

WASHINGTON

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic HOTEL AURORA

and/or common AURORA HOTEL

2. Location

street & number Two North Stolp Avenue

N/A not for publication

city, town Aurora

N/A vicinity of

congressional district 15

state Illinois

code 012

county Kane

code 089

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Aurora Associates

street & number 655 Irving Park Road, Suite 4102

city, town Chicago

N/A vicinity of

state Illinois

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kane County Recorder's Office

street & number N/A KANE COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER

city, town Geneva

state Illinois

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Structures Survey-Kane County has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date October 1972

federal state county local

depository for survey records Illinois Dept. of Conservation

city, town Springfield

state Illinois

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Aurora Hotel is an eight story plus basement reinforced concrete structure sheathed in face brick and Indiana limestone, constructed in 1917. Basically rectangular in plan, there is a light court creating an indentation in its west facade, which is articulated to follow the angle of the Fox River which forms the west property line.

Approximately 70 feet by 100 feet in plan; the building has four major vertical divisions - a rusticated limestone piano nobile, a second story terminating in a string course of stone at the window sill level of the third story, five stories of rather plain masonry with shallow brick pilasters articulating the structural bays (five in the east-west direction and seven in the north-south direction) and a final, eighth story starting with a string course punctuated with ornamental medallions or shields and crowned by a deep and overhanging combination stone and pressed sheet metal cornice with alternating large and small brackets and coffers between. The coffers originally were equipped with multi-colored lights illuminating the crown of the building (no longer operative but capable of being restored).

The west, or river facade features a two-story "porch" cantilevered over the river at the first and second floors - an exterior expression of the 2 story height of the main lobby space within. The entrances on Galena Boulevard and Stolp Avenue feature double cut limestone balconies with stone balustrades.

The main entrance on Stolp Avenue leads to an entry lobby and the 40 foot square main lobby beyond, with a grand staircase leading to a second floor mezzanine which overlooks the main lobby. Finishes in these spaces included black walnut fluted columns and capitals and other woodwork, a Tennessee pink marble floor, and Tennessee dark cedar marble base. The grand staircase continued down to the basement to a restaurant with private dining rooms.

The structural design included reinforced concrete columns and flat slab construction, with concrete piers taking column loads directly to bedrock and concrete piers supporting the 112 foot long reinforced concrete riverwall.

The exterior of the building is in good shape requiring only spot tuck pointing and cleaning of the textured Georgian face brick, some repairs to the ornamental pressed metal cornice work and replacement of the original wood double-hung sash with new units of a similar profile. The original entrances and some sections of the store front have been replaced with modern aluminum sections. These could be replaced with new entrance doors, sidelights and transoms to replicate the original, some bays of which remain untouched.

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 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 July 14, 1917

Builder/Architect H. Ziegler Dietz, Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The eight story Aurora Hotel, constructed in 1917 on Stolp Island in Aurora, Illinois was the first tall building (over 4 stories) built in the central business district in Aurora, the first large hotel in the city and represented an effort by the citizens who developed it to elevate Aurora's position as a center of commerce.

The Stolp Avenue and Galena Boulevard facades demonstrate a formal correctness while the articulation of the Fox River facade, with its interesting cantilevered projections over the river wall, represent an imaginative architectural and engineering solution to the quite constricted site. The building is virtually intact architecturally, and is easily capable of being restored to its original condition.

The story of the Aurora Hotel began in 1915 when a group of civic-minded citizens, believing that Aurora deserved and needed a first-class hotel, banded together to form an organization which they called the Aurora Island Hotel Corporation. This corporation was an outgrowth of the Aurora Island Development Corporation, which was responsible for many of the projects which made Stolp Island Aurora's first business district.

The Aurora Island Hotel Corporation erected the Hotel Aurora on a site which included a swimming hole and an old mill race. Construction started in 1916 and the hotel was opened for business on July 14, 1917 in time for Aurora Race Week. It has 135 rooms and all the modern conveniences of the day including ice water to the rooms. The president of the corporation was Edwin C. Faber, then general manager of the Chicago, Aurora and Elgin Railway. Albert M. Hirsch was vice-president, Attorney B.P. Alschuler was secretary, S.S. Sencenbaugh was treasurer, while these four together with H.H. Alschuler, Earl Schoeberlein and Joseph Sherer served as directors.

The hotel was managed by Mr. C.J. Kriel who was previously vice-president and general manager of the Hotel Winsor, Whelling, West Virginia. The operating company was the Aurora Hotel Company whose officers were Mr. Kriel, Cecil G. Fowler, banker and hotel owner of LaFayette, Indiana, and Clinton B. Marshall of Caldwell and Marshall, the hotel contractors.

George W. Caldwell of Caldwell and Marshall was very experienced in the construction of large hotels and had previously built the Fowler at Lafayette, Indiana (217 rooms), the Henry Watterson at Louisville, Kentucky (236 rooms), the tulsa at Tulsa, Oklahoma (320 rooms), the Colonial at Springfield, Mo. (170 rooms), the Marian at Little Rock, Arkansas and the Winsor of Wheeling, West Virginia (270 rooms).

Although the hotel opened on July 14, 1917, it was still not quite finished and the eighth floor and the kitchens were not operational for some weeks. However, the public was very enthusiastic about the hotel and the impressive vestibule 14 feet wide leading to the 40 by 40 main lobby behind it.

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Continuation sheet AURORA HOTEL Item number _____ Page _____

8. SIGNIFICANCE 1.

The lobby has a Tennessee pink marble floor on a marble base. All woodwork in the lobby was American black walnut with fluted columns two stories high. From the second floor a marble stairway of Tennessee grey marble with a Tennessee dark cedar base leads through the main lobby into the basement. In the basement was the Peacock Room that could be divided into 6 private dining rooms and a smoking room (for gentlemen only!). A kitchen 70' by 45' occupied the north section of the basement.

The building was absolutely fireproof since it was constructed of reinforced concrete and brick. 5,000 barrels of cement and 150,000 bricks were used in the construction. All floors were reinforced slabs without beams to produce uninterrupted surfaces. The planning was such that all electrical tubes were cast in the concrete slabs. The Architect was H.Ziegler Dietz. He insisted on quality construction and used river-washed sand and gravel which had never been used in Aurora before. All the columns are firmly anchored in the bedrock. The 112' river wall is supported on 48 principal piers each sunk up to 2' into the bedrock. The structure of the Aurora Hotel building could not be bettered if it were built today.

The management of the hotel was taken over by Harry H. Dunbar in 1919 and another operating corporation was formed. Shortly before the erection of the Leland Hotel in 1927-28 Dunbar sold out to William O. Gosselin who later took over the operation of the Leland and who continued to operate both hotels until his death after which the management passed into the hands of this wife. The three sons of Mr. & Mrs. W.O. Gosselin, John, William and Ward were all actively connected with the management of both hotels. In 1944 ownership of the hotel was purchased by the Gosselin family.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Aurora Beacon News, July 14, 1917

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 2/10 Acre

Quadrangle name Aurora North, Ill.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 16 390680 4623540
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots: 22 through 27 inclusive and Lot A in Block 1 of Island Avenue Addition, all in the City of Aurora, Kane County, Illinois

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robert Carroll King Principal

organization Aurora Associates

date September 1981

street & number 655 Irving Park Road Suite 4102

telephone 312-935-6955

city or town Chicago,

state 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Director, Ill Dept of Conservation

date 4/2/82

For HCERS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

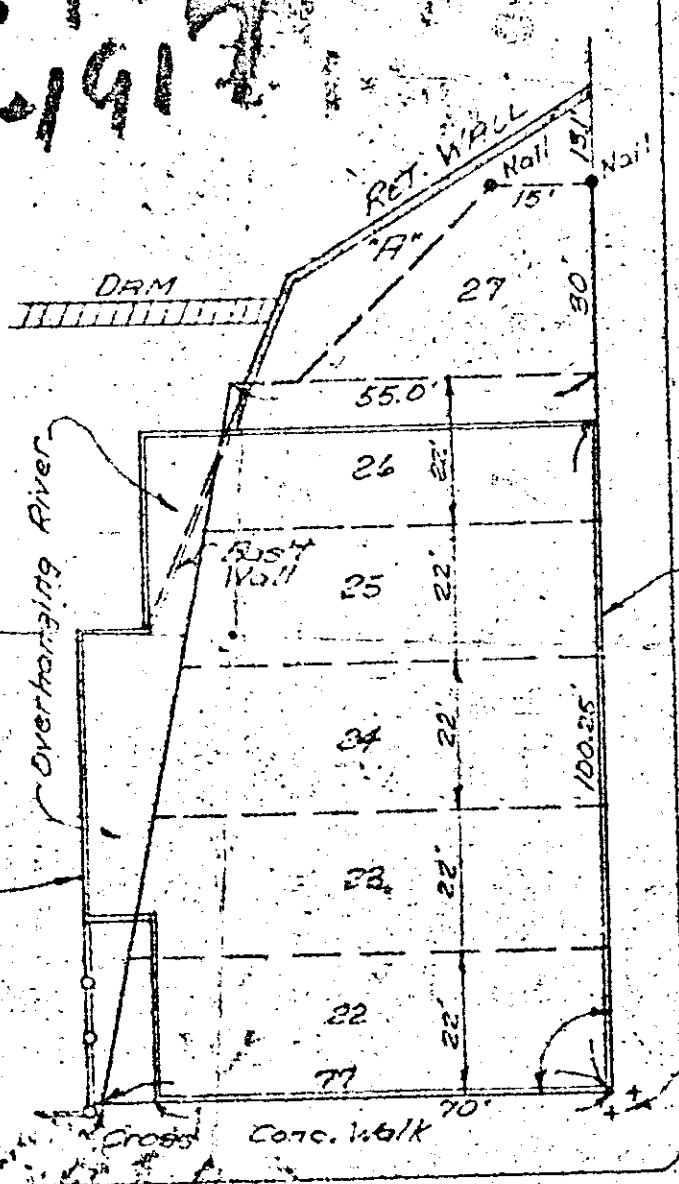
Chief of Registration

PLAT OF TRACT

697
4917



WEST BRANCH - FOX RIVER



Bldg. Line of
the E. S. Y.
Aurora Hotel
Bldg.

GALENA BLVD.

We, Bergeson and Dreas, Illinois Registered Land Surveyors and Engineer hereby certify that we have surveyed and platted the following described property: Lots 22 through 27 inclusive and Lot A in Block 1 of Island Avenue Addition, all in the City of Aurora, Kane County, Illinois. We further certify that the building as shown and dimensioned hereon is correct.

Dated at Aurora, Illinois, this 29th day of July, 1975

Joseph C. Dreas

Illinois Registered Land Surveyor No. 1985

BERGESON & DREAS
civil engineers
land surveyors
land planners
AURORA, ILLINOIS

COLORADO, Mesa County, Clifton, Clifton Community Center and Church, F and Main St. (06/03/82)
COLORADO, Montrose County, Montrose, Denver and Rio Grande Depot, 20 N. Rio Grande Ave. (06/03/82)

COLORADO, Montrose County, Montrose, Montrose City Hall, 433 S. 1st St. (06/03/82)

COLORADO, Morgan County, Brush, All Saints Church of Eben Ezer, 120 Hospital Rd. (06/03/82)

COLORADO, Pueblo County, Pueblo, Galligan House, 501 Colorado Ave. (06/03/82)

COLORADO, Pueblo County, Pueblo, Gast Mansion, 1801 Greenwood St. (06/03/82)

CONNECTICUT, Fairfield County, Bridgeport, Division Street Historic District, Roughly bounded by State St., Iranistan., Black Rock and West Aves. (06/03/82)

CONNECTICUT, New London County, New London, Woodworth, Nathan A., House, 28 Channing St. (06/01/82)

CONNECTICUT, Fairfield County, Newton, New York Belting and Packing Co., 45--71 and 79--89 Glen Rd. (06/02/82)

DELAWARE, Kent County, Milford vicinity, Archeological Site No. 7K-F-4 and 23, (06/03/82)

GEORGIA, Coweta County, Newnan, Northwest Newnan Residential Historic District, Roughly bounded by RR tracks, Jefferson, Cavender, Duncan, and Browns Sts. (05/28/82)

IDAHO, Rannock County, Pocatello, Pocatello Historic District, Roughly bounded by RR tracks, W. Fremont, W. Bonneville and Garfield Sts. (06/03/82)

ILLINOIS, Adams County, Quincy, Newcomb, Richard F., House, 1601 Maine St. (06/03/82)

ILLINOIS, Coles County, Oakland, Rutherford, Dr. Hiram, House and Office, 14 S. Pike St. (06/03/82)

ILLINOIS, Cook County, Chicago Heights, Bloom Township High School, 10th St., Dixie Hwy. and Chicago Heights St. (06/03/82)

ILLINOIS, Cook County, Chicago, Railway Exchange Building, 80 E. Jackson Blvd. and 224 S. Michigan Ave. (06/03/82)

ILLINOIS, Cook County, Chicago, Warner, Seth, House, 631 N. Central Ave. (06/03/82)

ILLINOIS, DePage County, West Chicago vicinity, McAuley School District No. 27, Roosevelt Rd. (06/03/82)

ILLINOIS, Kane County, Aurora, Hotel Aurora, 2 N. Stolp Ave. (06/03/82)

ILLINOIS, Kankakee County, Kankakee, Annell, Charles E., House, 901 S. Chicago (06/03/82)

ILLINOIS, McHenry County, McHenry, Annell's House, 3803 Waukegan (06/03/82)

ILLINOIS, Randolph County, Sparta, Sparta Historic District, S. St. Louis, W. 1st and S. James Sts. (06/03/82)

ILLINOIS, Rock Island County, Rock Island, Rock Island Lines Passenger Station, 3029 5th Ave. (06/03/82)

ILLINOIS, Sangamon County, Springfield, Boult, H. P., House, 1123 S. 2nd St. (06/03/82)

ILLINOIS, Whiteside County, Tampico, Main Street Historic District, S. Main St. (06/03/82)

INDIANA, Allen County, Fort Wayne, Bass, John H., Mansion (Brookside), 2701 Spring St. (06/02/82)

INDIANA, Marion County, Indianapolis, Lombard Building, 22--28 E. Washington St. (06/01/82)

INDIANA, Marion County, Indianapolis, Thompeon, William N., House, 4343 N. Meridian St. (06/01/82)

KENTUCKY, Fayette County, Lexington vicinity, McCann, Benjamin, House (Castletawn), Old Richmond Pike (06/03/82)

KENTUCKY, Fayette County, Lexington vicinity, McCann, Neal, House, 5364 Todd's Rd. (06/03/82)

KENTUCKY, Greenup County, Greenup vicinity, Stuart, Jesse, House, Stuarts Lane off W-Hollow Rd. (06/01/82)

KENTUCKY, Woodford County, Archeological Site 15-Wd-61, (06/02/82)

LOUISIANA, Evangeline County, Ville Platte, Dardeau Building, 224 W. Main (06/01/82)