicinity: N/A

State: AR County: Poinsett Code: AR 111 Zip Code: 72432

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3. Classification

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Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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4. State/Federal Agency Certification
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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. _____ See continuation sheet.

Cathryn A. Sator _____ 10-20-95
 Signature of certifying official Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
 State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria. _____ See continuation sheet.

 Signature of commenting or other official Date

 State or Federal agency and bureau

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5. National Park Service Certification
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I, hereby certify that this 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): _____

 Signature of Keeper Date of Action

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6. Function or Use

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Historic: Domestic Sub: Hotel
Domestic Single Dwelling

Current : Vacant/Not In Use Sub: _____

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification:

Other: Folk Victorian

Materials: foundation Concrete roof Metal
walls Weatherboard other Brick

Describe present and historic physical appearance:

Summary

Constructed in 1912, the Bacon Hotel is a two-story frame structure clad with beige-painted weatherboard and resting upon a semi-continuous concrete foundation. The hotel is covered by a corrugated metal-sheathed, cross-gable roof and is basically built on a T-shaped plan, although the "T" is offset to the south. Containing a total of eight rooms with four on each level, the structure reflects a true hotel configuration with the second-story rooms being accessible only by the exterior staircase. The front section of the hotel is basically an two-story double pen with a central projecting-gable, two-story front porch. Supported by four turned-spindle posts, the gable end pediment features an impressive wooden sunburst design that is perhaps the hotel's most defining feature. There are two interior brick chimneys, one central to the front section and one located toward the rear of the T extension. There are no current outbuildings that are specifically associated with the historic hotel.

Elaboration

Constructed in 1912, the Bacon Hotel is a two-story frame structure clad with beige-painted weatherboard and resting upon a semi-continuous concrete foundation. The hotel is covered by a corrugated metal-sheathed, cross-gable roof and is basically built on a T-shaped plan, although the "T" is offset to the south. Containing a total of eight rooms with four on each level, the structure reflects a true hotel configuration with the second-story rooms being accessible only by the exterior staircase. Also, the two upstairs "T" rooms are not connected and have separate entrys. The front section of the

hotel is basically a two-story double pen with a central projecting-gable, two-story front porch supported by four turned-spindle posts. There are two interior brick chimneys, one central to the front section and one located toward the rear of the T extension.

The front, or western, elevation is dominated by the projecting-gable, two-story porch with an impressive wooden sunburst design in the gable end. The gable end pediment is defined by a frieze with architrave and cornice returns. This frieze continues around the I-House section as well as the southern elevation of the "T." The first story porch floor is made of poured concrete with steps on the north and south ends. The southern steps are significant for the inscription, "Bacon Hotel White Hall Ark. 5/30/12." These steps are no longer attached but are adjacent to the porch. The turned spindle posts at the southern and northern ends do not match the two middle posts and are probably historic replacements. This level never contained a turned balustrade as does the second-story, wood-floored balcony; however, a spindle frieze is found on the northern and southern ends. A 1928 photograph reveals the frieze encircling the porch on both stories. This ornament has been missing altogether from second story for quite some time. The second-story porch posts are substantially shorter than those on the first floor and reflect the approximately seven feet ceiling height of the second story.

Both stories contain two single-leaf entrances of panel-and-glass wood doors underneath the porch and a one-over-one, double-hung window located to either side of the porch. The first-story windows have projecting crown molding, but the shorter second story windows have flat window casings that abut the frieze. The northern and southern gable end elevations of the front section are identically arranged with a central one-over-one window on each story. Like the front porch, the gable end pediments are defined by the base entablature and the simple cornice returns. These pediments, however, are further divided by a horizontal frieze and architrave in the center of the triangle.

The northern elevation is composed of the aforementioned gable end of the I-house section and the two-story shed porch off of the rear "T." The porch is supported by four turned spindle posts, with the second story having shorter posts and a connecting balustrade. The first floor contains only a short balustrade across the eastern end of the porch. Underneath the porch are three single-leaf entrances, a straight staircase, and a one-over-one, double-hung window. The door leading into the northern room of the front section and the door leading into the east room (kitchen) of the "T" section are the original four-panelled design. The door entering the middle room of the "T" is a later fifteen-light door. Featuring turned balusters and a patera-embellished newel post, the staircase begins just to the east of the middle room entrance and ascends to the east. A small storage closet is located underneath. The one-over-one window is placed to the west of the kitchen entrance. Upstairs, the arrangement is reversed, and the sole window is located to the east of the middle room door. All three doors on this level are original.

The rear, or eastern, elevation consists of the gable end of the "T" and has a one-over-one window on both stories. Due to the shed-roof porch to the north, only one cornice return is used on the southern side. Compared to the gable ends of the front section, there is no entablature to outline the gable end, nor is there an ornamental frieze and architrave dividing the pediment.

Moreover, both windows feature projecting crowns instead of only the first-story window.

The southern elevation for the "T" extension contains an enclosed shed porch on the first story and a single one-over-one window for each of the two upstairs rooms. In the late 1940's, the western end of the porch was enclosed with weatherboard to create a bathroom. This room extends to the south beyond the southern wall of the front section and contains a small one-over-one wood-frame window. The remainder of the porch was screened for most of the historic period, but has recently been somewhat enclosed with corrugated metal sheets. Inside, there is a one-over-one window for each room of the "T" and a four-panelled wood door entering into the kitchen.

The interior of the building is virtually unchanged from its original configuration. All of the principal doors and windows are trimmed with milled casings and feature patera corner blocks. The bathroom addition door and the door between the two downstairs rooms of the front section were added later and do not feature this detail. Additionally, double-beaded board wainscoting is found in the two first floor rooms of the "T."

There are no extant outbuildings that are specifically associated with the Bacon Hotel.

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8. Statement of Significance
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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Local.

Applicable National Register Criteria: A,C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: Architecture
Transportation
Exploration/Settlement

Period(s) of Significance: 1912 - 1945

Significant Dates: N/A

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Bacon, James.

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above:

Summary

The Bacon Hotel in Whitehall, Poinsett County is being nominated under Criteria A and C with local significance. Under Criterion A, the property is significant as the most visible link to the timber boom era and subsequent agricultural transformation of the historic community of Whitehall. The Bacon Hotel is perhaps more significant under Criterion C as the best example of Folk Victorian-style architecture in Poinsett County and as one of the better examples of a railroad-related hotel in the entire state.

Elaboration

The abstract for the Bacon Hotel dates to September 27, 1858 when the land was deeded to the State of Arkansas from the federal government under the Swamp and Overflowed Land Act of 1850. The early history of Whitehall is vague. According to local tradition, the community was named such after Joe Hall, one of the earliest settlers in the area. Hall desired a house constructed from sawn lumber rather than a house of ordinary logs like those utilized by his neighbors. After purchasing the lumber in Memphis, Hall had the boards shipped down the Mississippi River and up the St. Francis River to Wittsburg. The freight was then dragged by a team of oxen to the western side of Crowley's ridge about six miles south of Harrisburg. Hall constructed a house with a breezeway and painted it white. Soon, the locals began calling it the White Hall House, and when the first post office opened in 1882, the residents requested it be named White Hall. Some years later, the spelling was changed to one word to avoid conflict with the town of White Hall in Jefferson County. Coinciding with the establishment of the post office was the completion of the Knobel to Helena branch of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad through Whitehall and Poinsett County. As with other railroad towns in Arkansas, the railroad precipitated a thriving timber industry, though the tracts of land were said to have been owned by "companies up North."

Strangely, a town was not platted until 1912 when E. A. Gilbert purchased the NE 1/4 SE 1/4 Section 23, T10N, R03W and laid out Gilbert's Division in White Hall "as shown in plat filed for record May 17, 1912." The Bacon Hotel is located on the former Lot 4, Block 4 of Gilbert's Division facing the now defunct Front Street which ran parallel to the railroad tracks. This tract was purchased on May 28, 1912 by James William Bacon for the "consideration of \$100.00 paid." Although the date carved in the steps beside the front porch of the hotel is only two days after the transaction date, Bacon, who was a carpenter, did construct the hotel according to Dorothy Bacon, a granddaughter-in-law, and other descendants. On August 9, 1912, Bacon and his wife, Mary Elizabeth Patterson Bacon, took out a mortgage for the "principal sum of \$750.00 with 8% interest from date due one year after date."

The *raison d'être* for the Bacon Hotel was apparently to provide lodging for the many timber company officials that would travel to Whitehall on business and for the "drummers" or travelling salesman. And, according to Edward Maddox of Harrisburg, the Bacon Hotel was also used by a land agent named

Propes who would travel to Wisconsin to solicit German and Swiss immigrants to visit Arkansas. Propes was selling L'Anguile river bottom land for as much as \$50 an acre compared to the going rate of \$15 - \$20 an acre and was bringing the visitors to Whitehall only during the dry season when the river was more subdued. The relatively secluded Bacon Hotel proved a perfect location for it kept the immigrants from socializing in the more populous Harrisburg. At least one Swiss immigrant family's descendants still reside in Poinsett County, although a connection with Propes is unknown.

Unfortunately, the Bacon Hotel was a relatively short-lived venture. On June 5, 1913 Bacon sold the property to W. L. Vaughan, the man who mortgaged the property to Bacon. It is not clear whether Bacon was unable to pay the mortgage or simply decided to sell. The property was then sold back to Gilbert in 1914 with three more transactions until the Roberts family purchased the Bacon Hotel and the surrounding properties in 1919.

By this time the forests were largely cut over and the stump strewn land was being cleared for agricultural use. Consequently, the economic boom associated with such towns naturally subsided, and this may have been the contributing factor in the demise of the Bacon Hotel as a boarding house. William D. Roberts and his sons, W. S., J. E., and James, owned the Roberts Cotton Oil Company in Memphis, Tennessee. They subsequently petitioned to convert the platted town back into farm acreage and orchard. Thereafter, the Bacon Hotel was utilized as a residence for the Roberts' farm managers and their families. Chambers was the first manager and stayed at the hotel into the 1920's. He was followed by Joe Dowdy, who was farm manager until 1930. Next, the Hall family resided at the Bacon Hotel through 1937. Dorothy JeanHall Bellinger, the oldest daughter of Henry and Jewell Hall, remembers having electricity during their years at the hotel. Incidentally, she stated the structure was painted white at this time. Henry Crider and his family lived in the building from 1937 until 1944. Afterwards, John Roberts, who is the current owner of the nominated property, assumed the role of farm manager, but did not live at the hotel. Three more men, who were working for Roberts though not technically managers, and their families lived at the hotel in succession until the early 1950's.

Since that time the Bacon Hotel has been vacant. It was used as a polling center for Scott Township residents for many years, but has lately been used solely for storage.

As a true local landmark, the Bacon Hotel is being nominated under Criteria A and C with local significance. Under Criterion A, the property is significant as the most visible link to the boom era and subsequent agricultural transformation of the historic community of Whitehall. The Bacon Hotel is perhaps more significant under Criterion C as the best example of Folk Victorian-style architecture in Poinsett County and as one of the better examples of a railroad-related hotel in the entire state.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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Deed Abstract, John E. Roberts, Owner.

Information submitted by Teresa Parker, June, 1995, including the following personal interviews:

- John Roberts (owner), age 83, Whitehall, January - May 1995.
- Henry Parker, age 88, Whitehall, February, 1995.
- Dorothy Bacon, Memphis, TN, March, 1995.
- Jim Bacon, age 55, Memphis, TN, March, 1995.
- Thelma Foust Barr, age 78, Whitehall, April, 1995.
- Ellen Croft Fair, age 83, Whitehall, March, 1995.
- Kathrine Riechman, age 86, Harrisburg, March, 1995.
- Dorothy Jean Hall Bellinger, age 70, Auburndale, FL, April, 1995.
- Helen Bridges, age 81, Colt, April, 1995.
- Maxine Hall Ursery, age 68 Tyronza, April, 1995.
- Buell Crider, age 77, Jonesboro, April, 1995.
- Ramona Parker McLin, age 76, Harrisburg, April, 1995.
- Fanny Aston Brown, age 98, Harrisburg, March, 1995.
- Clifton Wessner, age 78, Harrisburg, March, 1995.
- Clyde Ford, Harrisburg, April, 1995.
- Edward Maddox, age 85, Harrisburg, May, 1995.
- Barbara Kocher Durham, age 58, Harrisburg, May, 1995.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: _____

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10. Geographical Data
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Acreage of Property: Less than one

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

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|---|-------------|---------------|----------------|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| A | <u>15</u> | <u>705520</u> | <u>3928430</u> | B | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |
| C | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | D | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |

Verbal Boundary Description:

Lot 4, Block 4 in Gilbert's Division of White Hall [sic], Poinsett County, Arkansas.

Boundary Justification:

This boundary includes the historic hotel and surrounding property, but excludes nearby outbuildings that were not originally associated with the hotel.

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11. Form Prepared By
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Name/Title: Patrick Zollner, Architectural Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: October 19, 1995

Street & Number: 1500 Tower Bldg., 323 Center St. Telephone: (501) 324-9880

City or Town: Little Rock State: AR ZIP: 72201

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Bacon Hotel
Whitehall, Poinsett Co., Ark.
UTM: 15/705520/3928430



