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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Marysville Pony Express Barn is a rectangular native limestone building with a modified hip roof and faces west on Eighth street in Marysville. The stone is laid in large blocks and was at one time covered with stucco, although not originally. The north and south walls have beep holes for the horses which were originally stabled there.

The building when first used had stone walls only 10 or 12 feet high and a low-pitched board roof. After a fire damaged part of the city's business district in 1876, the building was enlarged when repairs were made. The height of the walls was increased and the hip roof installed.

The building has undergone extensive remodeling at various times. A concrete floor has been added to the interior. Wood paneling has been used to cover walls and doors in the office area at the northwest corner of the building. Several additional windows have been cut over the years and some of the original openings have been closed. The large double doors on the west front have been partially walled up, but the wood lintel still remains. The roof has new composition shingles, and gutters and downspouts have been added to the eaves. The interior has been divided into a number of small rooms for museum use. In these areas the ceiling has been lowered. It is only in the northeast quarter of the structure that the rafters are still visible.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Marysville Pony Express Barn was built in 1859-60 by Joseph H. Cottrell just south of the Barrett House, Marysville's first hotel. Cottrell arranged with A. G. Barrett, builder of the hotel, to secure an option on three lots and erect a livery stable. Reportedly, as he was preparing for construction of the barn, he was contacted by A. E. Lewis, an associate of Russell, Majors and Waddell and later a division superintendent of the Pony Express from St. Joseph to Fort Kearny, and an agreement was made that the company would pay half the cost of erecting the 40 by 64 foot structure for use of the south half. The other portion would be used as a livery barn by J. H. Cottrell and his son Billy. By early 1860 stone walls had been erected to a height of 10 or 12 feet and a temporary board roof had been installed.

♦ The first Pony Express rider stopped at Marysville on April 4, 1860. Sources differ as to whether it was Don Rising or Billy Boulton who rode into Marysville with that first mail, but most agree that the mail was transferred to Jack Keetley in front of the Cottrell stable.

Historians disagree on whether Marysville was a home station or a relay station. Home stations were generally established at old stage stations. They were better equipped and usually housed at least two riders, the station keeper, and from two to four stock tenders. Relay stations generally were occupied by the keeper and a stock tender. Their job was to care for the horses and have fresh mounts ready for the riders.

Whe Pony Express was officially discontinued on October 26, 1861, and the Cottrells later bought the south half of the building and obtained a deed to the land in 1863. Joseph Cottrell acquired the Barrett Hotel, renamed the American House, in 1862, first renting the building a year before purchasing it. He evidently continued to run the hotel until the mid 1870's.

Apparently the livery stable was one of the buildings damaged by a large fire in late July, 1876, and afterwards the walls of the building were raised to the present height and a hip roof added to permit more hay storage. An 1883 newspaper biography of leading Marysville businessmen listed Cottrell as still operating the livery. However, he soon sold his interest to his son Billy. Cottrell descendants continued to operate the livery barn until 1914.

9. MAJOR	BIBLIOGRAPHICAL R	EFERENCES						
The	Big Blue Union (N	(arveville)	Marc	•h	29, 1862, December	20 1862		
Elle	nbecker, John G.	, "The Fame	ous Por	ny	v Express," Ma	rysville <u>Adv</u>	ocate,	
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(Dec. 1968)	NATIONAL PARK SERVICE	Kansas	
	NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES	COUNTY	
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8. For a time after that it served as the garage for the Auburn automobile dealer, and later it was a produce house and locker plant. In 1967 the building was purchased for the Marysville community by a local organization called the Pony Express Foundation, Inc., and it is now a community museum.

Although contemporary written evidence of the building's usage as a Pony Express barn is lacking, supportive testimony comes from people who knew the building well. Ernest Cottrell, Billy's son, operated the stable from 1903 to 1914 and often related what his father had told him of the Pony Express use of the building. T. Lee Holloway, a long-time Marysville resident who died in 1930 at age 91, was a stock tender at the barn in 1860 and 1861. He often talked with local historians and newspapermen about the barn and the riders he had known.

The Marysville Pony Express Barn is significant for its connection with that short-lived but colorful and romantic venture. Whether there was a home station (as the local historians claim) or a relay station at Marysville doesn't really affect the status of the barn; it was used to house the horses of the Pony Express riders. It is also said to be one of only two Pony Express stables in the country still standing.

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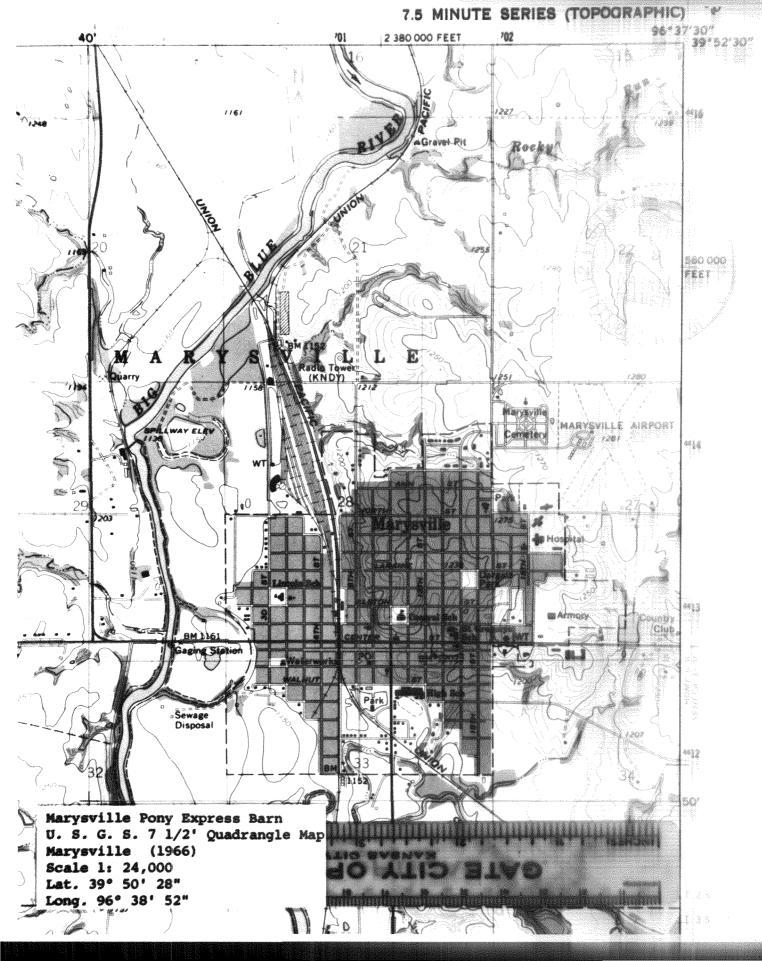
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