Kan. Cong. Dist. No. 2
Bill Roy

103-3020-003

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY – NOMINATION FORM

*(Type all entries – complete applicable sections)*

STATE: Kansas
COUNTY: Leavenworth
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 1. NAME

COMMON: Fred Harvey House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

## 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 624 Olive

CITY OR TOWN: Leavenworth

STATE: Kansas 66048 | CODE: 20 | COUNTY: Leavenworth

## 3. CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY (Check One) | OWNERSHIP | | STATUS | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ☐ District ☒ Building ☐ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object | ☒ Public ☐ Private ☐ Both | Public Acquisition: ☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered | ☒ Occupied ☐ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress | Yes: ☒ Restricted ☐ Unrestricted ☐ No |

PRESENT USE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

☐ Agricultural ☐ Government ☐ Park ☐ Transportation ☐ Comm
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Private Residence ☐ Other *(Specify)*
☒ Educational ☐ Military ☐ Religious
☐ Entertainment ☐ Museum ☐ Scientific

## 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Leavenworth Board of Education, Unified School District

STREET AND NUMBER: 624 Olive

CITY OR TOWN: Leavenworth | STATE: Kansas 66048

## 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Register of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER: Leavenworth County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Leavenworth | STATE: Kansas 66048

## 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Survey of Historic Sites and Structures in Kansas

DATE OF SURVEY: 1957 ☐ Federal ☒ State ☐ County ☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Kansas State Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER: 120 West Tenth Street

CITY OR TOWN: Topeka | STATE: Kansas 66612

STATE: Kansas
COUNTY: Leavenworth
FOR NPS USE ONLY

## 7. DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION | (Check One) | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | ☐ Excellent | ☒ Good | ☐ Fair | ☐ Deteriorated | ☐ Ruins | ☐ Unexposed |
| | (Check One) | | | (Check One) | | |
| | ☒ Altered | ☐ Unaltered | | ☐ Moved | ☒ Original Site | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL *(if known)* PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Fred Harvey House, which shows Renaissance influence styling, is a two story structure with an irregularly shaped floor plan. It is constructed of sawn face limestone laid in uniform horizontal courses with the horizontal joints emphasized. Stone quoins are used to turn all corners. The main portion of the house is covered with a gambrel roof, the lower slope of which is a concave curve instead of the usual straight pitch. The rear portion of the building has a simple gable roof. Coupled brackets are placed around the perimeter of the roof below the overhang. The gable end of the gambrel roof is ornately decorated with a floral design.

The main floor is raised several steps above the ground level and is reached by a flight of stairs, which have a massive stone rail on each side. The main entrance is placed in an arched opening, framed in stone and flanked by classic styled pilasters. A curved pediment is used at the second floor line to terminate the entrance.

All windows are double-hung and set in simple rectangular openings. The sill blocks project over the wall while the jambs are without emphasis. The stone lintels of the window and door openings are flat stone blocks resting on projected brackets at each end. The decorative keystone extends above and below the lintel lines.

The first major changes to the house were made after Fred Harvey's acquisition in 1883. The bay windows on the south and west elevations were added. After the property was given to the Leavenworth Board of Education, considerable remodeling was done to adapt the house for office use. Ceilings were lowered, all fireplaces were removed, and the rooms were altered to serve as offices for school personnel. On the exterior, all frame porches were removed, the dormer windows in the roof were removed, and the house was reroofed. The changes were made in such a manner as to make the building functional and yet preserve its artistic design.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

- [ ] Pre-Columbian
- [ ] 15th Century
- [ ] 16th Century
- [ ] 17th Century
- [ ] 18th Century
- [x] 19th Century
- [ ] 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) *(If Applicable and Known)* 1875

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

- Aboriginal
  - [ ] Prehistoric
  - [ ] Historic
- [ ] Agriculture
- [ ] Architecture
- [ ] Art
- [x] Commerce
- [ ] Communications
- [ ] Conservation
- [ ] Education
- [ ] Engineering
- [ ] Industry
- [ ] Invention
- [ ] Landscape Architecture
- [ ] Literature
- [ ] Military
- [ ] Music
- [ ] Political
- [ ] Religion/Philosophy
- [ ] Science
- [ ] Sculpture
- [ ] Social/Humanitarian
- [ ] Theater
- [ ] Transportation
- [ ] Urban Planning
- [ ] Other *(Specify)*

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Frederick H. Harvey, born in London, England, June 27, 1835, came to America at age 15 and began working in a cafe in New York City for $2.00 a week. After spending several years in New Orleans, Harvey traveled to St. Louis, Missouri, in 1853, and by the late 1850's he had established his own dining hall. The Civil War ruined this business venture. The post Civil War railroad boom attracted his interest, and he joined the Hannibal and St. Joseph railroad and later worked for other lines. In 1865 when he was promoted to General Western Agent of the North Missouri railroad, he moved to Leavenworth, Kansas, which became his permanent home.

It was during his employment with the railroads that Harvey noticed the poor dining facilities available for passengers. He entered into a partnership with J. P. Rice in 1875 to operate the Kansas Pacific eating house in Wallace, Kansas. However, he was not satisfied with this partnership, and in 1876 he purchased a lunchroom in Topeka on the Santa Fe railroad line. He expanded his business by the acquisition in 1878 of the Clifton Hotel in Florence, Kansas, and at that time, he signed his first contract with the Santa Fe railroad, effective January 1, 1878. He immediately began to refurnish the building and improve the appearance of the restaurant and the quality of the food and service. His chain of hotels and eating houses on the Santa Fe system was expanded as far as California by 1887, with 50 branches of the Fred Harvey House by 1907. Passengers traveling west of the Mississippi on the Santa Fe discovered that dining was a pleasure, and many claimed that Fred Harvey was helping to "civilize the west."

Because Fred Harvey believed in maintaining high standards and being attentive to details, he personally visited his various hotels and restaurants to inspect conditions, although his home remained in Leavenworth. The three-story stone house in which he and his family resided was built in 1875 by A. A. Higginbotham; Harvey bought the home in 1883 from Harvey D. Rush for $24,956. He died in this house February 9, 1901, and members of his family continued to live there until 1943. The home was given to the Cushing Memorial Hospital for use as a nurses' home in 1944 and was transferred to the Board of Education in 1949 by the estate.

The system of dining that Fred Harvey established revolutionized railroad eating facilities in the west by providing better accomodations

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. and food, as well as training managers and staff personnel. The standard of living is said to have been raised in the west because of the contributions of this man. He enabled railroad passengers to enjoy travel west of the Mississippi River by making dining a pleasure. His home in Leavenworth is important because of his accomplishments.

9. Hurd, Charles W., "The Fred Harvey System," The Colorado Magazine, v. 26, no. 3 (July, 1949), pp. 176-182.
Kansas, A Cyclopedia of State History (Chicago, Standard Publishing Co., 1912), pp. 385-387.
Waters, L. L., Steel Trails to Santa Fe (Lawrence, University of Kansas Press, 1950), pp. 261-285.

## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


Avery, Whitefield, "The Dining Room That Is Two Thousand Miles Long," Capper's, v.12, no. 12 (Sept., 1930), pp. 23,24.

Ferguson, Erna, Our Southwest (New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 1940), pp. 190-206.

Gleed, Charles Sumner, "The Rehabilitation of the Santa Fe Railway System," Kansas Historical Collections, v. 13 (1913-1914), pp. 451-468.

Henderson, James David, Meals by Fred Harvey (Fort Worth, Texas Christian University, 1969).


## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY | | | | | | | OR | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| CORNER | LATITUDE | | | LONGITUDE | | | | LATITUDE | | | LONGITUDE | | |
| | Degrees | Minutes | Seconds | Degrees | Minutes | Seconds | | Degrees | Minutes | Seconds | Degrees | Minutes | Seconds |
| NW | ° | ' | " | ° | ' | " | | ° | ' | " | ° | ' | " |
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| SE | ° | ' | " | ° | ' | " | | 39 | 18 | 41 | 94 | 55 | 00 |
| SW | ° | ' | " | ° | ' | " | | | | | | | |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: One

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| | | | |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| | | | |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| | | | |

## 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Charles Hall, Architectural consultant
~~Richard Pankratz, Planner~~

ORGANIZATION: Kansas State Historical Society

DATE: Feb. 18, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER: 120 West Tenth Street

CITY OR TOWN: Topeka

STATE: Kansas 66612

CODE: 20

## 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

Name Nyle H. Miller

Nyle H. Miller

Title Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society

Date December 28, 1971

## NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

*Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation*

Date

ATTEST:

*Keeper of The National Register*

Date

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NPS Form 10-900-a
OMB Approval 1024-0018
(8-86)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Additional Documentation Approved by NPS 12/29/04



## Amendment to Fred Harvey House National Register Nomination 624 Olive Street, Leavenworth, KS

The National Register nomination for Fred Harvey House (c. 1875) at 624 Olive Street in Leavenworth, Kansas, is being amended to specify a period of significance, area of significance and level of significance. This nomination was written in 1971 and did not identify the three elements of significance.

Fred Harvey was an innovative restaurateur who linked his fortunes to the expansion of the Santa Fe Railroad through Kansas and the southwest. Harvey resided at the 624 Olive Street residence from 1883 until his death in 1901. These eighteen years represent a key time in the development of the Fred Harvey Company and thus establish the period of significance for the house.

Harvey is credited with the development of a chain of restaurants and dining cars that catered to passengers traveling on the Santa Fe Railroad. Fine food and excellent service characterized the Harvey establishments and attracted passengers to the Santa Fe. Although often operating in the red and subsidized by the railroad, "Meals by Fred Harvey" brought in so much passenger revenue that Santa Fe contracted with Harvey as an exclusive provider. The area of significance that is recognized in the nomination is Commerce/Trade.

Fred Harvey helped to shape evolution of the modern restaurant industry, introducing many of the physical trappings by which chain restaurants would come to be recognized by a century and a half later. Such innovations as uniformity in signage, furnishings and service staff attire, as well as coordinated menus were conceived by Harvey. The result was a consistency of product that probably was not matched again until Bill Marriott (Marriott Hotels and restaurants) and Ray Kroc (McDonald's) came into the restaurant business many years later. For these reasons, the Fred Harvey House is being recognized at a national level of significance.

In 1876 Harvey established his first Santa Fe eatery at the Topeka, Kansas depot, two years later he contracted with the railroad to establish the second eatery and hotel (Clifton Hotel) in Florence, Kansas. As the railroad pushed west, Harvey followed. By 1879 the Santa Fe had completed its line to Las Vegas, New Mexico and by 1883 Santa Fe track was completed to Needles, California. Under a gentlemen's agreement with the railroad, Harvey presided over a rapidly growing chain. Eateries and hotels sprang up in Lakin, Newton, Hutchinson, and Dodge City, Kansas; La Junta and Trinidad, Colorado; Las Vegas, Lamy, Albuquerque, and Gallup, New Mexico; Winslow, Williams, Ash Fork, Seligman, and Kingman, Arizona; and Needles and Barstow, California. The early houses were not fancy. The first Harvey House in Dodge City operated in two box-cars; however, the food was good.

In 1889 Harvey signed a contract with the Santa Fe allowing him first choice of locations as the railroad expanded, and in 1893, another contract gave Harvey the dining car service west of Kansas City, Missouri. Although high labor costs made the dining cars unprofitable, the Harvey food sold passenger tickets, and "Meals by Fred Harvey" became a Santa Fe advertising slogan. Under newly appointed Santa Fe president Edward Ripley, the Harvey houses, diners and hotels were combined as one profit-sharing operation in 1896. This contractual agreement marked the beginning of the Fred Harvey Company's second period of expansion.

Harvey died in the midst of the expansion program in 1901. For the next twenty years, under the direction of Harvey's sons and son-in-law, the Fred Harvey Company partnered with the Santa Fe to attract tourists with a chain of resorts and quality hotels throughout the southwest. At the time of Harvey's death the chain included fifteen hotels, forty-seven restaurants, thirty dining cars and food service on the ferries across San Francisco Bay. At its zenith in 1917, the Fred Harvey Company had about one hundred restaurants ranging from Chicago south to Galveston, Texas and west to California. Family-operated until 1954, the Fred Harvey Company was sold to AmFac Inc. in 1968, and Harvey dining car service was terminated.

Harvey Houses became popular destinations and elevated conventional perceptions of foodservice by enforcing specific operational requirements. Shipping fresh food and produce by rail gave Harvey Houses a unique advantage over local competition. Coal, water and ice were also shipped by rail. When Santa Fe completed its line to Guaymas, Mexico, fresh vegetables and fruit were available year long. Harvey dairies at La Junta, Colorado, Las Vegas, New Mexico, and Temple, Texas supplied the system with milk, butter and ice cream year-round.

Harvey's most enduring legacy may have been the Harvey Girls. The first Harvey Girls were hired in 1883 as waitresses for the Raton, New Mexico, Harvey House. To recruit reliable help, he placed ads in newspapers throughout the East and Midwest, seeking women "between 18 to 30 years of age, of good character, attractive and intelligent." It is estimated that more than 100,000 women worked for Harvey House restaurants and hotels.

Harvey's contributions to the eating habits and comforts of the residents of the southwest were considerable. His patrons learned what good food tasted like and demanded equal quality elsewhere, forcing his competitors to upgrade their restaurants in order to survive. Harvey Houses served as schools for training of cooks, managers, and waitresses, and often supplied personnel to other hotels and restaurants.

Fred Harvey's innovations in the area of commerce and trade between 1883 and 1901 are recognized as nationally significant. The residence at 624 Olive Street in Leavenworth represents Harvey's contributions through its status as a National Register property. This document serves to establish Harvey's role as a nationally significant commercial figure, thereby assigning the status of national significance to the house itself.

Selected Bibliography:

Bryant, Keith L., Jr. History of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway. (Lincoln: University of Nebraska, 1974).

Marshall, James. Santa Fe: The Railroad that Built an Empire. (New York: Random House, 1945).

Waters, L. L. Steel Trails to Santa Fe. (Lawrence: University of Kansas, 1950).

Weigle, Marta and Barbara Babcock. The Great Southwest of the Fred Harvey Company and the Santa Fe Railway. (Phoenix: Heard Museum, 1996).