**1 NAME**

**HISTORIC**

The Hendee Hotel

**AND/OR COMMON**

**2 LOCATION**

**STREET & NUMBER**

220 East 8th Street

**CITY, TOWN**

Cozad

**STATE**

Nebraska

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>OWNERSHIP</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
<th>PRESENT USE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>_DISTRICT</td>
<td>_PUBLIC</td>
<td>_OCCUPIED</td>
<td><em>AGRICULTURE</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>_BUILDING(S)</td>
<td>_PRIVATE</td>
<td>_UNOCCUPIED</td>
<td><em>MUSEUM</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>_STRUCTURE</td>
<td>_BOTH</td>
<td>_WORK IN PROGRESS</td>
<td><em>COMMERCIAL</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>_SITE</td>
<td>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</td>
<td>ACCESSIBLE</td>
<td><em>EDUCATIONAL</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>_OBJECT</td>
<td>IN PROCESS</td>
<td>_YES: RESTRICTED</td>
<td><em>PRIVATE RESIDENCE</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>XBEING CONSIDERED</td>
<td>_YES: UNRESTRICTED</td>
<td><em>PUBLIC AcQUISITION</em> IN PROCESS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>_NO</td>
<td><em>IN PROCESS</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

**NAME**

Mrs. William E. Lewis

**STREET & NUMBER**

511 East 18th Street

**CITY, TOWN**

Cozad

**STATE**

Nebraska

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

**COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.**

Register of Deeds, Dawson County Courthouse

**STREET & NUMBER**

North Washington Street

**CITY, TOWN**

Lexington

**STATE**

Nebraska

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

**TITLE**

**DATE**

_FEDERAL_ _STATE_ _COUNTY_ _LOCAL_

**DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS**

**CITY, TOWN**

**STATE**
The Hendee Hotel is a rectangular two story brick building (65 x 27 feet) with a frame one story extension (26 x 13) on the back side. This extension was used as the hotel kitchen. The interior walls are also constructed of brick. A porch extends the entire length of the front of the hotel and 11\(\frac{1}{2}\) feet on the east side. The hotel has a gabled roof with asphalt shingles. There are four chimneys that straddle the ridge of the roof, flush with the gables.

There are two doors with transoms above on the front side of the hotel. Each of these doors opens onto its own very small entry hall with a stairway leading upstairs. In the west hallway a door on the left opens into the hotel office which still has the pressed tin ceiling. In the back of the hotel is the large dining room which still has the wainscoting and a door opening into the frame kitchen extension. There are three other outside doors; one opening into the hotel office, one on the east side, and one in back. The kitchen also has two outside doors.

Structurally the hotel has been altered by a stucco cover on the exterior brick surface. There is a small (15 x 12 feet) one story stuccoed addition on the northeast side of the hotel, ca. 1940, and a cement brick addition (22 x 15 feet) on the north side of the hotel, also one story, built in 1958.

Also on the property, next to the northwest corner of the hotel, is a frame false-front building (50 x 23 feet), ca. 1890, that was moved onto the property in 1903 and used as a sample room by the traveling salesmen who stayed in the hotel. It is in poor condition. Also in back of the hotel are two small frame garages, ca. 1915 and ca. 1940, in fair condition. On the east edge of the property is a private drive.
## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

During the 1870’s when the first towns of Dawson County, Nebraska were being established it was considered essential that some buildings be of brick to show the world they were towns of permanences and substance. Of these brick buildings only the Hendee Hotel survives in Dawson County.

The Hendee Hotel was built by John J. Cozad, probably in 1879, from brick produced at a local kiln also owned by John J. Cozad. John J. Cozad of Warren County, Ohio, in 1874 founded the town of Cozad, which is named after him. He owned extensive land in and around the town of Cozad and between 1874 and 1882 he promoted and financially supported the growth of the town. At different times between 1879 and 1882 John J. Cozad, his wife, and two sons lived in the hotel. His youngest son Robert Cozad, under the name Robert Henri was to become a well-known American artist. He would have been in his teens at the time of his occupancy of the hotel.

In 1882 John J. Cozad was involved in the shooting death of another man, he therefore left the town of Cozad that same year. In 1883 he sold the Hendee Hotel to Stephen A. Hendee of Bushnell, Illinois. It is from this S. A. Hendee that the hotel derives its name. S. A. Hendee, a well-to-do merchant and graindealer, also bought much of John J. Cozad’s other land in the area. While Hendee owned the hotel from 1883 to 1910 the hotel was leased to a series of individuals who managed it. The first of these individuals was A. K. Maryott, who along with his family lived in the hotel while they operated it from about 1883 to 1885. His son, Miles Maryott was to become a regionally famous artist, rifle marksman, and baseball player. He showed his skill with the rifle many times in front of the hotel.

It was during this period 1883 to 1910 that the Hendee Hotel played an important part in the affairs of Cozad, a developing frontier community. In the hotel the early settlers stayed until they could move into their own homes. Train passengers, traveling salesmen, and the town bachelors also stayed in the hotel. Traveling doctors had their offices in the hotel before they moved on to the next town. Even traveling fortune tellers offered their services at the hotel. The local lodges also had their banquets in the hotel dining room.
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"The Cozad Tribune" 1892 to 1910


GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one

QUADRANGLE NAME: Cozad, Nebr.

UTM REFERENCES

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B  |

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C  |

D  |

E  |

F  |

G  |

H  |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Commencing at a point 46 feet east of the southwest corner of the east 250 feet of block 4 of Gatewoods Addition to Cozad. Thence east 105 feet, thence north 150 feet, thence west 105 feet, thence south 150 feet to place of the beginning.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>CODE</th>
<th>COUNTY</th>
<th>CODE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE: Keith Buss, President

ORGANIZATION: Cozad Historical Society

DATE: October 1978

STREET & NUMBER: 521 East 8th Street

CITY OR TOWN: Cozad

STATE: Nebraska

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: [Signature]

TITLE: Director, Nebraska State Historical Society

DATE: 1/26/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

[Signature]

DATE: 3/21/79

ATTEST: Keeper of the National Register

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE: 3/20/79

GPO 921-803
Being such an important part of the community meant it also played a part in town disputes. In 1903 an attempt was made on the life of the town marshal in the hotel office after he had been "riding" the town's younger element a little too hard.

In 1910 John C. Simonson purchased the hotel from the Hendee estate and in 1920 he sold it to William J. Foster. It continued in use as a hotel during this time and managed to survive the transition from train to automobile travel because the Lincoln Highway went by it on 8th Street. After William J. Foster's death in 1936 the hotel was used by the Foster family as a private residence and today the hotel is owned by a granddaughter, Mrs. William Lewis.

Despite the long years the hotel has been in use it still retains much of its original character from when it played its part in the area's history and development.