The CBECS classifies buildings according to their "principal building activity (PBA)" at the time when the survey is completed. The PBA is defined as the primary business, commerce, or function within each building. For projects with multiple activity classifications, the activity that occupies the most floor space ultimately defines the usage type category. Buildings are also classified into more specific sub-categories of activities, which are reflected in the "National Lodging Activity Breakdown" chart below.

The CBECS website specifically defines the lodging principal building activity as "Buildings used to offer multiple accommodations for short-term or long-term residents, including skilled nursing and other residential care buildings."

More information on building activity definitions can be found on the CBECS website located here:

http://www.eia.gov/emeu/cbecs/building_types.html#Office