

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: West Virginia	
COUNTY: Tyler	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER OCT 5 1972	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
The Wells Inn

AND/OR HISTORIC:
The Wells Hotel

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
316 Charles Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Sistersville

STATE West Virginia	CODE 26175	COUNTY: Tyler	CODE 095
------------------------	---------------	------------------	-------------

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <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 (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
J. Wells Kinkaid, Sr.

STREET AND NUMBER:
500 S. Wells Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Sistersville

STATE: West Virginia	CODE 26175
-------------------------	---------------

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Tyler County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Middlebourne

STATE West Virginia	CODE 26149
------------------------	---------------

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
An Historic Preservation - Economic Development Study for Sistersville, West Virginia.

DATE OF SURVEY:
January 1971 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Sistersville Planning Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
Sistersville City Hall

CITY OR TOWN:
Sistersville

STATE: West Virginia	CODE 26175
-------------------------	---------------

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: West Virginia	COUNTY: Tyler
ENTRY NUMBER OCT 5 1972	DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The following is from the WEST VIRGINIA DAILY OIL REVIEW, January 16, 1895. "Hotel Wells Opened Last Night."

"Front of pressed brick and it has for relief two fine verandas, one on the first story and one on the story above the latter supported by columns of the colonial period...The prevailing color of the woodwork is light, quartered sawn oak being the wood used almost exclusively. The walls are pure white, giving the room a cheerful appearance. On going through the main entrance an artistic piece of Mosaic floor tiling strikes the eye. In the center are the words 'Hotel Wells'. Going through the inner doors one comes into the huge and roomy office proper. The counter is to the right. Beyond this is the private office, a room nicely furnished with desk and a library bookcase. Off from these rooms is a cloak room, barber shop and lavatory. The latter is complete in every detail even to an elegant bath room...In the rear are the rooms devoted to the culinary departments and they are models of...with a serving and store room adjoining...The dining room is large, airy, and light. Chairs and tables are of antique oak. My 'Grandfather's Clock' gives a delightful 'tick tick tick' in one corner and not far away is a handsome modern sideboard. The room will seat fifty guests. To the left of the main entrance is the ladies entrance. Guests as they enter will find in a reception room...The floor is covered with a dark red velvet carpet of the finest texture. Regulation reception chairs are placed around the apartment, and to one side is a rich oak center table...In the left corner of the first floor is the gentleman's writing and reading room. A long cloth covered table extends almost through the entire length of the room and the white walls are relieved by oak wainscoating. Across the hall is the commercial sample room and it is in keeping within the pale of truth to state no handsomer room was ever furnished for the 'knights of the grip' to spread their wares before customers. The floor is covered with linoleum and furnished in a view of making the occupants comfortable. A tiled fireplace is one of the striking features of this room. At the head of the main stairs is the Ladies' parlor... The foot sinks into the finest velvet carpet. The furniture is of various woods covered with raw silk of the latest and most fashionable shades. The windows are curtained with creamy lace of handsome design. A fine piano, the gift of M.F.R. Wells completes the furnishings. Of sleeping rooms, there are 28 for guests. All are furnished in first class style, with gas and steam heat from registers. Six are furnished with mantels tiled and some richer than the others for state guests. On the second floor is a ladies bathroom that cannot be well approved upon. The house throughout is furnished with hot and cold water; steam and gas; and connectors are made with convertors for incandescent Electric lights. In the basement is a Trimble and Luts automatic feeding furnace for furnishing heat and in the rear is a fully equipped laundry...The cost of the building as it stands with furnishings was \$30,000...The brick and carpenter and wood-work was done by Contractor Black of Parkersburg, the plumbing by Bear & Son of Hannibal, Ohio, painting and hardwood finishing, furnace and furnishings were supplied by Horse & Herman of Wheeling; the china, queensware by Hall & Hall of Sistersville and the silverware of N.L. Marsh our well known jeweler, while the handsome office clock was the gift of the Misses Temp and Martha Wells."

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1894-5**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Hotel was built by Ephraim Wells, grandson of the first significant settler, Charles Wells. During the 'Oil Excitement' it was the meeting place of many of the prominent oil dealers. Many great 'business deals' were transacted here. It was started April 1894, and opened January 15, 1895. The building was designed by W. H. O'Neil. John Rea and Mr. O'Neil, both from Hannibal Ohio, shared the construction. Two years later, Mr. Wells had the annex built by these same gentlemen, and moved into it with his family to use it as a private residence. The Hotel continued with varying success under many different managers until the 1920's when it was sold to Pittsburgh interests. In 1929, a local corporation of the town's businessmen, who felt it was necessary to have a good hotel in the town, formed and bought the Hotel, remodeled it and operated it until the 1940's. It was purchased in 1948 by Everett Doak. J. Wells Kinkaid, grandson of the builder, purchased the Hotel in 1965 and extensively remodeled it with the decor of the 1890's. His son Jack, is the present manager.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

DAILY OIL REVIEW, January 16, 1895. "Hotel Wells Opening Last Night".
 SISTERSVILLE DAILY REVIEW, April 2, 1930.
 TYLER STAR NEWS, June 28, 1967. "Remembers Wells Opening".
 DAILY OIL REVIEW, INDUSTRIAL EDITION, February 1896, "The Hotel Wells."

17 / 500110
 4379070
 HB

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES							
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			LATITUDE			LONGITUDE	
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"	39°	33'	47"	80°	59'	48"
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"						
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"						
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: .7

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Mrs. Laura A. Bryant, Field Research Agent, for

ORGANIZATION: West Virginia Antiquities Commission
 DATE: August 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:
 Old Mountainlair, West Virginia University

CITY OR TOWN: Morgantown
 STATE: West Virginia 26506
 CODE: 54

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: Dr. Carolyn J. Zan
 Title: State Liaison Officer

Date: July 24, 1972

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

Robert A. Utley
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 10/5/72

ATTEST:
William J. Smith
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 10-3-72

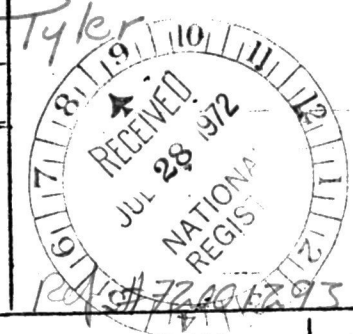
SEE INSTRUCTIONS

PROPERTY

THE WELLS INN

STATE

W. Va.



Working number

7.28.72.1167

TECH REVIEW

Photos

1

Maps

1

REVIEW

HISTORIAN

Olney, Charles
9/27/72

ARCHEOLOGIST

ARCHITECT

Description says nothing about what it's like now. Suggest putting it on the Register and requesting more information later.

OK Chambers
9-26-72

BRANCH CHIEF

OK
10/2/72

EDITORIAL REVIEW

Agree with all if it is that much of a rush.

OK
Rowland
10-2-72

KEEPER

OK
10-3-72

National Register write-up _____

Federal Register entry

11-7-72

Acknowledge

7-28-72

Send-back _____

Re-submit _____

Register no.

OCT 5 1972



WELLS
INN

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

NPS Number

Oct 5 1975

Title:

The Wellington
Villa, W. V.

Loc.

Front angle view of
Hotel facing north

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE West Virginia	
COUNTY Tyler	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
OCT 5	1972

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: The Wells Inn
AND/OR HISTORIC: The Wells Hotel

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
316 Charles Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Sistersville

STATE: West Virginia	CODE 26175	COUNTY: Tyler	CODE 095
-------------------------	---------------	------------------	-------------

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:
U.S. Geological Survey

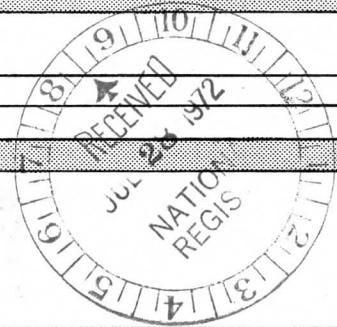
SCALE: 1:24000

DATE: 1960

4. REQUIREMENTS

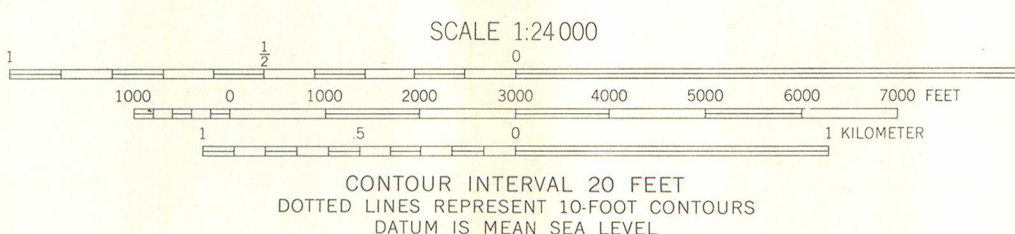
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.





Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods
Aerial photographs taken 1956 and 1958. Field check 1960
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grids based on West Virginia coordinate system,
north zone, and Ohio coordinate system, south zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 17, shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
The state boundary as shown represents the approximate position of the
low water line as determined from U. S. Corps of Engineers Ohio
River Charts, surveyed 1913, and supplementary information
Ohio area lies within the Old Seven Ranges
Land lines based on the Ohio River Base



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
	Slate Route

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON 25, D. C.
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

PADEN CITY, W. VA.—OHIO
SW/4 NEW MARTINSVILLE 15' QUADRANGLE
N3930—W8052.5/7.5
1960

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE WEST VIRGINIA

Date Entered **OCT 5 1972**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
The Wells Inn	Sistersville Tyler County
City Building	Sistersville Tyler County

Also Notified

Hon. Jennings Randolph
Hon. Robert C. Byrd
Hon. Robert H. Byrd
Director, Northeast Region

State Liaison Officer
Dr. Carolyn Zinn
Director, Department of Archives &
History
1800 Lincoln Boulevard East
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

HR NRowland:mmm 10/5/72