# 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Historic name</th>
<th>Hodson Hotel</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Other names/site number</td>
<td>Hardesty House; KHRI #025-27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name of related Multiple Property Listing</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## 2. Location

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Street &amp; number</th>
<th>712 Main St</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City or town</td>
<td>Ashland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>Kansas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zip code</td>
<td>67831</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this 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 ___ 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 Applicable National Register Criteria: X A B C D

See File.

Signature of certifying official/Title Patrick Zollner, Deputy SHPO Date

Kansas State Historical Society

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

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*National Register Listed Sept 30, 2019*
### 5. Classification

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply.)
- X private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box.)
- X building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contributing</th>
<th>Noncontributing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>buildings</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sites</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>structures</td>
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<tr>
<td>objects</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 buildings</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

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### 6. Function or Use

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)
- DOMESTIC: hotel

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)
- DOMESTIC: hotel
- COMMERCE/TRADE: restaurant

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### 7. Description

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)
- LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY
- AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Commercial Style

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)
- foundation: CONCRETE
- walls: BRICK
- roof: ASPHALT
- other: WOOD
Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources, if applicable. Begin with a summary paragraph that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary
The Hodson Hotel is located at 712 Main Street in Ashland, Greenwood County, Kansas. The simple two-part commercial block building first floor dates to 1909, and the second floor was added in 1928. The hotel occupies a primary parcel along the main thoroughfare and is surrounded by other commercial development in the historic core. Character-defining features include the full-width transom windows, the simple brick façade accented with double-hung windows, and the interior detailing like the metal ceiling, wood doors and trim, open oak staircase, tiling, and historic wall finishes. The integrity of location, setting, feeling, association, and workmanship are unaltered. The integrity of design and materials are intact, though have seen minor alterations. The building is in good condition, retains a high degree of historic integrity, and is an intact example of an early 20th-century hotel in Ashland.

Elaboration

Location and Setting
Close to the border of Oklahoma, the city of Ashland is located in southwestern Kansas. The Hodson Hotel (currently The Hardesty House) opened April 1, 1928, with the first story built in 1909 and the second story in 1928. It is located at 712 Main Street, Ashland, Clark County, Kansas (pop. 807). The hotel is located in the original townsite of Ashland, Block 39 lots 7 & 8. The Hotel faces west, is surrounded by buildings, and is at grade level. Sharing party walls with the post office to its north and McCown Carpentry to the south, the hotel is located in the heart of the town’s business district. The hotel, a 50’ x 100’ brick and tile building with a concrete foundation, fills the lot except for a small parking area on the east or back side with access from the alley. The sidewalk in front of the building leads to the street.

![Figure 1: Historic image of the Hodson Hotel (date unknown c1929)](image)

Exterior
The two-part commercial block building features little ornamentation on the façade. The façade is a standard storefront design with wooden bulkheads, large plate glass display windows, a transom that has been altered, and a brick cornice dividing the first and second floors. There are three entrance doors on the street level. The main entrance is the middle door that is flanked by electric carriage house lanterns. The door to the north opens into the dining area and is used only as an exit. In earlier days it was the entrance to the coffee shop. The door on the south enters into a small room that was the barbershop. The room was part of the manager’s apartment during the 1970s and ‘80s. In the 1990s, it was once again a beauty shop and then an antique store. Currently, the door is not used as an entrance. However, the room’s large window houses a display of treasured keepsakes of the hotel.
The windows for the hotel rooms on the second floor are standard double hung windows with two or three grouped together. They are 4’x 4’ and 6’x 6’ with the 6’ x 6’ in the middle and the 4’x4’ on either side. The windows are wood framed, and based on their condition and style, they appear to be original windows; they also have aluminum screens that were added at a later date. There are round circular nuts spaced along the width of the building that are attached to the bolts that help support the second story. The facade has been painted recently with the name on the windows instead of on the building.

![Figure 2: Hodson Hotel 2019, view of the facade](image)

The front windows appear to have been reduced in size from when the first story was a garage. The doors are heavy wood frames with glass centers that look like those in earlier pictures, and could likely be the originals. A wooden screen door protects each door with a top window/screen. The bulkhead of the storefront was replaced with wood sometime after 1986 and before 1990 after an automobile jumped the curb, hit the building, and damaged the brick and tiles near the north door. The hotel had a shed awning over the main floor that was removed in 1929. It is unknown when the awnings over the second-floor windows were removed.

On the north side, the hotel shares a party wall with the adjoining business, the US Post Office. The Post Office does not extend back into the alley as far as the hotel building. Also, the second floor of the hotel was constructed with a light-well on the north side to allow windows and light in the second-floor interior rooms (Photo number 3 & 18). The north-second floor elevation features double hung windows that are 4’ x 4’ vinyl replacements which are in poor condition.

The east side or rear of the building fronts on the alley and has an entry door in the middle to the first floor that gives access to the kitchen and back storage areas. An exterior metal staircase leads to the second-floor hotel rooms and meets the requirements for secondary egress. This elevation is in the worst condition as the masonry is damaged, stucco cracked, and there are missing bricks. There is an old one-story carriage house measuring 20’ x 20’ constructed of a hodge-podge of bricks, tiles, and cement block that is adjacent to the hotel and shares a connecting door. The carriage house has wooden garage doors on the north that are blocked by an inner wall added at a later date. The building, although useable is in disrepair. Light can be seen shining through the bricks and tiles on the east side, and the cement blocks are an old type made with small rocks and pebbles that are beginning to crumble. A tree with a broad base has grown close to the south side of the building, moving the cement blocks and causing damage to the structure.

To the south, the hotel shares a wall with the McCown building, which is a one-story building. The hotel’s second-floor guest room windows are visible and appear to be the original wooden 4’x 4’ double-hung windows. This side has blond tiles near the roof instead of the red brick of the front.
Hodson Hotel
Name of Property

Clark County, Kansas
County and State

The main roof and the lowered roof of the hotel are flat, and the materials were replaced in 2018. The existing asphalt roof system was torn off and replaced with one layer of 1/2" high-density polyisocyanurate insulation installed on the wood decking with one layer of white 60 Mil Johns Manville TPO secured with Rhino Bond plates.

![Figure 3: Hodson Hotel, existing first floor plans 2019](image)

**Interior**

The main entrance to the hotel – by the middle door – is to an enclosed entryway with an interior door that accesses the lobby. The first floor is divided into thirds, the northern third is the restaurant and kitchen, the central third is the lobby and bar, and the southern third is a billiards room and office. The lobby features great ornamentation with its 18’ ceilings covered with tin including rare corner molding pieces. On the north side of the entrance is an open oak stairway that leads to the second floor and a handsome wood stove (converted to gas) is on the other. Going further into the lobby is the registration desk for both the hotel and the restaurant. The registration desk, as local legend has it, was once a teller’s cage from an Ashland bank, and has been a fixture of the hotel for many years. It is equipped with a folding iron gate that can be used to secure the area from the main lobby. It is adorned with an old cash register and a picture of former owners Jim and Marie Cogley. The walls are covered in wallpaper with a pattern reproduced from old-time designs and decorated with historic pictures dating back to the 1890s and showing early days of cattle ranching, wheat growing, and oil drilling in the Ashland area of southwestern Kansas. The rooms on this floor appear to be plaster and some sheetrock with the wood pine. One wall in the bar was damaged in 2018, revealing that it was made of a thin wood pulp material.

The dining area and kitchen fill the north third of the building from the front to the back. The dining room features the 18’ ceilings covered with tin. The plumbing of the hotel shows just below the ceiling. The room that was historically the coffee shop and dining room are one large room. The dining room has wainscoting made of barn wood that was added during the ownership of Keven Brown between 1985-1989. Walls are original plaster with old-time like wallpaper.

From the entrance on the southern side of the lobby is where the Barbershop and main floor guest rooms were located. Later they were remodeled into the manager’s apartment followed by being a private meeting room now functioning as a billiards room. Moving further through the lobby to the back of half of the building (east) is the bar area that was historically the banquet or blue room for the restaurant. The ceiling is also 18’ with tin. The rooms on this floor are wood framed and either plaster or an early form of sheetrock. Some areas in the room have painted over the wallpaper. On the east wall of the bar area and in the kitchen area is a mezzanine 8’ wide and 22’ long that contains the mechanical systems and storage for the hotel. The mezzanine in the bar is also used as a display area. The support structure for the mezzanine has some problems that need to be corrected for stability. Behind the bar and mezzanine are storage areas for the kitchen and the men’s bathroom.
The open oak staircase is an L-shape stair with a middle landing making a right turn up to the second story. The hallway has a red patterned wool carpeting and runs north and south to access the three-room apartment on the west side or front of the hotel building. The guest rooms are off a double-loaded corridor that runs the length of the building from west to east and has the same carpeting. The historic wood hotel doors still have the original numbers on them. The ventilation doors that allowed guests to open the solid door but keep privacy are original and on site but used elsewhere in the building. The plaster ceilings in several of the rooms have sustained water damage from the leaking roof. The guest rooms have been remodeled by a previous owner to create a sleeping area and a small sitting area with a refrigerator and microwave between two rooms. The guest rooms still have the original closets and bathrooms. They also have the original radiant heat, but now have additional window air-conditioners. The hallway still has the small doors that gave access to the plumbing in the individual bathroom.

The second floor now has four guest rooms, an efficiency apartment where one room contains the kitchen, living and sleeping area with a separate bathroom, and the apartment on the west side of the building. All but the west side apartment are currently in use. The rooms above the post office on the north side of the building are no longer available due to age and deterioration. Also, those rooms, although accessible to the hotel historically (Photo 16), now belong to the post office building, which is owned by another person. During a remodel after the post office was sold, the hall was blocked on the interior of the post office building by sealing off the doors with drywall making the hallway no longer accessible. The room to the right of the blocked hallway gives access to the rooms above the post office through a closet (Photo 16). There is a window that gives access to the lowered portion of the roof as well as a door, but the door is not in working condition.

**Integrity**

The Hodson Hotel retains its historic integrity of location and setting as the main strip of commercial businesses has remained intact. Also, the workmanship, association, and feeling are noticeable throughout the building, as it has been used in the same manner for 90 years. The design and materials have had some alterations and changes, for instance, the access point on the second floor over the post office is now closed, some of the kitchens and bathrooms have had updates to infrastructure, and a few the windows in the light well have been replaced. Overall, these alterations do not impact the integrity of the building. Its historic identity is clearly conveyed through the retention of the original character-defining features. It is a good example of a commercial hotel building in Ashland and Clark County.
Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Areas of Significance
ARCHITECTURE

COMMERCE

Period of Significance
1928-1969

Significant Dates
1928

Criterion Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- removed from its original location.
- a birthplace or grave.
- a cemetery.
- a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- a commemorative property.
- less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

NA

Cultural Affiliation
NA

Architect/Builder
UNKNOWN

Period of Significance (justification)
The period of significance begins in 1928, the year the second floor was added to the building, and it was converted into a hotel from an auto garage. The 50-year guidance is used as the end date for the period of significance because there is no exceptional significance to justify extending it further. The closing date is 1969 as the building continues its historic use and intention as a restaurant and hotel.

Criteria Considerations (justification)
NA
Narrative Statement of Significance
(Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Summary
The Hodson Hotel located along Main Street in Ashland, Clark County, Kansas is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the area Commerce and under Criterion C for architecture. First constructed as an auto garage in 1910, the Hodson Hotel is a simple two-story masonry building beginning its hotel and restaurant life in 1928 when the second floor was added and the use changed. It fits the standard vernacular, minimal ornamentation, two-part commercial block hotel layout. The Like other small western hotels, the Hodson Hotel played a central role in the early years of development for the community. The historic use and function of the building continue today with two apartments, several hotel rooms, a bar, office, billiards room, and a large open restaurant open for lunch and dinner. The Hodson Hotel is locally significant as a highly intact example of an early 20th-Century hotel.

Elaboration

History of the Ashland Community
Ashland is located in southwestern Kansas and is "situated in the beautiful Bear Creek valley on the west bank of Bear Creek at the intersection of the great trails of southwestern Kansas." The Texas Camp Supply and Dodge City Trail ran north to south, and the Sun City and Meade county Trail ran east to west. Established in 1868, the upgraded military trail was used by the U.S. Army's Seventh Cavalry to move men and supplies from Dodge City to Camp Supply in Indian Territory. In the 1880s, a government telegraph line was erected along the trail as an essential communications system of western outposts. "During the 1870s and 1880s, the road served as a branch of the western trail (a cattle trail that originated in Texas) bringing cattle to Dodge City.

The Sun City to Meade Trail "was so called because as it came from the eastern part of the state, it made a crossing at Sun City on the Medicine River." The trail made its way from Hutchinson through Sun City coming through Coldwater to Ashland. Leaving Ashland to the north, the trail ran west to Reeceville before heading northwest to Meade and on to Wild Horse Lake. Freight haulers used the Sun City and Meade county trail. At the intersection of the two thoroughfares was a heavily trafficked commercial center that already had an established post office and trade center. The two trails run approximately "three miles south and 5 miles east of the geographic center" of Clark County. James E. Church, editor, and proprietor of the Clark County Clipper, in his article about the future prospects of Ashland, wrote, "When it is considered that the geographical center falls upon rough ground, it becomes apparent that Ashland is as truly the key to Clark County as Gibraltar is to the Mediterranean. This much is the result of nature and circumstance. This much is the foundation of her stability and future greatness."

The original town of Ashland was on the bank of Bear Creek at "Soldier’s Graves" a site where a raiding party of Indians killed two soldiers. Seven soldiers were stationed there to guard the stage stock and supplies. The soldiers, surprised by the raiding party, ran and jumped off the bank but two were shot and a third wounded. The timely arrival of the Calvary escorting the paymaster on the road to Fort Supply, had the Indians mounting their ponies and riding off. The two soldiers were buried at the spot but later moved to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Soldiers’ Grave was a stop on the Dodge-Supply trail where cowboys could get their mail, stage horses were changed, meals are taken, and freighters spent the night.

1 Clark County Clipper. January 8, 1885.
4 Ibid.
5 Clark County Clipper. January 8, 1885.
6 Ibid.
7 It is unclear which tribe of Indians was involved as one accounting says they were Kiowa while another says Osage. Many raiding parties were common at the time.
8 The Texas Camp Supply was renamed Fort Supply on December 30, 1878.
9 Dorothy Berryman Shrewder, Melville Campbell Harper, eds. Notes on Early Clark County Kansas by the Clark County Chapter of the Kansas State Historical Society. [Ashland: Clark County Historical Society, July 1939 – 1940], 1.
Called Jack’s Ranch in 1875 for its owner John Glenn, it was bought by the Widow Brown who ran the business with her daughters until Charles Roby purchased it.

A company composed of several businessmen and others living in Winfield Kansas, a town 174 miles to the east, organized themselves as the Ashland Town Company to form a new town. The company sent a committee or scouting crew out looking for a suitable location for the new community which led them to Clark County. The present site of Ashland was thought to be a good location “so they secured a quarter section of land from Charles Robey (or Roby) and about the first of October 1884 the townsite was platted and buildings were started.” They had agreed to purchase, from Charles Roby for $320, the site of Soldiers’ Grave located in the northeast quarter of Section 12 Township 33 South, Range 33 west. Captain Nipp’s (a member of the company) father in law, I.K. Berry, named the town Ashland for his hometown of Ashland, Kentucky.

To avoid fighting over the location of the county seat and post office, the citizens of Clark City, a nearby town, were given a deal to move to Ashland and receive three to six residential lots. Following a town meeting, the offer was accepted by Clark City residents. Solomen Bowermaster was contracted to move the buildings. The town of Ashland was officially formed in October 1884. By the spring of 1885, Ashland had 877 homeowners, a population of 2,042 and thirty-one businesses.

Ashland Town Company advertised the town as “The New Town of Ashland the prospective county seat of Clark County and future metropolis of the New Southwest.” The company claimed it was in “one of the most beautiful and fertile valleys of the State, at the crossing of the TWO GREAT TRAILS of South Western Kansas.” Advantages listed for the area included no saloons, a daily stage, running water and good wells. Cheap lots for both a residence or business were offered for sale.

The town was indeed located in a valley where original cattlemen coming up the Texas trail saw “a prairie landscape of mostly gently rolling to flat terrain on the upland tablelands and valley floors but in places broken by high bluffs and canyons... Although this was principally a land of grass, cottonwood, willows, and hackberry groves often lined the streams and marked the seeps and springs.” The cattlemen that first came to the area picked highly sheltered locations within the trees to keep safe during stormy weather as well as wood for construction.

James E Church, Publisher of the Clark County Clipper, wrote on January 1, 1885, the following about the soil in Clark County that attracted farmers and ranchers to the area.

A large portion of the county is farm land yet there is grazing land in abundance. The soil is principally a black loam, in some places, however, giving place to red soil. In quality and depth it is not to be beaten. The elevation of the county is a little over two thousand feet. The rainfall has increased gradually during the last few years and last season it could not have been bettered. The latter part or Winter and Spring are the only times when the weather is at all disagreeable and then only on account of the wind. The air is dry and bracing and on the whole, this is a most healthful climate.

Cattle raising in the area became more common around 1874-75 when Indian harassment was curtailed, and the cattle drives started up the trail. During the latter part of the drive through Indiana territory and into the Clark County area trail

10 Officers were W.R. McDonald, President; Francis Haft, Secretary; and A. Hughes, Treasurer. Other members were Capt. J.B. Nipp, J.A. Cooper, E.D. Taylor. Hudson Brothers. Rogers, Capt. Lyons, J.H. Olds. T.E. Berry, I.K. Berry, Chas. Roby, Ed. Greer, Jas. H. Bellen, G.W. Averill, A.J. Kinnear. Source: Jane Shreve. Ashland, Kansas The Story of its First 100 Years. [Shawnee Mission: Kes-Print, 1985].
11 Ibid. 24.
12 Ibid. 23-24.
13 Ibid.
15 Ibid.
17 Ibid.
18 “Clark county past and present.” Clark County Clipper. January 1, 1885.
This respite was a common practice for trail herds to remain varying lengths of time before moving on to the market in Dodge City. By 1877 there were four established ranches operating in the county "(1) The Driskill ranch on Day Creek, (2) the Hi Collar (sic Kollar) ranch of Mt. Jesus on Bluff Creek, (3) the A.J. Anthony & Sam Kyger operation on Kyger Creek, and (4) the Henry Collier (sic Kollar) ranch near the mouth of Bluff Creek."  

In a *Clark County Clipper* article, James E. Church mentioned vast cattle herds had roamed at will with "fully twenty-five thousand head have been the property of one man." Civilization was bringing with it changes to the area and making it necessary to break up the large herds and begin raising a higher grade of stock with better care for them. Settlers were taking more of the land, and results of farming were encouraging. "Last summer good crops of corn were raised as well as oats and other cereals. All varieties of garden vegetables are also a decided success."  

Another occupation that offered a livelihood for those taking claims was freighting. The Dodge to Fort Supply trail was in good repair, and the grade was downhill making it easy to carry large loads. "In the Spring wages will be high, and not near the amount of work stock is in the country that will be required to do next Spring’s work. With settlement will come the railroad, the one thing necessary to make these as desirable homes as any upon the continent."  

An article about Ashland published January 8, 1885, in the *Clark County Clipper* publisher Church noted that “building didn’t begin until November and was curtailed by cold weather arriving sooner than expected.” Church stated there were at least fifty houses, and he listed those citizens within the new town that were actively conducting business. Among the new buildings was a good two-story hotel, the property of John Rorick. There were also several restaurants and boarding houses. Lumberyards, two land offices, hardware stores, a blacksmith and a couple of livery stables opened within the first months of the town's founding. In 1885, the Ashland Town Company gave a block to the county for the courthouse and jail. It set aside block 26 for a school and named two blocks for churches, one for the Methodist and one for the Presbyterians.

**Commerce and Development of Ashland**

The Town Company required its members to construct buildings not less than 16 feet by 24 feet by February 1885. Buildings were to have two coats of paint, and an ordinance passed June 3, 1886, gave the requirements for building sidewalks. By 1887, two-story brick buildings were being constructed in the center of the original town. The article “The Buildings” in the November 3, 1887 issue of the *Clark County Clipper* described the construction of the brick buildings, their location, and the owners. One description read, “The walls of Kinnear’s three-story brick business are almost completed, and the roof will be put on next week. This building is situated on the corner of Main St. and Central Ave. (now 8th St) and is one succession of arched windows on the south and east, beautifully decorated with colored brick and cornice work.” Farther to the north J.C. Smith and C.P. Woodbury were erecting four buildings where the bricklayers were working on the second story and north of them King Berry, and O. P. Cooper’s brick buildings were being completed. "All of these buildings are similar in appearance and size being 25 x 100 feet and two stories high." The buildings were on the west side of main-street opposite the Hodson Hotel’s later location.

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20 Ibid.
21 Ibid.
22 Ibid.
23 Ibid.
26 See Figure 5: historic map of the original town of Ashland (1887).
In 1884, the Ashland Town Company owned the original town lots of the Hodson Hotel’s location, which is Block 39 Lots 7 and 8. In 1885, S.H. Rogers & wife Margareta bought Lot 7, and Ethelburt & Flora Taylor bought Lot 8. It is unclear what was on these lots or if either of these parties built on their lot, but a notice in the December 15, 1887 issue of The Clark County Clipper read “Lavery and Brooks have opened a barbershop on north main street opposite the Woodbury brick and are ready to do all kinds of tonsorial work in apple pie order. Give them a call.” 28 A column in the March 31, 1932, paper entitled “Former days by Stevey” gave the location as the south half of the Hodson Hotel or on lot 8. 29

In 1887, the two lots were bought by partners FM Arnold and CW Carson & wife Mattie. Arnold and Carson were in the real estate business and often purchased the property of those unable to prove on their land or wished to return to their previous home. It is unclear whether a building was on Lot 7 and by whom or for what the property was being used, but eventually, CW Carson sold his ½ interest in Lots 7 & 8 to FM Arnold in 1909. Arnold then made party wall contracts with HC Mayse, owner of Lot 9 and E.O. Palmer, Lot 6 owner. 30 E.O. Palmer had a hardware store on Lot 6, and it is not known what was on Lot 9.

Frank Arnold had the old frame building that stood in Lot 8 on the east side Main street, between Palmer’s Hardware Store and the Hensley Sisters millinery store, moved onto a lot north of McKown’s Hardware Store on the south main street. Arnold then had a one-story brick building 50 x 100 feet constructed on Lots 7 & 8. 31 A few delays hampered the construction of the new one-story brick building. In the December 2, 1909 edition of the Clark County Republican, it was reported that approximately seven and a half inches of rain fell, and

One of the largest rains that ever occurred in this part of the state started last Saturday evening and continued until Tuesday morning and almost continually the rain poured down. All the streams have been raising and the mail carriers were compelled to remain here on account of high water. Much damage is reported by farmers of feed that is ruined throughout the country.

So much water soaked in the ground that the earth is soft for several feet down…The Arnold building now being constructed was badly damaged. The pier in the center of the front that rested on a concrete base was washed away. The pier and building have completely disappeared…The Arnold building was washed away. The pier and building have completely disappeared.

foundation sank down about three inches and the whole front of the building has to be torn down and a larger foundation put in.” 32

By February 1910, the Clark County Republican was reporting “the concrete men have almost completed the floor, which was the biggest floor ever made of concrete in this part of the country.” 33 The same paper also reported in February that the carpenters were putting the glass in the windows:

Frank Arnold’s new building is progressing nicely. The carpenters are fixing to put the glass in the windows and it will not be long before it is completed. 34

March is usually one of the windiest months in Kansas. 1910 was no different at Ashland. Damage from an accidental fire was averted when:

There was some excitement when Grover Wagner who was putting tar on the roof of the new building let the top blow off his furnace and the pitch-catch fire. No damage occurred as there were several extinguishers and many buckets of water within ten minutes of the alarm.” 35

Tyrell and Babb 36 had begun moving into the new Arnold building using their automobile since it “pulls a big load of hardware as good as a team could.” 37

Advertising began showing up for the Big Opening of Tyrrell & Babb Hardware in the new Arnold building for the “Big Opening” on March 31, April 1 & 2, 1910. 38 Many farmers took advantage of the three-day sale purchasing needed machinery for the summer, including four headers & binders combined, four wagons, several mowers, and a large number of farm tools. Tyrrell & Babb were giving away a $100 Runabout absolutely free; one just had to register their name and address. J.A. Boss of Doby Springs, Oklahoma, was the lucky winner whose name was drawn on Saturday night after everyone was finished registering. A boy, blindfolded, drew out ten cards and the tenth card drawn became the owner of the new $100.00 Runabout. 39

In a supplement to the Ashland Clipper May 3, 1912, entitled “Ashland. More Brief Bits of History of the Progressive Business Men of Ashland.” several businesses were highlighted. The insert gave a list of the current companies, including two first-class hotels, an Opera House, two banks, two drugstores, four churches, and a fire department. There were three doctors, one dentist, one veterinarian, barbers, blacksmiths, and five lawyers and five real estate firms. The Post Office, telephone exchange, moving picture shows, ice cream parlors, and the best steam laundry were included in the page long list. It noted the town had its own electric and water plant, five miles of cement sidewalk and a population of 1200 people.

This Industrial Edition – a supplement in the weekly paper – gave short explanations of different businesses with the following about Tyrrell & Babb Hardware Store;

Tyrrell & Babb have been supplying hardware and machinery to Clark county people for the past five years. They first opened their store in a building on South Main Street but finding this too small they moved into a large new building on North Main where they are located at the present time. A large number of the Clark county automobiles were purchased thru this firm. 40

An article in the February 5, 1920 edition of the Ashland Clipper states, “Mr. Bert E Hodson has purchased the 50-foot front brick garage building on North Main Street of F.M. Arnold and expects to run a storage room for cars and operate a truck service.” 41 This building had previously housed the Tyrrell and Babb hardware store. While Bert Hodson’s newly

33 Clark County Republican. February 3, 1910.
34 Clark County Republican February 10, 1910.
35 Clark County Republican. March 10, 1910.
36 C. M. Tyrrell and J. C. Babb (two businessmen collectively referred to as “Tyrrell and Babb” in numerous newspaper articles) ran a hardware store since 1907 and had outgrown their location. F. M. Arnold agreed to build the brick building for them in Ashland to move their business into when completed.
37 Clark County Republican. March 10, 1910.
38 Ashland Clipper. March 24, 1910.
39 Clark County Clipper. April 7, 1910. (The manufacturer’s name of the Runabout was not given in either newspaper article.)
40 Ashland Clipper. May 2, 1912 (Supplement: Industrial Edition; p. 43.)
acquired building was vacant, a tractor school was held in March by the International Harvester Co, and all tractor owners and interested persons were encouraged to attend “as no doubt points will be brought out that will be of benefit to tractor users.” The school was sponsored by E.O. Palmer’s Hardware which was just north of Hodson’s new building. It is unclear precisely when Tyrrell and Babb’s hardware store closed, and the building became a garage building.

Bert & wife Katie Hodson mortgaged the newly acquired garage building in March 1921 according to records at the Clark County Register of Deeds Office. Mr. F.M. Arnold, the man who sold them the building, loaned them $5,000.00 with 7% interest due March 26, 1926. Payments were to commence March 1922, but the interest was to be paid semi-annually. One thousand dollars was payable March 1 of each year. The debt was paid in full and was so noted on the mortgage release dated March 22, 1926.

The Establishment & History of the Hodson Hotel

There has probably been more changes in ownership of business property in Ashland during the past few weeks than there has been in a like length of time since the early boom days of the country.” The changes, some of which have been mentioned in this paper before are: George McNickle purchased the 50 x 100 feet garage building on South Main Street now used by Wallingford Bros. Bert Hodson purchased the 50 x 100 garage building on North Main Street. Wallingford Bros. purchased the 50 x 100 feet garage building on West Eighth street of George Nickle. E. Wallingford purchased the two-story brick building on North Main street the lower floors of which are occupied by H.E. Garner and W.A. Williamson for their mercantile stocks. Hugh Foncannon purchased the two rooms on West Eighth street last week occupied by Culp Bros. Meat market and the Clipper office and this week the two buildings were purchased by Culp Bros. Mr. Hodson has possession of his building on North Main street and has rented half of it to Mr. Palmer to use for his implement business. Mr. Hodson expects to use the remainder of his building for storage of cars.

On March 25, 1920 the Ashland Clipper advertised on page 8 “Auto livery and long-distance dray hauling.” by the B.E. Hodson Sales & Truck Co. The company “Will drive anywhere, any time. Will haul anything, anywhere, any time.” See figure 6. Hodson’s company also sold trucks as a dealer for REO Motor Trucks. It's unknown how long the business lasted since Brown and Harvey Chevrolet dealership occupied the building when Hodson built the second story converting the building a two-story hotel. Mr. Hodson had expressed an interest in constructing a hotel, although the Grand Hotel and others were still in operation. The US Census Bureau, Decennial census from 1920 to 1930 showed an increase in Ashland’s population of only 85 people. The 1920 population was 1,147, and the population was 1,232 people in 1930.

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B.E. Hodson began construction on a new business building on the east side of Main Street in 1927 which would become part of the two-story hotel he planned to operate. The new construction was a 25’ x 70’ two-story brick building located just north of the Hodson garage building now occupied by Brown and Harvey with their Chevrolet sales rooms and garage. The

43 Clark County Kansas Register of Deeds, Ashland KS, Book 29 Page 487
first floor of the new building would be leased to the post office, and the second story would house modern office rooms leased to professional men for offices. Chas. and Fred Hoovers of Wichita were employed to lay the brick and tile in the building. Brown and Harvey would soon move since the ongoing construction interfered with their business.

In November 1927, the paper noted the bricklayers had completed the post office building walls and were working on the hotel building which joins the new building to the south. The one-story brick building had been used as a garage and was being remodeled into a two-story brick building equipped as a thirty-room hotel. When complete, the building will be modern, each room having a bath with a hot and cold water system, there will be one three-room apartment. The lower floor will be occupied with the hotel lobby, café, kitchen, barber shop, sample room, store room and a drive from the front will lead to the storage garage in the rear used to store automobiles belonging to hotel guests. When completed, it is to be equipped and run as a first-class hotel. At that time, there were no other operating hotels that could be found in the newspapers.

Once the new post office building was complete, B.E. Hodson had his carpenters start work on the new hotel building hurrying the construction along as fast as possible. Mr. Hodson wished to begin operating the hotel and restaurant by either the first of March or at least March 15.

By March 22, 1928, the Ashland Clipper was reporting the work of finishing the interior of the new Hodson Hotel had reached a place where some rooms were almost ready for use. Hodson had plans to open several rooms to the public the next week. The writer reported after seeing some of the rooms that they were nicely finished and finished. “The rooms on the south are finished with oak floors polished and waxed, and linoleum is laid in the bathrooms. The furnishings selected are elegant – much nicer than usually found in the better class of city hotels.” Plumbing was set and concreted this week (March 22) and work on partitions and interior finish on the lower floor begins soon. When completed, it will be one of the nicest 30-room hotels in the Southwest.

The March 29, 1928 issue of the Clark County Clipper had a headline “New Hotel Rooms Open April First.” The editor reported 15 of the rooms in the Hodson Hotel would open to the public on April 1. New furniture was coming within the week and placed for use by Monday. Rates announced for rooms were $1.00, $1.50, and $2.00. Once work on the lower floor was completed then Bert and wife Katie planned a formal opening for the new hotel.

While the hotel was being constructed, a contest to name the new hotel was held with letters coming from different parts of the country with name suggestions. Hodson’s shared the suggestions with the Clark County Clipper including the letters and from where they were. Favorites were Hodson Hotel, Hotel Hodson, “El Cimarron” (sic) suggested by Stockgrowers Bank, the Bertson, The Sunflower Hotel, The Alpha Hotel, Hotel Sunflower, The Prairie Inn…”

Mr. John (Slim) Minor named the hotel as he was the first to send in the recommendation of “Hodson Hotel.” He didn’t care to receive the $10 prize but thought it should be applied on a sign, an electric sign, if they have one, if not on the hotel sign. There were 197 names sent in with the name “Hodson” used in different ways suggested 39 times. The owners decided on “Hodson Hotel” since “We expect to make our home in the hotel and operate it as long as our health permits, so, we thought that name more suitable than any other. In the years that are to follow it will be a reminder to the community of the effort we have put forth to help build up the town and also will be a source of revenue for us, and thereby permit us to live here and be one of the people of Ashland.”

The Hotel opened just after April 1, 1928. The Hodson’s received visitors the first weekend in April 1928 so the rooms that were ready could be seen. The rooms were located above the dining areas and the post office. The Hodson’s enjoyed a good business with almost all the rooms occupied each night. An April 12, 1928 newspaper story announced B.E. Hodson had leased the dining room and kitchen of the Hodson Hotel to Mrs. Kate McGovern, who plans to open for service the first week in May. She had been engaged in the hotel business in Ashland for some years earlier and gained a reputation for serving tasty meals and giving courteous service.

48 “Hotel rooms open soon,” Clark County Clipper, March 22, 1928.
49 Ibid.
50 “New rooms open April first,” Clark County Clipper, March 29, 1928.
51 “Select name ‘Hodson Hotel’. Ashland’s hotel will be named after its owner. Clark County Clipper, January 19, 1928.
52 “Leases hotel coffee shop and dining room.” Clark County Clipper, April 12, 1928. This Thursday, April 12, 1928 article indicates the hotel’s opening by “Mr. and Mrs. Hodson received many visitors last Saturday and Sunday…to see the rooms that have been completed and open for business.”
It was reported that workers were finishing the lower story where the lobby, dining room, kitchen, Barbershop, etc. were to be located. It also mentioned Mrs. McGovern had purchased a load of elegant fixtures for the coffee shop, dining room, and kitchen. On April 26, 1928, the Clark County Clipper reported Mrs. McGovern had workers busy placing the fixtures for the new coffee shop in the Hodson Hotel. The coffee shop was located in the northwest room on the first floor of the hotel. The dining room proper was just east of the coffee shop, both under the management of Mrs. McGovern. She expected to have the place open for business by May 1.

The newspaper found it news-worthy of commenting about the happenings at the new Hotel. It mentioned the room leased by W.W. Taylor being finished and ready for the new barbershop and beauty parlor equipment upon arrival. It told when Mr. Hodson installed a heating plant and a large water softener ensuring all water used for lavatories, baths and in the kitchen would be softened.

May 3, 1928, the Clark County Clipper announced the Hodson Hotel dining room and coffee shop opened the evening of May 2 under the personal management of Mrs. Kathryn McGovern, a former Ashland resident who built and owned the Grand Hotel for a number of years, returning from Ponca City Oklahoma where she had managed the Jans DeFern Tea Rooms.

McGovern had a long lease on the dining room, coffee shop, and kitchen of the new Hotel. The article said “the equipment is one of the finest in the southwest, being of porcelain enamel and nickle [sic.], all of the latest pattern… The dining room is adequately spacious, yet compact, so that it is possible to serve complete meals without wasted steps or effort.”

In January 1929, R Kenneth Evans wrote an article for the Clark County Clipper extolling the features of the Hotel and its importance to the area. Hotels were crucial in establishing the visitor's first impression of a community. The traveling public was changing and expected a modern facility. Phil Zimmerman, State Hotel Commissioner, had given the Red Seal Award two weeks before the article was published. Red Seal hotels were considered the best. He complimented the Hodson's on establishing a “Home away from home.” His article included the following:

The Hodson hotel is a two story brick structure located in the heart of the business district. A part of the lower floor is leased to the government for the Ashland Post office, which is an added convenience, and within a block are found the storage garages. In fact the Hodson is within easy access to every business house in the city. It was opened for business April 7 of last year and has been constantly under construction and improvement since that time. The lobby, at present located on the second floor, will be moved to the street floor and will be large and spacious with comfortable furniture, for the use of guests. Well lighted writing rooms, steam heat, hot and cold running water in every room with every room an outside room with two or more windows which makes for comfort either in winter or summer. Two public showers baths are provided for the guests while 15 rooms are equipped with private bath and four rooms with connecting baths. Fifteen rooms have new oak floors, well polished the balance having white maple and the furniture is neat and substantial with ample pieces in each room to make for the comfort of the guests. Thirty rooms in all are provided.

The beds are all made by Simmons, one of the most successful manufacturers of bed-room furniture in the nation. The mattresses are the “Sleepwell” mattresses manufactured in Kansas by the Wichita mattress factory at Wichita. All linen and bedding is strictly new. During the summer months each room is equipped with an electric fan. All water used throughout comes from a specially installed water softener and is an appreciated adjunct.

Evans mentioned in the article that Mr. & Mrs. Hodson were familiar with meeting the public and supplying their needs. Mr. Hodson had successfully operated a public utility in Venice, California, a suburb of Los Angeles. The same Clipper mentioned a fire in the Hodson hotel the Friday before when an oil stove in the north court left for a few minutes flared up causing smoke damage to the wall in the hall and few of the open rooms. The Fire department was called, but the flame was out before their arrival.

55 Ibid.
Hotel Architecture
By the 19th century, the hotel had transformed into a center for economics, development, and social life within a community. Often found along transportation routes in western towns, hotels offered amenities not available along the trail such as respite, food, and entertainment. The locations of these western route hotels were often in the center of the community, becoming an integral part of the development of the city. 56 As people moved into the town, and businesses began to appear, most would stay at the local hotel until their residence was constructed. These permanent structures were symbols to travelers that ahead was a developed town and a break from the vast frontier. Kansas has many ranching, farming, and oil fields that expand over the landscape, and the ranchers and farmers relied on local development and housing to support their endeavors.

The Journal of Cultural Geography article “The City Hotel as Landscape Artifact and Community Symbol,” discusses the impact of western communities and hotels:

As railroads connected eastern markets to western farm and ranch country, the hotel, by now established on a grand scale in eastern cities, continued to be the device of choice in establishing a link between ranchers and the townsmen that sought their business. In Abilene, Kansas, that link was made by cattleman-speculator Joe McCoy who bought 250 acres adjoining the town for a large stock yard. He immediately erected the necessary fences, scales, and service buildings to provide for holding and loading cattle onto rail cars, together with an elegant hotel with attached livery stable and bank. 57

In some cases, western hotels became small business centers where people in business would lease office space, hold meetings in the restaurant, or even sell their goods. 58 It was common practice in hotels at the time to have two large rooms on the main floor. One room would be the restaurant that would host all occupants at the same time, and they would all pay the same price for their meal, rich and poor alike. 59 The Hodson Hotel is a prime example of this, as it continues today to be the primary location for a meal in Ashland.

In addition to a familiar place to share a meal, the structure itself needed to be a stable investment. Fireproof materials were often used to construct these buildings, as they were a vital necessity to the community as a host for travelers, people in business, and politicians. The Hodson Hotel is a good example of a small western “fireproof” hotel as the building was constructed of local bricks and plaster. As development and technology evolved over the decades, the small community hotel started to lose its importance to communities as the grand hotel and apartment buildings took its place. The rise of other local restaurants expanded, and the forms of entertainment changed with the construction of motion picture theaters.

The Hodson Hotel is a simple two-story masonry building beginning its hotel and restaurant life in 1928 (previously a one-story auto garage). It fits the standard vernacular, minimal ornamentation, two-part commercial block hotel layout and is a highly intact example of an early 20th-century hotel in the region. The historic use and function of the building continue today with two apartments, several hotel rooms, a bar, office, billiards room, and a large open restaurant open for lunch and dinner.

Continued Use of the Hodson Hotel
R. Kenneth Evans did a series of fifteen articles supported by local businesses that ran in the Clark County Clipper for several weeks. A few of the articles discussed the agricultural and other industrial pursuits of the area and how Ashland was essential to their product distribution. Accompanying the articles were advertisements from many of the town’s businesses. During that period, there were several ads for the Hodson Hotel and the Barbershop. One ad featured the “Red Seal” the hotel had received while one for the Hotel Barbershop pointed out it was their business “To Improve Your Appearance.” The Hotel incorporated some of the phrases used in Evan’s article, including “A Home for those away from Home,” and “Make Yourself at Home.” The Hodson Coffee Shop even had an ad featuring their Sunday Chicken Dinner, “the best chicken dinner you ever ate 50 and 75 cents.” 60

57 Ibid. 20-21.
58 Ibid.
59 Ibid. 23.
60 Clark County Clipper. January – February 1929 editions having advertisements.
By February 1929, the Coffee Shop was under new management and a new name. Mr. L. K Carr had taken over operating the café from Mrs. McGovern. Carr’s Coffee Shop maintained a high standard from the point of service to the type of food served and was considered a credit to the community and trade territory where it was located. Mr. Carr was assisted by his wife, who supervised the kitchen and culinary department. The Carr’s were said to provide a pleasant environment and waiters who were courteous and strived to get orders just right. The Coffee Shop had a seating capacity of 54 guests using modern furnishings, including marble-topped tables and a long lunch counter with comfortable stools in the dining room. Employees were available from 5 a.m. until 11 p.m. to care for the wants of the guests. The Carr’s were well known in Ashland having lived there for twelve years and having operated other cafes.  

Throughout the publications of The Clark County Clipper were notices telling of guests who had stayed at the Hodson Hotel. A Mr. Stinson with the John Deere Company and his wife were guests while Albert Hoffman of Minneola stayed at the Hotel while serving as a District Court juror. The business was booming, and by the end of February 1929, Mr. Hodson was announcing ten more guest rooms would be added and ready for guests in a few weeks. “These rooms will be 11’ x12’ and each will have shower bath and toilet and all located on the ground floor. Besides this the lobby will be enlarged and a writing room provided for the guests of the hotel.” The addition was necessary due to increasing business and the fact the hotel had been housing guests elsewhere since all the hotel’s rooms were occupied. “The volume of business for this new hotel has so far exceeded the expectations of the management that it has kept them busy almost from the time of the opening enlarging the capacity of the hotel to care for their guests.”

The hotel and coffee shop were doing a booming business. The hotel was the bus depot for the Seamor Transportation Company, and the Carr Coffee Shop received the Red Seal award in April 1929 in recognition of excellence in meeting specific requirements upon inspection by the state hotel commission. Red Seal cafes offered courteous treatment and homelike environment plus a high level of cleanliness in both the establishment and its employees.

In June 1929 the Barbershop, needing more space, moved from the Hotel and by November the Hodson’s were having five guest rooms finished on the first floor. The Carr’s Coffee shop in December was advertising a Christmas special with turkey luncheon at noon and turkey dinner at 6 p.m. The regular Sunday Fried Chicken dinner was advertised too.

By the 1940s, Mrs. Katie Hodson was experiencing ill health, and a manager was sought for the hotel. Mr. and Mrs. Jim Cogley came to Ashland in 1945 to manage the coffee shop and in November of 1945 agreed to operate the Hotel as well. Katie Hodson passed away in February 1946 in Hot Springs Arkansas. Although childless, Katie was well known in the area due to her being a member of the Christian Church and Ashland Rebekah Lodge. She and Bert were avid horse enthusiasts and took great pride in their racehorses. Many friends and businessmen attended her funeral in Wichita, Kansas.

The Clark County Clipper article from December 2, 1948, announced “Cogley’s Buy Hodson Hotel” indicating “Mr. & Mrs. Cogley came to Ashland October 11, 1945, and took charge of the coffee shop, which they had leased of the Hodson’s on October 11th the same year they leased the hotel.” Many of the ads listed the hotel as “The Hotel Hodson” during this time until Jim and Marie Cogley “bought the Hodson Hotel building and the hotel furnishings of Bert Hodson who has owned the building and operated the hotel for about 25 years.” The purchase was effective on November 1, 1948.

62 “Ten more rooms to Hodson Hotel.” Clark County Clipper. February 28, 1929.
63 “Café awarded Red Seal.” Clark County Clipper. April 11, 1929.
64 “Rites in Wichita Wednesday for Mrs. Katie Hodson. Well known Ashland woman dies of heart attack in Hot Springs Friday evening.” Clark County Clipper. March 14, 1946.
65 “Cogley’s buy Hodson’s hotel.” Clark County Clipper. December 2, 1948. Note the Hodson’s owned the hotel building since 1920 and operated it as a hotel since 1928; which made a total of 25 years ownership of the building.
While managing the Hotel, Jim and Marie Cogley rebranded it as Hotel Hodson. Postcards of points of interest in Clark County contained information about the Hotel. A picture postcard of St. Jacobs Well just west and north of Ashland included “Hotel Hodson, Ashland Kansas, Steam Heat-Air Cooled and Choice Steaks.” 67 Another picture postcard of Clark County Lake advertises the dining choices of the coffee shop, Rose and Blue Rooms at the Hotel Hodson. This one includes “The Cogley's” under the hotel name. Likewise, newspaper ads of this time (1945-1948) use Hotel Hodson.

After taking over the entire business as owners, the Cogleys gave the whole interior a facelift, redecorating the rooms and other parts of the hotel while continuing to operate and enjoying a capacity business. During the 1940s, articles in the paper told of people hosting bridal showers, or wedding receptions in the Blue Room. Several young brides were feted with bridal showers or had their wedding reception in the Blue Room including Anita Abell Dennis and Carrie Arnold Humphreys, both members of pioneer families of Ashland.

Throughout the 1930’s several persons had opened barbershops within the hotel including two barbers named Sanborn and Boren who began their business in 1932. By 1946, Arthur L Mear became the new owner of the Monroe Barber Shop in the Hodson Hotel. His hours were 8 am to 6:30 pm. It filled the room on the far southwest corner of the Hotel with its own outside entrance.

Several ads in the Clark County Clipper advertised Sunday dinner or Holiday dinners. One ad invited people to dine in the coffee shop, which had a counter, booths, and tables. The counter ran along the south side of the coffee shop. The dining room was called the Rose Room, and the banquet room the Blue Room. From early descriptions, the coffee shop was in the Northwest corner of the hotel with the dining or Rose room east of there. The Blue Room or banquet room is the current bar area.

Besides serving Sunday or holiday meals, the Cogley’s hosted businessmen’s groups, and the Business and Professional Women’s club held meetings there often. The Altar Society of St. Joseph Catholic Church held a fund-raiser in the Blue Room and a UN Weekend dinner for the Students and their host families was sponsored by the Cogley’s before the students returned to their schools. Reservations were suggested for all dinners including the regular Sunday chicken dinners.

Jim Cogley passed away on September 24, 1964, but Marie continued to run the hotel and restaurant. She married Glenn Eskew, and they continued to operate the hotel and dining room until Marie, after medical issues including surgery, decided to retire. An advertisement in the September 18, 1969 issue of Clark County Clipper proclaimed the Cogley Hotel was for sale with 19 sleeping rooms, well-equipped kitchen, complete with fixtures, China, etc., large dining area. The ad

66 Ibid.
67 See Figure 8: St. Jacobs Well postcard.
stated, "will sell completely equipped or separately." Local auctioneer and real estate agent Neill George with A Hart and Co. of Dodge City had the listing. The October 2, 1969 issue of the Clark County Clipper reported Marie had purchased a home and the November 27, 1969 paper announced, "The Jack Hardesty's Buy Cogley Hotel." The article stated Mrs. Marie Cogley Eskew had been in the hotel for the past 25 years on Ashland Main. It also stated Jack's mom Edith Hardesty would manage the hotel and dining room. The plan was to give "efficient and comfortable service throughout the hotel and continue the tradition of good food set forth by Marie throughout the years. Edith will cater Sunday dinners and all party events." The Hardesty's took possession of the Hotel on January 1, 1970. 68

The Wichita Eagle Beacon reporter Kathleen Kelly wrote two articles that ran in the paper Sunday, January 6, 1974. One story told of the Sunday buffet drawing crowds to the hotel, and the other about the remodeling Betty and Jack Hardesty were doing. It was thought at the time the hotel had been built about 1913 and Betty was gathering furniture of that period to furnish the rooms. The article states the "hotel has operated without interruption since it was built according to Betty Hardesty." 69 Mrs. Edith Hardesty, who operated the hotel and restaurant for 14 years, served delectable foods to local and area residents. "She had been particularly appreciated for her Sunday buffet dinners, for her catering of parties, clubs, Kiwanis, and Chamber of Commerce dinners." 70

According to Kelly's article, Betty Hardesty used reproduction period wallpaper to decorate. In March 1985 following the sale of the Hotel to Kevin Brown additional redecorating and refurbishing occurred including new carpeting on the lobby staircase. A club was added and "the area formerly used as living quarters by Mrs. Edith Hardesty will be changed to a private dining room..." 71 Mr. Brown hosted a celebration the weekend of March 22, 1986, to highlight his first anniversary on Ashland Main with the historic hotel and restaurant. "Brown is proud of the changes in the décor, including five large chandeliers added in the dining room which came from an old bank building in Pratt; eight sidelights from "The Looking Glass" in Wichita; early day pictures downstairs and 10 sleeping rooms upstairs. The entire building is furnished in keeping with its historic past." 72 Tom Berryman, Ashland Businessmen, and descendant of early pioneers and Ron Salyer salvaged wood from a barn owned by Dwight Klinger that was used for paneling the dining room and what is now the bar area. Berryman said he helped build the bar in the former banquet or blue room. Ashland carpenter, Russ Hensley said he did the paneling using the barn wood in the dining area.

Like the Hardesty's, Kevin Brown capitalized on the tradition of good food started by the Carr's and continued by the Cogley's. The Sunday and holiday dinners began by the Cogley's and continued at the Hardesty House prepared by Brown. An important detail at the Hardesty House is customer attention. "With every customer we shake their hand and know what they drink and how they want their beef done, Kevin said." 73

Kevin Brown used the furnishings added by the Hardesty's, created a bar in the blue room known as the 2nd Century club and began serving lunch Tuesday through Friday and dinners Tuesday through Saturday. "Named by Kansas Business News as one of the top ten places to eat in Kansas, the Hardesty House offers its dinner guests, who frequently drive from great distances, fine dining in the hotel's turn-of-the-century atmosphere." 74

Ads for the Hotel's dining room had a specialty offered for each night from Mexican and Italian to Prime Rib and Shrimp Scampi. Holiday ads featured special deals at Valentines and Christmas but politely requested reservations were necessary. Later owners kept most of Kevin's menu changing it only to add their own specialty. Like the Cogley's, the hotel's owners continued special and congratulatory dinners for students who had a winning football or basketball season.

68 "The Jack Hardesty's buy Cogley Hotel." Clark County Clipper. November 27, 1969. "...The Hardesty's will take possession of the Hotel January 1st..."
71 Ibid.
74 Ibid.
Buying the hotel in 1989, Richard and Tracy Thorn acknowledged the Sunday buffet served by Edith Hardesty had earned the hotel's reputation. Like Kevin Brown, they served lunch and dinner. "Lunch includes sandwiches, salads, and soups in the winter, and specialty items such as chicken breasts (charbroiled, barbecued or spiced with Cajun seasoning) and lasagna. For dinner, customers can choose from such entrees as prime rib, shrimp peel, shrimp scampi, smoked pork, whole catfish or fried chicken." 75

Richard and Tracy Thorn sold the hotel in May 1992 to Heather McCann and her father, Les Moore. 76 They continued the tradition of daily lunches and evening dinners with Prime Rib on Friday and Saturday nights. For a short time, Debbie Dome had a Beauty Shop in the southwest corner of the hotel where the barbershop was always located. Opening her shop in 1993, she soon found the need for more space and like others relocated to another building.

During the late 1980s, the front of the building was changed due to an Ashland citizen’s car hopping the curb and crashing into the brick wall of the Hodson Hotel, now more commonly known as the Hardesty House. The north door was knocked out of alignment, making it hard to open. The brick was not replaced, but instead, a wood paneling (or bulkhead) below the windows was used along the whole exterior of the hotel’s facade. Two outside lamps on either side of the main entrance are only lit when the Hardesty House is serving food usually from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm and from 5:00 pm to 10:00 pm. This old fashioned signal is still used, but a neon “open” sign now hangs over the door.

The Hotel has always been a “Home away from Home” for many. The owners, including the Hodson’s, the Cogley’s, Kevin Brown and the Thorns lived in the hotel as did other owners. One longtime guest rented a room beginning with the Hodson’s through the Cogley’s and into the Hardesty’s ownership. 77 Another longtime guest who purchased cattle for local ranchers also lived in the hotel. When the Hardesty’s purchased the hotel, they “inherited” these guests along with everything else. 78 The hotel currently has two long term guests and rents other rooms for the traditional nightly stay.

There is a moose head that hangs in the bar area over the French doors leading into the dining room, and there is an antelope that is above the entrance door in the lobby. Both have been longtime fixtures with colorful histories. A bear skin rug used to grace a wall in the dining room, but due to age and poor condition no longer hangs either there or in the bar. The downstairs rooms have pictures of influential Ashland pioneers and historical events of the area. Handwritten labels are fading with time as they tell of old cattle drives and the discovery of oil. Several pictures of Ashland in its earlier days also grace the walls. Later owners sold most of the furnishings added by the Hardesty’s and some by the owners Heather McCann and Les Moore.

77 “Frank Arthur Bodin dies at age 92” Clark County Clipper. March 16, 1989. “…Bo [Frank Arthur Bodin] lived for many years in the Hudson [sic.] Hotel seeing become the Cogley House and then the Hardesty House…”
78 Earl Alexander whose picture hangs in the dining room was a longtime guest of the Hodson Hotel.
Hodson Hotel
Name of Property

The Hotel has been the site of many high school class reunions, graduation parties, birthday celebrations, wedding receptions and anniversaries. The Hotel has always been considered by town residents as the best place to take business associates or out of town guests to dine in its more refined atmosphere. Banquets, business meetings and elegant dinners along with club meetings and friendly luncheons have all been hosted within its historic rooms.

Daily lunch and evening meals have been offered since the Hardesty era. During the ownership by the Moore’s, Sunday chicken dinners had stopped until 2018 when the current manager began serving a Sunday luncheon buffet that includes fried chicken.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OPERATOR/BUSINESS</th>
<th>OWNERS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hodson Hotel</td>
<td>1884 Ashland Town Company</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1885 S. H. Rogers &amp; wife Margaretta Lot 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1885 Ethelburt Taylor &amp; wife Flora Lot 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1887 Arnold &amp; CW Carson &amp; Wife Mattie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1909 Carson sold his ½ interest in Lot 7 &amp; 8 to FM Arnold</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1909 F.M. Arnold made party wall contracts with HC Mayse lot 9 and EO Palmer lot 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tyrell and Babb Hardware 1910 F.M. Arnold</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hodson Garage 1920 Bert E Hodson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1921 Katie Hodson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hodson Hotel 1928 Katie Hodson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hotel Hodson – JE &amp; Marie Cogley managers 1946 Bert E Hodson &amp; wife Rose with the two party wall agreements originally made between FM Arnold &amp; EO Palmer and FM Arnold and HC Mayse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cogley Hotel 1948 James E. Cogley &amp; wife Maria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Maria Cogley Eskew &amp; Husband Glenn A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hardesty House Hotel &amp; Dining Room 1969 Jack Hardesty &amp; Wife Betty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1985 Velma June, Inc. (Kevin Brown)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1989 Kevin Allender &amp; Wife Mona</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1989 Bruce, Inc (Allender)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1992 Les Moore, Heather McCann</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2012 Crown Enterprises – Glenn &amp; Cheri King</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2013 Milliwine Inc – Woolwine &amp; Millikan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2015 Laurie Kennedy – Ray Vece</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2018 Ashland 2020, Inc, (Econ Dev Committee)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Books

Ashland Kansas, The Story Of Its First 100 Years.1884-1984; published 1984

Cattle Ranch South of Dodge City The Early Years (1870-1920); John Franklin Vallentine, The Clark County Historical Society, Ashland KS 1998

Notes of Early Clark County, Kansas; The Clark County Chapter of the Kansa State Historical Society, Volume 1 Number 1 July 1939-1940, Dorothy Berryman Shrewder, Melville Campbell Harper, Editorial Staff; Reprinted from the Clark County Historical Society Column in The Clark County Clipper, Ashland Kansas

Notes of Early Clark County, Kansas; The Clark County Chapter of the Kansa State Historical Society, Volume 1V September 1942- August 1945, Dorothy Berryman Shrewder, Melville Campbell Harper, Editorial Staff; Reprinted from the Clark County Historical Society Column in The Clark County Clipper, Ashland Kansas

Magazines


Newspapers

The Ashland Clipper
Clark County Clipper
Wichita Eagle Beacon

Government records

Clark County Register of Deeds, Ashland Kansas, Deeds and mortgages filed in Clark County.

Websites


Hodson Hotel
Name of Property

Clark County, Kansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.17

Provide latitude/longitude coordinates OR UTM coordinates.
(Place additional coordinates on a continuation page.)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
Datum if other than WGS84:__________
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1 37.189001° -99.765450° 3

Latitude: Longitude:

2

Latitude: Longitude:

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)
The proposed boundary of the nomination property is the entirety of OT ASHLAND, BLOCK 39, Lot 7 & 8 in Ashland, Clark County, Kansas.

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)
The nomination boundaries are confined to the parcels that contain the hotel and restaurant.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Diana Redger/Committee Member
organization Economic Development Committee of Ashland 2020 Inc. date Spring 2019
street & number PO Box 122 telephone 620-635-0494
city or town Ashland state KS zip code 67831
e-mail redger@ucom.net

Property Owner: (complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO)

name Ashland 2020 Inc.
street & number PO Box 976 telephone

city or town Ashland state KS zip code 67831

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 100 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.

Additional Documentation
Submit the following items with the completed form:
### Hodson Hotel (Hardesty House)

#### County and State
Clark County, Kansas

#### Name of Property: Hodson Hotel (Hardesty House)

#### City or Vicinity: Ashland

#### County: Clark

#### State: KS

#### Photographer: Jamee Fiore, Kansas Historical Society

#### Date Photographed: May 14, 2019

**Description of Photograph(s) and number, include a description of view indicating the direction of camera:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Photo #1</td>
<td>Front (west) elevation, looking SE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photo #2</td>
<td>Front elevation and streetscape, looking NE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photo #3</td>
<td>View of the north and east elevations and the second floor light well, looking SW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photo #4</td>
<td>View of the south and east elevations, looking NW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photo #5</td>
<td>View of the east elevation, looking West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photo #6</td>
<td>View from the interior entrance looking east at the lobby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photo #7</td>
<td>View of the lobby and stair looking west at the storefront and entrance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photo #8</td>
<td>View of the office at the southwest corner of the building, looking south</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photo #9</td>
<td>View of the billiards room, looking SW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photo #10</td>
<td>View of the bar, looking northeast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photo #11</td>
<td>View of the restaurant, looking northeast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photo #12</td>
<td>View of the kitchen area, looking northeast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photo #13</td>
<td>View of the addition and refrigerator looking east</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photo #14</td>
<td>View of the second-floor stairs and hall, looking SE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photo #15</td>
<td>View of the second-floor (east to west) hallway, looking east</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photo #16</td>
<td>View of the original doors that led to the second-floor of the post office, looking N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photo #17</td>
<td>View of the closet that leads to the lightwell, looking northeast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photo #18</td>
<td>View of the lightwell facing east</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photo #19</td>
<td>Interior hotel room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photo #20</td>
<td>Interior hotel room</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Hodson Hotel

Clark County, Kansas

Name of Property

County and State

Photo 1: Hodson Hotel, May 2019

Photo 2: Hodson Hotel, May 2019
Hodson Hotel

Name of Property

Clark County, Kansas

County and State

Photo 3: Hodson Hotel, May 2019

Photo 4: Hodson Hotel, May 2019
Hodson Hotel
Name of Property

Clark County, Kansas
County and State

Photo 5: Hodson Hotel, May 2019

Photo 6: Hodson Hotel, May 2019
Hodson Hotel
Name of Property

Clark County, Kansas
County and State

Photo 7: Hodson Hotel, May 2019
Hodson Hotel

Name of Property

Clark County, Kansas

County and State

Photo 8: Hodson Hotel, May 2019

Photo 9: Hodson Hotel, May 2019
Hodson Hotel

County and State

Photo 12: Hodson Hotel, May 2019
Hodson Hotel

Name of Property

Clark County, Kansas

County and State

Photo 13: Hodson Hotel, May 2019
Hodson Hotel

Clark County, Kansas

Name of Property

County and State

Photo 14: Hodson Hotel, May 2019

Photo 15: Hodson Hotel, May 2019
Hodson Hotel
Name of Property

Clark County, Kansas
County and State

Photo 16: Hodson Hotel, May 2019  
Photo 17: Hodson Hotel, May 2019

Photo 18: Hodson Hotel, May 2019
Hodson Hotel

Name of Property

Clark County, Kansas

County and State

Photo 19: Hodson Hotel, May 2019

Photo 20: Hodson Hotel, May 2019
Hodson Hotel
Name of Property

Clark County, Kansas
County and State
Second Floor Plan & Photo Map – June 2019

West Façade/Front of the Hodson Hotel
NRHP Nomination
Hodson Hotel
712 Main Street
Ashland, Clark County, Kansas
NRHP Nomination
Hodson Hotel
712 Main Street
Ashland, Clark County, Kansas
NRHP Nomination
Hodson Hotel
712 Main Street
Ashland, Clark County, Kansas