

STATE: Kansas
 COUNTY: Atchison
 FOR NPS USE ONLY
 ENTRY DATE: MAY 6 1971

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON:
 AND/OR HISTORIC:
 Harwi, A. J., House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
 1103 Atchison Street
 CITY OR TOWN: Atchison CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: no. 2, Martha Keys
 STATE: Kansas CODE: 20 COUNTY: Atchison CODE: 005

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Ruth Townsend
 STREET AND NUMBER: 1103 Atchison Street
 CITY OR TOWN: Atchison STATE: Kansas CODE: 20

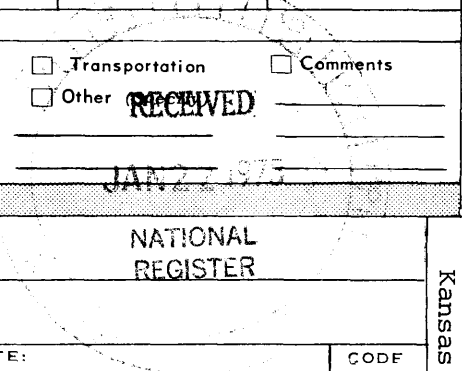
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Register of Deeds
 STREET AND NUMBER: Atchison County Courthouse
 CITY OR TOWN: Atchison STATE: Kansas CODE: 20

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic Sites Survey
 DATE OF SURVEY: 1969 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 CODE: 20

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
(Check One)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The A. J. Harwi house is a two-story red brick Victorian style structure situated in a tree-lined residential area six or seven blocks northwest of the city's business district. Built on a prominence, the house commanded a remarkable view of Atchison at the time of its construction. The extent of the view has been somewhat diminished by later buildings and the many intervening trees. The house has both an attic and a basement and in shape is an irregular rectangle. Facing south at the northwest corner of 11th and Atchison streets, it is built on ground about ten feet higher than the street to the south.

The exterior walls are constructed of common brick laid in a running bond pattern. A thin stone belt line runs around the house at both floor levels. The house presently has two porches. The main porch wraps around the south front and parts of the east and west sides and turns into a carriage porch on the west side. The large porch roof is supported by simple wood Ionic columns resting on stone piers. A large decorated pediment is situated on the south above the steps in front of the main entrance. A smaller pediment is placed on the east side. This large porch is not original. The second porch is located at the northeast corner, at one of the rear entries, and is original. It is small and flat-roofed with lattice trim.

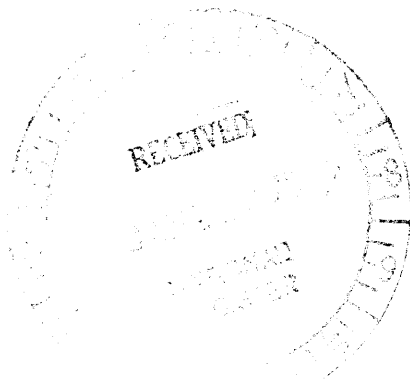
The roof is basically hipped with some dormers to help accent the two-story bays on the east and south sides. The roof is wood-shingled except for the south end where the cupola rises. Slate shingles are still in place at that spot. There are a number of intersecting roof lines and iron trim is found on the ridge lines. An unusual octagonal cupola is located near the south end of the house. It has windows on each side and its eight-sided roof rises to a point which is capped by an ornamental metal finial. The roof line is broken by four large brick chimneys, each with decorative corbeling.

The roof and walls are separated by a white detailed cornice with evenly spaced brackets. The same detail pattern is repeated between the brackets.

The windows are tall slender rectangles and have beautifully carved stone lintels while the sills are of smooth cut stone. One of the unusual features of the house is the corbelled out stained glass window set into the chimney on the east side at the second floor level.

The addition of the wrap around porch some time after 1894 is the main change to the structure's exterior appearance. ✓

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1886

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The A. J. Harwi house, a large Victorian red brick structure, was built in 1886 for one of Atchison's most industrious and successful merchants.

Alfred Jonathan Harwi was born in Pennsylvania in 1847. At the age of 21 he went into the furniture business with a partner in Bethlehem, Pa. Later he operated a business at Butler, Mo., and worked in a hardware store in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Arriving in Atchison in 1875 he decided to open a hardware store against the advice of others who insisted the town had a surplus of hardware dealers. Lacking adequate capital, he took a partner, C. H. Dearborn, and opened the store in August, 1875. After five months he had prospered sufficiently to buy out his partner. His business continued to grow and became one of the most active retail concerns in Atchison. By 1883 the annual sales had reached \$150,000.

Harwi, and others, believed that the city of Atchison was destined by virtue of its location on the Missouri river to become the distributing center for a large territory to the west. Therefore, he decided to reorganize in the late 1880's and enter the wholesale hardware business. The A. J. Harwi Hardware Co. became widely known throughout the west; twenty traveling salesmen covered four states and more than 50 Atchison employees were needed to handle the office work and the warehouse and shipping duties.

His large brick house was under construction in 1886. The Atchison Daily Globe commented on July 31 that he hoped to move into the new house in September. The same paper on September 19 reported "A very handsome mantel has just been turned out of Marshall and Park's planing mill for A. J. Harwi's new residence. A. B. McQueen will put on the finishing touches." And on October 15 it was noted that Harwi would move into his new home on Tuesday, October 19. His house was the most elaborate built in Atchison during 1886 according to the Champion of January 8, 1887, which also commented that his house commanded a view of the city almost unequalled. The estimated cost of the house was \$14,000.

In addition to his hardware business, Harwi was on the board of directors and vice-president of the Exchange National Bank. In 1884 he was elected to the state senate from Atchison district, but after serving one successful term he showed little interest in continuing a political career, preferring to concentrate on his expanding business. Harwi accumulated great wealth from his business and investments and loaned out large amounts on mortgages, but reportedly he never took advantage of a debtor and foreclosed a mortgage.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Atchison Champion, Jan. 8, 1887.
 Atchison Daily Globe, July 31, Sept. 19, Oct. 15, 1886; July 16, 1894;
 April 11, 1907, Sept. 5, 8, 1910.
 Blackmar, Frank, editor, Kansas, A Cyclopedia of State History (Chicago, Standard Publishing Co., 1912), vol. 3, pp. 96-98.
History of Kansas (Chicago, A. T. Andreas, 1883), p. 390.
 Ingalls, Sheffield, History of Atchison County (Lawrence, Kan., Standard Publishing Co., pp. 416-419.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

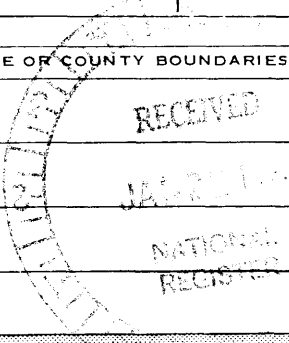
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "		39 33 56	95 07 47	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

15/31722
4321420

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Richard D. Pankratz, Director, Historic Sites Survey

ORGANIZATION: Kansas State Historical Society DATE: December 20, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: 120 West Tenth Street

CITY OR TOWN: Topeka STATE: Kansas 66612 CODE: 20

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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 January 8, 1975

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

Richard D. Pankratz
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 5/6/75

ATTEST:

Charles Obermeyer
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 5-2-75

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Kansas	
COUNTY	
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MAY 6	1975

(Number all entries)

8.

A. J. Harwi was a prominent and hard-working businessman whose efforts were an important factor in making Atchison the center of a great wholesale trade in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. He died at his home in 1910.

In addition to the accomplishments of A. J. Harwi, the house has significance architecturally. It was regarded as one of the outstanding homes built in Atchison in the 1880's. With its excellent detail work it remains a fine example of 19th century Victorian architecture.

