

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

1. Name

historic Hanna, Hunter & Co.; Hanna Travis & Co.; Williamson and Travis

and/or common Walnut Inn

2. Location

street & number 224 Main

not for publication

city, town Tarkio vicinity of congressional district #6 - Hon. Thomas Coleman

state Missouri code 29 county Atchison code 005

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
☐ district	☐ public	☒ occupied	☐ agriculture
☒ building(s)	☒ private	☐ unoccupied	☒ commercial
☐ structure	☐ both	☐ work in progress	☐ educational
☐ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	☐ entertainment
☐ object	☐ in process	☒ yes: restricted	☐ government
	☐ being considered	☐ yes: unrestricted	☐ industrial
		☐ no	☐ military
			☐ museum
			☐ park
			☐ private residence
			☐ religious
			☐ scientific
			☐ transportation
			☐ other:

4. Owner of Property

name M. Robert McCoy

street & number 224 Main

city, town Tarkio state Missouri 64491

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of Recorder of Deeds

street & number Atchison County Courthouse

city, town Rockport state Missouri 64482

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Missouri State Historical Survey has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date 1980 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

Department of Natural Resources
depository for survey records P.O. Box 176

city, town Jefferson City state Missouri 65102

7. Description

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site

☐ moved

date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Situated in Tarkio, Missouri, the Walnut Inn is a two story rectangular building of common bond brick and mortar construction. Fifty feet wide by one hundred feet long, it is four bays wide and seven bays long with sawn-stone lintels above the windows. The windows are divided into three sections with the upper transom window having a colored glass border. Originally there were nine chimneys on the east and west facades and four on the south facade. The four chimneys on the south facade and one on the east facade remain, all the others have been eliminated in remodeling projects. Under the parapet cornice which is capped with a thin cut stone coping there is a series of corbelled brick arches with a line of terra cotta medallions set about one foot below them. There is a small turret on the southwest corner of the second floor and a large granite column with floral capital under the open corner. The roof is flat and covered with asphalt. The entrance to the main structure is into a large reception room with a series of dining areas to the rear or the north of the entrance and a stairway to the second floor. The walls are paneled with seven foot high panels of native black walnut.

Structurally the building has been altered by enlarging the windows on the west facade of the first floor, closing doors on the west and south facades and adding a wrap-around one-story porch on the southwest corner and another smaller porch on the northwest end of the building. The first floor interior was changed from a hardware store to walnut paneled reception and dining rooms in 1911. The upstairs was converted from storage space to hotel rooms in 1911 and to apartments in 1966-1967. An interior air shaft was closed sometime between 1911 and 1940. The first floor of the street facade was also converted from store to office space prior to 1940.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
☐ prehistoric	☐ archeology-prehistoric	☐ community planning	☐ landscape architecture	☐ religion
☐ 1400-1499	☐ archeology-historic	☐ conservation	☐ law	☐ science
☐ 1500-1599	☐ agriculture	☐ economics	☐ literature	☐ sculpture
☐ 1600-1699	☒ architecture	☐ education	☐ military	☒ social/
☐ 1700-1799	☐ art	☐ engineering	☐ music	☐ humanitarian
☒ 1800-1899	☒ commerce	☐ exploration/settlement	☐ philosophy	☐ theater
☒ 1900-	☐ communications	☐ industry	☐ politics/government	☐ transportation
		☐ invention		☐ other (specify)

Specific dates Circa 1884, 1911 **Builder/Architect** Builder 1911/George McNulty

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Walnut Inn is significant as an early building in the town of Tarkio, Missouri; as an important regional hostelry and center for social activity; for its elegant walnut paneled interior; and for its associations with leading citizens of northwest Missouri.

The building being nominated was apparently constructed by an early settler as a double store front building housing general merchandise and implements. Principals involved in the firm were John F. Hanna, Robert Hunter and David Rankin. The gathering of resources for construction was noted in a transaction recorded in the abstract, in August of 1883 in which Hanna sold Lot 13 to himself, Hunter and Rankin. Lot 14 was already owned by Rankin. By 1889, other transactions shown in the abstract reflect a sharp increase in the value of the two lots.¹

David Rankin, who emigrated to Atchison County in 1885, was one of the more noteworthy of the early landowners. Born in Sullivan County, Indiana, May 25, 1825, he moved with his parents to Henderson County, Illinois in 1836. As a young man he purchased his first 80 acres of land with \$100 saved from working in the stock business around Biggsville, Illinois. By 1882, Rankin owned not only an extensive stock farm in Henderson County, but also 24,000 acres of land in Atchison County.

Rankin was also active in financial circles, serving as president of the First National Bank of Monmouth, Illinois and as a partner of the Savings Bank of Burlington Iowa. The banking firm of Rankin, Stevenson and Co., of Tarkio, was established when R.M. Stevenson, the cashier of the First National Bank of Monmouth, emigrated to Tarkio.

Rankin was elected to the Illinois Legislature in 1872, and served in that body until 1875. He was an active lay leader in the United Presbyterian Church and was instrumental in the development of Tarkio College.² The Tarkio Mule Barn, a National Landmark, was constructed by Rankin on his personal farmstead just north of the original city limits of Tarkio.

Rankin had three children by Sarah, his first wife; Nettie, John A. and William F. Nettie married John F. Hanna in 1876 and shortly thereafter he became the foreman of her father's Illinois stock farm. Hanna was a native of Crawford County, Ohio, born in 1847. In October of 1880, he moved to the town of Tarkio and helped build one of the first temporary shelters of the new town. His family followed in December of that year and on the 3rd of April, 1881, in partnership with Hunter and Rankin, established the firm of Hanna, Hunter and Rankin, dealers in general merchandise and implements.³ In 1911, William F. Rankin, younger son of David Rankin acquired the building, which at that time was owned by R.M. Stevenson and associates, with the express purpose of converting it into a first class hotel.

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WALNUT INN

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A news story in the Tarkio Avalanche, of May 12, 1911 reported that George McNulty had been hired as the contractor for the project. The hotel was to have 21 rooms, of which 6 would have private baths. There were to be telephones in each room, which were connected to a private system in the hotel. The southwest corner of the second floor would feature a ladies parlor, the same size as the lobby downstairs. The lobby, writing room and dining room on the first floor would all have a seven foot wainscoting of native black walnut. A portion of the writing room would be set aside as a cloak room and "grip" room. The basement level would have a large sample room and public toilet facilities. The owners of the future hotel offered \$10 in gold to the person who submitted the best name for the new hostelry. C.N. VanPelt, associate editor of the Fairfax Forum, was the winner with his suggestion, The Walnuts, which was changed immediately to the Walnut Inn.

From the date of its Grand Opening on December 12, 1911, the Walnut Inn became a center of social activities for the town of Tarkio. (Incidentally, Tarkio is Sac-Fox for Walnut). A glowing report of the opening in the Tarkio Avalanche of December 15, 1911 tells of the flower bedecked public rooms where the proprietor, J.H. Torley, and his wife and daughter received the citizens of Tarkio. They were assisted by six prominent couples of the town. The article adds the information that the Welty Orchestra from St. Joseph played classical and popular selections during the entire evening. They stated that the walnut wainscoting was cut on the Rankin-Marshall ranch, and that the lobby and writing rooms were floored with petro pulp. This floor which still remains in the building, is composed mainly of ground up corn cobs and stalks and was poured onto the sub-flooring. The dining room floor was polished beech. There were 42 electric lights in the lobby and writing room and 39 lights in the dining room including four beautiful colonial lights on the stairway and two on the writing table. There were four large velvet rugs in the first floor public rooms. Upstairs halls had white woodwork and were wallpapered and the floors had green velvet carpeting.

Two clubs of importance in the social life of the town met at the Walnut for many years. The Anaconda Club was a ladies literary society and the Oikrat Club was a young couples dinner-dance society.

The Walnut Inn operated as a hotel until the mid-1960's when the second floor was converted into apartments. The current owner of the property maintains the dining facilities, and has added a banquet room on the first floor and a lounge in the space formerly occupied by the basement sample room. The Walnut Inn is still very much involved in the commercial and social life of the town of Tarkio.

FOOTNOTES

1. Abstract of title, to lots 13 and 14, Block 9, Original Town, Tarkio, Missouri from Town Plat to date.
2. The History of Holt and Atchison Counties, Missouri. (St. Joseph: National Historical Co., 1882). pp. 928-929.
3. Ibid., p. 910.

9. Major Bibliographical References

1. Atchison County, MO., Atlas Ownership Index. Murphy, 1962.
2. Atlas of Atchison County, MO. Des Moines, IA: Anderson Publishing Co., 1921.
3. Biographical History, Atchison County, MO. Rockport, MO: H.F. Stapel, Publisher, 1905.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name "Tarkio, Mo."

Quadrangle scale 1:62,500

UMT References

A

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Zone Easting Northing

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Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification

This property includes all of Lots 13 and 14, Block 9, Original Town, Tarkio, Mo

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title 1. Nancy Sandehn, Research Consultant

organization Northwest Missouri State University

date June 24, 1980

street & number Box 43

telephone 816/279-3558

city or town St. Joseph

state Missouri 65401

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Signed

Director, Department of Natural Resources and
title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 16 Feb 82

For HCRS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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WALNUT INN

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4. Biographical History of Nodaway and Atchison. New York: Lewis, 1901.
5. Booth, R.C. Plat Book of Atchison County, MO. Tarkio, MO: First National Bank. 1957.
6. David Rankin, Farmer. Tarkio, MO. 1909.
7. Directory of Atchison, County, MO Rockport, MO: Atchison County Mail, 1899.
8. History of Holt and Atchison Counties. Saint Joseph: National Historical Co., 1882.
9. Interview with Bob McCoy, May 30, 1980.
10. Interview with William Munn, June 12, 1980.
11. Plat-Atlas of Atchison County, MO. Council Bluffs, IA: Walt Larson Enterprises, 1950.
12. Plat Book of Atchison County, MO. Hixson. ca. 1925.
13. Plat Book of Atchison County, MO: Minneapolis MI: Northwest Publishing Co., 1904.

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2. Thomas W. Carneal, Associate Professor of History
Northwest Missouri State University
306 Colden Hall
Maryville
3. James M. Denny, Section Chief, Nominations-Survey
Reviewer and State Contact Person
Department of Natural Resources
Historic Preservation Program
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City

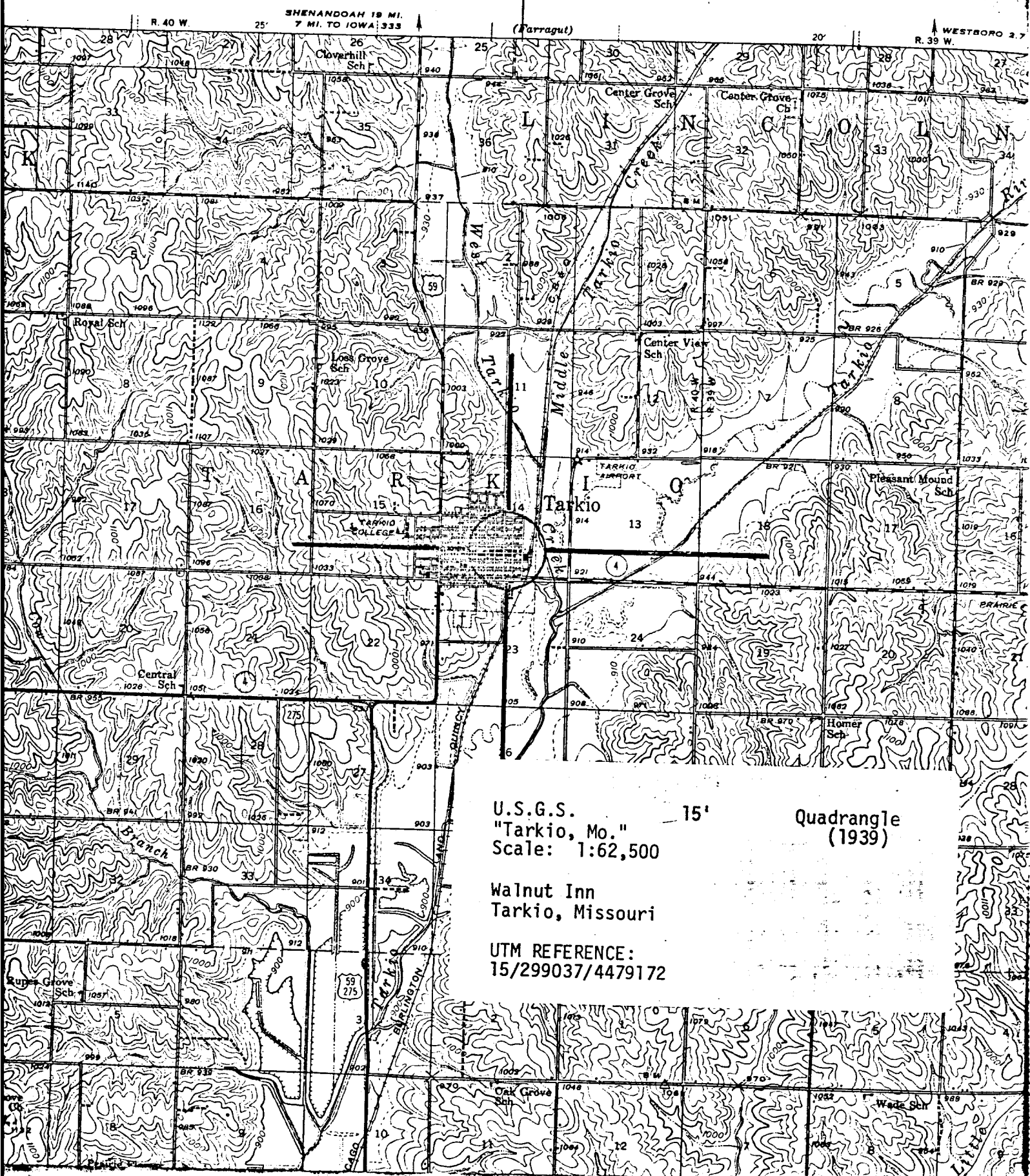
June 24, 1980
816/582-4171 ext. 1289
Missouri 64468

September 5, 1980

314/751-4096

Missouri 65102

R. 40 W.



U.S.G.S.
"Tarkio, Mo."
Scale: 1:62,500

15'

Quadrangle
(1939)

Walnut Inn
Tarkio, Missouri

UTM REFERENCE:
15/299037/4479172

WALNUT INN

#511

COUNTY:

Atchison

LOCATION:

224 Main, Tarkio, Mo.

OWNER:

M. Robert McCoy

ADDRESS:

224 Main
Tarkio, Mo. 64491

DATE APPROVED BY A.C.:

October 24, 1980

DATE SENT TO D.C.:

February 23, 1982

DATE OF REC. IN D.C.:

March 10, 1982

DATE PLACED ON NATIONAL REGISTER:

April 12, 1982

DATE CERTIFICATE AWARDED
(AND PRESENTOR):

DATE FILE REVIEWED:

The Walnut Inn is significant as an early building in the town of Tarkio, Missouri; as an important regional hostelry and center for social activity; for its elegant walnut paneled interior; and for its associations with leading citizens of northwest Missouri.







































Walnut Inn Dining Room.