

CLARENDON MULTIPLE RESOURCE AREA
MONROE COUNTY

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

Survey Number CL-46

Owner Earge Cole

Property Name New South Inn

Address

Address 132-164 Second

Clarendon, AR 72029

City Clarendon, AR

Significant Date/s c. 1903

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The New South Inn is the largest and most impressive of the commercial structures with pressed metal facades in Clarendon. The bottom floor of the front facing Second Street contains five separate storefronts. The last one on the Southern corner is the entrance to the lobby area. It is recessed, and contains two separate single door entrances with the main entrance on the left with a semi-circular window above it. The other four storefronts have recessed single-door entrances flanked by glass display windows and multi-paned transom windows above. Small pressed metal pilasters are found on the corners of the main building and between the separate stores. The first storefront on the northern corner has its original storefront with three sections of transom windows containing twenty-one panes apiece. The second storefront is altered with the transoms and the display windows covered. It is now a pool hall. The third storefront is original, and has a canopy. The fourth storefront is also unchanged. All the storefronts except the second are now vacant.

The second story facade is topped by a massive raised cornice with a roll of modillions running underneath. Below that are several rows of elaborately decorated pressed metal panels over a row of double hung windows arranged in groups of three. Between the separate windows are single pilasters, and double pilasters are grouped on the corners of the facade and between the groups of windows. The major alteration to the building occurred when the two-story front porch had to be removed after it was damaged in the 1927 flood.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The New South Inn is the last historic hotel left in Clarendon. At the turn of the century, as many as half a dozen hotels operated around Clarendon near the river and the Midland Railroad. The New South Inn was built circa 1903 by Parker C. Ewan when several buildings with pressed metal fronts were constructed on Madison and Second Streets across from the Courthouse. Ewan built both the Inn and the one-story Ewan Building (CL-46) adjacent to the Inn on Second Street around 1903. Ewan was one of the largest land owners in the region with over 79,000 acres and 35 separate farms in five different counties. Parker C. Ewan came to Clarendon in 1857 where he taught school, served as a Captain in the Confederacy, founded the Monroe County Sun newspaper in 1876, and practiced law with Jeremiah Marston and Judge J. S. Thomas. J.

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B. James was the original manager of the hotel in 1904, and J. W. Price took over in the 1920's. The hotel was built with two stories. The rooms were on the top floor and shops, a lobby, and a dining room were on the ground floor. The hotel originally had a two-story porch on the front that had to be removed after it was damaged during the 1927 flood. Some of the shops on the ground floor over the years included a pool hall, a grocery store, a plumbing shop, a soda shop, a jewelry store, and a small motion pictures theater. The New South Inn still has its impressive pressed metal front, and has recently gained recognition as the set for the movie, A Soldier's Story in 1983. This recognition has increased interest in the town for restoring and preserving the buildings on Second Street.

Verbal Boundary Description: Original Town of Clarendon
Lots 3, 4 Block 12

Acreage: less than one

Quadrangle Name: Clarendon, Ark.

Quadrangle Scale: 1:24000

UTM Reference:

Zone: 15

Easting: 654980

Northing: 3839510



CL-46 New South Inn 132-164 Second
HISTORIC RESOURCES OF CLARENDON
Jeff Lewellen, photographer.
Negatives at AHPP
Viewed from the Southwest.