

PHV 55

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JAN 23 1976

MAY 28 1976

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 *PH* **

Marion County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Southeast corner, Third and Williams St.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Marion

VICINITY OF

No. 4, Garner Shriver

STATE

Kansas 66861

CODE
20

COUNTY
Marion

CODE
115

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Marion County

STREET & NUMBER

Marion County Courthouse

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

1969

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Kansas State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

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 Marion County Courthouse in Marion, Kan., was designed in the Richardsonian Romanesque style. The courthouse was built of the local limestone and is noted for the quality of its stone carvings executed by D. R. Penny. The courthouse is situated on a one-block square one half block south of the town's main commercial street. To the north are commercial buildings; to the west commercial and industrial concerns; to the east one commercial building and some residences; to the south on the square are smaller government buildings and further south a rail-road track.

The building has two stories, a basement and an attic. It is symmetrical on axis with a large, square tower dominating the main facade, which faces west. The main entrance which projects slightly forward, is at the base of this tower and is up a flight of nine steps and through a Syrian arch. The impostes of this arch are highly decorated with a rinceau molding, dentils and sinister grotesques. The spandrels are also highly decorated with vegetative motifs. The archway has been framed by two unorthodox columns capped with a vegetative molding. A carving in the frieze which joins the columns and runs above the arch states the name of the county and the year of the building's construction (1906) in relief. The tower rises four stories and is capped with a pointed spire and has a dormer window on every face and pinnacles on each corner. The tower is divided below the fourth story, which has a clock on each face, by a wide entablature. There are three narrow flat-arched windows on the third story of the tower. The two windows on the second story of the tower have a transom and a lintel that has been dressed on the edges, a motif which is repeated throughout the building.

A wide string course of dressed stone runs around the building below the sills of the first and second story windows. The string course is recessed beneath each window.

There are two courses of dressed stone below the entablature which consists of dentils and a cornice supported by consoles. The entablature breaks for the tower and the dormers over the auxiliary entrance.

On either side of the arched entranceway, there is a window on the first story and basement. A smaller, shorter window next to it maintains the same lintel height. A metal downspout runs down the pier that separates these windows. The wall on the second story above these windows is recessed and a window centered on this plane. These recessions make the building appear to have two protruding wings though actually the main wall of the building remains flush. The roof is gabled and has two dormers on the west. There are three aligned windows on each story below each dormer, including the basement. The windows on the second story are arched with stone voussoirs. One window and arch has been blocked up with stone.

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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" 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

1906

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

J.C. Holland and Frank Squires

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Marion County Courthouse, which was designed by J.C. Holland and Frank Squires of Topeka, was built in 1906. Marion, or Marion Centre as it was originally known, had been selected by the Voters as the county seat in 1866, at a time when it was the only organized town in the county. With the coming of the railroad in 1871, other towns sprang up to contend for the county seat. The issue was finally settled by an 1881 election which Marion won decisively. The first courthouse (1868) was a small two-story combination schoolhouse and courthouse. Later, after the 1881 election, a larger two-story addition was placed on the front of the building.

By the turn of the century the need for a more spacious courthouse was evident. The county commissioners--J.K. Williams, G.H. Rood, and John Smith--selected as their architect the Topeka firm of J.C. Holland and Frank Squires. (Holland designed a number of other Kansas courthouses, including those in Mitchell county and Clay county. The latter is already listed on the National Register.) Plans were prepared by the fall of 1905 and construction bids were opened on November 9. Seven bids were received, and the contract was awarded to J.B. Betts of Topeka with a low bid of \$41,874.

On April 25, 1906, Holland and Betts came from Topeka to determine the grades and set the stakes for the building. By mid-May the excavation for the basement and the foundation was well underway. In late August, the cornerstone was laid without ceremony by the head stonemason, Albert Johnson. Work progressed rapidly and by the following spring the slate roof was on and the tower was nearing completion.

A newspaper report on June 20, 1907, identified D.R. Penny as the stonemason who did the "artistic stonecutting" on the building.

In July, Holland was preparing plans for the grounds and walks; the plastering was done; and the oak woodwork was being finished.

Some of the county officers moved into their new quarters in late September. By October 3, 1907, all offices had been moved and the building had been officially accepted by the county commissioners. The structure was completed within the amount of \$45,000.

The Marion County Courthouse continues to serve as the seat of county government. It is significant for its long usage as the county's political center. The building was designed by J.C. Holland, a prominent turn-of-the-century Kansas architect, and it exhibits some excellent stone carving by superb craftsmen.

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Marion County Courthouse

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The northern facade is also symmetrical except for the stairway leading up to the entrance; there are steps only from the west side of the landing. There is an entrance to the basement through a flat archway underneath the steps. Entrance to the first floor is also made through a Syrian arch on this facade. The impost is decorated and supported by modified Corinthian pilasters having marble shafts. The spandrels have been decorated with vegetative forms and the whole arch framed by Tuscan pilasters supporting an entablature. The pilasters are continued up the face of the building and become chimneys. The string course is broken above the arch by a series of balusters. Two windows with transoms are centered between the pilasters on the second story. Above this is a dormer with two coupled arched windows. The entablature is broken, but the line continues supported by heavier stone corbels. There are festoons on the pier at the cornice line. Each story has two windows on either side of the entrance bay with those on the second story being arched.

The southern facade is identical to the northern, except for the entrance bay. There is no entrance to the first story and instead of doors in the Syrian arch there are two windows. A stairway leads down to an entrance to the basement.

The eastern facade has a large chimney which is centered on a wing that protrudes from the building. There are three windows to each side of the chimney on each story and the basement with one window replaced by a door in the basement level just to the south of the chimney. There is a dormer in the corner on each side where this wing joins with the main body of the building. Two windows are centered on the wall below the dormer on each story. The roof was originally covered with slate, but this has been replaced with asphalt shingles. There is a cupola at the crossing. The interior woodwork is oak and the floors in the corridors were laid with vitrified tile.

In exterior appearance the building very closely resembles the original; however, some changes have been made in addition to the roof material, such as the installation of aluminum and glass doors and windows in the three major arch ways.