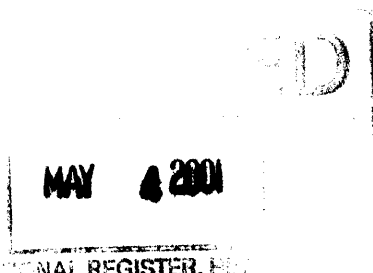


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



631

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Marion High School
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 719 North Main Street not for publication _____
city or town Marion vicinity _____
state South Carolina code SC county Marion code 067 zip code 29571

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this x 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 x meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ___ nationally ___ statewide x locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Mary W. Edmonds 4/26/01
Signature of certifying official Date

Mary W. Edmonds, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, S.C. Dept. of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
___ See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the
National Register
___ See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the
National Register
- removed from the National Register

Edson H. Beall 6/6/01
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

___ other (explain): _____

Marion High School
Name of Property

Marion County, South Carolina
County and State

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)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
2	0	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register
0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Category: Education

Subcategory: school

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Category: Vacant/Not in Use

Subcategory:

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)
Early 20th Century Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)
foundation Brick
walls Brick
roof Asphalt
other

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Marion High School
Name of Property

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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.

Criteria Considerations

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

- a owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- b removed from its original location.
- c a birthplace or a grave.
- d a cemetery.
- e a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- f a commemorative property.
- g less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1924 – ca. 1940

Significant Dates

1924
ca. 1940

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

W. J. Wilkins and Co., Architects
J. F. McBride, Contractors

Narrative Statement of Significance

Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:
S.C. Dept. of Archives & History

Marion High School
Name of Property

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10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property approximately 2.7 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing
1 <u>17 647321 3783634</u>	3 <u>17 647423 3783472</u>
2 <u>17 647430 3783614</u>	4 <u>17 647308 3783493</u>

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dr. Cheryl Allread, Superintendent (with assistance from SC SHPO)
 organization Marion School District One date November 6, 2000
 street & number 616 East Northside Ave. telephone (843) 423-1811
 city or town Marion state SC zip code 29571

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

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.

Photographs

Representative **black and white** photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

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

name Marion School District One
 street & number 616 East Northside Avenue telephone (843) 423-1811
 city or town Marion state SC zip code 29571

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Continuation Sheet

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Marion High School
Name of Property
Marion County, South Carolina
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Narrative Description

Marion High School is located at 719 North Main Street in the city of Marion. The nominated property includes approximately 2.7 acres, bordered on the north by Elizabeth Street, on the south by Railroad Avenue, on the west by the city auditorium, and on the east by Main Street, and includes the high school building and a gymnasium directly to the rear [west].

1) Marion High School (built 1924, wing added ca. 1940):

This two-story, rectangularly-shaped building is constructed of brick and rests on a brick foundation. A beveled, cast stone water table encircles the building, serves as the window sill for the first floor windows, and helps to organize visually the building's façade and secondary elevations. The building contains approximately 36,000 square feet of inhabitable space. The structure is of wood stud construction with wood floor and roof framing. The roofing is a built-up flat system.

The building's main façade features baroque massing with projecting central and end pavilions. The central entry pavilion contains a wide stair with pedestal wall, a two-story cast stone frontispiece with moulded Tudor arched portal featuring spandrels and label, a cast stone tablet located between each floor with MARION HIGH SCHOOL inscribed upon it, and a triple window on the upper floor. Glazed and paneled, double-leaf entry doors with multi-light transom and sidelights are located within the arched portal. On the south elevation facing Railroad Avenue, a single-leaf entrance on the first level is accessed by a brick and cast stone side stair, while that on the upper level has a metal fire escape stair.

The Main Street facade is pierced by paired windows on either side of the central entry and triple windows between the central and end pavilions. Each of the windows contains nine-over-nine light, double-hung wood sash. Both the north and south sides of the building have the same window configuration with nine-over-nine double-hung windows. All windows feature cast stone lintels with dropped corner blocks, simulating the visual effect of a label or drip mould. The facades of the end pavilions contain brick and stone accented panels, as well as cast stone cartouche. An additional beveled stringcourse acts as the building's cornice while a cast stone block embellished parapet with stepped central pediment, cast stone coping and crenellations surrounds the top of the building.

The building's rear [west] elevation consists of unembellished, graduated massed blocks, most of which were constructed with the original building. Two square brick stacks of unequal size rise along the flat rooflines of these square masses. There are two basement access doors on the west [rear] elevation of the building and one at the extreme western end of the north elevation, which was doubled in length ca. 1940 with identical detailing and fenestration.

The interior of the school building is accessed through a wide entrance hall. The building's corridors feature the original plaster, wood baseboards and wainscot with chair rail. Built-in, full-height lockers

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Marion High School
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line the main corridor. Some of the ceilings in the building have been lowered, but the original ceilings have the crown molding. Doors to the classrooms have horizontal raised wood panels on the bottom half and six-light upper panels.

From the foyer, the focal point of the main entrance hall is a large blind segmental arch which leads to a large room that served first as the school's gymnasium and later as the library. The pair of wooden doors leading from the entrance hall into the large room are identical to those in the remainder of the building.

Some of the plaster on the interior walls has been damaged by vandalism and roof leaks. The brick walls, wood floors, and wood wainscot and chair rail are, however, in good condition.

At both ends of the main corridor are enclosed staircases leading to the second floor rooms, and feature large blind segmental arched entrances which were infilled and provided with fire-rated doors. The stairs feature finished stringers and newels with caps and decorative blocks at the handrail level. There is wainscot and chair rail on all the walls of the stairs. The second floor wall finishes and woodwork details are identical to the first floor.

Extensive use of heart pine both in rough framing materials and in finished products has given the building a natural defense against rot and termites. About twenty-five percent of the windowpanes in the building are broken, but only five or six windows actually show any signs of rot. Only one floorboard in the entire building shows any evidence of termite damage; and there is no evidence of dry rot or mildew rot in any part of the structure.

2) Gymnasium (built ca. 1940):

To the main school building's rear is a large rectangular brick gymnasium which is oriented perpendicularly to the main building and contains a flat roof. It features a western façade with three-part blocked massing and measures five bays in depth. Its stylistic influence is similar to the main building with flanking Tudor arched cast stone-surrounded entrances featuring labels and pestal-walled concrete and brick steps; above these entrances are large cast stone shielded cartouche. A cast stone beveled stringcourse separates the building's slightly-projecting central block's ground and upper levels, and acts visually to support two sets of triple inset panels simulating the principal window configuration and treatment of the main school building. A cast stone stringcourse-like cornice separates the second level from the brick and cast stone parapet. On either side elevation are five large tripartite windows with corresponding transoms. On the gymnasium's rear [east] elevation are two ground level entrances with wood and metal canopies and a central basement entrance with a small, steeply-pitched gable roof. Along the southern elevation of the building is a more modern one-story brick addition which does not significantly detract from the building's overall integrity.

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Marion High School
Name of Property
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Statement of Significance

Marion High School in Marion, South Carolina, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under criterion C as an excellent example of the style of school architecture that flourished as a direct result of the educational reform campaign in the state of South Carolina in the first quarter of the twentieth century.

Between 1900 and 1930, the State of South Carolina passed a number of laws aimed at improving education and educational facilities. The 1910 School Building Act, for example, required that buildings constructed with state funds adhere to approved design plans for small one-, two-, three-, or four-room schools. For larger schools, school districts were encouraged to use registered architects for design planning. During this period of increased state support for education, new schools like the Marion High School were built across the state by some of the state's leading architects.¹

Marion High School is significant as an excellent example of an educational building in the Classical Revival style built during this period of increased State funding for education. It is a noteworthy example of the work of an important South Carolina architectural firm, W. J. Wilkins and Company of Florence. This architectural firm was well-known for its work with public buildings, schools, and churches of this period. Wilkins' firm designed several other school buildings in the state including schools in Cheraw, Lake City, and Florence. The firm also built the Murchison School which is listed in the National Register as a contributing property in the Bennettsville Historic District (listed in 1978).²

In 1923 a bond bill was passed to raise funds for construction of the school. Marion High School opened in September 1924 with an attendance of 201, an increase of 22 students from the prior year. T. C. Easterling was superintendent and C. B. Seaborn was principal of the new high school. Opening exercises were attended by members of the Board of Trustees and patrons of the schools. Short talks were made by members of the board and Superintendent Easterling.³

The school was built on a tract of ten acres, much of which was to be utilized for athletic fields and playground purposes.⁴ The building itself was situated on North Main Street and was described by

¹ Michael Scardaville, et. al., A Brief History of South Carolina Schools from 1895 to 1945 (Columbia, South Carolina: South Carolina Department of Archives and History, 1989) 15-36.

² John E. Wells and Robert E. Dalton, The South Carolina Architects, 1885-1935: A Biographical Dictionary (Richmond, Virginia: New South Architectural Press, 1992), 206-208.

³ Marion (S.C.) Star, September 24, 1924.

⁴ Ibid., June 18, 1924.

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the local newspaper as “making an imposing addition to that part of town.”⁵

Features of the new school included a gymnasium, a physics and chemistry laboratory, a domestic science department with sewing and cooking rooms, agriculture laboratory, and a commercial department. The gymnasium was designed to also be used as an assembly hall or a banquet hall. It was supplied with folding chairs and collapsible tables. Connecting with the gymnasium was a pantry and kitchen which were used in serving community dinners and luncheons. Under the gymnasium were hot and cold shower rooms equipped with lockers.⁶

The equipment in the physics and chemistry laboratory, the agriculture department, and the cooking and sewing rooms was considered to be “thoroughly modern and especially complete” for high school uses. The school also had its own gas plant in the basement which supplied the stoves in the cooking room and the experimental apparatus in the laboratories. Adjacent to the cooking room was the sewing room where the girls were taught the proper way of “laying the table and serving meals”. The sewing room also had a fitting room in which the girls could try on the dresses they were making. There was also a special lecture hall on the second floor where several classes could gather and where in addition to the usual uses of such a room, motion pictures could be shown or radio programs heard.⁷

The building served as a high school until 1975 when the school was relocated to a new building at another site in Marion. The old high school became the new home for Marion Elementary School with over 500 elementary students in grades five and six. The Elementary School closed in 1994 and has since remained vacant and not in use. The entire property, with the exception of the high school building, was deeded to the City of Marion and is used for recreation and other public uses. Beginning in 2000-2001, Marion School District One is conducting a fund-raising campaign to finance the rehabilitation of the high school building for new use as the school district’s central office.

⁵ Ibid., September 24, 1924.

⁶ Ibid., June 18, 1924.

⁷ Ibid., September 24, 1924.

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Marion High School
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Section number 10 Page 11

Marion High School
Name of Property
Marion County, South Carolina
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Marion High School is located at 719 North Main Street in the City of Marion; the boundary of the nominated property is shown as the black line marked "Marion High School" on the accompanying Marion County Tax Map, City of Marion, # 6, drawn at a scale of 1" = 100'.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property is restricted to the 1924 school building, its ca. 1940 wing, and the ca. 1940 gymnasium.

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Section number Photographs Page 12 Marion High School
Name of Property
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The following information is the same for each of the photographs:

Name of Property: Marion High School
Location of Property: 719 North Main Street, Marion, Marion County, South Carolina
Name of Photographer: Bradley S. Sauls
Date of Photographs: February 21, 2001
Location of Original Negatives: South Carolina Department of Archives and History
8301 Parklane Road
Columbia SC 29223-4905

- 1) Main (East) facade, camera facing NW
- 2) Main (East) facade, camera facing SW
- 3) East and South facades, camera facing NW
- 4) Detail of East facade, camera facing W
- 5) Entrance detail on East facade, camera facing W
- 6) North facade, showing ca. 1940 addition, camera facing SW
- 7) South facade
- 8) Rear (West) of High School
- 9) Rear (West) of High School
- 10) Interior hallway, first floor
- 11) Interior, typical classroom
- 12) Gymnasium, SW corner
- 13) Gymnasium, SW corner
- 14) Gymnasium, NW corner, showing entrance detail