

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Crescent Hotel

Other names/site number: The 1886 Crescent Hotel and Spa, Crescent College and Conservatory For Young Women, The Baker Hospital and Health Resort

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 75 Prospect Avenue

City or town: Eureka Springs State: AR County: Carroll

Not For Publication:

Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

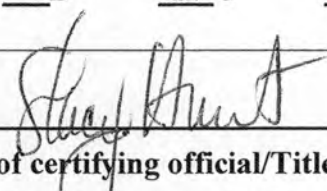
I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national X statewide ___ local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A ___ B X C ___ D

 _____ Signature of certifying official/Title: <u>Arkansas Historic Preservation Program</u>	<u>11-2-15</u> _____ Date
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

Crescent Hotel

Carroll County, Arkansas

Name of Property

County and State

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title :

State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ___ entered in the National Register
- ___ determined eligible for the National Register
- ___ determined not eligible for the National Register
- ___ removed from the National Register
- ___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:

Public – Local

Public – State

Public – Federal

Crescent Hotel

Carroll County, Arkansas

Name of Property

County and State

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1 (Hotel)</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u>1 (Garden)</u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u>2 (Pool & Fountain)</u>	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 4

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- DOMESTIC/hotel
- EDUCATION/college
- HEALTH CARE/hospital

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- DOMESTIC/hotel

Crescent Hotel

Carroll County, Arkansas

Name of Property

County and State

HEALTH CARE/resort

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN/Romanesque

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

Foundation: STONE/limestone

Walls: STONE/ limestone

Roof: WOOD/ shingle

Other: BRICK

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The 1886 Crescent Hotel is a five-story modern classic design fashioned by architect Isaac S. Taylor that blends the French Renaissance and Richardsonian Romanesque styles. It is an asymmetrical building with projecting wings located on the north crest of the West Mountain on the northwestern side of Carroll County. The building sits right off of Prospect Avenue and is located on five acres with three acres of formal gardens, a pool, and two cottages situated 133 yards from the hotel. The building rests on a continuous limestone foundation and has stone walls harvested from the quarry that was on the White River near Beaver, Arkansas. The hand-hewn limestone blocks average 18" with the biggest blocks reaching 30" x 24". The north and south limestone wings are primarily original with most of the center penthouse level, fourth floor and south penthouse rebuilt after a fire consumed most of them in 1967. The hotel features a mansard roof with 14 corbeled chimneys and asphalt, mixed-slate shingles in a coursed pattern. A Georgian entrance is found on both the east and west facades of the building with nine-foot-tall French doors. The building contains a mix of single-hung and fixed windows with a variety of fanlights.

Crescent Hotel

Name of Property

Carroll County, Arkansas

County and State

Narrative Description

Front/Northwest Façade/Original H plan/Modern-day Front

The modern-day front façade faces northwest towards Prospect Avenue. The center of the façade consists of a Georgian entrance with large nine-foot-tall French doors that open into the building. The wood-framed doors have two plate-glass side panels and an oversized fanlight. The main entrance is framed with a stone arch. To the right of the door is a plaque that reads "Historic Hotels of America - National Trust for Historic Preservation."

Extending from the first floor is a 21' X 21' *porte cochère* that hangs 12' above the ground with support chains attaching to the roof of the third-floor balcony. The roof of the *porte cochère* is decorated in original stamped tin. A small flowerbed with a copper crescent water fountain sits 30' in front of the hotel. The first floor has a 73' X 13' porch and the second, third, and fourth floors have a balcony directly on top of the same expanse. The balconies were constructed from road culverts, railroad ties, and a concrete pour. The fourth floor of the two projecting wings has a mansard roof with six brick corbeled chimneys; three on the north wing facing in on the balcony and three on the south wing also facing the balcony. The fourth-floor balcony was added by Norman Baker when he purchased the hotel in 1937. Four concrete columns, which replaced the wood supports in 1937, sit on stone supports and hold up the balconies.

In between each column in the center section of the front façade are four working antique gas lamps. A narrow three-foot-wide concrete staircase runs from the fourth floor down to the first and hugs the north wing and side of the balconies. A white metal railing closes in the second, third, and fourth-floor balconies, while a black railing runs across the front porch, providing support up the wheel-chair accessible ramp and up the stairs to the front entrance.

On the first floor there are six single-hung two-over-two windows with limestone sills and lintels with one covered elevator shaft at the south end of the porch. On the first floor of the front north-projecting wing there are five single-hung two-over-two windows with a fanlight above, limestone sills, arches, and wood flower boxes facing Prospect and three single-hung two-over-two windows facing in on the porch. On the first floor of the front south-projecting wing there are three single-hung two-over-two windows with limestone sills and lintels facing Prospect and two single-hung two-over-two windows facing in on the porch with a third fixed window atop clouded casement windows and an AC unit. All windows on the first, second, and third floors have a limestone sill and lintel unless otherwise noted.

On the second and third floors there are five single-hung two-over-two windows and four ten-foot-tall French doors with one covered elevator shaft at the south end of the porch. On the second and third floors of the front north-projecting wing there are three single-hung two-over-two windows facing Prospect Avenue and three single-hung two-over-two windows facing in on the balcony. On the second and third floors of the front south-projecting wing there are three single-hung two-over-two windows facing Prospect Avenue and three single-hung two-over-two windows facing in on the balcony.

Crescent Hotel

Name of Property

Carroll County, Arkansas

County and State

On the fourth floor there are six single-hung two-over-two windows with limestone sills and one half-glass door. On the fourth floor of both the front north and south-projecting wings there are six dormer two-over-two windows with limestone sills — three facing Prospect Avenue and three facing in on the balcony.

The penthouse level, added in 2001, features a mansard roof with three hip dormer windows, each with two sets of single-hung two-over-two windows and a gabled dormer with a fixed arch window surrounded by four fixed windows. A crescent wind vane marking the highest point on the hotel rests atop the main, center window. A squared, stone corner tower, common in Richardsonian Romanesque designs, marks the south end of the penthouse level. There are two window openings, one of which is filled with a fixed two-over-two window; the other is covered with a vent. The roof of this tower is hipped.

A fire escape runs from the fourth floor down to the first on both the north and south-projecting wings of the front facade.

Side/Northeast Façade & Annex Servants' Quarters

The northeast side of the original building has three single-hung two-over-two windows with fanlights on the first floor. The second and third floors each have seven single-hung two-over-two windows. The fourth floor has a mansard roof with eight hip dormer two-over-two windows. There are four brick corbeled chimneys and one regular brick chimney at the far east side.

The annex servants' quarters were added in 1901 to provide a place for the carriage elite's servants to stay while on vacation at the resort. Constructed from limestone with a flat roof, the addition has four floors. The ground floor houses maintenance, housekeeping, and the morgue. The second floor contains the kitchen. The third and fourth floors now contain four Jacuzzi suites which were added in 2002 and are connected to the north end of the original building by a slim hallway. Each side of the narrow passage features four single-hung four-over-four windows. The sides are covered with copper shingles.

The first floor of the annex wing on the northwest side that faces Prospect Avenue features three doors, one of which is a large double door for maintenance purposes. The second floor features four window spaces, only one of which has a single-hung four-over-four window. The other three spaces are blocked off with lattices. One ramp leads up to a door on the second floor of the annexed wing. The third and fourth floors feature three single-hung four-over-four windows each.

In front of the annex wing to the northwest is an additional cinder block space. Added in 1946 as a garage to house the hotel limo, it is currently an additional space for the housekeeping department.

Crescent Hotel

Carroll County, Arkansas

Name of Property

County and State

The northeast side of the annex wing features one single-hung four-over-four window on both the third and fourth floors. The first and second floors extend out one unit and do not have any windows. To the northeast of the annex wing is a 30' brick chimney. It was constructed in 1901.

The southeast side of the annex wing features three single-hung four-over-four windows with limestone sills and lintels on both the third and fourth floors. The second floor features five window spaces that are covered with lattices. The first floor has no windows or doors. A covered pool deck backs up to the first floor of the annex wing on the east side.

A kidney-shaped pool that was installed in the 1970s rests atop the foundation for the original pool. It is enclosed by a green wrought-iron fence.

Rear/Southeast Façade/Original Front

The original front, which now serves as the back façade, faces southeast towards Crescent Drive. The center of the façade consists of the original main Georgian entrance with large nine-foot-tall French doors that open into the building. The wood-framed doors have two plate-glass side panels and a fanlight. On either side of the main entrance is a set of eight-foot-tall Georgian French doors with fanlights. The first floor has a 73' X 13' porch and the second, third, and fourth floors have a balcony directly on top of the same expanse. The balconies are supported by four concrete columns that measure five feet in circumference. On the north end of the porch is a single-hung two-over-two window. On the north-projecting wing are two single-hung two-over-two windows with fanlights that face in on the back porch. The south end of the porch has a narrow three-foot-wide staircase that leads up to the fourth floor balcony. A set of concrete stairs leads up to the first floor back entrance. The second and third floors each have six single-hung two-over-two windows and five ten-foot-tall French doors. The fourth floor has four single-hung two-over-two windows, two arched single-hung one-over-two windows, one arched door, one regular single-glass paned door, and a fixed window at the north end of the balcony. A brick corbeled chimney is located on the hipped roof of both projecting wings on each end of the balcony.

The penthouse level features two private balconies on either side of two hipped dormer windows with five single-hung two-over-two windows on each side of each balcony. Each balcony features one two-over-two glass-pane door. The top middle tower has two fixed windows that face the east and two double-fixed windows that face the north and south.

On the first floor of the back north-projecting wing there are seven single-hung two-over-two windows with fanlights. On the second and third floors there are four single-hung two-over-two windows. The fourth floor features a hipped roof and two hip dormer windows each with two sets of single-hung two-over-two windows and a gabled dormer with a single-hung one-over-one window with two fixed glass side panels. The penthouse level features a large hipped fixed dormer window with two one-by-five windows on either side and a partially rounded tower with five one-over-one casement windows above.

Crescent Hotel

Carroll County, Arkansas

Name of Property

County and State

On the garden floor of the south-projecting wing there are six single-hung two-over-two windows and one door with a bottom panel and top window pane. The first, second, and third floors of the south-projecting wing each feature six single-hung two-over-two windows, one door, and a small balcony. The fourth floor features a hipped roof and two hip dormer windows, each with two sets of single-hung two-over-two windows and a gabled dormer with a single-hung one-over-one fixed window with two fixed glass side panels. The penthouse level has one large fixed window in between two casement two-by-five windows.

Below the first floor in the basement of the north-projecting wing are two single-hung two-over-two windows with limestone sills and lintels and one fixed window with two panes. Below the porch there are five single-hung six-over-six windows.

Side/Southwest Façade/Conservatory and Boardwalk

The southwest façade of the Crescent Hotel faces the Fountain Garden. On the garden level on the far west side there are two small fixed covered windows. On the first floor there four single-hung two-over-two windows. On both the second and third floors there are seven single-hung two-over-two windows and two narrow fixed windows. The fourth floor has a hipped roof, six single-hung dormer windows, and one double single-hung dormer with two narrow fixed windows. There are three brick corbeled chimneys. On the penthouse level a regular brick chimney and a fixed four-by-four window face the south. The squared, stone tower seen from the front west façade features a small brick corbeled chimney on the south side.

The Conservatory was included in the original design of the Crescent and started out as a porch and was later enclosed to accommodate the women's school. It was later taken down after a chimney fell through it during Dwight Nichols' ownership around 1950. It was rebuilt in 2001 and it connects on the south facade. The boardwalk and gazebo were constructed in 2001. The east side of the boardwalk features part of the New Moon Spa on the garden level; originally this floor featured a bowling alley. Five sets of three casement windows, two fixed windows, and one all-glass door make up the exterior. The second floor features the Conservatory. The east side features three fixed double five-by-four picture windows topped with a fixed eyebrow window. The boardwalk runs out from the south side of the Conservatory and is 39' long and is capped at the end by a 16' X 16' hipped roof gazebo. The south side of the Conservatory has two fixed double five-by-four picture windows topped with fixed eyebrow windows and French doors with a fixed eyebrow window and sidelights. The west side features three double five-by-four picture windows topped with fixed eyebrow windows and two small fixed windows below on the garden floor. A back entrance to the spa is located underneath the Conservatory on the west side down a set of stairs parallel to the south facade of the original hotel.

The Fountain Garden on the south lawn features three stone, rounded, above-ground flowerbeds surrounding a water fountain.

Interior Attributes

The interior of the hotel is authentically maintained in Victorian decor. The following are key original pieces that stylistically set the Crescent apart.

Crescent Hotel
Name of Property

Carroll County, Arkansas
County and State

The hotel lobby has 12-foot-tall ceilings, hand-stenciled lathe and plaster walls, and original floors of heart pine. Guest hallways span six feet or more and have original doors and transoms. The open-air Grand Stairwell goes from the garden level to the fourth floor.

The 1886 lobby fireplace is constructed of Eureka Springs' marble and features a plaque with a poem written by General Powell Clayton. Large marble slabs in the back commemorate the founders and the 1902 remodel.

The 1886 Crystal Dining Room is 33' X 90' and is constructed by creosoted railroad ties bolted in unison that span the full width of the dining room. No steel was used in the construction. The 14-foot-tall ceilings, have no center column support, creating a unique space of grandeur that first ushered in a gala on May 20, 1886, and has continued to invite celebrations and fine dining alike.

The morgue, which is still on the ground floor of the annex building, was installed and utilized by Norman Baker in 1937. As a hospital, the building saw upwards of 150 dead bodies, most of which were stored in the 6' X 8' morgue. It was said to have fit 27 bodies at capacity. It is maintained in its existing state.

Integrity

For the most part, the Crescent Hotel retains good integrity, especially from the early-twentieth-century period. The largest changes to the building have included the construction of the Servants' Quarters/Annex in 1901, the replacement of the balconies in 1937, the reconstruction of the roofline, which was modified somewhat after the 1967 fire, and the reconstruction of the Conservatory. However, even with the changes, the Crescent Hotel still reflects and is easily recognizable when compared to photographs of the building in the late 1800s and early 1900s. The setting around the Crescent also still reflects the period of its construction and significance with the late-nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century buildings still present.

Crescent Hotel
Name of Property

Carroll County, Arkansas
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

EDUCATION

HEALTH/MEDICINE

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

Crescent Hotel

Carroll County, Arkansas

Name of Property

County and State

Period of Significance

1886 - 1966

Significant Dates

1886

1901

1907

1908

1937

1946

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Isaac S. Taylor, Architect

David McKee, Builder

Crescent Hotel

Carroll County, Arkansas

Name of Property

County and State

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The 1886 Crescent Hotel and Spa is an architecturally significant work by architect Isaac S. Taylor from St. Louis, Missouri. World-renowned for his leadership in the execution of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, he also designed a total of ten hotels during his career— nine of which were actually built. Only a few remain standing today. A modern classic design created by blending French Renaissance and Richardsonian Romanesque styles pulls many elements from Taylor's other works, including the rough-faced, square stone work, the Roman arches over the windows and French doors, and the towers that create the penthouse level. However, the mix of various styles gives the Crescent a uniquely authentic style that sets it apart from Taylor's other works. As a result, it is being nominated under **Criterion C** with **statewide significance** as the only work of this significant architect in the state, and also as the last remaining representation of a nineteenth-century springs resort hotel that graced the communities such as Sulphur Springs, Hot Springs, and Eureka Springs.

Not significant for design alone, the Crescent is the realization of General Powell Clayton's desire to transform the Ozarks with the financial support of Richard Kerens. Before both of these men played significant business roles in this nation, they were learning how to follow orders, manage people and supplies, and stay alive in the army. Both advancing quickly through the ranks, they gathered skills they later used to build their fortunes and dreams. Out of the army, they helped build the nation's railroads and played various political roles throughout their lives, both ending their careers as ambassadors to Mexico and Austria-Hungary respectively. For its associations with the early development of Eureka Springs as a health resort, the Crescent Hotel is also being nominated under **Criterion A** with **statewide significance**.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The history of the Crescent Hotel is the history of Eureka Springs. The reason both exist is because of the water. More than 60 springs which bubbled up "healing water" in and around Eureka's downtown area were visited by thousands of tourists in the late 19th century. Midwest businessmen, many who were in the railroad business, saw an opportunity to cater to a high-end clientele as well as fill railroad seats. In 1884 that opportunity commenced with construction of a luxury hotel that would overlook the water-rich valley below.¹

The year 1854 brought pioneer doctor Alvah Jackson to the Basin Spring. After the waters healed his young son's eye injury, Jackson began using the "healing water" in his practice.²

¹ Walking Tour Book: The 1886 Crescent Hotel, 2001.

² Woolery, Dr. D.R. *The Grand Old Lady of the Ozarks*. Oklahoma: Eagles' Nest Press, 1990's, p. 3.

Crescent Hotel

Carroll County, Arkansas

Name of Property

County and State

During the Civil War, Jackson treated soldiers from both sides. The Battle of Pea Ridge (March 1862) kept him busy. Staying in the area after the war, he invited Judge L. B. Saunders to seek relief from a leg sore at the healing waters. Within two months, his leg was healed and influential Saunders was sharing his miracle with all. The settlement was named Eureka Springs in the summer of 1879.³

News of the healing springs spread like wildfire with claims to cure everything from baldness, female trouble, and hay fever to cancer. The dramatic increase in population and activity brought wealthy capitalists to the area.⁴ Many held positions in the Eureka Springs Improvement Company (E.S.I.C), an organization key to creating Eureka. The company's intended market was those afflicted and suffering as well as the wealthy looking for a vacation. Born of their desires was the Crescent Hotel - The Grand Old Lady of The Ozarks.⁵

Opening May 1, 1886, the Crescent Hotel was completed by the E.S.I.C under the direction of General Powell Clayton. Costing \$294,000, the hotel opened as a year round resort. Isaac S. Taylor was the architect commissioned to complete the hotel. Stonework specialists from Ireland were brought in to help. The 18" stones were brought from the E.S.I.C quarry near Beaver and were cut so exact that the walls were fitted without mortar.⁶

Powell Clayton

General Powell Clayton's time with the E.S.I.C came after an Army career. Enlisting in 1861, he began as a captain in the 5th Kansas Infantry. Moving from Kansas to Missouri to Arkansas, he exited the Army as a Brigadier General. Pivotal in the setup of the Republican Party in Arkansas, Clayton was elected the first Republican Governor of Arkansas on July 2, 1868.⁷

Shortly after becoming governor, Clayton became aware of Ku Klux Klan activities and goals. He began a full-scale investigation that did little to stop the assassinations of civil officials. He called for the organization of a State Militia to deal with the southern half of the state.⁸

Under his leadership, the Clayton School Law of 1868 provided free education to all children in Arkansas. He also ensured Arkansas met the requirements to have a state college established. In 1868 land-grant Arkansas Industrial University (which became the current University of Arkansas in 1899) opened its doors.⁹

³ Woolery, Dr. D.R. *The Grand Old Lady of the Ozarks*. Oklahoma: Eagles' Nest Press, 1990's, p. 6.

⁴ *Ibid*, p.7.

⁵ *Ibid*, p.9.

⁶ *Ibid*, p. 25.

⁷ *Ibid*, p. 13.

⁸ Westphal, June, and Catherine Osterhage. *A Fame Not Easily Forgotten: An Autobiography of Eureka Springs*. Second ed. Eureka Springs, AR: Boian Books, 1970, p. 33.

⁹ *Ibid*, p. 34.

Crescent Hotel

Carroll County, Arkansas

Name of Property

County and State

To add to his successful career, Clayton was elected to the U.S. Senate and moved to Washington, D.C., where he spent six years before returning to Little Rock in 1878. He served as president of the Little Rock, Mississippi, and Texas Railroad for a spell before returning to Eureka Springs in 1880.¹⁰

Back in Eureka Springs, Clayton chartered the Eureka Springs Railroad with the E.S.I.C.¹¹ Driven to see the railroad furthered and the town more easily accessible to potential tourists, Clayton, with the help of friend Richard Kerens, was able to get a Frisco Railroad line that had been laid as far as Seligman, Missouri, to come to Eureka Springs in November of 1881. Tourists were tired of the long winding trip up the wagon road to the Crescent and businessmen wanted a faster route.¹²

For nearly eighty years after the first locomotive steamed into town in 1883, travelers to the popular springs to drink and bathe in the ‘magic water’ were pulled up winding mountain tracks by those reliable steam engines. The line was renowned for its scenic route up wooded slopes, through narrow passes and tunnels, and along rocky creek beds. Thousands of gallons of the famous water went down on the first steam trains. The original railroad was a well-known classic of mountain engineering with its winding route along the dramatic cliffs and stone ridges of the Ozarks.¹³

With the railroad in place, Clayton went to help William McKinley and his bid for presidency. After McKinley’s election, Clayton was appointed U.S. Minister to Mexico in 1897 — a position he held until 1905.¹⁴

Richard Kerens

Investor and railroad guru Richard C. Kerens was pivotal to the realization of the Crescent Hotel. Starting his career in the Army of the Frontier, he gleaned organizational transportation skills from his role as “wagon master.”¹⁵ From the Army he went on to run a successful livery business and, looking to expand his business, picked up contracts to deliver mail from Fort Smith to Van Buren. Soon he was taking passengers along the mail route and then expanding up to the Missouri Line.¹⁶ Not one to stay out of politics, Kerens was appointed Chief Deputy U.S. Marshal.¹⁷

With his political post completed, Kerens formed the National Bank of Western Arkansas with Logan H. Roots, Ellis S. Mitchell, Bernard Baer, Dr. E. R. Duval, and Arthur Gunther. People in

¹⁰ Woolery, Dr. D.R. *The Grand Old Lady of the Ozarks*. Oklahoma: Eagles’ Nest Press, 1990’s, p. 14.

¹¹ *Ibid*, p. 14.

¹² *Ibid*, p. 17.

¹³ *Ibid*, p. 18.

¹⁴ *Ibid*, p. 19.

¹⁵ Hendricks, Jerry P. “A Giant In Transportation.” *The Journal of Fort Smith Historical Society, Inc.* 37, no. 1 (April 2013): 33.

¹⁶ *Ibid*, p. 34.

¹⁷ *Ibid*, p. 35.

Crescent Hotel

Carroll County, Arkansas

Name of Property

County and State

the area realized the need for a safe place to keep their money and the demand made the bank one of the most successful in the state.¹⁸

Kerens picked up the contract for the Southern Overland Mail Service with investor friend Ellis Mitchell while still investing and playing a role in the Texas and California Stage Line; St. Louis Iron Mountain and Southern Railroad; the Cotton Belt; St. Louis and North Arkansas Railroad; San Pedro, Los Angeles Railroad; Los Angeles, Pasadena and Glendale Railway; and the Texas and St. Louis Railway.¹⁹

When his friend Powell Clayton contacted him about the possibilities in Eureka Springs, he invested in the Eureka Springs Railroad and was on the board of the E.S.I.C. Kerens was one of the main financial investors in the Crescent Hotel.²⁰

Kerens served as a member of the U.S. Intercontinental Railway Commission, Columbian Exposition, and was president of the Fifteenth Trans-Mississippi Commercial Congress.²¹ Towards the end of his career came his appointment as U.S. Ambassador to Austria-Hungary in December of 1909.²²

Isaac S. Taylor

World-renowned architect Isaac S. Taylor was commissioned to complete the Crescent Hotel. He was born in Nashville, Tennessee, and graduated from St. Louis University with honors in classical languages. He started out in the firm of George Ingrahm Barnett and later went on to open his own firm where he practiced for over 25 years. His designs were fashioned in the period of modern classic, combining French Renaissance and Richardsonian Romanesque.²³

Designing offices, hotels, factories, and railroad stations throughout the U.S. and Mexico, he gained a reputation as a hard-working, honest architect who liked to tackle projects others avoided. His dedication and quality earned him the appointment of Chairman of the Architectural Commission and Director of Works for the World's Fair of 1904.²⁴ Taylor was second in command designing and executing the world famous attraction. His vision drove the project forward and attracted millions.

He designed the architecturally significant Mercantile Club Building on 7th & Locust in St. Louis, the Rialto Building which is on the southeast corner of 4th & Olive in St. Louis, and he finished the Drummond Building at 4th & Spruce in St. Louis. He also designed the original Union Station Hotel at the northwest corner of 19th and Market in St. Louis. Similarities with the

¹⁸ Hendricks, Jerry P. "A Giant In Transportation." *The Journal of Fort Smith Historical Society, Inc.* 37, no. 1 (April 2013): 35.

¹⁹ *Ibid*, p. 36.

²⁰ *Ibid*, p. 36.

²¹ *Ibid*, p. 40.

²² *Ibid*, p. 41.

²³ Simmons, David J. "The Architectural Career of Isaac S. Taylor." *The Society of Architectural Historian: Missouri Valley Chapter.* 17, no. 4 (Winter 2011): 1.

²⁴ *Ibid*, p. 2-3.

Crescent Hotel

Carroll County, Arkansas

Name of Property

County and State

Crescent include the rough-faced stone block exterior, Roman arches, and a hipped roof with dormer windows.

Concentric Romanesque arches are seen above many of the windows of the first floor of the Crescent as well as the Planters Hotel, which was opened in 1894 but was later torn down. Stone walls, dormer windows, and Roman arches were many of the shared elements from Taylor's designs.

Crescent Hotel History

The...craggy woodland on the north crest of West Mountain was perfectly suited for their new business venture. Standing on the highest point of West Mountain, the hotel would tower above Eureka Springs like some architectural royalty overlooking its kingdom. The massive stone masonry structure on the hilltop would be reminiscent of the castles of Europe...it was designed and constructed for group travelers of the 1800's as well as a mountain retreat for wealthy railroad executives and their families.²⁵

Clayton supervised the building of the Crescent, bringing in stonemasons from Ireland to aid in the construction of the hotel. The five-story, fireproof building was a fortress elegantly furnished with the latest Edison lamps and electric bells as well as featuring a Waring sewage system and heat by steam through open grates.²⁶

The Crescent was given this description in one newspaper:

The fireplace is largely constructed of Eureka Springs' marble and is highly polished... The unusual newel post and balustrade were completed out of native woods. At the foot of the main staircase in the basement there are billiard rooms. These...lead into a bowling alley under the promenade leading from the south porch.²⁷

Outside, a park surrounded the hotel with tennis courts and gardens. In 1886, presidential candidate James Blaine spoke at the Grand Opening Gala of the hotel. For the next fifteen years, the hotel was operated by the E.S.I.C and was an exclusive hot spot for the elite.²⁸ In 1896, famous orator and politician William Jennings Bryan addressed a crowd at the Crescent Hotel.²⁹

In 1902, the hotel was leased to the Frisco Railroad for five years.³⁰ Due to slow business in the winter, Crescent College opened and provided education to females until 1934.³¹

²⁵ Woolery, Dr. D.R. *The Grand Old Lady of the Ozarks*. Oklahoma: Eagles' Nest Press, 1990's, p. 23.

²⁶ *Ibid*, p. 28.

²⁷ *Ibid*, p. 28.

²⁸ *Ibid*, p. 39.

²⁹ Walking Tour Book: The 1886 Crescent Hotel, 2001.

³⁰ Woolery, Dr. D.R. *The Grand Old Lady of the Ozarks*. Oklahoma: Eagles' Nest Press, 1990's, p. 45.

³¹ *Ibid*, p. 70.

Crescent Hotel

Carroll County, Arkansas

Name of Property

County and State

Many prominent families sent their daughters to study at the College. With a strong educational background in a time when few women were highly educated, these graduates held the tools to shape history. Mary Ella Lundy, a dedicated athlete and musically-gifted student, went on to become the Head of Women's Education and Physical Education for Women at the University of Georgia for 35 years. Her influence was so great that a one million dollar scholarship was set up in her name. Another graduate, Frederika Luce, went on to become the Art Supervisor for all the schools in the Emporia school district in Emporia, Kansas.³²

Three years later, in 1937, Norman Baker purchased the hotel and remodeled it into the Baker Cancer Clinic. Charlatan by nature, inventor of the Air Calliaphone, promoter of the Madame Pearl Tangley Show, and claiming to have the "cure," Norman Baker made millions in today's dollars from cancer sufferers alone. He referred to the Crescent as the "Castle in the Air," broadcasting over the radio that he could cure cancer without carving patients up.³³

Although his treatments and medical theories held no significance in the medical world, he had the attention of the American Medical Association. His practices, treatments, and claims helped shape what cancer treatment should not entail. However, it was his method of gaining patients which led to his undoing. In 1940, he was jailed for mail fraud.³⁴

During his running of the Crescent, Baker remodeled much of the hotel, leaving it lavender and equipped with an escape route from his first floor office suite through a hidden staircase. His office featured a custom six-sided desk that housed the work for his six businesses.

In 1946, the hotel saw a new round of renovations with four new owners by the names of Herbert A. Byfield, John R Constantine, Dwight O. Nichols, and Herbert E. Shutter. Under new management, the hotel was restored and travel vacation packages with the Frisco Railroad brought new tourists to the area.³⁵

Created with the political elite in mind from the beginning, the Crescent continued to beckon politicians through the years. On February 21, 1925, Claude Fuller, former mayor and U.S. Congressman from Arkansas's Third District and Albert G. Ingalls, Eureka Springs' Mayor purchased the hotel. In 1950, Senator Dale Bumpers celebrated his honeymoon at the Crescent.³⁶ Returning home to the hotel he once owned, at the 1951 spring season gala opening, Claude Fuller, U.S. congressman and native of Eureka Springs, flew in from Washington, D.C., to be one of the guests of honor.³⁷

In 1967, a fire attributed to bad wiring claimed the penthouse level and most of the fourth floor. In 1970, Dwight Nichols was the only living owner and the hotel was turned over to Resort

³² Beck, Rebecca J. *Historian*. (July 2015).

³³ *Walking Tour Book: The 1886 Crescent Hotel*, 2001.

³⁴ Woolery, Dr. D.R. *The Grand Old Lady of the Ozarks*. Oklahoma: Eagles' Nest Press, 1990's, p. 78

³⁵ *Ibid*, p. 82.

³⁶ *Walking Tour Book: The 1886 Crescent Hotel*, 2001.

³⁷ Woolery, Dr. D.R. *The Grand Old Lady of the Ozarks*. Oklahoma: Eagles' Nest Press, 1990's, p. 84

Crescent Hotel

Carroll County, Arkansas

Name of Property

County and State

Enterprises, Inc.³⁸ Then, in 1972, the hotel was sold to Crescent Heights Developments, Inc., owned by four investors — Dr. and Mrs. Sam H. Kouri and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Feagins. The purpose of this group was to restore the Crescent to its former glory while modernizing the amenities.³⁹ In phases, they restored the property and expanded facilities. It was during this period that supernatural occurrences were first reported.⁴⁰

In 1980, reorganization brought Riverview Management of Arkansas, Inc., in as a general partner.⁴¹ Under the new management in 1985, Willie Nelson played to a sold-out crowd in the Crystal Ballroom and then Governor Bill Clinton spoke to an annual chamber banquet.⁴² The Wichita Federal Savings and Loan of Wichita, Kansas, took possession in 1988 and then sold it to Gary and Carole Clawson.⁴³

In 1997, current owners Marty and Elise Roenigk purchased both the Crescent and the Basin Park Hotel. Announcing the dawn of its Second Golden Era in 2000 the Roenigks said, “In five years, we will return the Crescent to where it was 100 years ago.”⁴⁴ With then Governor Mike Huckabee and his band Capital Offense headlining the celebration, renovations ensued.⁴⁵ They renovated the hotel in phases in order to share the past with visitors and guests alike.

- 1997 - 35 guest rooms and New Moon Spa opened
- 1999 - Penthouses properly restored and opened to the public, restoration of original roof-line and gardens, refurbished and renovated the remaining rooms so all 68 were complete
- 2002 - Annex becomes 4 Jacuzzi suites
- 2004 - Conservatory rebuilt with boardwalk and gazebo
- 2007 - Crescent Cottages designed by architect David McKee

Significance of the Property

The Crescent Hotel represents the only known Arkansas commission of the noted architect Isaac S. Taylor. Taylor was one of the leading architects in the St. Louis area during the period of 1881 until his death in 1917. By the time of the Crescent’s construction in the mid-1880s, Taylor had become a “rising star in the St. Louis architectural community with a steady stream of important clients and the start of a regional following.” Taylor received widespread praise for his hotel designs, which was one of the specialties of Taylor’s firm. The *St. Louis Republic* newspaper in 1894 studied why Taylor did so well, especially with large-scale commissions, and concluded, “In the handling of mammoth structures that he shows his taste and strength. He can combine the aesthetic and practical as only a great modern architect.”⁴⁶

³⁸ *Ibid*, p. 87.

³⁹ Woolery, Dr. D.R. *The Grand Old Lady of the Ozarks*. Oklahoma: Eagles’ Nest Press, 1990’s, p. 89.

⁴⁰ *Ibid*, p. 94.

⁴¹ *Ibid*, p. 99.

⁴² Walking Tour Book: The 1886 Crescent Hotel, 2001.

⁴³ *Ibid*

⁴⁴ Woolery, Dr. D.R. *The Grand Old Lady of the Ozarks*. Oklahoma: Eagles’ Nest Press, 1990’s, p. 116

⁴⁵ Walking Tour Book: The 1886 Crescent Hotel, 2001.

⁴⁶ Simmons, David J. “The Architectural Career of Isaac S. Taylor.” *The Society of Architectural Historian: Missouri Valley Chapter*. 17, no. 4 (Winter 2011): 1-2.

Crescent Hotel

Name of Property

Carroll County, Arkansas

County and State

During the late nineteenth century, several Arkansas communities, most notably Sulphur Springs and Hot Springs, in addition to Eureka Springs, developed large-scale hotels so that people could visit and take the waters that the various locations offered. However, although later hotels from the early twentieth century remain, such as the Arlington Hotel in Hot Springs, the Crescent Hotel is the last large-scale springs hotel remaining in Arkansas, and the last one open as a hotel. As a notable work of the regionally-important architect Isaac S. Taylor, and as a significant representation of the nineteenth-century springs hotel that was once found in several communities around Arkansas, the Crescent Hotel is being nominated under **Criterion C** with **statewide significance**.

The development of Eureka Springs in the late nineteenth century was based on the community's springs and the tourists that flocked to the area to enjoy the recreational and supposed health benefits that they gave. One of the keys to allowing the development of Eureka Springs to its full potential was the providing of hotels for guests who visited Eureka Springs. In the first decade of the development of Eureka Springs, the Crescent Hotel was by far the grandest and most important hotel in the community, allowing a place for the elite tourists to stay. The importance of the Crescent, especially to the wealthy patrons of the day, was the construction of the Servants' Quarters wing in 1901, which allowed the wealthy to bring their staff with them. Even today, the Crescent Hotel remains the most elaborate and most significant hotel in the community. For its importance in the development of Eureka Springs, arguably the state's premier nineteenth-century springs resort, in the late nineteenth century, the Crescent Hotel is also being nominated with **statewide significance** under **Criterion A**.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Beck, Rebecca J. *Historian*. (July 2015).

Hendricks, Jerry P. "A Giant In Transportation." *The Journal of Fort Smith Historical Society, Inc.* 37, no. 1 (April 2013): 33-41.

McAlester, Virginia, and A. Lee McAlester. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Knopf, 1984.

Simmons, David J. "The Architectural Career of Isaac S. Taylor." *The Society of Architectural Historian: Missouri Valley Chapter*. 17, no. 4 (Winter 2011): 1-9.

Walking Tour Book: The 1886 Crescent Hotel. 2001.

Westphal, June, and Catherine Osterhage. *A Fame Not Easily Forgotten: An Autobiography of Eureka Springs*. Second ed. Eureka Springs, AR: Boian Books, 1970.

Woolery, Dr. D.R. *The Grand Old Lady of the Ozarks*. Oklahoma: Eagles' Nest Press, 1990s.

Crescent Hotel
Name of Property

Carroll County, Arkansas
County and State

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: local library collection

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): CR0679

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 5 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 36.408317 | Longitude: -93.737221 |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Crescent Hotel

Carroll County, Arkansas

Name of Property

County and State

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 15 | Easting: 433899 | Northing: 4029490 |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Beginning at the corner of Prospect and Crescent Drive proceed northerly 200 yards. Thence proceed easterly 116 yards. Thence proceed southerly 191 yards. Thence proceed westerly 60 yards to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries selected contain the Crescent Hotel and the 3 acres of formal gardens surrounding the building.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Jack Moyer, Crescent Hotel General Manager & Tess Constant, Crescent Intern,
edited by Ralph S. Wilcox, National Register & Survey Coordinator

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

Street & Number: 323 Center Street, Suite 1500

City or Town: Little Rock state: AR zip code: 72201

E-mail: ralph@arkansasheritage.org

Telephone: (501) 324-9880

Date: July 15, 2015

Crescent Hotel
Name of Property

Carroll County, Arkansas
County and State

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Crescent Hotel

City or Vicinity: Eureka Springs

County: Carroll

State: Arkansas

Photographer: Ralph S. Wilcox

Date Photographed: July 17, 2015

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 27. Northwest façade of the main building, looking south.

2 of 27. Detail of the balconies on the northwest façade of the main building, looking south.

3 of 27. Northwest façade of the main building, looking northeast.

4 of 27. Southwest façade of the main building, looking northeast.

Crescent Hotel

Name of Property

Carroll County, Arkansas

County and State

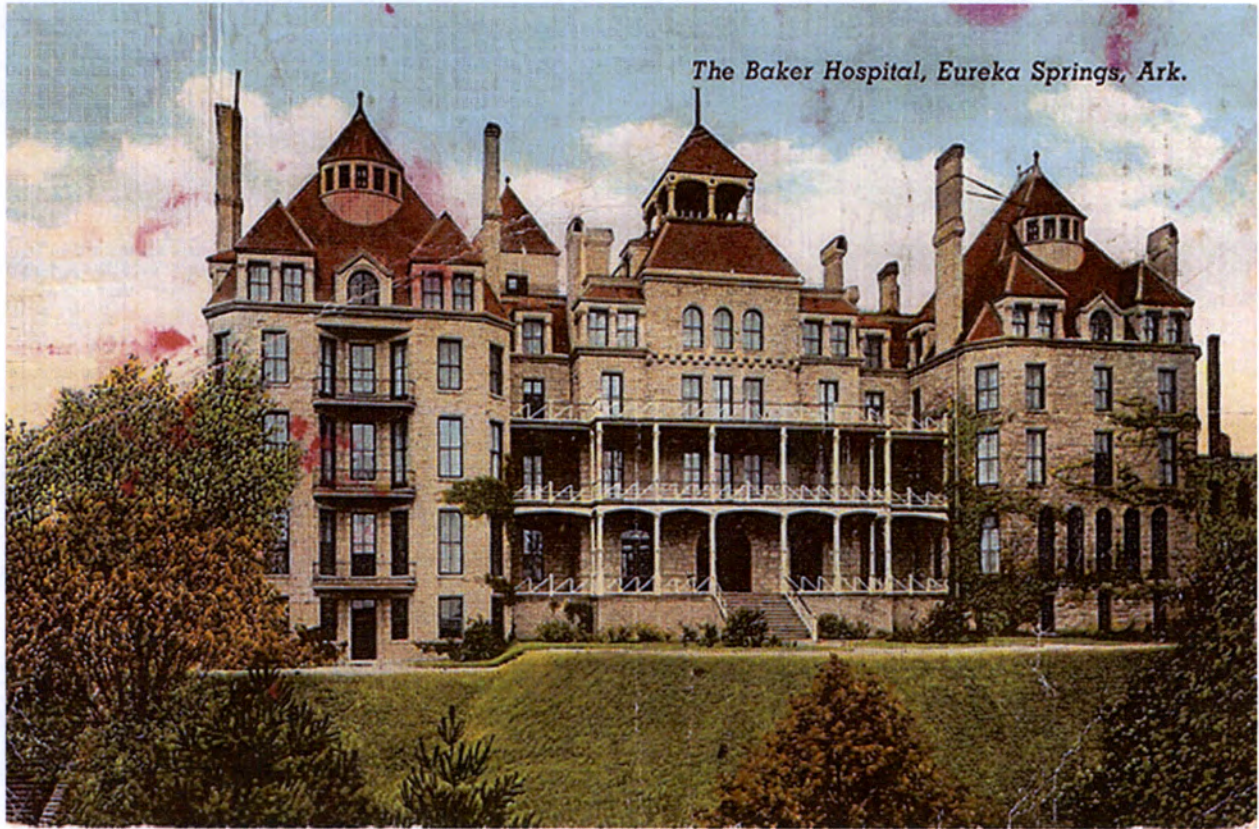
25 of 27 . Main dining room of the hotel, looking west.

26 of 27 . Typical hallway of the hotel, looking northeast.

27 of 27 . Interior of the morgue, looking northwest.

Crescent Hotel
Name of Property

Carroll County, Arkansas
County and State



The Baker Hospital – circa 1940

Crescent Hotel
Name of Property

Carroll County, Arkansas
County and State



Crescent Hotel – date unknown.

Crescent Hotel
Name of Property

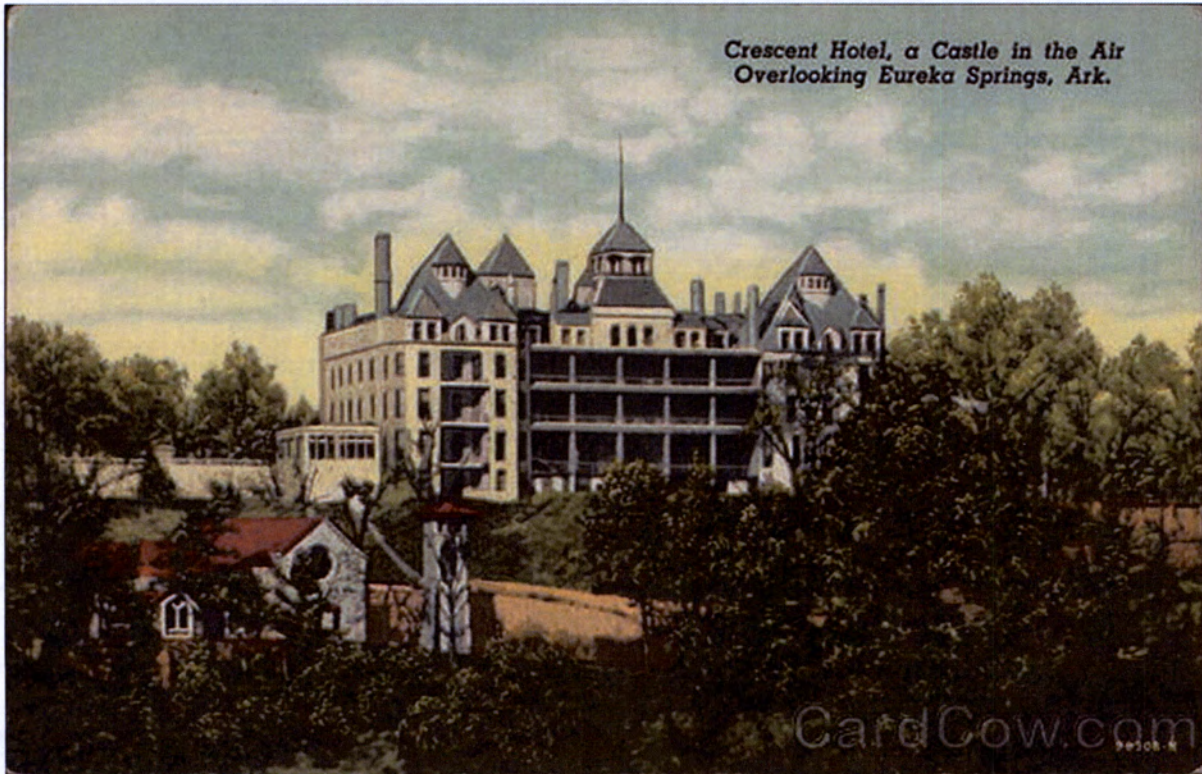
Carroll County, Arkansas
County and State



Postcard of the Crescent Hotel – date unknown.

Crescent Hotel
Name of Property

Carroll County, Arkansas
County and State



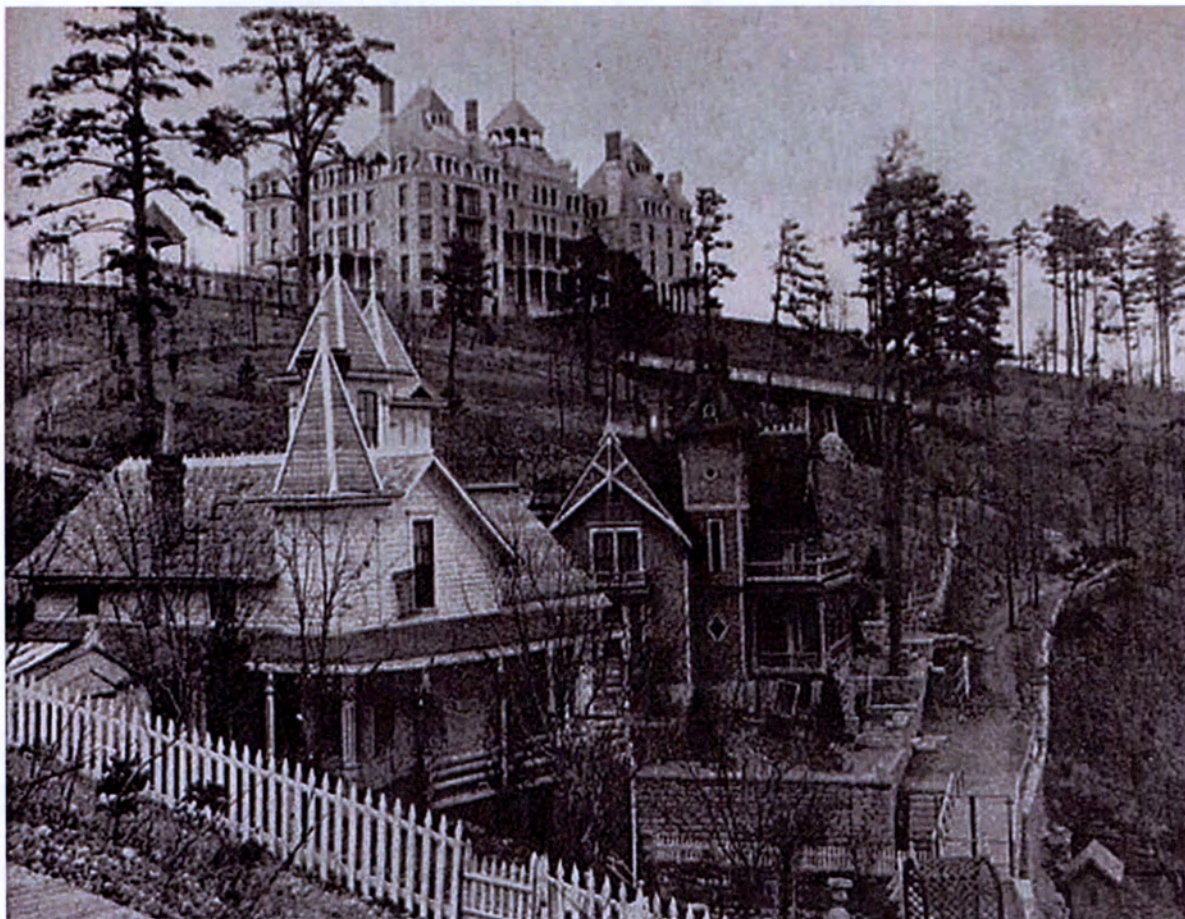
Postcard of the Crescent Hotel – date unknown.

Crescent Hotel

Name of Property

Carroll County, Arkansas

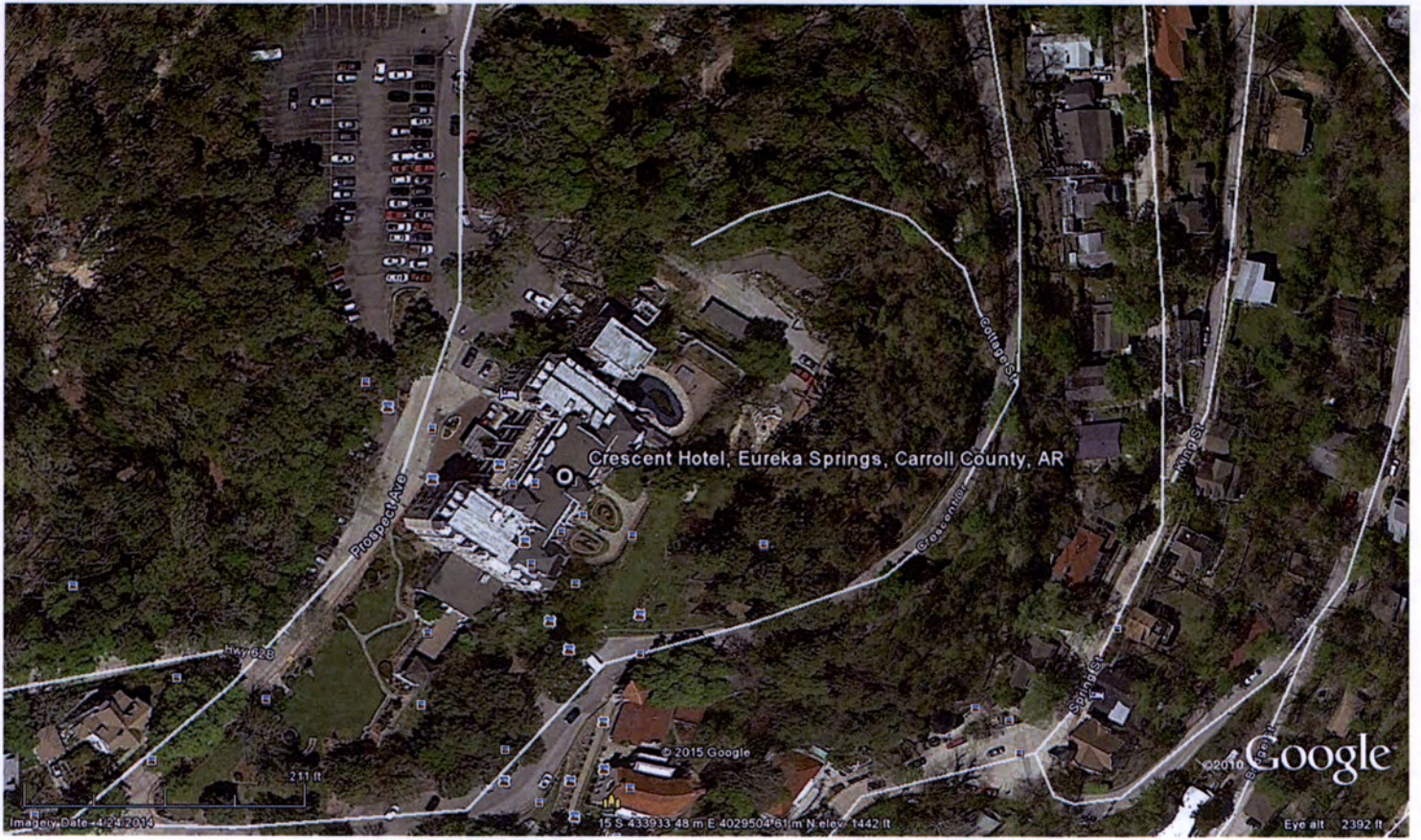
County and State



Crescent Hotel – likely late 1800s.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



|-----211 feet-----|

Crescent Hotel
Eureka Springs, Carroll County, Arkansas

15 433899E 4029490N



North



|-----779 feet-----|

Crescent Hotel
Eureka Springs, Carroll County, Arkansas

15 433899E 4029490N



North



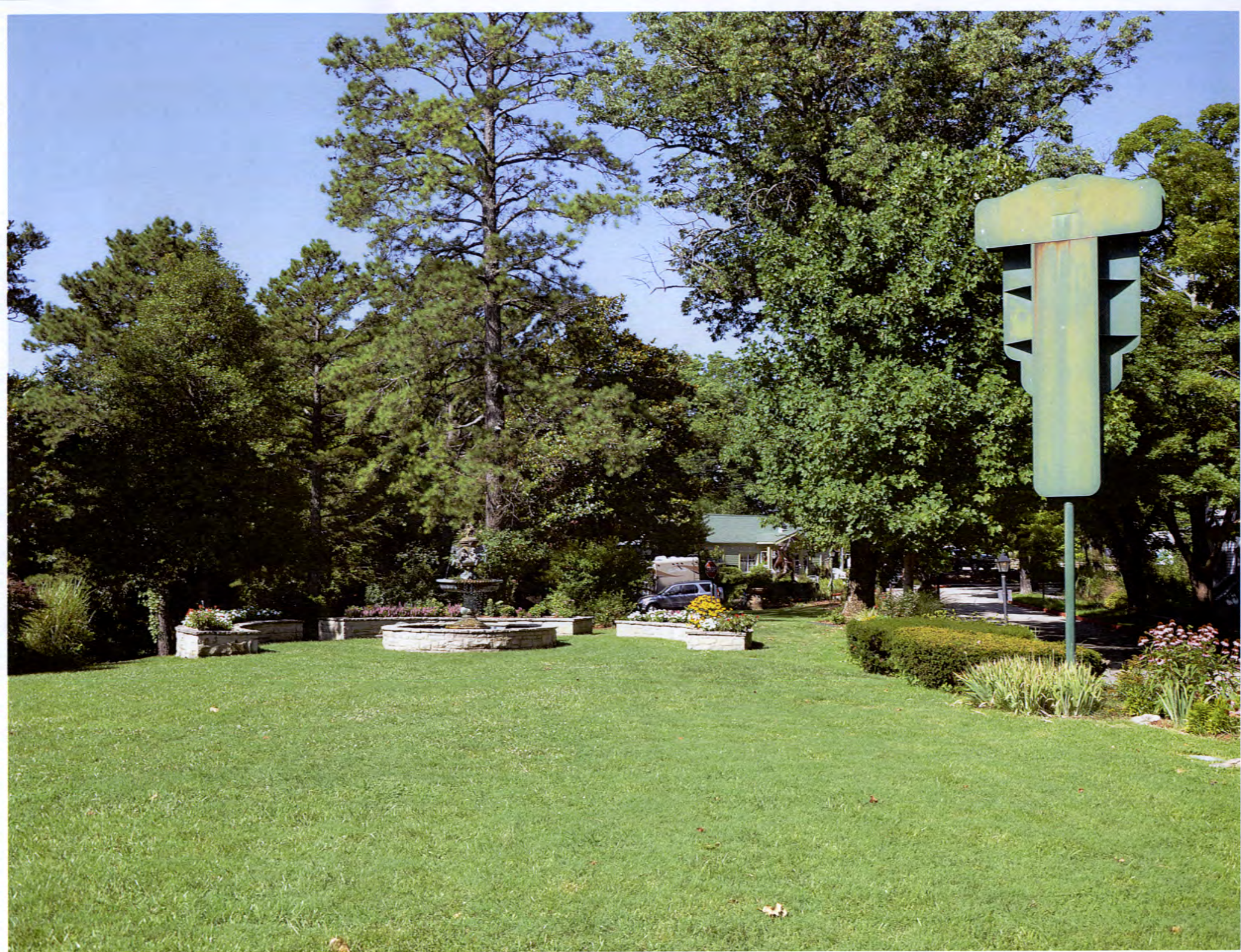




NO
PARKING
THIS
SIDE



NEW MOON
SPA SALON





CRESCENT

HOTEL

BUILT 1886























CRESCENT HOTEL
 INCORPORATED
 BY THE TUBKA IMPROVEMENT COMPANY
 Thomas H. Clanton, President
 Morgan H. Woods, Vice-President
 A. M. Wood, Secy.

DIRECTORS

W. A. Brown	Thomas H. Woods	Thomas H. Clanton	B. B. Burt
C. H. Moore	John W. Day	James D. Day	D. W. Nichols

James S. Jander, Architect

Contractors
 Wagoner & Venter, Inc., Iowa Falls
 H. Stoddard & Co., Plumbing & Steam
 J. E. Hutchins, General Contractor
 Opened March 1, 1907

INCORPORATED
 1907



GUY CRANDALL MARINER
 ARCHITECT

Contractor
Douforth & Peterson Stone Work
H. Siegel G. F. Co. Plumbing & Steam
W. L. Hutchins General Contractor
Opened Mar 17 1886

REMODELLED
1902



GUY CRANDALL MARINEP
ARCHITECT

CRESCENT HOTEL

ERECTED
BY THE LUBKA IMPROVEMENT COMPANY

Samuel H. Clayton - President

Wm. H. Woods Treas.  A. H. Foote Secty. —

DIRECTORS

B. C. Kerens

Wm. H. Woods

Powell Clayton

B. Baer

C. W. Rogers

John O. Day

James Dun

D. H. Nichols

James S. Taylor Architect

Contractor

James Luke Supt.

Douperth & Peterson Stone Work

A. Siegel G. E. Co. Plumbing & Steam

W. G. Hutchins

General Contractor

Opened Mar. 1, 1886



REGISTER





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ST. LOUIS

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