

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**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

Marshall County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

Marshall County Courthouse

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

1207 Broadway

CITY, TOWN

Marysville

VICINITY OF  
CODE

No. 2

NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Kansas

CODE 20

COUNTY  
Marshall

CODE 117

**3 CLASSIFICATION****CATEGORY**

☐ DISTRICT  
☒ BUILDING(S)  
☐ STRUCTURE  
☐ SITE  
☐ OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

☒ PUBLIC  
☐ PRIVATE  
☐ BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

☒ OCCUPIED  
☐ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

**ACCESSIBLE**

☒ YES: RESTRICTED  
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
☐ NO

**PRESENT USE**

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM  
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK  
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS  
☒ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Marshall County

STREET &amp; NUMBER

1207 Broadway

CITY, TOWN

Marysville

VICINITY OF

STATE  
Kansas 66508**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Register of Deeds

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Marshall County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Marysville

STATE  
Kansas**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1969

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Kansas State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

120 West 10th, Topeka, Kansas 66612

STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT  
☐ GOOD  
☒ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Marshall County Courthouse is a two-story Romanesque style red brick structure facing north on Broadway. It is situated on Marysville's main east-west street about three blocks east of the central business district.

The dominant feature of the building is an eight-sided tower over the main entrance which reaches five stories or more. The dimensions of the building are 90 feet long, 60 feet wide, 68 feet to the top of the roof and 104 feet to the top of the tower roof. The exterior of the building is of St. Joseph hydraulic pressed brick with terra cotta trim. The main entrance is flanked on either side by two polished red granite columns on gray granite pedestals and surmounted by elaborate capitals of the same gray material. Resting on these columns are massive red sandstone caps and cornices which provide the foundation for the brickwork of the tower.

The basement walls are of native rock up to the surface of the ground. The first course above ground is of Bedford, Indiana limestone and the rest of the stonework, including the cornerstone, is of Warrensburg, Missouri sandstone.

The first floor was arranged to house the offices of the treasurer, county clerk, county commissioners, attorney, superintendent of schools, probate judge, county surveyor and register of deeds. The second floor had the court room, the clerk of the district court, sheriff, jury rooms and judge's chambers. All rooms were finished in oak. The first floor offices had 12 foot ceilings and those on the second floor, 16, except for the arched ceiling of the court room which rose 23 feet.

The floor of the tower and the steps were of Joliet stone. Enameled brick were used for the walls of the corridors and stairways. The stairs were of iron with slate treads. All the main corridors were given tile covering. The floors were laid on brick work arches and iron girders.

The roof, which is basically a hip design with intersecting gables, is supported by a network of heavy iron trusses. The roof has iron girders with asbestos roofing covered by slate. No wood was used in the roof and very little in the entire building except for the trim. The tower roof is an eight-sided pyramid, surmounted by a copper finial, with four intersecting gables.

Exterior ornamentation is supplied by decorative brick treatments above the second story windows and at various levels on the tower. On both the east and west sides the word "Justice" is featured in large ornate lettering in terra cotta above the second floor windows. "Marshall Co." appears in raised letters at the base of the tower above the main entrance. There is much ornamental iron at the cornice all around the building as well as at the tower roof line. The intersecting gables on the main roof as well as the tower are topped by copper ornaments at their peaks and flanked by decorative colonnettes.

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Most of the windows on the structure are simple rectangular openings. Arched openings are found on some of the first floor windows on the south side and in the gable ends.

The exterior of the building presents an appearance almost as it was originally. The pointed spire, or flag pole, of the tower which reached an additional 35 feet and the brick chimney at the southwest corner were removed for safety reasons.

The building has been well maintained on the interior but the exterior has not received the same care. Repairs and maintenance are needed.

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The Marshall County Courthouse is significant to the people of the county for its long usage as the seat of county government and as a symbol of law and justice. The large Romanesque style brick building is a fine example of 19th century courthouse architecture in Kansas.

## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES      1891-1892

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Marshall County Courthouse was built in 1891-1892 to replace an 1873 courthouse which burned December 30, 1890. (Arson was suspected but never proved.) The 1873 building had been paid for by Marysville township and donated to the county to insure that Marysville would remain the county seat. This followed a rather bitter county seat "war" and a number of elections in 1871.

After the 1890 fire, other towns in the county, notably Blue Rapids and Frankfort, offered inducements to the county commissioners to move the county seat. But in March, 1891, representatives of the city of Marysville surpassed all previous offers when they informed the county commission that they had \$40,000 in cash and subscriptions to build a new courthouse. The commissioners--F.J. Faulkner, W.H. Auld and J.M. Bradshaw--accepted the offer and planning began for the new building.

On May 1, 1891, plans were received from the architect, H.C. Koch of Milwaukee, Wisconsin and accepted by the commission. Bids were opened on June 3, 1891, and the contract awarded for \$43,028 to the low bidder, Groves and Hackett of St. Joseph, Missouri. William Daugherty of Marysville was selected as the local superintendent of the project; he was to have charge of all building operations during the absence of the architect. A local man, I.B. Davis, had been awarded the contract for the excavation work in April, 1891. According to the terms of the contract with Groves and Hackett local craftsmen and laborers were to be hired as much as possible. The cornerstone was laid July 23, 1891, with a crowd of more than 3,000 present for the parade and ceremonies.

Scheduled for occupancy by January 1, 1892, the building was not completed until several weeks later. After the county expended \$5,000 for furniture in April and \$1,200 a short time later for a vault, the courthouse was completely outfitted and in use. The county had received a large attractive and serviceable structure at very little expense and Marysville had retained the county seat. However, the residents of Marysville had bonds to pay off totaling \$25,000 which had been issued to help finance the construction. These bonds were not retired until 1941.

The building has continued in use as the center of the county government. In the mid-1960's there was serious talk of replacing the old structure but nothing came of it, and presently there appears to be strong feelings that the building should be retained.



## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

see attached sheet

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY one

UTM REFERENCES

A 

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
------	---------	----------

degrees min. seconds  
Latitude: 96 38 31.2  
Longitude: 39 50 28.2

B 

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
------	---------	----------

C 

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
------	---------	----------

D 

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
------	---------	----------

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Richard Pankratz

ORGANIZATION

Kansas State Historical Society

DATE

1974

STREET & NUMBER

120 West 10th

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

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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