

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	
DATE ENTERED	JUL 10 1979

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

The College Inn Bar

AND/OR COMMON

The College Inn Bar

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

103 North 2nd Street

—NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Douglas

— VICINITY OF

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Wyoming

Converse

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Dudley D. Hattermann

STREET & NUMBER

530 Cedar Street

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Douglas

— VICINITY OF

Wyoming 82633

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Converse County Court House

STREET & NUMBER

107 North 5th Street

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Douglas

Wyoming 82633

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Wyoming Recreation Commission Survey of Historic Sites, Markers and Monuments Inventory

DATE

1967 (1973 revised)

—FEDERAL STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Wyoming Recreation Commission 604 E. 25th St.

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Cheyenne

Wyoming 82002

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The basic structure of the College Inn Bar in Douglas, Wyoming, is that of a rectangular two-story, red brick building with cut stone trim and gable roof. Exterior dimensions are: width - 25 feet (standard for all lots in Douglas' downtown business section); length - 100 feet (as measured from street to alley).

The forepart interior of the College Inn's first floor has changed little since the business was opened by Theodore Pringle in September 1906. First to be noticed are the Inn's exquisitely tiled floors bordered with a decorative four-color scrolled pattern, as bright today as when Pringle proudly opened the Inn's doors over seven decades ago. In the Inn's back hallway, emblazoned in the floor tile for posterity, are the initials "T.P." (Theodore Pringle) and the date "1906." The same initials in a monogrammed design may also be noted at the front entrance.

On the College Inn's second floor were, at one time, nine lavishly furnished sleeping rooms - remembered by old-timers around Douglas as the "best in town." A tenth upstairs room on the building's northwest corner was designed for gambling, and had bar service by way of a dumbwaiter - the shaft for which may still be seen from the main floor at the bar's west end. These rooms are no longer used, although during the latter 1930's and early 1940's the Inn's owners of those years maintained a spacious upstairs apartment.

The College Inn's basement foundation and supportive structure is as unique as its upper floors. Supporting the Inn's floors, in addition to the 14" thick walls, are 20" brick pillars. Laid lengthwise and also crosswise are 90-pound railroad rails which in turn are woven with three-quarter inch steel cable, on which was poured the concrete. This iron and steel somewhat represents a turn-of-the-century concept of today's reinforced concrete, except this job has held up much better than most present-day ones around Douglas. After seventy-plus years, there's not a sign of a crack in the building.

Still to be seen near the back door of the building are the iron doors which cover a chute through which barrels of liquor were formerly lowered into the basement. Above these doors is the heavy swinging hook to which the brewery deliveryman fastened his block and tackle for lifting the barrels.

Prime among the attractions is the intricately carved backbar with its slab marble counter and three massive mirrors which extend from the countertop upwards four to five feet, ending just below the frieze.

Due to the drudgery of cleaning mirrors at that height, a talented artist - an American Indian named Pleaton from South Dakota's Rosebud Reservation - was commissioned in 1953 to paint western landscapes across the upper portion of all three sections, leaving mirrored surfaces only behind the liquor bottles on the backbar.

While the barroom's fixtures dating to Pringle's day are all basically intact, the original brass rail had to be replaced in the mid-1940's due to excessive wear. An unusual fact about the Inn's bar, made by Brunswick-Balke Calendar Company of Chicago, is that each piece - even to the smallest length of molding - bears a coded number which enabled local carpenters to fit all the pieces together, much like a jigsaw puzzle.

Hanging on the wall opposite the bar are three mounted elk heads which have been a part of the barroom decor since 1906. Among other original and readily noticeable appointments in the barroom are two golden eagles which stand majestically, in stuffed muteness. Both are on top of and at either side of the elaborate, arched portal at the barroom's entrance which at one time supported swinging doors bearing ornate stained-glass panels. At the far end of the 30-foot barroom, another arched portal with matching stained-glass swinging doors once closed the barroom from public view. All four doors and their beautiful glass panels are presently stored in perfect condition.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1906

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The College Inn, established in 1906 by Theodore (Lee) Pringle, is unique in the fact that it is the oldest business in Douglas and Converse County continuing in one location. The bar's predecessor, a saloon begun in 1887 by this same gentleman - and thus known to early Douglasites simply as "Lee Pringle's" - was a frame structure which served for 19 years as Mr. Pringle's prime business establishment prior to being moved from North 2nd Street to make way for the new College Inn. This original frame building, which today stands less than two blocks from the College Inn in downtown Douglas, has remained in continuous use as an active business establishment for 91 years - attesting, perhaps to Pringle's role in the annals of Douglas history.

Virtually nothing is known of Pringle's background before the time of his arrival in Douglas in 1887, a year after the town's founding. Douglas was a typical frontier settlement of that day, having come into existence with the building of the Fremont, Elkhorn and Missouri Valley Railroad (now the Northwestern). For over two decades prior to 1887, the area had figured prominently in territorial history because of Fort Fetterman, a Government military post established in the region in 1867 for the protection of persons traveling the emigrant trails westward. Only a small garrison of troops was kept at Fort Fetterman after its abandonment in 1882, following a decision by the Government that those traveling the trails were, at last, too few to warrant maintaining the post.

Prospects of the Fetterman country becoming an agricultural region were not great, situated as it was at the edge of rolling prairies. It took rumors of a railroad to awaken interest in the area. Soon early arrivals were taking possession of the old fort's buildings, calling the new community Fetterman City - the town around which activity undoubtedly would have developed had the railroad not been compelled, because of the military reservation, to locate the new town in another place.

The actual townsite location, as in most cases, was kept a secret. But people soon began to settle in the valley along the probable line of the railroad. Businesses opened up in tents near the mouth of Antelope Creek, north of the Douglas of today. On August 29, 1886, track was completed and the first passenger train whistled into the open country at rail's end carrying a host of speculators. Thus was Douglas born at the intersection of the famed Bozeman and Texas trails, some 10 miles east of Fetterman City, on the opposite side of the North Platte River, at a site a mile south of the tent town which had sprung up earlier that spring. The new town was named in honor of Stephen A. Douglas.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bartlett, I.S., History of Wyoming, Chicago, S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1918
Bill Barlow's Budget, Anniversary Edition, 1907
Bill Barlow's Budget, Sept. 6, 1905 - Sept. 12, 1906
David, Robert B., Malcolm Campbell, Sheriff, Casper, Wyo., S.E. Boyer & Co., 1932
Larson, T.A., History of Wyoming, Lincoln, Nebraska: Univ. of Nebraska Press, 1965

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Douglas, Wyoming

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,3 4,6,8,6,4,0 4,7,3,4,0,2,0

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property nominated is a rectangular lot 25' by 100',
Lot 16; Block 12.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Peg Layton Leonard

ORGANIZATION

DATE

12-9-78

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

415 South 5th Street

307-358-2485

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Douglas

Wyoming 82633

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

Wyoming State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

May 17, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

7-6-79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: William H. Abraham

7.3.79

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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CONTINUATION SHEET DESCRIPTION ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

Among other curios dating to Pringle's day is a Seth Thomas 30-day wall clock that hangs near the front entrance, just above the Inn's old cigar case - still in use. Near the entrance, on the south wall, is a long, built-in settee covered in red vinyl which was originally upholstered in luxurious black leather. Above the settee is an eight foot long beveled mirror, said by one of the Inn's former long-time owners to be the only original mirror in the place that escaped being shot up during bar fights through the years.

Immediately behind the barroom is a lounge formerly comprised of ten booths, each enclosed by six foot high mahogany dividers. Heavy green draperies hanging from brass rings and sliding along gleaming brass rods, insured additional privacy.

Although the lounge's booths were removed during Prohibition, the "call buttons," which originally activated a call box, are readily discernible along the back room's embossed leather walls. Still stored in the basement are some of the original cast iron gambling tables from the old lounge, and also Pringle's old desk - a magnificent piece which, during his ownership of the Inn, occupied space just inside the front entrance. Still in the lounge are large murals painted by a late Douglas artist and merchant, which add a Western touch to the back room's walls.

The bar business in Douglas and elsewhere, affected first by Prohibition, then by the rationing of alcoholic beverages during World War II, has had its good years and its bad. But the College Inn has perhaps succeeded better than most businesses in Douglas by hanging on through thick and thin, achieving for itself the distinction of being Douglas' oldest business to have operated continuously in the same location.

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CONTINUATION SHEET SIGNIFICANCE ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Spirited bidding for lots opened up, with the first lot reportedly bringing \$760.00. Erection of buildings began at once and, for the next 60 days, hammers pounded from daylight until dark. It was but a few months later that Theodore Pringle took up residence in the bustling new community of Douglas.

Satisfied at first with the erection of a frame building in which to house his saloon, Pringle opened for business - catering to the soldier and railroader, the cowboy, gambler and new home-seeker, with a generous measure of charitableness and respect for all. When Pringle first opened his doors, there were only three saloon keepers in Douglas, including himself. At a date not long afterward there were reported to be a grand total of fifteen.

To be found in Bill Barlow's Budget (the community's early weekly newspaper, now The Douglas Budget) are accounts of the development of Pringle's plans for his new College Inn. The first item (Sept. 6, 1905) states:

"Theodore Pringle is having plans made for a two-story brick 25 X 100 business block to be erected on his Second Street property, the estimated cost to be about \$7,000."

A second item is to be noted four months later (Jan. 10, 1906):

"Theo. Pringle will let the contract next month for a magnificent brick block to replace the frame structure he now occupies on Second Street. It will be of brick with cut stone trimmings and plate glass front, and comprise two stories with modern heating, plumbing and all conveniences throughout, and will cost in the neighborhood of \$15,000."

On June 13, 1906, the Budget carried this item regarding fixtures for the new business:

"Theo. Pringle returned Thursday from a trip to Chicago where he contracted for the fixtures for his new saloon which are said to be the finest that were ever brought to this state."

Further mention of these fixtures is noted in the newspaper's Sept. 12, 1906 issue:

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CONTINUATION SHEET SIGNIFICANCE ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

"The new Pringle block is nearing completion. The furniture for the ground floor is here, and is being placed by a representative of the Brunswick-Balke people, and Mr. Pringle hopes to resume business within the next ten days."