

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Ripley County Jail, Sheriff's Office and Sheriff's Residence  
other names/site number Hancock Building

### 2. Location

street & number Courthouse Circle N/A not for publication  
city, town Doniphan N/A vicinity  
state Missouri code MO county Ripley code 181 zip code 63935

### 3. 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)	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:  
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.  See continuation sheet.

G. Tracy Mehan III  
Signature of certifying official G. Tracy Mehan III, Director, Date 2/19/91  
Department of Natural Resources and State Historic Preservation Officer  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

### 5. 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.

other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/Correctional Facility  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE/Business  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Other: Late Nineteenth Century Jail  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Limestone  
walls Brick  
\_\_\_\_\_  
roof Asphalt  
other Wood  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

SUMMARY: Constructed in 1899, the former Ripley County Jail, Sheriff's Office, and Sheriff's Residence, is located on the Courthouse Circle in Doniphan, Missouri. The building consists of a two story front section, which contained the living quarters for the county sheriff and his family, and a one story rear section, which contained the sheriff's office and the county jail. Medium pitched hip roofs cover both sections of the brick building, which rests on a continuous limestone foundation. Although some slight modifications have been made to the building, both exterior and interior, it still retains integrity of location, materials, design, and workmanship, as well as integrity of association, clearly conveying its original function as the Ripley County jail and sheriff's residence.

ELABORATION: At the time of construction, no electricity was locally available and most workmanship was done by hand and manual labor, including brick making, with the exception of lumber milling, which was done by steam powered mills. The former sheriff's residence, which faces north, is two story, resembling an American Foursquare, of English Bond brick construction with a bay on the east elevation which contains three double hung sash with curved pediment, blind shaped transoms, and plain lug sills. A pyramidal, asphalt roof with plain fascia and soffit with projecting verges covers the residence. Two chimneys are offset right and one chimney is offset left. An open poured cement porch with plain square posts and low pitched hip roof extends across the facade. The front entrance has been replaced with a glass door in plain frame, but retains a blind shaped transom. A side door to the west has been blocked with plywood while a side door to the east is as originally installed. Doors are all blind, shaped transom type. Wood used, including rafters, was native virgin, yellow pine, knot free, of a grade no longer available. Interior door and window surrounds are decorated virgin yellow pine. Top grade, knot-free, yellow pine was gone from the Ripley County area by 1911.<sup>1</sup> The decorated interior door and window surrounds, therefore, are examples of a type of top quality, locally milled lumber no longer available.

<sup>1</sup>Jerry Ponder, Grandin, Hunter, West Eminence and the Missouri Lumber and Mining Company.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

LAW  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

1899-1941  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

1899  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder

Schrage, William F./Anderson, John M.;  
and McManus, James  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

SUMMARY: The Ripley County Jail, Sheriff's Office, and Sheriff's Residence, located on the Courthouse Circle, Doniphan, Ripley County, Missouri, is significant under Criterion A in the area of LAW. Completed in 1899, the jail was the first detention facility constructed for the use of the county and served from its construction until 1960 as the only detention facility in the county. Apparently the practice of combining a sheriff's or jailer's residence with a jail was prevalent in the late nineteenth century. According to former Ripley County Sheriff Jim Featherston, that practice began in the South just after the Civil War and gradually spread north. 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. Nine combination jails and sheriff's quarters are presently listed in the National Register of Historic Places in Missouri. The period of significance extends from 1899 to 1941, the arbitrary fifty year limit.

ELABORATION: The site which became the later county seat of Ripley County was first settled by George Lee, a Virginian, about 1830 and a patent for the land was issued seven years later. When the county seat for Ripley County was moved from Van Buren in 1847, Lee donated 21 acres of his original homestead for the site for the new seat of government.<sup>1</sup> The town was platted in 1847, and a log courthouse was completed in 1848.<sup>2</sup> The first store building on the courthouse square was owned by Cyrus Black, who became a Confederate Colonel,

<sup>1</sup>Folder of historic papers, clippings and notes in Doniphan Public Library; Ripley County Deed Book A; and Butler County Genealogy Society, "The Lee Family," Area Footprints, February and May 1990.

<sup>2</sup>Dr. John Hume, The Hume Papers, various entries; and Myrtle Williams, History of Doniphan, 1909; and Marian M. Ohman, Encyclopedia of Missouri Courthouses (Columbia, MO: Extension Division, University of Missouri-Columbia, 1981), n.p.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of property less than one acre

UTM References

A 

1	5
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6	9	4	2	8	5
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4	0	5	4	3	7	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The North one-half of Lot 5, Original Plat, Town of Doniphan, Ripley County, Missouri.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

Boundary used is the legally recorded lot lines for Lot 5, purchased as the site for the Ripley County Jail, Sheriff's Office and Sheriff's Residence in 1898, less the South one-half of the original lot, now containing a laundry and parking lot and which does not retain its historic integrity.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title 1. Jerry Ponder  
organization \_\_\_\_\_ date July 30, 1990  
street & number HCR 1 telephone (314) 996-7604  
city or town Fairdealing state Missouri zip code 63935

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Ripley County Jail, Sheriff's Office and  
Sheriff's Residence

The former jail and sheriff's office is attached to the rear, or south, of the former sheriff's residence. The jail and office are one story and are virtually identical to the front part of the building. A medium hip roof with a centered chimney covers the rear section of the building. Cell windows are enclosed by steel vertical bars. Underpinning is rock faced, cut, native limestone.

Modifications to the exterior have been minor and few in number. On one small portion of the south side of the building (see Photo 6), the brick was removed during a jail break and then replaced and covered with a thin layer of cement. The entrance to the sheriff's residence on the west elevation (see Photo 3) is blocked on the exterior with plywood. The original door was retained and it is visible on the inside, leaving that part of the interior as originally built.

As originally constructed, the ground floor of the residence contained a living room, dining room, study, kitchen, pantry, and wash room. A hall led to a door to the jail in back. Bedrooms and a bathroom were on the second floor, although for several years there was no running water in the building. In the single story part of the building at the rear of the sheriff's residence was the sheriff's office, entered through the hall from the living quarters or by a door on the east side of the building. A narrow utility closet and three cells were behind the office.<sup>2</sup>

The residence is essentially unaltered. Alterations to the jail and office have been more extensive, however. Interior cell bars have been removed. The first cell to the east of the hall was retained and utilized as a storage room/furnace room, with a second furnace located in a storage closet across the hall. The remaining cell walls were removed and the rear of the jail converted into a single large room, 28 feet by 18 feet.

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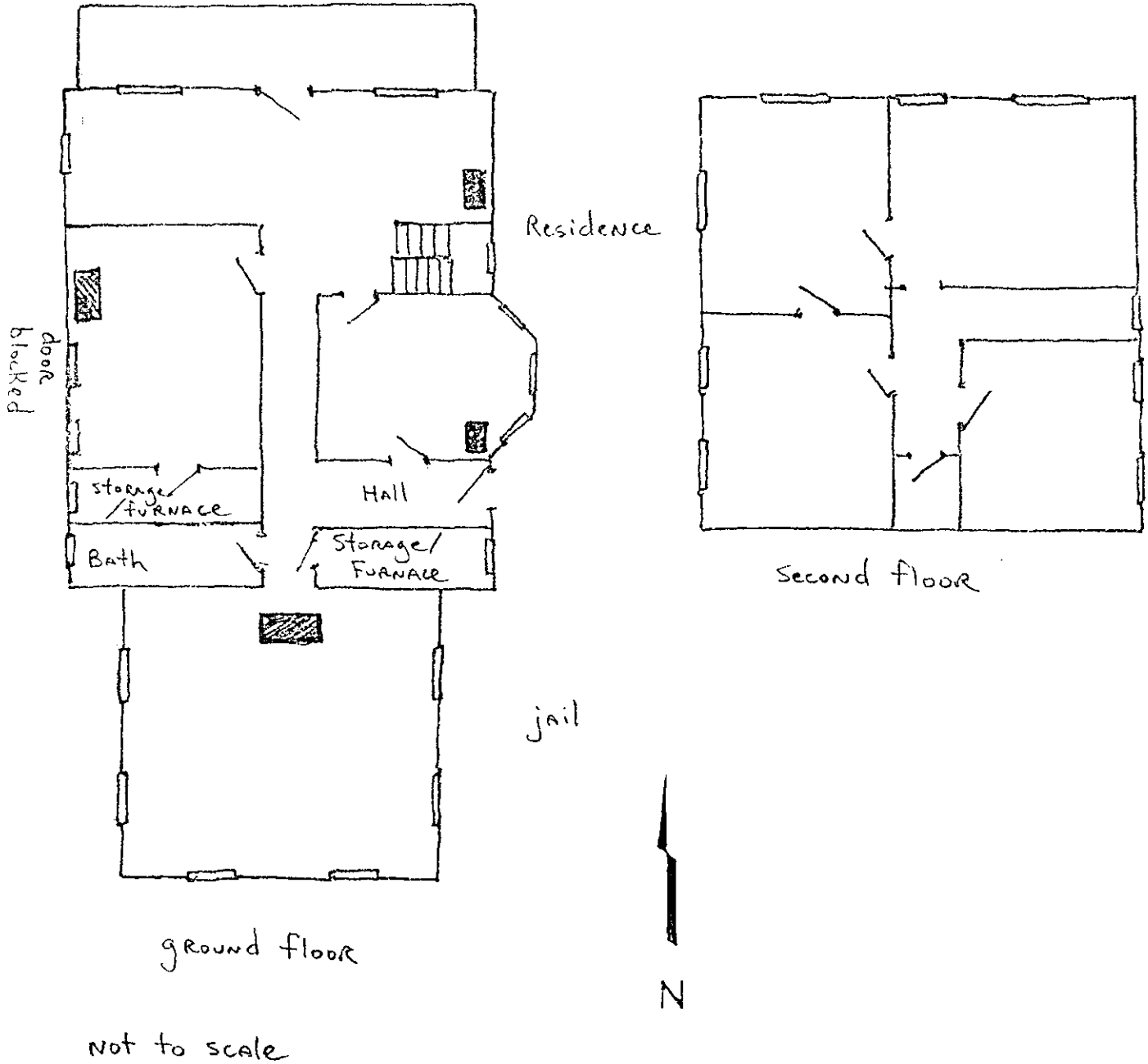
<sup>2</sup>Jim Featherston, Reflections along the Current.

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Ripley County Jail, Sheriff's Office and  
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and James McManus, one of the builders of the later jail and sheriff's office.<sup>3</sup> During the Civil War, the store and the log courthouse were burned by Union troops.<sup>4</sup> In mid 1863, Confederate General M. Jeff Thompson was captured at Pocahontas, Arkansas, and he, along with several members of his staff, were brought to Doniphan by Union troops and held overnight in the Black and McManus Store building.<sup>5</sup> After the Civil War ended, a store was erected on the site of the later jail by William Kreps, but soon closed. The site became a blacksmith shop owned by various people until the lot was purchased by Ripley County on November 25, 1898.<sup>6</sup>

For six years following the war, sessions of the county court were held in various private homes in Doniphan. In 1871, a "substantial" brick courthouse was constructed. There was no separate jail facility. The sheriff served primarily as a tax collector, rather than a law enforcement official.<sup>7</sup> Sheriffs were at first assigned an office in the Ripley County Courthouse.<sup>8</sup> During the few times it was necessary to detain a person, the prisoner was chained to a pin in the floor of the sheriff's office.<sup>9</sup> Apparently, few people were detained in the early days of law enforcement in Ripley County, since the early residents believed in settling their own major problems and placing their minor squabbles before a township justice of the peace.

In 1875, the county appropriated \$1,100 and an "iron cell" was purchased in St. Louis, brought to Doniphan, and installed in the center of the sheriff's

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<sup>3</sup>Doniphan, Missouri, Prospect News, July 31, 1902.

<sup>4</sup>Ponder, History of Ripley County, Missouri.

<sup>5</sup>M. Jeff Thompson, The Civil War Reminiscences of General M. Jeff Thompson.

<sup>6</sup>Ripley County Deed Books and Abstract of Title, Lot 5, Original City of Doniphan.

<sup>7</sup>Doniphan, Missouri, Prospect, various issues, 1874-1880; Doniphan, Missouri, News, various issues, 1877-1878; interview J.F. Young, by Jerry Ponder, 1950.

<sup>8</sup>Ripley County Court Records, Book B.

<sup>9</sup>Interview with J.F. Young.

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office.<sup>10</sup> After that time, prisoners were locked in the cell, but detainment was solely determined by the sheriff and often bitter disputes arose between the sheriff and township justices.<sup>11</sup>

On January 1, 1898, the courthouse was again destroyed by fire.<sup>12</sup> The Ripley County Court Commission met that month and soon after proposed a \$20,000 bond issue for a new courthouse and separate jail, sheriff's office and sheriff's residence. The issue was approved by county voters in July 1898, and during that month William F. Schrage was hired as architect.<sup>13</sup> John M. Anderson, Emporia, Kansas, and James McManus, Doniphan, Missouri, were low bidders and received the construction contract. Marion L. Hudson opened a two kiln brickyard and furnished bricks for both buildings. Lumber was purchased from several local mills with the Doniphan Lumber Company the major supplier. Some of the wood trim was purchased from the Missouri Lumber and Mining Company at Grandin, Missouri, at that time the largest sawmill in the world.<sup>14</sup> The buildings were completed in May 1899 at a total cost of \$19,505.<sup>15</sup>

William Merrell, Ripley County Sheriff, moved into the new jail, sheriff's office, and sheriff's residence upon completion of the courthouse and jail.<sup>16</sup> The sheriff and his family lived in the two story, front, or north, part of the building. The sheriff's wife prepared meals and served the prisoners. In her absence the sheriff was also the cook or purchased restaurant meals at his own expense. For court appearances prisoners were escorted across the street to the courthouse where the sheriff was also the bailiff. Trustworthy criminals could walk over with only an escort. Others were escorted at gunpoint, usually a shotgun. The life of a prisoner in the crude facilities

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<sup>10</sup>Doniphan, Missouri, Prospect, October 1875.

<sup>11</sup>Doniphan, Missouri, Echo, May 1876.

<sup>12</sup>Jerry Ponder, The History of Ripley County, Missouri.

<sup>13</sup>Ripley County Court Records, Book C.

<sup>14</sup>Ibid.; and Ozarks Graphic, June 22, 1972.

<sup>15</sup>Ripley County Court Records, Book J.

<sup>16</sup>Doniphan, Missouri, Prospect News, May 18, 1899.



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Sheriff's Residence

of the Ripley county Jail varied greatly from that of prisoners today.<sup>17</sup> Prisoners furnished their own clothing and were responsible for doing their own laundry. Bedding laundry was done by the sheriff's wife, or, in rare circumstances, by a trustee. There was no central heating system, and wood or coal remained the heat source for the building for the entire period of significance. Prisoners, under guard, carried in wood or coal for winter heat or for year around cooking, but the sheriff or his family had to keep the fires fed during the night. Water was never piped to the cells and electricity was not available within the cells. The sheriff was often out of the office on business and, since the sheriff also had to transport all prisoners to or from other jails or to the state penitentiary, the jail was often under the sole custody of the sheriff's family. If the sheriff's family was away, prisoners were locked in cells within the jail without supervision and were on their own until someone returned.

The combination jail, sheriff's office and sheriff's residence was completed in May 1899, and the site continued in that role until January 1960, when Ripley County constructed a new jail building and sold the older jail to Thomas Johnston who operated a hardware store there until 1971. In that year it was sold to Floyd Shelton, who operated the building as a plumbing supply store. Attorney Donald Hancock purchased the building in 1976 and established a law practice in part of the building. Hancock restored the building and maintained an office there until his death. Part of the structure was used as offices by an abstract company and a public water district during Hancock's ownership. The property was bought by Current River Investments in 1988 and has been used as an office building since that time.<sup>18</sup>

The Ripley County Courthouse (NRHP 1976) was constructed at the same time and by the same builder as the jail and sheriff's residence, was badly damaged by a tornado in 1927, greatly altering the original building. The former jail and residence is the only remaining governmental building with integrity intact within Ripley County.

## APPENDIX:

MISSOURI COMBINATION JAILS AND JAILERS' QUARTERS LISTED IN  
THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

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

<sup>17</sup>Ibid.; and Young interview.

<sup>18</sup>Ibid., Doniphan, Missouri, Prospect News.

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Ripley County Jail, Sheriff's Office and  
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Cole County Courthouse and Jail-Sheriff's House. Constructed 1896; NRHP 1973.  
Cooper County Jail. Constructed 1847-1848; residence added 1871; NRHP 1983.  
Daviess County Rotary Jail and Sheriff's Residence. Constructed 1888; NRHP  
1989.  
Iron County Courthouse Buildings. Jail and residence constructed c. 1866-  
1867; NRHP 1979.  
Jackson County Jail and Marshal's House. Constructed c. 1860; NRHP 1970.  
Laclede County Jail. Jail constructed 1876; residence added 1913; NRHP 1980.  
Ralls County Courthouse and Jail-Sheriff's House. Constructed 1869; NRHP  
1972.  
Vernon County Jail, Sheriff's House and Office. Constructed c. 1870; NRHP  
1977.

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Ripley County Jail, Sheriff's Office and  
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PONDER, Jerry - THE HISTORY OF RIPLEY COUNTY, MISSOURI, Doniphan, Missouri 1957, Ponder Books.

FEATHERSTON, Jim - REFLECTIONS ALONG THE CURRENT, Prairie Village, Kansas, 1984, Harrow Books.

THOMPSON, General M. Jeff - THE CIVIL WAR REMINISCENCES OF GENERAL M. JEFF THOMPSON, Dayton, Ohio, 1988, Morningside House.

WILLIAMS, Myrtle - HISTORY OF DONIPHAN 1909, Doniphan, Missouri, Mimeographed.

HUME, Doctor John - THE HUME PAPERS, Missouri Historical Society, Forest Park, St. Louis, Missouri.

PONDER, Jerry - GRANDIN, HUNTER, WEST EMINENCE AND THE MISSOURI LUMBER AND MINING COMPANY, Doniphan, Missouri, 1989, Ponder Books.

The Butler County Genealogy Society, Ponder, Jerry, "The Lee Family", AREA FOOTPRINTS, Vol XVI, Number 1 and 2, Feb. and May, 1990, Poplar Bluff, Missouri.

THE PROSPECT NEWS, THE PROSPECT, THE ECHO, THE DONIPHAN DEMOCRAT, THE DONIPHAN REPUBLICAN, THE OZARK GRAPHIC, Various remaining issues.

Folder of Historic Papers, clippings and notes, Doniphan Public Library, Doniphan, Missouri.

Abstract of Title, Lot 5 of the original Town, now City of Doniphan, Ripley County Abstract Company, Doniphan, Missouri.

Ripley County Court Records, Books C - J, County Clerk's Office, Ripley County Courthouse, Doniphan, Missouri.

Ripley County Deed Books, Books A - Z, Books 4 - 199 and Book 209, Circuit Clerk and Recorder's Office, Ripley County Courthouse, Doniphan, Missouri.

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Ripley County Jail, Sheriff's Office and  
Sheriff's Residence

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1. Name of property: Ripley County Jail, Sheriff's Office  
and Sheriff's Residence
2. City and state: Doniphan, Missouri
3. Name of Photographer: Jerry Ponder
4. Date of Photographs: March 9, 1990
5. Location of Original Negatives:  
Current River Investments  
104C Washington Street  
Doniphan, Missouri 63935

All of the above information applies to photographs  
numbered 1 through 17.

Description of view and photograph numbers as follows:

1. Photo No. 1 - Front of building from North.
2. Photo No. 2 - West side of building
3. Photo No. 3 - Front and West side from Northwest
4. Photo No. 4 - West side from Southwest
5. Photo No. 5 - South and East sides from Southeast
6. Photo No. 6 - East side from Northeast
7. Photo No. 7 - Front and East from Northeast
8. Photo No. 8 - Showing south side of jail with view  
of area repaired after jail break
9. Photo No. 9 - Window detail in sheriff's residence
10. Photo No. 10 - Window detail in jail
11. Photo No. 11 - Entrance to former sheriff's office
12. Photo No. 12 - Old jail, showing underpinning detail
13. Photo No. 13 - Bay window on East side
14. Photo No. 14 - Interior showing stairs in sheriff's  
residence
15. Photo No. 15 - Interior showing door and window  
surrounds
16. Photo No. 16 - Door surround decoration detail
17. Photo No. 17 - Interior showing door surrounds

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Ripley County Jail, Sheriff's Office and  
Sheriff's Residence

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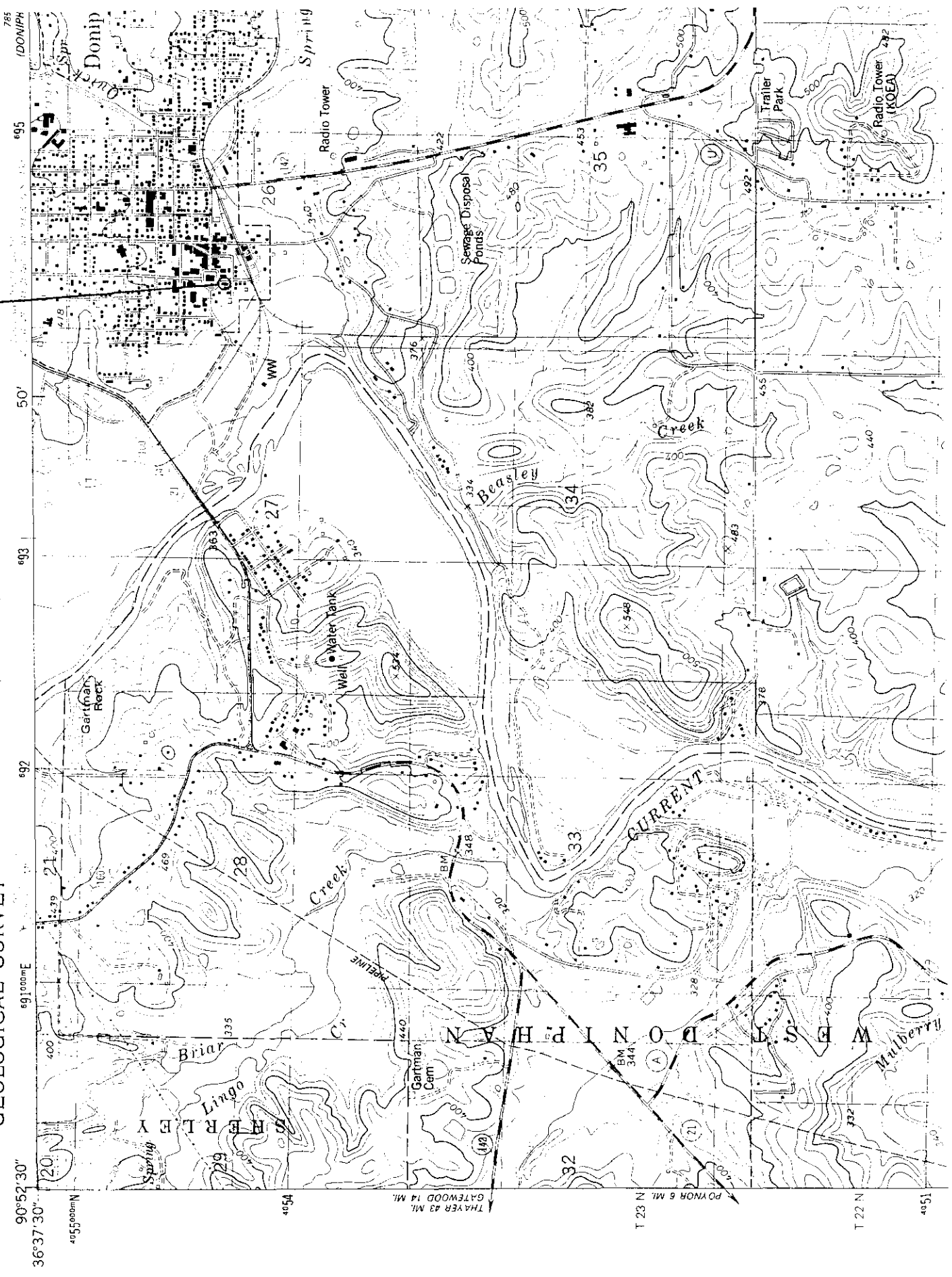
2. Steven E. Mitchell  
National Register Coordinator and  
State Contact Person  
Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation  
Historic Preservation Program  
P. O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102  
Phone: 314/751-5368  
Date: February 25, 1991  
Items 7 and 8 edited by Steven E. Mitchell

Ripley County Jail Sheriff's office and  
Sheriff's Residence  
Courthouse Circle, Doniphan, Ripley County, Missouri  
15/694285 / 4054370

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

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(BRIARY)





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