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 National Register Bulletin, How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. If any 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name Beaumont Hotel
other names/site number Summit Hotel/015-435

2. Location

street & number 11651 SE Main Street
not for publication

city or town Beaumont (Glencoe Township)

state Kansas code KS county Butler code 015
zip code 67012

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide _X_ local

SEE FILE

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

___ entered in the National Register ___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register ___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:) ________________

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
**5. Classification**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply.)</th>
<th>Category of Property (Check only one box.)</th>
<th>Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)</th>
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<td>x building(s)</td>
<td>Contributing 1 Noncontributing 1 Total</td>
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**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**

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions** *(Enter categories from instructions.)*

DOMESTIC: Hotel; COMMERCE: Restaurant

**Current Functions** *(Enter categories from instructions.)*

DOMESTIC: Hotel; COMMERCE: Restaurant

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification** *(Enter categories from instructions.)*

Other

**Materials** *(Enter categories from instructions.)*

foundation: Stone

walls: Stucco, Brick

roof: Asphalt

other:
Beaumont Hotel  Butler County, KS

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a summary paragraph that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The Beaumont Hotel is located on the west side of Main Street (also known historically as Third Street) on the south end of downtown Beaumont, Kansas an unincorporated village in Butler County’s Glencoe Township. Beaumont is located approximately twenty miles southeast of county seat El Dorado and just south of Highway 400, a major east/west highway that stretches east to the Kansas/Missouri line. Its unique geologic region, known as the Flint Hills, evolved from a traditional bison range to one of the richest ranching regions in the world. The history of the hotel, which sites just north of the Frisco rail line, is tied closely to that of the railroad. Although the Beaumont Hotel has evolved and changed many times since its original construction as a railroad hotel in 1879, the building has maintained the same appearance for more than sixty years, since an overall design change in 1953. Among the character-defining features from the 1953 remodel are viewing decks that were constructed to provide views to the surrounding Flint Hills landscape and the nearby grass airstrip.

Narrative Description

Exterior – Overall
The exterior of the Beaumont Hotel reflects its 1953 appearance. The building is comprised of three two-story masses – a center gabled mass that was part of the original Summit Hotel, dating to 1879; an east mass with projecting cantilevered viewing bays that date to 1953; and a west-projecting mass with hipped roof, dating to ca. 1917. A one-story concrete-block addition, which likely dates to the 1953 remodel, projects north from the west end of the center bay on the north elevation. A two-story addition, also from the 1953 remodel, projects north from the north elevation of the west bay. The principal exterior material is stucco, mostly over wood frame. The 1950s additions are mostly concrete block. Brick on the lower façade and north elevation bulkhead are from the 1953 renovation. All windows are double-hung wood windows or single-pane wood picture windows.

East (Front) Elevation
The most prominent feature of the front elevation is an east-projecting viewing bay with hipped roof. This east elevation of this bay has four large window openings, each with four fixed windows. Three cased columns support the bay. The lower façade, sheltered by the projecting viewing bay above, houses a centered steel-door entrance, flanked by two fixed picture windows on each side. The east elevation of the south-projecting cantilevered viewing bay, with its three-part window, is also visible.

West (Rear) Elevation
A hipped viewing bay on the north end of the west elevation houses a four-part window. The construction of the north end is concrete block. To the south is the west elevation of the ca. 1917 addition. An entry door and double-hung window on the upper level are accessed via a concrete landing and protected by a hipped roof. The lower level of the stair tower/landing has a centered small double-hung window.

North (Side) Elevation
The cantilevered viewing bay occupies the east end of the north elevation. On this side, there is a 2-pane fixed window on the east and man door opening to a fire escape on the west. The lower level of the center bay has two picture windows and a man door, which opens to the diner/kitchen. The upper level of the center bay has nine evenly spaced narrow double-hung wood windows. A one-story hipped concrete block addition projects from the west end of the center bay on the north elevation. This has a double-hung wood window on its east elevation, floor clerestory window openings on its north elevation, and a man door on its west elevation. The roof of this addition supports various exhaust and other equipment related to the diner kitchen. The lower level of the third, westernmost bay of the north elevation has a four-window fixed window opening on the east, double-hung window on the center, and man door on the west. Above is a ribbon of twelve fixed windows, similar to those on the front viewing bay.
South (Side) Elevation
The south elevation of the hipped west bay, dating to ca. 1917, has two doors and two double-hung windows on the lower level and four evenly spaced double-hung windows on the upper level. The gabled center bay has two Chicago-Style picture windows and a double-hung window on the lower level and five evenly spaced double-hung windows on the upper level. On the east is a cantilevered viewing bay, with a six-part window on its west elevation, a ribbon of eighteen fixed windows on its south elevation, and a three-part fixed window on its east elevation. Below this projecting bay, the brick lower level has a man door on the west end and two double-hung windows on the east.

Interior - First Floor
The building’s exterior clearly betrays its interior uses. The main entrance, centered on the lower level of the east façade, opens to the hotel lobby. The lobby has a red quarry tile floor and plaster ceilings and walls. The east wall of the lobby has two openings – one on the east to the diner and one on the west to the phone booth. A large cased opening on the west end of the lobby opens to an open stair with log railing on the north and wide corridor to meeting rooms on the south. A small door north of the open stair leads to a back hall.

A 1953 diner occupies the north half of the first floor’s east end. The walls of the diner are finished with historic knotty pine paneling. The ceiling is finished with surface-mounted 12” square acoustical tiles with flush-mounted fluorescent lights. The floors are hardwood running north to south. A counter, topped with boomerang Formica and sided with wood-grained Formica, stretches much of the length of the diner. Chrome stools sitting atop a raised platform provide seating for the diner counter. Free-standing tables, also topped with boomerang Formica, circle the diner. Shelving, sinks and other diner equipment is stainless steel. Other details include scalloped pine running trim. A door on the west wall of the diner leads to the kitchen.

The west wall of the 1953 lobby opens to a wide corridor in the center mass, which may have served as the original hotel lobby. This corridor opens on the north to a smaller restroom corridor. A cased opening on the west end of the corridor opens to meeting rooms that occupy the balance of the first floor’s west end. The first meeting room has fluted wood trim, tongue and groove wood ceiling, carpeted floors, and tongue and groove wood wainscoting. A door on the north end of the west wall of the first meeting room opens to a second meeting room. This room has lower plastered or gypsum board ceilings, carpeted floors, ca. 1950s fluted wood trim and orange shellac doors, and painted wainscoting. A cased opening on the east end of the first meeting room’s north wall opens to a rear hall. This hall provides access to the first-floor ADA-accessible restrooms.

There are three guestrooms on the west end of the first floor. Two of these are accessible via doors on the west end of the south elevation. One of these is accessible via a door on the west end of the north elevation.

Interior - Second Floor
The open stair in the lobby rises to a double-loaded corridor on the second floor. In total, there are eleven guest rooms and suites in the hotel. As noted above, three of these rooms are on the first floor. Eight of these are accessible via openings the second-floor corridor. The floors of the corridor are carpet. The walls are wallpapered with painted wainscoting; and the ceilings are plaster or gypsum board. Guest rooms have wallpapered walls, plaster or gypsum board ceilings and carpeted floors. Corridor doors are newer fire-rated doors. Interior doors and trim date from the 1953 remodel.

In addition to the guest rooms, the second floor houses a guest laundry/ice and vending room. On the east end of the hall, a 1950s door with orange shellac finish and stainless steel hardware opens to the viewing bay on the east end of the building. This room has exposed wood roof trusses, carpeted floors, and wood and plaster walls. The west end of the hall opens to an off-centered exit door in the ca. 1917 addition.
8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Enter categories from instructions.)

TRANSPORTATION

AGRICULTURE

Areas of Significance

Criteria Considerations

Period of Significance

1953-1961

Significant Dates

1953

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Period of Significance (justification)

The Beaumont Hotel's period of significance stretches from its 1953 overall design change to 1961, fifty years from the present. It was during this time that proprietor James Clinton Squier cemented the hotel’s reputation as a fly-in hotel and restaurant.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

N/A
Beaumont Hotel  Butler County, KS
Name of Property                   County and State

Statement of Significance

Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Beaumont Hotel in Beaumont, Kansas is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Kansas Places for local significance under Criterion A in the areas of Transportation, as a railroad hotel converted to a fly-in hotel, and Agriculture, for its role in the Flint Hills ranching industry. The hotel was originally built in 1879, but reflects the appearance after a 1953 remodeling.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

A Brief History of Beaumont

Beaumont, Kansas is an unincorporated village in Glencoe Township, Butler County, approximately twenty miles southeast of El Dorado.

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Beaumont established itself as an important railroad and ranching town. The first building, a stagecoach stop commissioned in 1879 by Edwin and Emma Russell, was originally called the Summit Hotel because it was built on the highest point between St. Louis and the cattle shipping center of Ellsworth, Kansas on the proposed St. Louis and San Francisco (Frisco) Rail Line. In 1880, Glencoe Township boasted a population of 606. The town of Beaumont was formally established in 1881, a year after the Frisco Railroad arrived.

Like many towns, Beaumont boomed in the mid-1880s as railroads invested heavily in the American West. In 1885, the Frisco Railroad built a branch track south from Beaumont and constructed a new water tower to supply its steam engines. The same year, the Durham Cattle Company, which boasted cattle pens that held 3000 head, purchased the hotel. Like other paper towns, Beaumont had a newspaper whose principal purpose was to promote its exploits to potential eastern investors. The Beaumont Business, published by speculators in the nearby community of Augusta from September 1886 to November 1887, was short-lived.

Although Beaumont never met the expectations of the 1880s boosters, it did begin to show signs of permanency in the early twentieth century. Beaumont School graduated its first class in 1903. In 1905, prominent Beaumont resident William H. Squier opened a hardware store and a lumber yard on Main Street. By 1912, the town boasted “a money order postoffice, telegraph and express offices, telephone connection” and was a “shipping and supply point for a rich agricultural district in the eastern part of Butler and the southwest corner of Greenwood counties.” Beaumont State Bank moved from a “frame store building across Main Street” to a modern “brick building” in 1915. Dr. Phillips, a rural doctor and “emergency surgeon for the Frisco Railroad at Beaumont,” doubled as the town’s pharmacist.

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1 Kansas Oil Museum and Butler County Historical Society. Flint Hills Tours (Butler County Kansas, 1991). Kansas Historical Society Pamphlet.
2 1880 US Census.
4 Ibid.
5 Frank W. Blackmar, ed., Kansas: a cyclopedia of state history, embracing events, institutions, industries, counties, cities, towns, prominent persons, etc….with a supplementary volume devoted to selected personal history and reminiscence. (Chicago: Standard Pub. Co., 1912).
6 These newspapers are on microfilm at the Kansas Historical Society.
8 Blackmar.
10 Ibid.
Beaumont Hotel

Name of Property: Butler County, KS

A thriving regional oil industry boosted the Beaumont economy in the 1910s and early 1920s. But by the mid-1920s, Beaumont, like many communities in Kansas, was plagued by plunging oil and crop prices. Among the casualties of the Great Depression was the Beaumont State Bank.\textsuperscript{xi}

The trend toward urban living and decreasing prominence of the railroads in the twentieth century wreaked havoc on rural Beaumont. The population of Glencoe Township declined steadily throughout the first half of the twentieth century, nearly halving from 711 to 399 between 1900 and 1950.\textsuperscript{xii}

But one of the most notable chapters in Beaumont history was yet to come. In the 1940s and 1950s, Beaumont became a bedroom community for the growing number of aircraft workers commuting to nearby Wichita. Since 1953, the community has been known as the home of the Beaumont Hotel, which caters to aviators and ranchers who land on the nearby grass airstrip. Tourists also come to see the Beaumont water tower, the last steam engine tower left on the Frisco line.

Although the region’s ranching and oil economy continues to thrive, Beaumont’s population has continued to decline. Beaumont’s school closed in 1967. The post office closed in 1992.\textsuperscript{xiii} Still, the community celebrates the places and objects that make it unique, including the fly-in hotel and water tower.\textsuperscript{xiv}

\textbf{19th and Early 20th Century Hotels}

The history of the Beaumont Hotel falls into the broader context of the rise and fall of nineteenth-century hotels nationwide. In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, hotels, particularly those in the west, were economic and social centers. In their study of the subject, Karl Raitz and John Paul Jones argue that hotels were better indicators of a city’s “personality and progress” than government buildings and churches.\textsuperscript{xv}

In the years before railroads, hotels, like the Summit Hotel, were also stage coach stops.\textsuperscript{xvi} After the arrival of the railroad, they provided a place for traveling salesmen to exhibit their wares and, in railroad towns like Beaumont, places for railroad workers to stay. Because of the essential role they played in community life, their uninterrupted operation was imperative to the livelihood of a town. The loss of a hotel, through fire or natural disaster, was not uncommonly met with strong calls for reconstruction, often subsidized by business leaders and volunteer laborers.\textsuperscript{xvii} In the early twentieth century, larger communities constructed fireproof hotels, financed through the sale of stock to community leaders. Investment was promoted as a civic duty by local newspapers who printed the names of stockholders on the front page.

By the 1930s, the luster of community hotels had begun to fade – due to a number of dynamics. Restaurants that were independent of hotels fed the town’s residents. Apartment buildings, which became common after World War I, housed temporary residents and unmarried folk. Movie theaters entertained broad audiences. And roadside motels, situated along highways, which had begun to take precedence over the railroads, catered to travelers. As a result, many small-town hotels often lost their appeal. Unfortunately, many were demolished during the 1960s and 1970s. Others, like Marion’s Elgin Hotel, were converted to low-income or senior housing.

\textbf{The Beaumont Hotel}

The Summit Hotel (now Beaumont Hotel), Beaumont’s first building, was commissioned by Edwin Russell in 1879. Like many pre-railroad hotels, the Summit, named for its claim as the highest point between Ellsworth and St. Louis

\textsuperscript{xii} US Census.
\textsuperscript{xiv} The following were the population counts for Glencoe Township for 1900-1950. 1900 – 711; 1910 – 676; 1920 – 622; 1930 – 599; 1940 – 486; 1950 – 399.
\textsuperscript{xvi} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{xvii} Ibid. Raitz and Jones, 22.
on the route of the Frisco Railroad, was built as a stagecoach stop and became a railroad hotel after the Frisco arrived in 1880.

The Russells’ investment bore fruit in 1884 when the Kansas City and Southwestern Railroad, a Frisco subsidiary, announced plans to make Beaumont a terminal point for its rail line south to Arkansas City. In 1885, the hotel was purchased by the Durham Cattle Company, which likely had a stake in the nearby cattle pens that held 3000 head of cattle. With its vicinity to the stock pens, the hotel “served as a meeting point between ranchers, cattle buyers, and railroad officials” as well as “traveling salesmen, train crews” and the general public.

In 1895, Reed Church purchased the hotel and became the “hotel keeper.” By 1900, fourteen persons were living at the hotel. These included Reed; his wife Jennie; his son Charlie, who was working at a livery stable; ten boarders, mostly railroad workers; and an eighteen-year-old servant girl. Between 1905 and 1910, the Churches moved to Cowley County’s Rock Creek Township, where Reed identified himself as a farmer. They were still listed there in 1925. According to the current owner’s records, Reed Church’s son Charlie Church took over the hotel in 1910. Charles Church would have owned the hotel through the peak years of high crop and oil prices, when new buildings, like the Beaumont State Bank, were built downtown and other buildings, including the hotel, were expanded.

By 1930, the hotel was owned by Samuel D. Westfall, who gave up farming in Glencoe County to become the “hotel proprietor.” The Westfalls were credited with opening the restaurant to the public. Samuel’s wife Ella identified herself in the 1930 Census as the hotel’s cook. Then, the Westfalls were living at the hotel with their two children and two lodgers. The Westfalls sold the hotel in 1945 to Nell Rauch, who sold the building to Mr. Coonrod in 1947.

The Beaumont Hotel took on its current form in 1953 through the vision of local rancher and entrepreneur James Clinton “Clint” Squier. Squier was born on January 11, 1897 near Beaumont, where his father was engaged in a lumber and hardware business. By 1918, Squier was married and working at the Beaumont State Bank. Squier amassed as many as 40,000 acres of Flint-Hills ranchland in the decades that followed. But his legacy would be his unique fly-in hotel and restaurant.

Squier entered the hotel business almost by accident. At first, the Beaumont Hotel was an extension of his ranching operation, a place to house the “migrating Texas cattlemen who sent their cattle to his Flint Hills ranch.” By the time Squier purchased the hotel and began remodeling it in 1953, his business associates were already using the adjacent pasture as a grass airstrip. Soon, the hotel and its restaurant were attracting ranchers, hobby pilots, and daytrippers from nearby Wichita. In 1962, at the request of county commissioner Mac Childs from El Dorado, Squier removed the fence between the hotel and airstrip. Thus began the tradition of pilots taxiing from the airstrip and parking their planes in front of the hotel.

In the 1950s and 1960s, the fly-in hotel and restaurant gained national acclaim, with features and advertisements in National Geographic and Fortune magazines. Squier’s wife Leona helped manage the hotel until her death in 1957. In the late 1960s, with the help of Squier’s second wife Gladys Hodge, the restaurant was serving 200-400 Sunday dinners. The rancher, who in his own words had “never been off the ground,” became an icon among pilots. In 1978, when Squier was 82 years old, he approached the Savute family, regular customers who operated a successful Italian restaurant in Wichita, about buying the hotel. Squier continued to “hold court” at the hotel until his death in 1980.

With the help of Squier’s granddaughter Luann McCubbin, the Savutes owned and operated the restaurant until the late 1980s. (John Savute died in 2001 when his plane struck a power line in nearby Greenwood County.) Current owner Steve Craig bought the hotel in 2001 and preserved its 1950s features, which include boomerang-patterned

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Formica counters and tables in the 1950s-era diner, fluted wood trim, flush doors, and pine paneling with orange shellac finish. The hotel's interior is very simple, but has changed little since Squier remodeled in what he called "an informal western ranch style." xxiii

The Beaumont Hotel is unique among Kansas properties.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)


Hotel Clippings, Kansas State Historical Society.


Iola Register.

Topeka Capital-Journal.

*Wichita Beacon.*

*Wichita Eagle.*


Beaumont Hotel  Butler County, KS

Name of Property                   County and State

Acreage of Property  less than 1 acre
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

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Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The legal description for the parcel on which the Beaumont Hotel sits is as follows: Section 33 Township 27S Range 8E; BEAUMONT, ORIG TOWN, BLOCK 11, Lot 1 - 12, ACRES 1.1. The Beaumont Hotel occupies Lot 1 of this large parcel, and only this parcel is being nominated.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The above is the legal description for the property occupied by the Beaumont Hotel. Only Lot 1, which includes the Beaumont Hotel, is included in the nomination boundaries.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title  Christy Davis
organization Davis Preservation, LLC  date  11/27/2011
street & number 909 1/2 Kansas Ave, Suite 7  telephone  785-234-5053
city or town Topeka  state Kansas  zip code  66612
e-mail  cdavis@davispreservation.com

Additional Documentation
Submit the following items with the completed form:

- 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. Key all photographs to this map.

- Continuation Sheets

- Additional items:  (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)
**Photographs:**
Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: **Beaumont Hotel**  
City or Vicinity: **Beaumont (unincorporated)**  
County: **Butler**  
State: **Kansas**  
Photographer: **Christy Davis**  
Date Photographed: **11/11/2010**

<table>
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<td>1 of 11. Exterior, south and east elevations, looking northwest.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 of 11. Exterior, south elevation, looking northeast.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 of 11. Exterior, west (rear) elevation, looking east.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 of 11. Exterior, north and west elevations, looking southeast.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 of 11. Exterior, north elevation, looking southwest.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 of 11. Interior, looking west in lobby toward open stair.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 of 11. Interior, looking west in diner.</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 of 11. Interior, looking south in diner.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 of 11. Interior, second floor, overall view of corridor.</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 of 11. Interior, second floor, typical guest room.</td>
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**Property Owner:**
(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name **SJ Craig Enterprises**  
street & number **1960 N. 7th**  
telephone **785-838-3625**  
city or town **Lawrence**  
state **Kansas**  
zip code **66044**

**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.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.