**Form 10-300 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

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

*Type all entries complete applicable sections*

## 1. NAME

**COMMON:**
Harvey House (preferred name)

**AND/OR HISTORIC:**
Clifton Hotel

## 2. LOCATION

**STREET AND NUMBER:**
204 West Third

**CITY OR TOWN:**
Florence

**STATE CODE COUNTY:**
Kansas 66851 20

**CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:**
No. 4 Garner Shriver

**CODE:**
115

## 3. CLASSIFICATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY (Check One)</th>
<th>OWNERSHIP</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
<th>ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District</td>
<td>Building</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Public Acquisition: In Process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site</td>
<td>Structure</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Being Considered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Object</td>
<td></td>
<td>Both</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate):**
- Agricultural
- Commercial
- Educational
- Entertainment
- Government
- Industrial
- Military
- Private Residence
- Religious
- Scientific
- Museum
- Transportation
- Other (Specify)

**Comments:**

## 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

**OWNER'S NAME:**
Florence Historical Society

**STREET AND NUMBER:**

**CITY OR TOWN:**
Florence

**STATE CODE:**
Kansas 66851 20

## 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

**COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:**
Register of Deeds

**STREET AND NUMBER:**
Marion County Courthouse

**CITY OR TOWN:**
Marion

**STATE CODE:**
Kansas 66861 20

## 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

**TITLE OF SURVEY:**
NONE

**DATE OF SURVEY:**

**DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:**

**STREET AND NUMBER:**

**CITY OR TOWN:**

**STATE:**
Part of the first Fred Harvey House which stood south of the Santa Fe railroad tracks on Florence's Main street until the early 1900's is now situated north of the tracks at the southwest corner of Third and Marion. The existing structure is said to have been the original part of the Clifton Hotel to which Harvey made a major addition in 1879. After the addition the hotel measured 130 feet long and 30 feet wide and had a three-story tower above the main entrance.

The existing rectangular two-story building measures approximately 50 feet long and 30 feet wide and is covered with white-painted horizontal lap siding. Roofed porches run the full length of the east front and west facade. Five circular columns support the roof of the front porch and five square columns support that of the back porch. The present front porch roof slopes downward from the back; originally it was a flat roof which served as a second floor porch or balcony.

The roof has recently been reshingled with gray composition shingles. There are three red brick chimneys on the ridge line, one at the north end and two rather closely spaced at the south. The eaves overhang the building three to four feet and are supported by large frame brackets.

A small square, lattice-walled storage area has been added at the southwest corner of the building.

The six windows on the second story front are more or less evenly spaced and the five windows and one door on the first floor are directly in line with the second story openings. The west side has five unevenly spaced windows on the second floor and three doors and two windows on the first floor. Windows on the south end are evenly spaced with three on each floor. On the north there are three on the second floor and two on the first. All windows are of the double-hung type and are framed by wide flat trim painted white.

There is some disagreement as to which existing end, if either, was an original end of the hotel, but there is no argument about this building having once been part of the Harvey House. The exterior of the Vernacular style structure except for the changes outlined above is in agreement with the original appearance.
### Statement of Significance

The hotel which later became the Fred Harvey House at Florence was erected in the spring of 1876 to serve passengers on the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad. The Santa Fe line had been completed from Topeka to Florence in May, 1871, but it was not until March, 1876, that Florence was established as a permanent eating station for passengers. Ben Putnam of Florence contracted with the railroad to establish a hotel and eating house. He had planned to build a new hotel on railroad property but found himself in financial problems. On April 21 the Marion County Record announced that four local men--Pike, Battey, Barker and Robinson--had purchased the existing eating house and materials for the new one just as construction of the latter was beginning. By May 5 the framework on the building had been completed; in another month the plastering was finished and the painters were almost ready to start. The first meal in the new structure was served toward the end of June.

For the next year and a half the railroad house, which was known as the Clifton Hotel, was operated by local people. In December, 1877, Fred Harvey visited Florence to inspect the hotel at the suggestion of Supt. C. F. Morse of the Santa Fe who desired to see better accommodations established for railroad passengers. Harvey had worked for the Hannibal and St. Joseph and the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy railroads prior to 1875 when he decided to go into the restaurant business. Irritated by the filthy eating houses and terrible food served to railroad passengers and crews, he opened eating houses together with a partner, Jeff Rice, at Hugo, Colorado, and Wallace, Kansas, on the Union Pacific. The partnership ended after a few months when Harvey decided Rice didn't measure up to his standards. He tried unsuccessfully to interest the Burlington in a co-operative arrangement to provide good food for travelers. But the Santa Fe was interested and early in 1876 he acquired the lunchroom at the Topeka depot. Service and food were dramatically improved, and both Harvey and the Santa Fe desired to see his operations expanded. Hence his trip to Florence in 1877 to inspect the Clifton Hotel.
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Florence Herald, December 8, 1876-August 23, 1879.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORNER</th>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>NW</td>
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<td>96° 55' 41&quot;</td>
</tr>
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<td>0° 0' 0&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE</td>
<td>0° 0' 0&quot;</td>
<td>0° 0' 0&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW</td>
<td>0° 0' 0&quot;</td>
<td>0° 0' 0&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY CODE:

STATE: CODE COUNTY:

ORGANIZATION:
Kansas State Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:
120 West Tenth Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Topeka

STATE: Kansas 66612

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 [X] State [ ] Local [ ]

Name: Nyle H. Miller
Date: June 12, 1973

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

Robert H. Utley
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
Date: 8/14/73

ATTEST:

Keeper of the National Register
Date: 8/10/73
1. Harvey paid the owners $4,275 for the building and $1,000 for the furnishings. A formal contract between the Santa Fe Railroad and Fred Harvey was signed January 1, 1878, stating that the railroad would stop its mainline passenger trains for two meals a day in Florence. There was also a verbal agreement that the railroad would purchase the hotel from Harvey as soon as its financial situation improved. This the railroad subsequently did.

The hotel was redecorated inside and out, and two large fountains were placed at the front walk entrance. Mrs. Harvey selected walnut furniture, fine Irish linens and English silverware to furnish the hotel and restaurant. Because of increased patronage, plans were made in April, 1879, to build a 40-foot extension onto the main building. This work was completed by August, at which time the Florence Herald announced that this "is now the largest of the railroad hotels and is the best."

On March 31, 1900, the last train passengers were served in the Harvey House; the Harvey operations were transferred to Newton. The hotel soon closed and over the years the various sections were removed and relocated. The main part of the hotel was moved and used as a rooming house until it was purchased by the Florence Historical Society on April 1, 1971. Work began on its restoration and although not totally completed, it was opened as a museum on September 6, 1971. Part of the building resembles the old Harvey dining rooms, and rooms upstairs display items relating to the town's early years.

This hotel, which was the first Harvey House to provide sleeping facilities, was the first of a chain of Harvey House hotel-restaurants throughout the west which revolutionized railroad eating and sleeping accommodations. Harvey's insistence upon cleanliness, good food and neat, young waitresses made railroad travel in the west more pleasurable.

"Harvey Tamed the West With Good Food, Pretty Girls," Topeka Capital, December 9, 1951.
Henderson, James David, Meals By Fred Harvey (Fort Worth, Texas, Texas Christian University Press, 1969), pp. 10-12, 17, 40, 44.
2.

   "How Fame Has Been Won For the Harvey Service By Devotion To a Business Principle," *The Santa Fe Magazine*, v. 10, no. 3 (Feb., 1916), pp. 33-36.
   Marion County Record (Marion), March 17, 1876-October 20, 1876.