

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

HISTORIC

The Original Mineral Springs Hotel and Bath House

AND/OR COMMON

"The Original"

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

301 East Walnut Street, corner of Hanover

CITY, TOWN

Okawville

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

23rd

STATE

Illinois

CODE
012

COUNTY

Washington

CODE

189

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

 DISTRICT
 BUILDING(S)
 STRUCTURE
 SITE
 OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

 PUBLIC
 PRIVATE
 BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
 IN PROCESS
 BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

 OCCUPIED
 UNOCCUPIED
 WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
 YES: RESTRICTED
 YES: UNRESTRICTED
 NO

PRESENT USE

 AGRICULTURE
 COMMERCIAL
 EDUCATIONAL
 ENTERTAINMENT
 GOVERNMENT
 INDUSTRIAL
 MILITARY
 MUSEUM
 PARK
 PRIVATE RESIDENCE
 RELIGIOUS
 SCIENTIFIC
 TRANSPORTATION
 OTHER: HEALTH
4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Albert and Doris Krohne

STREET & NUMBER

301 Walnut Street

CITY, TOWN

Okawville

VICINITY OF

STATE

Illinois

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Recorder of Deeds, Washington County Court House

STREET & NUMBER

Town Square

CITY, TOWN

Nashville

STATE

Illinois

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

 1. Illinois Historic Landmarks Survey
 2. Illinois Historic Structures Survey

DATE

1. 4/75 2. 10/72

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Illinois Dept. of Conservation, Historic Sites Division

CITY, TOWN

405 E. Washington St., Springfield

STATE

Illinois

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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.

This complex of buildings covers most of a city block in Okawville, Illinois.

The main building, 38' x 162', is a two-story frame hotel built in 1892. A raised brick basement houses the kitchen, bar, and hotel dining room. The frame portion of the building is covered with clapboard siding on the north, south and west sides, and with asphalt shingles on the east side. Brick portions of the exterior are unpainted. A one-story wooden veranda with simple vertical baluster extends across the length of the north side and along most of the west side. The roof is hipped at the north end of the building and gabled at the south end. A large gabled dormer projects from each side of the roof. Many of the 30 guest rooms are furnished with old brass bedsteads and pitchers and basins. Downstairs are a dozen glass teardrop chandeliers, a solid walnut sideboard, and an unusual "pigeonhole" billiards table, all dating from the nineteenth century.

A simple two-story brick bath house, 60' x 110', stands 50' to the east of the hotel. It too was built in 1892. Exterior brick is unpainted. The flat roof is ornamented with wooden brackets as is a clerestory which extends across the entire length of the building. The baths themselves--men's and women's--are located on the second floor. An elevated wooden passageway connects the bath house and hotel.

The spring itself is located near the southwest corner of the bath house, and runs into a large bricked cistern located between the bath house and the hotel. Both buildings are heated by steam generated in a small frame boiler house at the northeast corner of the property.

SIGNIFICANCE

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

Medicine, recreation

SPECIFIC DATES 1892 - c. 1930

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In the latter half of the nineteenth century, places such as Waukesha Springs, Eureka Springs, Siloam Springs and Okawville became flourishing resorts as thousands sought the "medicinal powers" of mineral-laden spring waters and the peace and quiet of small-town spas. Scores of hotels, baths, spring houses and other specialized facilities were erected to meet the needs of health-seekers. The popularity of mineral waters reached a peak in the 1880's and 1890's, then waned as fashions in medicine and recreation changed. Now in its 111th year, the Original Mineral Springs Hotel is the last functioning nineteenth-century mineral-water spa in Illinois.

History

In 1867, saddler Rudolph Plegge noticed that his well water "rusted" tin kettles. Subsequent analysis revealed the presence of "beneficial minerals" such as magnesium and sulphur. Plegge constructed a small bath house on the site with the aid of neighbor C. H. Kelle, who had worked in the famous baths at Baden Baden in Germany. The modest structure changed hands several times and was replaced by the present complex of buildings after a fire in 1892.

Rival establishments were begun in Okawville at about this time, and by the turn of the century the village had become a popular retreat for St. Louis businessmen, millionaire August Busch among them. The "Original Springs" seems to have weathered the initial decline in popularity of mineral waters; at any rate, it boasted tennis courts, boating, and full-time masseurs as late as 1930. Business fell off during the Depression, however, and continued to decline through the 1940's and 1950's. Okawville resident Albert Krohne purchased the hotel in 1962 and began modernization one year later; however, the hotel and bath house are little altered.

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This building is a good example of standard, vernacular frame construction of the period. The nicely detailed veranda along the front of the "Original Springs" is particularly well-adapted to its role as a hotel.

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"The Little City That Does Big Things", The Egyptian Hustler Magazine,
August, 1919, pp. 6-9

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Vacationing in the 'Spring'", Belleville (Illinois) News Democrat Sunday Magazine, January 29, 1978; pp. 1, 8-11.

"Siloam Springs State Park", Illinois Department of Conservation publication 25M-4-77, April, 1977

(contd)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approximately 1 1/2 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Okawville, Illinois

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A | 16 | 277620 | 4256880

B | 16 | 277620 | 4256800

C | 16 | 277550 | 4256800

D | 16 | 277550 | 4256880

E | | | | |

F | | | | |

G | | | | |

H | | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property occupies a city block (approximately 1 1/2 acre in area) bounded by Mill, Belleville, Hanover and Walnut Streets in Okawville, Ill.

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

Albert A. Wilson, Board Chmn. Jeff Flemming

ORGANIZATION

Kaskaskia Indus. Dev. Corp. Historic Sites Div. 7/26/78

STREET & NUMBER

110 North Van Buren St. 405 E. Washington St. 217 782-8262

CITY OR TOWN

New Athens Springfield Illinois

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL _____ STATE _____ LOCAL _____

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

ATTEST: KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ILLINOIS

STATE

Date Entered **DEC 22 1978**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
✓ Rock Island Depot and Freight House	Peoria Peoria County
• Naples Archeological District	Scott County
! Original Springs Hotel and Bathhouse	Okawville Washington County
✓ Briscoe Mounds	Will County
✓ Hofmann Tower	Lyons Cook County
✓ Sheets Site	Fulton County
✓ Fountain Creek Bridge	Waterloo vicinity Monroe County
• Marsh, William W., House	Sycamore DeKalb County

Also Notified

Honorable Charles H. Percy
Honorable Adlai E. Stevenson
Honorable Robert H. Michel
Honorable Paul Findley
Honorable Paul M. Simon
Honorable George M. O'Brien
Honorable Edward J. Derwinski
Honorable Tom Railsback
Honorable Tom J. Corcoran

COPY OF CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.