

SITE FILE COPY

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Missouri
COUNTY:	Jackson
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	

1. NAME	
COMMON:	
Savoy Hotel and Savoy Grill	
AND/OR HISTORIC:	

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
219 West 9th Street and 9th and Central streets			
CITY OR TOWN:		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: #5	
Kansas City		The Honorable Richard Bolling	
STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Missouri	64105	Jackson	095
	29		

3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	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 type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME:			
Mr. Donald F. Lee			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
451 West 67th Terrace			
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE	
Kansas City	Missouri	64113	
		29	

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:			
Office of Recorder of Deeds			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
Jackson County Courthouse (Annex), 415 E. 12th Street			
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE	CODE	
Kansas City	Missouri	64106	
		29	

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY:			
1. "The Need for the Preservation of Kansas City's Architectural Heritage"			
DATE OF SURVEY:	1969 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local		
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:			
Kansas City Chapter, The American Institute of Architects			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
917 West 43rd Street			
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE	
Kansas City	Missouri	29	

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(Number all entries)

6. #1

SAVOY HOTEL AND SAVOY GRILL

2. Missouri State Historical Survey (State)
1970-1974
Department of Natural Resources
P. O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Code: 29

3. Kansas City Landmarks Commission (Local)
Preliminary Inventory
1974
18th Floor, City Hall
Kansas City, Missouri 64106

Code: 29

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

☐ Excellent ☒ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Deteriorated ☐ Ruins ☐ Unexposed

(Check One)

☒ Altered ☐ Unaltered

(Check One)

☐ Moved ☒ Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Savoy Hotel and Savoy Grill, constructed ca. 1890s-1906, is a late nineteenth century hotel building with early twentieth century additions and Neo-Classic and Art Nouveau features in its design. It faces north on 9th Street between an alley and Central Street in downtown Kansas City on a site sloping approximately five feet from southwest to northeast. The modified "E" plan building is 164.25 feet east-west and 110 feet north-south.

Old views and newspaper and architectural magazine articles indicate four construction phases for the building: 1) the original, five-story 9th Street building, ca. early 1890s, 2) a sixth story addition, ca. 1898-1900, 3) six-story rear extensions to the east and west wings, ca. 1903, and 4) the seven-story western addition, ca. 1905-1906.

The foundations are constructed of stone 30 inches thick.

The exterior walls are constructed of brick now painted yellow. The ground story wall on the 9th Street side is faced with cream-colored terra cotta. The upper brick wall surfaces are moderately ornamented with quoins on the third and fourth stories, recessed spandrels with raised central panels below the sixth story windows, and corbeled brickwork at the cornice level.

The main entrance is centered on the north facade of the original building giving access to the lobby. Secondary entrances on the north facade open into the Savoy Grill and a barber shop. Services entrances and emergency exits are located on the other three sides of the building.

Double-hung window sash with one pane of glass per sash predominate throughout. Some second and third story windows have transoms. Street level windows on 9th Street are the store front type with leaded transoms in the barber and leaded art glass in the Savoy Grill. A semi-circular window is centered above the lobby entrance at the second story level.

The chimneys are located on the southern side of the building and in the hollow of the "E."

The earlier, eastern section of the building has a wood-frame structure. Fireproof, steel-frame construction was used in the western section.

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7. #1

SAVOY HOTEL AND SAVOY GRILL

The basement is divided into two separate sections reflecting the construction chronology of the building. The mechanical plant, furnace, boilers and refrigeration equipment are housed in the basement. The superstructure is borne on exterior bearing walls, stone masonry partition walls, iron columns and steel columns (fabricated of two channels and two plates bolted together).

The ground floor at street level is occupied by the Savoy Grill and its recent expansion into the former hotel lobby. At the east end it houses a barber shop. The Grill is the primary interior feature having preserved intact its turn-of-the-century interior including the bar, high-backed oak booths, cashier's stand, mural paintings of the Santa Fe Trail by Edward J. Holslag, and terrazzo floor. The original art glass windows of the western addition have recently been copied for the rooms into which the Grill has expanded. An important feature of the former hotel lobby--now part of the restaurant area--is a 15 foot in diameter art glass dome under a skylight in the central court of the building.

The cigar stand is now used as a sideboard for the restaurant. The hotel desk is used as a bar with the room key pigeon holes used for horizontal storage of wine.

On the second through sixth floors rooms are arranged along both sides of the main (east-west) hallway, in the east wing along the east side of the hallway, and in the west wing along the west and east sides of the hallway. Service rooms are concentrated in the southwest corner of each story.

Comparison of the present fabric with several old views in the possession of the owner² indicates the following alterations and additions to the building:

- 1) Enlarging the original five-story, symmetrical, seven-bay building to an asymmetrical, 10-bay building with six full stories and seven stories at the west end. A Romanesque revival wall treatment of the original building was modified with a classically derived cornice.
- 2) Sheathing the original cast-iron street-level facade on 9th Street in terra cotta and removal of an original cast-iron marquee in front of the lobby entrance.
- 3) Altering fifth story windows by removing transoms and giving straight lintels to round-arch windows.
- 4) The eccentric seventh story was originally planned as a "ball room" and "roof garden" adjunct to the Grill.³ The concept evidently proved unworkable as the seventh story was early subdivided into hotel rooms and a corridor following the standard floor plan of floors 2-6. The fenestration pattern in this section--three large windows per bay

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7. #2

SAVOY HOTEL AND SAVOY GRILL

separated by narrow mullions--gives it quite a different appearance from the rest of the building.

- 5) Moving the Savoy Bar and Savoy Grill from the original structure's ground story to the new addition in 1905-1906 and then expanding during the 1960s and 1970s back into most of the original ground story.

The building is in good structural condition and is well maintained. The current owner put on a new roof, rewired the building, and painted the exterior since purchasing the hotel in 1965. He is implementing a program of improving the mechanical system and refurbishing the interior.

FOOTNOTES

1. Supplement to Harper's Weekly, September 15, 1888, pp. 702-703; Kansas City [Mo.] Star, October 2, 1904, p. 2; Kansas City and Vicinity (Kansas City, Mo.: S. H. Knox & Co., 1905 + 1908) no page numbers; and "Building Intelligence," The American Architect and Building News, Vol. LVIII, No. 1143 (November 20, 1897), x.
2. Savoy News, Fall, 1972. Donald F. Lee, owner, personal interview, March 1, 1974.
3. Donald F. Lee, owner, personal interview, March 1, 1974.

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☐ 18th Century ☒ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1890s - 1906

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | <u>Arts and Crafts</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | <u>Movement</u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input checked="" 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 Savoy Hotel and Savoy Grill in Kansas City, Missouri, constructed ca. 1890s-1906 provides an authentic turn-of-the century setting preserved intact. Here one can experience the feeling and flavor of a comfortable, period restaurant where the quality of service and menu offerings have been maintained throughout the years since its opening.

The art glass windows represent an exceptionally well maintained and rare example of Art Nouveau influence in America. The highly stylized, geometric, and attenuated design of the stained-glass windows is thoroughly complemented by the entire turn-of-the century ambience of the grill. The present owner, moreover, is aware of these values, and is dedicated to the maintenance of the grill in its original state.

Although the restaurant is the most notable portion of the building, the hotel is in a good state of preservation and it is capable of being revived as an historic in-town hotel facility. Historically this hotel was located in the heart of Kansas City's late nineteenth century business district.² The provision of service industries such as hotels and restaurants represents an important and supportive effect of Kansas City's late nineteenth century commercial building boom. Originally open exclusively to men, the Grill has traditionally offered a menu of hearty entrees such as lobster, Alaskan crab, and beef and buffalo steaks.³

Information about the original designer/architect is lacking from the record but may be uncovered in future historical research on the building. A local firm, Van Brunt and Howe, designed the ca. 1898-1900 remodeling of the main floor and the addition of a sixth story.⁴ The Arbuckle Brothers, known locally as the "Coffee Kings," were the early owners of the Savoy. The hotel was leased to the Ewins-Child Hotel company during the turn-of-the century period when the building was enlarged three times in response to a pressing need for more hotel space.⁵ The heirs of the Arbuckle Brothers continued to own the property until October 22, 1943, when the Park Central Investment Company purchased the building.⁶

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8. #1

SAVOY HOTEL AND SAVOY GRILL

The tradition and wide popularity of the Grill were so well established that when the facility was closed in 1937 such a clamor arose that it was opened again within several days⁷ and has remained open ever since. During the early 1940s the hotel was known as the Milner Hotel and later the Earle Hotel⁸ before being renamed the Savoy. The Savoy again changed hands in 1962 when it was purchased by the Savoy Investment Company. Then in 1965 Donald F. Lee, who had owned and operated the Grill since 1960, purchased the entire hotel building.

In 1965, 1967, and 1973 Lee opened additional rooms of the Grill expanding into the former hotel lobby and associated rooms. Two of these rooms feature hand-crafted stained glass windows copied from the original windows in the western section of the Grill.

Lee plans to continue upgrading the restaurant facilities and the hotel interior. He intends to continue operation of the Savoy Grill in the established tradition.⁹ The building is not threatened by any development projects or programs in downtown Kansas City.

This building is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places because of its importance as an element in Kansas City's social and economic history.

FOOTNOTES

1. Donald L. Hoffman, art critic for The Kansas City Star, letter to the State Historical Survey and Planning Office, September 3, 1971.
2. Cf. The Commerce of Kansas City in 1886 (Kansas City, Missouri: S. Ferd. Howe, Publisher, 1886); William Griffith, History of Kansas City (Kansas City, Missouri: Hudson, Kimberly Publishing Co., 1900); The Industries of Kansas City (Kansas City, Missouri: J. M. Elstner and Co., Publishers, 1888); and Imperial Kansas City 1900 (Kansas City, Missouri: Mercantile Illustrating Company, 1900).
3. Kansas City [Mo.] Times, November 12, 1937 and Savoy News, Summer 1973.
4. "Building Intelligence," The American Architect and Building News, Vol. LVIII, No. 1143 (November 20, 1897), x.
5. Kansas City [Mo.] Star, October 2, 1904, p. 2.
6. Kansas City [Mo.] Star, October 22, 1943, p. 3.

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8. #2 SAVOY HOTEL AND SAVOY GRILL
7. Kansas City [Mo.] Star, November 12, 1937 and Kansas City [Mo.] Star, October 22, 1943, p. 3.
8. Cf. unlabeled newspaper clipping in the Missouri Valley Room's files (Kansas City Public Library) on the Savoy Hotel and Savoy Grill, ca.1943.
9. Donald F. Lee, owner, personal interview, March 1, 1974.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. "Building Intelligence," The American Architect and Building News, Vol. LVIII, No. 1143 (November 20, 1897), x.
2. The Commerce of Kansas City in 1886. Kansas City, Missouri: S. Ferd. Howe, Publisher, 1886.
3. Griffith, William. History of Kansas City. Kansas City, Missouri: Hudson, Kimberly Publishing Co., 1900.
4. Harper's Weekly, Supplement, September 15, 1888.

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			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	
NW	0			0			39 ° 06 ' 13 "	94 ° 35 ' 12 "
NE	0			0				
SE	0			0				
SW	0			0				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than ten acres

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: M. Patricia Holmes, Research Associate		
ORGANIZATION State Historical Survey and Planning Office		DATE March 30, 1974
STREET AND NUMBER: P. O. Box 176		
CITY OR TOWN: Jefferson City	STATE Missouri 65101	CODE 29

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 James L. Wilson, Director
Department of Natural Resources
Title State Historic Preservation
Officer

Date _____

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

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

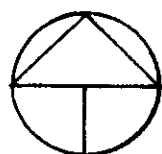
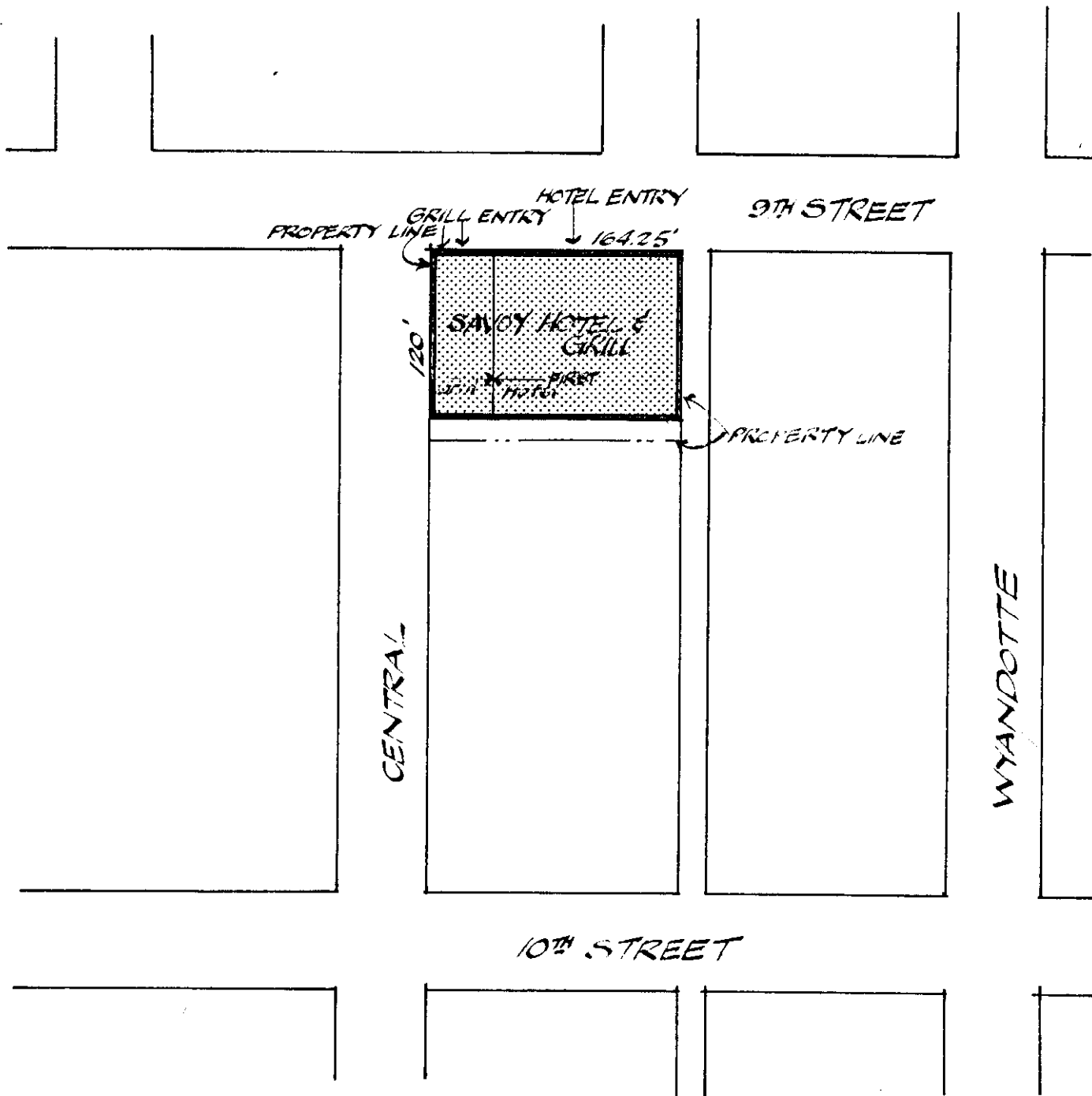
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9. #1 SAVOY HOTEL AND SAVOY GRILL
5. Hoffmann, Donald L. Letter to the State Historical Survey and Planning Office, September 3, 1971.
6. Imperial Kansas City 1900. Kansas City, Missouri: Mercantile Illustrating Company, 1900.
7. The Industries of Kansas City. Kansas City, Missouri: J. M. Elstner and Co., Publishers, 1888.
8. Kansas City and Vicinity. Kansas City, Mo.: S. H. Knox & Co., 1905 and 1908.
9. Kansas City [Mo.] Star. October 2, 1904.
10. Kansas City [Mo.] Star. November 12, 1937.
11. Kansas City [Mo.] Star. October 22, 1943.
12. Kansas City [Mo.] Times. November 12, 1937.
13. Lee, Donald F. Personal interview. March 1, 1974.
14. Missouri Valley Room, Kansas City Public Library. Clipping file on the Savoy Hotel and Savoy Grill.
15. Savoy News. Fall, 1972.
16. Savoy News. Summer, 1973.

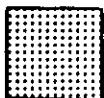


NORTH

1" = 100' ± 0"


SITE PLAN

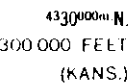
SAVOY HOTEL
AND GRILL



Denotes area being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places

360000m E. 2 960 000 FEET (KANS.) R. 25 T. R. 33 W.

363 35'  ST JOSEPH RD
4 MI TO INTER



U.S.G.S. 7.5' Quadrangle
"Kansas City" (1964, Photorevised 1970)
Scale 1:24,000 Savoy Hotel and Savoy
Grill
Lat 39°06'13" N Long 94°35'12" W

Photo Log:

Name of Property: **Savoy Hotel**

City or Vicinity: **Kansas City**

County: **Jackson County** State: **MO**

Photographer: **Kansas City Landmarks Commission**

Date

Photographed: **1974**

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 15. NE to SW.

2 of 15. NW to SE.

3 of 15. Former lobby, now used as expansion of the grill. The interior decoration dates from the circa 1900 remodeling project of Van Brunt and Howe. A 15 foot in diameter art glass dome illustrates the area directly in front of the former clerk's desk in the background near center.

4 of 15. Interior of Savoy Grill Room from N entrance facing S, showing booths, columns, lanterns and terrazzo floor, circa 1964.

5 of 15. Original art glass window. The design is indicative of the turn of the century Arts and Crafts movement.

6 of 15. Savoy Grill mural, landscape of Westport Landing.

7 of 15. Savoy Grill mural, wagon train pulled by mules.

8 of 15. Savoy Grill mural, wagon train watched by Indian.

9 of 15. Savoy Grill mural, wagon train crossing river.

10 of 15. Savoy Grill mural, Indians attacking wagon train.

11 of 15. Savoy Grill mural , photo is missing.

12 of 15. Savoy Grill mural, cowboys with pack mules.

13 of 15. Savoy Grill mural, ascending Raton Pass.

14 of 15. Savoy Grill mural, wagon train.

15 of 15. Exterior of Savoy Hotel and Savoy Grill.















IMPERIAL ROOM















