

Lewisville Fire Guts Old Hotel

LEWISVILLE — A landmark building in downtown Lewisville was gutted by fire Wednesday as anxious Main Street shop owners looked on.

Fire broke out in the attic of the La Siesta Inn, 120 E. Main, at about 1 p.m., according to the hotel's owner, Tom McKinnon.

The hotel, built in 1898, is one of Lewisville's oldest structures. Once the only hotel in Lewisville, the building consisted of 15 hotel and efficiency apartment units, McKinnon said.

La Siesta was fully occupied, but only about a dozen persons were in the building when Larry Barbee, manager, discovered the blaze.

McKinnon said he was asleep when Barbee awoke him and told him the attic was afire. "I told him to get the people out and call the fire department," McKinnon said.

No injuries were reported, but damage was extensive.

The blaze was contained to the hotel, a half-block east of the downtown business district.

McKinnon said the blaze broke out in both ends of the attic and speculated the fire's origin was electrical.

"I only had three more years to go on the note," lamented McKinnon as he watched the structure burn.



Photo by TIM BULLARD

FIRE ESCAPE — Gordon Cambell rescues a motorcycle from a fire at the La Siesta Hotel in Lewisville Wednesday just in the nick of time. Cambell happened to be passing the hotel when he saw the flames and moved the motorcycle to a safe spot. The fire, which broke out at about 1 p.m., caused extensive damage to the landmark building in downtown Lewisville. There were no injuries.

Old Lewisville, Texas Hotel 1976

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