

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC, HOTEL STILWELL

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
707 Broadway

CITY, TOWN
Pittsburg

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
5 Bob Whittaker

STATE
Kansas

___ VICINITY OF
CODE
20

COUNTY
Crawford

CODE
037

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Dr. and Mrs. Wilson Rigler

STREET & NUMBER
611 West Euclid

CITY, TOWN
Pittsburg

STATE
Kansas 66762

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Register of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER
Crawford County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN
Girard, Kansas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Kansas State Historical Society

DATE
8-6-70

___ FEDERAL STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS Kansas State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN
Topeka

STATE
Kansas

037-4460-014

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 Hotel Stilwell is a four story red brick building with limestone trim located on the northwest corner of Broadway and Seventh street in Pittsburg, Kansas. In plan the structure is basically rectangular at ground level and u-shaped from the first floor on up to the flat, built-up roof. Plain one-story brick service structures, now in a deteriorated condition, had gradually been added to the rear, and ruins remain of a concrete addition. The building also has a basement.

The principal facades are the two 120 foot walls facing east on Broadway and south on Seventh street. The main entrance is on the Broadway side. It is distinguished by a limestone archway that is adorned by carved stone ornament. The name of the hotel is inscribed here in raised lettering. Above this archway feature is an open, two-bay recessed balcony on the second story and a carved stone panel set into the window bay on the third story, which assist in emphasizing the importance of this entrance.

At street level along the Broadway facade are five storefronts. Romanesque piers separate the bays. Arched window and door openings line the Seventh street facade, except for one store front which has been faced with a modern glass-and-panel treatment.

The walls are divided into bays of varying widths by wall piers. The window treatment, both in terms of groupings and form, varies from story to story. In general, the organization of the principal facades emphasizes gradated rhythms, vertically from street to roof, horizontally from corner to center.

On the interior, the lobby, entrance hallways, and dining room are notable because of their ornamentation. Particularly notable are the shallow glass dome and cast iron columns in the lobby.

The hotel's 1889/90 appearance was altered by a 1926-27 renovation. Originally, a large windowed oriel turret with conical roof was affixed to the third and fourth stories at the southeast corner of the building and a small ornamental turret balanced this at the northeast corner. In addition, roof pediments marked the two principal entrances on the east and south while the wall pilasters were crowned at the roofline with finials. Finally, on the Broadway side, the window treatment of the third story utilized a one-two-one vertical division of lights within each segmentally arched bay and on the fourth story the windows of each bay were set into paired arches with thin muntins creating two-over-two pane divisions.

The 1926-27 renovation resulted in, among other things, the removal of the oriels and roof projections as well as the alteration of the windows on the third and fourth floors by adding and rearranging mullions. The main public spaces on the ground floor were redecorated. Flooring was replaced and walls resurfaced. On the upper floors emphasis was given to the replacement of mechanical systems and the addition of plumbing. (A one story restaurant was added to the north as part of the 1926-27 renovation but this has since been altered.)

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 checked="" 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/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 checked="" 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 1889-90/1926-27

BUILDER/ARCHITECT J. B. Lindsly & Son

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

When it was built in 1889-1890, the Hotel Stilwell symbolized the energy and vitality that pervaded the young, growing mining and industrial city of Pittsburg. Its construction epitomized the boom spirit and optimism that flourished in the community at that time. The Stilwell was not the first hotel in Pittsburg, but it was the first with sophistication and style, the first that could be pointed to with pride by visitors and residents alike. It was the center of social activity for many generations of Pittsburg citizens. Associated with the hotel's construction were prominent local residents and Arthur E. Stilwell, the successful investor and entrepreneur for whom the hotel was named. Extensively renovated in 1926, the hotel's new architectural appearance expressed the evolution of taste which separated the 1920s from the late 1880s, as well as the community's determination to keep pace with modern developments.

The city of Pittsburg began as a mining camp in 1876. By 1889 its population had exceeded 9,000 and it had already achieved prominence as a mining and industrial center. It was the second largest zinc producing city in the country and the largest shipping point in Kansas. Growth, development, and industrial expansion were the hallmark of the era. Many Eastern financiers owned property and had other investments in Pittsburg. A Board of Trade was organized in 1890 to promote industrial growth and expansion of the area. That organization apparently stimulated Arthur E. Stilwell to actively participate in Pittsburg's development. Stilwell was president of the Missouri, Kansas & Texas Trust Company and the developer of the Kansas City Southern Railroad. He had been involved with several business transactions in Pittsburg but reportedly had been waiting for the town to prove its own interest in development before becoming more actively involved.

In July, 1889, a group of Eastern and local investors formed a hotel company. As Pittsburg suffered from a lack of satisfactory accommodations for travelers and potential investors, plans were formulated for a modern 100 room hotel. Franklin Playter, one of the founders of Pittsburg, was secretary and treasurer of the hotel company.

The architectural firm selected for the hotel was J.B. Lindsly and Son of St. Louis. According to local newspaper accounts this firm had a national reputation for excellence as architects. The newspapers closely followed the progress of construction, identifying for their readers the numerous craftsmen involved and the accomplishments that took place. Of particular interest was the fact that Pittsburg itself was able to provide a great deal of the "first quality" workmanship and materials utilized in the construction of the building.

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8. Significance

(Continuation Sheet)

No. 1

(Number all entries)

Designed "in the most modern style of architecture of this advanced age," the finished structure was detailed in the idiom of the then popular roman-
esque revival idiom. Its lobby and dining room were the most lavishly orna-
mented and furnished of the interior spaces. Commercial space was provided
along the principal street facade.

In November, 1889, a large group of St. Louis, Kansas City, and Pittsburg
investors with interests in Pittsburg formed the Consolidated Land and Manu-
facturing Company. That new company absorbed the hotel company, which had
already decided to name the structure after Arthur Stilwell because he had
sold the bonds for the new hotel. Some accounts also describe him as a
major investor in the hotel. In any event, Stilwell was the president of
the new company.

Because it had facilities for providing entertainment, the Stilwell
quickly became the social center of the community. The major social events
in Pittsburg were held in its ballroom, dining room, and other meeting
facilities. It became a focal point of the community, a symbol of its efforts
to grow and prosper. Prominent visitors to Pittsburg stayed at the Stilwell,
including famed lawyer Clarence Darrow shortly after the conclusion of the
Scopes trial.

The cosmopolitan flavor of those involved in the hotel project--investors
from St. Louis, Kansas City and New Haven; an architect from St. Louis,
general contractor W.C. Green from Wichita; and subcontractors from Pittsburg,
Kansas City, and Springfield, Missouri--evidenced that Pittsburg had clearly
left its mining camp image far behind.

The Stilwell attained a brief moment of statewide fame in December, 1919,
when it provided office and living quarters for Governor Henry J. Allen, who
came to Pittsburg in response to the unrest in the coal fields during the
miners' strike. It was in his office in the Stilwell that Allen met with
Alexander Howat of the miners' union and negotiated an agreement for the
miners to return to work. It was from the Stilwell that he issued a call for
a special session of the legislature to consider labor legislation.

In 1926-27 the Stilwell underwent extensive modernizing, costing between
\$75,000 and \$100,000, thus virtually equalling the original construction cost.
According to a 1926 newspaper account, the owner believed the building was
"of an antique type" and required remodeling "into a more conventional and
modern design." In keeping with the classicizing trend in much architecture
of the 1920s, this involved stripping the exterior of its projecting oriel,
finials, and roof pediments as well as altering the proportions of much of
the fenestration. On the interior, modernization meant updating mechanical
systems as well as redecoration. The result was a building that embraced
the tastes of the 1920s without, however, totally abandoning those of the
late 1880s.

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During World War II the Stilwell was used to house glider pilots being trained at Atkinson Municipal Airport in Pittsburg. In later years the hotel became less an overnight stop for travelers and more a permanent home for people with limited incomes. Very little maintenance or repair work was performed on the Stilwell. After it had suffered extensive deterioration, it was closed in 1975. It stood vacant except for first floor shops for a number of years and faced demolition. In 1979 it was purchased by the current owners; renovation work is in the planning stages.

NOTE: The above statements are an assessment of significance based on current information and understanding. If additional information becomes available in the future, revisions to this statement may be necessary.

9. Bibliography

Bryant, Keith L., Jr., Arthur E. Stilwell: Promoter with a Hunch (Nashville, Vanderbilt University Press, 1971).

Hay, John, "Stilwell Hotel Bears Memories...", Pittsburg Morning Sun, August 17, 1975.

"Historic Hotel Financed by Stilwell, Railroad Builder, Pittsburg Daily Headlight, May 19, 1926.

"Hotel Stilwell," Pittsburg Kansan, May 21, 1890.

"The Hotel Stilwell," Pittsburg Kansan, March 26, 1890.

"The Hotel Stilwell," Pittsburg Kansan, April 30, 1890.

Pittsburg Smelter, July 19; August 16, 23, 30; September 13, 20, 27; October 4; November 1, 8; December 20, 27, 1889; January 4; February 1, 15; March 26, 1890; July 15, 1925; July 31, 1926.

"Progress of the Week," Pittsburg Kansan, February 17, 1890.

Smith, Krista, "High-rise Protest Unsuccessful," Pittsburg Morning Sun, January 31, 1979.

Smith, Krista, "Local Efforts Underway to Save Stilwell Hotel," Pittsburg Morning Sun, January 14, 1979.

"The Stilwell," Pittsburg Kansan, August 6, 1890.

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9. Bibliography (Continuation Sheet) No. 3

(Number all entries)

"Stilwell Plan for Remodeling Takes \$75,000," Pittsburg Sun, February 28, 1926.

Preliminary nomination form submitted by Gene DeGruson, Pittsburg State University.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

see continuation sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. .4

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 5	3 4 9 1 0 0	4 2 4 2 0 0 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries run from the northwest corner of Broadway and Seventh street at the curb line north 120', from this point west to the middle of the alley, then south along the mid-line of the alley to Seventh street, and from this point east along the curb line to the point of beginning.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Richard Pankratz, Historian
Julie Wortman, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION	DATE
<u>Kansas State Historical Society</u>	<u>2-29-80</u>
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
<u>120 West Tenth</u>	<u>913 296-5294</u>
CITY OR TOWN	STATE
<u>Topeka</u>	<u>Kansas</u>

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

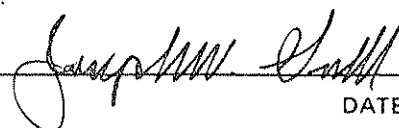
THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

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

TITLE Executive Director
Kansas State Historical Society



DATE 2-29-80

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
	DATE
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	DATE
ATTEST:	DATE
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	

