

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Old Calaboose

and/or common Old Springfield City Jail; South Side Calaboose

2. Location

street & number 409 W. McDaniel _____ not for publication

city, town Springfield _____ vicinity of congressional district #7 - Hon. Gene Taylor

state Missouri code 29 county Greene code 077

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Storage

4. Owner of Property

name City of Springfield, Missouri

street & number 830 Boonville Avenue

city, town Springfield _____ vicinity of state Missouri 65802

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of Recorder of Deeds

street & number 940 Boonville Avenue

city, town Springfield _____ state Missouri 65802

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Missouri State Historical Society has this property been determined eligible? yes nodate 1979 _____ federal state _____ county _____ localdepository for survey records Department of Natural Resources
Historic Preservation Program, P.O. Box 176

city, town Jefferson City _____ state Missouri 65102

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Springfield, Missouri's Old City Jail, or Old Calaboose, is situated downtown, immediately southwest of Park Central Square and its tributary malls. When sited rear gable end to the street in 1891, the Old Calaboose flanked a combined police and fire station, facing inward toward a public buildings group. The relocation of City offices and the recent demolition of most neighboring buildings for mall parking has left the diminutive Old Calaboose (measuring only 26' by 26' with a 3' by 7' porch) rather isolated in its surroundings.

Inspiration for local builder Axel Skoog's unusual combination of Roman and Greek classicism is perhaps most accurately assigned to Palladian-influenced Greek revival antecedents. Adapting a format often employed by Greek revivalist Robert Mills, Skoog Palladianized the design at street level, mounting simplified classicizing features above. To accentuate the arched entrance, he offset a gable-ended vestibule, unfortunately truncated by modifications, from a robust, coursed rock-faced limestone high basement in the Palladian manner.

Interior and exterior modifications were made c. 1921 to isolate a fire alarm system on the second floor by removing the interior stairwell and opening a separate second story entrance. These alterations account for the conversion of the central, second story window of the northern elevation into an entrance, the removal and replacement of the vestibule pediment with a concrete slab to serve as an entrance landing and the addition of a single flight of stairs with pipe hand rails. Presently, consideration is being given to two restoration plans which would either emendate these and corresponding interior alterations along original lines or to reverse recent modifications (1955) to the floor plans and restore the interior according to the 1920's modifications.

While the proposed reconstruction of the vestibule gable would reinstate effective visual ties between the superposed peaks of the vestibule, shouldered brickwork of the pediment and the temple form of the building itself (thereby visually relinking the upper and lower stories), the present modified arrangement reinforces the contrasting treatments, textures, materials and colors which differentiate between the two stories. The robust wall treatment at the first story provides an offset for the clear geometry of the classicizing pilaster strips and corbelling at the entablature level and gabled parapet walls; and similarly, the light-colored and highly textured base sets off the flat wall surfaces of red brick laid in common bond and the gable roof clad in dark asphalt.

Two red brick chimneys, positioned at the south and east walls, rise above the roof line to punctuate the design. The chimney centered on the rear gable is original while the chimney at the eastern wall was built after the jail was completed to correct flaws in the heating system. The system as originally designed, consisting of prisoner-attended stoves hooked up to the first chimney inside the cells, quickly proved dangerous because it foolishly provided prisoners with ammunition to use against the jail guards. Heating ducts were therefore installed at the east end of the stair hall to shift control of the heating system from the prisoners to the jailers.²

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Originally, the floor plans were almost identical. Stair halls extended across the full length of the north wall of the building and paired cells, separated by a brick bearing wall aligned with the roof ridge, were sectioned off from the hall by steel grilles with padlocked doors. Also, each cell was equipped with a three tiered metal bunk bed anchored into the partition wall and concrete floor.³

Freestanding toilets, enclosed in concrete compartments, were added around the turn-of-the-century and removed at an unknown date. In c. 1921, the second floor grilles and interior stairs were removed, the stairwell was sealed and additional first floor grilles were installed several feet from the barred windows to keep prisoners at arm's length from the apertures. The plans were further undone in 1955, when the remaining grilles and several bunk beds were removed.⁴

FOOTNOTES

1. Interview with Arthur L. Smades, retired fire department superintendent, Springfield, Missouri, n.d. These modifications were made by City firemen and street department workmen.
2. Betty Jane Turner, draft of a National Register nomination for the Old Calaboose, Historic Preservation Program, Division of Parks and Historic Preservation, Department of Natural Resources, Jefferson City, Missouri.
3. Ibid.
4. Ibid.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below					
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Law Enforcement		

Specific dates 1891-1892; c. 1921 alterations Builder/Architect Axel Skoog

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Old City Jail or Old Calaboose in Springfield, Missouri, is significant for longstanding service as a detention facility for persons charged or convicted of minor municipal offenses; as one of the oldest City-occupied buildings; as one of few municipal buildings constructed by the City of Springfield; and as a late and unique stylistic federation of Palladian and Greek traditions which marks the rich, untutored designs typical of construction in outlying areas.

Though the historical beginnings of Springfield's penal institutions properly date to 1874, municipal prisoners were incarcerated for remuneration in the old Greene County log jail as early as 1847. In July, 1874, following four years of aborted attempts to construct a separate municipal facility, the City was pressed to act by the Greene County Court which abrogated the City's option to hold prisoners in the county jail after August 1, 1874. Forced to move swiftly, the City Council appointed a committee to advertise and obtain plans and bids for the first City Calaboose -- a wooden building, 15' by 30', containing two cells -- on July 16th. By August, construction began on the west side of the municipal plot (opposite the site of the second and existing Old Calaboose) under the direction of builder J.F. Underwood.¹

Because the first jail's flooring rested almost directly on the ground, the wooden boards rapidly decayed from surface moisture, attracting harmful bacteria and vermin.² Alarmed by conditions at the South Side Calaboose, the City endeavored on several occasions to replace the jail in the late 1880's.³ Finally, on June 2, 1891, J.D. Jaquith, Chairman of the Building and Grounds Committee of the City Council moved to advertise for plans and specifications for a "creditability" calaboose of stone, brick and concrete; four months later his motion carried.⁴ Bids were opened on November 10, 1891, and Axel Skoog, owner of the Market Street Planing Mill, was awarded a \$2,998.00 commission for the tiny, but forthright building, naively patterned after unfashionable Greek revival structures.⁵

The decision to locate the jail outside of the City sewer district thwarted the building's "creditability" during the 1890's. City records suggest that the Calaboose was equipped with plumbing shortly after the sewer district was expanded around the turn-of-the-century.⁶

The jail held both men and women prisoners until c. 1921, when the women were moved to the Greene County Jail and the second floor women's ward was dismantled for the installation of fire alarm equipment. The Old Calaboose continued to serve a split function, housing both male prisoners and the alarm system until it was converted for use as storage in 1955.

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With the merger of Springfield and North Springfield, most City offices shifted mid-way between the two communities, leaving vacant facilities near the Old Calaboose. As a result of the demolition of these former government structures, the Old Calaboose is one of the oldest remaining municipal buildings in Springfield; and oddly, the jail is one of few government buildings constructed by the municipality. As the Old Calaboose derives a great amount of local civic importance from these distinctions, it was singled out for revitalization, possibly as a police museum, by the City of Springfield.

FOOTNOTES

1. Notes from City Council proceedings, card file, City Clerk's Office, City Hall, Springfield, Missouri.
2. Notes from City Council proceedings, card file, City Clerk's Office, City Hall, Springfield, Missouri.
3. Proceedings of the City Council of Springfield, Missouri (Springfield, Missouri: n.p., n.d.), V.10, p. 306.
4. Springfield [Missouri] Daily Democrat, 4 November 1891.
All the disassembled hardware is stored in the building, awaiting re-installation according to one of the two restoration programs.
5. It would appear that construction was completed by May 25, 1892 as the council authorized payment of the balance of Skoog's fee on this date.
Springfield [Missouri] Leader and Press, 26 May 1892.
6. Betty Jane Turner, draft of a National Register nomination for the Old Calaboose, Historic Preservation Program, Division of Parks and Historic Preservation, Department of Natural Resources, Jefferson City, Missouri.
7. Interview with Arthur L. Smades, retired fire department superintendent, Springfield, Missouri, n.d.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Jefferson City, Missouri. Department of Natural Resources. Division of Parks and Historic Preservation. Historic Preservation Program. Betty Jane Turner, draft of a National Register nomination for the Old Calaboose.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property less than one acre (1,000 sq. ft.)

Quadrangle name "Springfield, Mo."

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>5</u>	<u>4</u> <u>7</u> <u>3</u> <u>8</u> <u>7</u> <u>5</u>	<u>4</u> <u>1</u> <u>1</u> <u>7</u> <u>8</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

Beginning at the Northeast corner of the old City Jail Building; thence North 3.5'; thence West 38'; thence South 26' to the West Tuning Fork right of way; thence East along said West Tuning Fork right of way a distance of 12'+; thence East 10 1/2'; thence South 1 1/2';

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Betty Jane Turner

organization Historical Site Board date November 23, 1978

street & number 830 Boonville Avenue telephone 417/865-1611

city or town Springfield state Missouri 65802

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Director, Department of Natural Resources and
title State Historic Preservation Officer date

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	date
Keeper of the National Register	date
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

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2. Historical Sites of Springfield, Missouri

1975

Historical Site Board
Springfield

Missouri 65802

3. "Downtown Historical Walk"

1973

Historical Site Board
Springfield

Missouri 65802

Item number 9

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Saunders, Scott W. "An Historical Evaluation of the Old Calaboose." Report, Springfield Historical Sites Board, 1970.

Smades, Arthur L. Retired fire department superintendent, Springfield, Missouri. Interview, n.d.

Springfield, Missouri. City Hall. City Clerk's Office, card file. Notes from City Council proceedings.

Springfield, Missouri. City Hall. City Council. Proceedings of the City Council of Springfield, Missouri. Springfield, Missouri: n.p., n.d.

Springfield [Missouri] Daily Democrat, 4 November 1891.

Springfield [Missouri] Leader and Press, July 1890-August 1893.

Springfield, Missouri. Police Department. Annual Reports. Springfield, Missouri: n.p., 1940-53.

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thence East 5'; thence North 1 1/2'; thence East 10 1/2'; thence North 26' to the Point of Beginning, all a part of the Northeast Quarter, Northeast Quarter, Section 23, Township 29, Range 22, all in Springfield, Greene County, Missouri.

Item number 11

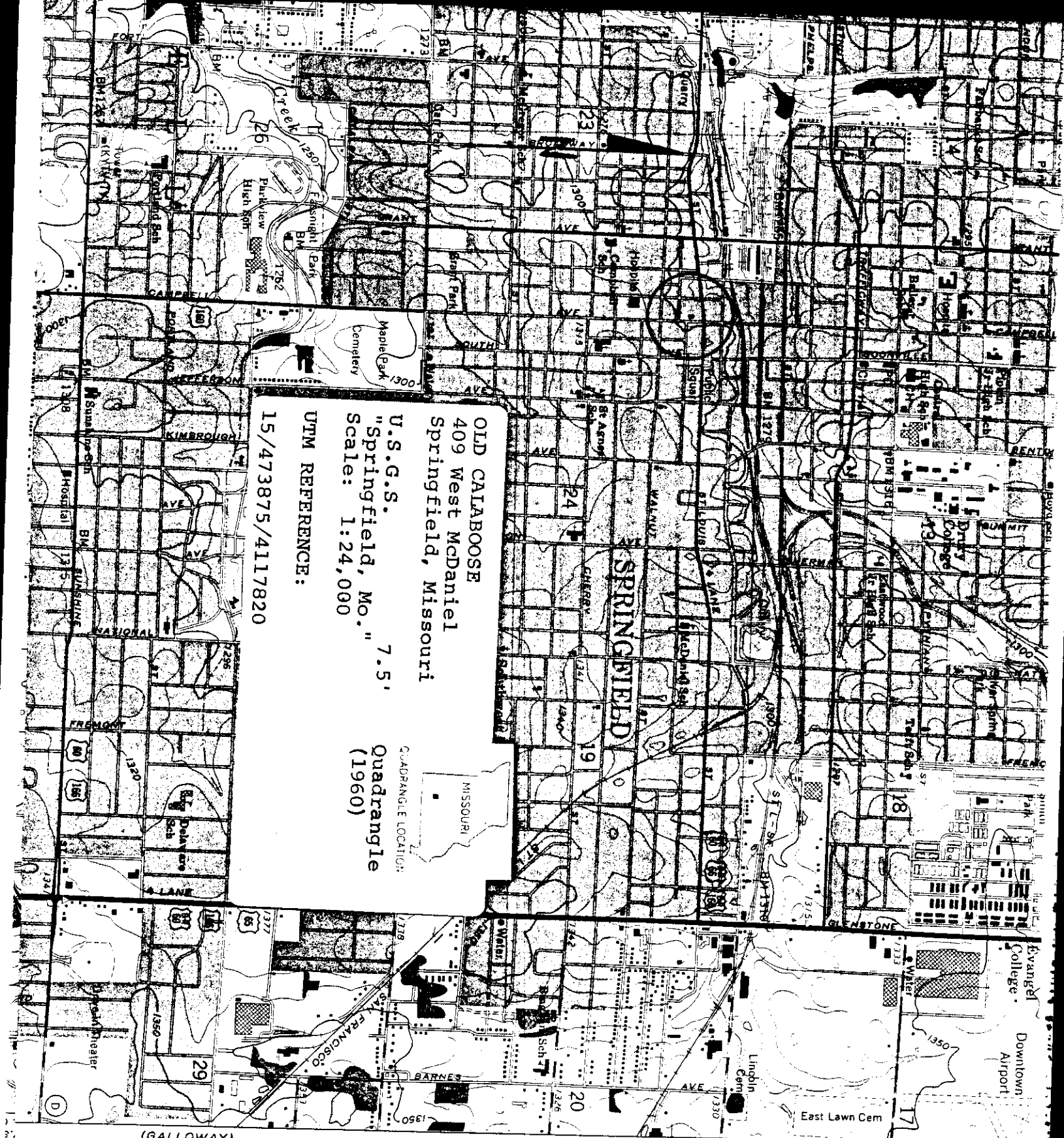
Page 1

2. Jill Johnson, Architectural Historian
Department of Natural Resources
Historic Preservation Program
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City

April 3, 1980

314/751-4096

Missouri 65102



OLD CALABOOSE
 409 West McDaniel
 Springfield, Missouri
 U.S.G.S. 7.5'
 "Springfield, Mo."
 Scale: 1:24,000
 UTM REFERENCE:
 15/473875/4117820

QUADRANGLE LOCATION:
 MISSOURI
 (1960)

(GALLOWAY)

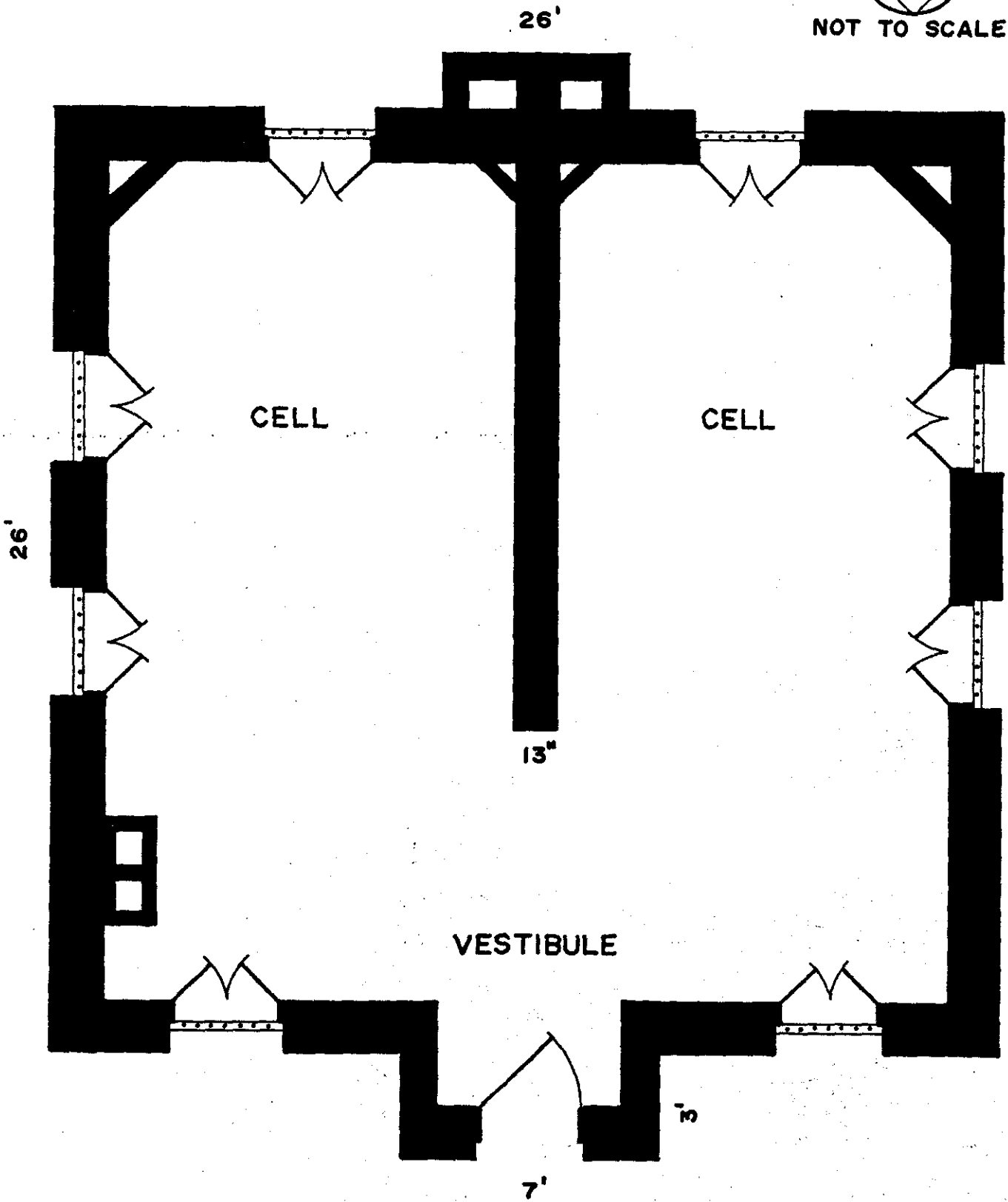
1230'

6.3 MI. TO MO.

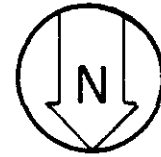
FIRST FLOOR PLAN
OLD CALABOOSE
SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI



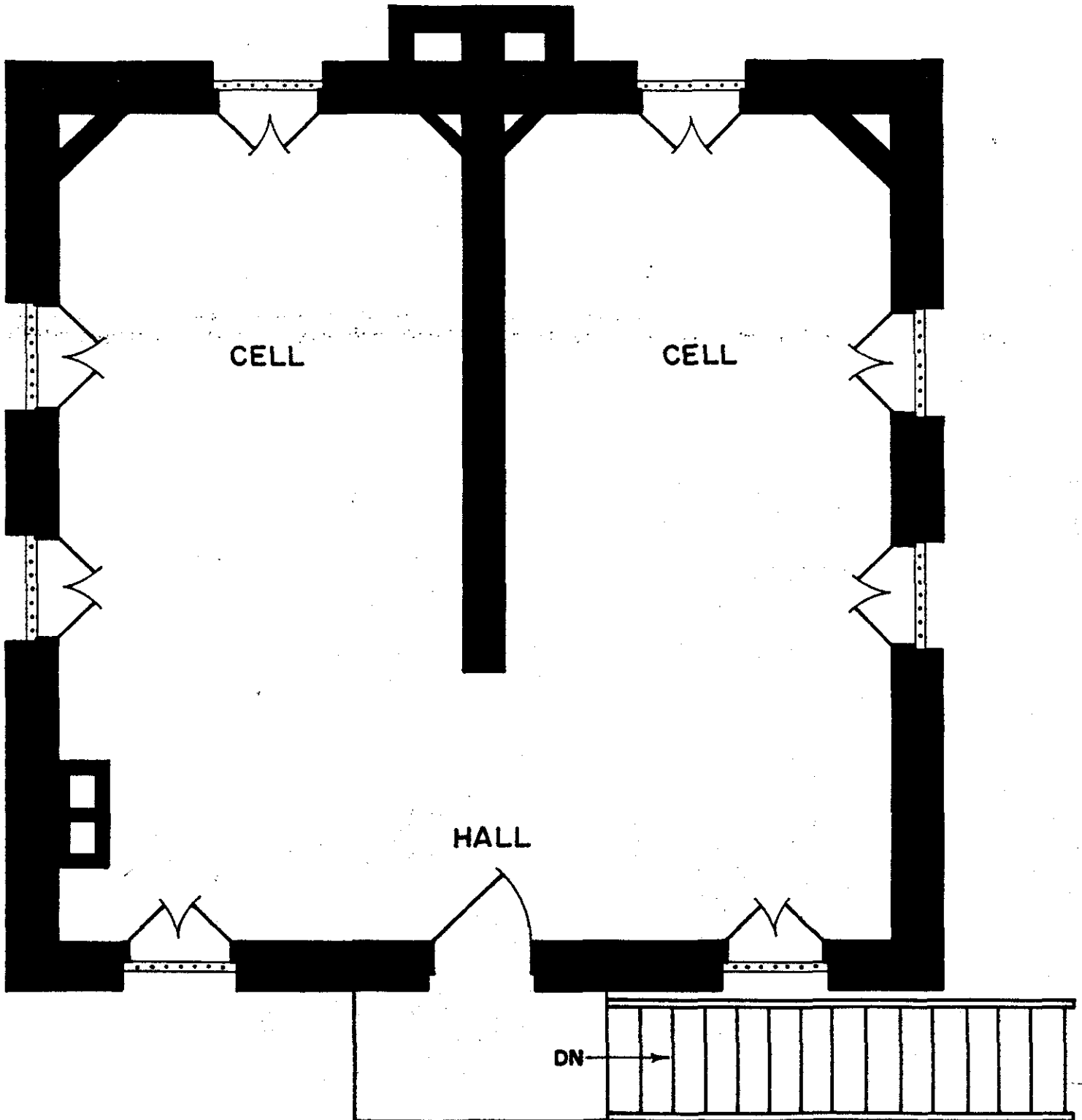
NOT TO SCALE



SECOND FLOOR PLAN
OLD CALABOOSE
SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI



NOT TO SCALE



OLD CALABOOSE
409 West McDaniel
Springfield, Missouri

1 of 5

Photographer: Jill Johnson
June 1980

Neg. Loc.: Missouri Department of Natural
Resources, P. O. Box 176,
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

View of the north facade, showing c. 1912
alterations.



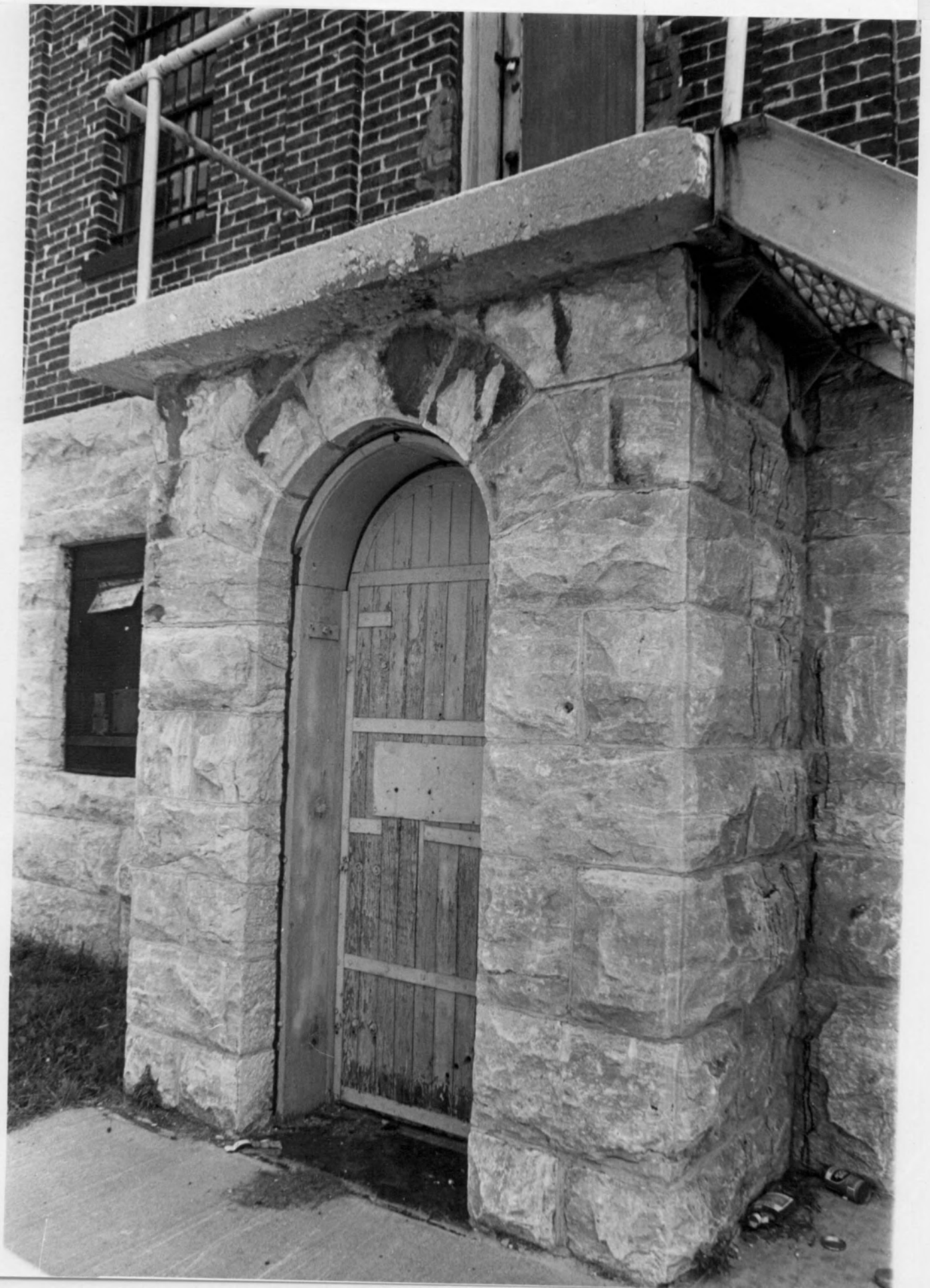
OLD CALABOOSE
409 West McDaniel
Springfield, Missouri

2 of 5

Photographer: Jill Johnson
June 1980

Neg. Loc.: Missouri Department of Natural
Resources, P. O. Box 176,
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Detail of the north facade, showing the
truncated porch (modified c. 1912).



OLD CALABOOSE
409 West McDaniel
Springfield, Missouri

3 of 5

Photographer: Jill Johnson
June 1980

Neg. Loc.: Missouri Department of Natural
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Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

View of the south (rear) and east
elevations, showing the original (rear)
and added (eastern) chimneys.



OLD CALABOOSE
409 West McDaniel
Springfield, Missouri

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Photographer: Jill Johnson
June 1980

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View of the first floor hall, looking east
toward the added chimney.



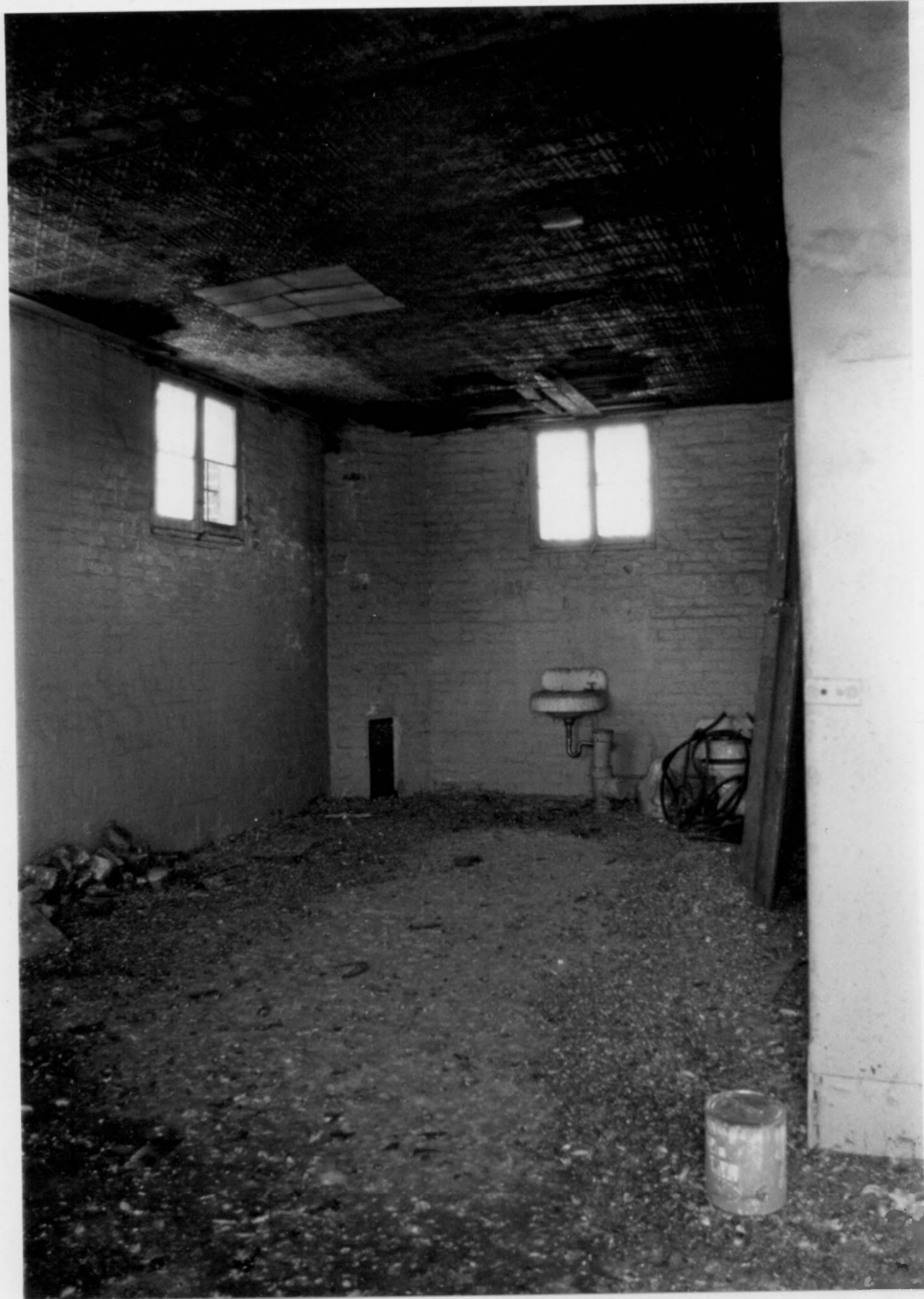
OLD CALABOOSE
409 West McDaniel
Springfield, Missouri

5 of 5

Photographer: Jill Johnson
June 1980

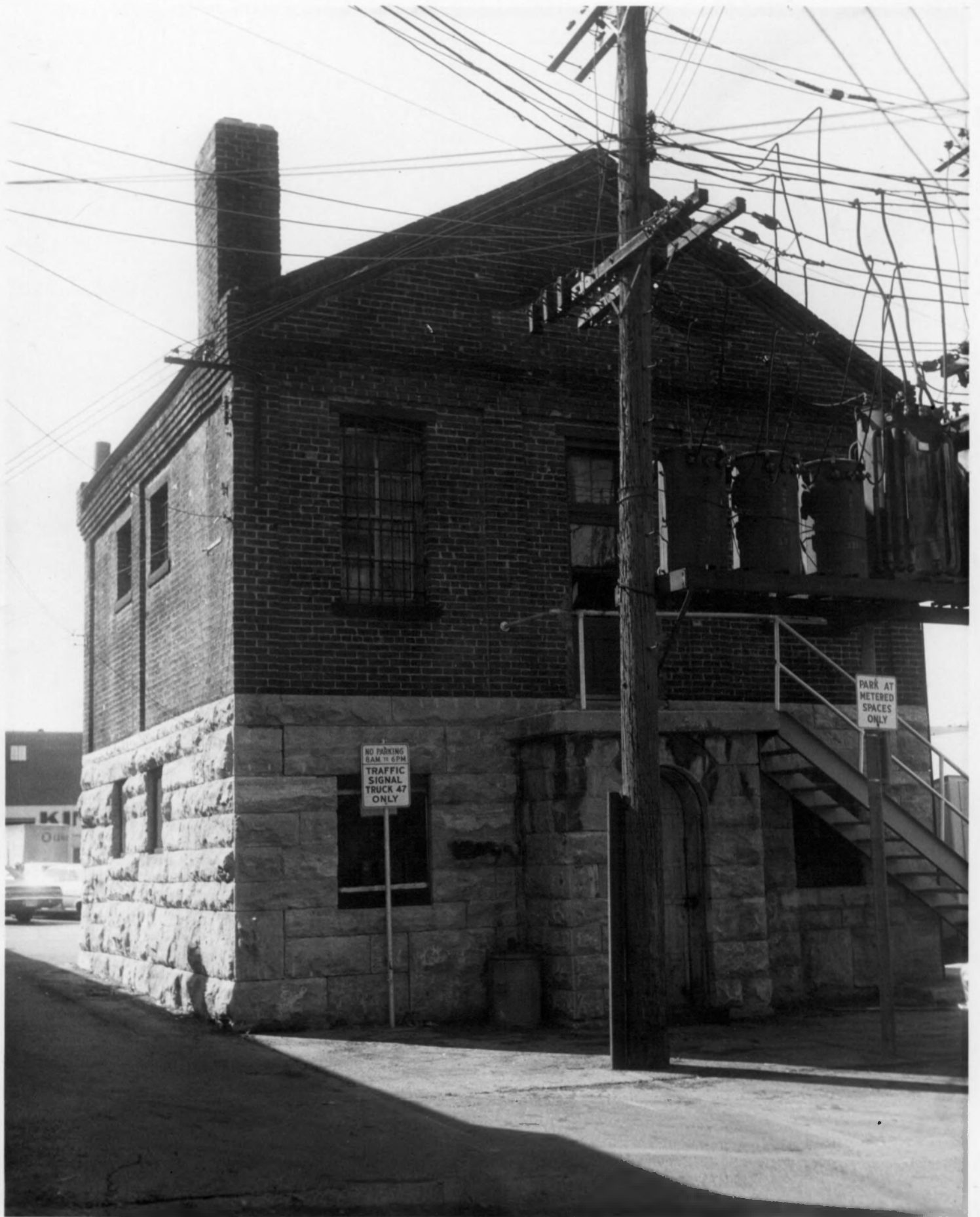
Neg. Loc.: Missouri Department of Natural
Resources, P. O. Box 176,
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

View of the eastern second floor cell,
looking southeast.



EXTRA
PHOTOS

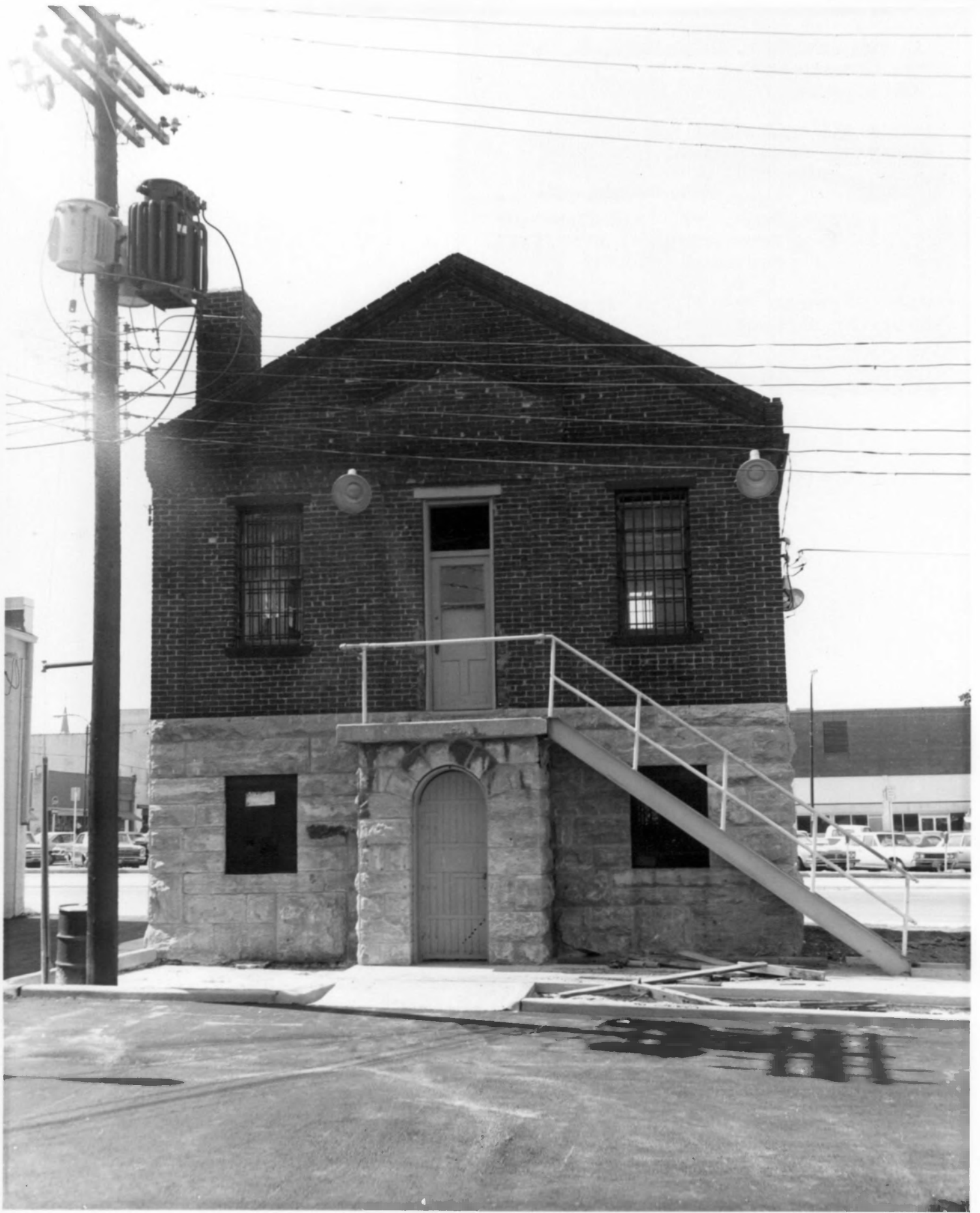


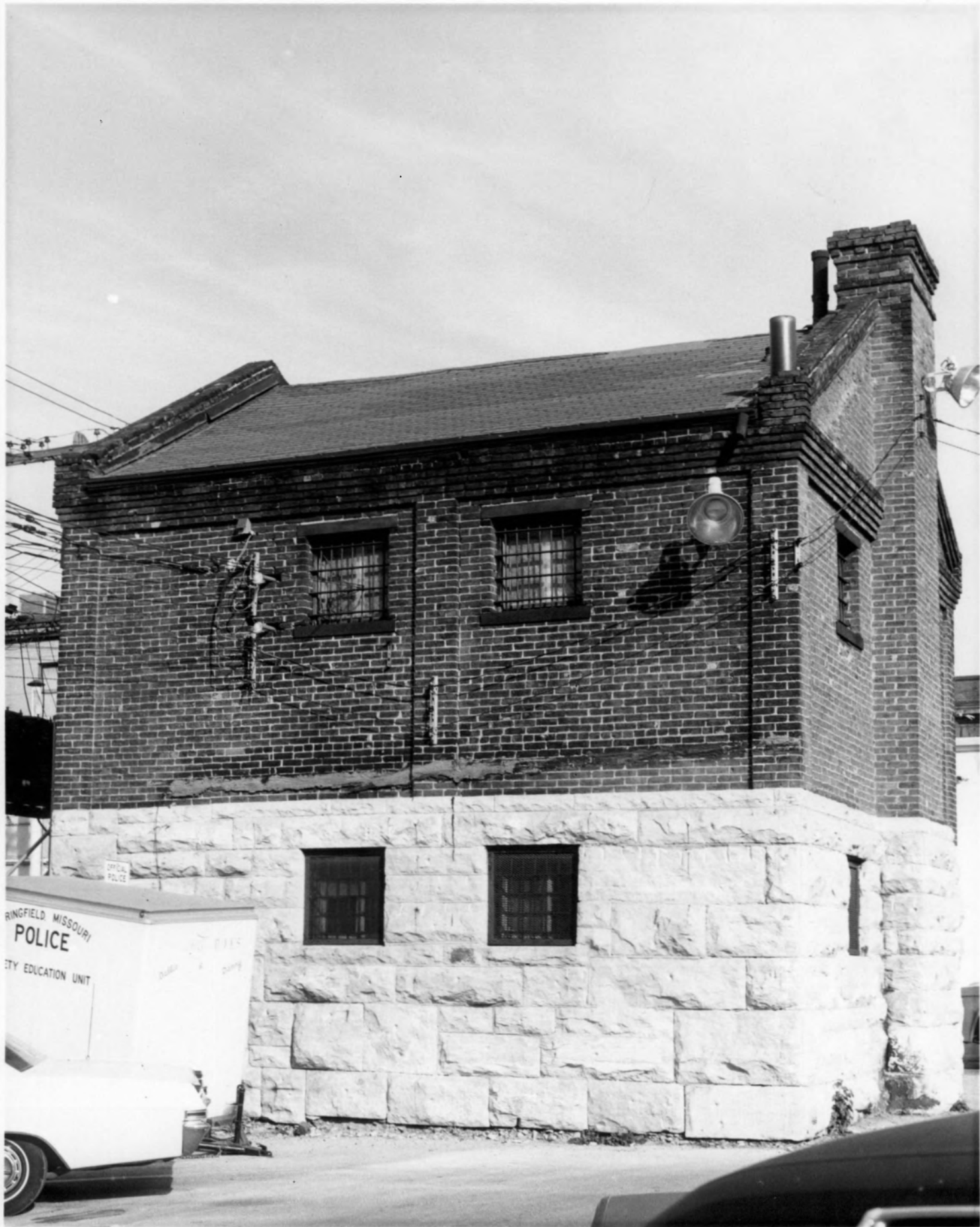


NO PARKING
8AM TO 6PM
TRAFFIC
SIGNAL
TRUCK 47
ONLY

PARK AT
METERED
SPACES
ONLY







RINGFIELD MISSOURI
POLICE
SAFETY EDUCATION UNIT

OFFICIAL
POLICE



