

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register Listed  
January 2, 2013

# 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. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

## 1. Name of Property

historic name Marysville High School/Junior High School Complex

other names/site number Homer Hanson Stadium; KHRI #117-247 (High School) and #117-246 (Stadium)

## 2. Location

street & number 1011-1111 Walnut Street

N/A
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 not for publication

city or town Marysville

N/A
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 vicinity

state Kansas code KS county Marshall code 117 zip code 66508

## 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

### SEE FILE

Signature of certifying official/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Kansas State Historical Society  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

## 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:) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

Marysville High School/Junior High School Complex

Marshall County, Kansas  
Historic Public Schools of Kansas MPDF  
County and State

Name of Property

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only **one** box.)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	5	buildings
		district
		site
1		structure
2		object
6	5	<b>Total</b>

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

Historic Public Schools of Kansas  
New Deal-Era Resources of Kansas

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/School

EDUCATION/School

EDUCATION/Education-related

EDUCATION/Education-related

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

MODERN MOVEMENT/Art Deco

foundation: CONCRETE

MODERN MOVEMENT

walls: BRICK

NO STYLE

STONE

roof: ASPHALT

other: CONCRETE

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### **Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

### **Summary Paragraph**

The Marysville High School/Junior High School Complex, at 1011-1111 Walnut, Marysville, Marshall County, Kansas, is located in a residential neighborhood two blocks south of the historic Marshall County Courthouse and approximately two blocks southwest of Marysville's historic business district. The complex occupies 12 acres and includes eight buildings, one structure, and two objects. The stadium and playing field were constructed near the center of the property in 1937, followed by the Art Deco high school at the northeast corner of the property in 1939. In 1963 the junior high school was built just to the west of the high school. In 1993 a small addition was constructed to connect the high school and junior high. A small historic one-story stone building with a flat roof and five vehicular bays on the south side stands just west of the stadium and field. Two large non-historic metal Butler buildings and a smaller greenhouse occupy the southwest corner of the property. Two non-historic one-story buildings sit just north and northwest of the stadium. Two sets of paired historic stone gate piers mark the west and south entrances to the playing field. The resources of the property illustrate resource types identified in the Multiple Property Documentation Form, "Historic Public Schools of Kansas," including the City High School and Education-Related Structures.

Three buildings (the high school, junior high school, and transportation building), one structure (the stadium), and two objects (the stone gate piers) contribute to the historic significance of the complex. These resources have experienced minimal alterations. The most notable change was the construction of the link between the high school and junior high school buildings, the replacement of windows within historic openings, the removal of the northwestern portion of stadium wall, construction of a pressbox atop the stadium, and the infill of the historic vehicular bays on the transportation building. These changes do not diminish one's understanding of the complex as a functionally-related campus of public secondary education from the era of its construction. The contributing resources retain integrity of location, setting, design, a majority of their materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The non-contributing resources were built after the period of significance and reflect the continued use of the property for its historic purpose.

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### **Narrative Description**

#### **SETTING**

The nominated property occupies 12 acres bounded roughly by Walnut Street on the north, Highway 77 or South 10<sup>th</sup> Street on the west, Oak Street on the south, and 12<sup>th</sup> Street on the east. The property slopes down steeply from its high point at the northeast corner to the southwest corner. The high school occupies the highest point. The junior high school, located directly west of the high school is sited slightly lower. The stadium is built into the hill south of the school buildings, where the grade drops dramatically. The large playing field fills the level area southwest of the stadium. The stadium and field have a diagonal orientation, with the long ends pointing northwest and southeast. The stone stadium wall lines the hill north of the stadium and curves around to the east, stopping at a densely wooded grove of trees on the adjacent rise. Southeast of the main playing field are secondary practice fields.

The school complex is in a residential neighborhood in the southeast quadrant of Marysville. The houses date from the late nineteenth century to the mid twentieth century. Grassy lawns surround the north, east and west sides of the school buildings. The ground behind the high school and junior high school is paved for parking. Public sidewalks line the north and west sides of the property. At the south end of the high school 12<sup>th</sup> Street curves east to become Spring Street. At the curve in the sidewalk, a pair of historic stone piers marks an entrance and stairs to the stadium. At the southwest corner of the property, Oak Street borders the south end of the non-historic Butler buildings and curves south into 11<sup>th</sup> Street, which borders the west edge of the practice fields. A second pair of historic stone piers at the north edge of the Oak/11<sup>th</sup> Street curve marks the south entrance to the stadium and playing field.

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## **HIGH SCHOOL – CONTRIBUTING (1939)**

### Exterior

The high school has an L-shaped footprint with a notch in the northeast corner formed by an offset between the main block and a secondary block, which houses the gymnasium. A flat roof tops the building, which has two stories on the front (north) and three stories on the rear (south). The walls are clad with buff brick and limestone trim. Side and rear elevations are generally unornamented.

On the front façade, the stylized ornamentation, blank wall segments, and horizontal massing communicate the building's Art Deco styling. A low beltcourse spans the front elevation below which the base of the brickwork has a rusticated pattern. A limestone beltcourse ornaments the top of the blank walls at the ends of the north elevation. Both beltcourses wrap around to the side elevations. The entrance surrounds feature fluted limestone that flanks the doorway, curving from the front wall to the slightly recessed entrance. The limestone cornice above the doorway has panels carved with chevrons and curved geometric ornament. Limestone panels with the same pattern top the three two-story window openings in the center of the front elevation. At the top of the entry bays, a circular marble medallion is mounted on smooth limestone panels. Below the limestone panels, an ornamental band of carved limestone spans the top of the window. Limestone copings top the brick walls. The coping is larger at the center of the block and features fluted details and three panels carved with stylized figures representing education. Carved limestone blocks are inset high on the brick wall. Non-historic letters mounted on metal rails identify the school, "Marysville High School." Ornamental metal grilles with a chevron pattern span the bottom of the center three two-story windows.

Facing north toward Walnut Street, the symmetrical front façade has seven bays. The two end bays are blank. Entry bays adjoin the blank bays and project slightly forward from the plane of the façade. The entry bays bookend the center three bays, which are defined by three sets of three-part windows. The arrangement of the bays reflects the interior floorplan, with the central auditorium occupying the central three bays. The east elevation of the main block has nine bays defined by large single window openings. The south elevation is largely blank, and a modern connector covers much of the original west façade.

The secondary block has a significant setback from the primary façade of the main block, creating a notch in the footprint. A secondary entrance pierces the north elevation of this block, while the east elevation has six bays defined by two-story engaged pilasters. Groups of individual window openings pierce the wall between the pilasters. The west elevation has nine bays defined by large window openings and a secondary entrance at the ground level with a large window opening above.

Non-historic aluminum-framed windows fill the historic window openings. These windows replaced the original windows in the mid-1980s. On the side and rear elevations, the windows have two glazed sashes topped with a blank transom panel. On the front elevation, the windows have two columns of glazed sashes in the openings above the entries and in the three two-story windows in the center of the façade. The historic steel windows remain in the three window openings that flank the center group of three. As well, historic steel sashes remain in the second story windows above the secondary entrance at the recessed east end of the north elevation. A limestone beltcourse runs above the second story window openings on the side elevations. Spandrels between the first and second story windows have patterned brickwork.

Non-historic aluminum-framed glazed storefront-type assemblies fill the entrances on the front elevation. Wide concrete stairs rise to each. The east entrance also has a concrete ramp. Non-historic pipe railings line the sidewalks and stairs.

### Interior

The interior of the high school retains its original configuration of corridors and functional spaces, as well as most of its historic finishes. U-shaped double-loaded corridors organize the first and second floors. Classrooms line the east, south, and west sides of the corridors. Administrative offices occupy the northeast corner of the first floor. The auditorium is at the center of the building, within the "U" created by the corridors. The two-story gymnasium occupies the secondary wing.

There are two front (north) entrances into each corridor and an entrance at the setback in the northeast corner to access the gym. Historically, an entrance at the south end of the west elevation provided access into the west stair hall. It now connects to the addition. Two secondary doorways on the rear elevation provide direct access into the gym.

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Two stair halls provide vertical circulation. These are located on the east and west ends of the building along the perimeter walls.

The corridors feature simple but elegant decorative finishes. A high wainscot of glazed yellow tile topped by a simple stained wood chair rail clads the lower portion of the walls. The wall above the wainscot is painted plaster. Banks of non-historic metal lockers are inset into the wainscot in areas where historic lockers were likely located. Arched wall niches hold drinking fountains. The plaster ceilings and exposed beams in the north-south corridors of the first floor are slightly arched. Historic acoustical tiles are affixed directly to the ceiling. The east-west corridors of the first floor and all second floor corridors have non-historic dropped grids ceilings with lay-in panels. Floors are terrazzo with a red border and integral base. Historic two-panel stained wood doors with upper glazed panels provide entry to the classrooms. Many classroom doors retain stenciled lettering denoting the room's original function.

Classrooms also retain a high degree of historic material. Most retain their historic configuration. Tongue-and-groove wood covers the floors. Walls are painted plaster, and historic acoustical tiles cover the ceilings. Dry erase boards fill the historic wood chalkboard frames. Historic built-in cabinets are found in many classrooms.

The configuration and finishes of the gymnasium remain mostly intact. Perimeter walls are exposed masonry block. Tongue-and-groove wood covers the gym floor. The ceiling has exposed painted wood joists and deck. Supplemental unpainted wood members have been installed between the historic joists. Original concrete bleachers with wood benches line the east and west sides of the gym floor. Non-historic partitions wall off clerestory seating above the bleachers at the second floor.

The large auditorium retains its original configuration and most of its original finishes. The raised stage and rectangular proscenium at the west end of the auditorium face a balcony at the east end of the room. The concrete auditorium floor slopes toward the stage. Two sets of stairs flanking the entry doors on the rear wall rise to the two-tiered balcony that spans the width of the room. A projection booth centered on the balcony projects from the rear wall. Like the corridors, the auditorium has simple but elegant finishes. Blind panels on the south wall mirror the size and shape of the three large windows at the center of the north wall. Historic acoustical tile is attached to the plaster wall within the panels. A wide decorative cornice molding encircles the plaster ceiling. Fluted pilasters on the side walls have decorative cartouches on the capitals. Decorative ventilation grilles pierce the walls above the doorways flanking the stage. Three groups of non-historic seats fill the main floor. Non-historic carpet covers the concrete floors, although painted concrete is exposed under the seats.

The basement contains classrooms and mechanical rooms.

Historic light fixtures remain in many areas including the auditorium and the north-south corridors on the first floor. Auditorium light fixtures include both decorative pendant and ceiling-mounted fixtures. They have chrome bands around the domed shades. Corridor light fixtures are decorative pendants with globe shades.

### **JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL – CONTRIBUTING (1963)**

#### Exterior

The junior high school has a rectangular plan with a notched northwest corner. It also has a flat roof and blond brick that complements the earlier high school building. The building is two stories tall on the front (north) elevation and three stories tall on the rear (south) elevation. It presents an essentially blank façade to the front (north), while fenestration is abundant on the rear (south) elevation.

The primary façade, facing north onto Walnut Street, is asymmetrical. It has horizontal massing and large blank expanses set within concrete framing (posts and beams) that communicate its Modern Movement styling. At the east end of the front elevation, the first story is recessed slightly under the second story. Within this area the wall is clad with coarse aggregate concrete. A ribbon of clerestory windows pierces the wall above the concrete. The main entrance is at the west end of the clerestory windows. A flat-roofed metal canopy supported by two slender metal posts projects from the doorway to provide a sheltered entrance. Just west of the entrance is the gym, which is expressed on the exterior as a large two-story block with a large expanse of uninterrupted brick. At the far west end of the front elevation, a one-story block with exposed concrete framing and blank brick walls abuts the gym. This block runs south to a two-story block that is set back from the front elevation, creating the notch at the northwest corner. The two-story block has rows of horizontal

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fenestration on the first and second stories set within exposed concrete framing. Large blond brick spandrels clad the wall between the first and second story windows. Another one-story block with blank brick walls occupies the far west side of the building. It has a large vehicular entrance or loading bay and a single pedestrian door on the rear (south) elevation.

The three-story rear (south) elevation is long and rectangular with fifteen bays defined by slightly projecting exposed concrete framing. The fourth and twelfth bays have deeply recessed walls of aluminum-framed glazing that enclose the stair halls. The first three bays and the fifth through the ninth bays from the west have fenestration that matches the windows on the west end of the front elevation. The tenth and eleventh and thirteenth through fifteenth bays are filled with brick. The lower level walls are filled with concrete with a narrow ribbon of clerestory windows.

Non-historic aluminum-framed windows fill the historic window openings. These windows replaced the original windows circa 2000. The ribbons of windows have two operable hoppers in the lower portion topped by a single fixed light and an opaque transom panel. The main entrance on the front elevation has two sets of paired glazed doors topped by a thin ribbon of glazed transom. A secondary entrance is located at the northwest corner of the building. Two sets of paired aluminum-framed glazed doors are topped by glazed transoms. Just to the north of these doors, a single pedestrian doorway is filled with a solid metal door. In addition to the vehicular bay and pedestrian door in the south elevation of the one story west block, paired metal slab doors pierce the west elevation of this block. Paired doors on the rear (south) elevation are set within the glazed stair hall walls.

#### Interior

The Junior High School retains its original configuration of corridors, classrooms, and functional spaces, as well as its original finishes. L-shaped double-loaded corridors organize each floor. Classrooms line the south side of the east-west corridor. The large gymnasium occupies the center of the building, along the front (north) wall.

There are four entrances into the building – two on the front (north) side and two on the rear (south). The two entrances on the front open into the first floor corridors. The rear entrances open in the stair halls at the ground level. All of the doors are fully glazed with glazed surrounds (sidelights/transoms), typical of Modern Movement design.

Two stair-halls located along the rear (south) elevation provide vertical circulation. The open terrazzo stair structures are flanked by exposed brick walls and abut the glazed wall of the south elevation. Steel-framed glazed partitions separate the stair halls from the corridors. Simple metal railings line the stairs.

The wide corridors retain original configuration and finishes. Walls are a combination of exposed blond brick (matching the exterior walls) and painted concrete block. Glazed tile lines the east wall in the north-south corridor on the first floor and forms a base at the bottom of all the corridor walls. Acoustical tiles cover the ceilings, and vinyl composition tile covers the concrete floors. On the second floor, the floor has a field of white tile accented with stripes of mustard-colored tile. Classroom entrances are recessed in wide openings along the corridor walls. Steel-framed glazed partitions fill each opening. A partition dividing two classrooms aligns with the center mullion of the glazed partition. Solid wood doors set into each end of the glazed assembly open into each classroom. Banks of metal lockers are surface-mounted to the concrete block walls.

Few changes have been made to the classrooms. Walls are painted concrete block. Dropped grids with lay-in panels cover the ceilings. Above the dropped ceiling, the concrete structure and mechanicals are exposed. Vinyl composition tile covers the floor. Original wood built-in cabinets and cases line the wall on the corridor side. Dry-erase boards in metal frames are mounted on the classroom walls.

The large two-and-a-half story gymnasium occupies the center of the building along the front (north) side. Several courts are delineated on the tongue-and-groove gym floor. Retractable bleachers line the north and south walls. Multiple sets of doorways pierce the east and west walls. Exposed steel trusses support the flat roof.

#### Connector

A narrow addition, constructed in 1993, fills the space between the high school and the junior high, physically linking the two buildings. The two-story mass has a projecting second story and blond brick exterior that complement the massing and materials of the junior high school. A wall of aluminum-framed storefront-type glazing and two sets of paired doors fill the first story of the front elevation, while a large aluminum-framed picture window with divided lights fills the second story.

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The rear (south) elevation is substantially set back from the rear wall of the junior high and slightly set back from the rear wall of the high school. Blond brick and concrete panels clad the wall. Two sets of paired aluminum-framed glazed doors pierce the center of the ground level. Square window openings filled with fixed glazing pierce the second story.

### **STADIUM – CONTRIBUTING (1937)**

A large stadium occupies the land south of the high school and junior high, just northeast of the running track and playing field. The structure, oriented northwest to southeast, consists of a rectangular block with four bays of bleacher seating and native limestone walls that extend out from the top, bottom, and sides of the bleachers. The concrete bleachers rest on a concrete slab. The tiered walls have long spans of random rubble walls between rubble limestone piers that sit atop concrete footings. Historic concrete copings cap the walls and piers. Southeast of the bleachers, the walls become retaining walls, set into the steep rise at the southeast corner of the property. The walls gracefully curve around the northeast corner of the track and field. To the northwest, one section of wall extends to align with the east end of the junior high building. Historically the wall continued further to the northwest, but this section was removed at the time junior high was constructed. In the early 1970s, a poured concrete wall replaced a deteriorated portion of the southeastern-most lower stone wall. A long set of historic concrete stairs flanked by stone walls connects the street above (where 12<sup>th</sup> Street curves into Spring Street) with the upper stone wall.

Fiberglass-wrapped wood benches are mounted to the concrete bleachers. Non-historic folding seats have replaced the benches in the center bays of the top four rows of bleachers.

A playing field has always occupied the area encircled by the stadium. The playing field, and now a track, have modern surface and turf. A chain link fence encircles the south side of the track.

### **AUXILLARY BUILDINGS/OBJECTS**

#### Contributing (circa 1937)

A historic one-story, flat-roofed stone building sits west of the playing field. This building has random rubble stone walls laid without coursing. Five large vehicular bays pierce the south elevation. Originally constructed as a transportation building, it no longer serves that function. Stucco wall panels with window and door openings infill the historic vehicular bays. A long rectangular one-story addition with a shed roof abuts the north elevation. Although the historic vehicular openings are filled with stucco, the original openings are very legible and the original function of the building is clear. The other three stone elevations are unaltered.

Two sets of paired stone gate piers mark the west and south entrances to the field. The west set of piers sits southeast of the one-story stone building. The south set of piers sits southeast of the non-historic Butler building. The piers clearly mark the historic entrances to the playing field and are contributing objects to the complex.

#### Non-Contributing (1951-2002)

A small non-historic concrete block press box sits just beyond the rear stadium wall. It was constructed in 1951 and enlarged in the mid-1980s. It has a row of rectangular windows that pierces the front (southwest) elevation to provide views of the field. The building contains restrooms and is used for spectators and announcers. A pipe railing encircles the flat roof, which accommodates additional spectators.

A second, small non-historic building (concession stand) sits north of the retaining wall at the northwest corner of the stadium. It was constructed in 2002. The one story building has a shed roof, a poured concrete foundation, and siding.

Two non-historic, metal Butler buildings and a small greenhouse occupy the southwest corner of the property. The Butler building on the east side was constructed in 1965. The Butler building on the west side was constructed in 1982 to house elementary students while a new elementary school was being constructed. The greenhouse was constructed in 1997.

### **INTEGRITY**

The Marysville High School/Junior High School Complex retains integrity of location, setting, design, feeling, and association. The high school, junior high school, stadium, transportation building, and two sets of stone piers were built within the period of significance, retain integrity and communicate the significance of the complex. While the replacement

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of windows and doors in the school buildings affects integrity of materials and workmanship, the registration requirements presented in the MPDF do not automatically render the property ineligible for register listing based on these changes. More importantly, the buildings retain their historic masonry openings, the exterior design features that communicate their architectural styles, and the historic interior configuration and finishes that communicate their function. The contributing resources illustrate the attributes of the City High School and Education-Related Property subtypes described in Section F of the MPDF. The schools were built to educate the children of Marysville, with space devoted to specific functions such as manual training, home economics, and science, as well as a gymnasium, auditorium, and a large stadium and athletic field. All of these elements are character-defining features of City High Schools. The five non-historic buildings (two Butler buildings, greenhouse, and two buildings at the top of the stadium) support the education function but are non-contributing because they were constructed after the period of significance.



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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.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

EDUCATION

**Period of Significance**

1937-1963

**Significant Dates**

1937, 1939, 1963

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Louis H. Spencer – High School

Anderson-Johnson – Junior High School

**Criteria Considerations**

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

Property is:

- 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.

**Period of Significance (justification)**

The period of significance, 1937-1963, begins with construction of the Stadium and ends with construction of the Junior High School.

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)**

N/A

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Marysville High School/Junior High School Complex at 1011-1111 Walnut Street, Marysville, Marshall County, Kansas, is locally significant under National Register Criterion A for the area of EDUCATION and under Criterion C for the area of ARCHITECTURE. As defined in the Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF) "Historic Public Schools of Kansas," the complex possesses the distinct characteristics of a City school, specifically the City High School<sup>1</sup> and Education-Related Structures (stadium, stone gate piers, and transportation building). The Marysville High School/Junior High School Complex occupies more than a city block and includes a football field, in addition to large gymnasiums and an auditorium in the high school. Marysville Junior High School was constructed as a separate structure but adjacent to the high school, which was typical for junior high schools in Kansas. Both buildings provided specialized classrooms for subjects such as domestic and manual arts, science, and art.

The Marysville High School/Junior High School Complex meets all of the registration requirements presented in the MPDF for its property type. The schools were constructed as public schools within the period of significance outlined in the MPDF. Although the MPDF lists the date of significance as 1884-1955, the latter date is based solely on the fifty-year age requirement, and the MPDF states that the date should float to accommodate later construction dates in subsequent years. The construction date of the junior high school, 1963, is now at the fifty-year age threshold. The buildings retain their original massing, exterior form, primary building materials, pattern of window and door openings, ornamentation and detailing, and interior and classroom configuration. Nearly all of the historic interior finishes remain intact. Most importantly, both the high school and junior high school continue to serve their original function. The stadium and transportation building also meet all of the registration requirements in the MPDF for Education-Related Structures and were constructed within the date of significance. They retain their original location, setting, design, workmanship, feeling, association, and most of their original materials. The northwest portion of the stadium wall was demolished when the junior high school was constructed, but this does not diminish its ability to convey feelings and associations with its historic function. The stadium remains in use today, continuing to serve its historic function. While the vehicular bays of the transportation building have been filled with stucco panels, the original openings are clearly evident and communicate the building's original use.

Schools designed between the Depression and WWII reflected a change in architectural styling. The Marysville High School was constructed as a New Deal project in 1939. Topeka architect Louis H. Spencer designed the high school using the simple form, limited ornament and Art Deco styling that was typical of this period. The design of the junior high school, prepared by the Topeka architecture firm Anderson-Johnson in 1963, took full advantage of advances in construction technology. Built with exposed concrete framing and blond brick, the building has elevations that present both blank masonry walls and expansive glazing, which convey the Modern Movement styling of the middle twentieth-century.

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

The Marysville High School/Junior High School Complex is an excellent example of both the City High School and Education-Related property sub-types. The MPDF defines the City School subtype as a public school constructed for a city or town with a population over 2,000<sup>2</sup> where separate buildings were erected to house elementary and high school students. According to the MPDF, City High Schools constructed during the Progressive Era (early 1900s through World War II) were designed with facilities that accommodated the unique needs of courses in areas such as physical education, science, home economics, and manual, vocational, and industrial training. Specialized classrooms for each discipline were often clustered together within the building. By the second decade of the twentieth century, gymnasiums and auditoriums were usually distinct, dedicated spaces. City High Schools were large buildings that often occupied at least one city block in order to accommodate athletic fields. The Marysville High School exhibits all of these features --

<sup>1</sup> The Marysville High School exhibits characteristics of both the Town High School and City High School subtypes. Town schools generally had one building (or one grade school and one high school) to serve the entire community. Many Town High Schools were constructed through New Deal programs with Modern styling. However, the MPDF makes no mention of junior high schools in the Town School subtype, while it does mention junior high schools as part of the City High School property type. Therefore, Marysville High School/Junior High School Complex is classified as a City School.

<sup>2</sup> In 1930, Marysville's population was 4,013. "Population of Cities in Kansas, 1900-2012," KU Institute for Policy and Social Research website, <http://www.ipsr.ku.edu/ksdata/ksah/population/2pop33.pdf>, accessed May 25, 2012.

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specialized classrooms for different disciplines that are clustered in distinct areas of the school; a large gymnasium and an auditorium; and a large site that holds a stadium and athletic field in addition to the school buildings.

The complex also includes several resources that supported the educational function of the school. According to the MPDF, Education-Related Structures were typically located immediately adjacent to or in close proximity to a school building and could have been built as gymnasiums, vocational agricultural buildings, domestic science buildings, kindergartens, shops or garages, stadiums, district offices, etc. In Kansas, most education-related structures were constructed in the Progressive Era or as New Deal projects. The stadium and the transportation building at the Marysville High School/Junior High School Complex are excellent examples of this property type. Both supported the educational activities of the Marysville school district. The stadium provided a venue for school athletic events even before the high school was built. The transportation building provided storage and a service area for vehicles owned by the school district. It was probably constructed around the same time as the stadium, as it uses the same materials.

The MPDF indicates that New Deal era was one of the greatest periods of school and school-related construction in Kansas. By the early 1930s, New Deal programs provided work to unemployed Americans impacted by the Great Depression. In addition to funding construction of schools, New Deal programs also provided funds for building and renovating buildings and structures related to schools, such as athletic and maintenance facilities.<sup>3</sup> The Marysville High School and stadium are examples of New Deal building projects.

After World War II the modern education system evolved. The baby boom resulted in an urgent need for more school buildings. School design after World War II adopted the tenants of Modern Movement design. Most notably, buildings eschewed architectural ornament. It became increasingly common for school to be part of a larger campus plan that featured multiple buildings (often physically connected) as well as education support facilities.<sup>4</sup> The Marysville Junior High School fits this description. The MPDF states that junior high schools were essentially small high schools. Their design was influenced by the same educational standards as high schools, with little physical distinction between high schools and junior high schools. Despite the obvious difference in architectural styles between the Marysville High School and Junior High School, the general physical characteristics of the junior high school resemble those of the high school. It has classrooms for specialized courses, a large gymnasium, and accesses the stadium and playing field, all characteristics of a City High School sub-type, in which the junior high school is included.

## HISTORY

Marysville's earliest schools were private institutions. In 1861, seven years after the town was founded, Marysville School District No. 4 was formed and a school board was organized. The School District began erecting buildings to meet the needs of the community's growing school-age population. A small frame building housed Marysville's first public school. In 1866 the School District erected a new two-story 30'x70' stone building that held two classrooms on the first floor and an assembly room on the second floor. In 1880 the School District built a brick grade school west of the stone school, which remained in use for high school classes. The grade school was enlarged in 1891 and named Central School. It housed both elementary and high school classes. A small frame school was built across town in 1889 for first and second grade students, but Central School remained the primary school for Marysville children until 1915. When the School District replaced the old stone school with a new two-story brick building in 1915, it became the new Marysville High School. In 1924 the city's original frame school was replaced by Lincoln Elementary School, which had eight classrooms, a library, and a gymnasium.

By the late 1920s enrollment in Marysville public schools was increasing and the existing school buildings were reaching capacity.<sup>5</sup> The School Board purchased land adjacent to the football field near the southeast corner of town in 1928 to accommodate future expansion, paying nearly \$2 million for twelve lots.<sup>6</sup> This is the first reference to the district's athletic field, which occupied the site of the current field.

During the Great Depression, the Marysville School District secured a grant from the Works Progress Administration (WPA) to construct a new athletic stadium. The federal grant provided \$34,332 for labor and \$18,286 for materials. This

<sup>3</sup> Elizabeth Rosin, "The New Deal in Kansas," *Kansas Preservation*, January-February 2002, 9.

<sup>4</sup> Brenda R. Spencer, National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form for "Historic Public Schools of Kansas," 2005, 24.

<sup>5</sup> "Buy School Site," *The Advocate Democrat*, December 6, 1928.

<sup>6</sup> "Buy School Site," *The Advocate Democrat*, December 6, 1928.

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was matched by \$9,707 from the Marysville School District, bringing the total cost of the Stadium to \$62,326.<sup>7</sup> According to Superintendent D.E. Wolgast, the project provided the equivalent of a year's full-time work for eighty-five men. The stadium was dedicated in September 1937. At the dedication, the state highway director and former state director of the WPA Evan Griffith described it as the "finest high school athletic field in Kansas."<sup>8</sup>

After Marysville voters approved bonds for a new high school in December 1936, the School District received a second federal grant in August of 1937, this time from the Public Works Administration (PWA). The PWA grant provided \$94,500, while the bonds contributed \$104,755.<sup>9</sup> The W.J. Assenmacher Company of Lincoln, Nebraska received the construction contract with a low bid of \$175,289.<sup>10</sup> Excavation for the building began in December 1937.

When the new high school opened in September 1939 it was state-of-the-art. The 1,100-seat auditorium was the largest assembly space in Marysville; the gymnasium offered a regulation-sized basketball court; and there were specialized classrooms for the arts, industrial, vocational, agriculture, science, home economics, music, and commercial departments, as well as a library.<sup>11</sup>

After the high school opened, elementary students from Central School moved into the old high school (which became known as Central School) and old Central School was demolished.<sup>12</sup>

As early as 1955, the school board began to consider building a junior high school to alleviate crowding in both Central School and the high school.<sup>13</sup> A redesigned curriculum would move ninth graders out of the high school and seventh and eighth graders out of Central School. Locating the junior high next to the high school would create economies of scale, creating a campus where resources such as the athletic field and food service could be shared. Marysville residents approved a \$720,000 bond for the junior high school in 1960. When it opened in 1963, the junior high school featured a gymnasium with capacity for 1,500 spectators and new vocational agriculture shops.<sup>14</sup> To accommodate the junior high building a section of the stadium wall was removed. The concrete block spectator/announcer booth at the top of the bleachers was likely built around this time as well.

Since 1963 the Marysville High School/Junior High School Complex has undergone very few changes. Windows and doors were replaced in the mid-1980s at the high school and circa 2000 in the junior high. A connector was constructed in the narrow gap between the two buildings in 1993. The massing and materials of this element complement the 1963 junior high building. Modern seats have been installed in the top rows at the center of the stadium. Despite these modifications, the stadium retains its historic configuration and materials.

In 1989 the stadium was renamed "Homer Hanson Stadium" to honor a Marysville resident, teacher, and coach. Born in 1910 in Riley, Kansas, Homer Hanson played football in college for Kansas State University. He later played professionally for the Cincinnati Reds (1934), the Philadelphia Eagles (1935), and the St. Louis Cardinals (1935-36). He died in October of 1989.

The Marysville High School/Junior High School Complex continues to serve its original purpose of educating Marysville students. The buildings have been meticulously maintained and retain a significant amount of historic fabric.

<sup>7</sup> "Youth to Benefit from New Stadium," *The Advocate Democrat*, September 2, 1937.

<sup>8</sup> "Youth to Benefit from New Stadium," *The Advocate Democrat*, September 2, 1937.

<sup>9</sup> "\$94,500 Grant for New High School Here is Announced," newspaper unknown, August 19, 1937. "MVS High School" vertical file, Marshall County Historical Society. PWA project #1231.

<sup>10</sup> "Lincoln Firm Low on New High School," newspaper unknown, November 18, 1937. "MVS High School" vertical file, Marshall County Historical Society.

<sup>11</sup> "\$94,500 Grant for New High School Here is Announced," newspaper unknown, August 19, 1937. "MVS High School" vertical file, Marshall County Historical Society.

<sup>12</sup> The newer Central School was demolished in 1984 and a new elementary school was constructed on its site in 1989.

<sup>13</sup> "Voters to Ballot on \$720,000 Proposal for New Junior High," *The Advocate Democrat*, August 11, 1960.

<sup>14</sup> "Voters to Ballot on \$720,000 Proposal for New Junior High," *The Advocate Democrat*, August 11, 1960.

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## ARCHITECTS

### Louis H. Spencer<sup>15</sup>

Topeka architect Louis Harold Spencer designed the Marysville High School in 1939. Spencer practiced architecture in Topeka from 1930 until his death in 1948 at the age of 54. His portfolio includes several public schools in Topeka and northeast Kansas, including State Street School in Topeka (1939) and Harveyville Rural High School (1940). He is also credited as the chief designer of Topeka High School<sup>16</sup> while employed with architect Thomas Williamson in 1930.

### Anderson-Johnson

Earl Anderson and Wilber Johnson were partners in the architectural practice of Anderson, Srack & Johnson in Salina, Kansas from 1954-1961 and in the practice Johnson and Anderson from 1961-1964. During their partnership they designed Center Rural High School in Lost Springs (Marion County, 1958), Riley County High School in Riley (1959), the Republic County Hospital in Belleville (1960), First Methodist Church in Norton, Wichita Heights High School in Wichita (1961), and the Pihlblad Memorial Union at Bethany College in Lindsborg (1963).<sup>17</sup>

Wilber Lynn Johnson was born on March 18, 1926 in Lindsborg, Kansas. He received a degree in architecture from Kansas State University in 1950. After parting ways with Anderson in 1964 Johnson practiced solo for three years before forming a new partnership, Thomas, Johnson & Isley, in 1969. Johnson died in August 2011 in Sedgwick County, Kansas.<sup>18</sup>

Earl Anderson was born January 15, 1920 in Cleburne, Kansas. After serving in the Army from 1942-1945, he graduated from Kansas City Junior College in 1946 and received a degree in architecture from the University of Kansas in 1950. Anderson died in February of 1989 in Johnson County, Kansas.<sup>19</sup>

<sup>15</sup> Information in this section is from: Brenda R. Spencer, National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form for "Historic Public Schools of Kansas," 2005.

<sup>16</sup> Listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2005.

<sup>17</sup> The AIA Historical Directory of American Architects. 1962 American Architects Directory, pages 14 and 354.  
[http://communities.aia.org/sites/hdoaa/wiki/American%20Architects%20Directories/1962%20American%20Architects%20Directory/Bowker\\_1962\\_J.pdf](http://communities.aia.org/sites/hdoaa/wiki/American%20Architects%20Directories/1962%20American%20Architects%20Directory/Bowker_1962_J.pdf), accessed May 20, 2012.

<sup>18</sup> "United States Social Security Death Index," Wilber Lynn Johnson (2011), Family Search website, [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org), accessed May 20, 2012.

<sup>19</sup> United States Social Security Death Index, Earl Anderson (1989), Family Search website, [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org), accessed May 20, 2012.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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

"\$94,500 Grant for New High School Here is Announced." newspaper unknown, August 19, 1937. "MVS High School" vertical file, Marshall County Historical Society.

The AIA Historical Directory of American Architects. 1962 American Architects Directory.  
[http://communities.aia.org/sites/hdoaa/wiki/American%20Architects%20Directories/1962%20American%20Architects%20Directory/Bowker\\_1962\\_J.pdf](http://communities.aia.org/sites/hdoaa/wiki/American%20Architects%20Directories/1962%20American%20Architects%20Directory/Bowker_1962_J.pdf), accessed May 20, 2012.

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"Voters to Ballot on \$720,000 Proposal for New Junior High." *The Advocate Democrat*, August 11, 1960.

"Youth to Benefit from New Stadium." *The Advocate Democrat*, September 2, 1937.

"United States Social Security Death Index." Wilber Lynn Johnson (2011). Family Search website, [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org), accessed May 20, 2012.

"United States Social Security Death Index." Earl Anderson (1989). Family Search website, [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org), accessed May 20, 2012.

**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: Marysville Public Library  
Marshall County Historical Society

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

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** 12 \_\_\_\_\_

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

### UTM References (NAD 27)

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>14</u> Zone	<u>701370</u> Easting	<u>4412430</u> Northing	4	<u>14</u> Zone	<u>701480</u> Easting	<u>4412220</u> Northing
2	<u>14</u> Zone	<u>701570</u> Easting	<u>4412440</u> Northing	5	<u>14</u> Zone	<u>701370</u> Easting	<u>4412230</u> Northing
3	<u>14</u> Zone	<u>701590</u> Easting	<u>4412100</u> Northing	6	_____ Zone	_____ Easting	_____ Northing

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

B&M ADDN , ACRES 12.0 , ALL OF BLKS 27 & 28 & 37 & LOT S 6 & 7 OF BLK 36 & LOTS 1-3 & 7-12 & E34' OF S2 LOT 4 OF BLK 38 & LOTS 1-3 & 10-12 & N2

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

The boundary includes the parcel of land historically associated with the property as presented in the legal description.

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kristen Ottesen and Elizabeth Rosin  
organization Rosin Preservation, LLC date May 2012  
street & number 215 W. 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 150 telephone 816-472-4950  
city or town Kansas City state MO zip code 64108  
e-mail [kristen@rosinpreservation.com](mailto:kristen@rosinpreservation.com)

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

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**Photographs:**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

**Name of Property:** Marysville High School, Junior High, and Stadium

**City or Vicinity:** Marysville

**County:** Marshall

**State:** Kansas

**Photographer:** Brad Finch

**Date Photographed:** May 2012

**Description of Photograph(s) and number:**

- 1 of 22. Northeast corner of High School, view southwest
- 2 of 22. East elevation of High School, view west
- 3 of 22. Front (north) elevation of High School, view southwest
- 4 of 22. Front (north) elevation of High School, view south
- 5 of 22. Front (north) elevation of addition and Junior High School, view southwest
- 6 of 22. Front (north) elevation of addition and High School, view southeast
- 7 of 22. Northwest corner of Junior High School, view southeast
- 8 of 22. View northwest across field toward Stadium and schools
- 9 of 22. View northwest toward the schools from the hill at the southeast end of the Stadium
- 10 of 22. View southwest toward the non-historic Butler buildings from the hill at the southeast end of the Stadium
- 11 of 22. View east from the center of the field toward the southeast end of the Stadium
- 12 of 22. Stone piers at the south edge of the field, view northeast
- 13 of 22. Historic stone building and piers at the west end of the field, view northwest
- 14 of 22. Typical corridor in High School
- 15 of 22. Typical classroom in High School
- 16 of 22. High School Auditorium, view toward stage (west)
- 17 of 22. High School Auditorium, view toward balcony (east)
- 18 of 22. High School Gymnasium, view southeast
- 19 of 22. Typical Junior High School corridor
- 20 of 22. Typical Junior High School stair hall
- 21 of 22. Typical Junior High School classroom
- 22 of 22. Junior High School Gymnasium, view northeast

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**Additional Items:**

**List of Additional Figures**

- 1. Photo Map
- 2. Map of Contributing and Non-Contributing Resources
- 3. Historic view of Marysville High School, northeast corner, view southwest
- 4. Historic view of Marysville High School, northwest corner, view southeast
- 5. Historic view of stadium



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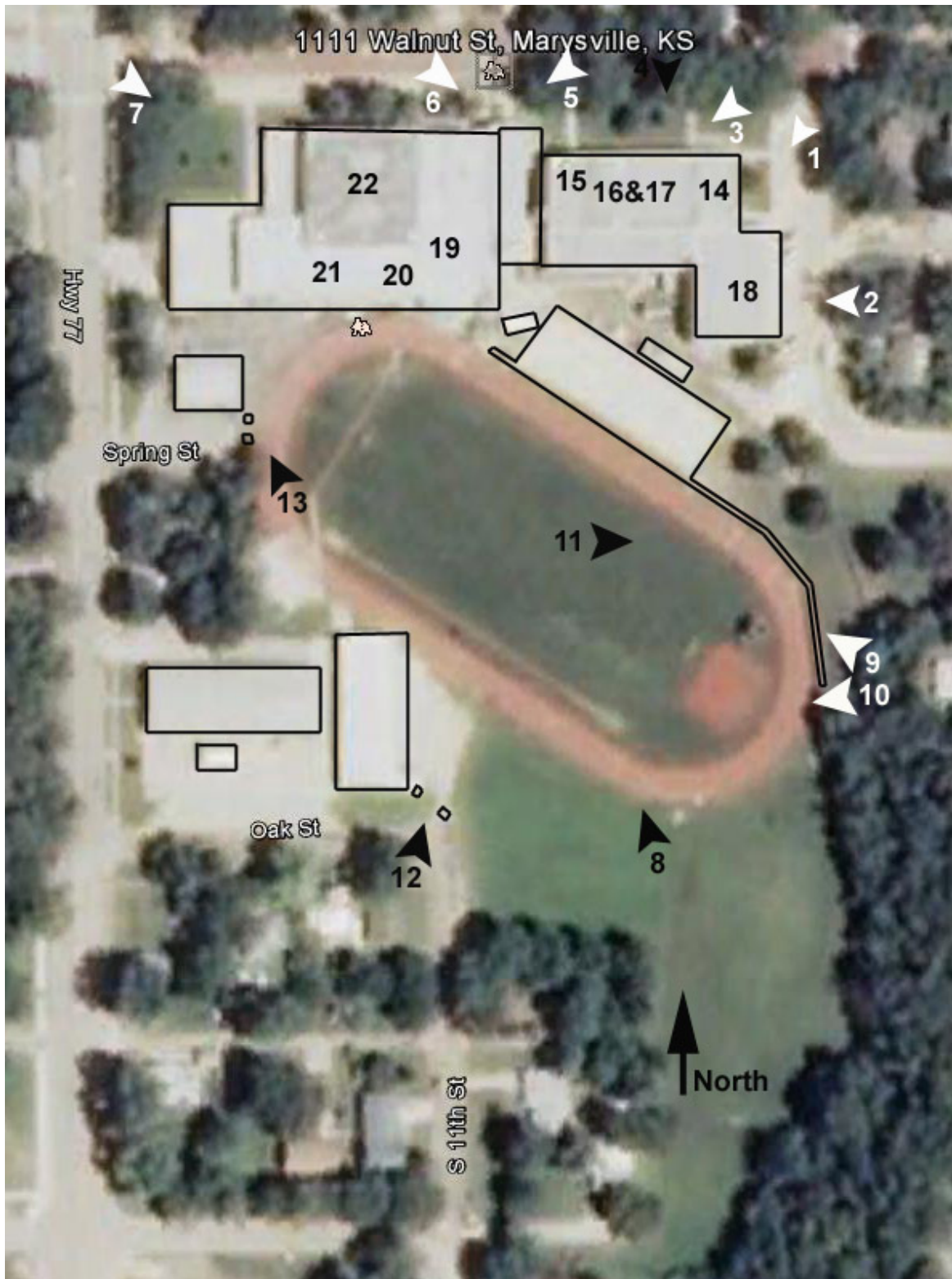


Figure 1. Photo Map

Marysville High School/Junior High School Complex

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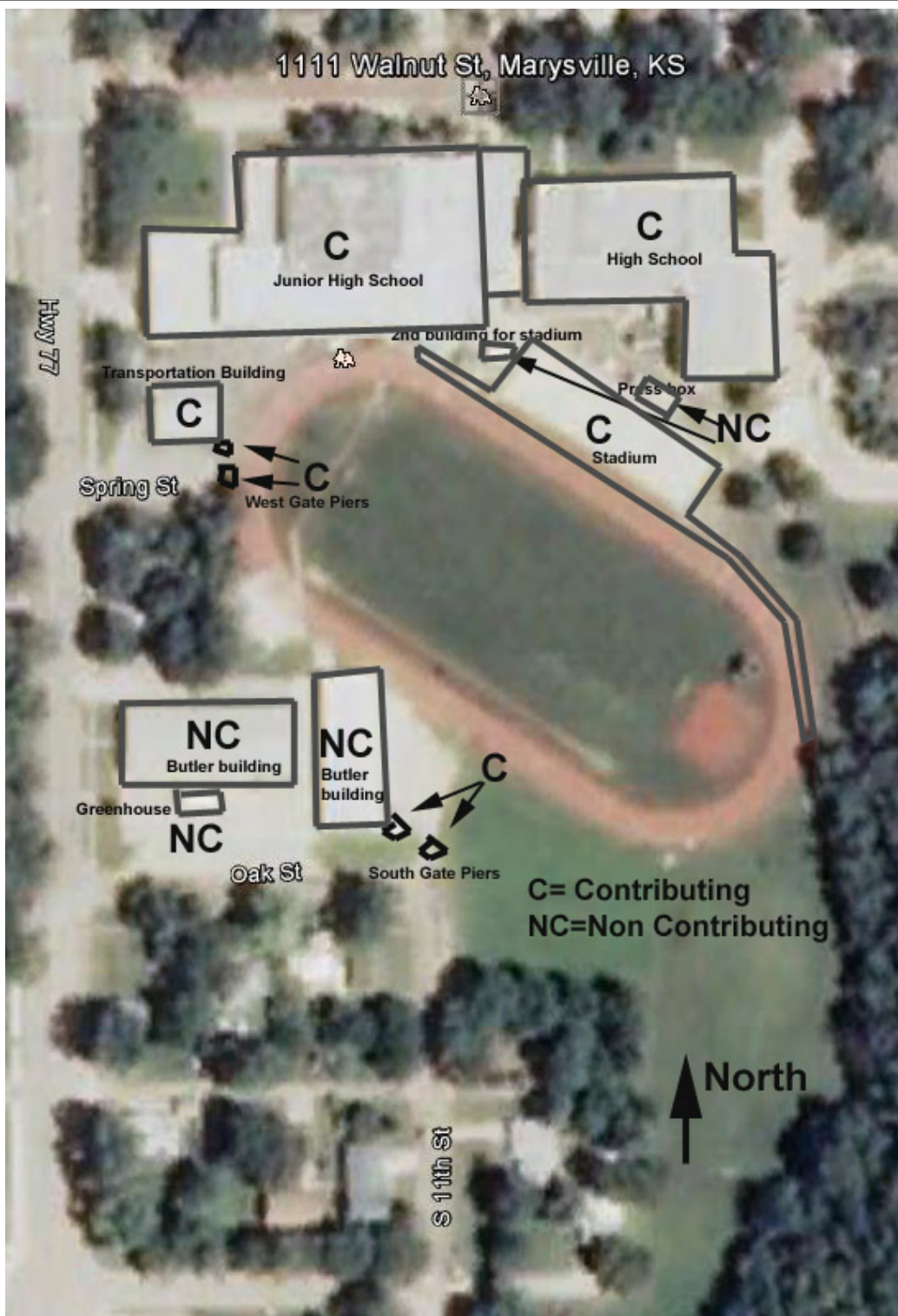


Figure 2. Map of Contributing and Non-Contributing Resources

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Figure 3. Historic Photo of Marysville High School, northeast corner, view southwest

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**Figure 4. Historic Photo of Marysville High School, northwest corner, view southeast**

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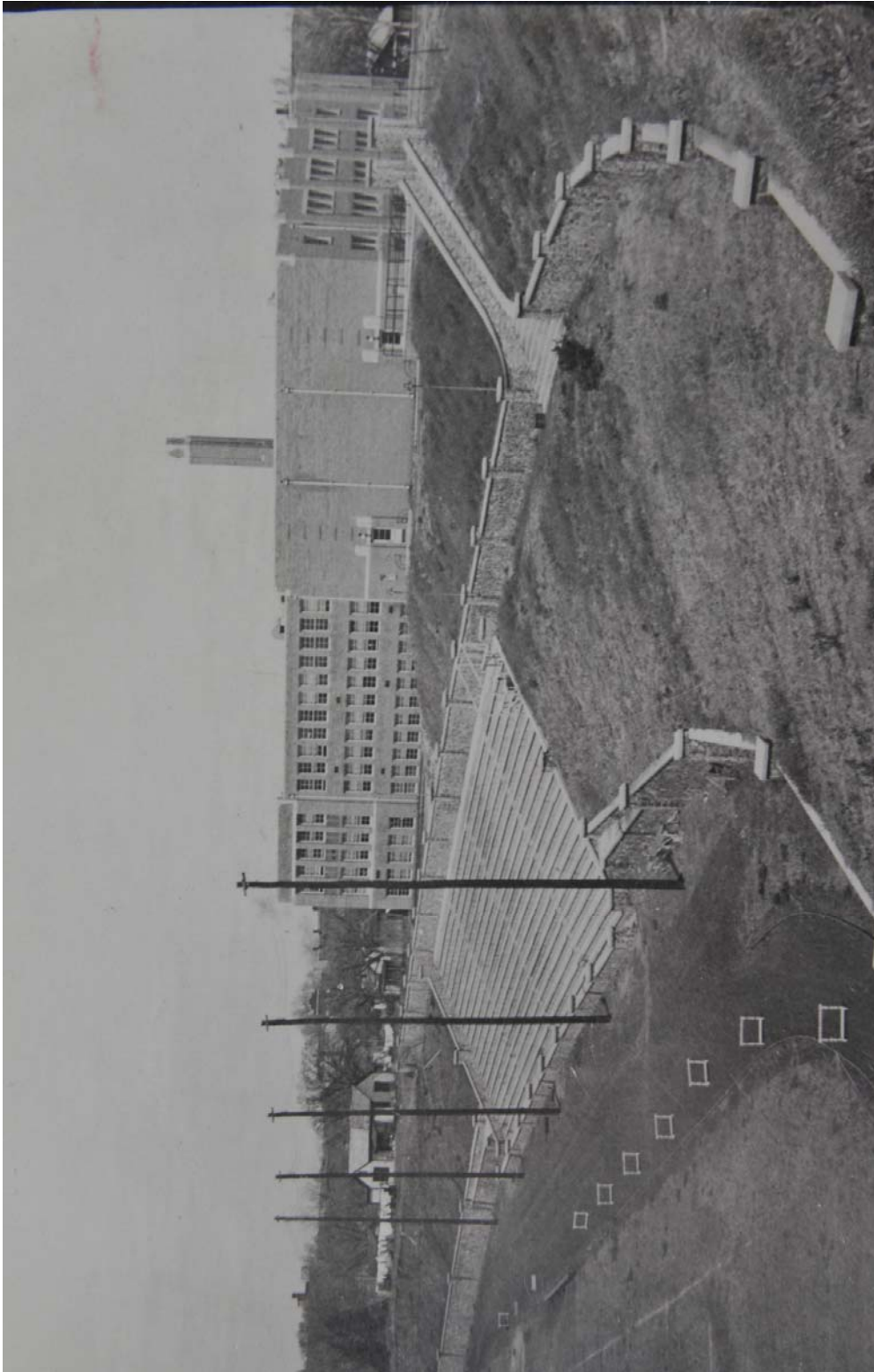


Figure 5. Historic Photo of Stadium, view northwest

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**Property Owner:**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name USD #364 (Marysville School District), c/o Bert Lord

street & number 211 S. 10<sup>th</sup> Street

telephone 785-562-5309

city or town Marysville

state Kansas zip code 66508

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**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 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.