

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0688410

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
NOV 27 1978	
RECEIVED	
DATE ENTERED	JAN 11 1979

**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
Eola Hotel
AND/OR COMMON
Eola Hotel

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Main and Pearl Streets

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN
Natchez

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Fourth

___ VICINITY OF

STATE
Mississippi

CODE
28

COUNTY
Adams

CODE
1

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Downtown Hotel Group ✓
STREET & NUMBER
c/o Larry L. Brown, 19 Homochitto Street

CITY, TOWN
Natchez

___ VICINITY OF

STATE
Mississippi 39120

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, OFFICE OF THE CHANCERY CLERK
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Adams County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Natchez

STATE
Mississippi 39120

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Statewide Survey of Historic Sites

DATE

April 6, 1976

___ FEDERAL STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Mississippi Department of Archives and History

CITY, TOWN

Jackson

STATE
Mississippi 39205

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT DETERIORATED
 GOOD RUINS
 FAIR UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Eola Hotel, the largest building in downtown Natchez, faces both southerly onto Main Street and easterly onto Pearl Street. "The exterior of the building is a Colonial adaptation of the Georgian period, the walls being faced in fire flashed Colonial press brick ornamented with stone trimmings, cornices, and urns."¹ The structural frame, the floor system, and the interior partitions of the building are made of reinforced concrete.²

The Pearl Street facade, which houses the entrance to the main lobby, is a full seven stories tall, with the seventh floor housing an auditorium, banquet hall, and kitchen. The Main Street facade contains two entrances, one to the coffee shop and one to a long hall, known as Peacock Alley, which leads to the lobby. The Main Street facade originally consisted of six finished stories, with the top portion of the building used as a roof garden adjoining the auditorium and banquet hall on the seventh floor of the Pearl Street facade. The roof garden was enclosed in later years to provide additional banquet space.

The second through the sixth floors of the hotel contain approximately one hundred and twenty-five guest rooms, each with private tiled bath. Each guest room is still equipped with an electric ceiling fan. The basement floor of the building contains the mechanical equipment for operating the hotel.

The principal floor of the hotel consists of a main lobby, the hall known as Peacock Alley, a coffee shop, the large dining room, the primary kitchen, and a secluded dining area known as the Palm Room. The walls of Peacock Alley are composed of a series of recessed arches, and, within each arch, was originally placed a settee.³ The lobby is adorned with paneled pilasters and free-standing box columns of the Composite order. The mezzanine is located on the southerly and westerly walls of the lobby, and the registration desk and offices of the hotel management are located beneath the westerly portion of the mezzanine. The floors of the lobby, Peacock Alley, and the Palm Room are of imported Italian Botticina terrazzo with gray Tennessee marble borders and bases.⁴ Almost all original lighting devices survive, and the most outstanding of these are the chandeliers in the lobby.

The nominated property also consists of the Levy Building, a late nineteenth-century structure which has been included as part of the Eola Hotel facility since its opening in 1927. The cast-iron second-story facade of the building is architecturally significant, but the first floor has been completely modernized and a third floor added in the twentieth century.

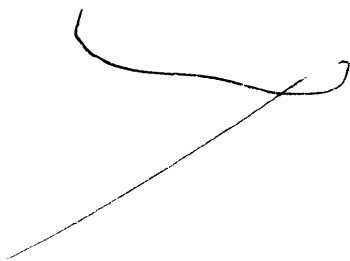
Notes

¹"Description of New Eola Hotel," The Natchez Democrat, July 1, 1927, p. 1.

²Ibid.

³Ibid.

⁴Ibid.



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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" 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	1927	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Weiss, Dreyfus, & Seiferth New Orleans, Louisiana
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

For almost fifty years, until its closing in 1974, the Eola Hotel was the center of social activity in Natchez, and it stands today as a building of great integrity, expressing the architecture and decorative arts of the 1920s. At a height of seven stories, the hotel is the tallest building in Natchez and occupies the most prominent position in the downtown area. It was built at a cost of three-quarters of a million dollars, and at its grand opening on July 1, 1927, it was hailed by newspaper headlines as a great "symbol of civic progress."¹

The Eola Hotel was conceived and built under the auspices of the Natchez Investment Corporation, of which Leon M. Levy was president. The president of the board of directors of the Natchez Investment Corporation was Isidore Levy, for whose daughter the hotel was named. The building was leased upon completion to the Eola Hotel Corporation, most of the members of which were also members of the Natchez Investment Corporation.²

The Eola Hotel building was designed by the architectural firm of Weiss, Dreyfus, & Seiferth, Inc., of New Orleans, Louisiana. Other extant Natchez buildings designed by the firm are Margaret Martin Junior High School, formerly Natchez High School, on Homochitto Street; Deposit Guaranty National Bank, formerly City Bank and Trust Company, on Franklin Street;³ and Montaigne, a National Register property and home of Confederate General William T. Martin.⁴ Both the Deposit Guaranty National Bank building and Montaigne were extensive remodelings of older buildings. The contractors for the construction of the hotel were J. V. and R. T. Burkes of New Orleans,⁵ and the interior decoration was the result of the combined efforts of the architectural firm and Miss Caroline Dreyfus, consulting decorator.⁶

In 1931, the Natchez Investment Corporation defaulted on its mortgage, and the Eola Hotel and its contents were sold to the highest bidder.⁷ Until its closing in 1974, the hotel was owned and operated by the Natchez Eola Hotel Corporation, of which Clarence Eyrich was president. The Natchez Eola Hotel Corporation was organized by a group of concerned citizens whose primary concern was that the Eola Hotel remain open for the benefit of the community.⁸

With the beginning of the Natchez Pilgrimage in 1932, the Eola Hotel entered a period of great prosperity. Not only was the hotel the principal place of lodging for the many tourists who visited the city, but it also became the social center for the citizens of the town. Its coffee shop was open twenty-four hours a day and served as a rendezvous point for the town's businessmen during the day and the general populace in the evening. The Eola was also the facility most used by civic clubs and other organizations for banquets and large meetings.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Adams County, Mississippi. Deed Book 4-0.

"Description of New Eola Hotel." The Natchez Democrat. July 1, 1927.

"Eola Will Stand As Testimonial To Splendid Work." The Natchez Democrat. July 1, 1927.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Natchez, Mississippi-Louisiana

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1, 5 6, 5, 1 5, 6, 10 3, 4, 9, 2 6, 4, 7

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is outlined in red on the enclosed xerox copy of the city of Natchez tax map number 5, block 3. It consists of parcels 14 and 15.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mary Warren Miller, Research Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Self-employed

DATE

November 3, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

506 High Street

TELEPHONE

601-442-9786

CITY OR TOWN

Natchez

STATE

Mississippi 39120

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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

Elmer B. Williams

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

November 15, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE 1-11-79

ATTEST:

John H. Gilmore
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 1/11/79

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

8 - SIGNIFICANCE

By the early 1960s, the Eola Hotel was beginning to show the effects of age, and competition from chain motels on the highways began to reduce its tourist revenue. Without extensive redecoration and improvement of services, the hotel could no longer make a profit. The Natchez Eola Hotel Corporation lacked the enthusiasm to rally behind the effort required to make the Eola a profitable undertaking, so on November 30, 1974, the hotel ceased operation.

In 1978, the town of Natchez has become excited and encouraged by the efforts of Larry L. Brown, a local businessman, who has spearheaded a drive to reopen the Eola Hotel in much the same manner as was accomplished by the Natchez Eola Hotel Corporation in 1931. The hotel has been purchased by a group of investors who have incorporated as the Downtown Hotel Group.⁹ The Downtown Hotel Group is composed of concerned citizens who realize the potential of a restored Eola Hotel and the impact such a restoration could have on the future of the entire downtown area of Natchez.

Notes

¹"The New Eola Hotel--A Symbol of Civic Progress," The Natchez Democrat, July 1, 1927, p. 1.

²"Description of New Eola Hotel," The Natchez Democrat, July 1, 1927, p. 1.

³Ibid.

⁴Monteigne nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Mississippi.

⁵"Eola Will Stand As Testimonial To Splendid Work," The Natchez Democrat, July 1, 1927, p. 1.

⁶"Description of New Eola Hotel," The Natchez Democrat, July 1, 1927, p. 1.

⁷Adams County Deed Book 4-0:213.

⁸Personal interview with Clarence Eyrich, Sr., 600 North Union Street, Natchez, Mississippi, June 20, 1978.

⁹Personal interview with Larry L. Brown, 19 Homochitto Street, Natchez, Mississippi, June 20, 1978.

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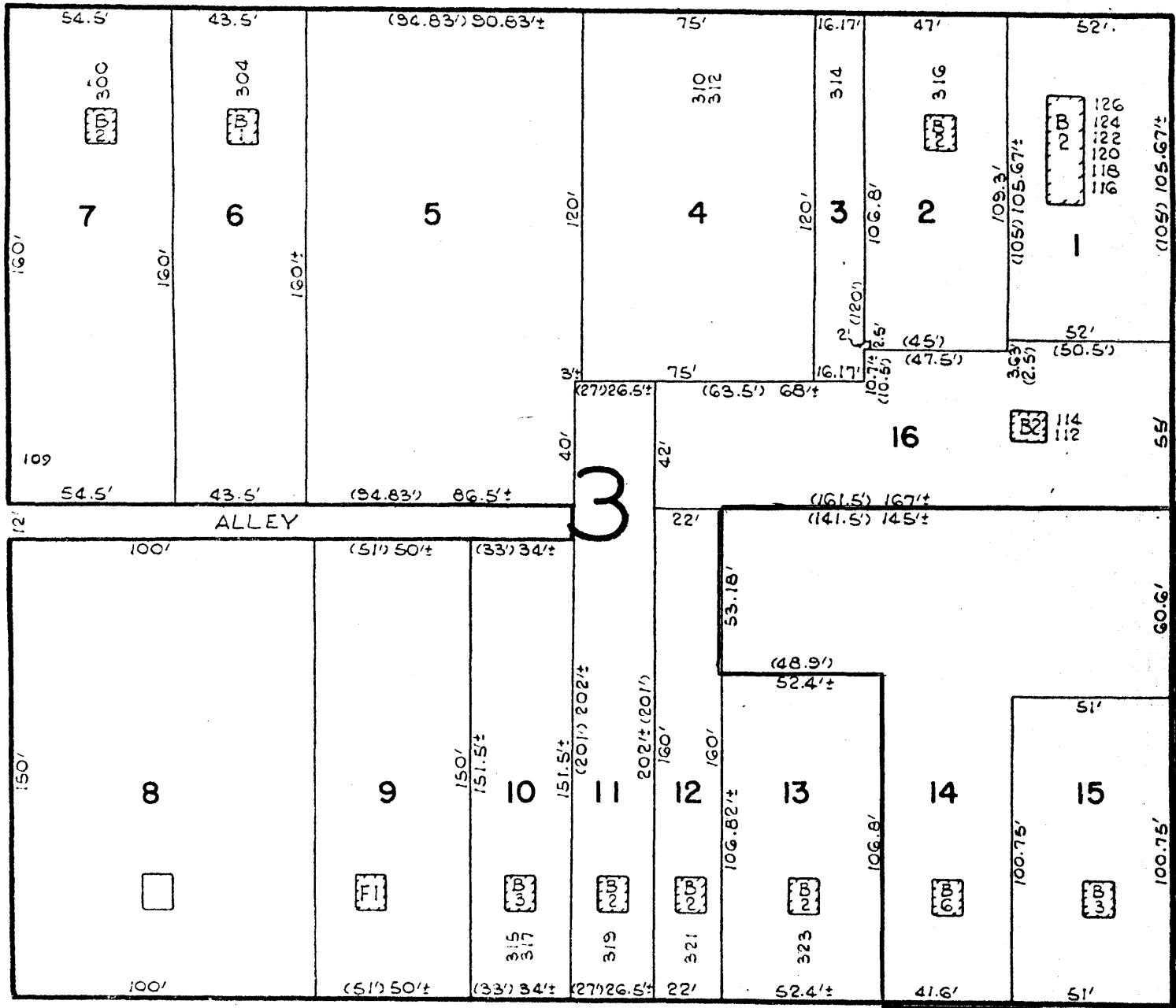
9 - MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Miller, Mary Warren, research consultant. Personal interview with Larry L. Brown, 19 Homochitto Street, Natchez, Mississippi, June 20, 1978.

Miller, Mary Warren, research consultant. Personal interview with Clarence Eyrich, 600 North Union Street, Natchez, Mississippi, June 20, 1978.

"The New Eola Hotel--A Symbol of Civic Progress." The Natchez Democrat. July 1, 1927.

NUKIH



MAIN



2

EOMA HOTEL
 MAP 5
 BLOCK 3
 PARCELS 14 & 15

T. NO.



EOLA HOTEL

Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi

Mary Warren Miller

1978

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

Pearl Street (easterly or principal) facade of

hotel, with side elevation of adjacent Levy

Building at far left; view toward the north.

Photo 1 of 4

JAN 11 1979

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EOLA HOTEL

Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi

Mary Warren Miller

1978

JAN 11 1979

Mississippi Department of Archives and History
Main Street (southerly or secondary) facade of
hotel and principal facade of adjacent Levy
Building; Pearl Street (easterly or prin-
cipal) facade of hotel in background. View
toward the north.

Photo 2 of 4

NOV 27 1978



EOLA HOTEL

Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi

Mary Warren Miller

1978

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

Lobby; view east toward the Pearl Street or
principal entrance.

Photo 3 of 4

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NOV 27 1978



EOLA HOTEL

Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi

Mary Warren Miller

1978

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

Peacock Alley; view south toward the Main

Street or secondary entrance.

Photo 4 of 4

JAN 11 1979

NOV 27 1978