

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Kansas
COUNTY: Marshall
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE NOV 5 1974

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
  
AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Marshall County Courthouse

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1207 Broadway

CITY OR TOWN:  
Marysville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
no. 2, Bill Roy

STATE Kansas	CODE 20	COUNTY: Marshall	CODE 117
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**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

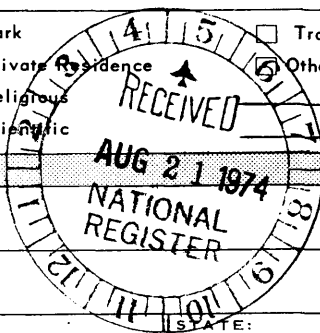
OWNER'S NAME:  
Marshall County

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1207 Broadway

CITY OR TOWN:  
Marysville

STATE:  
Kansas

CODE:  
20



**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
Register of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Marshall County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:  
Marysville

STATE:  
Kansas

CODE:  
20

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic Sites Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1969  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Kansas State Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:  
120 West 10th Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Topeka

STATE:  
Kansas

CODE:  
20

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Kansas

COUNTY: Marshall

ENTRY NUMBER: NOV 5

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DATE: 1974

**7. DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

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 brick-work 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, Ind., limestone and the rest of the stonework, including the cornerstone, is of Warrensburg, Mo., 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.

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.

(see continuation sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1891-1892**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                      |   |  |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-        | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry    | osophy  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention   | <input type="checkbox"/> Science              | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture            | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | Architecture                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature  | itarian                                       | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater              | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music       | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation       | _____                                    |

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, Wis., 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, Mo. 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 \$1200 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 totalling \$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 appear to be strong feelings that the building should be retained.

(see continuation sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

"Courthouse Debt Free Since 1941," Marysville Advocate, March 16, 1967.  
 "The Court House," Marshall County Democrat (Marysville), June 5, 1891.  
 "Crumbling Courthouse Causes Commissioners Caustic Concern," Marysville Advocate, March 25, 1965.  
 Forter, Emma E., History of Marshall County, Kansas (Indianapolis, B. F. Bowen and Co., 1917).  
 "Laying of the Cornerstone," Marshall County Democrat, July 24, 1891.  
 "Laying the Cornerstone of Our New Courthouse," Marshall County News (Marysville), July 24, 1891.

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 115  
 E-721760  
 N 4412770

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		39 50 29	96 38 32	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **one**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: **Richard D. Pankratz, Director, Historic Sites Survey**

ORGANIZATION: **Kansas State Historical Society** DATE: **August 15, 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER: **120 West 10th Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Topeka** STATE: **Kansas 66612** CODE: **20**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name Nyle H. Miller  
 Nyle H. Miller

Title Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society

Date August 16, 1974

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

Richard D. Pankratz  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 11/5/74

ATTEST:

Charles B. ...  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 11.1.74

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Kansas	
COUNTY	
Marshall	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
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	NOV 5 1974

(Number all entries)

7.

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.

8.

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.

9.

Marshall County Democrat, December 31, 1890; January 1, 15, 22, April 9, May 1, 22, 1891.

"The New Court House, Marshall County Democrat, April 8, 1892.

"Payment of Courthouse Debt Recalls a Long Kansas Fight," Kansas City Times, January 21, 1941.

