

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form**

**1. Name of Property**

Historic Name: Panhandle Inn  
Other name/site number: N/A  
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

**2. Location**

Street & number: 301 Main Street  
City or town: Panhandle State: Texas County: Carson  
Not for publication:  Vicinity: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  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  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.

I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following levels of significance:  
 national  statewide  local

Applicable National Register Criteria:  A  B  C  D

Mark Wolfe State Historic Preservation Officer 1/5/17  
Signature of certifying official / Title Date  
Texas Historical Commission  
State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that the 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

Panhandle Inn, Panhandle, Carson County, Texas

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**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Private
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public - Federal

**Category of Property**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

**Number of Resources within Property**

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions:** Domestic: Hotel; Commerce; Restaurant, Retail Shops

**Current Functions:** WORK IN PROGRESS

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification:** Late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Revivals: Pueblo

**Principal Exterior Materials:** Stucco

**Narrative Description** (see pages 7-9)

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## 8. Statement of Significance

**Applicable National Register Criteria:** A, C

**Criteria Considerations:** N/A

**Areas of Significance:** Commerce, Architecture

**Period of Significance:** 1924-1967

**Significant Dates:** 1924

**Significant Person** (only if criterion b is marked): N/A

**Cultural Affiliation** (only if criterion d is marked): N/A

**Architect/Builder:** E.F. Rittenberry, architect / Fred Bone Construction, builder

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (see pages 10-18)

## 9. Major Bibliographic References

**Bibliography** (see pages 19-21)

**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 #

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State historic preservation office (*Texas Historical Commission, Austin*)
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: Archives, Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum, Canyon, Texas  
(location of E.F. Rittenberry's original drawings)

**Historic Resources Survey Number** (if assigned): N/A

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## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property:** Less than 1 acre (0.402 acres)

### Coordinates

#### Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: N/A

1. Latitude: N 35.3436667      Longitude: W -101.3799083

**Verbal Boundary Description:** Panhandle Original Township, Block 39, Lots 8–12

**Boundary Justification:** The boundaries encompass the entire parcel of land historically associated with the Panhandle Inn in Panhandle, Carson County, Texas.

## 11. Form Prepared By (with assistance from Stephen Austin, THC)

Name/title: Paul Katz, Ph.D., RPA, Board member and Julie Young, Board President  
Organization: Panhandle Inn Foundation  
Street & number: PO Box 550  
City or Town: Panhandle      State: Texas      Zip Code: 79068  
Email: panhandleinn@hotmail.com  
Telephone: 806-290-5296  
Date: 11/18/2015

## Additional Documentation

**Maps**      (see page 22)

**Figures**      (see pages 23-30)

**Photographs**      (see pages 5-6, 31-45)

**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.

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**Photo Log**

Panhandle Inn  
Panhandle, Carson County, Texas  
Photographed by Julie Young, March 2015 (except as noted)

**Photo 1**

East elevation.  
Camera facing west.

**Photo 2**

South elevation.  
Camera facing north.

**Photo 3**

South and east elevations.  
Camera facing northwest. Photographed by Paul Katz November 13, 2016

**Photo 4**

North elevation.  
Camera facing south.

**Photo 5**

North elevation. Patio area on the north side.  
Camera facing south.

**Photo 6**

West elevation.  
Camera facing east.

**Photo 7**

Ballroom.  
Camera facing north.

**Photo 8**

Pressed metal ceiling in a retail space.

**Photo 9**

Carved beam and column capital.

**Photo 10**

Second floor, landing.  
Camera facing north.

**Photo 11**

Second floor; East-west corridor.  
Camera facing east.

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**Photo 12**

Second floor.

West bay between two arms of E-plan.

Camera facing south.

**Photo 13**

Second floor.

Double doors opening onto the east bay.

Camera facing south.

**Photo 14**

Second floor.

Private bathroom in the southwest corner room.

Camera facing south.

**Photo 15**

Second floor

Decorated light fixture

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## **Narrative Description**

The Panhandle Inn is located at 301 Main Street on the northwest corner of Main Street and West 3<sup>rd</sup> Street in downtown Panhandle, Texas. The primary facade of the two-story, stucco-clad, reinforced concrete, E-plan building faces south onto West 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, with a secondary elevation that formerly housed retail tenants facing east onto Main Street. There is a one-story, 6x1 bay, partial width portico on the south elevation that highlights the main entry to the Inn. Completed in 1924, the Pueblo Revival style building is an excellent example of this early twentieth century architectural trend inspired by the Pueblos and Spanish missions of New Mexico..

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## General Setting

The Panhandle Inn is located on the northwest corner of Main and West 3<sup>rd</sup> Streets in downtown Panhandle and two blocks south of the 1951 Moderne style Carson County Courthouse. Panhandle, Texas is 28 miles NNE of Amarillo in the geographical center of the Texas Panhandle. The setting is urban, with wide brick streets arranged in a grid plan accommodating one- and two- story commercial and civic buildings in the vicinity. The Inn has an E-plan footprint and covers 140 x 75 feet on Lots 8–12 on City Block 39. The primary facade (south) faces West 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, and the secondary facade (east) faces Main Street. There is an alley on the west side of the building and a small patio garden area behind the north elevation. Concrete sidewalks abut the building on the south and east elevations.

## South Elevation (Primary)

The Panhandle Inn is an asymmetrical, two-story, 3 x 4 bay, E-plan, reinforced concrete building with a smooth stucco veneer and a flat roof surrounded by a parapet. The building's exterior is Pueblo Revival in style, and the building is clad in stucco with modest parapets inspired by Spanish Missions, such as the Alamo. The main facade is asymmetrical, with a central, partial width 3 x 1 bay portico that extends out over the sidewalk. The portico is arranged in an ABA pattern with wide openings in the outer two bays defined by wide, rectangular-shaped stucco-clad columns. The first bay, the westernmost, highlights the entrance to the former coffee shop and retains its timber lintel supported by large, carved wooden brackets. These elements sit beneath a small Alamo-shaped parapet. The remaining parapet roofline has a subtle undulation and pronounced rounded corners. The subtle undulation and projecting rounded corners of the portico's roofline is repeated in the parapet of the main building and is designed to evoke the handcrafted look of adobe bricks, executed here in stuccoed concrete. The center bay of the portico is itself three bays wide and has three symmetrical openings with the same heavy timber lintel supported by round wooden columns capped with the same carved wooden capitals. The entrance to the Inn was in this center section of the portico with the wooden posts.

Beyond the portico, the south facade has four single and one paired door openings topped with multi-light transoms. These openings correspond to and had direct access into the interior spaces that faced south. The first bay historically was the dining room, followed by the coffee shop and barbershop. The next opening was the main entry doors to the lobby, a double door entry with sidelights and full transom above. Much of the original wooden transom and storefront material remains in place throughout the building, as well as the original transom glass, a clear glass that in profile has a ribbed or saw tooth appearance. The second floor of the three-bay south facade clearly expresses the E-plan and has three projecting arms, each with three paired windows openings. The paired windows are repeated in the wall at the base of the arms. The counter, the space in between the arms of the E, have equally spaced single 1/1 wooden sash windows.

## East Elevation (Secondary)

The Main Street, or east, elevation has a symmetrical composition of four regularly spaced storefronts with eight single sash windows on the second floor, two aligned per each storefront bay. The storefronts correspond to the four interior tenant retail spaces. The majority of the windows and doors of the east elevation are boarded up. The third and fourth bays

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have some remnants of the original three-part storefront composition on the exterior, with a curb, storefront window, and transom flanking the central single door. The transom indicates an ABA composition in each of the ground floor openings on this elevation. Verification on the interior reveals that some of the original material remains, including the six light wooden transoms above the single light storefront windows and the single light wooden door with five light transoms above. This elevation has a modest central Alamo-shaped parapet with similar projecting corners, all clad in stucco that give the building a handcrafted and imperfect appearance that mimics adobe brick construction. Below the parapet are nine, central, projecting circular wooden end tails. These end tails are another feature of the style and historically were the ends of interior wooden truss supports of adobe buildings; here they are decorative elements and not part of the building's structure.

There is a small one-story addition on the far northern end of this facade, representing a modest, three-bay, stucco-clad Pueblo Revival style building that formerly served as a post office. The facade of the one-story addition has a single door in the first bay followed by two window openings. The parapet is similarly Alamo-esque in style with the raised corners, and the building is clad with stucco to mimic adobe.

#### North Elevation

There is a small inset patio on the north facade supported by a single, round wooden column with carved capitals flanked by similarly detailed engaged columns; these elements support a rough timber lintel. The patio has three paired door openings with screened doors. The patio has a concrete floor. There are small windows on the first floor level, and the second floor has the same regularly spaced 1/1 wooden sash windows as seen on the other elevations.

#### West Elevation

The three-bay west elevation of the building faces the alley. The first floor has five single windows, a single door into the service corridor, and two double windows. The second floor follows the window type and configuration of the east facade. The stairwell to the small mechanical basement/boiler room is on the northern end of the west elevation.

#### Interior

The first floor of the Inn housed the lobby, ballroom (dining room), coffee shop, barbershop, kitchen, innkeeper's apartment, registration desk, restrooms, and four retail spaces facing Main Street. Guests entered the main entrance on West 3<sup>rd</sup> Street through double wooden doors into a corridor leading to the lobby area. The retail spaces facing east onto Main Street have back doors that open to the main corridor. The interior walls are plaster. The plaster on the perimeter walls was placed directly onto the masonry substrate. On the interior walls and ceilings, the plaster has a wooden lathe substrate. The retail spaces have a pressed metal ceiling. The decorative elements of the exterior are repeated in the interior and include the wooden columns with wooden hand-carved capitals. All of the original decorative beams remain except for one that is missing from the lobby area. Many retain their decorative stenciling. Much of the plaster has fallen from the walls and ceilings. The first floor flooring is scored painted cement except for the ballroom (dining room), which has a wooden floor.

Toward the center of the first floor is the reception desk. Located behind the reception desk (north) is the innkeeper's apartment. The stairway to the second floor is at the north end of the reception desk. The oak stair risers, treads, and balustrade are intact. The modest, square newel post is a simple, early twentieth century Arts and Crafts era design, and the balusters are correspondingly simple stick-style design. At the top of the stairs is a small landing area. The entirety of the flooring on the second floor is wooden, with the exception of the tiled floor in the bathrooms. The circulation plan of the second floor corresponds to the plan of the letter E, with single corridors with flanking rooms along each of the arms of the E and rooms to the north of the northern corridor that runs east-to-west. The stairs, stair landing, and common

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restrooms are located along the northern corridor. The second floor has forty-two guest rooms, each with a single sink, shaving mirror, and glass shelf over the sink. Two larger rooms in the southeast and southwest corners have private baths. The remaining rooms shared two common bathrooms located on the northern corridor. The second floor rooms did have access to the balcony of the entry portico.

Integrity

The Panhandle Inn's exterior appearance is virtually unchanged. In the late 1960s, a new owner installed storm windows over the original windows and replaced one set of French doors on the second floor. The double doors of the main entrance were also changed to storm doors at that time. The original doors were retained. The spatial configuration on the first floor is intact except for an added wall in the ballroom and four added walls in the lobby area. Upstairs, the stair landing and corridors are in their original configuration. Similar to the lower floor, much of the plaster has fallen from the walls on the second floor.

Summary

The Panhandle Inn in Panhandle, Texas is a two-story Pueblo Revival style stucco-clad masonry building with a Mission-style parapet and portico. E. F. Rittenberry, a noted Texas Panhandle architect, designed the building, and his original drawings date to 1924. The Panhandle Inn, completed in December 1924, continues to occupy a prominent corner downtown and retains a high degree of its architectural integrity

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### Statement of Significance

Amarillo hotel owner Ernest O. Thompson constructed the Panhandle Inn in 1924 at the request of a group of interested and enterprising Panhandle citizens. Thompson subsequently became mayor of Amarillo, a Texas Railroad Commissioner, and was among the first to raise concerns over the finality of Texas oil as the Texas Railroad Commissioner and helped influence federal oil regulations and resist nationalization of the oil industry throughout the 1930 and 1940s.<sup>1</sup> The construction of the inn was a direct result of the burgeoning oil boom in the Texas Panhandle, responding to a need not just for additional lodging but also for a central meeting place to conduct business and social activities. Designed in the Pueblo Revival style by Amarillo architect Emmett F. Rittenberry, the Panhandle Inn is situated on Main Street in the center of the city, midway between the Santa Fe Railway depot and the Panhandle schools. As intended, it served as “Panhandle’s Meeting Place” into the mid-1950s, weathering the period of the Dust Bowl, Great Depression, and World War II. It closed in 1970 after 45 years of operation and began to deteriorate during the next three decades. Preservation-minded owners purchased the property in 2000, and in 2011 the non-profit Panhandle Inn Foundation became the owner and driving force for the Inn’s restoration.

The Panhandle Inn is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criterion A in the area of Commerce as a historically important building in the economic, civic, and social life of Panhandle. The building is the last large commercial Pueblo Style building in the Texas Panhandle, and is also nominated under Criterion C for Architecture as an excellent local example of its type. Although not nominated under Criterion B, the peripheral association of the Panhandle Inn with Ernest O. Thompson adds another dimension to the merit of this nomination. The period of significance is 1924-1967 (the 50-year cutoff).

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### Overview History of Carson County and Panhandle, Texas

Carson County was established in 1876 when the new Texas Constitution was written and its western territory was marked off from the Bexar District. Angle settlement was made possible by the removal of Native American tribes at the conclusion of the 1874–1875 Red River War. The county was named in honor of Samuel P. Carson, who served as the first Secretary of State of the Republic of Texas in 1836. Cattle ranching began in the early 1880s, and the railroads arrived in the later 1880s. Carson County’s petition for organization was granted in June, 1888.<sup>1</sup> Nevertheless, the population of farmers and ranchers remained small, under 500 in the county by 1900.<sup>2</sup> The introduction of the windmill, which allowed farmers to tap the vast underground Ogallala aquifer, and expansion of the railroads served to boost the population and the economy of Carson County in the early twentieth century. By 1920, the population of the county had grown to 3,078.<sup>3</sup> The population boomed along with oil and gas exploration beginning in 1921, reaching 7,745 in 1930.<sup>4</sup>

First called Carson City, then Panhandle City, and now just Panhandle, it is the county seat of Carson County. It is located in the south-central part of the county at the intersection of U.S. Highway 60 and Texas Highway 207. The Burlington Northern Santa Fe railway borders the south side of Panhandle, running parallel to U.S. Highway 60. Panhandle was established in 1887 in the center of the twenty-six-county Texas Panhandle region in anticipation of becoming a railroad

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<sup>1</sup> Roger M. Olien and Diana D. Hinton, *Oil and Ideology: The Cultural Creation of The American Petroleum Industry*, (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2000), 199; Pauline D. Robertson and R.L. Robertson, *Panhandle Pilgrimage* (Canyon, Texas: Staked Plains Press, 1976), 278; “Ickes Named Oil Czar; Begs Off In Cabinet Shift,” *Chicago Tribune*, December 3, 1942.

<sup>2</sup> Donald R. Abbe, “Carson County,” *Handbook of Texas Online*, 2, last modified June 12, 2010, accessed October 26, 2015, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hcc06>.

<sup>3</sup> Clarence Williams, “History of Carson County,” in *A Time to Purpose, a Chronicle of Carson County*, edited by Jo S. Randel, (Hereford, Texas: Pioneer Book Publishers, 1966), I:39.

<sup>4</sup> Donald R. Abbe, “Carson County,” *Handbook of Texas Online*, 3, uploaded June 12, 2010, accessed October 26, 2015, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hcc06>.

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shipping hub, primarily for cattle from surrounding ranches.<sup>5</sup> A post office was established in 1887, and the *Panhandle Herald*, the oldest continuously published newspaper in the region, was started in the same year.<sup>6</sup> In 1888, it was the terminus of the Southern Kansas of Texas railway, a subsidiary of the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe, but the anticipated Fort Worth and Denver City railway bypassed Panhandle by 14 miles. Amarillo became the population and economic center of the region instead of Panhandle. Panhandle's population in 1900 was around 300, and it incorporated as a mayor-council city in 1909; this was when the name was changed from Panhandle City to Panhandle.<sup>7</sup> However, proximity to the Santa Fe tracks, the closest railway line to the oil and gas fields immediately north of Panhandle, helped spur a population and economic boom in town during the 1920s. By 1930, the population reached 2,035.<sup>8</sup>

The Oil Boom Begins (1921–1926)

In December 1916, the Amarillo Oil Company No. 1 well in Potter County, adjacent to Carson County to the west, became the first producing gas well in the region, and initiated the exploration and production of the largest gas field in the world at the time. It was not until three years later that the oil component of what was to become known as the Panhandle Oil and Gas Field was first tapped.<sup>9</sup> Completed in May 1921 on the Burnett (6666) Ranch in Carson County, the Gulf Oil Company No. 2 produced 175 barrels a day.<sup>10</sup> Other oil companies, major and independent, local and out-of-region, began to explore and drill, moving north out of Carson to Hutchinson County and into what was soon to be known as the Borger Field. The first successful well was drilled by the Twin Six Oil Company (founded by 12 Amarillo businessmen) in 1925,<sup>11</sup> followed by another local success, the Dixon Creek Oil Company No. 1 Smith, which produced 10,000 barrels a day in 1926. In the field as a whole, oil production jumped from 1,000,000 barrels in 1925 to over 26,000,000 barrels in 1926.<sup>12</sup>

The region initially lacked the infrastructure required to transport oil and gas to market. There were few roads in northern Carson and southern Hutchinson Counties, and no pipelines. Oil could be pumped, but it could neither be stored nor transported to distant refineries. The No. 2 Burnett was shut after pumping only 1,000 barrels.<sup>13</sup> This explains the significant time lag between the first discoveries in 1921 and the real boom in 1925–1926.

The Santa Fe depot in Panhandle was the hub of activity for the oil industry. All the major supply houses headquartered in Panhandle, resulting in a deluge of freight shipped on the Santa Fe rail line; some cars had to be unloaded five miles out of town. In 1926, only Chicago handled more freight than Panhandle in the entire Santa Fe system.<sup>14</sup> People who lived in Panhandle during that period tell of workers living in tents, in their trucks, and even under their trucks. Any family with a spare bedroom rented to the workers. The few hotels were always full, and rooms were at a premium. The land south of

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<sup>5</sup> Pauline D. Robertson and R.L. Robertson, *Panhandle Pilgrimage* (Canyon, Texas: Staked Plains Press, 1976), 278.

<sup>6</sup> H. Allen Anderson, "Panhandle, TX," *Handbook of Texas Online*, June 15, 2010, accessed October 26, 2015, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hjp03>.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> N.D. Bartlett, "Discovery of the Panhandle Oil and Gas Field," in *Panhandle Petroleum*, ed. Bobby D. Weaver, (Canyon, Texas: Panhandle-Plains Historical Society, Canyon, Texas, 1982), 50.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid., 51.

<sup>13</sup> Julia C. Smith, "Panhandle Field," *Handbook of Texas Online*, last modified June 15, 2010, accessed October 28, 2015, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/dop01>.

<sup>14</sup> N.D. Bartlett, "Discovery of the Panhandle Oil and Gas Field," in *Panhandle Petroleum*, ed. Bobby D. Weaver, (Canyon, Texas: Panhandle-Plains Historical Society, Canyon, Texas, 1982), 51.

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the Santa Fe depot became a tent city.<sup>15</sup> Panhandle grew from a small town to tens of thousands of people almost overnight. The discovery of oil in March 1926 in the vicinity of Borger immediately spurred A.P. Borger and John R. Miller to purchase 240-acre for a townsite near the Canadian River, north of present day Borger.<sup>16</sup> Within three months, the fledgling settlement's population boomed, with 45,000 men and women flocking to the unincorporated town. Discovery of oil near Borger and the construction of a 31-mile-long railroad spur by the Santa Fe Railway in 1926 connecting Panhandle with the new boomtown spelled the end of the Panhandle population boom. Borger's burgeoning oil economy attracted roughly 10,000 to 14,000 people by 1942.<sup>17</sup> In contrast, census data for Panhandle indicates a population of only 978 remained in the town by 1940.<sup>18</sup>

The Birth of the Panhandle Inn (1924)

In addition to the increasing number of wells drilled, more oil was being pumped; for example, the Texas No. 3 Burnett was producing 1,500 barrels a day, roughly one barrel every minute.<sup>19</sup> Oil storage, processing, and transporting infrastructure such as an oil pipeline from the Burnett wells to Panhandle, crude oil storage tanks, and two oil refineries, were all constructed in 1924. All this oilfield activity fueled the growth of what used to be small-town Panhandle. In order to meet the needs of the rapidly-growing community, the Chamber of Commerce held a meeting on February 5<sup>th</sup>, 1924, to assess the present and plan for the future of the city.<sup>20</sup> A group of "enterprising local citizens" attended the meeting to discuss plans for building a new hotel "in keeping with the demands of the town."<sup>21</sup> The April 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the *Panhandle Herald* announced to the community that "Panhandle was practically assured of a new hotel."<sup>22</sup> There were already several boarding houses in the immediate vicinity of the Santa Fe depot (e.g., the Farlow and Callaghan hotels), but there was obviously a need for more beds. The local newspaper noted that "Panhandle has been in need of a hotel for some time and with the many people that visit that city to transact business in the Panhandle oil field it has been almost impossible to secure hotel accommodations there for some time."<sup>23</sup>

By August, the citizen group met with Colonel Ernest Thompson in Amarillo to discuss building a hotel in Panhandle. Thompson was the owner as well as the manager of the Amarillo Hotel. He was interested, and after making a trip to Panhandle, he agreed to build a fifty-room, modern hotel at an estimated cost of \$50,000.<sup>24</sup> The hotel was to be built on the site of the *Panhandle Herald* and completed in ninety days. The constant reference to a "modern" hotel in a succession of *Panhandle Herald* newspaper articles chronicling the Panhandle Inn contrasts this project with the existing boarding houses. It was going to be bigger, more ornately furnished, and better managed than anything in Panhandle at that time:

According to Col. Thompson the new hotel will be operated under the same plan as that followed at the Amarillo hotel and it will be the one of the most modern hotels in this section of the country...When the new Inn is ready for occupancy Col. Thompson will bring here one of his trained men now with the

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<sup>15</sup> A. J. Weiser, "A.J. (Bud) Weiser Recalls the Boom Days of 1925," in *A Time to Purpose, a Chronicle of Carson County*, edited by Jo S. Randel, (Hereford, Texas: Pioneer Book Publishers, 1966), I:283.

<sup>16</sup> H. Allen Anderson, "Borger, TX," *Handbook of Texas Online*, June 12, 2010, accessed July 26, 2016, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/heh10>.

<sup>17</sup> Ibid.

<sup>18</sup> Texas Almanac, "City population History from 1850-2000, accessed July 27, 2016, <https://texasalmanac.com/sites/default/files/images/CityPopHist%20web.pdf>

<sup>19</sup> *Panhandle Herald*, June 13, 1924.

<sup>20</sup> *Panhandle Herald*, February 02, 1924.

<sup>21</sup> *Panhandle Herald*, "Panhandle Practically Assured of New Hotel," April 4, 1924.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid.

<sup>23</sup> *Amarillo Evening Post*, August 15, 1924.

<sup>24</sup> Ibid.

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Amarillo Hotel, as local manager, which means a well-organized and first-class service from the moment the doors are thrown open to the public.<sup>25</sup>

Thompson selected Amarillo architect E. F. Rittenberry as the project architect, and instructed him to build the Panhandle Inn in the Pueblo (or "Santa Fe") style.<sup>26</sup> Thompson may have selected this particular style in honor of his new wife, Metropolitan Opera Company star May Peterson. The couple married on June 9, 1924, spent their honeymoon traveling through the Southwest, including Santa Fe, New Mexico. The La Fonda Hotel in Santa Fe was a well-known example of the Pueblo Revival style at that time, built a few years before in 1922. It is likely that the Thompsons stayed at the La Fonda and that the architecture and furnishings made an impression on them.<sup>27</sup>

Work on the new hotel began with the excavation of the basement and preparations for the foundation in mid-September, delayed only by having to move the Panhandle Herald building off one of the lots.<sup>28</sup> Fred Bone Construction of Amarillo was the general contractor. After another contract for the plumbing and heating of the building was let to Hertner and Son of Amarillo for \$10,170, the hotel's total cost was \$65,000.<sup>29</sup> The roof was completed by the beginning of November. Rittenberry's design called for hotel functional space on the ground floor to include a lobby, dining room, coffee shop, supporting kitchen, men's and women's restrooms, and a patio. He planned for four retail establishments with street access as well; his drawings show a barbershop, drugstore (Lewis Thompson, Ernest's father, was a druggist in Amarillo), a haberdasher, and a women's clothing store. There were forty-two hotel rooms on the second floor, instead of the fifty originally envisioned.<sup>30</sup> Ernest Thompson, in partnership with his father Lewis and brother George, formed the Panhandle Inn Company to complete and manage the Panhandle Inn.<sup>31</sup> The Company then bought back three lots from Ernest on which the hotel was being built for \$4,500.<sup>32</sup> On December 12, 1924, the community was informed in a special issue of the *Panhandle Herald* about the interior amenities of the building they were watching grow since September:

The entire building is steam heated and every room will have hot and cold water. Some of the rooms will have private bath. The Hotel will be run on the European plan and the rates will be most reasonable, \$2 for a room without a bath and \$2.50 for a room with a bath... The furnishings of the Panhandle Inn are as fine as can be found in any hotel of moderate prices. Every bed is equipped with Simmos [sic] springs and one of the best mattresses that money can buy. In each room there will be a dresser, rocker, straight chair, sostumer [sic] and a grip stand. Also, a shaving mirror is hung over the lavatory... In the lobby there will be two big Spanish leather overstuffed davenports and six big individual lazy chairs. On the front porch and in the patio there will be easy willow chairs and swinging settees. The dining room has a hardwood floor and dancing can be indulged on proper occasions.

The grand opening of the Panhandle Inn was held on December 25, 1924, just four months after E.F. Rittenberry was hired to design the building.

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<sup>25</sup> *Panhandle Herald*, September 05, 1924.; August 29, 1924.

<sup>26</sup> *Panhandle Herald*, October 17, 1924.

<sup>27</sup> Deborah Summers, personal communication, December 02, 2015.

<sup>28</sup> *Panhandle Herald*, September 19, 1924.

<sup>29</sup> *Panhandle Herald*, November 14, 1924.

<sup>30</sup> E.F. Rittenberry, "Hotel plans for E.O. Thompson, Panhandle, Texas, 1926," Plan number E-131, E.F. Rittenberry papers, Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum, Canyon, Texas.

<sup>31</sup> Charter of Panhandle Inn Company, December 10, 1924, Potter County, Texas, County Clerks's Office, Amarillo, Texas, Deed Records, vol. 56, p. 128.

<sup>32</sup> Warranty deed for sale of three lots from Ernest O. Thompson to Panhandle Inn Company, 31 December 1924, Carson County, Texas, County Clerk's Office, Panhandle, Texas, Deed Records, vol. 26, p. 480.

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### Architect E.F. Rittenberry (1887–1964) and the Pueblo Revival Style

Emmett F. Rittenberry was born November 24, 1887 in Shelbyville, Tennessee.<sup>33</sup> He received his training as an architect through a correspondence program and began his professional career in 1915 in Dallas.<sup>34</sup> He moved to Amarillo in 1917,<sup>35</sup> where he spent his entire career designing a wide variety of buildings in both the public and private sectors: schools, churches, libraries, banks, funeral homes, automobile dealerships, and utility company offices. As soon as the Texas Board of Architectural Examiners was established in 1937, he became Registered Texas Architect No. 174.<sup>36</sup> He died in 1964 in Amarillo and is buried in that city's Llano Cemetery.

Rittenberry was proficient in designing buildings of many different popular styles. His largest work, the six-story Capitol Hotel in downtown Amarillo in the 1930s, represents the Renaissance Revival style. He is perhaps most well-known for designing Pioneer Hall, the original building of the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum, built in the Southwestern Art Deco style on the campus of West Texas State Normal College in Canyon, Texas in 1933. The Panhandle Inn is a classic example of the Pueblo Revival style, in structural and exterior appearance as well as in its interior design elements.

The Pueblo Revival style is a unique blend of flat-roofed Spanish Colonial buildings and Native American pueblos that originated in California around the turn of the twentieth century (ca.1910). Like the contemporary Mission movement, the Pueblo Revival draws inspiration from local historical precedents. The style has since grown in popularity throughout much of the southwestern United States and is most prevalent in states such as Arizona and New Mexico. Several character-defining features of the design include blunted corners (walls and parapet), stucco or texturized wall surfaces, double-hung casement or wood windows, timber porch supports, and rough-hewn projected roof beams (vigas) which extend through walls. Stepped-back roof lines are present in both original constructions and larger examples of the style. Often, roof parapets and exterior walls display irregular rounded and stepped-up tops. The exterior and interior of the structure can vary in its cladding but often possess stabilized adobe or concrete block to balloon frame<sup>37</sup>

The Panhandle Inn may be the first building that Rittenberry designed in the Pueblo style, because Thompson sent him to Santa Fe to look at examples of it.<sup>38</sup> In 1925, Rittenberry employed this style on a much smaller scale, designing a private residence (3323 W. Tenth Amarillo, Texas) for philanthropist Cal Farley, founder of Boys Ranch in Oldham County.<sup>39</sup> He returned to this style in 1936, designing ten 'student cottages' on the West Texas State Normal College campus in Canyon, Texas, 20 miles south of Amarillo. Known as Pueblo Courts, the structures were sold to individuals in the late 1950s or early 1960s and moved off-campus. Five of these units still exist today in various parts of Canyon.<sup>40</sup> While not the only remaining example of the Pueblo Revival style in the Texas Panhandle region, the Panhandle Inn is the largest and the only commercial structure still extant.

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<sup>33</sup> "Rittenberry Rites Today," *Amarillo Daily News*, June 27, 1964.

<sup>34</sup> Texas Board of Architectural Examiners, personal communication, January 19, 2016.

<sup>35</sup> "Architect is Dead," *Amarillo Globe-Times*, June 26, 1964.

<sup>36</sup> Texas Board of Architectural Examiners, personal communication, January 19, 2016.

<sup>37</sup> "Cal Farley," last modified April 30, 2015, [https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Cal\\_Farley&oldid=660108757](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Cal_Farley&oldid=660108757).

<sup>38</sup> *Panhandle Herald*, October 17, 1924.

<sup>39</sup> Charles H. Page & Associates, *Amarillo Historic Building Survey* (Amarillo, Texas: City of Amarillo, 1981), 133.; "Cal Farley," last modified Mar 02, 2004, accessed June 15, 2016, <https://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=8461859>.

<sup>40</sup> Dr. William Green, personal communication, December 10, 2015.

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### **Ernest O. Thompson (1892–1966)**

A third generation Texan, Ernest O. Thompson was born March 24, 1892, in Alvord.<sup>41</sup> When he was ten, his family moved to Amarillo, where his father operated a drug store. He graduated from Amarillo High School, attended Virginia Military Institute, and earned a law degree from the University of Texas in 1917. During World War I he obtained a battlefield promotion to lieutenant colonel at age twenty-six. Thompson's return to Amarillo coincided with the growth of the Panhandle oil boom in the 1920s.

He practiced law and owned the Amarillo and Herring hotels. He built the first multi-story office building in Amarillo, called the Amarillo Building, and financed the Panhandle Inn.<sup>42</sup> He was among the organizers of the American Legion in 1919.<sup>43</sup> In 1936 he was named a colonel of the Texas National Guard and became its commanding general in 1949. Thompson married twice. In 1924 he married May Peterson, a Metropolitan Opera star. After her death in October 7, 1952 of a cerebral hemorrhage, he married Myda "May" Bivins, widow of Miles Bivins, a prominent Amarillo cattleman.<sup>44</sup> Thompson was elected mayor of Amarillo in 1928 and was reelected in 1930. His crusading platform advocated cutting utility rates. He also launched a major capital improvements campaign.

In 1932, Thompson was appointed to the three-member railroad commission, which was charged with regulating the state's oil and gas industry, including oil and gas production, oil pipelines, and natural gas delivery systems. It was a time of crisis due to over-production and chaotic price drops in the gigantic East Texas oilfield. He averted the destruction of the commission by the federal government twice and by the state government once, working during the 1930s to enhance the credibility of the commission and to establish order in the industry.<sup>45</sup> He served on the Texas Railroad Commission for 32 years.<sup>46</sup> Under Thompson's guidance, the commission developed measures known as *prorating* that enabled major oil companies to stabilize prices by putting brakes on production while conserving the state's oil reserves. At the same time, the commission mollified the many independent producers by allowing narrow spacing of wells and per-well prorating allocations. Thompson's taming of the Texas oil industry, while controversial in some respects, enhanced his reputation as an authority on the petroleum industry at large. While continuing to serve as a state commissioner, he worked to establish the Interstate Oil Compact, serving three terms as chairman of the group. Having long opposed nationalization of the petroleum industry, he was one of the first to warn the industry against reliance on imports in time of war. In 1937, President Roosevelt tapped him to attend the World Petroleum Conference in Paris, France.<sup>47</sup> During World War II, Thompson returned to Texas on presidential order to ensure oil supplies for Allied forces. In a speech in Wichita Falls, [he] said "There is nothing more important to mankind than the conservation of soil, water and oil, except the salvation of his own soul."<sup>48</sup> In 1951, Thompson received the Gold Medal for Distinguished Achievement from the American Petroleum Institute. In 1957, U.S. House Speaker Sam Rayburn told a Senate committee investigating a then current shortage of American oil production that, "in my humble opinion, the general knows more about oil than any

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<sup>41</sup> George N. Green, "Thompson, Ernest Othmer." *Handbook of Texas Online*, last modified on June 15, 2010, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fth18>.

<sup>42</sup> Greg Rohloff, "History Makers: Gen. Ernest O. Thompson," *Amarillo Globe-News*, May 19, 2000, accessed October 26, 2015, [http://amarillo.com/stories/051900/his\\_thompstone.html#.V63PpaKjBC8](http://amarillo.com/stories/051900/his_thompstone.html#.V63PpaKjBC8).

<sup>43</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>44</sup> Texas State Board of Health, "Standard Certificate of Death: May Peterson Thompson," *Bureau of Vital Statistics*, October 7, 1952, accessed July 27, 2016.

<sup>45</sup> George N. Green, "Thompson, Ernest Othmer." *Handbook of Texas Online*, last modified on June 15, 2010, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fth18>.

<sup>46</sup> H. Allen Anderson, "Borger, TX," *Handbook of Texas Online*, June 12, 2010, accessed July 26, 2016, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/heh10>.

<sup>47</sup> Greg Rohloff, "History Makers: Gen. Ernest O. Thompson," *Amarillo Globe-News*, May 19, 2000, accessed October 26, 2015, [http://amarillo.com/stories/051900/his\\_thompstone.html#.V63PpaKjBC8](http://amarillo.com/stories/051900/his_thompstone.html#.V63PpaKjBC8).

<sup>48</sup> James A. Clark, *Three Stars for the Colonel* (New York: Random House, 1954), 244.

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[other] man in the world.”<sup>49</sup> The *Amarillo Globe-News* included Thompson among the “100 Most Influential People of the High Plains.”<sup>50</sup> He died in Amarillo in 1966 and is interred in the Texas State Cemetery in Austin.<sup>51</sup>

### **The Panhandle Inn (1925–1970)**

The intentions of the Panhandle hotel advocacy group and Col. Thompson were evidently to create something more than just another hotel:

The Panhandle Inn will be just like the Amarillo in the way of a meeting place for Panhandle, and Col. Thompson wants every person in Panhandle to feel that the Inn is their Hotel. We are all earnestly invited to make it our meeting place and the Herald believes that our people will embrace this opportunity and invitation to make the Inn their Hotel.<sup>52</sup>

Under Thompson’s supervision, the Panhandle Inn exceeded the goals of the business community and did indeed become “Panhandle’s Meeting Place.” People came from near and far to conduct business in the hotel, and millions of dollars’ worth of oil, gas, and cattle were bought and sold in the hotel lobby. The Panhandle Inn opened for business at just the right time, given the explosive growth in all aspects of energy-related activities: oil and gas wells, associated supply companies, processing plants, and transportation infrastructure. The economic stimulus and diversity provided by oil and gas-related industries actually resulted in an increase in population in oil counties such as Carson during the Great Depression and Dust Bowl days, in contrast to the adverse effects experienced in counties heavily or solely dependent on agriculture.<sup>53</sup>

In addition to the oil and gas boom, the other driving force behind the establishment of the Panhandle Inn was transportation. The growth in freight and passenger service on the Santa Fe main line in general and at Panhandle, Texas in particular necessitated more lodging and other visitor services. U.S. Highway 60, running parallel to the Santa Fe tracks, was planned in 1925 and completed in 1926.<sup>54</sup> It provided another connection with the growing metropolis of Amarillo and beyond. By 1938, Panhandle Trailways Bus and Panhandle Motor Coaches both maintained offices in the Inn. Trailways remained at the Inn until the early 1950s.<sup>55</sup>

A post office was added in 1927, which reinforced the Inn as the center of community life. The Panhandle Inn quickly became the social center of the community as well. The Rotary Club, Lions Club, Chamber of Commerce, Junior Chamber of Commerce, and Friday Bridge Club met regularly at the Inn. There were occasional meetings by such diverse groups as the Mothers’ Self Culture Club, Methodist Women’s’ Missionary Society, Eastern Star Rainbow Girls, Recreational Association, and Farm Loan Association. Removing the furniture converted the dining room into a ballroom for dances, weddings, commercial business, personal parties, and President Roosevelt’s birthday ball in 1940.<sup>56</sup> The retail nature of the ground floor continued over the years. In 1950, the ground floor was occupied by the businesses such as a

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<sup>49</sup> "OIL: Not so Villainous," *Time*, February 25, 1957.

<sup>50</sup> Greg Rohloff, "History Makers: Gen. Ernest O. Thompson," *Amarillo Globe-News*, May 19, 2000, accessed October 26, 2015, [http://amarillo.com/stories/051900/his\\_thompstone.html#.V63PpaKjBC8](http://amarillo.com/stories/051900/his_thompstone.html#.V63PpaKjBC8).

<sup>51</sup> "Ernest Othmer Thompson," *Find a Grave*, last modified Jan 20, 2013, <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=103847650>.

<sup>52</sup> *Panhandle Herald*, December 12, 1924.

<sup>53</sup> Donald R. Abbe, "Carson County," *Handbook of Texas Online*. Last modified on June 12, 2010, accessed October 26, 2015. <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hcc06>.

<sup>54</sup> *Panhandle Herald*, June 12, 1925.

<sup>55</sup> Howard Lane, personal communication, January 25, 2016.

<sup>56</sup> *Panhandle Herald*, various editions, 1925-1950.; Jo S. Randel, *A Time to Purpose, a Chronicle of Carson County* (Hereford, Texas: Pioneer Publishers), various references throughout four volumes.

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barber shop, coffee shop, drugstore, chiropractor's office, a beauty shop, U.S. Post Office, a doctor's office, and the Trailways bus station.<sup>57</sup> The original suite of businesses remained essentially intact through the 1950s as evidenced by advertisements in the local newspaper. The second floor, however, soon became separated into transient hotel rooms lining the north-south corridor and residential apartments in the three east-west wings. In 1968, several rooms were remodeled into apartments. This was accomplished by removing the walls between the rooms that were adjacent to the existing bathrooms in the southeast and the southwest corners and the two bathrooms on the north corridor.<sup>58</sup> By the mid-1950s, the post office, bus station, café, and drugstore began to vacate the Panhandle Inn.<sup>59</sup> The Inn ceased to be "Panhandle's Meeting Place" due to a combination of other social venues becoming more popular and several community foci in the Inn moving elsewhere. The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) hall opened in 1940, and quickly became the preferred venue for community meetings and social activities. The last doctor to practice in the Inn moved out in 1952. Finally, the post office moved out in 1953,<sup>60</sup> as did the Trailways passenger and freight office.<sup>61</sup> The retail establishments on the ground floor were no more or less important than any others in the city, and the residential apartments on the second floor were no different than other local small hotels and rooming houses.

Ownership of the entire building also changed a number of times during its forty-five years of operation. Thompson and the Panhandle Inn Company sold the property to F.A. Paul in 1932 when the former was appointed to the Texas Railroad Commission and moved to Austin.<sup>62</sup> Paul's father, the prominent Panhandle banker, Judge J.C. Paul, was living in the Panhandle Inn when he passed away in 1935. Following the deal of F.A. Paul, the Inn was leased by the U.S. Postal Service until August 1942 when it was acquired by John E. Hill who transferred title to the Yates Hotel Company eight days later.<sup>63</sup> Records indicate that in 1950, Hill sold the Inn to the Panhandle Securities Corporation; it was then sold to Harold P. Smith in 1968 whose family operated a paint store, a carpet store, and a model shop/slot car store on the ground level.<sup>64</sup> In 2000, Harold and Douglas S. Smith sold the Inn to Panhandle Portables. In 2010, the property was obtained by the Panhandle Inn Foundation, a group with the expressed goal of restoring and preserving the Inn.

### **The Inn is Closed (1970–present)**

For three decades the Panhandle Inn sat empty, susceptible to decay, deterioration, and vandalism. Interior water damage became more evident as the roof began to leak and many windows and doors were breached. A new beginning came in 2000, when Larry and Deborah Summers of Borger, Texas, purchased the property from the Smith brothers.<sup>65</sup> Both Summers have an interest in historic preservation, which culminated in the purchase of the Panhandle Inn by their company, Panhandle Portables. After a decade of attempted restoration, the couple established the Panhandle Inn

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<sup>57</sup> Gary Beddingfield, Lana Boland, Dorothy Broadaway, Billy Bob Brown, Arthur Jewett, Phyllis Prendergast, Dale Roselius, and Billie Rae Williams, personal communications, August 09, 2016

<sup>58</sup> Art Jewett, Gary Beddingfield, and Dale Roselius, personal communication, August 09, 2016.

<sup>59</sup> Gary Beddingfield, Lana Boland, Dorothy Broadaway, Billy Bob Brown, Arthur Jewett, Phyllis Prendergast, Dale Roselius, and Billie Rae Williams, personal communications, August 09, 2016

<sup>60</sup> Lease between F.F. Ferrell and the U.S. Government, 18 December, 1953, Carson County Clerk's Office, Carson County, Texas. Deed Records, vol. 96, p. 235.

<sup>61</sup> Howard Lane, personal communication, January 25, 2016.

<sup>62</sup> Deed of Sale from Panhandle Inn Company to F.A. Paul, 03 June, 1932, Carson County, Texas, Deed Records, vol. 56, page 130. County Clerk's Office, Panhandle, Texas.

<sup>63</sup> Deed of Sale from Panhandle Portables to Panhandle Inn Foundation, September 29, 2010, Carson County, Texas, Deed Records, vol. 528, page 33. County Clerk's Office, Panhandle, Texas.

<sup>64</sup> Warranty deed from Panhandle Inn Corporation to Harold P. Smith, October 1, 1968, Carson County Clerk's Office, Carson County, Panhandle, Texas, Deed Records, vol.143, p. 409.

<sup>65</sup> Warranty deed from Douglas S. Smith and Harold P. Smith to Panhandle Portables, March 14, 2000, Carson County, Texas, Deed Records, vol. 303, page 134. County Clerk's Office, Panhandle, Texas.

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Foundation in 2010 and secured a 501(c)(3) non-profit status.<sup>66</sup> The property was deeded to the Panhandle Inn Foundation in 2011.<sup>67</sup> Community interest and support for the restoration of the Panhandle Inn manifests itself in many ways. In addition to financial support, junior and senior high school students have participated in cleanup activities on many occasions. Dramatic performances, art exhibits, paranormal investigations, and Homecoming Open Houses are just a few of the varied and imaginative ways the board has engaged all ages and constituencies in the community.<sup>68</sup> Preservation Texas recognized the Panhandle Inn by placing it on its Most Endangered Historic Places in Texas list in 2011.<sup>69</sup>

Conclusion

The Panhandle Inn represents an important period of growth for the City of Panhandle and for the entire Texas Panhandle region during the Panhandle Oil and Gas Field boom. Although the growth of the city was only temporary, the economy of the region has continued to benefit from the energy industry. The Inn is also tied to the development of the regional transportation infrastructure, including railroads, highways, and public transportation. It was conceived and funded by Ernest O. Thompson in 1924, who went on to become an important personage in the region as Mayor of Amarillo, in the state as a Texas Railroad Commissioner, and as an advisor and expert in the oil industry at the national level. Built by noted Amarillo architect E.F. Rittenberry, the Panhandle Inn is one of the few remaining examples of the Pueblo Revival architectural style, and the only example of commercial architecture in this style, in the entire Texas Panhandle region.

The Panhandle Inn is nominated for listing on the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criterion A for Commerce as a historically important building in the economic, as well as, the civic and social life of Panhandle. It is also nominated under Criterion C for Architecture as one of the few remaining examples of the Pueblo Revival style in the Texas Panhandle region and the only large commercial building constructed in this style. Although not nominated under Criterion B, the peripheral association of the Panhandle Inn with Ernest O. Thompson, a person of local, regional, state, and national significance, adds another dimension to the merit of this nomination.

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<sup>66</sup> Letter of exemption from Internal Revenue Service to Panhandle Inn Foundation, October 18, 2010.

<sup>67</sup> Warranty deed from Panhandle Portables to Panhandle Inn Foundation, 22 October, 2010, Carson County, Texas, Deed Records, vol. 528, page 33. County Clerk's Office, Panhandle, Texas.

<sup>68</sup> <http://www.panhandleinn.org/>.

<sup>69</sup> Preservation Texas, "Panhandle Inn: 301 Main St Panhandle, TX 79068," *Most Endangered Places*, accessed June 13, 2016, <http://www.preservationtexas.org/2012-texas-most-endangered-places/endangered/panhandle-inn/>.

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Gary Beddingfield, Lana Boland, Dorothy Broadaway, Billy Bob Brown, Arthur Jewett, Phyllis Prendergast, Dale Roselius, and Billie Rae Williams, August 09, 2016.

Texas Board of Architectural Examiners, January 19, 2016

Deborah Summers, December 02, 2015.

Dr. William Green, December 10, 2015.

Howard Lane, January 25, 2016

Other Information

Feasibility plans and elevations drawn by Charles A. Lynch, AIA, Amarillo, Texas.

Historic photographs in the possession of the Panhandle Inn Foundation, Panhandle, Texas.

Ten original architectural drawings of the Panhandle Inn by E.F. Rittenberry, dated August 29, 1924. Currently held in the Archives, Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum, Canyon, Texas.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. January, 1922, sheet 3.

Panhandle Inn, Panhandle, Carson County, Texas

Carson County, Texas

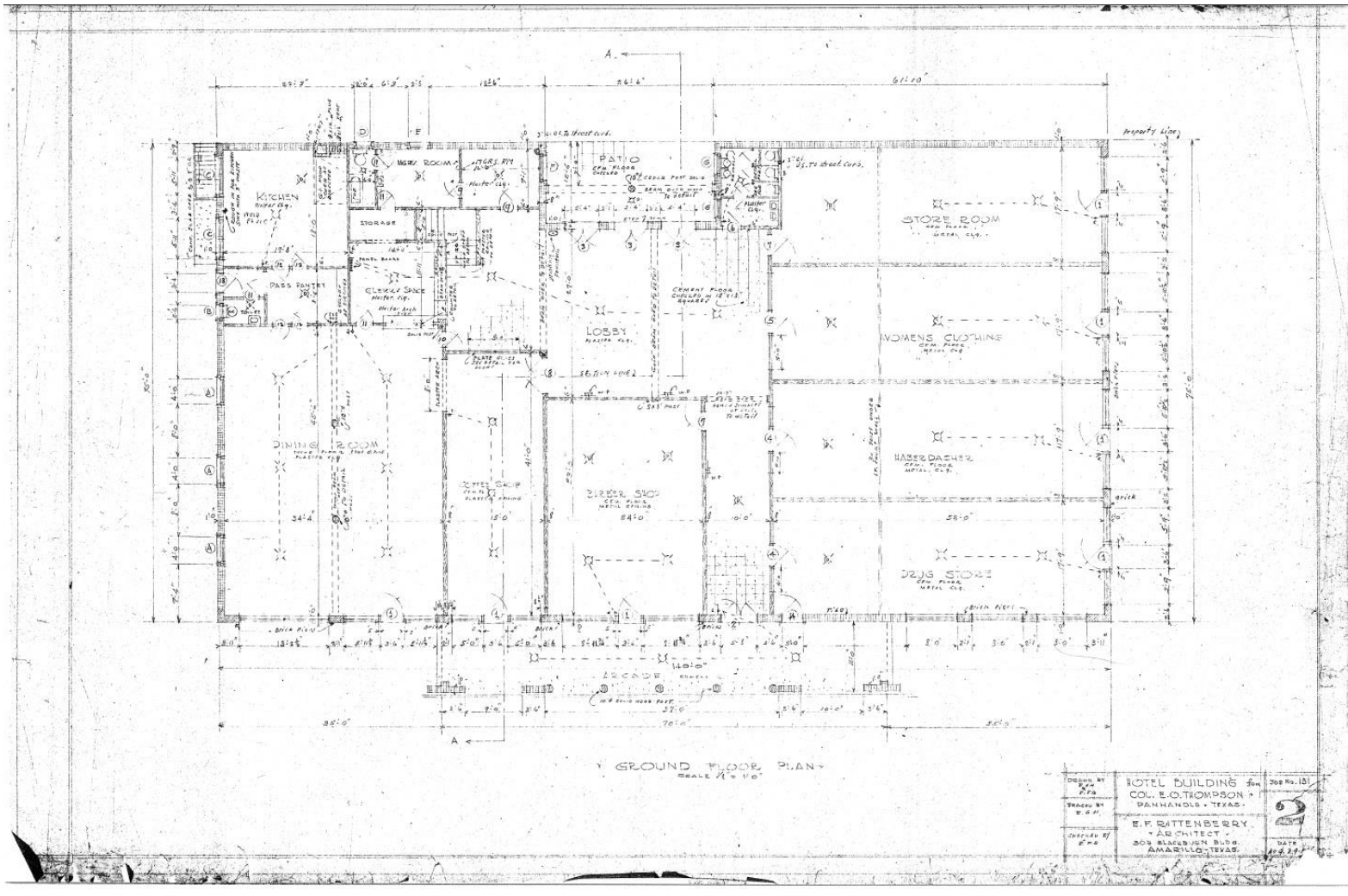


Panhandle Inn  
Panhandle, Hutchinson County, Texas  
Lat: N 35.3436667  
Lon: W -101.3799083



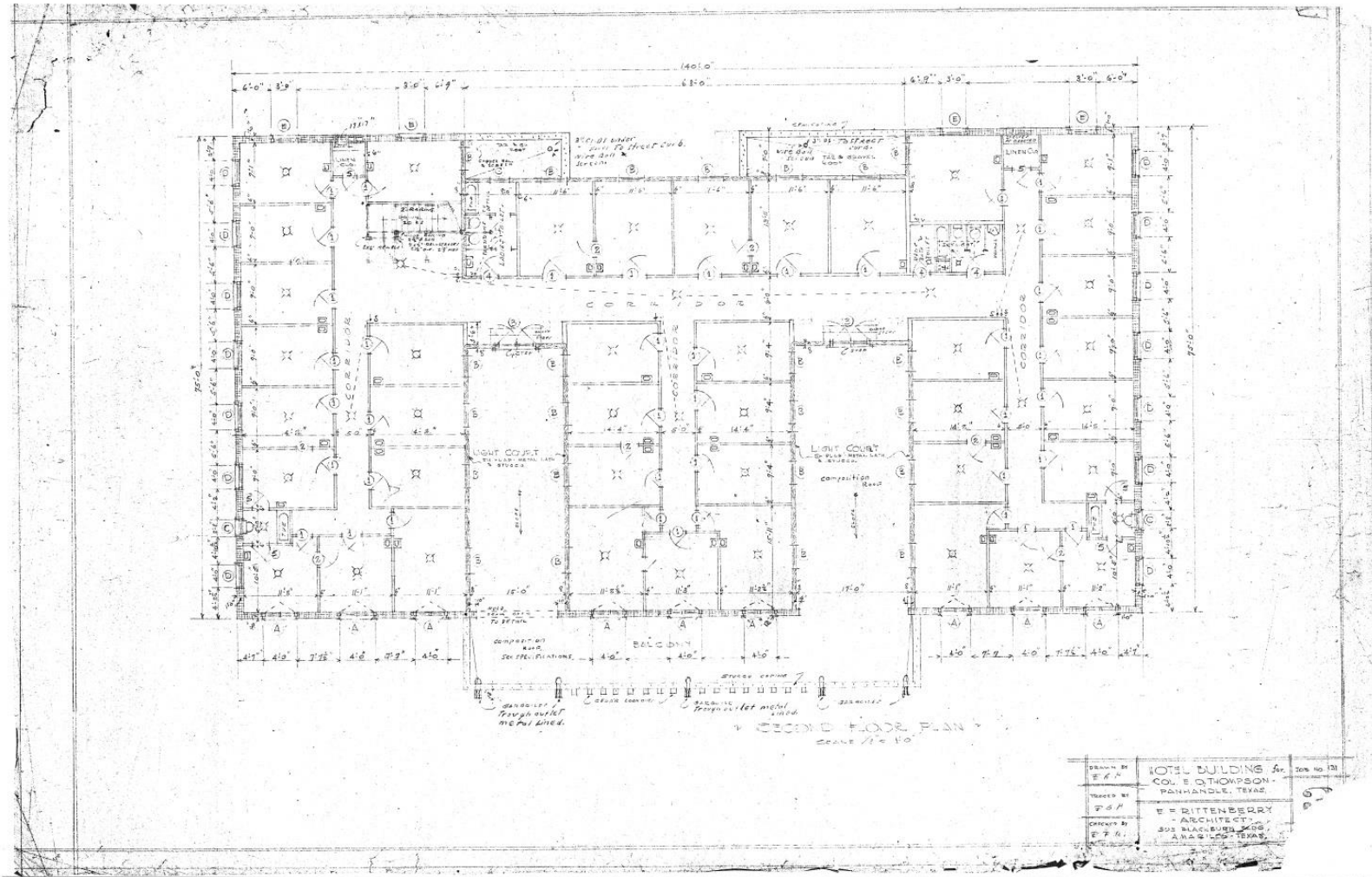
Panhandle Inn, Panhandle, Carson County, Texas

**Figure 1:** Original Drawings, *Ground Floor Plan*, E.F. Rittenberry, August 29, 1924.  
Source: Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum, Canyon, Texas.



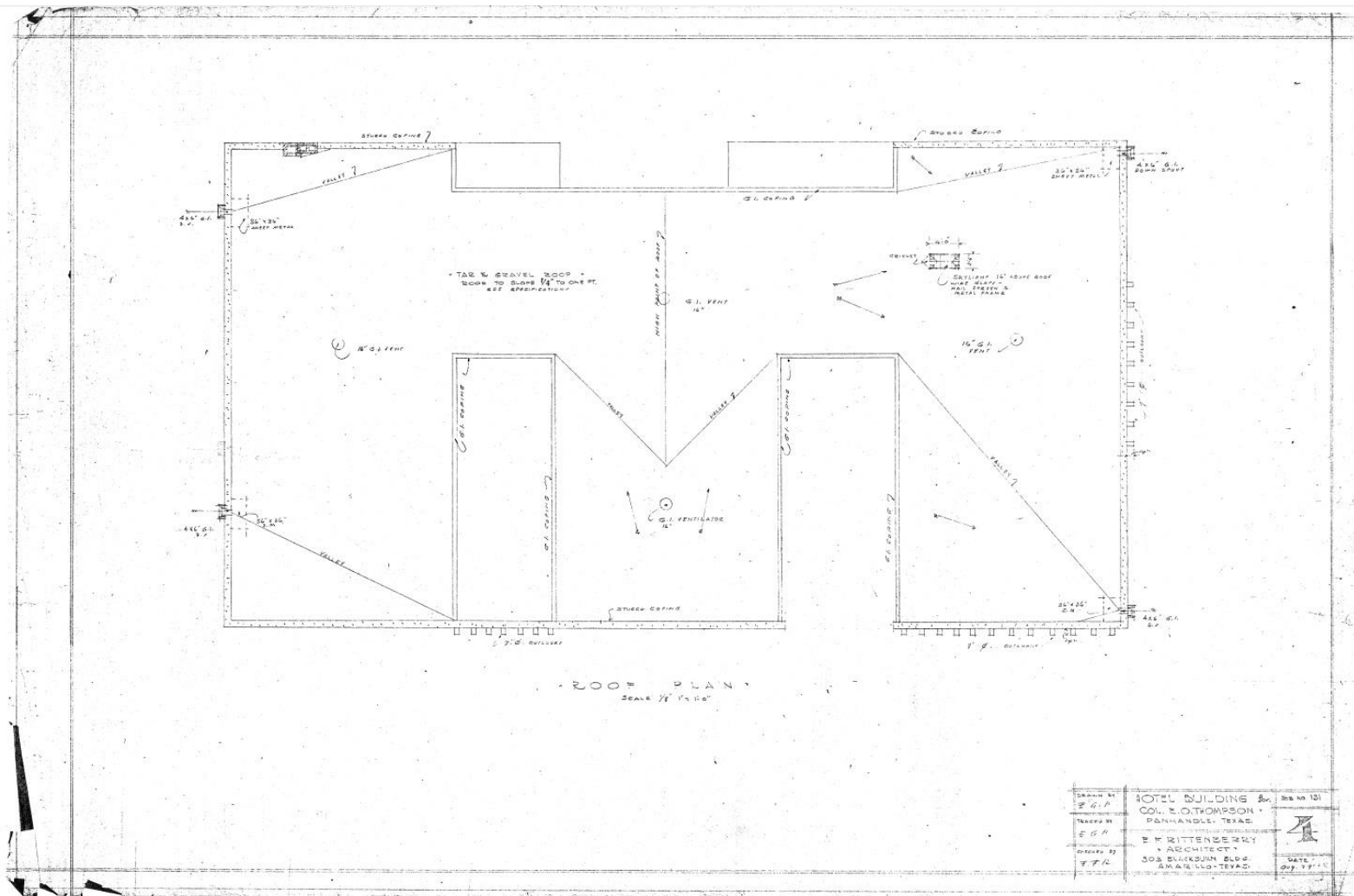
Panhandle Inn, Panhandle, Carson County, Texas

**Figure 2:** Original Drawings, *Second Floor Plan*, E.F. Rittenberry, August 29, 1924.  
Source: Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum, Canyon, Texas.



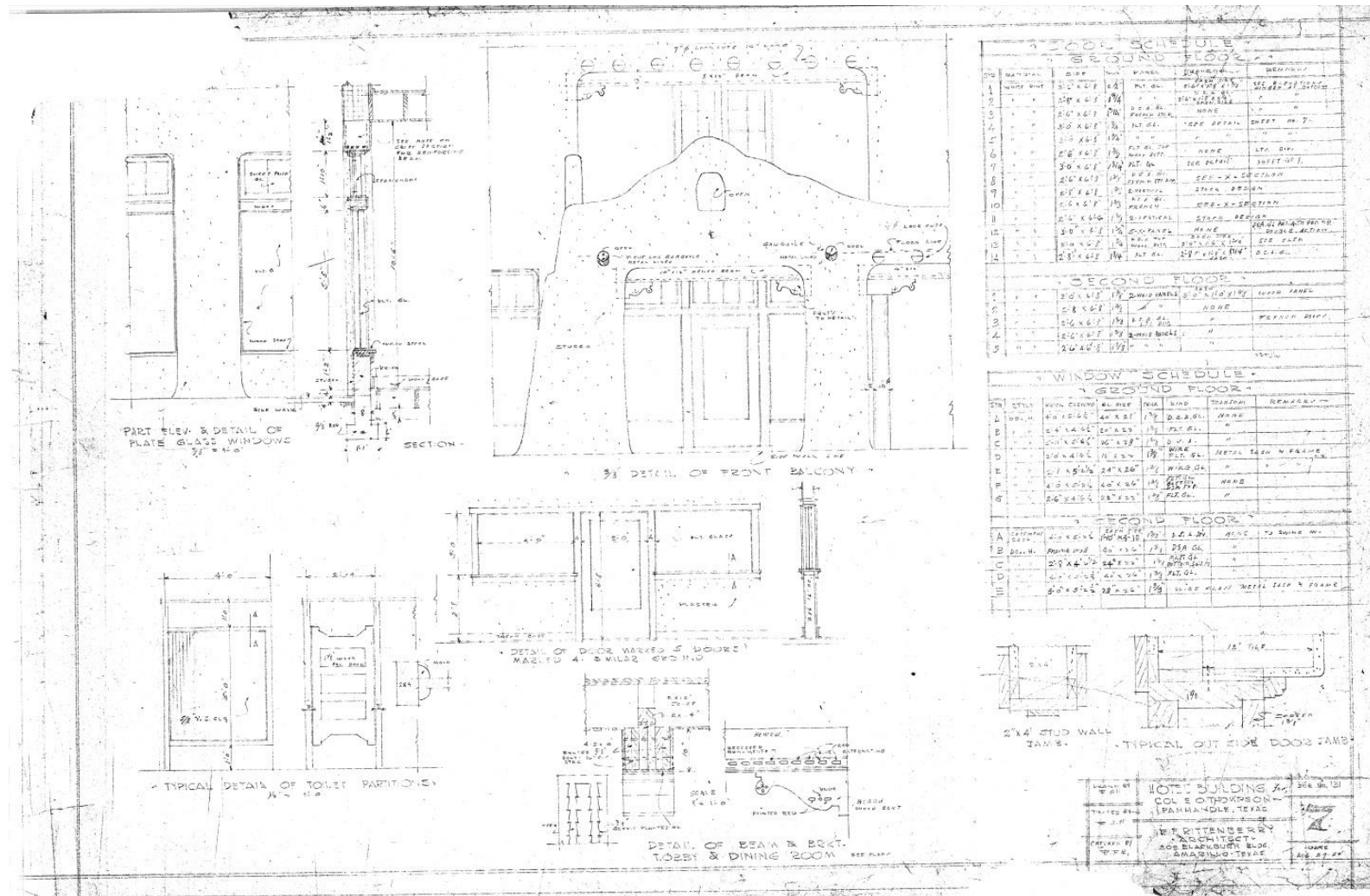
Panhandle Inn, Panhandle, Carson County, Texas

**Figure 3:** Original Drawings, *Roof Plan*, E.F. Rittenberry, August 29, 1924.  
Source: Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum, Canyon, Texas.



Panhandle Inn, Panhandle, Carson County, Texas

**Figure 4:** Original Drawings, *Lobby and Dining Room*, E.F. Rittenberry, August 29, 1924.  
 Source: Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum, Canyon, Texas.



Panhandle Inn, Panhandle, Carson County, Texas

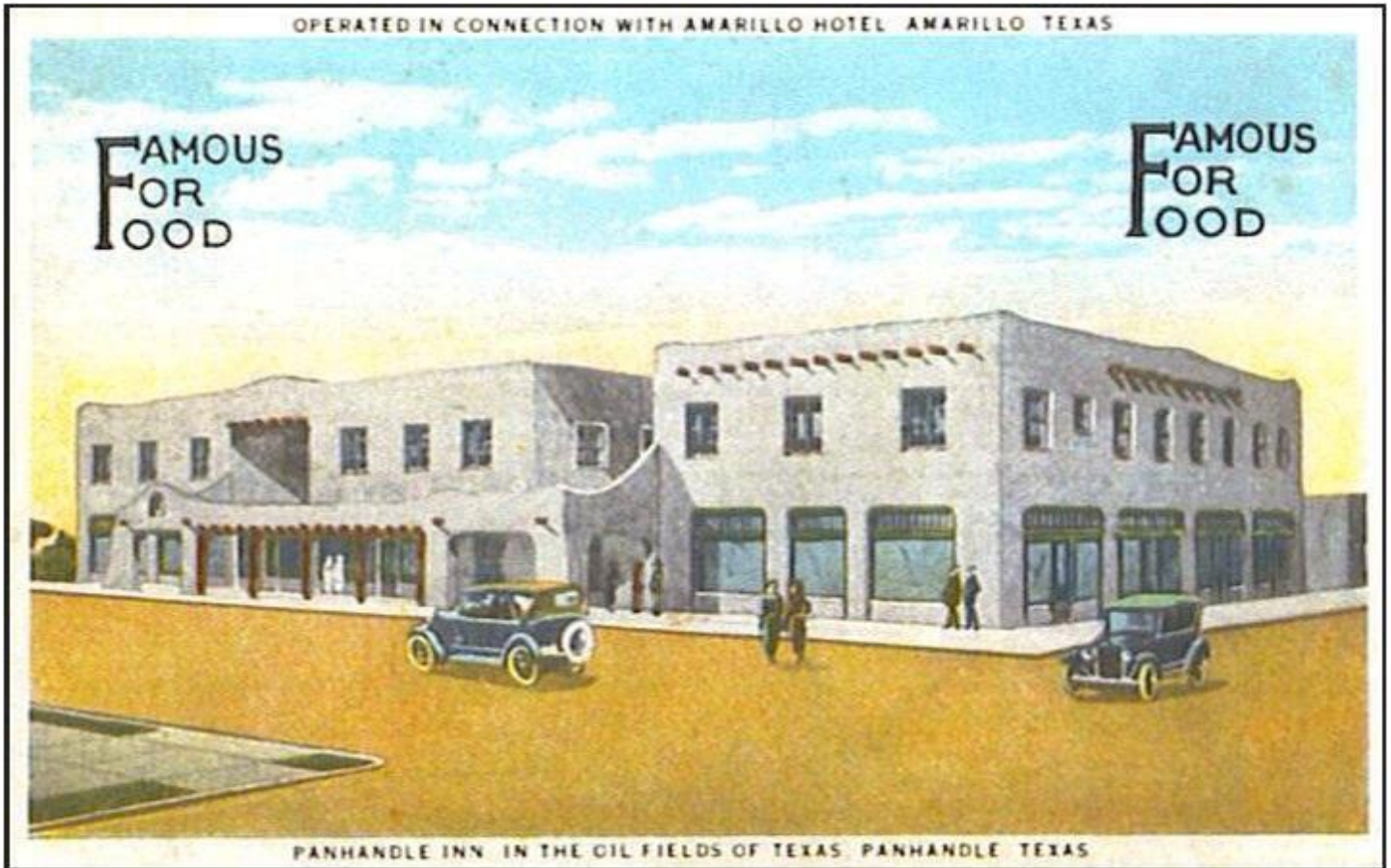
**Figure 5:** Original Drawings, *South Front Elevation*, E.F. Rittenberry, August 29, 1924.  
Sources: the Archives, Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum, Canyon, Texas.



Panhandle Inn, Panhandle, Carson County, Texas

**Figure 6:** Panhandle Inn Postcard, ca. 1920s.

Source: Permanent Collections (Archives) of the Carson County Square House Museum, Panhandle, Texas. Artist unknown.



Panhandle Inn, Panhandle, Carson County, Texas

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**Figure 7:** Panhandle Rotary Club, n.d.  
Source: Glenna McLeod, personal collection.



Panhandle Inn, Panhandle, Carson County, Texas

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**Figure 8:** Panhandle Inn, Main Street Parade, ca. 1970s.  
Source: Glenna McLeod, personal collection.



Panhandle Inn, Panhandle, Carson County, Texas

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**Photo 1:** East elevation. Camera facing west.



Panhandle Inn, Panhandle, Carson County, Texas

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**Photo 2:** South elevation. Camera facing north.



Panhandle Inn, Panhandle, Carson County, Texas

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**Photo 3:** South and east elevation. Camera facing northwest.  
Photograph taken by Paul Katz November 13, 2016.



Panhandle Inn, Panhandle, Carson County, Texas

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**Photo 4:** North elevation. Camera facing south.



Panhandle Inn, Panhandle, Carson County, Texas

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**Photo 5:** North elevation. Patio area on the north side. Camera facing south.



Panhandle Inn, Panhandle, Carson County, Texas

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**Photo 6:** West elevation. Camera facing east.



Panhandle Inn, Panhandle, Carson County, Texas

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**Photo 7:** Ballroom. Camera facing north.



Panhandle Inn, Panhandle, Carson County, Texas

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**Photo 8:** Pressed metal ceiling in a retail space.



Panhandle Inn, Panhandle, Carson County, Texas

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**Photo 9:** Carved beam and column capital.



Panhandle Inn, Panhandle, Carson County, Texas

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**Photo 10:** Second floor; landing. Camera facing north.



Panhandle Inn, Panhandle, Carson County, Texas

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**Photo 11:** Second floor; East-west corridor. Camera facing east.



Panhandle Inn, Panhandle, Carson County, Texas

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**Photo 12:** Second floor; West bay between two arms of E-plan. Camera facing south.



Panhandle Inn, Panhandle, Carson County, Texas

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**Photo 13:** Second floor; double doors opening onto the east bay. Camera facing south.



Panhandle Inn, Panhandle, Carson County, Texas

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**Photo 14:** Second floor; private bathroom in the southwest corner room. Camera facing south.



Panhandle Inn, Panhandle, Carson County, Texas

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**Photo 15:** Second floor; decorated light fixture.

