

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NP USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

New School

AND/OR COMMON

Hill Grade School (preferred name)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

601 East Main

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Marion

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

No. 4, Garner Shriver

STATE

Kansas

CODE

20

COUNTY

Marion

CODE

115

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Unified School District 408

STREET & NUMBER

601 East Main

CITY, TOWN

Marion

VICINITY OF

STATE

Kansas 66861

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Register of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Marion County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Marion

STATE

Kansas 66861

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1971

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Kansas State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

120 West 10th

Topeka

STATE

Kansas 66612

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The original wing of the Hill Grade School was built in 1872-73. It is located at the head of Main street on an eminence. Constructed of the local magnesium limestone, it measured 56 feet by 60 feet and was 33 feet in height. It had a hip roof in the center with a belfry. There were two school rooms and two recitation rooms on the first story and a hall, two recitation rooms and an auditorium on the second.

The school was enlarged in 1889-90. The design of the original building had been influenced by the Roman-Tuscan mode of the Renaissance revival style and while the addition respects the building lines of the original it has been constructed with a more roughly finished stone and is less finely detailed. The addition covers the entire north facade of the old building. A 65 foot tower which is the dominating feature of the west facade was also erected at this time. The interior of the old school was remodelled, and though the same functions were retained, the rooms were enlarged and each given a cloak room. The first story of the addition contained two rooms and a library. There was a high school room and two smaller recitation rooms on the second story. The superintendent's office was in the tower on the second story.

The 65 foot tower mentioned above is the central feature of the main facade. The tower projects forward from the building and there are arched entrances on its north and west faces. The entrances are built out from the tower, the voussoirs and keystone articulated and there are double wood doors with a transom. There are two windows on the western face of the second story of the tower. Above on the third story is one window centered on the stone pier separating the windows below. There are four small, narrow windows on the fourth story on each face of the tower. Over these windows, a large arched opening has been cut in each face. The tower is crowned with a spire and flagpole.

The original part of the building is located to the south of the tower. The exterior walls are random ashlar, and the corners and windows are quoined. There are four aligned windows on each story of the west facade. These windows are rectangular and have a hooded lintel with a dressed stone sill. The wide entablature is unembellished. The window lintels on the south facade are only plain blocks of dressed stone, but both the windows and corners are quoined. There are four aligning windows on each story. There is a fixed metal fire escape from one of the second story windows to the ground. The east facade also had four aligned windows on each story. A fifth window on the second floor is above an auxiliary entrance added in 1889. The window details are similar to those used on the original part of the west facade.

The northern part of the west facade was erected in 1889. The exterior walls are limestone cut in the cyclopean style. There is a chimney centered on this portion of the facade and rectangular wood framed windows on each story to either side of it including the basement. A string course which runs around the original building above the basement windows has been continued on the addition. A grouping of four windows with a fused

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

Hill Grade School

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

7

lintel is centered on the north facade. Another slightly larger window is centered on the remaining wall space on either side. The wall steps back slightly for another face with three aligned windows on each story and an oblique metal fire escape from the second floor. The addition has four rectangular windows and projects forward on the eastern facade. The joint between the original building and its addition is bridged by a chimney which breaks the entablature. An auxiliary entrance to the building is located slightly to the south of the base of the chimney. This entrance is arched with voussoirs and a keystone.

The roof is hipped and has been covered with wood shingles.

Modern additions have included a new door on the east facade, a few window air conditioning units and a concrete block entryway to the basement on the south facade.

A \$200,000 interior remodeling project is underway as this nomination is being prepared.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1872-1873

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Hill Grade School at Marion, now the oldest public school building in the state in daily use, was built in 1872-1873,

The first school house at Marion in 1865 was a log cabin, and after 1868 the school and courthouse shared the same building, the school on the first floor and county offices on the second.

In 1872 it was decided to build a new school and a special election was held to determine the location. The site selected was on a hill above Mud creek and several blocks east of the business district. Bids were solicited in June and contracts awarded in early July. The rock was to be furnished by Leonard and Shanklin and a Mr. Hoops was to erect it. Stephen Jex would furnish the stone and do the cut stone work. In late July the contract for woodwork was let to S.T. Howe and R. Lacrone.

Approximately 15 to 20 men were employed on the construction. By November the masonry work was finished. In February, 1873, the contract for painting was let to Jack Widmeyer. Since a dance was held in the building on June 14, it presumably was finished by then. School opened in the new building in October, 1873. The local paper reported on November 29 that a 400 pound bell had been secured by Battey Bros., a local hardware dealer, for installation in the belfry. The cost of the building was about \$15,000. An 1883 state history described the building as "the pride of the city."

Increasing enrollment and the expansion of high school classes created the need for an addition to the building in 1889. In the meantime another school had been built in the city so all students were on half-day schedules at the other building while construction was under way on the hill school.

Work began in the spring of 1889. Plans for the addition were prepared by Parsons and Son, architects, of Topeka. The general contractor was H.C. Kable of Marion. Although scheduled for completion by September, the work wasn't done until several months later. Some departments moved in late November and the new high school was fully occupied in January.

This school building is one of Marion's most historic buildings. It has been adapted to serve different purposes, as a grade school, a high school, again a grade school, and now as an administration building. As far as can be determined, it is the oldest public school building in use in Kansas, and it has long been a source of pride and a landmark to Marion citizens

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

History of the state of Kansas. (Chicago, A. T. Andreas, 1883), p. 1257.
 Marion County Record (Marion), May 18, June 29, July 6, 20, Aug. 3, 17,
 Sept. 14, Nov. 9, 1872; Jan. 25, Feb. 15, Mar. 1, June 14, Oct. 11,
 1873; Mar. 8, 22, Apr. 12, May 3, 17, July 26, Sept. 27 Oct. 4, Nov.
 1, 29, Dec. 27, 1889; Jan. 31, 1890; Mar. 28, 1929; Sept. 24, 1975.
 Van Meter, Sondra, Marion County, Kansas, Past and Present (Hillsboro, Kans.,
 M.B. Publishing House, 1972), pp. 260, 261

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 4	6 7 3 4 6 5	4 2 4 6 1 2 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE	Cornelia E. Wyma, Architectural Historian Richard Pankratz -Director, Historic Sites Survey		
ORGANIZATION	Kansas State Historical Society	DATE	December 17, 1976
STREET & NUMBER		TELEPHONE	(913) 296-3251
CITY OR TOWN	Topeka	STATE	Kansas

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Nyle H. Miller

TITLE Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society DATE January 19, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

Hill Grade School

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

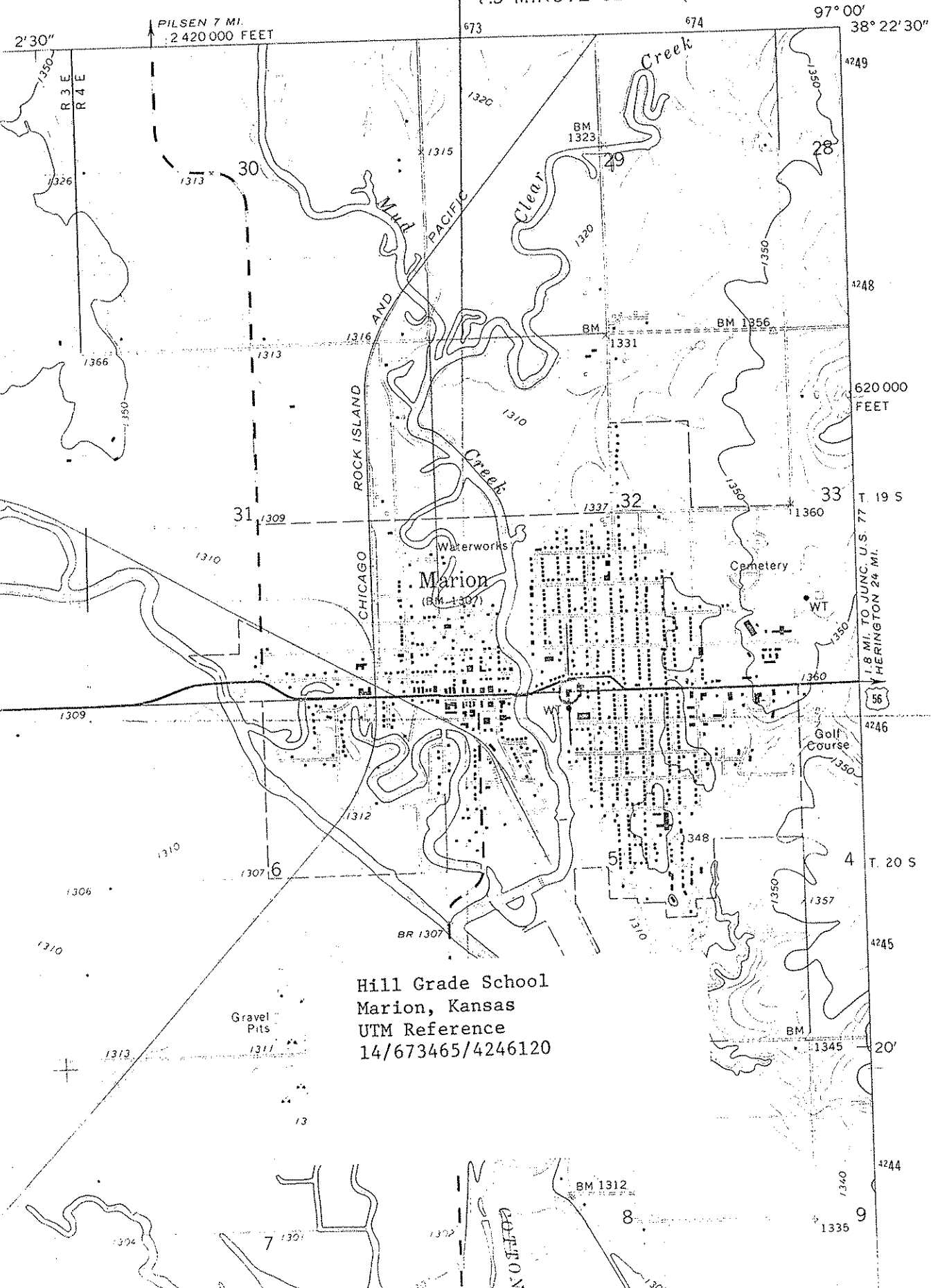
PAGE

2

When it was built in 1873, the building was commonly referred to as the "New School." After the addition it became the "New High School." Later it became the "Hill Grade School" for the obvious reason that it was located on a hill. Presently it is known as the "Administration Building." Since it was known as the Hill Grade School for an extensive period, that name was selected as the preferred name.

MARION QUADRANGLE
KANSAS—MARION CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

6660 IV NW
(LINCOLNVILLE)



Hill Grade School
Marion, Kansas
UTM Reference
14/673465/4246120

Gravel Pits

T. 19 S
1.8 MI. TO JUNC. U.S. 77
HERINGTON 24 MI.

56

T. 20 S

20'

4244

9

SPRING