

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Altamont Hotel

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

110 Fayette Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Fayetteville

STATE

West Virginia

VICINITY OF

Second

CODE

54

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

COUNTY

Fayette

CODE

019

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERICAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Ms. Maude Phillips Brunstetter

STREET & NUMBER

110 Fayette Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Fayetteville

STATE

West Virginia

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Fayetteville County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Court Street

CITY, TOWN

Fayetteville

STATE

West Virginia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Extensive photographic and written documentation of the Altamont Hotel from the period of the early twentieth century indicates the survival of the structure's appearance as it was at the period of construction in 1897-98. The functional and obviously vernacular quality of this large Victorian building were well suited to the needs of the small county seat of Fayetteville located in the coal rich county of Fayette. The utilitarian character of the Altamont was necessary to its survival, for it was the principal hostelry of turn-of-the-century Fayetteville. It was also a favorite gathering and eating place of county officials and local nabobs who found its proximity to the courthouse a convenience.

The Altamont Hotel is a T-shaped, two and one-half story brick structure with raised basement. A raised-seam tin roof, painted red, is hipped on the two major elevations facing Fayette Avenue and Court Street, and is gabled at the rear (top of the T facing southeast). Shingle-sided hipped dormers with battered walls pierce each of the roof elevations at the ends of the axis of the building running southwest-northeast. A single dormer faces Fayette Avenue.

An air brush blown painting of a photograph, c.1901, in possession of the present owner, clearly shows the original red roof and the russet (red-orange) color of the brick walls that have retained their coloration. The bricks were fired from local "Frogtown" clay and laid in a stretcher bonding. The window openings in the wings forming the top of the T are paired and fitted with double-hung, 2/2 light sash. Both the ground (basement) level and first floor windows have segmental brick arched heads.

The absence of ornamentation throughout the hotel is actually part of its significance. The building's severe lines, the attempt on part of the builder to unify the dormers with the gentle slope of the hipped roof and vertical stretch of the wall beneath, and the great expanse of the wrap-around Victorian veranda are features of the structure's functional charm. Especially noteworthy in this case is the veranda with its expansive wooden steps that sweep upward from the walkway leading to Fayette Avenue. The porch is constructed entirely of wood, is nearly flat-roofed, and is the largest known veranda in Fayette County.

The Altamont Hotel is largely unaltered. Four of the original ribbed chimneys with carbel capping have been removed. A partition wall of beaver board was built in the late 1930's between the lobby and dining room to assist in adapting this area to apartment use. With these exceptions the building remains unchanged.

A total of forty rooms are found in the basement (used for many years as a tavern) and in the first, second and attic levels of the building. They have typically high ceilings with trim in Victorian era roseblock and casing.

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ALTAMONT HOTEL, FAYETTEVILLE, FAYETTE COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

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Tongue and groove wainscoting is seen in the lobby, dining room, (northeast of lobby) and hallways. The lobby of the hotel, the living room of the present owner, is finished in a beautiful painted beaver board (late 1930's) simulated half-timbering.. The former lobby and major rooms of the wing to the right of the entrance have been remodeled by the present owner for living quarters during the last year.

Within these rooms and others are a number of antique furnishings, such as a huge loom on the third floor that Henry Ford at one time unsuccessfully tried to acquire. The third floor also contains the famous "hung jury" room where jurors were sometimes brought from the nearby courthouse for sequestering.

The Altamont is structurally sound. This fact is evident in the floors of thick layered oak that do not squeak even after many years of use. Sited on a one and one-third acre tree-shaded site in the center of town, the building seems to have a bright future for some well planned adaptive use.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1897-98 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Robert H. Dickinson, builder

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Altamont Hotel was built in 1897-98 from the plans of Fayetteville builder, Robert H. Dickinson, for Judge Henry W. Brazie, a prominent attorney and public official of Fayette County. The building claims in addition to its importance as the local leading hotel in a rapidly growing turn-of-the-century coal producing county, the distinction of hosting many of the officials and businessmen of the nearby downtown and county courthouse. The absence of significant structural alterations leaves the hotel much as it was when gentlemen of the locale met for after-hour conversations over a good meal. When juries at the neighboring courthouse were unable to deliver a verdict they were often sequestered on the third floor of the Altamont in a space that is traditionally called the "hung jury" room.

For four generations the Altamont has remained in the same family. It was built in the last years of the nineteenth century for Henry Wilfred Brazie (1831-1897) and his wife Mildred Walker Brazie to replace a similarly named hotel that had burned on the grounds in 1897.

Henry W. Brazie was a native of Saulsberry, Herkimer County, New York. He was the son of a locally important brick manufacturer and was born in a house "of historical renown, - - having been identified with the Wyoming massacre." Among Brazie's schoolmates in Utica, New York, who were to gain eventual prominence, were Governor Bushnell of Ohio, Postmaster General James, and Ellis H. Roberts, an assistant treasurer of the United States. Brazie finished his education at West Point.

During the Mexican War, Brazie served under General Scott and was severely wounded at Melino del Ray. After the conflict he was with the U.S. Engineering Corp on the "western frontier", until the outbreak of the Civil War. At this time he was given regular duty as a mustering officer in Indianapolis until he was attached to the 17th Indiana Infantry under General Milo S. Haskell. It was with this outfit that Brazie came to West Virginia where he saw action in the Elkwater campaign and the Cheat Mountain campaign against Lee in 1861. When Rosecrans was ordered to the west, Brazie was assigned the task of organizing troops in West Virginia. He served with both the cavalry and infantry until he was order to the West where he was involved in the Indian wars until 1866. Brazie left the service in that year as a Major. He returned to West Virginia where he married Mildred S. Walker at Brownstown (Marmet) and moved on to Fayetteville where he set up a legal practice.

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In succeeding years Henry Brazie was "largely instrumental in the establishment of the Fayette county criminal court." Brazie was Prosecuting Attorney of Fayette County in the years 1871-73 and 1885-89. He was also Judge of the Criminal Court from 1891 until 1897. Judge Brazie was also instrumental in helping to secure for the county a magnificent Romanesque style courthouse.

Judge Brazie's funeral was held on Tuesday, November 2, 1897, at the courthouse. Amid typical Victorian pomp, the townspeople honored their departed leader. An article in the Fayette Journal, November 4, 1897, records the scene:

....."The court room was appropriately decorated for the solemn occasion. The bench, that had for so long been adorned by the picturesque figure now breathless before it, was shrouded with black, and superbly decorated with handsome flowers and vines. A magnificently arranged floral design -- the scales of justice -- a tribute by the Fayette county bar, appropriately decorated the bench. Palms, chrysanthemums and other flowers in profuse abundance, were tastily arranged about the bier. Black bunting was festooned along the rails dividing the room. It was a sole --- grand, testimonial of the esteem held by the citizens of Fayetteville for their departed neighbor. The band was there and played appropriate music. A choir had especially prepared music."

"After the services at the courthouse were finished the procession was formed for the grave yard march. It was headed by the band, which played, by request of the deceased, made some months ago, 'Flee as a Bird'"

At the grave the services were concluded according to the ritual of the G.A.R."

Judge Brazie did not live to see the Altamont open in the spring of 1898. Mrs. Brazie became the owner and, upon her death in 1915, the hotel passed to her daughter Mrs. Maude Brazie Haptonstall Coldwell (Mrs. Coldwell's first husband Dr. John J. Haptonstall, was a member of the House of Delegates in 1899 shortly before his death).

The history of the Altamont is closely associated with Mrs. Coldwell and the life of her female offspring. Mrs. Coldwell, who managed the Altamont from 1900 to 1936, was an independent and unusual woman who is remembered for her business acumen and hospitality. When William Jennings Brian came to Fayetteville advocating the silver monetary standard, Mrs. Coldwell came forward to lustily defend the other viewpoint.

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In 1936, the Altamont passed to Mrs. Coldwell's daughter, Frances Haptonstall Phillips, a locally noted teacher of Romance languages, who, with her husband, Erskine Phillips, editor and publisher of the Fayette Democrat, rented out space in the building to local tenants. Their daughter, Ms. Maude Phillips Brunstetter, the fourth woman to own the hotel (she is completing work on a Ph. D. at Columbia University), plans to adapt the Altamont Hotel to a new use to complement Fayetteville's burgeoning tourist industry.

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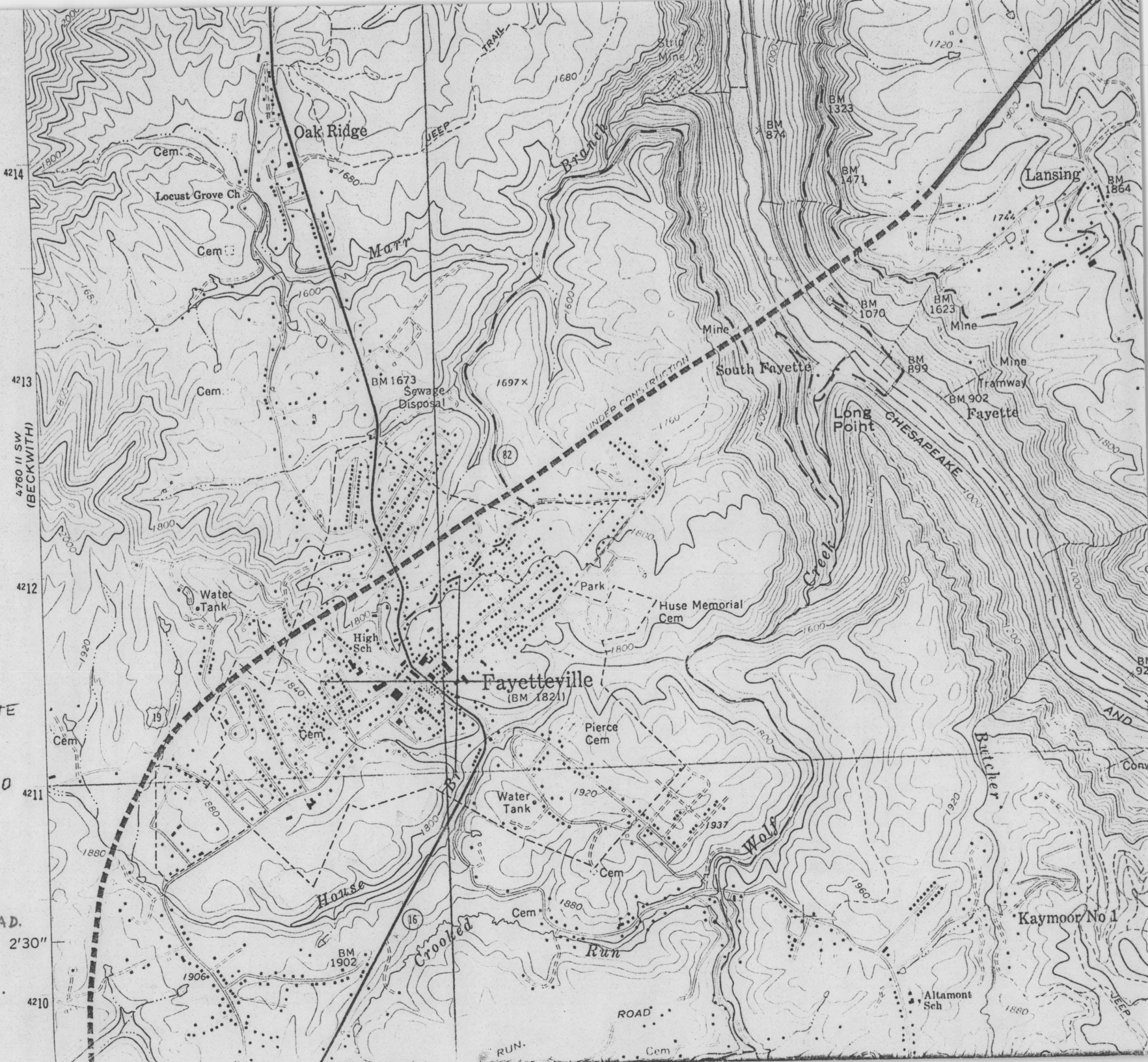
Fayette Journal. Fayetteville, West Virginia, November 25, 1931, p. 1.

Goddard, Chuck. "The Altamont's Past is Part of the Future." Beckley Post Herald and Register, Beckley, West Virginia, September 12, 1976, pp 8,9.

"Judge Brazie Dead." The Fayette Journal, Fayetteville, West Virginia, November 4, 1897, pp. 1, 3.

Peters, J. T. and H. B. Carden. History of Fayette County, West Virginia. Charleston, West Virginia: Jarrett Printing Company, 1926, pp. 741, 742.

Photographs of the Altamont owned by Mrs. Brunstetter, c. 1900, 1901, 1902.



4214
4213
4212
4211
4210

4760 II SW
(BECKWITH)

2'30"

ALTAMONT HOTEL
FAYETTE AVE.
FAYETTEVILLE, FAYETTE
COUNTY, W.VA.

17/491070/4211440

FAYETTEVILLE QUAD.
7.5 MIN.
1:24,000

