



NHL Executive Summary



Name of Property:	Hermitage Hotel NHL (update) (indicates changes from 2020)
City, State:	Nashville, Tennessee
Period of Significance:	1920
NHL Criteria:	1
NHL Theme:	II. Creating Social Institutions and Movements 2. reform movements IV. Shaping the Political Landscape 1. parties, protests, and movements 4. political ideas, cultures, and theories
Previous Recognition:	1975 National Register of Historic Places, 2020 National Historic Landmark
National Historic Context:	Women's History – Woman Suffrage and the Passage of the 19 th Amendment
NHL Significance:	

- The Hermitage Hotel opened in 1910, as the suffrage movement became organized in Tennessee. As the nationwide effort to secure voting rights for women narrowed to Tennessee, local, state, and national figures in suffrage, politics, industry, and media converged on the hotel during the summer of 1920. The hotel became the headquarters of both the pro- and anti-suffrage forces as they lobbied state legislators,



who met constituents and lobbyists within the hotel. The Hermitage Hotel’s role in the history of ratification of the 19th Amendment was so significant it earned the name the “Third House” of the Tennessee State Legislature, referring to the extraordinary presence and influence of the major stakeholders and dealmakers convening there.

- Carrie Chapman Catt, president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, stayed in a suite at the Hermitage Hotel for nearly six weeks, guiding the strategy and tactics to win the final vote in the state legislature. Few extant buildings in the United States are associated with Ms. Catt’s work to champion woman suffrage, and the Hermitage Hotel is the site where her lifelong ambition and strenuous efforts, and that of thousands of others, came to fruition.
- During the original designation discussions about the Hermitage Hotel in 2020, the NHL Committee supported the comments of the scholarly peer reviewer that the nomination did not fully address the issue of the participation of African Americans in the struggle for passage of the 19th Amendment. The Committee requested that an update to the nomination be prepared adding information concerning the intersection of the women’s rights movement, abolition of slavery, and civil rights.

Integrity:

- The Hermitage Hotel has a high degree of material integrity due to its continuous use as a hotel since the period of significance. The property evokes the setting, feeling, and workmanship of the period of significance on the exterior and within the interior public spaces, such as the entrance stairwell, lobby, loggia, and ballroom.
- A 1980 rehabilitation project was completed in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation. It included repair and repointing of exterior brick and terra cotta, replacement of the original windows with new wood windows to match, removal of added acoustical tile ceilings and floor surfaces, and repair and refinishing of the interior wall surfaces and plaster.
- A second rehabilitation project occurred in 1994-1995 and was also completed in compliance with the *Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation*. The majority of this work involved adding new mechanical systems, remodeling of the hotel rooms, some exterior repointing and repainting and restoration of interior features as needed.
- In 2003, research was conducted to determine original paint colors and finishes. Private guest rooms and bathrooms were reconfigured into their current plan and design, new wood windows match the original were installed, as well as all new mechanical systems. The skylight was restored, as were woodwork and plasterwork to their original finishes. New doors to match the original and a new glass and metal canopy based largely on the original design were added at the Sixth Avenue entrance

Owner of Property: Historic Hotels of Nashville

Acreage of Property: .054 acres

Origins of Nomination: The original consultants for the nomination were asked to address the comments from the NHL committee regarding the original documentation.

Potential for Positive Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program: Highlighting the full story of Tennessee becoming the 36th state to ratify the 19th Amendment, thus extending voting rights to women under the U.S. Constitution.



Potential for Negative Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program: None is known.

Public Comments Favoring Designation (received as of August 21, 2023): None.

Landmarks Committee Comments:

- No substantive content comments from the Committee.

Landmarks Committee Recommendation:

The Committee recommends that the National Park System Advisory Board recommend to the Secretary of the Interior the acceptance of the NHL updated documentation for the Hermitage Hotel in Nashville, Tennessee, with any additions and corrections as noted by the Committee being made prior to the nomination being forwarded to the Secretary of the Interior for action.

Advisory Board Recommendation: The National Park System Advisory Board recommends to the Secretary of the Interior the acceptance of the updated documentation for the Hermitage Hotel NHL in Nashville, Tennessee.