

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

**DRAFT**

## 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Harvey, Leo M., House  
 Other names/site number: Harvey Aluminum House  
 Name of related multiple property listing:  
Residential Architecture of John Lautner in Southern California, 1940-1994  
 (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

## 2. Location

Street & number: 2180 West Live Oak Drive  
 City or town: Los Angeles State: CA County: Los Angeles  
 Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this \_\_\_ nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

\_\_\_ **national**      \_\_\_ **statewide**      \_\_\_ **local**  
 Applicable National Register Criteria:  
 \_\_\_ **A**      \_\_\_ **B**      \_\_\_ **C**      \_\_\_ **D**

_____ <b>Signature of certifying official/Title:</b>	_____ <b>Date</b>
_____ <b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>	

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
_____ <b>Signature of commenting official:</b>	_____ <b>Date</b>
_____ <b>Title :</b>	
_____ <b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>	

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#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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#### 5. Classification

##### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

##### Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>          </u>	buildings
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	sites
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	structures
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Domestic:  
Single Dwelling  
            
            
            
          

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Domestic:  
Single Dwelling

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Modern Movement:

Other: Mid-century Modern

Other: Organic Architecture

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**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Wood

Stone: Sandstone

Metal: Copper

Concrete

Glass

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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### Summary Paragraph

The Leo M. Harvey House was designed by John Lautner in the Mid-century Modern style with Organic influences. It is located in the Hollywood Hills of Los Angeles, California, approximately 11 miles northwest of downtown Los Angeles. The Harvey House sits on the leveled center of a 0.93-acre hillside parcel behind a screen of lush landscaping and mature trees. The house exhibits the low massing, horizontal emphasis, large expanses of glass, and asymmetrical plan associated with Mid-century Modern design, as well as the circular forms and use of natural materials characteristic of Organic architecture. Although the house has been altered from its original design, the alterations were designed by Lautner. The house was rehabilitated in the early 2000s, overseen by the chief architect in Lautner's former office, Helena Arahuete. The Harvey House retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

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## **Narrative Description**

The Leo M. Harvey House is located on the east side of West Live Oak Drive, in the Hollywood Hills of Los Angeles. The irregularly-shaped hillside lot is bounded on the east and south by single-family residences, and on the north and west by West Live Oak Drive. The property contains a one-story, single-family residence constructed in 1950. It is situated on a level pad in the center of the lot behind a screen of lush landscaping and mature trees. The building is in the Mid-century Modern style, with some influences of Organic architecture. It has an irregular plan consisting of a central circular volume with two attached rectilinear wings, one to the north and the other to the southeast. The roof is flat, with wide overhanging eaves clad in standing seam metal. An exterior cylindrical chimney, veneered in stone, is located on the southwest façade. Exterior walls are veneered in uncoursed cut stone and cement plaster, interspersed with large expanses of metal-framed glass. The primary entrance is asymmetrically located on the east façade and consists of a double wood door accessed via the motor court at the northeast of the house. Fenestration consists primarily of metal-framed windows. The interior features parquet and stone flooring, wood paneling, stone-veneered columns, and wood ceiling beams.

## **Alterations**

Several additions to the house were designed by Lautner: In 1962-1964 the original entrance court, with its wood trellis of concentric circles and central stone column, was enclosed; in 1963, a maid's room and bathroom were added to the west side of the north wing; and a swimming pool was added to the property in 1965. Several more small additions were completed in 1986. The house was rehabilitated in the early 2000s, overseen by the chief architect in Lautner's former office, Helena Arahuete.

## **Integrity**

Although there have been alterations to the property over time, many of the alterations were designed by John Lautner, the original architect, and the Harvey House retains all seven aspects of integrity.

- **Location:** The house remains on its original site. It therefore retains integrity of location.
- **Design:** The Harvey House retains significant character-defining features of its original Organic-influenced, Mid-century Modern design, including its irregular plan with central circular living area and flanking rectilinear wings; flat roof with open eaves; uncoursed cut stone veneer; glass walls; parquet flooring; wood paneling; and wood ceiling beams. Although its original entrance court was enclosed, and maid's quarters added, these alterations were designed by the original architect, John Lautner. The house therefore retains integrity of design.

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- **Setting:** The Harvey House retains its relationship with its leveled hillside site, and its expansive views over Los Angeles. It retains integrity of setting.
- **Materials:** Although there have been some alterations over time, the Harvey House retains the majority of its historic materials, including stone veneer, metal-framed glass walls and windows, parquet flooring, and wood paneling and beams. The property retains integrity of materials.
- **Workmanship:** The Harvey House retains the physical evidence of mid-20<sup>th</sup> century crafts and construction techniques, including its wood joinery, stone veneer, parquet flooring, and wood paneling. It retains integrity of materials.
- **Feeling:** The Harvey House retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, and workmanship, and continues to evoke the aesthetic sense of its Organic-influenced Mid-century Modern design. It retains integrity of feeling.
- **Association:** The property retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and feeling, which combine to convey its original Organic-influenced Mid-century Modern design by master architect John Lautner. It therefore retains integrity of association.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1950-1965  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Lautner, John (architect)  
de la Vaux, John (builder)  
\_\_\_\_\_



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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Leo Harvey House is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criterion C as an excellent example of the Organic-influenced Mid-century Modern architecture of master architect John Lautner. It meets the registration requirements outlined in the Multiple Property Documentation Form “Residential Architecture of John Lautner in Southern California, 1940-1994” for this period of Lautner’s work: exemplifies the tenets of the modern movement and the important characteristics of Lautner’s work from this period; displays the significant character-defining features of Mid-century Modern architecture; dates from the period of significance; exhibits quality of design; and retains all seven factors of integrity. The period of significance for Criterion C is 1950, reflecting the date that the house was constructed, to 1965, reflecting the date of the completion of significant alterations designed by Lautner.

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The Harvey House is a significant example of the work of master architect John Lautner. It exemplifies the tenets of John Lautner’s residential architecture identified in the Multiple Property Submission “Residential Architecture of John Lautner in Southern California, 1940-1994.” Lautner’s fascination with new shapes and structures came from his determination to humanize spaces and create what he referred to as “real” architecture: “architecture that was authentic, creative, new – yet tied to ancient and timeless ways of building; based on the needs – including emotional needs – of his clients, and the demands of the site.”<sup>1</sup> He brought to architecture an expressive and adventurous use of structure, form, and materials.<sup>2</sup> Although he did not consider himself a Modernist, Lautner’s interests aligned with the mid-century spirit of architectural experimentation; these factors led Lautner toward bold explorations of hilltop houses, soaring concrete roofs, sculptural steel cantilevers, and expressive double curves. His work was structurally and technologically innovative, while also reflecting Wright’s Organic principles of responding to the site and the specific needs of the client. Lautner had a fertile architectural practice for over 60 years, producing some of the most iconic and influential works in post-World War II Southern California and influencing a new generation of architects. In the 1940s, Lautner experimented with simple shapes to achieve an organic expression, melding buildings with their surroundings with the shaped floor plan and roof structure.

Leo M. Harvey (1887-1973) was a pioneer industrialist and inventor.<sup>3</sup> Born in Lithuania, Harvey was the son of a small factory owner in the Vilna ghetto. Threatened with imprisonment because of his political activism, Harvey fled to Berlin from Czarist Russia in 1905. He got a job as a

<sup>1</sup> Dave Weinstein, “John Lautner’s ‘Keeping it Real’ Approach to Architecture,” <http://www.eichlernetwork.com/article/beyond-flash-and-fantasy> (accessed July 2015).

<sup>2</sup> Ann Philbin, Foreword in Nicholas Olsberg, ed., *Between Earth and Heaven: The Architecture of John Lautner* (New York: Rizzoli International Publications, 2008), 6.

<sup>3</sup> Adapted from “Mr. Harvey,” *Harvey Prize*, <http://harveypz.net.technion.ac.il/mr-harvey/> (accessed July 2015).

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toolmaker in a large company, and, two years later, immigrated to the United States. There, Harvey attended the Cooper Union School, and found employment in 1910 with the Hot Point Electric Company in Ontario, California. In 1914, Harvey set out on his own, hired two men, and set up shop in downtown Los Angeles. Thus began the Harvey Machine Company, which had over 300 employees within six years of its inception.

During the next two decades, Harvey took out numerous patents in specialized machinery and equipment. His clients included large industries, such as the Bendix Company, which obtained Harvey's automatic pilot light device. He sold his deep valve pumping unit to a firm that later became part of the Republic Steel Company. The United States Steel Company bought another of Harvey's inventions, a wiring machine. During the Great Depression, when almost all industrial firms cut back or closed, Harvey Machine Company worked at full capacity. After World War II, the company acquired a large aluminum plant in Torrance, California. The facility became the nucleus of Harvey Aluminum Company, which had plants throughout the US, the Virgin Islands, Europe, and Africa. The company's labs developed new metal alloys, some of which were utilized by the space industry.

The Harvey House, originally constructed in 1950, is an excellent example of the Organic-influenced Mid-century Modern architecture of master architect John Lautner from this period. Its simple geometric plan and roof structure resulted from the manipulation of basic geometric shapes, a hallmark of many of Lautner's residential commissions. Other characteristic features include the use of a variety of materials, including concrete, stone, and glass, and the difficult hillside site.

At the Harvey House, Lautner collaborated with former ship builder John de la Vaux. Together, Lautner and De la Vaux developed unconventional construction techniques and innovative design solutions for the site. Lautner united diverse elements of the site geometry into a set of individually shaped spaces that flowed together internally and fit within the larger geometry of the plan, creating a coherent whole. He also saw it as increasing the freedom of movement from indoors to outdoors. To make a house that seemed to float on the hilltop, Lautner used a drum to anchor four interlocking pavilions. He carried the logic of the curve in the circle into the outlying wings, out to the terrace and on to the perimeters of the site. These experiments with form show Lautner searching for shapes that will fit to each site, instead of being derived from a specific formalist theory.<sup>4</sup>

From the Harvey House onward, Lautner became increasingly obsessed with durability. His designs attempted to change the patterns of everyday life to make a society and culture more aware of its surroundings and their commonality.<sup>5</sup> The Harvey House was Lautner's first opportunity to design with a larger budget and therefore realize grander themes.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Nicholas Olsberg, "Building: Shaping Awareness," in Nicholas Olsberg, ed., *Between Earth and Heaven: The Architecture of John Lautner* (New York: Rizzoli International Publications, 2003), 75-76.

<sup>5</sup> Nicholas Olsberg, "Grounding: Idea of the Real," in Nicholas Olsberg, ed., *Between Earth and Heaven: The Architecture of John Lautner* (New York: Rizzoli International Publications, 2003), 38-64.

<sup>6</sup> Tim Street-Porter and Nicolai Ouroussoff, *LA Modern* (New York: Rizzoli International Publications, 2008), 123.

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### ***Mid-century Modern Architecture***

Mid-century Modern is a term used to describe the post-World War II iteration of the International Style in both commercial and residential design. The International Style was characterized by geometric forms, smooth wall surfaces, and an absence of exterior decoration. Mid-century Modern represents the adaptation of these elements to the local climate and topography, and in residential design to the postwar need for efficiently-built, moderately-priced homes. Mid-century Modernism is often characterized by a clear expression of structure and materials, large expanses of glass, and open interior plans. It was a conscious reaction against the rigid architectural language of the International Style, which was minimalist in concept, stressed functionalism, and was devoid of regional characteristics and nonessential decorative elements.

### ***Organic Architecture***

Frank Lloyd Wright first used the term ‘organic architecture’ in an article for *Architectural Record* in August 1914.<sup>7</sup> Wright applied the word organic to “‘living’ structure – a structure or concept wherein features or parts are so organized in form and substance as to be, applied to purpose, integral. Everything that ‘lives’ is therefore organic.”<sup>8</sup> Organic architecture meant a living architecture in which every composition, element, and detail was deliberately shaped for the job it was to perform. Wright stressed the unity of building, furnishings, and environment in an “organic-entity, as contrasted with that former insensate aggregation of parts...One great thing instead of a quarrelling collection of so many little things.”<sup>9</sup> Wright expressed his concept of Organic design through crystalline plan forms, the possibility of growth by asymmetrical addition, the relationship of composition to site and client, and the use of local materials.<sup>10</sup>

The chief concept of Organic architecture is the merging of building and nature, so that the design responds to the environment rather than imposing itself upon it. Organic architecture grew out of the site from within, employing natural shapes, complex geometries, and new building materials and technologies to unify all elements of the design – site, structure, spaces, fixtures, finishes, and furnishing - into a single harmonious unit.<sup>11</sup>

John Lautner’s work from this period represents important tenets of Mid-century Modern/Organic architecture, along with influences from his mentor, Frank Lloyd Wright. Lautner’s early work most directly reflects Wright’s influence, along with Lautner’s own emphasis on natural materials and the importance of site specific architecture. The Harvey House reflects important character-defining features of Lautner’s residential architecture from this period, including its Wrightian-influenced design; integration of building and site; innovative

<sup>7</sup> Adapted from “Wright – Organic Architecture,” Frank Lloyd Wright Trust, <http://www.flwright.org/ckfinder/userfiles/files/Wright-Organic-Architecture.pdf> (accessed August 2015).

<sup>8</sup> Frank Lloyd Wright, *Modern Architecture; Being the Kahn Lectures for 1930* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1931), 27.

<sup>9</sup> Ulrich Conrads, *Programs and Manifestoes on 20<sup>th</sup>-century Architecture* (Cambridge, MA: MIT, 1999), 25.

<sup>10</sup> Peter Collins, “The Biology of Analogy,” *Changing Ideals in Modern Architecture 1750-1950* (London: Faber and Faber, 1965).

<sup>11</sup> Virginia Savage McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York, NY: Alfred A. Knopf, 2014), 656.

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structural technique; emphasis on geometry; dominant roof form; open plan; and connection of indoor and outdoor space.

### **Conclusion**

The Harvey House is significant as an excellent example of Mid-century Modern/Organic architecture in Southern California by master architect John Lautner. It meets the registration requirements outlined in the Multiple Property Documentation Form "Residential Architecture of John Lautner in Southern California, 1940-1994; Theme: John Lautner Residential Architecture in Southern California, 1940-1955." It retains significant character-defining features of its original design, and retains all seven aspects of integrity.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Arahuete, Helena. "Restoration of John Lautner's Harvey Residence." Letter. August 30, 2001.

Campbell-Lange, Barbara-Ann, John Lautner, and Peter Gössel. *John Lautner*. Köln: Taschen, 1999.

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Hess, Alan. "Building Types Study - Renovated Buildings: Harvey House." *Architectural Record*. November 2001.

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Lynch, Kelly. Tour of house. May 9, 2011.

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"Modern Living." *Vanity Fair*. April 2000.

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Weinstein, Dave. "John Lautner's 'Keeping it Real' Approach to Architecture."  
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Wright, Frank Lloyd. *Modern Architecture; Being the Kahn Lectures for 1930*. Princeton, NJ:  
Princeton University Press, 1931.

"Wright – Organic Architecture." Frank Lloyd Wright Trust.  
<http://www.flwright.org/ckfinder/userfiles/files/Wright-Organic-Architecture.pdf>.  
Accessed August 2015.

"Unusual Plan Developed for a House That Floats on a Hill Top." *Southwest Builder and  
Contractor*. June 23, 1950. p.18-19.

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**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Getty Research Institute; Lautner Foundation

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** \_\_\_\_\_

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreeage of Property** 0.93

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 34.109251                      Longitude: -118.311339
2. Latitude:                                      Longitude:
3. Latitude:                                      Longitude:
4. Latitude:                                      Longitude:

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**Or**

**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

- |          |           |           |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The property is located at 2180 West Live Oak Drive. The parcel is bounded by West Live Oak Drive on the north and west, and single-family homes on the south and east.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries represent the historic and current boundaries of the Harvey House property.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Original nomination prepared by Chris Stanford, Peter Fox, and Dustin Nguyen, California State Polytechnic University Pomona, under the guidance of Lauren Weiss Bricker and Luis G. Hoyos

Revised nomination:

name/title: Christine Lazzaretto, Principal; John LoCascio, Senior Architect; Molly Iker, Associate Architectural Historian

organization: Historic Resources Group

street & number: 12 S. Fair Oaks, Suite 200

city or town: Pasadena state: CA zip code: 91105

e-mail christine@historicrosourcesgroup.com

telephone: 626-793-2400 x112

date: August 6, 2015



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### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

### Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### Photo Log

Name of Property: Leo M. Harvey House

City or Vicinity: Los Angeles

County: Los Angeles

State: California

Photographer: Luis G. Hoyos

Date Photographed: May 9, 2011

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

<b>PHOTO #</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION/VIEW</b>
0001	Exterior view of motor court and northeast façade, facing southwest.
0002	Interior view of living room, facing north.
0003	Interior view of office, facing southwest.
0004	Exterior view of main volume of house, facing northwest.
0005	Exterior view of east façade, facing northwest.
0006	Detail view of interior court, facing west.
0007	Exterior view of lower garden terrace, facing north.

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### Additional Documentation: Location Map

Figure 1.

Harvey House - 2186 West Live Oak Drive , Los Angeles, CA 90068

USGS COORDINATES: 34.109251, -118.311339



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**Additional Documentation: Photographs**

**Figure 2.**



View of pool and south façade, facing northwest. (Photo credit: Flickr – Daryen, photographed in 2008)

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**Figure 3.**



Detail of living room, roof structure and window system (Photo credit: Flickr – Daryen, photographed in 2008)



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**Figure 4.**



Detail of roof in living room (Photo credit: Flickr – Daryen, photographed in 2008)

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.