

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

1. Name of Property

historic name Maries County Jail and Sheriff's Residence  
other names/site number Old Jail Museum

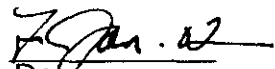
2. Location

street & number northwest corner of intersection of Fifth (Missouri Highway 42) and Mill streets  
[ n/a ] not for publication  
city or town Vienna [n/a] vicinity  
state Missouri code MO county Maries code 125 zip code 65582

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 [ ].)

  
Signature of certifying official/Title Claire F. Blackwell/Deputy SHPO

  
Date

Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
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 certifying official/Title

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date

[ ] 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

[ ] other, explain see continuation sheet [ ].

**5. Classification**

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		contributing	noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	1	0 building
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	0	0 sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-state	<input type="checkbox"/> site	0	0 structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	0	0 objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	1	0 total

Name of related multiple property listing.

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Function	Current Functions
Government/correctional facility	Museum
Domestic/single dwelling	

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
 Other: Mid 19th Century jail

see continuation sheet [ ].

**Materials**  
 foundation limestone  
 walls limestone  
 roof iron  
 other

see continuation sheet [ ].

**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION**

See continuation sheet [x]

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

**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**

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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

Law

**Periods of Significance**

1858-1942

**Significant Dates**

**Significant Person(s)**

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

unknown/Barnhart

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**9. Major Bibliographic References**

**Bibliography**

(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: Maries County Historical Society

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

**UTM References**

A. Zone 15	Easting 592300	Northing 4226810	B. Zone	Easting	Northing
C. Zone	Easting	Northing	D. Zone	Easting	Northing

[ ] 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 Sharon Kesel  
organization Lincoln University, DNR-Historic Preservation Program date April 17, 2001  
street & number P.O. Box 176 telephone 573-526-6627  
city or town Jefferson state Missouri zip code 65102

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A USGS map

A Sketch map

**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 SHPO or FPO.)

name Mozelle Hutchinson, Loyal Henderson, Howard & Jean Henderson, Tom Coffey  
street & number 5th & Mill Streets telephone 573-422-3301  
city or town Vienna state Missouri zip code 65582

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Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Maries County Jail and Sheriff's Residence  
Maries County, Missouri

**Summary:** The Maries County Jail and Sheriff's Residence was constructed between 1856 and 1858, at a cost of \$2,500, by "Mr. Barnhart." The jail sits at the northwest corner of the intersections of Fifth (Missouri Highway 42) and Mill streets in Vienna, Maries County. The building is a simple rectangular two over two construction, of no particular architectural style. The building is constructed of rough cut native limestone ashlar blocks, 18 inches thick. The floors and molding are of hand hewn white oak. Across from the main entry a stairwell leading to the upper jail cells bisects the interior. The roof is side gabled and covered with sheet iron. The building retains its original structural integrity, except for some minor structural damage to the ceiling in the west cell due to a leaking roof, which has recently been repaired. The building originally sat alone on a double lot, however in 1959 two buildings of local historic significance were moved to the lot to prevent their destruction. Neither building is included within the boundary defined for the jail building.

**Narrative:**

*South Elevation:* The south elevation is the primary facade to the building, with the entry door in the center of the facade. The door is steel plate, ½ inch thick. There are two six over six double hung windows on the first floor of the north elevation; one in the east room and one in the west room. The first floor of the building housed the sheriff and his family. For this reason the windows are larger which gives the rooms a more open comfortable appearance.

There are two cell windows on the second floor, the west window 20" X 9" and the east window 26" X 14". These cells were designed to house criminals and as a jail was built with little consideration of the comfort of the inmates.

*East and West Elevations:* The east and west elevations are a solid walls of 18" limestone blocks. There are no windows or openings on either wall. The thickness of the building walls was determined by the use of the second story as jail cells. With no window coverings, other than bars, a wood stove was used to heat the cells. During the 1930's an inmate of the jail dismantled the stove damper and used the damper pin to chisel out the mortar and escaped by pushing out the stone. The missing block was replaced by concrete.

*North Elevation:* The north elevation has two windows on the first floor and three windows on the second story. One window at the top of the stairwell, and one small

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Maries County Jail and Sheriff's Residence  
Maries County, Missouri

window in each cell. The window at the top of the stairs is six over six double hung. The cell windows are identical to the windows of the North elevation.

*Interior:* The interior of the building is divided into two levels, the first floor housed the sheriff and his family. The second floor was used to house the prisoners. Entering the building, access to the cell area is reached via a stairway which bisects the living quarters. The door to the cells is of white oak planking, with a small trap door through which food was passed for the prisoners. The wife of Sheriff Baynard Parker (Oma Parker) found another use for the pass through. When her baby was fussy, she would bundle up the baby and pass her through to prisoner Tade Nelson to baby-sit while she prepared the meals and did chores. Marylee Parker Davis, the baby in question, is now a resident of the Westphalia Nursing Home. Tade Nelson, a local, was often locked up for minor crimes, such as chicken stealing and mistreating animals.

The east cell has a ½" steel plate door in addition to the steel grate door measuring 59" X 24". The windows are considerably smaller, hence the nickname "the dungeon". The windows in the east cell are 20" X 9." with only bar covering. The east cell had a wood stove for heat, in an effort to escape, two inmates raked the burning coals from the stove onto the floor hoping to escape during the excitement of the fire. However, only minor damage was done to the oak flooring, which was repaired by installing a steel plate over the burned area. The steel plate is 8' X 26" and ½ inch thick. The escape attempt was unsuccessful. There are also steel chain rings installed on the floor of the east cell for securing unruly prisoners.

The west cell door is ½ inch steel plate, 8' X 26". The walls of the cell are 21" thick. Both the cells are covered with original graffiti and tic marks from the inmates marking off their time. There are two barred windows in the west cell, 26" X 14"; there were no covering other than the bars and inmates stuffed the windows with rags and newspapers to keep out the winter cold.

The east room of the main floor was used as a living room/bedroom area for the sheriff's family. There is a large stone fireplace in the east wall of the room. There are two six over six double hung windows on the main floor, one centered on the north wall and one centered on the south wall, six measuring 38" X 55".

The west room of the first floor was the kitchen and dining room for the sheriff and his family. There is a large fireplace in the west wall of the room. The sheriff's wife was responsible for feeding the inmates. Most inmates of the jail were locals held on minor

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**Maries County Jail and Sheriff's Residence  
Maries County, Missouri**

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charges and many times took their meals with the sheriff and his family. Inmates were also impressed to perform chores such as chopping wood, hauling water, and doing public service work around town.

*At some time during the early 1930's the original oak flooring was replaced on the main floor with a tongue and groove oak flooring. Other than this renovation the building retains the original structural integrity. The walls and ceilings are original lime plaster.*

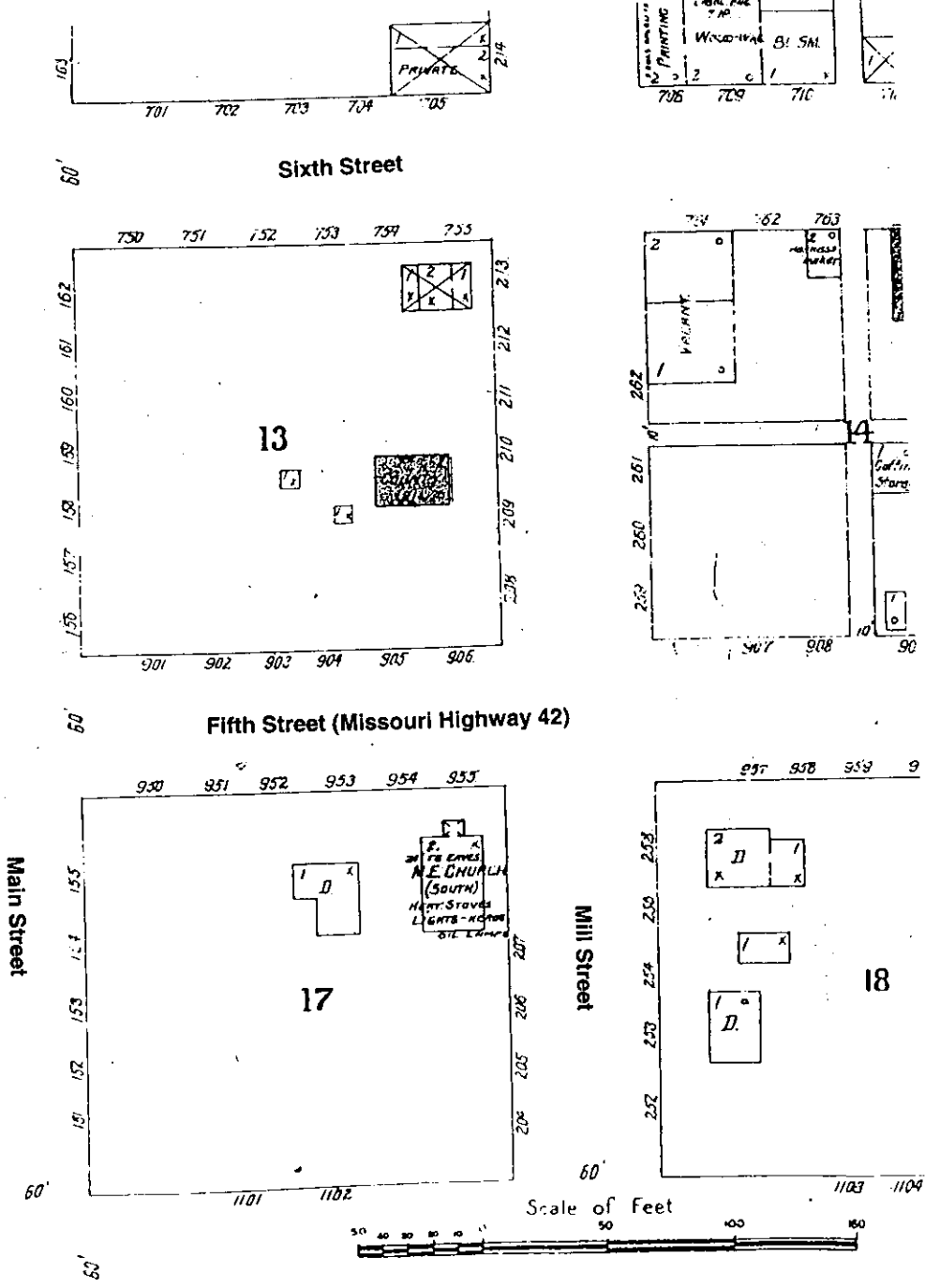
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Maries County Jail and Sheriff's Residence  
Maries County, Missouri

Figure 1: Vienna, Maries County, MO, Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, 1914.





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**Maries County Jail and Sheriff's Residence  
Maries County, Missouri**

**Summary:** The Maries County Jail and Sheriff's Residence is located at the intersection of Fifth (Missouri Highway 42) and Mill streets in Vienna, Maries County, Missouri. The Maries County Jail and Sheriff's Residence is significant under Criteria A in the area of law. The period of significance extends from 1858, when the building was constructed, to 1942, when the jail was replaced by a separate facility built under the Works Progress Administration. During that period, the building served as the only law enforcement and detention facility for the county. Specific information on the construction of the building and early government organization in the county is unavailable due to the destruction of the Maries County Courthouse by fire in 1868. However, the Maries County Jail and Sheriff's Residence is the only remaining physical history of Maries County from its organization to 1868. The building was apparently constructed by a man named Barnhart for \$2,500 between 1856 and 1858. It is representative of early law enforcement in the county and represents a fairly rare building design in that the Sheriff's residence also houses the jail. The practice of combining a sheriff's or jailer's residence with jail was prevalent in the mid to late nineteenth century in Missouri. By combining the county jail with living quarters for a sheriff or jailer, one man was able to provide law enforcement for the largely rural population of many Missouri counties. Architecturally, the building represents the simplest form possible for such a building, an unadorned, stone rectangle which succinctly conveys its function as a detention facility. Currently, twelve combination jails and residences are listed in the National Register in Missouri.<sup>1</sup>

**Narrative:** The area ultimately designated as Maries County was part of St. Louis County from 1812 to 1818. Between 1818 and 1855 it was parceled out between Pulaski, Gasconade and Osage counties. Maries County was created on March 2, 1855. Vienna was named the county seat concurrently. The county was named for the Big Maries and Little Maries Rivers which flow through the county. Vienna was named after the Austrian city as a compromise to presiding county judge Dr. V.G. Latham who wanted to name the town Vie Anna, after a female relative, who had recently passed away.<sup>2</sup>

There are several other jail/residence buildings in Missouri; currently twelve are on the NRHP, but Maries County appears to be one of the earliest, built between 1856-58. It

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<sup>1</sup> See Appendix.

<sup>2</sup> *Vienna Centennial, Maries County Missouri*, Centennial Committee, 1955

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Maries County Jail and Sheriff's Residence  
Maries County, Missouri

is also the only known combination jail/residence which is constructed of stone. The majority of similar facilities were constructed post Civil War, between the 1870s and the early 1900s.

On the surface, the Maries County Jail and Sheriff's Residence appears to be a rather nondescript limestone building. However, upon closer investigation, one can see the character of the surrounding community evident in the story of the jail. Since its conversion to a museum it has attracted visitors from 48 states and several foreign countries.<sup>3</sup>

The building was built in a manner more commonly found in the southern states than in Missouri. By combining the residence and the jail, the county saved money by eliminating the need for round-the-clock jailers. The sheriff and his family lived on the first floor of the building and the inmates were housed in cells on the second floor. The wife of the sheriff was responsible for feeding the prisoners and the laundering of the jail bedding. Prisoners were responsible for the washing of their personal clothing.

Most of the inmates of the jail were local ner' do wells and petty criminals. This is evident by the fact that many of the inmates took their meals with the sheriff and his family.<sup>4</sup> If there had been a serious criminal element in the county it is doubtful that the sheriff would have exposed his family to the dangers inherent with living in a jail setting.

The inmates were often impressed into doing chores around the jail, such as chopping wood, carrying water, cutting the grass, and on occasion, babysitting. Oma Parker, the wife of Sheriff Baynard Parker, found another use for the food pass through when faced with a fretful baby and chores to do. When her baby was fussy, she would bundle up the baby and pass her through to prisoner Tade Nelson to baby-sit while she prepared the meals and did chores. Marylee Parker Davis, the baby in question, is now a resident of the Westphalia Nursing Home. Tade Nelson, a local, was often locked up for minor crimes, such as chicken stealing and mistreating animals.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>3</sup>*St. Louis Post Dispatch*, "Museum in Vienna's Old Jail Draws Visitors From 48 States," August 26, 1976

<sup>4</sup>*Maries County, Missouri A county Pictorial/Family History*, Vol. III, 1995, p. 34

<sup>5</sup>*Kansas City Star*, "Jail Wasn't So Bad in Old Days at Vienna, MO," August 31, 1963

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Maries County Jail and Sheriff's Residence  
Maries County, Missouri

During the 1930's an inmate of the jail dismantled the stove damper and used the damper pin to chisel out the mortar and escaped by pulling the stone into the cell and on to his mattress to prevent the sheriff from hearing the crash. To cover the noise of his work, a fellow inmate played his violin. Upon his escapee he stole a truck from Albert McDaniel, the proprietor of the store across the street from the jail. The inmate was recaptured soon after and was ordered to break up the block and remove it from the cell.<sup>6</sup> The stone block was replaced by cement.

There is also a darker side to the stories of inmates of the Maries County Jail. In March 1908, a seventeen-year-old boy, John Adam King, committed suicide in the jail. He was accused of murder, although he professed his innocence. He also recognized that the evidence was stacked against him. Facing the charges was more than he could bear. While incarcerated, he wrote many notes to sweetheart Elsie Rook, of Vienna. On the back of one note he left this message to his jailers "*Boys my razor is pretty sharp.*" He was afterward discovered in his cell with "his throat cut from ear to ear."<sup>7</sup>

The walls of the Jail are covered with the lamentations of those incarcerated. Some are melancholy, some are humorous, all are the inmates' way of preserving their place in history, such as the plaintive "When I am gone, you will soon forget me."

The original preservation of this property began in 1955. Local residents were concerned with the loss of such an important historic structure and several managed to pool their resources to purchase the property to prevent its destruction. The original purchasers were Carl & Madolyn Baldwin, Tom Coffey, Paul & Inez Hollenbeck, and Cecil and Juanita Hutchinson.

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<sup>6</sup>*Kansas City Star*, "Jail Wasn't So Bad in Old Days at Vienna, MO," August 31, 1963

<sup>7</sup>*The Maries Countian*, Historical Society of Maries County, Fall 1999

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Maries County Jail and Sheriff's Residence  
Maries County, Missouri

**Appendix:  
Combination Jails, Sheriff's Offices and Residences in Missouri  
Listed in the National Register**

Carroll County Sheriff's Quarters and Jail. Constructed 1878; NRHP 1979.

Chariton County Jail and Sheriff's Residence. Constructed 1906-1907; NRHP 1996.

Cole County Courthouse and Jail-Sheriff's House. Constructed 1896; NRHP 1973.

Daviess County Rotary Jail and Sheriff's Residence. Constructed 1888; NRHP 1989.

Iron County Courthouse Buildings. Jail and residence constructed circa 1866-1867;  
NRHP 1979.

Jackson County Jail and Marshal's House. Constructed circa 1860; NRHP 1970.

Laclede County Jail. Jail constructed 1876; residence added 1913; NRHP 1980.

Linn County Jail and Sheriff's Residence. Constructed 1871; enlarged 1936-1937.  
NRHP 2001.

Ralls County Courthouse and Jail-Sheriff's House. Constructed 1869; NRHP 1972.

Ripley County Jail, Sheriff's Office and Sheriff's Residence. Constructed 1899; NRHP  
1991.

St. Francois County Jail and Sheriff's Residence. Constructed 1870-1871; enlarged  
1909; NRHP 1996.

Vernon County Jail, Sheriff's House and Office. Constructed circa 1870; NRHP 1977.

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**Maries County Jail and Sheriff's Residence  
Maries County, Missouri**

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**Bibliography**

Centennial Committee, *Vienna Centennial, Maries County Missouri*, 1955

Historical Society of Maries County, *The Maries Countian*, Fall, 1999

"Jail Wasn't So Bad in Old Days at Vienna, MO," *Kansas City Star*, August 31, 1963

*Maries County Missouri, A County Pictorial/Family History*, Vol. III, 1995, p. 34

Ohman, Marian M., *Encyclopedia of Missouri Courthouses*, University of Missouri-Columbia Extension Division, 1981

"Museum in Vienna's Old Jail Draws Visitors from 48 States," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, August 26, 1976

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Maries County Jail and Sheriff's Residence  
Maries County, Missouri

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**Verbal Boundary Description:** Beginning at the northeast corner of the intersection of Fifth (Missouri Highway 42) and Mill streets, proceed north along the west right-of-way of Mill Street sixty feet; then proceed west and parallel to Fifth Street seventy feet; then proceed south and parallel to Mill Street sixty feet; then proceed east along the north right-of-way of Fifth Street seventy feet to the point of beginning.

**Boundary Justification:** The Maries County Jail and Sheriff's Residence originally occupied Block 9 (identified as Block 13 on the 1914 Sanborn map) of the Original Town of Vienna with two small outbuildings and a frame building also owned by the county. The widening of Highway 42 (Fifth Street), which ran on the south boundary of the lot, removed approximately the south forty feet of the lot. The boundary of the *nominated property has been drawn to include only the significant resource--the combination jail and sheriff's residence--and to exclude two moved, historic buildings north and west of the jail, as well as a modern building, originally constructed by the county but now used as a museum, on the northwest corner of the block.*

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Section number Photographs Page 11

Maries County Jail and Sheriff's Residence  
Maries County, Missouri

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The following information is the same for all photographs:

Maries County Jail and Sheriff's Residence

Maries County, MO

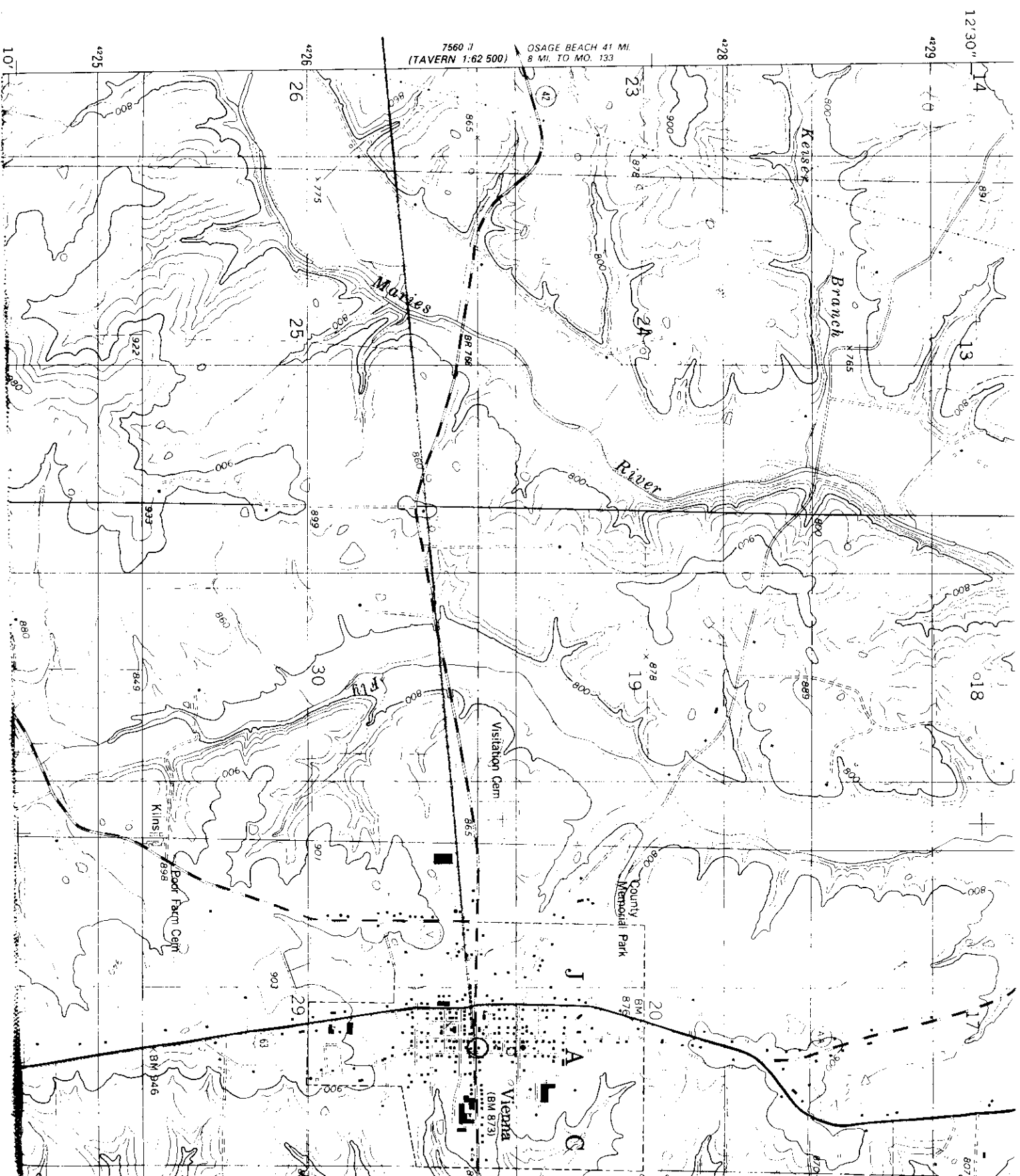
Photographer: Roger Maserang

Date: April 2001

Location of negatives: Missouri Cultural Resource Inventory, Missouri SHPO, Jefferson City, MO

1. South elevation
2. South elevation
3. North elevation
4. West and north elevation
5. East and south elevation
6. Detail of first floor window
7. First floor living quarters
8. Detail of first floor door to stairway
9. Detail of cell door, second floor
10. Second floor cell
11. Second floor cell
12. Detail of second floor window
13. Detail of graffiti
14. Detail of graffiti
15. Detail of graffiti in cell
16. Detail of graffiti in cell

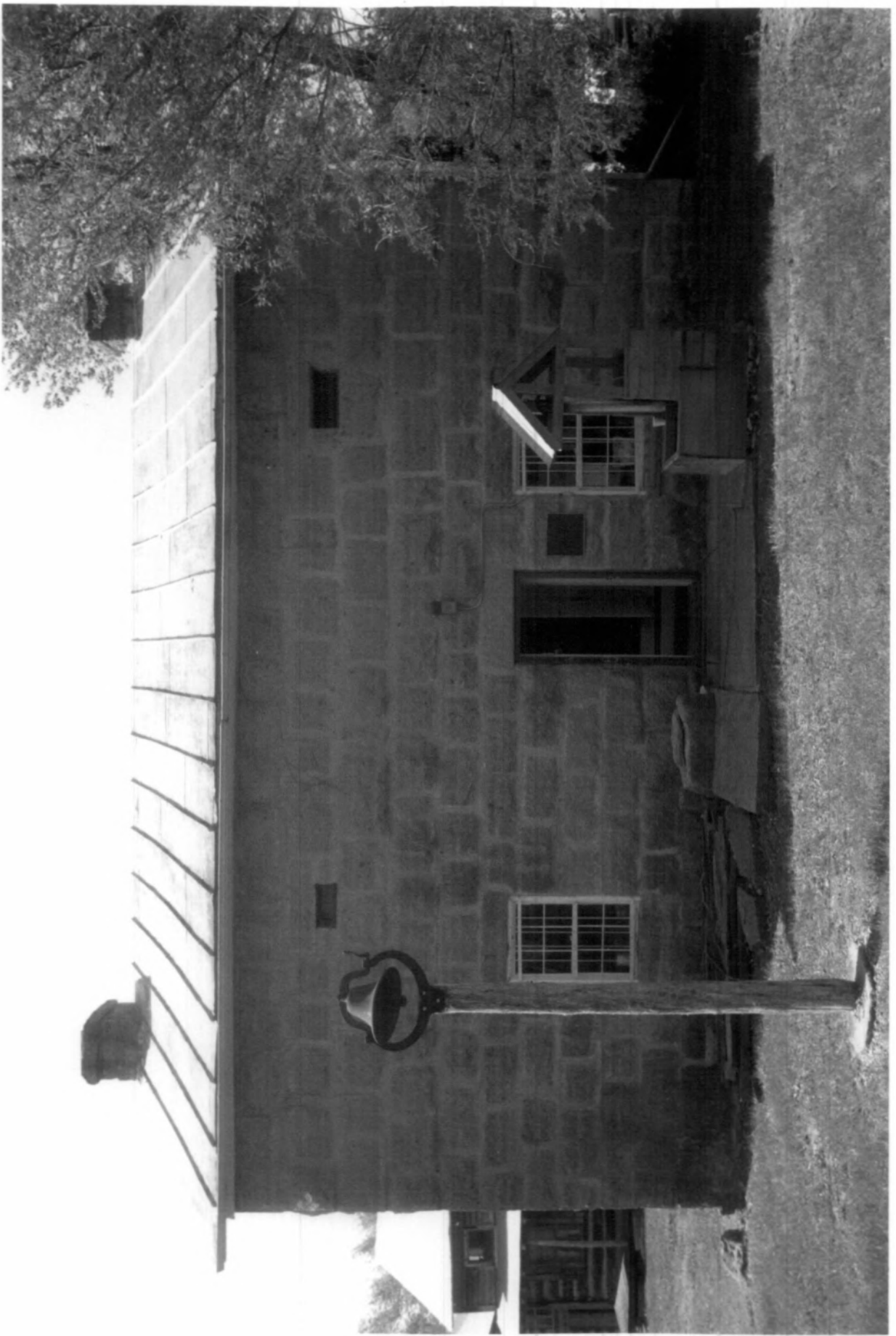
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MARIES COUNTY, MO  
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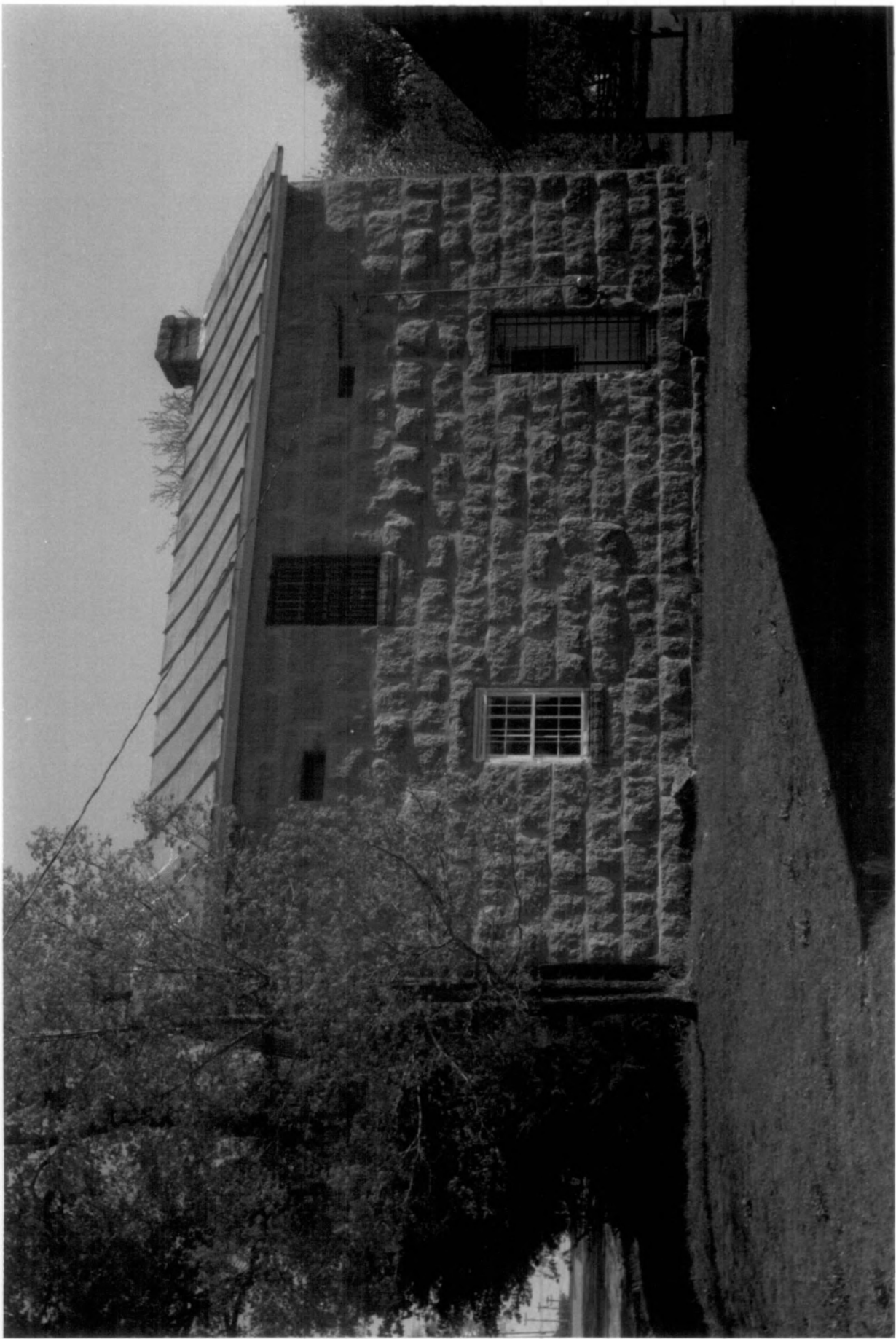


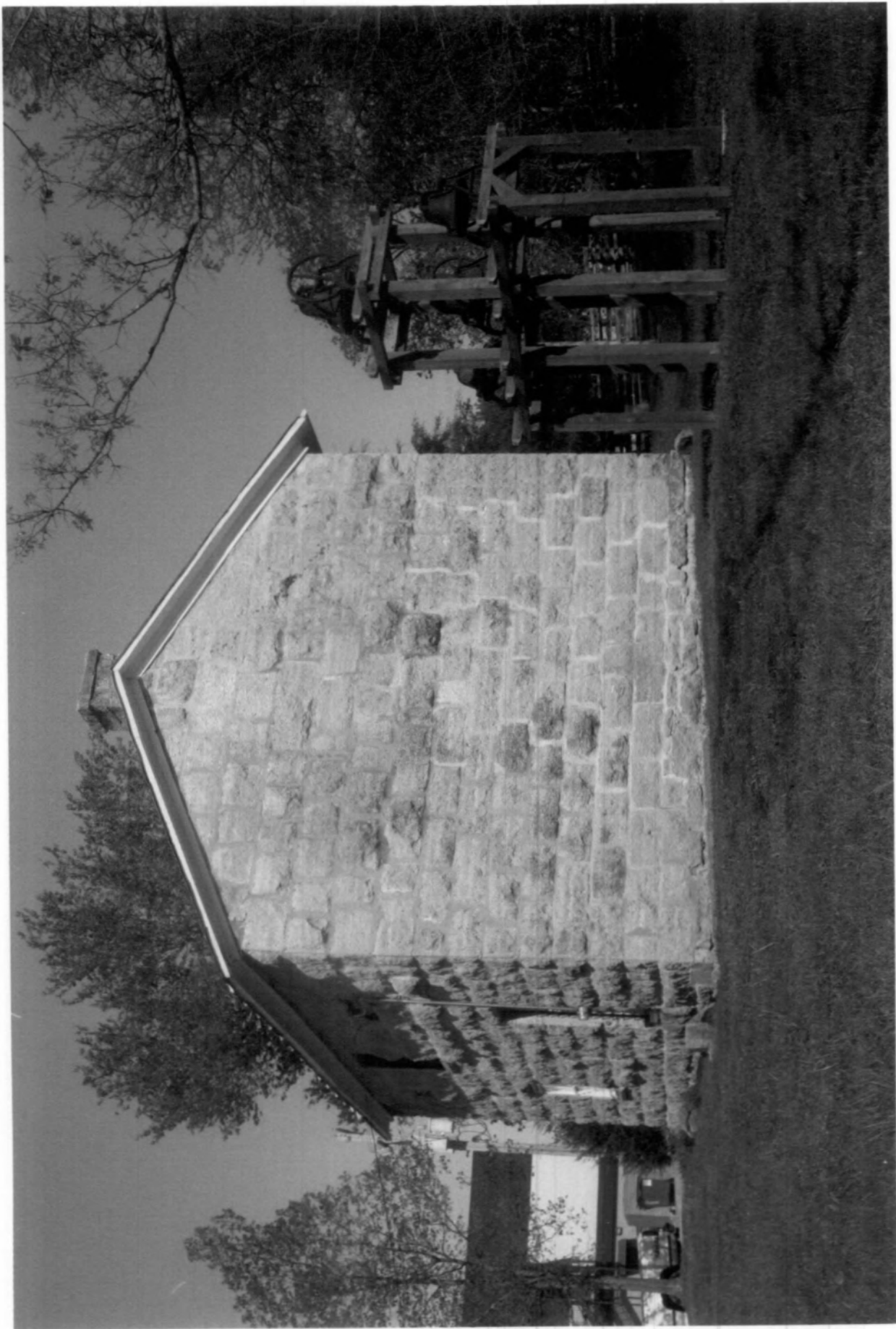




1856 JAIL MUSEUM































WKS BROOKS

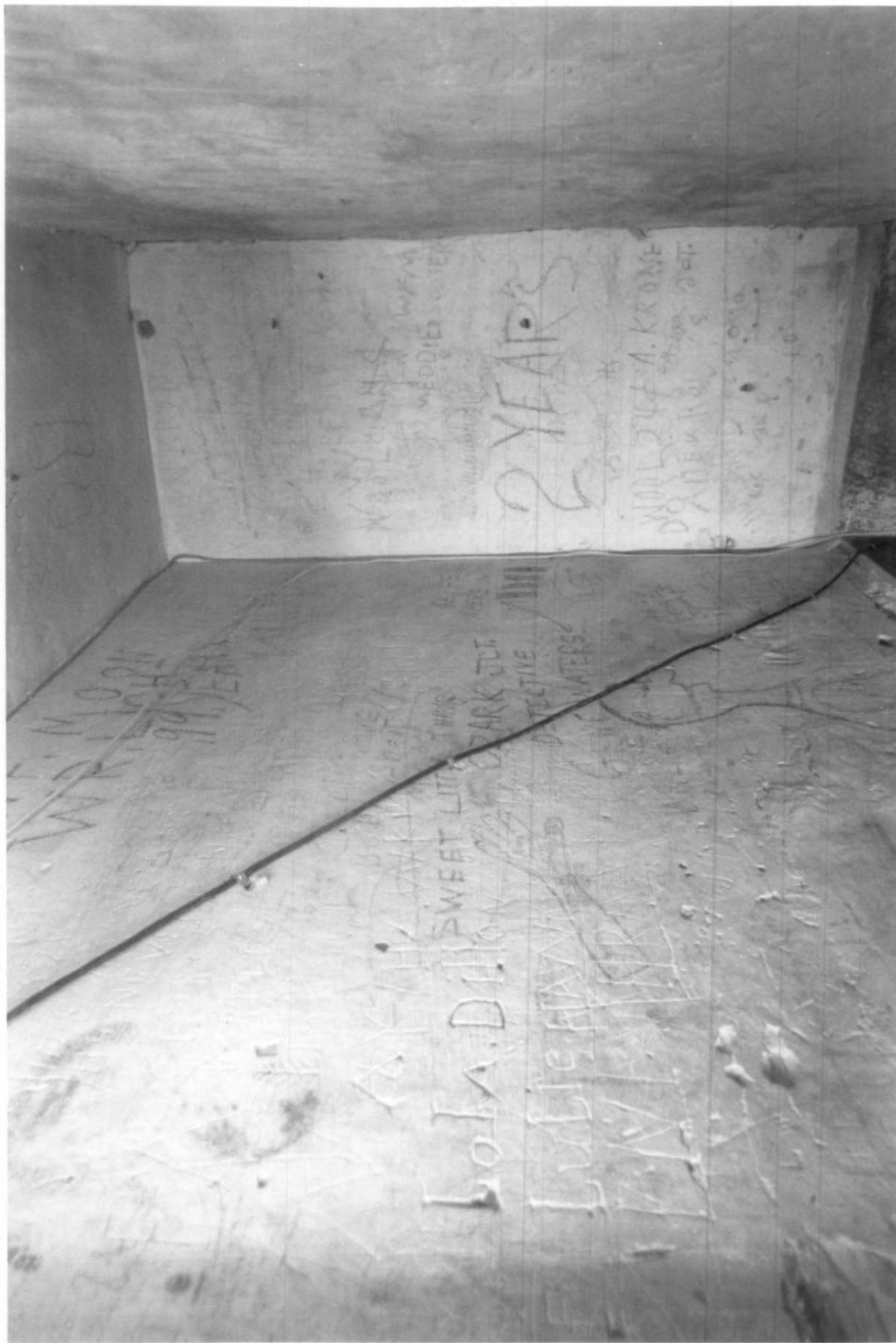
RAY WOOD  
BOE CRINER  
DIXIE

BOYD!  
BLANKINSHIP  
DIXIE

M.O.  
ENTERED  
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ON JAN  
2<sup>ND</sup> AND  
STAYED  
HERE  
12  
MONTHS  
1936

BOE  
CRINER

WILFORD LIGHT



1891

WILLIAM A. KRONE  
MIDDLETOWN

2 YEARS

WILLIAM A. KRONE  
MIDDLETOWN

1901  
1902

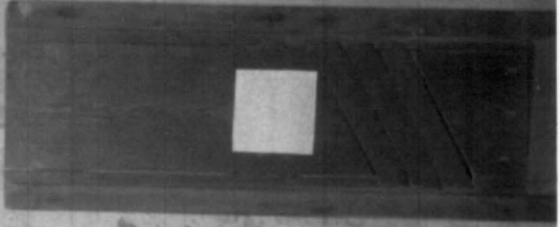
LOLA DILLON  
SWEET LITTLE THING  
DARK JUL  
DETECTIVE  
WATERS

LULIE HAYN  
LIVIE

WILLIAM A. KRONE  
MIDDLETOWN

When I AM GONE  
YOU WILL FORGET ME  
I WILL FORGET YOU

TROUBLE  
I AM B  
CAME  
EVER





DREAMING OF RIDING A HELL BOUND TRAIN 1939

W.F.N. 1939

W.F.N. 1939



EXTRA  
PHOTOS

