

PH 0041319-7 NO LITM

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM
FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Arizona
COUNTY: Coconino
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE SEP 6 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
El Tovar Hotel (Building No. 542)

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: *(Grand Canyon National Park route 8A (no name), Sec. 23, T31N, R2E, G & SR BM)*

CITY OR TOWN: Grand Canyon

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Third

STATE: Arizona CODE: 04 COUNTY: Coconino CODE: 005

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
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)
Comments:			

4. AGENCY

(owner of property) *(See notation #7 page 2 of continuation sheets)
Fred Harvey, subsidiary of Amfac Corp.

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)
Grand Canyon National Park

CITY OR TOWN: Grand Canyon

STATE: Arizona CODE: 04

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Coconino County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Flagstaff

STATE: Arizona CODE: 04

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

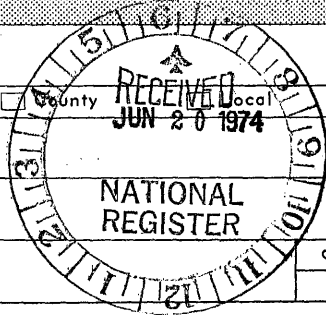
TITLE OF SURVEY:
Grand Canyon Park Facilities Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:



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DATE:

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Exterior Preservation recommended

El Tovar Hotel, in the words of a Santa Fe booklet announcing its completion, "combined in admirable proportions the Swiss chalet and the Norway villa. . . a quiet dignity, an unassuming luxury, and an appreciation of outing needs. . . a big country clubhouse. . ."

Building materials are native limestone, and pine from Oregon. Lower portions of the building are mostly of log construction and upper floors are of wood planks, stained dark brown. Roofs are of green shingles.

The hotel is three stories high at the north end, and has four stories plus a basement in the south wing because of the slope of the land. The main entrance faces east. The building consists of a central core oriented east to west, 218 feet long, containing lounge, lobby, dining rooms, kitchen and other service areas. Most of this area is two stories high (street level and basement) but one square portion, housing the lobby, extends upward two more stories and provides an axis for the two wings of guest rooms. North to south width of the building is 327 feet.

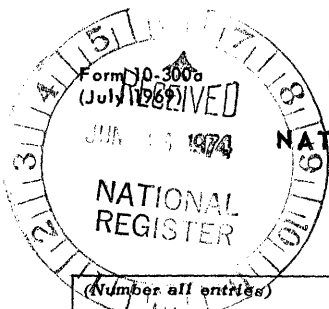
Viewed from the east, or front, the building is fairly symmetrical. The square unit which forms the center is topped with a pyramidal roof with wide eaves supported by wood brackets. Behind this is a tower, off center, which is somewhat balanced by a massive chimney in the front. A balcony with decorative wood railing serves the central pair of windows on the top floor of this unit. Forward of this unit is a broad, low extension with gable roof broken by a shed roof sloping down over the porch and entrance steps. Corners of the porch are supported by massive stone arches.

Extending at a slight angle northeast and southeast from the central unit are the two wings of guest rooms. These are not identical, but the general effect is one of balance. The third story (or, on the south end, the fourth) extends only about 2/3 of the length of the lower stories and is "walled" by a mansard roof; all the rooms have gabled dormer windows. Where the lower floors extend beyond, there are roof decks with the same decorative wood railings used elsewhere. Early photographs show these deck railings further ornamented with tapering posts which appear to have been 10 or 12 feet tall and topped with trefoils.

The north wing (extending toward the Canyon) terminates in a one-story railed porch with two small, gazebo-like wings branching east and west. The porch proper forms half of an octagon, and its roof offers a sun deck for the adjacent second floor rooms. An interesting feature of the porch is an inscription in cut-out metallic Old English letters affixed to the lintel. It is a quotation from "The Titan of Chasms," by C.A. Higgins (published ca. 1905) and reads: "Dreams of mountains, as in their sleep they brood on things eternal."

The south wing terminates in a semi-octagonal room, originally the "Grotto," which matches the shape of the porch on the north end. This is on the basement level, below the main floor. (At the extreme south end of the building there is also a sub-basement.) There is a deck on top of this room, partially occupied by the semi-circular Solarium. Originally this was topped by an open balcony and an outside stair which gave access to the balcony and the upper "roof garden." More recently the balcony has been replaced by an enclosed room the same

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Arizona	
COUNTY	
Coconino	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
SEP 6	1974

(Number all entries)

7. Description, Exterior (cont.)

size as the solarium beneath it, and the stairs have been replaced by an inside stairwell built in 1946.

The portions of the building not visible from the front come into view as one follows the Canyon rim along the north side of the hotel. These include one end of the 89-foot dining room, with a stone fireplace and chimney flanked by large (new) windows. On either side of this are other "recent" additions (ca. 1955) -- a cocktail lounge and a small dining room with large picture windows. A porch presently outside the main dining room also does not appear in early photographs. The attempts to preserve the original character of the building have not been as carefully executed or as successful here as in the east elevation. West of this section are the kitchens and service areas. This portion of the building is chiefly of log construction.

On the whole, the exterior appearance of the building has not been changed drastically from its original design. The addition of such facilities as the cocktail lounge, expanded gift shop, and supplementary dining room has resulted in adding bulk to the central core of the structure, but the outlines of the wings containing the guest rooms have had only minor changes. In the latter areas, interior changes such as the addition of stairwells have been accomplished without significantly affecting the exterior appearance.

Interior

A compilation of early descriptions of El Tovar might lead to the conclusion that the building was an architect's and decorator's nightmare, but perhaps it was merely a forerunner of today's "eclectic" decorating. To quote a few examples from the proprietor's literature: The hotel "combine. . .Swiss chalet and Norway villa. . .not a Waldorf-Astoria. . . but a big country clubhouse. . .in front of the Norway gable. . .swings the Tovar coat-of-arms. . .porch corners built in old mission style, the arches wide and low. . .the great Norway dining room. . .peeled slabs, wood in the rough, tinted plaster."

Floor plans of 1905, the year the hotel opened, show 103 numbered guest rooms; at present there are 81 rental units, of which 8 are two-room suites. Among the special attractions for the 1905 guest were the Rendezvous (a lounge just inside the main entrance), a Music Room (now remodelled to provide guest rooms and a stairway), Art Room (now enlarged into a gift-curio shop), Solarium, Ladies' Lounge, Grotto (for Gentlemen), Amusement Room (billiards and cards), and two Roof Gardens.

Interior decorations included such diverse themes as a breakfast room "tastefully decorated in fifteenth century style," a private dining room with "Indian deer hieroglyphics" on the walls, a music room with wall decorations imitating 15th century leather, "curtains of French arras," and Oriental rugs; elsewhere Indian curios and "trophies of the chase" were "liberally used in the decorations."

Remarkably, what remains of these does not look glaringly incongruous, even with such items as lounge furniture of obviously recent vintage and

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Arizona	
COUNTY	
Coconino	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
SEP 6	1974

(Number all entries)

7. Description, Interior (cont.)#2

lighting fixtures in the form of shiny copper lanterns mingling with the original "trophies of the chase" in the "Rendezvous." Some of the inconsistency of earlier times has been softened; plaster walls are painted in solid colors, and the Indian motif is used rather extensively in draperies and rugs.

The hotel interior has under gone a series of structural renovations, as indicated earlier. Some have provided needed space, some have accommodated changing patterns of visitor use (ladies on vacation don't sit and sew much, any more) and others, like the stairs at the ends of the wings, have satisfied safety requirements. These changes have not resulted in loss of such features as beamed ceilings, peeled log interior walls, or other handcrafted details.

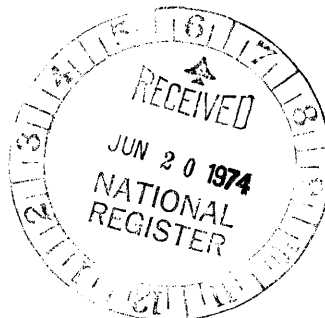
Boundary

The historic lands embraced in this site are bounded on the east by the El Tovar Entrance Road and Loop, on the north by the South Rim of Grand Canyon, on the south by the North Loop Road, and on the west by a line drawn perpendicular to the North Loop Road and running along the west wall of the kitchen wing to the South Rim of the Canyon.

Class VI land: 3 acres

Cost: not owned by the Federal Government

*(Ownership - there is a respectful difference of opinion as to the present ownership in that the railroad has title in so far as its use is consistent with its grant under the Railroad Right-of-Way Act of 1875 and in the United States of America in sofar as said use is inconsistent with said grant, in which case it has or will revert to the United State of America.)



8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) opened Jan. 14, 1905

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<u>Recreation</u> |
| <input 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 2nd order

El Tovar Hotel on the South Rim of the Grand Canyon is a monument to a bygone era of tourism in the newly-opening West of the turn of the century. Built at a time when only the wealthy (and hardy) were visiting such remote places, the hotel was visualized as a unique and unsurpassed travel experience. Announcements of its planning described it a "...the most expensive hotel in the territory. . .one of the finest in the country. . .the building itself will be worth a trip to the canyon."

First plans were for a fairly modest structure, but it was soon decided to double the size of the hotel in anticipation of continuing increases in the number of visitors to the Canyon. Charles Whittlesey of Topeka prepared plans for a 100-room hotel, which was reported as costing \$250,000. The name first selected was "Bright Angel Tavern", but before the hotel was completed it was decided to use "El Tovar" in keeping with Spanish names given to other Harvey hotels. (Contrary to newspaper publicity in 1904, Pedro de Tovar did not reach Grand Canyon, but he was instrumental in its discovery by white man, and Cardenas' name had already been given to another Harvey Hotel.

The hotel was built on the 20-acre grant given to the Santa Fe Railway by the government for station and terminal purposes, and opened in January 1905 with much emphasis on its comfort, style, and "unassuming luxury."

The prospective visitor was lured with such enticements as: "El Tovar is more than a hotel; it is a village devoted to the entertainment of travelers. . .You may mix with the jolly crowd of sit alone in a quiet nook. . .You may wear a dress suit at dinner or not. . .(it is) a big country clubhouse, where the traveler seeking high-class accommodations also finds freedom from ultra fashionable restrictions."

There was an elegantly decorated Music Room, "admirably located" and "daintily furnished. . .devoted to refined amusements. . .a favorite resort for lovers of music, cards and dancing." A Solarium provided a "retreat" to which the ladies might retire "with sewing baskets and books" while the gentlemen enjoyed "the Grotto, a shady, half underground affair, adorned with graceful palms and made social by little tables on which are often seen thin glasses full of cracked ice and other things." Elsewhere an Amusement Room was fitted with billiard, pool, and card tables, and shuffleboards.

Less glamorous, but very essential, services were also provided by

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Simpson, W. H., "El Tovar by Fred Harvey, a New Hotel at Grand Canyon of Arizona," pub. by Santa Fe in 1905.
 Santa Fe Passenger Dept., "The Grand Canyon of Arizona...a book of words from many pens..." pub. 1906.
 Hughes, J. Donald, "The Story of Man at Grand Canyon," pub. by Grand Canyon Natural History Assn., Grand Canyon, Ariz., 1967.
Coconino Sun, Flagstaff, Ariz., various newspaper clippings, 1902-04.

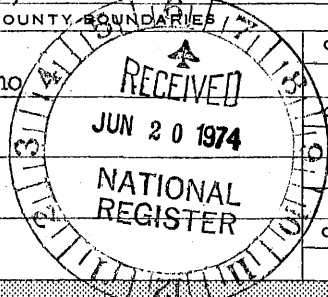
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	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	° ' "	° ' "		36° 3' 27"	112° 8' 12"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: .6 (building only)

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Arizona	04	Coconino	005
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Louise M. Hinchliffe, Museum Technician DATE: Dec. 6, 1971

BUSINESS ADDRESS: Grand Canyon National Park

STREET AND NUMBER: _____ PHONE: _____

CITY OR TOWN: Grand Canyon STATE: Arizona CODE: 04

12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

State Liaison Officer recommendation:

- Yes
- No
- None

Dennis McCarthy
 State Liaison Officer Signature

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

A. R. W. [Signature]
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Liaison Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The recommended level of significance is National State

Date: 9/6/74

ATTEST:

Lyle McDougal 9/1/74
 Federal Representative Signature Date
Act. Reg. Director
 Title

[Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register
 Date: 9-6-74

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8. Significance (cont.)

the hotel's own laundry, electric generating plant, ice plant, green-house and poultry farm. Clearly the stress was on "gracious living"-- a vacation at the brink of one of the world's great wonders in the remote reaches of Arizona Territory, with all the comfort, convenience and luxury of an East Coast resort. Today such amenities are taken for granted, but in 1905 the contrast with the tent-cabins and other rustic accommodations available must have been overwhelming.

Through the years, both before and since establishment of the National Park, Grand Canyon has attracted notable visitors from all over the world--kings and presidents, diplomats and soldiers, artists, scientists, musicians and writers. Many of these, probably most, were entertained at El Tovar Hotel during their stay.

It is perhaps a tribute to those who conceived and built the hotel, and to the appreciation and concern of those who have operated and maintained it since, that visitors still return, expressing pleasure that it looks "just as it did" when they first saw it, thirty or forty years ago.

The significance of the hotel lies partly in its design which is an expression of eclectic architecture at the turn of the century. But more important, this structure is a physical reminder of the early days of the National Park Movement, for by providing adequate accommodations, which permitted greater visitation to the park, the popularization of national parks and their acceptance by all levels of our society came into being.

