JUN 29 1987

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received

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

nventory—Nomination Form

date entered NOV

ee instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms

1. Nam	18					
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and/or common	Hard Times Hotel	A Discourse				
2. Loca	ation					
street & number	201 2nd Street				n/a not for publication	n
city, town	Westcliffe	n/avicin	ity of			
state Colo	rado co o	le 08	county	Custer	code ₀₂₇	
	sification					
Category district _X_ building(s) structure site object	Ownership public private both Public Acquisition in process being considered	X occupied unoccup work in p Accessible X yes: rest yes: unre	ied progress ricted	Present Use n/a agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park X private reside religious scientific transportation other:	
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7. Description

Condition $X = n/a$ deteriorated	Check one X unaltered	Check one X original site	
good ruins unexposed	altered	moved date	n/a

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

com 24 as total a.

The National Hotel is located in the small community of Westcliffe, Colorado, in the Wet Mountain Valley. The town has an altitude of 7,900 feet and is on the eastern edge of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. The building is on a corner site at Second and Rosita Streets, at the edge of Westcliffe's residential area. It is the only commercial building in a block of residential buildings.

This brick building, designed in a Romanesque Vernacular style, is two stories high with a rusticated stone front, a high front parapet, and brick side walls. The west front of the building is divided horizontally into two distinct elements by a dressed stone beltcourse at the second floor sill level. The entire facade is framed by the vertical stone pilasters rising the full building height at the corners. The front openings are symmetrically arranged with a slightly recessed center entrance flanked by eight foot tall windows with one-over-one wood sash. The linked segmental arches at the tops of the flat headed door and windows form a short arcade across the front. The wide stone blocks framing the openings have a tooled surface with a smooth, narrow border. The date of construction, "1887" is carved in relief on the keystone over the front door. The door opening has been framed with wood for the installation, in the early 1980s, of a non-original wooden door with an oval, glass opening in the center. There is a transom over the door which has a non-original decorative piece of wooden fret-work installed on the interior. There are paneled spandrels under the first floor windows.

On the second floor of the front, there are single flat headed windows above each of the first floor windows which are five feet high with three-over-one wood sash and a flat dressed stone lintel and surround. Across the top of the parapet is a projecting stone cap and a triangular stone element in the center with the name of the original owner, "W. Wolff", carved on the stone face. The flat roof has a 4/12 pitch and is covered with corrugated metal.

There is a two-story frame addition at the rear of the building which was constructed around 1900 according to old photos of the buildings. Both side walls are of brick and have three evenly spaced second floor windows with one-over-one wood sash. On the north side, there were originally three tall windows on the first floor and a large rectangular opening near the rear. When this opening was later enlarged, it removed one of the windows. The opening, which is now boarded over, was the entrance to a service garage in the early 1900s.

ha production in the care

The building retains much of its original integrity and there have been few exterior alterations except to stabilize with stucco the deteriorating bricks below the windows on the north side.

On the interior, the second floor originally contained six small bedrooms with a central hall. The 1900 addition to the rear brought the number of second floor rooms to eight. When the building was converted to a residence in the early 1980s several second floor partitions were removed to enlarge the bedrooms and to construct a second bathroom. The nine foot ceiling height was retained on the upper floor.

The first floor remains as originally constructed and has twelve foot ceilings. The original stair railing is missing and has been replaced by a simple wooden handrail.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number7 Page2		
	National Hotel/Wolff Building	

This building occupies the majority of the site. In the rear there is a deteriorated wooden, barn-like structure which is said to have been a blacksmith shop. This building, which will soon be removed from the site, is in such poor condition that it has lost all integrity and is a non-contributing building. Across the front of the property and parallel to the street, is a low stone retaining wall. There were originally five iron rings set into the wall for tying up horses. Four rings still remain.

^{1.} It is not known if this opening was part of the original construction, but it was present in a photo taken of the building around 1900.

8. Significance

Periodprehistoric1400-14991500-15991600-16991700-1799X 1800-18991900-	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric agricultureX architecture art commerce communications	heck and justify below n/acommunity planning conservation economics education engineering exploration/settlemen industry invention	n/a landscape architectur law literature military music t philosophy politics/government	ren/a religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	1887	Builder/Architect 0	wner William Wolff	Light of the power of the first factor of

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The National Hotel constructed in 1887 meets criterion C. It is architecturally significant as an example of a small nineteenth century Victorian commercial building with a sophistication of Romanesque Vernacular design not usually found in the small mountain communities of Colorado. It was the first hotel and is the only remaining stone-front building in present-day Westcliffe. The original owner of the hotel, William Wolff, was a Westcliffe pioneer and one of the petitioners for the incorporation of the town in 1887.

The hotel was constructed several years after Dr. William A. Bell brought the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad from Canon City in 1881.² This railroad line, also known as the Silver Cliff branch or the Grape Creek extension, was built to ship silver ore from the mines in the valley, but it terminated one mile west of the booming mining town of Silver Cliff.³ It is probable that the line stopped short of the mining town in order to raise the property values and establish a new town on the ranch land owned by Bell.⁴ Westcliffe, originally known as Clifton, was renamed by Bell after his English birthplace, Westcliffe-on-the-sea.⁵

The hotel was the first hotel constructed in Westcliffe. It was built in 1887 on Second Street, which was originally called Dutch Row for the number of German-Dutch immigrants who lived on that street. William and his brother, Louis Wolff, had apparently become quite wealthy after the sale of several mining properties in the mid-1880s. While Louis built a saloon in Silver Cliff, William constructed his hotel in Westcliffe. The building originally housed a saloon and was an overnight stop for visitors to the area, as well as a rooming house for the miners and ranch workers in Custer County. Through the years the building has served the town of Westcliffe as a hotel, boarding house, apartments, restaurant, saloon, billiard hall, gambling hall, garage, market, ice cream parlor and currently as a private residence.

In recent years the building has been vacant, boarded up and threatened with demolition. The current owner has restored the old hotel building for use as a private residence in the early 1980s.

The American version of the Romanesque style was established by Henry Hobson Richardson with his 1872 Trinity Church in Boston. The National Hotel displays, with its rock-faced stone facade and trim of contrasting tooled and dressed stone, the characteristics of the style known as Richardsonian Romanesque. While arcading and the round arch were predominant in Romanesque buildings, the National Hotel has a segmental arch arcade across the first story, which may be a local interpretation of the Romanesque style. Since Westcliffe never attained the population or economic growth from mining as Central City, Aspen or Leadville did it is even more unusual to find such a high style building in a small mountain community.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See footnotes

10. Geograp	hical Data	
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List all states and counti	es for properties overlapping state or code $\mathrm{n/a}$ county	r county boundaries
state	code county	code
11. Form Proname/title Michael Pea		doto
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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section	number	8	Page _	2
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National Hotel/Wolff Building

FOOTNOTES

- 1. Plat and incorporation documents, Clerk and Recorder's Office, Custer County.
- Muriel Sibell Wolle, <u>Stampede to Timberline</u>, (Chicago: Sage Books, 1969), p. 282.
 Robert L. Brown, Colorado Ghost Towns, (Caldwell, Idaho: The Caxton Printers, Ltd., 1968), pp. 295-298.
- 3. Morris Calky, Rails to Westcliffe, (Wet Mountain Tribune, Centennial Edition, December 20, 1985.)
- 4. Wolle, pp. 282, 292.

Brown, pp. 295-298.

Perry Eberhart, <u>Guide to Colorado Ghost Towns and Mining Camps</u>, (Denver: Sage Books, 1959), p. 426.

5. Wolle, pp. 282-284.

In <u>Colorado and its People</u>, edited by LeRoy Hafen, Bell was cited as one of Colorado's most successful promoters of railroad lines and ranch lands and also the founder of Manitou Springs, which became a world famous resort in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. (Vol. II, pp. 101, 567.)

- 6. Name and date on the front of the building.
- 7. Deed recorded in the Clerk and Recorder's Office, Custer County.
- 8. Marie Erps, Co-chairman of the Silver Cliff Museum.

Colorado Business Directory, 1884-1905.

9. Marcus Whiffen, American Architecture Since 1780, (Cambridge and London: The MIT Press, 1969), p. 133.

boundary selection

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

National HotelW	Jolff Building				
Custer County	OIII Building		THE		
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Signed Beth Grovena Date 8/10/87	Phone:	

GPO 918-450

National Hotel/Wolff Building

Reviewer's Comments:

This nomination is being returned because of a need to provide an area of significance to correspond to criterion A. Architecture goes along with criterion C, but which area of significance corresponds with criterion A? This is particularly problematic because the text of the nomination does not precisely indicate how the property is historically significant. Is the hotel commercially significant because of its association with the increased local prosperity fostered by the arrival of the railroad? Would exploration/settlement be appropriate given that the hotel was located on a street populated by German-Dutch immigrants? While there are indications that either commerce or exploration/settlement might apply, the nomination does not provide the necessary documentation to justify the selection of either of these areas of significance.

If you wish to claim criterion A, please check a corresponding area of significance and justify the selection of that area. If lack of available documentation negates this possibility, please eliminate the claim for criterion A and nominate this property strictly on the basis of its architectural merits.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me (202-343-9547).

Bruce Noble, Historian National Register WASO Form - 177 ("R" June 1984)

☐ dates

boundary selection

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

National Hotel-	-Wolff Building			
Custer County				
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National Hotel
Westcliffe, Custer County, Colorado
Photo by Michael Pearl 10/31/86
Negs. Michael Pearl
West front View E

#1 of 7





National Hotel
Westcliffe, Custer County, Colorado
Photo by Michael Pearl 10/31/86
Negs. Michael Pearl
Detail front entrance View E

#2 of 7



(3)

National Hotel
Westcliffe, Custer County, Colorado
Photo - Michael Pearl 10/31/86
Negs. Michael Pearl
North side & west front View SE

#3 of 7



National Hotel
Westcliffe, Custer County, Colorado
Photo - Michael Pearl 10/31/86
Negs. Michael Pearl
West front & south side View NE

#4 of 7









National Hotel
Westcliffe, Custer County, Colorado
Photo - Michael Pearl 10/31/86
Negs. Michael Pearl
Interior from front door

#5 of 7



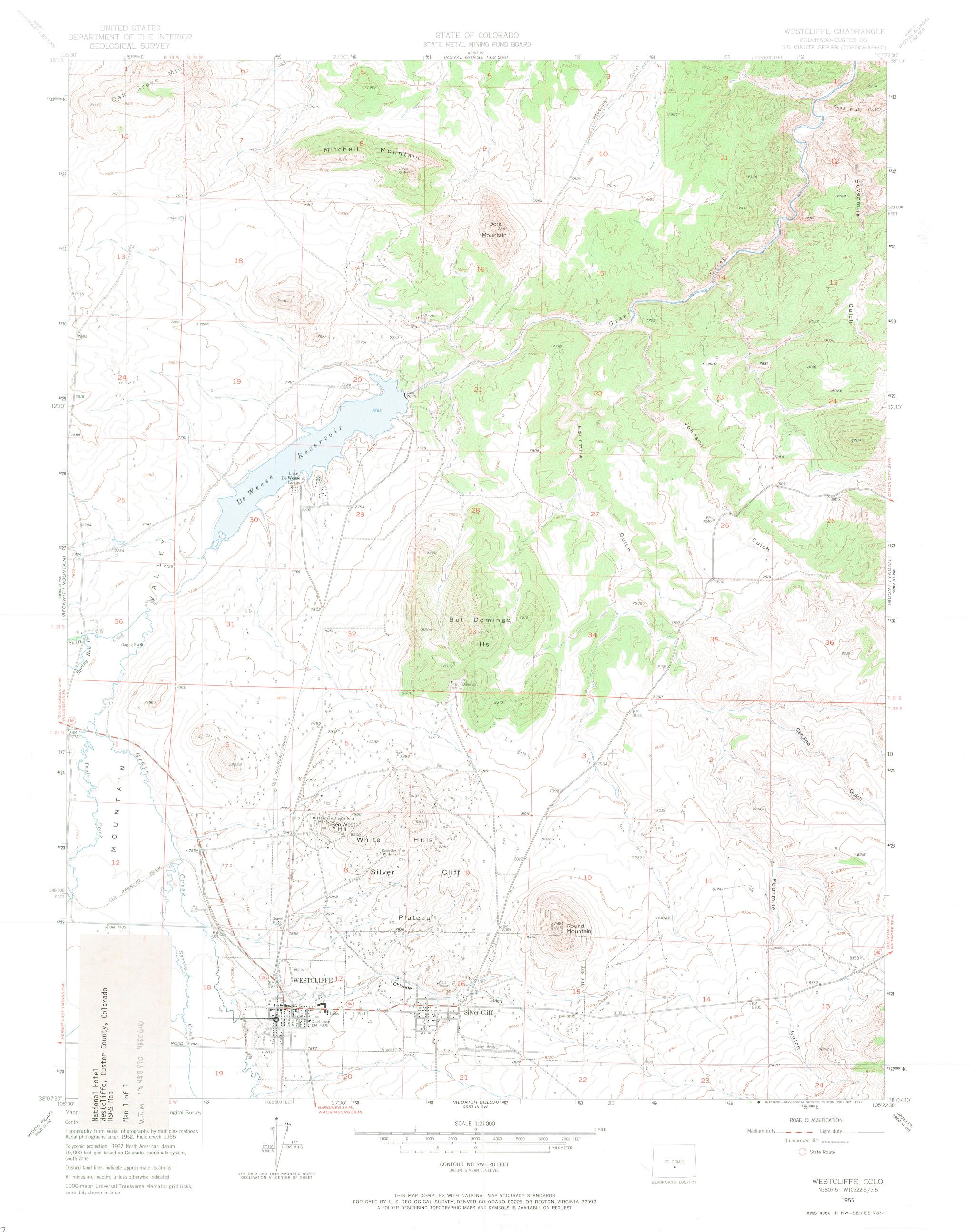
National Hotel Westcliffe, Custer County, Colorado Photo - Michael Pearl 10/31/86 Negs. Michael Pearl Interior looking toward front door

#6 of 7



National Hotel Westcliffe, Custer County, Colorado Photo - Michael Pearl 10/31/86 Negs. Michael Pearl

7 of 7





Colorado State Museum 1300 Broadway Denver, Colorado 80203

June 22, 1987

Carol D. Shull
Chief of Registration
National Register of Historic Places
Interagency Resources Division
National Park Service, U. S. Dept. of the Interior
P. O. Box 37127
Washington, D. C. 20013-7127

Dear Ms. Shull:

We are pleased to submit the five enclosed National Register nomination forms for the Sherman Street Historic District, Fort Morgan, Morgan County, Colorado, the first district nomination in Fort Morgan; the National Hotel in Westcliffe, Custer County, Colorado, the first nomination for that small mountain town; the Hanigan-Canino Terrace, Denver, Denver County, Colorado, which represents the immigrant patterns and ethnic changes in one of Denver's historic 19th century neighborhoods; the Terrace, Lafayette, Boulder County, Colorado, a unique frame terrace and an addition to the Lafayette Coal Mining Era Buildings, a MRA nomination listed in the Register on May 20, 1983 and the Longmont College, Longmont, Boulder County, Colorado, Longmont's only institution of higher education.

All of these nominations were presented to the Colorado Review Board at their meeting on April 23, 1987, and were approved. We sincerely appreciate your favorable consideration of all five nominated sites.

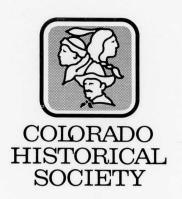
If you have questions about the nominations, please contact Barbara Norgren of our staff at (303) 866-4681.

Sincerely,

Barbara Sudler

State Historic Preservation Officer

BS/BN:jc



The Colorado History Museum 1300 Broadway Denver, Colorado 80203-2137

September 16, 1987

Carol D. Shull
Chief of Registration
National Register of Historic Places
Interagency Resources Division
National Park Service, U.S. Dept. of the Interior
P. O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

Dear Ms. Shull:

We are resubmitting the nomination for the National Hotel, Custer County, Westcliffe, Colorado. The nomination was approved by the Colorado Review Board on April 23, 1987, and forwarded to the National Register on June 21, 1987. It was returned to our office on August 17, 1987, for technical corrections. These problems have been resolved and we request that the nomination be accepted for reconsideration.

Sincerely,

Barbara Sudler

State Historic Preservation Officer

BS/jc