

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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NATIONAL REGISTER

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Mayfair Hotel  
other names/site number Resource # WH2027

2. Location

street & number Spring & Center Streets  not for publication N/A  
city, town Searcy  vicinity N/A  
state Arkansas code AR county White code 145 zip code 72143

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>      </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> objects
			<u>      </u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:  
Historic and Architectural Resources of White County, Arkansas  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.  See continuation sheet.  
Cathryn A. Buford 5-13-90  
Signature of certifying official Date  
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.  
 determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.  
 determined not eligible for the National Register.  
 removed from the National Register.  
 other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_  
Adrian Byers 9/5/91  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)  
Domestic/ Hotel

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)  
Domestic/ Multiple Dwelling

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals/  
Spanish Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete  
walls brick  
roof asphalt shingle  
other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

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Description

Standing on the northwest corner of Spring and Center Streets in Searcy is a large, Spanish Revival style building that in its heyday provided food and accommodations for travellers as well as rooms for local banquets, receptions, reunions, private parties and college functions. Known as the Mayfair Hotel, the brick structure was built on the site of an earlier frame hotel, the Gill House, shortly after it was torn down in 1924. The Mayfair is now used as a multiple family dwelling. Although there have been some additions and alterations throughout the years, it is still in good condition.

The hotel's L-shaped, two-story plan originally housed fifty rooms and a full basement. A twenty-one-room annex was added to the building in 1929, just before the stock market crashed. The next alterations took place twenty years later, in 1950, at which time each guest room received its own bath, the kitchen was modernized, and the Terrace and Rose Rooms were added. Several windows have been boarded up at various times during the hotel's existence, which is the extent of the building's alterations. The Mayfair's Spanish Revival design includes such architectural details as shaped roof parapets over the front porch; a tower projection on the southwest corner with enclosed arched openings and more shaped parapets; Craftsman dormer windows; a symmetrical front porch supported by large, square columns; and wide, overhanging eaves.

The hotel's front porch, stretching in an L-shape across the east elevation, is one story and has a flat roof supported by brick columns that have been painted white. A much smaller porch on the west elevation has a shed roof and is supported by turned posts. The windows, which are all original, consist of six-over-one double-hung sash windows along the length of each elevation and six-pane casement windows on each of the eight gable-roof dormers on the building's roofline. The hotel has two exterior brick chimneys located on the ell's west elevation and one interior brick chimney on the south elevation. The foundation is made of cast concrete and the shingle-covered roof is of both the hipped and gable-on-hip type.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE  
ENTERTAINMENT/ RECREATION  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

1924-1940  
1924-39  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

N/A  
N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

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

See continuation sheet



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National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**Section number   8   Page   1  

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Significance

The Mayfair Hotel is the only Spanish Revival style non-residential building in White County and for this reason should be listed under National Register Criterion C with local significance for representing the distinctive characteristics that make up this style. These characteristics, as stated above, include the Mission-shaped roof parapets, widely overhanging eaves and large, square columns supporting the porch roof. The Spanish Revival style, also called Spanish Mission, began spreading eastward from its California birthplace in the early 1900's, with most dating from the years between 1905 and 1920. Architects combined typical Hispanic elements like parapets and arches with traditional shapes, and some even borrowed Craftsman and Prairie style features. The style generally faded from use after World War I, when Revival architecture began to shift away from simplified adaptations and towards more precise copies. The Mayfair, which was built in the mid-1920's, is a later version of this design.

The Mayfair is also historically significant under National Register Criterion A for its associations with Searcy's social development, particularly in the areas of travel, entertainment and dining. Historic Context 2: The Development Era describes Searcy's emergence as a resort area due to its many mineral springs; Historic Context 3: The Railroad Era covers the period in White County's history that was greatly influenced by and dependent upon the railroad; and Historic Context 4: Boom and Bust, the War and Depression Years addresses the relatively short period of prosperity in the 1920's brought about by the railroad and increased industrialization. Each of these contexts refers to Searcy's social and economic development, in which the Mayfair Hotel played a primary role. The Mayfair began in the mid-1920's after May Dale Smith purchased the Gill House, a frame hotel that had stood on the corner of Spring and Center streets since 1882. Miss Smith had the Gill House torn down and shortly afterwards built the Mayfair in its place. The hotel's reputation for being a good place to eat was enhanced after it was listed in two of Duncan Hines' books on roadside restaurants and in the American Automobile Club's register. Throughout the prosperous twenties, the Depression-era thirties and the forties' war years, the Mayfair served as an eating, visiting and entertainment center not only for Searcy residents but for residents from all areas of the county as well.

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Acreage of property: Less than one

UTM References:

A 15/614845/3901170

Verbal Boundary Description:

Lots 4-8 and the southern 34 feet of Lot 9, less the southern 25 feet and the western 47 feet of Lot 5, and less the western 47 feet of Lot 6, Block 14, Original Town of Searcy.

Boundary Justification:

This boundary includes all the property historically associated with this resource.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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White County MPS  
ARKANSAS

Date Listed

91001193	✓ Hunt, Thomas, House	7/22/92
91001325	✓ Hutchinson, L. D., House	7/22/92
91001241	James, Dr., House Substantive Review	9-13-91
91001266	Jameson--Richards Cafe	9-5-91
91001279	Jameson--Richards Gas Station	9-5-91
91001214	✓ Joiner House	7/22/92
91001197	Jones, Mark P., House	9-5-91
91001234	Judsonia Community Building Historic District	9-5-91
91001232	Judsonia High School Gymnasium Substantive Review	9-13-91
91001190	Kelly, C. D., House	9-5-91
91001252	Kimbrough, S. A., House	9-5-91
91001273	Klotz, Henry W., Sr., Service Station Substantive Review	9-13-91
91001285	✓ Klotz, Henry, Sr., House	7/22/92
91001235	✓ Larned, Capt., House	7/22/92
91001215	Lattimer House	9-5-91
91001256	✓ Laws--Jarvis House	7/22/92
91001270	✓ Lea, Harvey, House	7/13/92
91001339	✓ Leggett House	7/13/92
91001254	✓ Lemay House	7/20/92
91001329	Letona Hotel Substantive Review	9-13-91
91001224	✓ Lightle House	7/20/92
91001244	Lightle House	9-5-91
91001216	Lightle, Ben, House	9-5-91
91001226	Lightle, William H., House	9-5-91
91001315	Little, Jim, House	9-5-91
91001287	✓ Livestock and Equipment Barn, Glenn Homestead	7/20/92
91001355	✓ Lone Star School	7/20/92
91001314	✓ Lovell, Dr., House	7/20/92
91001359	✓ Maddox, E. D., Farm Chicken House	7/20/92
91001288	Marsh, Walter, House	9-5-91
91001328	✓ Marsh, Wesley, House SR 164305	7/20/92
91001330	✓ Martindale Corn Crib	7/20/92
91001319	✓ Mason House	7/20/92
91001242	✓ Mayfair Hotel	9-5-91
91001289	McAdams House	9-5-91
91001300	McAdams, Dr., House Substantive Review	9-5-91
91001368	✓ McDonald, Emmett, House	7/20/92
91001344	✓ McRae Jail	7/20/92
91001278	✓ Methodist Episcopal Church, South	7/20/92
91001237	✓ Miller, Emmett, House	7/20/92
91001220	Mills House	9-5-91

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Mayfair Hotel

MULTIPLE NAME: White County MPS

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, White

DATE RECEIVED: 8/01/91  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 8/31/91  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/15/91  
DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/15/91

REFERENCE NUMBER: 91001242

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 9/15/91 DATE **Entered in the National Register**

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_  
REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_  
DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

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CLASSIFICATION

count       resource type

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STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

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FUNCTION

historic       current

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DESCRIPTION

architectural classification  
 materials  
 descriptive text

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SIGNIFICANCE

Period      Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates      Builder/Architect  
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

summary paragraph  
 completeness  
 clarity  
 applicable criteria  
 justification of areas checked  
 relating significance to the resource  
 context  
 relationship of integrity to significance  
 justification of exception  
 other

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

acreage       verbal boundary description  
 UTM's       boundary justification

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ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

sketch maps     USGS maps     photographs     presentation

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OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



Mayfair Hotel

Searcy, Arkansas

Photograph by Joe DeRose

November, 1988

Negative on file at AHPP

Northwest elevation



SPRING ST  
CENTER AV

2 HOUR PARKING  
8:30 AM TO 5:30 PM

Mayfair Hotel white c)

Searcy, Arkansas

Photograph by Joe DeRose white c)

November, 1988

Negative on file at AHPP

Southeast elevation



Mayfair Hotel

Searcy, Arkansas

Photograph by Joe DeRose *whitewashed*

November, 1988

Negative on file at AHPP

East elevation

Mayfair Hotel

Searcy, Arkansas

Photograph by Joe DeRose *whitewashed*

November, 1988

Negative on file at AHPP

East elevation

Please refer to the map in the  
Multiple Property Cover Sheet  
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500033