OMB NO. 1024-0018
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NPS Form 10-900
(7-81)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received JUL 29 1983
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Durlin Hotel

and/or common Oatman Hotel

2. Location

street & number Main Street (U.S. Highway 66) N/A not for publication

city, town Oatman N/A vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

state Arizona code 04 county Mohave code 015

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	X occupied	___ agriculture	X museum
X building(s)	X private	___ unoccupied	X commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	___ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	N/A being considered	X yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
		___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Billie Jo Trammell

street & number P.O. Box 420

city, town Oatman N/A vicinity of state Arizona

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Mohave County Courthouse

street & number 4th and Spring

city, town Kingman state Arizona

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes X no

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	_X_ unaltered	_X_ original site
_X_ good	___ ruins	___ altered	___ moved date _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

SUMMARY/CONTEXT:

The Durlin/Oatman Hotel is a two story structure located on U.S. Highway 66 facing southwest in the historic commercial core of Oatman. This former mining town is nestled on the arid western slope of the Black Mountains approximately thirteen miles east of the Colorado River. Buildings on Main Street are primarily one and one-and-one-half story, wood frame commercial structures sharing a common setback. The town's popular image as a ghost town is strengthened by a population of tame burros, descendants of the miners' "beasts of burden", that wander freely through the town.

EXTERIOR:

The Durlin/Oatman Hotel is architecturally characterized as a vernacular, poured adobe conglomerate structure featuring a symmetrical four-bay-wide arcade reminiscent of the Spanish Colonial Revival style. The building measures approximately 47 feet in width and 66 feet in depth. Small portions of the interior plaster are missing, revealing the conglomerate adobe core of the bearing walls.

The arcade, constructed of frame and stucco, is integral with the projecting second floor above and is supported by five square concrete columns resting on battered concrete bases.

The first floor features a raised, recessed entry framed by a transom above and paired 4-light wood casement windows on each side. Double-hung wood frame windows are situated on either side of the central entry unit. The second level of the facade is punctuated by four one-over-one light double-hung windows encased, as all windows in the hotel are, in original wooden frames.

The side elevations are virtually contiguous with adjacent structures and feature similar window units on each level. The rear of the hotel is built into a steep slope of one of the foothills which frame the northeastern periphery of the town. A wood stairway of recent construction provides access to the second floor. The building sits on a rough cut stone foundation.

All exterior wall surfaces are finished with a textured stucco. The building is topped by a shallow hip roof finished with corrugated metal panels. Gablet ventilators are situated at the front and rear of the ridgeline.

INTERIOR:

Three concrete steps lead from the sidewalk into the hotel lobby. The first floor consists of the lobby, a bar, and seven guest rooms which line the periphery of the lobby. Some of the rooms have individual showers and closets, but all share common bathrooms off a small central corridor. Original five panel wood doors, transoms, hardware, and simple moldings are in place throughout. Floors on each level of the building are hardwood. A wide wood stairway with a simple balustrade is situated in the center of the rear lobby wall and leads to the second floor which has fourteen rooms and one small apartment. Each room has one window and a five panel door with a transom above.

(See Continuation Sheet)

The most notable aspect of the second floor is the use of painted corrugated metal panels on all wall and ceiling surfaces. In the corridors a wainscot treatment was achieved by placing the lower panels horizontally and separating these panels from vertical panels above by using a simple chair-rail molding.

In 1980 the second floor was converted into a museum of local history and social culture. Despite this change in use and need for maintenance, the hotel possesses a high level of integrity in its structural systems, floor plan, and finish materials.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	X architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	
___ 1800–1899	X commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ theater
X 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ transportation
		___ invention		___ other (specify)

Specific dates 1924 **Builder/Architect** John Durlin

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

SUMMARY:

The Durlin/Oatman Hotel, constructed in 1924, is significant for its architectural qualities as the only two story, adobe building in Mohave County, Arizona. The building also possesses historical significance as a vestige of Oatman's early twentieth century prominence as a gold mining center.

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT/BACKGROUND:

Beginning during the Territorial Period (1863-1912) and continuing to the present, the mining of precious metals has been a major economic pursuit throughout Arizona. Many cities and towns across the state owe their founding and continued existence to the efforts of individual entrepreneurs and America's ever increasing reliance upon mineral products.

Oatman's origins date back to 1901-02 when gold was discovered in the Vivian Ledge on the southwestern slope of northwestern Arizona's Black Mountains. In 1903 the newly organized Mount Mohave Gold Mining Company consolidated several small individual claims and invested nearly one-half milliondollars in the development of mining facilities. The mining camp at the Vivian site evolved concurrently with this corporate investment and encompassed the usual array of mining camp-related businesses: a depot, a Chamber of Commerce, and, as of 1904, a post office. Unfortunately, after a year's efforts, only 4,500 tons of ore were milled and, due to this poor initial return on its investment, the Mount Mohave Gold Mining Company shut down operations. The future of the village of Oatman hinged on a few small mines that remained, two of which became major producers in the following two years. In 1906 the Tom Reed Gold Mining Company bought the Mount Mohave Company property at a sheriff's foreclosure sale; two years later they tapped what became a $13 million ore body. With the discovery of the Tom Reed gold mine, the Vivian Camp was renamed "Oatman".

Early in 1915 two miners, James L. McIver and George W. Long, invested in claims adjacent to the Tom Reed mine. With backing from Los Angeles-based investors, they formed the United Eastern Mining Company, opened a 465 foot shaft, and, in March 1915, struck a $14 million ore body. By the end of 1920, stockholders of the United Eastern Mining Company profited from nearly $4 million in dividends. This boom generated additional investment in Oatman and established the town as a permanent settlement.

In 1916 the weekly Oatman Miner boasted that within one year the town's population grew from a few hundred to more than 3,500 inhabitants. The population continued to increase and reached a peak of approximately ten thousand in the late 1920's and 1930's.

The town's rapid growth was spearheaded by major national mine operators and speculators. The major promoters included: copper magnate, J. Parks Channing; Leadville, Colorado carbonate king, Seeley W. Mudd; Tonapah, Nevada's W. P. O'Meara; Goldfield, Nevada's R. L. Johns; and Thomas S. Robinson, president of the San Francisco stock exchange.

In 1921 a fire ripped through most of Oatman's wood frame buildings. A rebuilding effort which would extend through the remainder of the decade began immediately after the fire.

(See Continuation Sheet)

Although the United Eastern Company closed in 1924, the Tom Reed mine, the Big Jim mine, and other small mining operations continued production until 1942 when World War II created a demand for the mining of more essential copper and zinc, causing the gold industry to decline.

In 1924, during the major rebuilding of Oatman, John Durlin constructed the present Oatman Hotel. Durlin operated the facility under the name "Durlin Hotel" until 1929 when he sold it to a Mrs. Kenneth St. Charles, who purchased it for her sister. The unexpected death of her sister resulted in the immediate sale of the property to George Rayburn, who died two years later. In March 1932 Bill Everett acquired the hotel and renamed it "Ox Yoke Inn". He leased it to Georgia Brandenburg in 1939, and she operated the hotel until the beginning of World War II. Throughout this period the hotel provided accommodations to miners, and later to the growing number of tourists traveling U.S. Route 66 as the automobile became a major component of Arizona tourism in the 1930's. Located on the western slope of the Black Mountains, Oatman was a popular stopping and refueling point. It is plausible, but undocumented, that "dust bowl" emigrees traveling Route 66 through Oatman en route to California during the 1930's may have utilized the modest facilities of the Oatman Hotel.

In June 1943 the hotel was sold to Lloyd Moss, who operated it until 1967. The property was then sold to Robert Whitaker, who changed the name to "Oatman Hotel". In 1980 current owners, Luther and Billie Jo Trammell, purchased the property. Today the downstairs bar continues to operate, and the second story serves as a local museum.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:

From the 1500's to the early twentieth century, the use of adobe as a building material was common in southern Arizona due to the strong Hispanic heritage throughout the region and the suitability of adobe to the area's arid climate. The use of adobe was less common in the central and northern portions of the state. Relatively few structures were built of adobe in northern Arizona since lumber, brick, and many types of stone were readily available.

In Mohave County, which encompasses much of sparsely populated, northwestern Arizona and the mountainous areas along the Colorado river, adobe buildings of any kind are rare. The Oatman Hotel possesses significance as the only two story adobe structure in Mohave County. The use of adobe as the primary structural material in the construction of the Durlin/Oatman Hotel would have provided a quick and economical means for building a hotel facility soon after the 1921 Oatman fire and was also a practical fireproof material.

Additionally, the use of corrugated metal panels as finish material on the second floor walls and ceilings is also a rare practice. This is significant as it indicates both the historic use of commonly available materials and the Spartan nature of accommodations in an isolated mining community.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE:

The Durlin/Oatman Hotel is historically significant as an intact vestige of Oatman's growth and development as the gold mining center of northern Arizona. Furthermore, the construction of the hotel in 1924 attests to the renewed economic vitality of Oatman following the fire which ravaged the boomtown in 1921.

Since World War II, the mining industry has been replaced by a steadily growing tourist trade due to Oatman's status as a "ghost town" associated with the southwest's historic mining era. The primary structures associated with the community's major mining companies have been dismantled and removed. Also, many of the commercial buildings on Oatman's main street (U.S. Route 66) have been heavily modified or demolished. The Durlin/Oatman Hotel is the only remaining hotel structure of four originally constructed in Oatman and is the major architectural focus of Main Street. As such, it clearly provides a significant visual link with the patrimony of this once bustling community.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less/acre

Quadrangle name Oatman quad

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A	12	738760	3878960	B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 6 & 7, Block 2
Lovins Subdivision

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Bill Perreault, Historian/Registrar and Roger Brevoort, Architectural Historian with information provided by Roman Malach, Mohave County Historian, P.O. Box 390, Kingman, AZ

organization State Historic Preservation Office date May 1983

street & number 1688 West Adams telephone (602) 255-4174

city or town Phoenix state Arizona

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national ___ state X 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 State Historic Preservation Officer date June 29, 1983

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the National Register

[signature] date 8/25/83

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

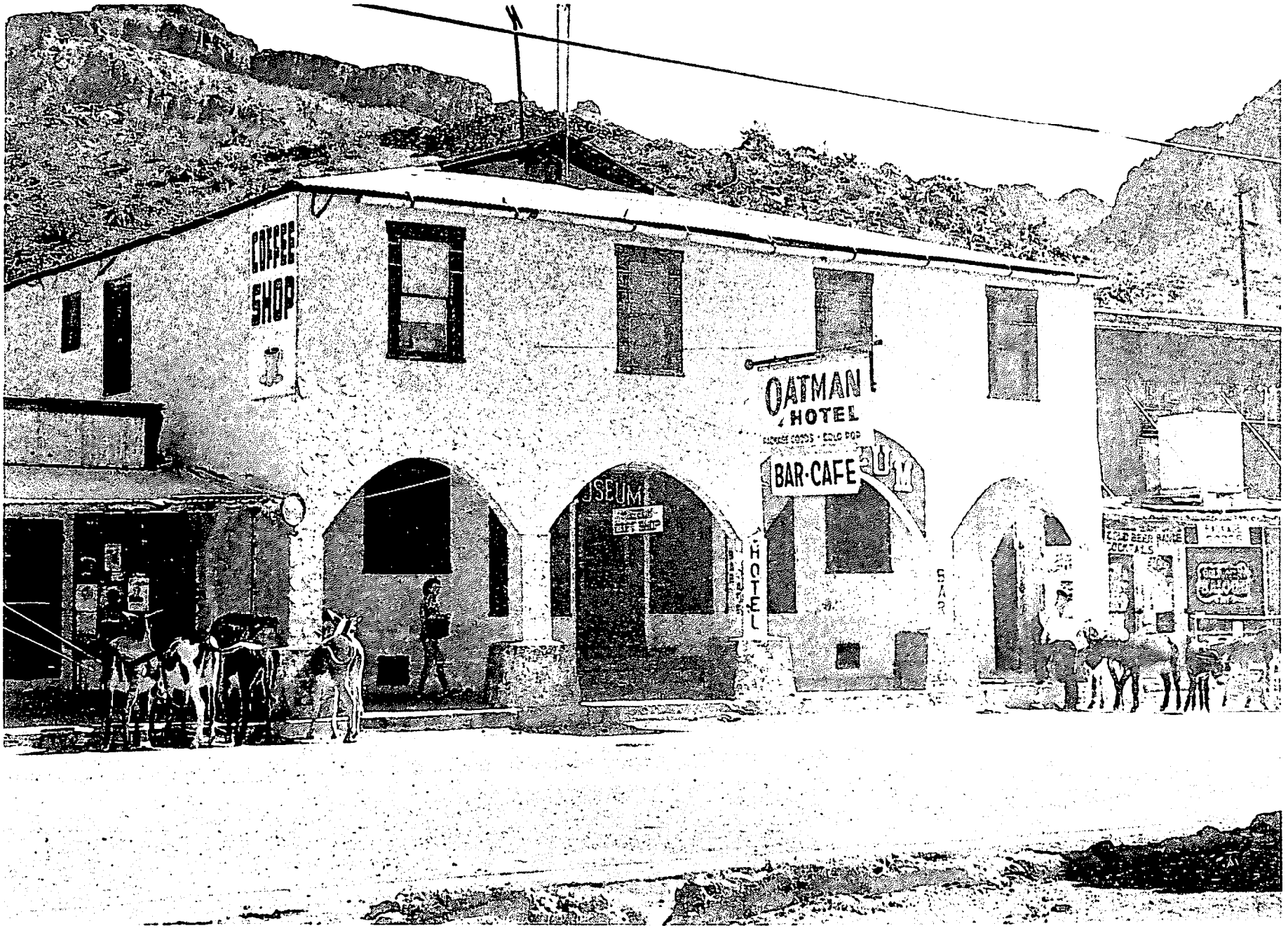

COFFEE SHOP
OATMAN HOTEL
BAR·CAFE
HOTEL

Photo by: Roman Malach

Photo Date: July 1980

Negative filed: Roman Malach
P.O. Box 390
Kingman, AZ 86401

View looking northeast

PHOTO 1 of 4

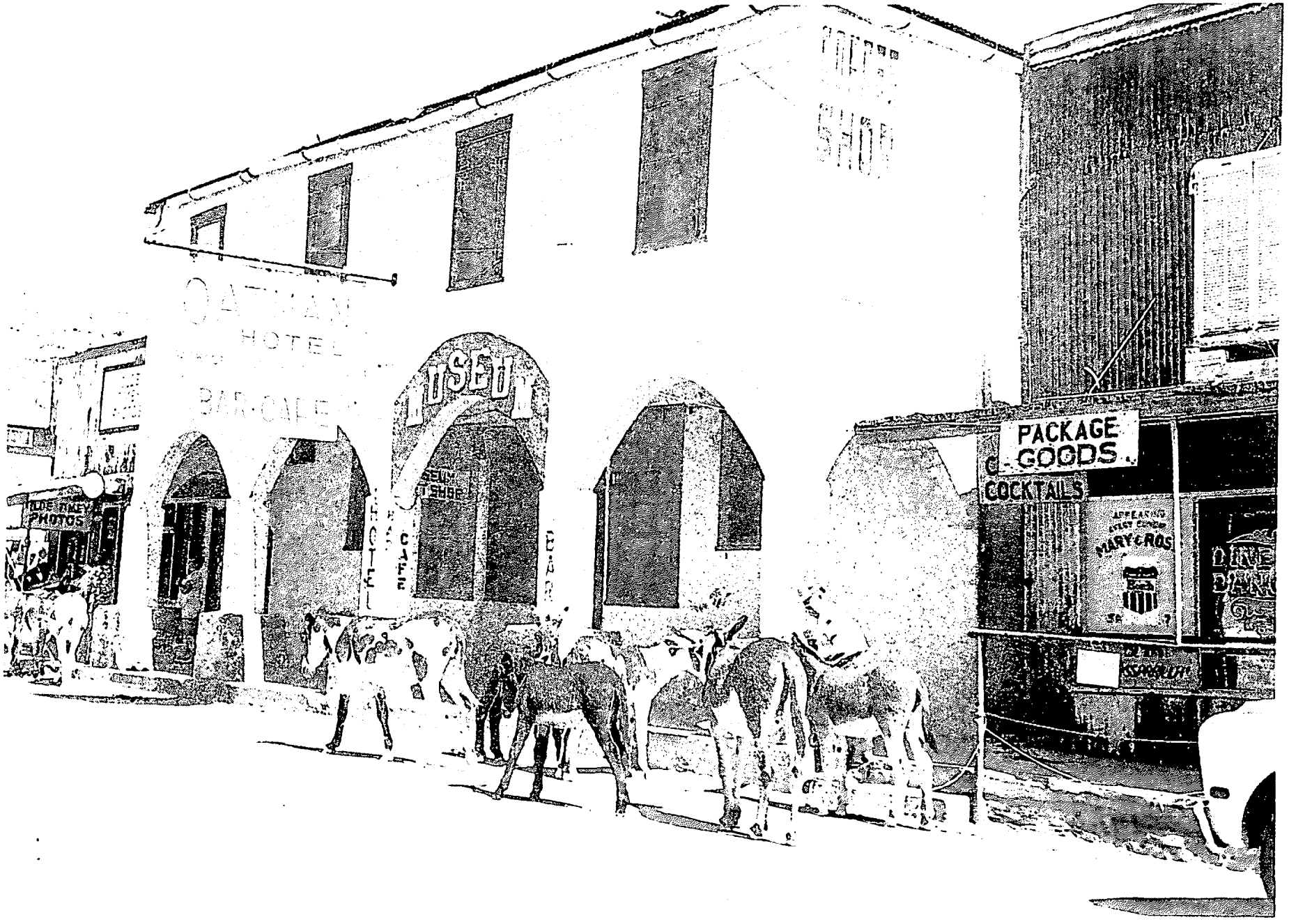
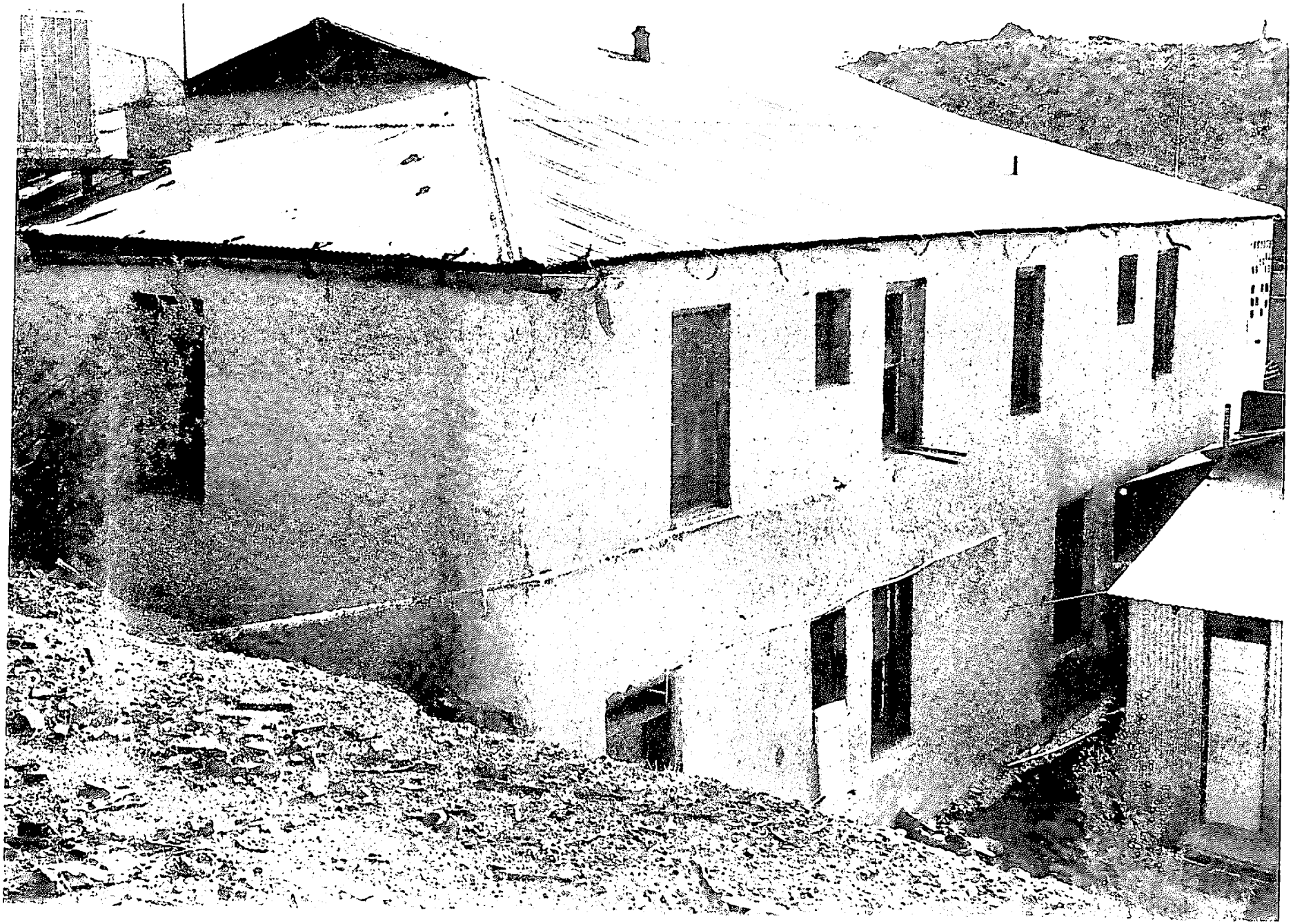

HOTEL
BAR-CAFE
MUSEUM
PHOTOS
PACKAGE
GOODS
COCKTAILS
MARY & ROS

Photo Date: July 1980

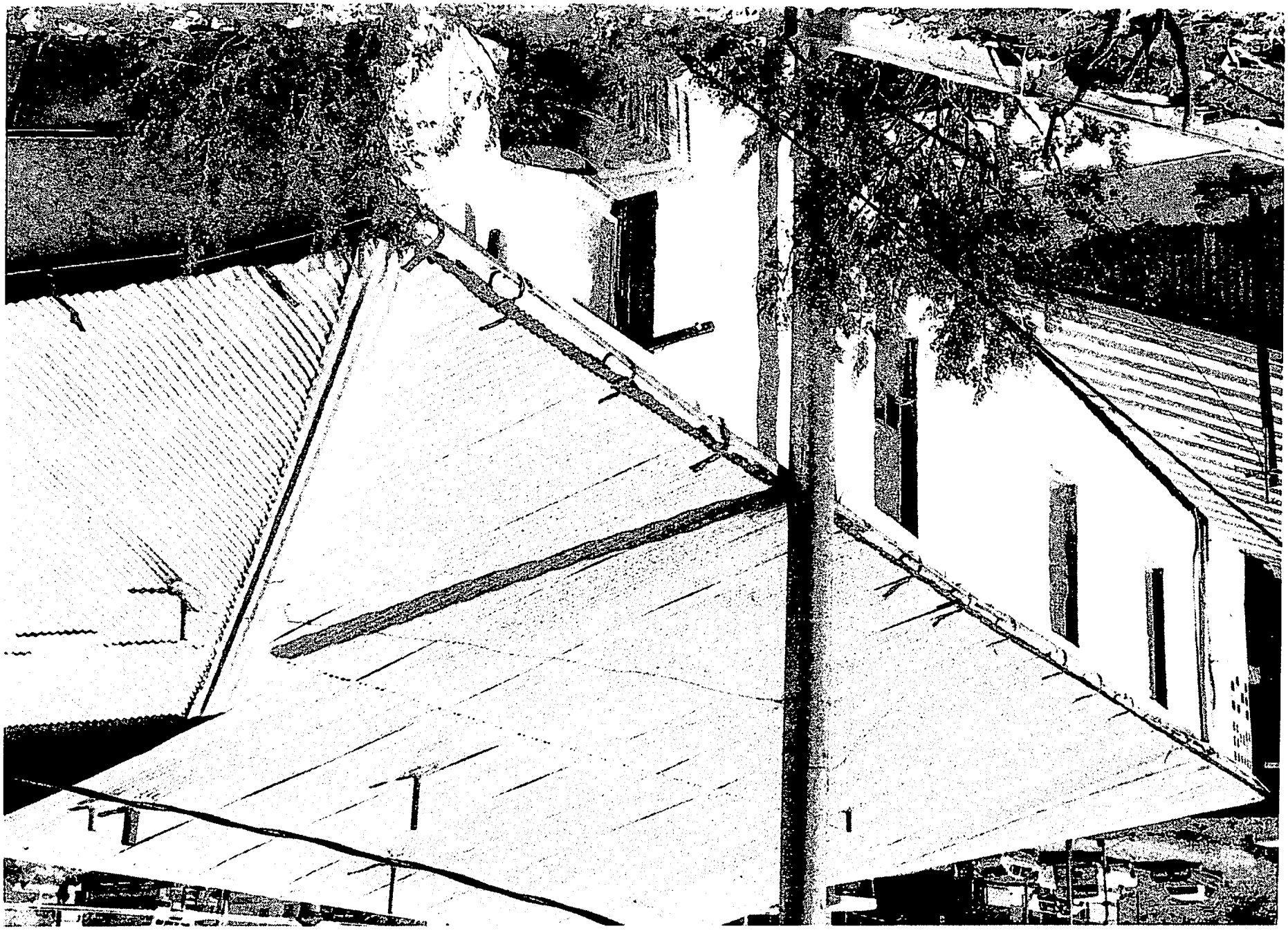
Negative filed: Roman Malach
P.O. Box 390
Kingman, AZ 86401

View looking northwest
PHOTO 2 of 4



DURLIN/OATMAN HOTEL
Oatman, Arizona
Photo by: Billie Jo Trammell
Photo Date: June 1983
Negative filed: Billie Jo Trammell
P.O. Box 420
Oatman, Arizona
View looking southeast

Photo 3 of 4



DURLIN/OATMAN HOTEL
Oatman, Arizona
Photo by: Billie Jo Trammell
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Negative filed: Billie Jo Trammell
P.O. Box 420
Oatman, Arizona
View looking southwest

Photo 4 of 4