



# Register of Historic Kansas Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating individual properties and districts. The format is similar to the National Register of Historic Places form. 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 an 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. Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

## 1. Name of Property

Historic name Pospishil Building

Other names/site number Pospershell Building, Luray Hall, KHRI #167-3350-0004

Name of related Multiple Property Listing Post Rock Limestone Properties in Kansas, 1870-1948

## 2. Location

street & number 101-103 Main Street  not for publication

city or town Luray  Vicinity

state Kansas code KS county Russell code 167 zip code 67649

## 3-4. Certification

The above property has been determined eligible for both the Register of Historic Kansas Places and the National Register of Historic Places. The property has been documented and recorded on a National Register of Historic Places nomination form, which serves as the official register nomination for this property.

The Historic Sites Board of Review has determined that this property meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the Register of Historic Kansas Places.

I hereby certify that this property meets the criteria for and is listed in the Register of Historic Kansas Places.

Applicable State Register Criteria:  A  B  C  D

Signature of certifying official/Title Katrina Ringler, Deputy SHPO

**Listed in the Register of Historic Kansas Places on:**

February 1, 2025  
Date

Kansas State Historical Society  
State agency

# 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 Pospishil Building

Other names/site number Pospershell Building, Luray Hall, KHRI #167-3350-0004

Name of related Multiple Property Listing Post Rock Limestone Properties in Kansas, 1870-1948

## 2. Location

Street & number 101-103 Main Street

n/a
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 not for publication

City or town Luray

n/a
-----

 vicinity

State Kansas Code KS County Russell Code 167 Zip code 67649

## 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 Applicable National Register Criteria:  A  B  C  D



3/5/2025

Signature of certifying official/Title Katrina Ringler, Deputy SHPO

Date

Kansas State Historical Society

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the 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:) \_\_\_\_\_

**Listed in the National Register of Historic Places on**

**April 8, 2025**

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Pospishil Building  
Name of Property

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**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.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		<b>Total</b>

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

0

**6. Function or Use**

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

COMMERCE/TRADE: department store,

Business, restaurant

RECREATION AND CULTURE: theater

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

VACANT/NOT IN USE

**7. Description**

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

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> & 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS:

Commercial Italianate

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

foundation: STONE: Limestone

walls: STONE: Limestone

roof: SYNTHETICS: Rubber

other: METAL: iron

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### **Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources, if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

### **Summary**

This building faces Main Street and is a two-story commercial limestone building with a basement that is partially concrete and partially dirt. It was built by the owner along with hired stone masons and carpenters and sits 80' x 50' in size. The building was dedicated in 1899 as an anchor building that would serve both as the cultural center of the community plus provide storefront space, professional offices, and meeting rooms. The building made of Post Rock Limestone, and also features a Meskers galvanized sheet metal façade in the Italianate style. Overall, the building retains good architectural integrity.

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### **Elaboration**

#### **Setting:**

The Pospishil Building is located at 101-103 Main Street in Luray, Russell County along the main thoroughfare and single commercial block in the town. Luray is in the Smoky Hill region of Kansas with a population of less than 200 people. "Luray is less than one-half square mile and approximately 33 miles west of Lincoln, Lincoln County, Kansas. The town primarily features residences within an industrial community. About one-to-two blocks at the south end of Main Street feature commercial structures."<sup>1</sup> The Pospishil Building is surrounded by one-story commercial buildings and is the most prominent building in the area. The Pospishil Building is one of the most elaborate buildings in Russell County.



**Figure 1 North and West facades, street view**

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<sup>1</sup> National Register of Historic Places nomination, 202 West 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Luray, Russell County, Kansas. Listed March 27, 2023. NRIS # 100008786.

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### Exterior:

The Pospishil Building was built in 1899 with a basement or cellar constructed of limestone walls. The floor is cement on the north-half of the basement and on the south-half, the floor is dirt. The limestone foundation sits on cement footings in the basement. There is a door on the south side of the basement that opens outside to stairs, which is the entrance to the basement.



**Figure 2 West elevation and the Meskers metal façade**

The Pospishil Building is a two-story Post Rock Limestone building and features the Meskers metal façade.<sup>2</sup> Three sides of the building are limestone and the flat and parapeted roof is partly asphalt and rubberized material. The roof had a catastrophic failure when a week of rain pooled on the east section, causing it to collapse. Everything on the interior down to the wood floor on the first floor features water damaged.

On the first floor, which looks onto Main Street, doors and storefront glass have been remodeled with board and batten wood paneling. Two entrances are equidistant from the corners of the façade, with windows on either side of the doors. Overall, the general distance and some historic features remain on the first level, including some stone and metal features like pilasters and the transom windows. The second level of the building has eight double hung windows with storms overlooking Main Street. The two levels are distinguished by a simple cornice. The upper façade has the Meskers façade intact with paired columns between the windows, transoms, frieze, and elaborate cornice with brackets and corbels.

On the north façade, the lower level features no details or openings, but has evidence of another structure. The second level features five openings and four windows covered with temporary wood paneling or plywood, all featuring a flat window hood and lintel. There is a door without stairs in the second opening from the east. At one time, this door opened to stairs on the outside wall, which were later removed. There are no decorations or

<sup>2</sup> Merker Brothers: Storefronts of American, Kansas... <https://meskerbrothers.wordpress.com/2013/10/11/100-plus-recorded-in-kansas/>; We do not know if it is from the Meskers Iron Works or the George Mesker Company.

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accents on this elevation. The east (rear) elevation features two double hung windows on the upper level, and three openings on the lower level. Two lean-to additions have been added; a horizontal vinyl sided with metal roof to the north with single door entry, and a corrugated metal sided and roofed addition to the south with a door on the south side.

The south elevation faces 1<sup>st</sup> Street, has a slight overhanging parapet with limestone corbels. The upper level features seven openings, all with a single stone lintels and decorative stone hoods. The openings are evenly distributed across the elevation, with six double hung windows, and a single window with a transom in the middle. The lower level features four openings, not evenly distributed or sized. Starting at the west end is a small window with AC unit in it, then a contemporary door with opening covered above, a single half window opening, and a historically larger opening that has been downsized with board and batten siding and door.

### **Interior:**

The first floor is wood and now covered with carpeting. The ceiling is a gridded drop ceiling and was insulated with a wool insulation. Subdividing the first floor, roughly in the middle, is a wooden bar surrounded with paneling and sink. Due to the extensive water damage, the insulation, ceiling, and flooring are damaged. The interior walls are either historically exposed finished limestone, or paneling. The second floor features covered floors, and historic elements like plaster walls, bead-board ceiling, picture railing, and trim. The space is open and has some metal posts evenly distributed along the center of the room, likely to help with stabilization.

### ***Adjacent property***

The adjacent modern Quonset hut was connected to the north shed of the Pospishil Building in the recent past. The Quonset hut was built between 60-70 years after the Pospishil building was constructed. The connection was added several years after the Quonset hut and also acted as a shed to the Pospishil building. However, when the Luray Community Foundation took over the building, the connection was separated and permanently closed off. Since the Quonset hut was built significantly after the Pospishil Building and the connection was added later and closed shortly after, the building is not included in this nomination. Since the Pospishil building is eligible for its Post Rock Limestone architecture, but boundary is limited to the stone building itself and does not include the shed or walkway.

### **Integrity:**

Overall, the building, though suffering water damage, retains good architectural integrity. The setting and location remain intact along the main thoroughfare of the rural community. The design, materials, and workmanship are evident through the historic sheet metal façade, decorative limestone elements, and extant openings on all elevations. Some of the interior elements remain intact, despite damage, and support that typical commercial design and materials of the era. The Pospishil Building retains its historic feeling and association as a rural commercial building with late-nineteenth century commercial design.

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**Statement of Significance**

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**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.)

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.

**Areas of Significance**

ARCHITECTURE

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**Period of Significance**

1898-1899

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**Significant Dates**

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**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

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**Cultural Affiliation**

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**Architect/Builder**

Pospishil, Frank

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**Period of Significance (justification)**

The building's period of significance is the dates of construction from 1898-1899.

**Criteria Considerations (justification)**

N/A

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### **Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

#### **Summary**

The Pospishil Building, completed in 1899, made of Post Rock Limestone, meets the registration requirements and context in the Post Rock Limestone Properties in Kansas, 1870-1948 MPDF. The building is rectangular in shape and is 80 x 50 feet. It was selected as one of the buildings through the Post Rock Limestone survey in Russell County and is noted for being the most beautiful building in the county. The façade of the building is a historic galvanized sheet metal front made by the Meskers Brothers Company. This building served the community as a center for social events as well as commerce until 2019. The building is locally eligible for its Post Rock architecture, with a period of significance being the time of construction from 1898-1899.

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#### **Elaboration**

##### **Russell County<sup>3</sup>**

Russell County was named for Capt. Avra P. Russell. The county had been divided off by the legislature in 1866 but was unorganized until 1872. The first to come to the Luray area were buffalo hunters and then later Civil War veterans. When the war was over, Civil War veterans looking to claim their free land came through the area in 1871 to the area along Wolf Creek on the advice of the United States Land Office. Other Civil War veterans soon followed during the end of that year and filed claims to begin farming. Veterans found fertile land and began moving out to the Luray area. A trading post was built, and the men decided a name needed to be chosen for the trading post. A buffalo hunter, Allen, who came to the trading post suggested the name Lura, after his lost sweetheart who refused to follow him out west. Shortly after, the first private post office was added to the Lura Trading Post. Once the railroad chose land for its depot, they added a “Y” on Lura, essentially renaming the area Luray.

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<sup>3</sup> Much of this history was recorded by Capt. John Fritts in “A History of the Luray Settlement” for the Luray Herald newspaper in 1902.

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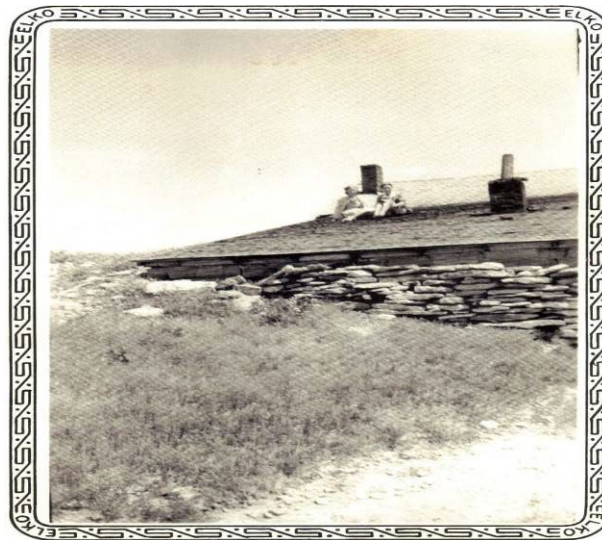


Figure 3: Historic photo of the Laura trading post/old post office. Courtesy of John O'Leary, Sr., whose son John O'Leary Jr. is on the roof with a friend (unknown).

**LURAY!**

Destined to become the BEST Town in the far famed Wolf Creek Valley.

A HEAVILY populated community on all sides for a distance of 18 to 25 miles to back it.

TRAINS WILL BE RUNNING

into the town by September 15th and then the present activity will develop into the liveliest times a new town ever saw. Now is the time to buy your business and residence lots as they are becoming more valuable daily. Luray has

**Good water and Timber,**

FINEST OF BUILDING ROCK and a BEAUTIFUL SITUATION.

The people of Luray are active, progressive and energetic, just the kind of men to cast your fortunes with. You Can't miss it by stopping there.

FOR FURTHER PARTICULARS, Address,

**The Lincoln Land Company,**  
LINCOLN, KAN. Or the  
Co's, Agnt's, VANSKOYOC & NEISWANGER,  
LURAY, KANSAS.

Figure 4: Luray Headlight (Luray, Kansas), August 25, 1887.

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The county had substantial agriculture including farming crops, raising cattle and sheep ranches in the area. Initially, farmers would haul their crops to Bunker Hill to be shipped; the additional rail depot in Luray was a boom to the farming community. As the people settled in Luray, some of the businesses founded were stock yards, hardware stores, a lumber yard and three elevators built near the railroad to ship crops and stock to Kansas City and to unload lumber for housing.

In 1910 the census showed a population of 341 that increased to the high 464 in 1930. The population has been mostly Caucasian, and people of color have lived in Luray, especially Native Americans working with the railroad. During the depression people moved and 15 percent of the population left. During WWII many were called up for the war effort and even the yearbooks reflected the tightening of belts during that time. Most of the men that were in WWII came back to Luray but have since passed away along with some of the Vietnam era veterans in Luray. One Vietnam veteran living in Luray, came from Mexico and lied about his age to get join the army at the age of 16; which was not uncommon. He was in the Special Forces and traveled the world until he became disabled during his service.

### Commerce

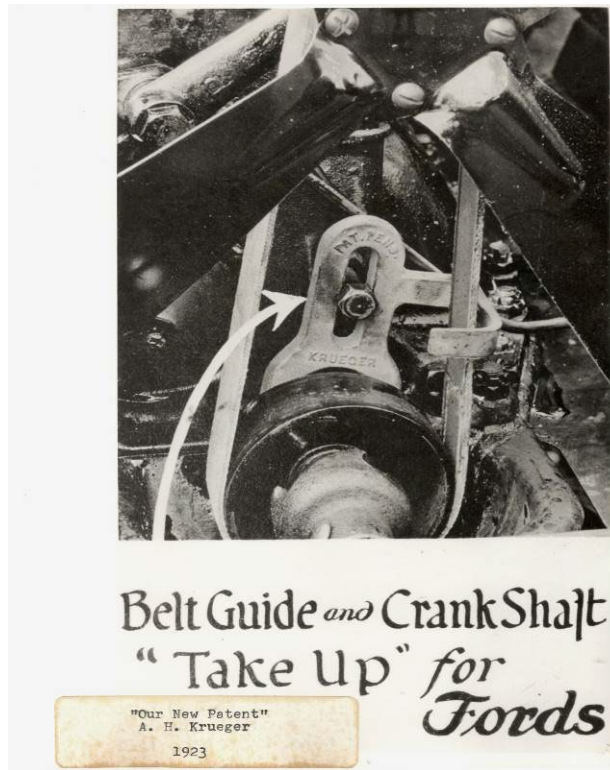
In the 1920s, one business that was created by a local entrepreneur was an automobile dealership in which they built Model T's from kits. He also invented and received a patent for the "Take Up" that was put on the front of the Model T as a "come along" winch. This man also invented an accordion piece of equipment that went across the side of the Model T to hold suitcases on the running boards.



**Figure 5 Ford Garage, 1920 Luray**

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**Figure 6 The Krueger Patent 1903**

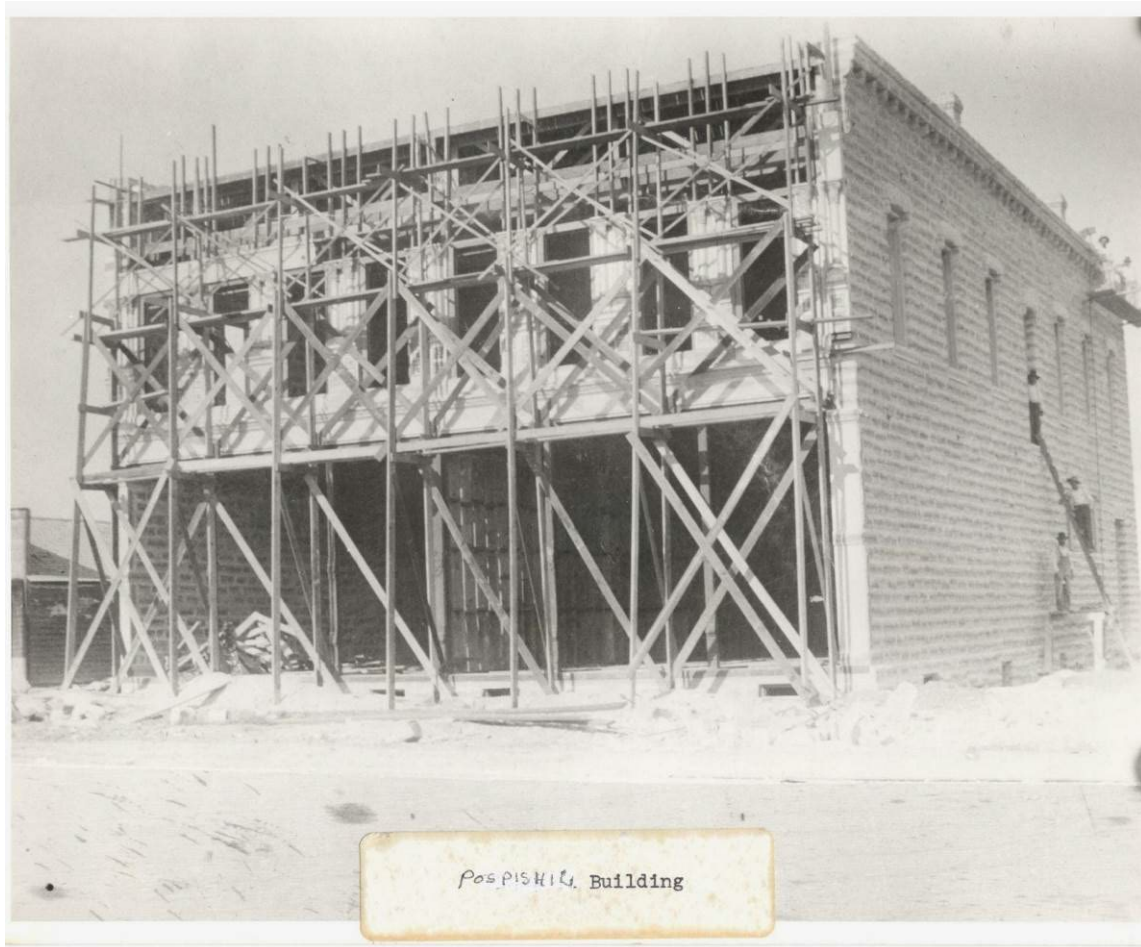
### **Frank Pospishil**

Frank Pospishil moved to Luray and as a businessman and musician who saw a need to develop Main Street with a business and Opera Hall for his family of musicians and other performers to use. Not only did his family give concerts weekly but school students performed plays, adults in the community held debates on weekly topics, and high school graduations were held there. He built this building with a stage in it for performances but also with room for businesses to rent space. Dry good stores and groceries were sold in it by people who rented space from him. When there were elections, he opened the second story for voting. He saw a need for office space, so he remodeled the upstairs into offices that visiting doctors and dentists used. When more space was needed, he built an identical single-story building onto it, and the post office moved into it. He also built a limestone store across the street and sold lots he owned to another bank that wanted to build since they had a fire.

A local stone mason, Aulus Britt, who helped Frank build limestone buildings, turned professional wrestler between jobs. He was the state champion until his son, another stone mason, started wrestling with him as a father-son duo. The son wore a mask, and when his father retired, the son billed himself as "The Masked Wonder". At one point, he threw off his mask and no longer wrestled as the "Masked Wonder" with it on. Their Luray bouts were in the Pospishil Building, usually held weekly. Men from as far away as England and Germany came to Luray to wrestle him in the Pospishil Building. He became known as the state champion and traveled to California for a national match. He, Albion A. Britt, or A. A. Britt, was crowned as the World Welterweight Wrestling Champion.

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**Figure 7 Pospishil Building under construction 1898**

### **Pospishil Building History**

Reports from the newspaper in Luray, Kansas, and surrounding communities recorded the excitement of citizens for the construction of this building. The builder/owner, Frank Pospishil, was Czech and moved his family to Luray from Nebraska, wanting great things for this community. He spent time finding other masons in the area to help him with the building and carpenters to complete construction. On the night of its dedication, people in the community celebrated in the second story hall as the first floor was not complete. There was music and a play titled "A Woodman Soldier" by the Luray Camp No. 4818 of the Modern Woodmen of America.<sup>4</sup> During the play, a severe storm of rain and hail came up and shook the building, but when a bucket of nails rolled across the roof, children and old folks alike were scared.<sup>5</sup> Since the storm was relentless and unsafe to venture out in, everyone stayed and spent the rest of the evening dancing and playing music.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>4</sup> "Luray Hall Dedicated." *The Russell Record* (Russell, Kansas) July 22, 1899, p.6

<sup>5</sup> "1941," *Herald*, (Russell, Kansas), August 21, 1952.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*

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**Figure 8 Dry goods and groceries were offered downstairs**

This building served as an opera house where Frank Pospishil and his family, who all played instruments, would give concerts. School plays were held here as well as oratory contests. Men in the community would regularly hold debates on different topics, and citizens would come for the entertainment. Women in the community also had social events such as a Calico Carnival in which women and men had to wear items of calico or pay a fine then a potluck would be enjoyed afterward. High School students could hone their skills in front of an audience. Downstairs the building was divided up so that groceries and dry goods could be offered by merchants that rented those spaces. Traveling shows such as the M.C. Lamke & Company's Moving Picture Show with an Edison Kinetoscope was shown here in 1902. One merchant who sold Buster Brown shoes sponsored the company spokesperson, Buster Brown, and his dog, Tige, to perform in Luray in 1913. Buster Brown and his dog, Tige, performed on the outside stairs on the south side of the building to a large audience below. In 1910, A. A. Brit, Luray, the Kansas Middleweight Champion, wrestled in front of about 250 people. Later in the 1920s, his son, Albion Britt, Kansas Heavyweight Champion and National Heavyweight Champion, would wrestle with him as "The Masked Wonder."

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**Figure 9 Pangburn's Store, early 1920s**

The secret societies in Luray needed a meeting room, so Frank Pospishil saw the need for a lodge room and in 1917, remodeled part of the upstairs into an area where the societies of the I.O.O.F., M.W.A., and A.O.U.W. could meet. This large area was called the Lodge Room. Offices for professional services were added which were used by a medical doctor as well as an insurance company. When the upstairs was no longer needed as a lodge room or office space, it was remodeled into a roller-skating rink. Skaters used the outside stairs on the south side to enter the roller rink while merchants still sold their goods at the street level. In the 1960s, a printing company moved into the lower level since the newspaper had been sold to another company. When the café on Main Street closed so that another store could move into its place, a café was opened in the Pospishil Building. When that café closed, the south side was remodeled into the Senior Center, and the north side was remodeled into offices for selling gas in the 1980s. The owner of the gas company passed away suddenly in a traffic accident in the 1990s; those offices became a law office. The building has been in continuous use until the roof failed in 2019.

### Post Rock Limestone<sup>7</sup>

*This section references the MPDF "Post Rock Limestone Properties in Kansas."*

There were few trees on the western Great Plains, complicating the settlement process after 1865. New arrivals could not build log cabins as had been done in eastern Kansas. Instead, they built houses of sod and

<sup>7</sup> Post Rock Limestone Properties in Kansas, pending historic context, Urbana Preservation and Planning, LLC. September 2021.

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constructed dugouts in the sides of small hills. This worked for the initial years of proving up a homestead. However, there was a demand for more permanent building materials. Although western Kansas lacked trees, it was blessed with significant deposits of limestone which were soon used on homesteads. One specific type of limestone was the post rock limestone from the Greenhorn Formation, readily available just below the surface and easily quarried because of its uniform thickness of eight-to-twelve inches.<sup>8</sup>

Because the stone was heavy, quarries tended to be located close to the location of the intended use. Quarries would be opened in the vicinity of large buildings such as Fort Riley, hence the name Fort Riley Limestone. On farms and homesteads, residents would locate a source of building material and use it over a long span of time. Once cut from the quarry, the stone was transported by horse and wagon, or pulled with the use of a skid made from tree branches. With the advent of the twentieth century and mechanical transportation, automobiles replaced the horse and washing machine motors replaced hand operated drills.<sup>9</sup>

After establishing a land claim, settlers constructed post rock houses. These were similar in form and function to the sod houses of earlier homesteaders, however, post rock was a sturdy and permanent replacement. The early houses were simple in form, using a one-room functional design. Doors and windows were few. Often blankets were hung from the ceiling to serve as makeshift walls to separate sleeping quarters from the rest of the house. After fences and houses, settlers moved on to construct outbuildings made of post rock limestone. Outbuildings such as barns, cooling houses, and wash houses were constructed. ...<sup>10</sup>

## **Conclusion**

Unique to central Kansas and into Nebraska is the Greenhorn Formation of post-rock limestone. Kansas' open plains and prairies had a limited supply of lumber, so the rather abundant limestone became a regularly used building material. Post-rock limestone was an excellent and resilient material that could withstand common Kansas high winds and storms. The Pospishil building is located in the heart of post-rock country and is an example of a commercial building type. Typically, post-rock commercial buildings are one to two stories with flat roofs and parapets. Stores are commonly one- or two-part commercial blocks with public and retail spaces on the ground floor. Later, two-part commercial blocks often have more architectural embellishments, such as quoins and decorative openings. The limestone structure retains excellent workmanship and integrity. The Pospishil building retains evidence of its commercial use by the retention of the storefronts, doors, windows, design, and Mesker façade. It is located on the main two-blocks of commercial buildings in Luray. Most of the windows, doors, and Mesker façade remain intact. Interior spaces have seen more deterioration due to a collapsed roof, but generally, the layouts and arrangements are intact. The Pospishil building is a good example of a "commercial: store" building under the *Post Rock Limestone Properties in Kansas*, MPDF.

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<sup>8</sup> Post Rock Limestone Properties in Kansas: Post Rock Limestone Geology and Quarrying, Section E, p. 4.

<sup>9</sup> Post Rock Limestone Properties in Kansas: Post Rock Limestone Geology and Quarrying, Section E, p. 6.

<sup>10</sup> Post Rock Limestone Properties in Kansas: Early Agricultural Years to the 1880s, Section E, p. 9.

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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

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Merker Brothers: Storefronts of American, Kansas... <https://meskerbrothers.wordpress.com/2013/10/11/100-plus-recorded-in-kansas/>; We do not know if it is from the Meskers Iron Works or the George Mesker Company.

National Register of Historic Places nomination, 202 West 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Luray, Russell County, Kansas. Listed March 27, 2023. NRIS # 100008786.

Post Rock Limestone Properties in Kansas, pending historic context, Urbana Preservation and Planning, LLC. September 2021. September Twenty-seventh Clearance Sale. (1913, September 18). *The Luray Herald*. [www.newspapers.com/](http://www.newspapers.com/)

Oddfellows. (1917, February 1). *The Dorrance Star*. [www.newspapers.com/](http://www.newspapers.com/)

Woodman of America. Woodman Entertainment at Luray. (1899, July 20). *Osborne County Farmer*. [www.newspapers.com/](http://www.newspapers.com/)

Wrestling Contest. (1910, September 23). *The Luray Herald*. [www.newspapers.com/](http://www.newspapers.com/)

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreeage of Property** Less than one acre

**Provide latitude/longitude coordinates OR UTM coordinates.**  
(Place additional coordinates on a continuation page.)

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_  
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1 39.112614 -98.691708                      2 \_\_\_\_\_  
Latitude:                      Longitude:                      Latitude:                      Longitude:

**Verbal Boundary Description** (describe the boundaries of the property)

The boundary consists of Lots numbered 22 and 24 in Block 26 in the town of Luray. LURAY ORIGINAL TOWN, S07, T11, R12W, BLOCK 26, Lot 22 & 24, 0 SQUARE FEET, SECTION 07 TOWNSHIP 11 RANGE 12W.

**Boundary Justification** (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The boundary includes the historic parcel associated with the Pospishil Building. There is an adjacent building that was recently connected. Since the building and connection was built many decades after the Pospishil Building it is neither historic, nor tied to the significance of the building and is no longer accessible. The adjacent Quonset hut is not included in this nomination. The Pospishil Building is eligible for its Post Rock Limestone construction and therefore the boundary ends at the north elevation.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Charma Craven, President  
organization Luray Community Foundation date 5/15/2023  
street & number 19480 Beatty Lane telephone 785-525-6424  
city or town Luray KS zip code 67649  
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**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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.

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**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Photograph Log**

**Name of Property:** Pospishil Building  
**City or Vicinity:** Luray  
**County:** Russell State: Kansas  
**Photographer:** Jamee Fiore Krivenko, KS-SHPO  
**Date Photographed:** 10/2024

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include a description of view indicating the direction of camera:

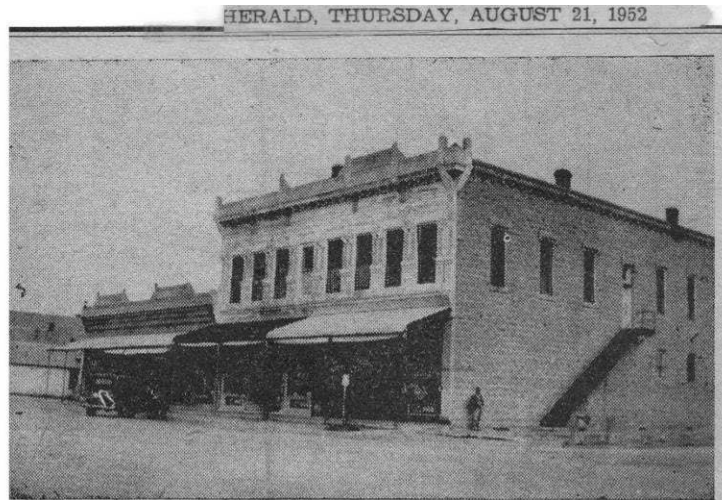
Photo Number	View	Description
#1	E	West elevation
#2	NE	West and South elevations
#3	NE	Overview of street
#4	N	South elevation
//#5	NW	South and East elevations
#6	W	East elevation (and connecting Quonset)
#7	SE	North and west elevations
#8	SE	Overview of Street
#9	NE	Interior, first floor, south half of the building
#10	NW	Interior, first floor, south half of the building
#11	E	Interior, first floor, north half of the building

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— 1 9 4 1 —

The above is a photograph of the large double two-story stone building known as the Pospishil building, located on the Main street of Luray. It was erected in 1899 and was the first native stone building in Luray.

Many local men worked on the building, among them were Edgar Laird, John Richardson, Bert Swisher, Dad Leonard and Loy Barry. Dad Leonard was in charge of the excavating of the basement. Bub Pospishil and Syd Cook hauled most of the rock from the Pospishil quarry on his arm south of town. Mr. Pospishil was on the job almost day and night.

It will be remembered by many old timers the night the building was dedicated in the summer of 1899. A home talent play was the big feature of the evening's entertainment. This drew a large crowd and the upstairs was one large room, which was used for the occasion was well filled. As the play drew to its close, a storm which had been brewing during the evening broke loose with such fury and force that the building trembled. The upper part of the building was not entirely enclosed and was in condition to catch the force of the wind. When a large keg of nails was blown round on the roof, children began to cry with fright, and most of the older folks were frightened as well, until announcement was made as to the cause. Before the wind subsided, hail and rain set in making it impossible to leave. The rain fell until the wee hours of the morning, holding the crowd which was by that time enjoying itself dancing. It was recalled by one party who was there that the one minister of the town who attended the play, and unwillingly stayed for the dance, was later asked for his opinion of the dance. His answer was "I didn't see anything bad about it."

The second story of the building was used as one large room for a long time, finally being divided and partitioned into Lodge rooms and various office rooms, such as insurance, dental and doctor's offices, etc.

The lower or the first floor of the building has mostly been used for dry goods and grocery stores. The first merchant to occupy the building was J. W. Sampson, who came here from Osborne where he had been in the Mercantile business. He remained in the Mercantile business a number of years in Luray, finally selling to Fallis & Grammon, who continued in business several years.

During Mr. Sampson's years in business one of his faithful clerks was John Olson, father of Elmer and Harry Olson and of Mrs. Maye (Olson) Herbert. Mrs. May (Straub) Fallis, was the ever pleasant, accommodating and efficient lady clerk.

Many other firms have since occupied this building, among them W. E. Pangburn, who came here from Waldo about 28 years ago. Mr. Pangburn carried a large stock of dry goods as well as groceries and employed several clerks at all times.

Since then the building has been partitioned through the center east and west and used for various businesses. Joy's Drug Store, Fritts Variety Store and Grimes Cafe, all in turn occupied the north half of the building, now occupied by Hickman's Grocery.

The south half of the building housed the Montgomery Cash Store in its infancy, and the Belveal Store, and for the past 2½ years the Ring Model Grocery.

Other buildings were built by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Pospishil in 1904. Two join the large building on the north, and one is directly across the street, now occupied by the Ehrlich Barber Shop.

Figure 10 "1941," *Herald*, August 21, 1952.

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**Figure 11 Buster Brown and Tige performing on the stairs**



**Photo 1 West elevation**

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**Photo 2 West and south elevations**



**Photo 3 Overview of the streetscape, looking northeast**

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**Photo 4 South elevation**



**Photo 5 South and east elevations**

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**Photo 6 East elevation**



**Photo 7 North and west elevations**

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**Photo 8 Overview of the streetscape, looking southeast**



**Photo 9 Interior, first floor of the south half of the building**

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**Photo 10 Interior first floor of the south half of the building**



**Photo 11 Interior, first floor of the north half of the building**

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**Figure 12 Boundary Map**

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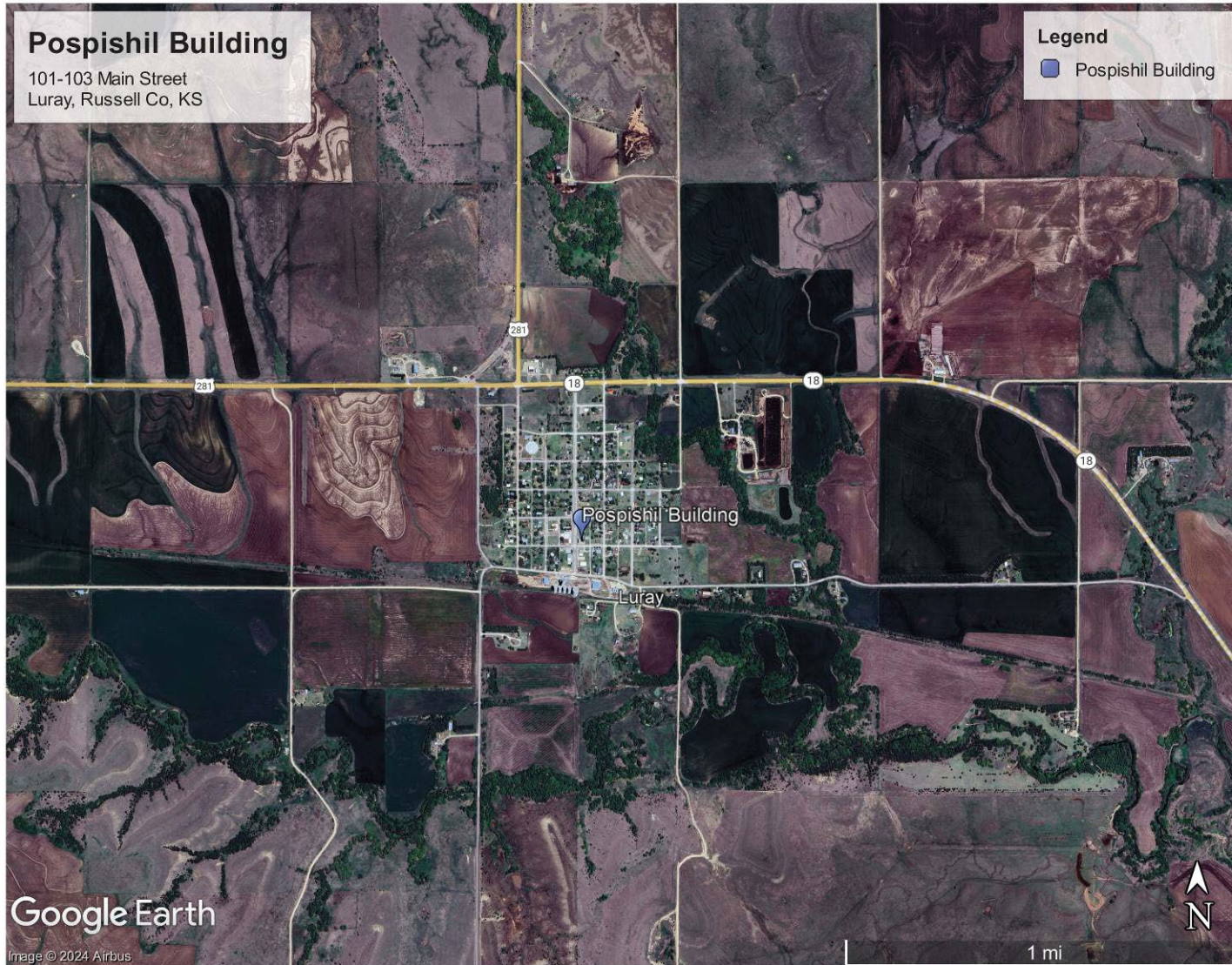


Figure 13 Overview Map

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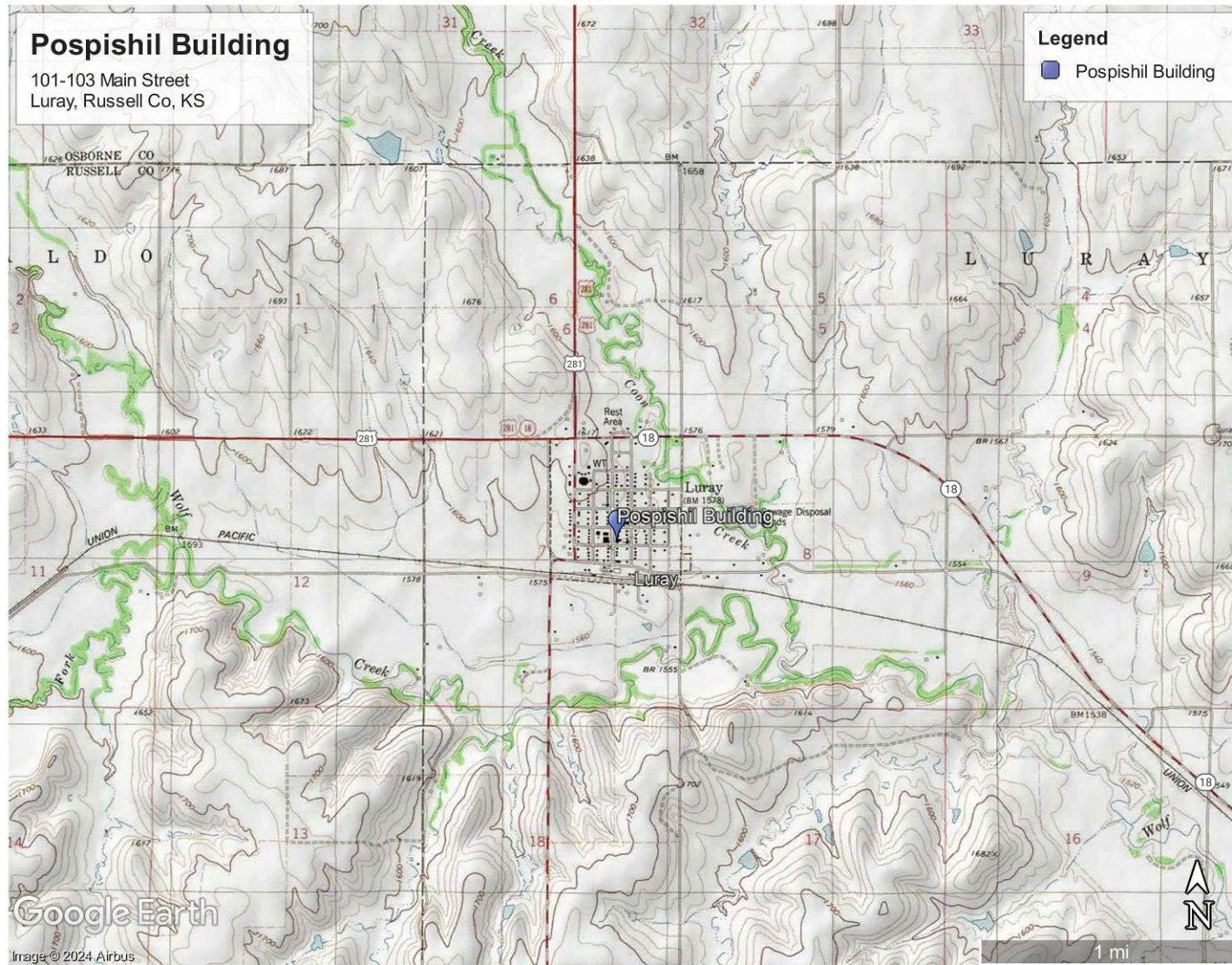


Figure 14 Topographic Map