

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH 0669237  
FOR NPS USE ONLY DATA SHEET

RECEIVED MAY 22 1978  
DATE ENTERED JUL 12 1978

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

Rauscher House

AND/OR COMMON

Webb Hotel

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

818 Adams Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Bowling Green

VICINITY OF

02

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Kentucky

021

Warren

227

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

William G. Moore, Jr.

STREET & NUMBER

914 State Street

CITY, TOWN

Bowling Green

VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Warren County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

429 East Tenth Street

CITY, TOWN

Bowling Green

STATE

Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE

1971

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Rauscher House is a former hotel establishment built in 1891 and situated near the corner of Adams and Eighth Streets in Bowling Green in southwestern Kentucky. Adams Street runs parallel to the tracks of the Louisville and Nashville Railway, and the hotel was strategically built on the selected site because the depot formerly stood directly across Adams.

This three-story building is of brick construction and has an Italianate facade facing Adams (see photos 1 and 4). This wall is 75 feet wide, and the building has a depth of 101 feet. Because it formerly abutted another structure, the Rauscher House's western wall is unfenestrated excepting one second-story window, and the eastern wall and rear are treated simply (see photo 2). All openings have segmental relieving arches above, and stone lintels at their sills.

The street level is presently boarded, but intact beneath the wooden panels is a fine cast-iron colonnade. Recessed behind the columns are double doors filled with large plates of glass (see photo 4). The windows of the main facade are treated in three different manners. Those at the second floor's east are round-headed and have stone trim which employs sculpted Hellenic heads on the keystones (see photo 3). Windows of the central four bays of the second floor have flat hoodmolds with semicircular centers, while those directly above have pedimented hoodmolds. The trim around the western four windows is like that on the east, but the material employed is zinc-clad tin. Originally, there was a heavy bracketed entablature (see photo 4) with an emphatic gable that proclaimed the establishment's name and its date of erection. This section is now filled with brick masonry--the entablature having been destroyed many years ago.

The arrangement of rooms inside is the same as when the building functioned as a hotel. The interior plan (see first-floor plan) is functional and shows the unknown builder as having taken all aspects of hotel operation into consideration. The main staircase is of heavy proportions and there are ponderous newel posts remaining. Shops occupied those spaces of the first floor's street side, and the dining room was a large space at the northeast (see photo 5). Auxiliary staircases are at the rear, and the first floor retains sections of pressed-tin ceilings that incorporate intricate swirling rinceaux.

The following describes the Rauscher House during its peak of operation:

The hotel was equipped with all the modern improvements of the day. It had 45 elegantly furnished and well ventilated bedrooms; well appointed

(continued)

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1891

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Rauscher House, located in Bowling Green, Kentucky, and also known as the Webb Hotel, is significant for its associations with the Louisville and Nashville Railroad, and for the role it played in the economic growth of Bowling Green. The building is also a fine representative of late 19th-century architecture -- displaying the craftsmanship and style of that era.

Apparently, this former hotel was built for Danwick and Olivia Weber Rauscher in 1891. It is known that Mrs. Rauscher was the proprietress and owner from 1883 until her death in 1913. Her son-in-law, Captain J. H. Webb, managed the hotel for many years following her death, and the Rauscher House (or Webb Hotel) came to be known as one of the finest hotels in the state, a reputation established because of its hospitality and the excellent cuisine.

The hotel was prominently and advantageously situated directly across from the L & N Railroad Station in Bowling Green, the largest city between Louisville and Nashville. Many persons travelling by rail between those cities found convenient lodging at the Rauscher House.

Bowling Green, the county seat of Warren, has been an important city not only to the county but also to the region of western Kentucky since the town's founding in 1797. The following was written in 1915:

Guided by the men who were prominent in the affairs of 1800 and the close of the last century, the people of Warren County discarded the rude methods of frontier life at an early day.... The city of Bowling Green, with a population of 10,000, is recognized as the most important and attractive city in the interior of the state. It is the nursery of social refinement and moral culture in the Green River section (George Baber, "Old Times in Warren", p. 59).

Bowling Green experienced rapid growth during the Rauscher House's period of operation as a hotel, and the building was improved several times. In 1911, electric lights were installed, and in 1921, it was redecorated and telephones and running water were connected to each guest room. The removal of the depot across Adams Street in 1923 was a terminating event for the Rauscher House, and it was closed in the mid 1920s.

(continued)

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Baber, George. "Old Times in Warren." The Register of the Kentucky State Historical Society. Vol. 13, No. 38 (May 1915), pp. 55-59.

Citizens Pictorial Guide of Bowling Green. Bowling Green: The Citizens National Bank, 1975.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/5 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Bowling Green South

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	6	5	4	9	5	2	0	4	0	9	4	5	1	0
ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

C 

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

E 

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

G 

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

B 

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

D 

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

F 

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

H 

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property nominated is a rectangular lot facing Adams Street; 75 feet wide and 101 feet long -- the area defined by the foundations of the building.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Daniel Kidd, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Kentucky Heritage Commission

DATE

April 1978

STREET & NUMBER

104 Bridge Street

TELEPHONE

502/564-3741

CITY OR TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL  STATE  LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Cedric W. Melton*

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 5/15/78

## FDR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

*W. H. ...*  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 7/12/78

DATE 6-29-78

~~NAME OF REGISTRATION~~

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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Rauscher House

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parlors; a large office and dining room with a large seating capacity, and hot and cold baths on each floor (Citizens Pictorial Guide of Bowling Green, p. 21).

The area around the Rauscher House is now a commercial one, and numerous buildings are being demolished. To its east is a large parking lot, and a small structure that originally abutted it on the west has been dismantled. Presently, this former hotel is being used as a warehouse. The owner, however, is formulating plans to improve the exterior and interior. These plans involve the installation of shops and a restaurant in the first floor, and offices in the other levels. As many original elements as possible will be retained, and the handsome entablature that once crowned the main facade will be duplicated.

In the vicinity of the Rauscher House there are several other notable late-19th-century buildings. These brick constructions are structurally unsound, however, and are slated for demolition in the very near future.

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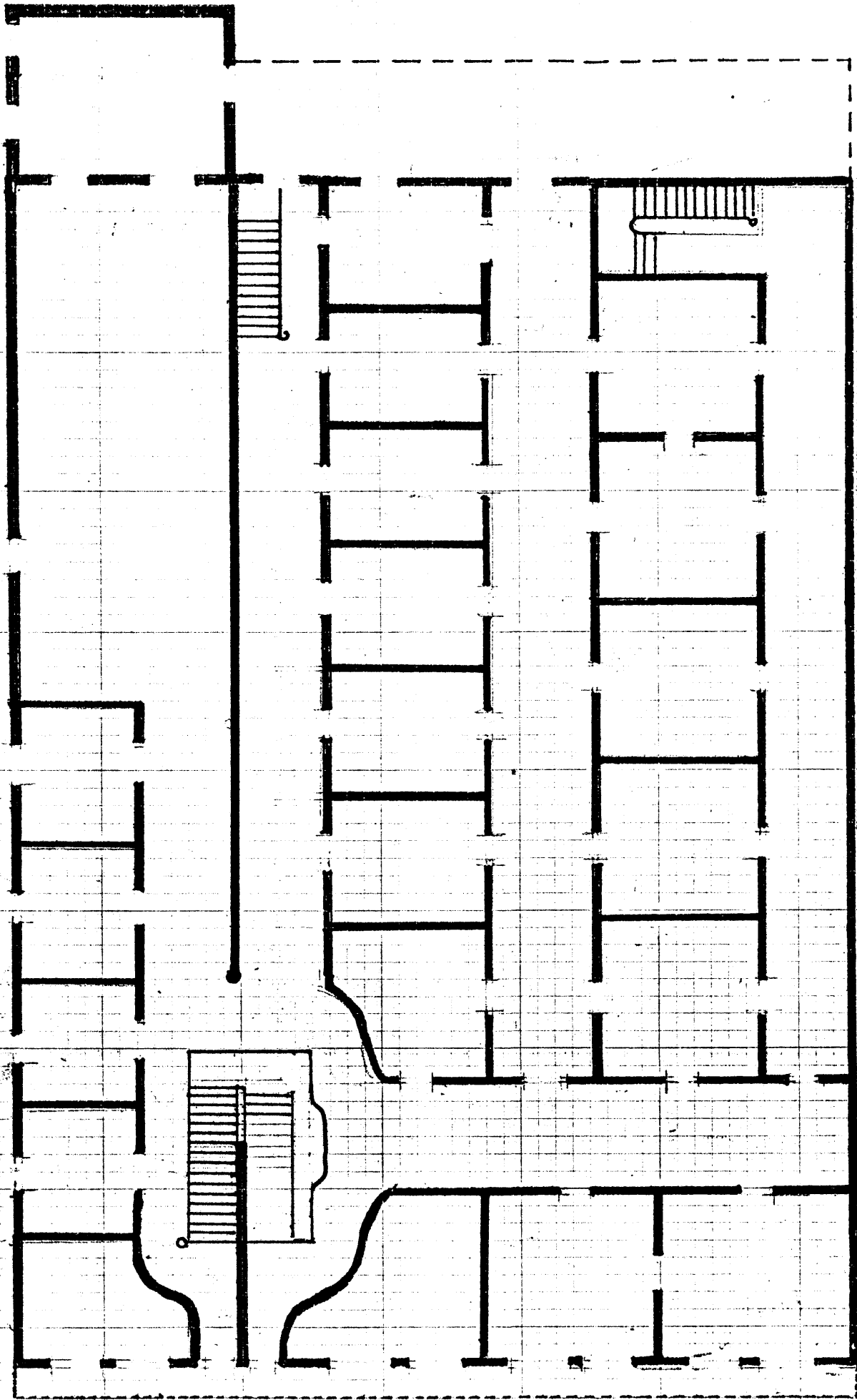
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Rauscher House

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The only major alteration to this building was the loss of the heavy entablature atop the Adams Street side. Otherwise, original fabric remains visible in this substantial building that is a fine example of the late-19th-century Italianate. The floor plans are of interest for they demonstrate the designer as being one concerned with traffic flow and for ventilation. Three staircases provide access between the floors, and the halls are of spacious size.



THE RAUCHER HOUSE, BOWLING GREEN, WARREN COUNTY, KENTUCKY  
PLAN OF FIRST FLOOR  
NO SCALE

Rauscher House  
Bowling Green  
Warren County  
Kentucky

Sketch Map - April 1978  
Daniel Kidd, Kentucky Heritage  
Commission  
No Scale

**JUL 12 1978**

Map 2. Plan of first  
floor.

**MAY 22 1978**