

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property

historic name St. Francois County Jail and Sheriff's Residence
other names/site number none

2. Location

street & number 11 North Franklin Street [N/A] not for publication
city or town Farmington [N/A] vicinity
state Missouri code MO county St. Francois code 187 zip code 63640

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 [].)

 5 June 1996
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 _____ Date _____

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 [].	_____	_____

St. Francois County Jail and Sheriff's Residence
 St. Francois County, Missouri

5. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property		
		Contributing	Noncontributing	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	1	0	buildings
<input checked="" 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 Functions

GOVERNMENT/ correctional facility
 DOMESTIC/ single dwelling

Current Functions

GOVERNMENT/ correctional facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

MID 19TH CENTURY/ Greek Revival

Materials

foundation Limestone
 walls Limestone
 Brick
 roof Asphalt
 other Wood

Narrative Description

See continuation sheet [x].

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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.

Narrative Statement of Significance
See continuation sheet [x].

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

See continuation sheet [x].

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

Areas of Significance

LAW

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1871-1946

Significant Dates

1871

ca. 1909

Significant Person(s)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Pond, Charles H.

Emerlauer, John

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State Agency

Federal Agency

Local Government

University

Other:

Name of repository:

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

A. Zone	Easting	Northing	B. Zone	Easting	Northing
15	726950	4184450			

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 Debbie Sheals

organization (Preservation Consultant) date April 4, 1996

street & number 406 West Broadway telephone 314-875-1923

city or town Columbia state Missouri zip code 65203

Additional Documentation
Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items
(Check with the SHPO or FOP for any additional items)

Property Owner

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

name St. Francois County, c/o Presiding Commissioner Mark Hedrick

street & number St. Francois County Courthouse--2nd Floor telephone 573-756-3623

city or town Farmington state Missouri zip code 63640-0110

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St. Francois County Jail and Sheriff's Residence
St. Francois County, Missouri

Summary: The St. Francois County Jail at 11 N. Franklin Street in Farmington, St. Francois County, is a two story building which was built in 1870-71, and enlarged slightly around 1909. It is still being used as a jail, and is one of the oldest operating jails in the state. (St. Francois County plans to vacate the building within the next few months, after which it will be rehabilitated by the City of Farmington.) The building sits close to the sidewalk on Franklin Street, between Columbia and Liberty Streets, on a lot which has been occupied by St. Francois County jails since 1824. The narrow Greek Revival building is three bays wide, and topped by a front facing gable roof. The arched front doorway is centered at the ground floor, and a carved datestone sits directly above it. The upper walls of the building are of brick and the lower walls are constructed of rock-faced limestone blocks. A photo of the building which was taken around 1910 reveals that all major architectural features are intact, and despite a larger 1970 addition, no irreversible changes have been made in the more than 125 years the jail has been in use.

Elaboration: The oldest part of the building measures 30' by 43'-6" and has 1'-6" and 2' thick load bearing walls at the ground floor. (See appendix for copies of the original architect's drawings.) A 12'-6" deep addition was made to the rear of the jail around 1909.¹ The addition has two rooms at the first floor, and one room and an open frame porch at the second floor, all topped by a low pitched shed roof. Later, possibly not until mid-century, the open rear porch was enlarged to accommodate an exterior stairway, and a partially enclosed side porch was added to the southwest corner of the second floor. The side porch is now completely enclosed, and a large freestanding frame storage unit occupies much of the rear porch. (See Photo 2 and Figure 3.) The most substantial addition came in 1970, when a 36' x 69' one story concrete addition was built onto the north side of the building. The cell addition does not appear to have done any serious damage to the original exterior wall, and it is to be removed during the upcoming rehabilitation.

The basement and ground floor of the original building are constructed of buff colored limestone, and the second floor has load bearing red brick walls. The gable roof has prominent cornice returns, and round windows are set high in each gable end. The original round four-light sash in the front opening is intact and in good condition. Wide brick piers run between all of the windows of the second floor, and divide the wall surfaces into evenly spaced bays. All windows on the facade, as well as all second floor windows of the original building, are topped with

¹ The date of the addition is based on construction costs which were noted in St. Francois County, Missouri: Detailed Financial Statement (Farmington: Waters Press, 1910) p. 39. A photograph showing the building with the addition was also printed in that book, and has been reproduced here as Photo 5.

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segmental arches of smooth limestone, and all have thin limestone sills to match. The windows and door opening of the rear second floor room are topped with segmental brick arches and are similar to the originals in size and shape.

All windows are double hung; those on the ca. 1909 addition have single light sash, and all others are 6-over-6. Two of the ground floor windows in the rear addition are modern; all others date to the period of significance. The original arched-top sash of the second story windows are intact and in fair to good condition. The existing ground floor windows appear to date to the early part of the century, and are slightly smaller than the original openings. A photo of the building that was published in 1910 shows louvered shutters on all but the cell windows; none of those remain, but several windows still have the shutter hardware. (See Photo 5.) The front door now in use is a modern replacement, but the surrounding stonework is unchanged. One first floor window and all of the barred openings in the original cell area have been enclosed, but the original openings appear to be largely intact.

Although the architect's drawings depict smooth stone walls, the ground floor walls were built with rock-faced blocks. The change appears to have been intentional, and not the result of sloppy stoneworking. The rough texture gives the building a massive quality befitting a jail, and it was not unusual for stone blocks to be intentionally cut to have highly textured faces. (The only flaw here being that several drill marks are still visible. See Photo 8.) The joints between the stones are very straight and narrow, indicating that the tops, bottoms and sides of the blocks were carefully smoothed. Details in the stonework also show the hand of a skilled stonemason. The corner stones all have tooled corners to create a sharper profile, and wall stones are smoothly beveled at all door and window openings. (See Photos 7 and 8.) The sills and lintels of the windows are all skillfully finished; the surfaces are smooth enough to have been sawn, but a close examination reveals the marks of hand tooling. (See Photo 9.) The lintels of the first floor windows are especially impressive, as each combines both rock faced and smoothly hammered surfaces in a single massive block. (See Photo 8.)

A bulkhead door on the south side covers a set of stone steps which lead down into the basement. The basement, which sits beneath the front part of the building, was designated as the furnace location in the original architect's drawings for the jail, and it is still used for that purpose. The basement walls are constructed of the same stone as that used for the exterior walls, but the blocks are not as fully finished. The building was built on the same land occupied by the county's two earlier jails, and local legend holds that the basement is part of an earlier dungeon. However, the present building was designed for another location, and the basement as built corresponds directly to that shown in the original plans. It is possible however, that some of the stones were recycled from the county's second jail, construction of which began in

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1855.² The numbers "856" are incised in a stone used on the south wall of the present jail. (See Photo 7.) The position of the numbers at the very edge of the block leads to the speculation that the block was once larger and marked with the date "1856," which could have been the completion date of the earlier jail.

The building also has a datestone set into the wall directly above the front door. The lettering on that stone is carved into a smooth oval section centered in a wider wall block. The date 1870 is centered in the oval, and is flanked by credits for the builder, John Emerlauer, and the construction superintendents, Wm. Carter and L. D. Walker. (See Photo 6.)

Not surprisingly, the building's integrity of function has resulted in some loss of integrity of interior finishes. (It would be very difficult, and probably illegal, to run a county jail in a facility unchanged in more than a century.) A comparison of the original drawings to the current layout reveals, however, that the early floor plan is relatively intact. The original plans show three small front rooms on the ground floor, with a set of iron doors leading into an open cell block in the rear part of the building. The layout of those three rooms is little changed, and one of the steel security doors remains in its original location. (See Photo 11.) The original open room for the cells was remodeled several times over the years, and was divided into several smaller rooms when the new cell block addition was put on the building in 1970. (See Figure 2, current floorplan.) Most ground floor interior walls have been faced with newer concrete blocks or covered with paneling, but no original wall has been completely removed, and a description of the jail which was written in 1983 noted that the original wall plaster remained beneath the paneling.

The stair which once led upstairs to the Sheriff's quarters has been removed, and the second floor is now reached via the exterior stairs to the back porch. County Court records pertaining to the original construction project of 1870 noted that those stairs were not as well made as they should have been even then, and it is likely that they were simply too deteriorated to retain.⁴ Two interior partitions have been removed from the second floor, but most of the original rooms remain. (See Figure 3.) Most interior finishes upstairs have also been covered with modern

² From Tom Miles, Brief Authentic History of St. Francois County, Missouri (Series published in the Farmington News Sept. 13 to Nov. 15, 1935. Reprinted.) p. 19.

³ The condition of the building was described for a Missouri Office of Historic Preservation Inventory Form which was filed out by local historical society member Juanita Stam on 4/14/83.

⁴ St. Francois County Records, "County Court Record" Vol. G, 1866-1877, p. 209-211.

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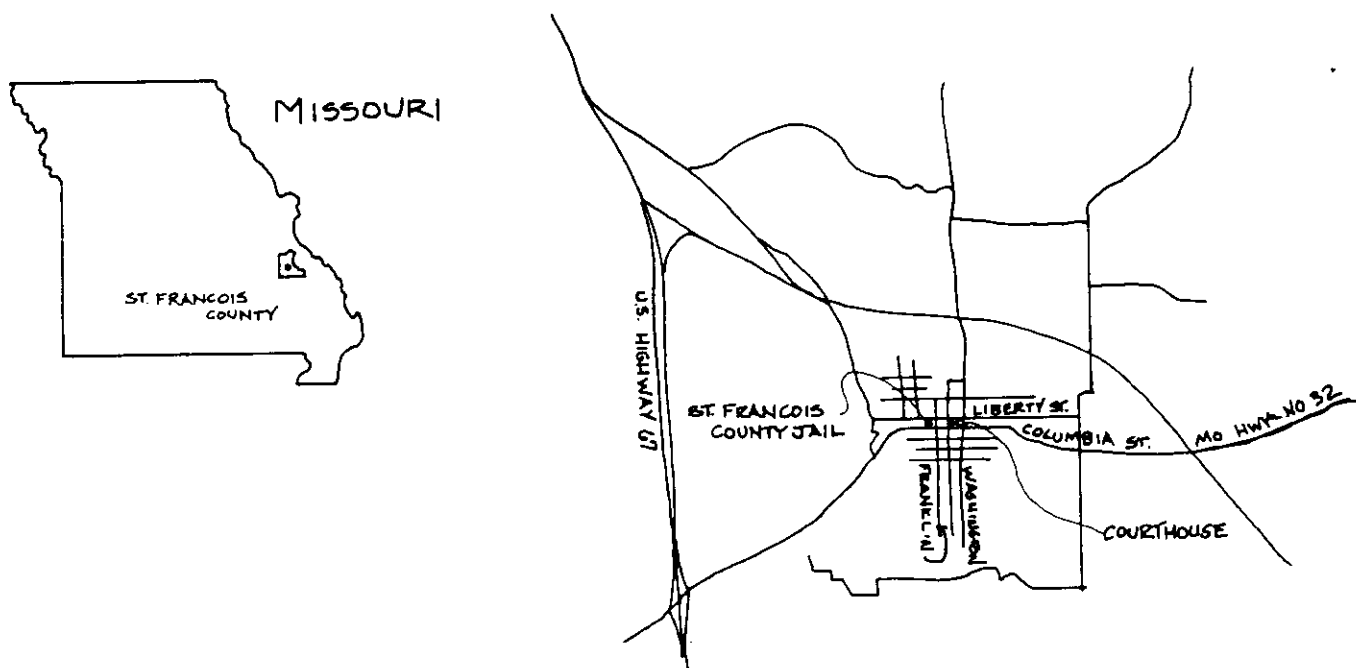
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materials, but again, it is likely that some original material exists beneath them. All but two early second floor windows have survived and are still in use. (See Photo 10.) The two that are gone were probably changed during the period of significance; one window was converted to a doorway when the side porch was added, and one was covered by the ca. 1909 addition.

Although the jail remains an impressive building, it has long since ceased to function as an impressive jail; Grand Juries have been recommending its replacement since 1919, and it no longer serves the purpose for which it was designed. The county jail operation is expected to vacate the building in the late spring of 1996, after which the City of Farmington will rehabilitate it for use as a museum. Unsympathetic alterations and additions will be changed or removed at that time, and the exterior will be restored to its early appearance. The interior will be rehabilitated for museum space. Even before restoration, the building today appears much as it did during the period of significance, and the exterior especially exhibits a high level of integrity.

FIGURE ONE--LOCATION MAP



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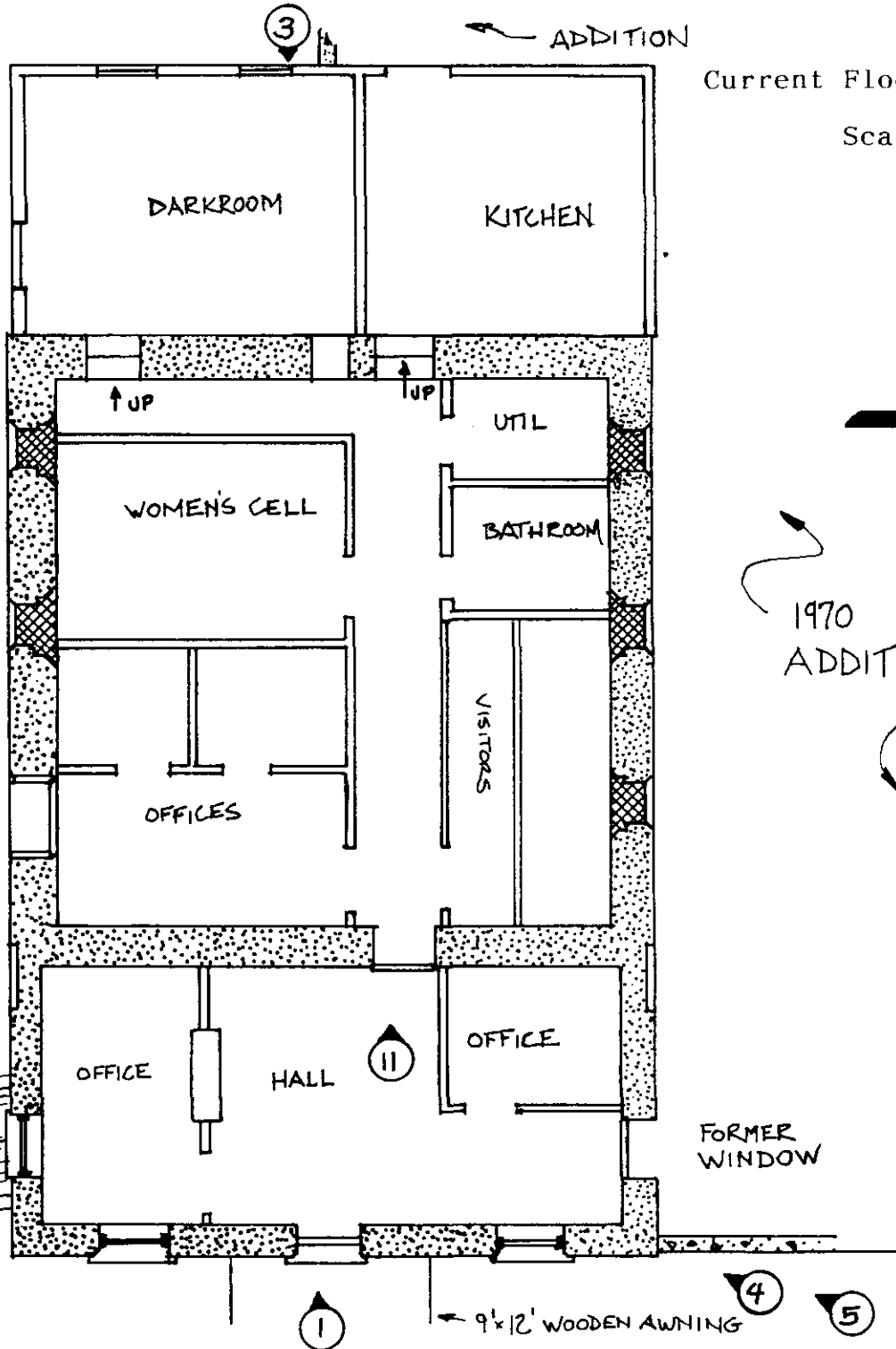


FIGURE TWO
Current Floorplan Sketch
Ground Floor
Scale 1/8"=1'-0"

NORTH

1970
ADDITION

FORMER
WINDOW

9x12' WOODEN AWNING

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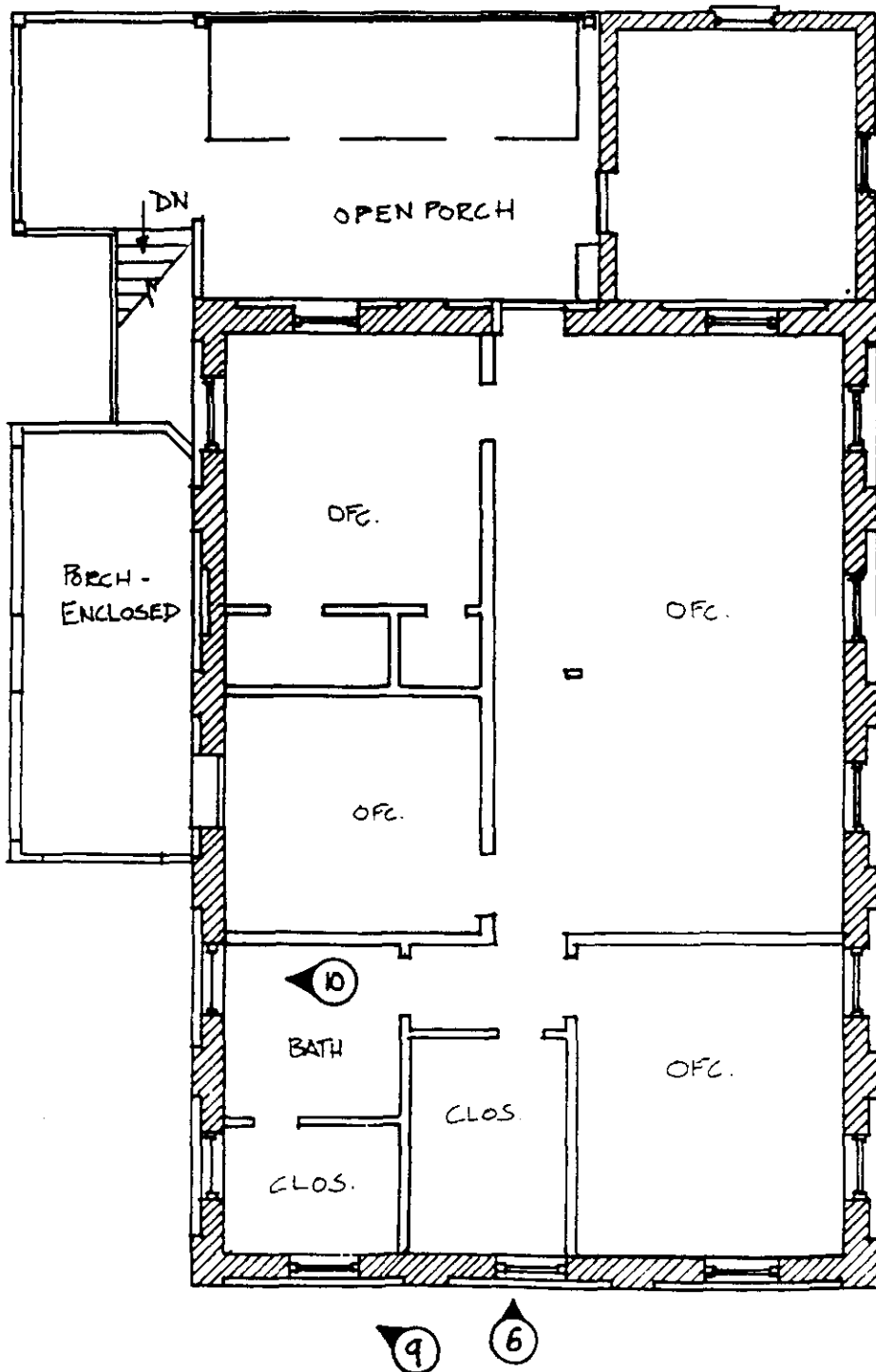
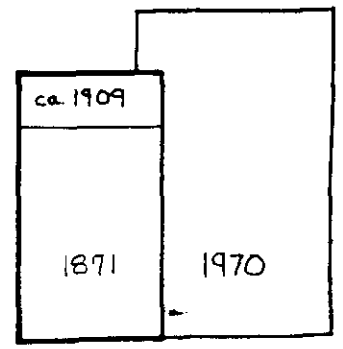


FIGURE THREE
Current Floorplan Sketch
Second Floor
Scale 1/8"=1'-0"



Current Building
Footprint
Scale 1"=40'-0"

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Summary: The St. Francois County Jail, at 11 N. Franklin, in Farmington, St. Francois County, is significant under Criterion A in the area of LAW ENFORCEMENT, and under Criterion C, in the area of ARCHITECTURE. The building was built to house the St. Francois County Jail in 1870-71, and it has been in continual operation as a jail for over 125 years. It is one of the oldest operating county jails in Missouri, and appears today much as it did during the period of significance. The building was designed to serve as both jail and sheriff's residence, following a common practice for small county jails throughout Missouri. It served that dual purpose throughout the period of significance; the sheriff's family occupied the second floor and the ground floor housed the jail. The building is also significant as an architect-designed building which included many "modern" amenities not commonly found in Missouri county jails at the time of its construction. The plans and construction specifications were prepared by Charles H. Pond, an architect who practiced in St. Louis for more than thirty years. The mechanical systems called for in Pond's plans were technologically advanced for jails of the early 1870s, and included a central heating system and indoor plumbing for the cells. The period of significance for the building begins at its construction in 1871 and runs until 1946, the arbitrary fifty year cut off point.

Narrative: St Francois County was organized in 1821, and a year later the town of Farmington was created to serve as the county seat. The town was laid out on 52 acres of land donated to the county by David Murphy, an early settler of the area. Construction of public buildings began soon after, and by 1826 the County could boast of both a courthouse and a county jail. The jail preceded the courthouse; county histories note the erection of a log jail in 1824, and date the first courthouse at 1826.⁵

Although the first courthouse was a large two story brick building, the first jail was less impressive. It has been described as "a rude log structure two stories high with a dungeon below which was entered through a trap door."⁶ Both buildings remained in use for more than twenty years, after which they were torn down to make way for new buildings. The courthouse was replaced in 1848 with a temple-front Greek revival building of brick and stone, and a more permanent new jail was built soon after.⁷ The log jail burned around 1850, but the county did not make arrangements to replace it until 1854, when an election on a new jail was ordered. Construction of the second jail began in 1855, and although no clear descriptions of that jail were found, the final cost of \$4,000 indicates

⁵ Detailed Financial Statement, p. 1, and Marian Ohman, Encyclopedia of Missouri Courthouses (Columbia: University of Missouri Extension, 1981)

⁶ Brief History, p. 19.

⁷ Encyclopedia of Missouri Courthouses.

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that it was a relatively substantial building.⁸

In the summer of 1869, the second jail was declared insufficient, and the county court approved construction of the present jail building. The sum of \$8,000 was allotted for the project, and the county court appointed William Carter and William F. Taylor to oversee the building project.⁹ They went right to work, and submitted a rough jail plan to the county court late in 1869. William Taylor resigned soon after and was replaced by L. D. Walker.¹⁰ Over the next year, Walker and Carter closely supervised the construction of the jail, and regularly reported to the court on its progress.

Both supervisors were prominent citizens, and well qualified to oversee the project. Judge William Carter came from a prestigious Missouri family (Carter County was named after his father, Zimri Carter) and had a long record of public service and private enterprise in St. Francois County. He was serving as a Judge of the Twentieth Circuit Court of Missouri at the time the jail was being built, and went on to co-found the Bank of Farmington, and serve a term in Missouri's Twenty-eighth General Assembly.¹¹ His partner in the jail building project, Laken Dubart Walker, had strong family ties to the county. His father, L. D. Walker Sr., was the first sheriff of St. Francois county and among the earliest settlers in the area, having received his property as a Spanish land grant. The younger Mr. Walker lived his entire life in St. Francois county, and began two terms as county sheriff and collector the year after the jail was built. He was also active in the Democratic party, and later served in the Twenty-ninth General Assembly.¹²

The county hired St. Louis architect Charles H. Pond to design the new building, and had accepted his plans by early spring of 1870, when entries pertaining to the construction project began to appear in county court records. An entry for April of 1870 which was entitled "New Jail" ordered a disbursement of \$75 "to pay expenses of plans and specifications prepared by Charles H. Pond."¹³ Charles Pond was born in 1806 in Massachusetts and moved to Missouri around the middle of the 1800s. He was first listed in

⁸ Brief Authentic History, p. 19.

⁹ "County Court Record" Vol. G. p. 121.

¹⁰ Brief Authentic History, p. 19.

¹¹ History of Southeast Missouri (1888, Reprint, Independence, MO: B.N.C. Library Service, 1978) p. 626-627.

¹² History of Southeast Missouri p. 678-679.

¹³ "County Court Record" Vol G, p. 141.

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Missouri census records in 1850 as a resident of St. Louis, and he remained in the city until 1884.¹⁴ He maintained an active architectural practice in St. Louis until around 1880, and was described in the Encyclopedia of the History of St. Louis as having been "for some years well known as an architect and builder in St. Louis."¹⁵

Soon after Pond submitted the plans and specifications for the new jail, the county advertised for construction bids. The bids apparently all came in considerably above the \$8,000 initially allotted, as an entry dated April 20 recorded the winning low bid at \$10,712. The low bidders were John Emerlauer, J. H. Meyer, Jno S. Crepaw, and Ziekman Moriny.¹⁶ All subsequent discussion of the building project mentions only John Emerlauer as the builder; the other men may have simply been sub-contractors.¹⁷ Various negotiations followed, the most notable being an argument as to the location of the new building. All early discussions had specified that the new jail was to be erected on the public square, near the northwest corner of the courthouse. The architectural plans were drawn with that in mind, and that location was mentioned in a contract with the Emerlauer which was dated June 10, 1870. However, on June 11, 1870, area businessman and former sheriff Milton P. Cayce filed a petition with the county court against changing the jail location.¹⁸ The first two jails, including the log jail used in Cayce's day, had been built just west of the public square. Cayce apparently believed that the early site was still the best location for a jail, and was obviously able to sway the opinion of the court, as the current jail occupies the same location as its two predecessors.

The change of location, as well as the demolition of that second courthouse in 1885, makes it easy to miss the design relationship Pond intended his jail to have with the existing courthouse. It is clear that

¹⁴ U. S. Census. 1840-1870 Population Figures (Microfilm copies on file with Missouri State Historical Society, Columbia, MO) and various St. Louis city directories, 1864-1885. Entries for Pond appeared regularly in the St. Louis directories until 1884, which was probably the year of his death. (He would have been 78.)

¹⁵ William Hyde and Howard L Conard, Encyclopedia of The History of St. Louis (New York, St. Louis and Louisville: Southern History Company, 1988) p. 304.

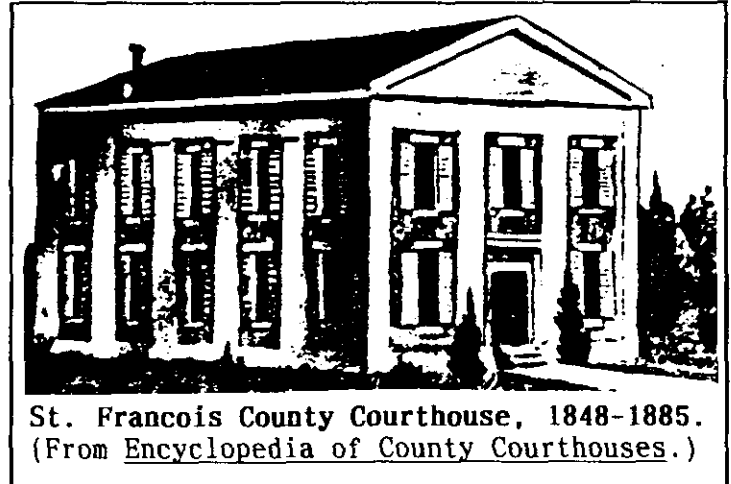
¹⁶ "County Court Record" Vol. G, entry for 4/20/1870. Some of the names may be misspelled here, the handwriting in the record book was not clear.

¹⁷ Little information was found on Emerlauer; he was not in any local histories or census records.

¹⁸ "County Court Record" Vol. G, pp. 162-163.

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his design was meant to compliment the older building. A comparison of the jail to a drawing of the former courthouse reveals a striking similarity between the two. (See Figure 4.) Both are, or were, rectangular, two story gable front buildings of brick and stone. Fenestration patterns are nearly identical--three bays across the front and five on each side. Pond even went so far as to design three "false" window openings in order to retain that fenestration pattern without interfering with interior room arrangements. (See plans in the appendix.) Both buildings had a central front door in the narrow end, and shuttered double-hung windows in each bay. The courthouse had full height two story stone pilasters between each bay; the jail has similar brick piers between each bay on the second floor. (For an even stronger Classical motif, one could even read the pattern of the brickwork at the top of the jail piers as stylized capitols.)



St. Francois County Courthouse, 1848-1885.
(From Encyclopedia of County Courthouses.)

Figure 4.

Comparing the buildings also explains the relatively late use of Greek Revival design elements on the jail building. Greek Revival architecture was immensely popular in America in the 1830s and 1840s, and would have been a logical choice for a county courthouse in 1848.¹⁹ However, by 1870, such "pure" revivals were no longer in vogue. Pond's design for the jail reflects both his desire for the building to harmonize with its expected Greek Revival neighbor, and an awareness of more recent stylistic developments. Although the simplified temple-front configuration of Pond's design has unmistakable Greek Revival overtones, it is also possible to identify a few elements typical of the later Romanesque Revival style. The round arch over the front door, and the shallower segmental arches of the second floor windows, and the heavy stone "base" of the first floor, are certainly more typical of early Romanesque Revival buildings than of the Greek Revival style. In any event, it is important to understand that Pond designed the building to fit a particular location, and that the appearance of the jail even today reflects the design of a courthouse which was demolished over a century ago.

Construction on the building took place through most of 1870 and into early 1871. Reports from the supervisors appear throughout county court

¹⁹ John C. Poppeliers, et al, What Style Is It? (Washington D. C.: The Preservation Press, 1983) pp. 36-37.

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records for that period, and the minutes of the county court proceedings include notes on everything from cesspool specifications to furnishings for the individual cells. Finally, on February 1, 1871, Carter and Walker filed their "Report of Superintendent's of New Jail".²⁰ The superintendents had detected several minor flaws in the work, and had called in a St. Louis architect, William F. Stacy, to do a third party inspection.

Stacy and the supervisors all agreed that some of the iron work was not of the same quality as called for in the specifications, and noted that the stairs leading to the second floor were "not built in a workmanlike manner." They agreed however, that none of the flaws detracted from the security of the jail, and that Emerlauer had exceeded specified standards in the construction of the cellar walls and foundation. All three thought that the building was generally well constructed and recommended that it be declared acceptable by the court. Carter wrote that "the security of prisoners confined therein being the main object for which the jail was constructed, and if this object has been obtained, the main object has been reached," and Stacy wrote that except for the noted oversights, "the plans and specifications are carried out with a commendable spirit of making a good and substantial building."²¹ The court took their recommendation, and on February 1, 1871 the court ordered "that said jail building be accepted."

The new jail was an impressive, and expensive, county jail building by standards of the day. The final cost was listed at \$11,000, an increase of more than 35% over the \$8,000 originally earmarked for a new jail. Although no figures on average jail construction prices for the 19th century were found, comparisons of early 20th century studies show that the St. Francois County jail was still among the more costly jails in the state even thirty years after it was built. A 1904 survey of Missouri's county jails, which included data from 56 different counties, listed only 14 with jails worth more than the one in Farmington.²² A 1910 jail study recorded information on 60 different counties, and cited an average jail construction cost of only \$7,036.²³ The money was well spent; the building has outlived two St. Francois County courthouses, and scores of Missouri county jails.

A recent historical account of the jail noted that, for its time, "the

²⁰ "County Court Record" Vol G, pp. 209-211.

²¹ "County Court Record" Vol G, p. 210.

²² Charles Elwood, Bulletin on the Condition of the County Jails of Missouri (Columbia: University of Missouri Department of Sociology, 1904) pp. 4-5.

²³ Missouri State Board of Charities and Corrections. Bulletin, Vol. 2, Aug. 1910, p. 52.

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new jail was one of the most modern and impressive in the state."²⁴ The "modern" appellation can be credited in a large part to Pond's adept handling of the engineering requirements associated with jail construction. Although the specifications and working drawings for the building have not survived, the county does still have a set of Pond's presentation drawings, which were most likely used to sell the court on his design. (See appendix.) The carefully executed and hand colored drawings, along with the scattered references to the specifications that appear in court records, yield much information about the engineering of the building. The presentation drawings include longitudinal and transverse sections through the building, which were obviously drawn to illustrate Pond's attention to structural and mechanical concerns.

The original plan called for an open, 26 foot square room on the ground floor which had a central freestanding block of six iron cells. The drawing titled "Transverse Section" cuts through the cell room just in front of the block of cells, and shows that the ceiling of the room is actually hung from a truss system set beneath the rafters. A pair of rods or heavy cables extend down from the trusswork to support the second floor, eliminating the need for bearing walls in the cell room.

The cells themselves reflect what was then state of the art technology. Although the cells drawn by Pond strongly resemble the type of prefabricated steel cell units which became widely available later in the century, court records indicate that Pond's specifications called for individually built cells. The final inspection report filed by the building superintendents included observations about such things as the specified width of the iron panels for the cell floors, the battens on the joints, and the size of the corner irons. The efficiency of the cell design is testified to by the fact that very similar cells were being offered in ironworks catalogs thirty five years later. (See Figure 5.)

Pond's drawings also show a large storage tank sitting on top of the cell block. A round pipe running from outside the building into the top of the tank appears to have been planned to connect to the guttering system of

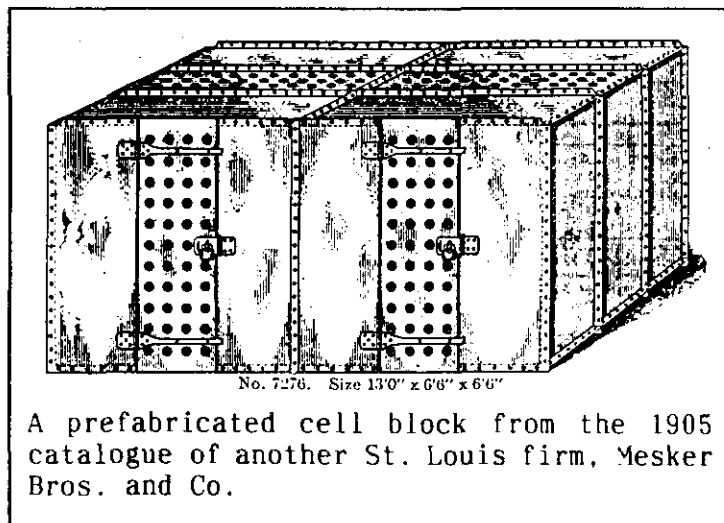


Figure 5.

²⁴ "County Jail." Flat River Journal. Friday April 24, 1996, p. 6.

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the building, allowing it to operate more or less like a small cistern. The reason for that feature is revealed by the basement and first floor plans. The basement plan shows a drainage system consisting of two rows of "11 in. Terra Cotta pipe" that run from beneath the cells out the back wall, and the first floor plan shows what appear to be toilets in each of the cells. Water from the cistern tank above the cells could be used to "flush" the cell toilets, which drained into a cesspool behind the building via the terra cotta pipes.

In addition to plumbing facilities, there was a complete heating and ventilation system for the cell area. A large furnace is shown in the cellar beneath the front part of the building, and the "Longitudinal Section" shows a "hot aire flue" leading to vents near each of the cells. A similar flue system labeled "Air flue to ventilat [sic] cells" runs from the tops of the cells to a vent set high in the back wall. That vent has long since been blocked over, but the original opening is still visible in the wall, and the building is still heated in part by a furnace in the front cellar. It should be noted that many of these amenities were included more for security reasons than prisoner comfort, and that the second floor sheriff's quarters had no such conveniences. The plans for that part of the building show no indoor plumbing, and stove flues indicate that wood stoves were used to heat each room.

Many of the technological advances exhibited by Pond's plans were unusual for the time, and decades later, there were still a good number of county jails in Missouri operating without such features. In 1910 for example, only 7 in a group of 74 Missouri jails had toilets in each cell, and only 17 jails of 85 had central heating.²⁵ Because county jails have always been locally administered, conditions in Missouri as well as other parts of the country have historically varied widely. As one overview of American jails put it, "there was not a typical jail in the United States during the nineteenth century and for that matter there still isn't a typical jail even now."²⁶

The origins of the American jail system have been traced back to English models, and local jails have been a part of American life since the earliest days of settlement. According to The American Jail, "the essential features of the American jail system were brought almost without change to the earliest British colonies and settlements."²⁷ Those early American jails had a diverse assortment of roles, and were often used to

²⁵ Missouri State Board of Charities and Corrections. Bulletin, Vol. 2, Aug. 1910, pp. 40-55.

²⁶ J. M. Moynahan, and Earle K. Stewart, The American Jail: Its Development and Growth (Chicago: Nelson-Hall, 1980) p. 46.

²⁷ American Jail, p. 9.

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St. Francois County Jail and Sheriff's Residence
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detain debtors and felons as well as lesser criminals. However, by the nineteenth century most states had established prisons for convicted felons, and debtors were no longer routinely imprisoned. Nineteenth and early twentieth century jails, like their modern counterparts, were intended for persons awaiting trial and those convicted of misdemeanor crimes. (They differed from modern jails in that they were also used for juvenile offenders and less frequently, insane persons.) An important difference between prisons and jails was (and is) that not all inmates in jails have been convicted of a crime. A study of Missouri jails which was conducted in 1910, for example,²⁸ found that 40.9% of the jail inmates surveyed were awaiting trial.

In nineteenth century Missouri, each county, as well as some of the larger cities, was responsible for building and running a local jail. There was little in the way of statewide jail regulation or inspection until 1897, when a bill creating Missouri's State Board of Charities and Corrections was signed into law. The board was responsible for the study and inspection of institutions such as public poor farms, asylums, and hospitals, as well as all of the jails in the state. The results of their efforts were published in monthly bulletins and more lengthy biennial reports which appeared from 1899 until around the mid-1930s. One of the first comprehensive Board reviews of Missouri's jails resulted in a less than glowing assessment. It was written in the Board's Second Biennial Report that "there is nothing in Missouri's jail system of which she can boast. About the only thing to be said for the jails in this State is that they are perhaps no worse than the jails in many other states."²⁹

The state board was responsible for collecting comprehensive data on the state's jail system and for conducting inspections of the jails. The written reports issued by the board included such things as basic statistical information, reports of individual inspections, and recommendations of changes that needed to be made to the jail system. It appears that St. Francois County sheriffs cooperated with the state board when information was requested, as they were regularly among the counties listed as responding to informational questionnaires. The creation of the state board reflected a rising interest in jail reform, and many counties followed suit by creating their own local review boards, or at least requesting assistance from the state. In a 1910 report of the state board it was noted that "the services of this Board have been frequently requested in the matter of improving bad local conditions and it is encouraging to note that these requests come as often from sheriffs as from

²⁸ Missouri State Board of Charities and Corrections. Bulletin, Vol. 2, Aug. 1910, pp. 44.

²⁹ Missouri State Board of Charities and Corrections. Second Biennial Report, Jan. 1901, p. 21.

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other citizens."³⁰ Although the jail boards acted primarily in an advisory capacity, their recommendations were most often based on thorough research, and it appears that many of their suggestions were acted upon by the local law enforcement agencies.

The sheriffs and other administrators in St. Francois county appear to have kept up on such recommendations, and adjusted their operations as best they could. The jail was inspected and reviewed for the county court in early 1904, at which time the "Board of Charities" examined such things as food given the prisoners, bed coverings, general sanitation, and the layout of the building. They found that although the prisoners were complaining about their food, "there are of course always complaints of this kind" and simply suggested that the sheriff report on "the kind and quality of the food furnished." They did note that the cleaning of bed linens had "been neglected to some extent," and that the heating plant was not functioning as efficiently as it should. (The county had paid to have a new furnace installed just three months earlier.³¹) The strongest recommendations in the report were for the addition of better facilities for female inmates, a matter which required "immediate attention," and the "separation of the more youthful offenders from those who are older."³²

It is known that the latter recommendations at least were taken to heart, and around 1909 an addition was made to the back part of the jail. The addition contained two rooms, or cells, at the ground floor, which made it possible to provide separate rooms for women and juveniles, and keep only men in the main cell block. A description of the jail from a 1920 State Board of Charities and Corrections report indicated that that arrangement was still in place then, and that the cell block designed by Pond was still in use. The description in the report read: "Three rooms on the ground floor are assigned to men, women and children. A block of six cells in the men's ward. The other rooms have steel bunks and a stool, basin and radiator in each."³³ That layout remained in place at least into the mid-1930s, when a similar description appeared in a chapter on "County Jails" in history of St. Francois County.³⁴

A jail census was conducted by the State Board of Charities and

³⁰ Missouri State Board of Charities and Corrections. Bulletin, Vol. 2, Aug. 1910, pp. 40.

³¹ "County Court Record" Vol. N, p. 212.

³² "County Court Record" Vol. N, p. 218.

³³ Missouri State Board of Charities and Corrections. Bulletin, Vol. 20, Sept. 1920, p. 148.

³⁴ Brief History, p. 20.

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Corrections late in 1909, the results of which were summarized in their 1910 report. A comparison of conditions at the St. Francois County jail with those noted in the report shows that the jail was reasonably up to date in its operations. County court records show that electricity had been furnished to the jail since 1908 or before, an amenity available in only 38 of 77 other jails studied in 1909. (Twenty five jails were still using coal oil lamps!) It has already been noted that the jail in Farmington rated relatively high in the areas of sanitation and heating, as well as cost of the building itself. The census also enumerated the number of jails which provided employment for county prisoners, a practice which was often recommended by jail reformers. According to the 1910 report "taking good sanitation for granted, with proper feeding and well-graded employment the greatest degree of reformation that is to be expected from the county jails is to be brought about."³⁵

St. Francois county had a long history of employing jail prisoners, dating back to the actual construction of the jail building, when prisoners were said to have helped haul the stone to the site. Court records from the early 1900s also indicate that jail inmates were still being given employment at that time. An entry in the court records of 1903 reveals that the jail inmates were sometimes "hired out" to outside contractors, and sometimes required to work on county supervised chain gangs, and a 1909 entry indicates that the labor of the jail prisoners was utilized for improvements made to the public square as well.

As to the question of "proper feeding," the state board reported in 1910 that "on this point it is probable there is very little room for complaint concerning the jails of Missouri, as nearly everywhere the sheriff says the prisoners receive the same kinds of food as are eaten by the sheriff's family."³⁶ St. Francois County sheriffs were responsible for providing jail prisoners with their meals early in the 1800s, and they continued to do so well into the twentieth century. Early county court records routinely show disbursements to the sheriff for "board of prisoners", and a history of the jail written in 1987 noted that "until the 1960s, prisoner meals were prepared by the wife of the sheriff or a deputy, who would live on the upper floor of the jail."³⁷

Early jails in Missouri were often built to include a residence for the sheriff, a practice which made it possible for one man, or more accurately one family, to take sole responsibility of county law

³⁵ Missouri State Board of Charities and Corrections. Bulletin, Vol. 2, Aug. 1910, p. 49.

³⁶ Missouri State Board of Charities and Corrections. Bulletin, Vol. 2, Aug. 1910, p. 49.

³⁷ "County Jail." p. 7.

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enforcement and jail maintenance. This duality of function was one nineteenth century practice that was still applauded by jail reformers in the early 1900s, and model jail plans published by the State Board of Charities and Corrections often included attached sheriff's quarters. A 1920 survey which covered every county jail in Missouri found that 55 included residences for sheriffs or deputies, and there are currently 10 such Missouri buildings listed in the National Register of Historic Places.³⁸ The St. Francois County jail building was designed with living quarters on the second floor of the building, and the quarters were occupied by the sheriffs and their families throughout the period of significance.

St. Francois County sheriffs played an active role in the day to day operation of the jail, and the sheriff was often the only jailer on the county payroll. In addition to enforcing the laws of the county, he was charged with upkeep of the jail and care of the prisoners as well. The sheriff's duties routinely included such things as obtaining wood for heating the buildings, cleaning the bed linens for the jail, and even basic building maintenance. The sheriff's wife was also expected to help; she prepared three meals a day for the prisoners, and was often called upon to act as matron for any female inmates. County court records from 1903 include payments to sheriff H. M. Murphy for work as a "janitor" and for "painting of jail cells," as well as a contract which named him custodian of both the jail and courthouse, at the pay of \$12 a month.³⁹ On top of everything else, it appears that the sheriff was required to maintain detailed financial records on the various duties, as most of his income was based on the volume of the work performed. Expense lists for the county's contingent fund repeatedly included varied amounts paid to the current sheriff for such things as "4 mos. board of prisoners," attendance to the county court, "guarding prisoners, etc.", and even "wood supplied for the jail."⁴⁰

It should not be forgotten that the sheriffs were first and foremost officers of the law, a job that naturally involved a degree of danger. William London, one of the sheriffs in office during the period of significance, was killed in the line of duty in 1929, and others were

³⁸ Missouri State Board of Charities and Corrections. Bulletin, Vol. 20, Sept. 1920, pp. 122-153, and the National Register Nomination for the Ripley County Jail in Doniphan, MO.

³⁹ "County Court Record" Vol N. p. 116.

⁴⁰ "County Court Records" various volumes, 1870-1930.

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regularly exposed to dangerous situations.⁴¹ That element of danger was exacerbated by the growing age of the building, as well as the upswing in the average number of prisoners held in the jail at one time. An account of the jail which was written in 1935 remarked on the increasingly poor security conditions: "it might be said that their [the jail attendant's] lives are actually in danger under these unprotected conditions."⁴²

Another side effect of an aging building was an increased number of jail breaks. A 1987 newspaper article about the history of the jail noted that "part of the security problem with the old facility was the accessibility of the windows to the public and inmates," a condition which made it easy for outsiders to smuggle such things as hacksaw blades, explosives and other contraband into the building.⁴³ The most infamous jail break to occur during the period of significance took place in 1932, when a group of prisoners used dynamite to blow the bars out of one of the jail windows. There was a deputy on duty in the jail at the time, and the sheriff was upstairs with his family, so the two were able to respond immediately. The report of the incident in the Farmington paper declared that "Deputy Sheriff Dewey May and Sheriff Presnell's quick work kept all the prisoners but seven from making their escape. Of the seven that made a break, May and Presnell were able to seriously wound one and fatally wound another."⁴⁴ The other escapees were eventually recaptured, although one eluded police for another two years.

That jail break called attention to the fact that the building was becoming increasingly outmoded, an opinion which had been held by county Grand Juries for years. The history of the jail which was written in 1935 noted that St. Francois County Grand Juries first began recommending building a new jail for the county in 1919, "but for some reason or another no concerted action has been taken in that direction."⁴⁵ Unfortunately for the jailers, even the attention which resulted from that dramatic escape did not get them a new facility, and for several more decades the jail operated much as it had in the 19th century. The second floor apartment served as home to families of the sheriffs or their deputies

⁴¹ Guy Forshey, "Sam Doss, St. Francois County's Most Picturesque Citizen, Avenged At Last." Saint Louis Post Dispatch. May 17, 1931.

⁴² Brief History, p. 20.

⁴³ "County Jail," p. 7.

⁴⁴ "One Killed, One Wounded and Five Escaped After Dynamiting the Jail Saturday Evening." Feb. 1932. (Clipping from unknown newspaper, in the personal file of former St. Francois County Sheriff Kenneth Buckley.)

⁴⁵ Brief History, p. 21.

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St. Francois County, Missouri

until the 1960s, after which it was remodeled for office use. The three back rooms of the ground floor continued to hold all of the county's prisoners, numbering more than 50 at times, until the side addition was put on in 1970. That addition represents the only major exterior alteration to have occurred to the building since the period of significance, and it will be removed during the upcoming restoration project.

The building stands as a representative example of a once common form of local jail and sheriff's residence, and it is significant for its long association with law enforcement in St. Francois County. It still reflects conditions of its use during the period of significance, and the length of time it has been in operation makes it one of Missouri's oldest operating county jails. A jail census conducted in 1988 found only nine jails statewide to be over 100 years old, and it is quite likely that the St. Francois County building is the oldest in that group.⁴⁶ The building is also significant as an architect-designed jail which, when new, was one of the more up-to-date county jails in the state. It may have outlived its usefulness as a county jail, but it remains in sound condition, and it should serve long and well in its new role as a museum.

⁴⁶ U. S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics. Census of Local Jails, 1988 Vol. 1 (Washington D. C.: U. S. Govt. Printing Office, 1991) Table 25.

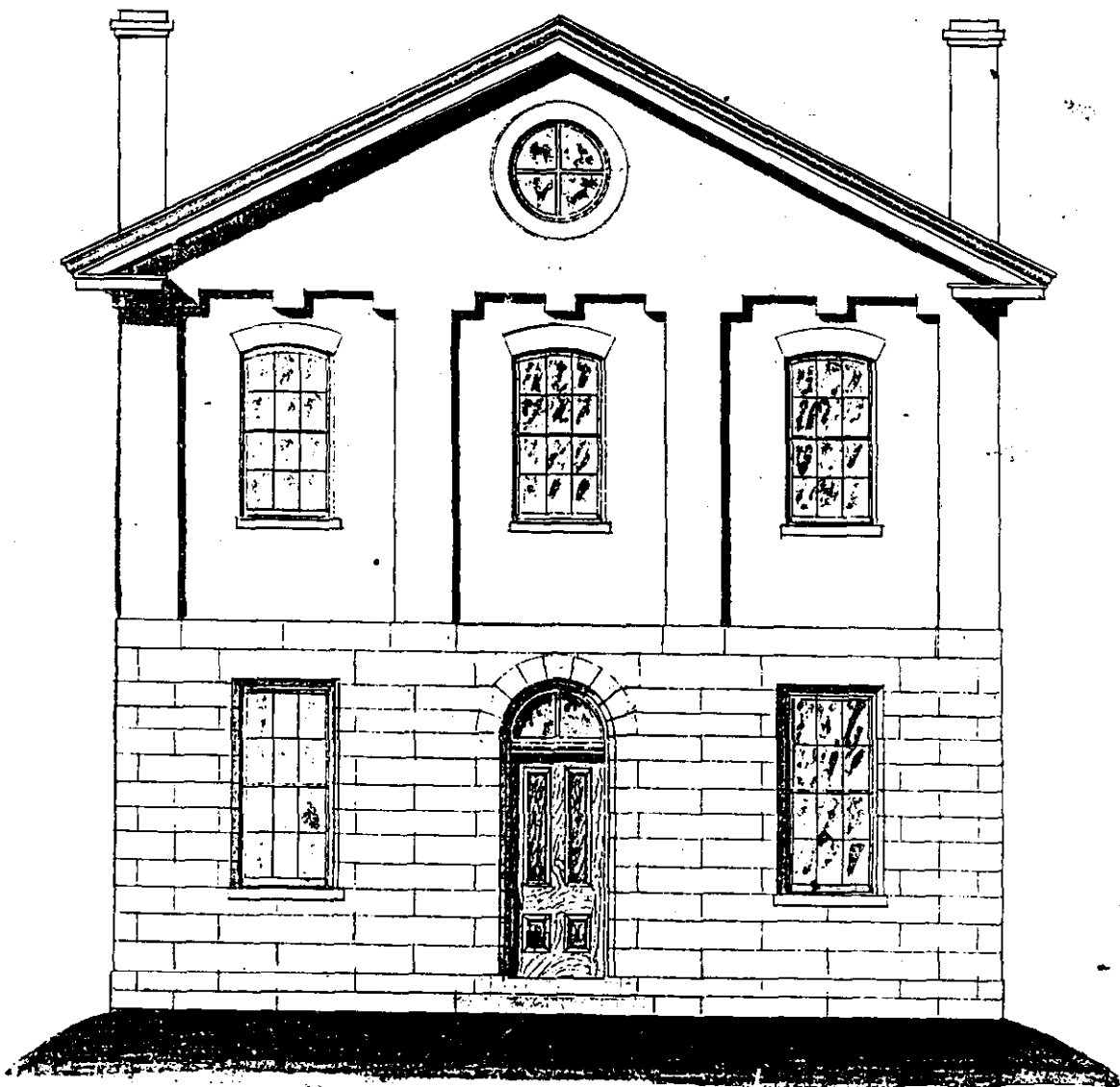
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St. Francois County Jail and Sheriff's Residence
St. Francois County, Missouri

Reduced copy of drawing by Charles H. Pond, 1870. Front Elevation.



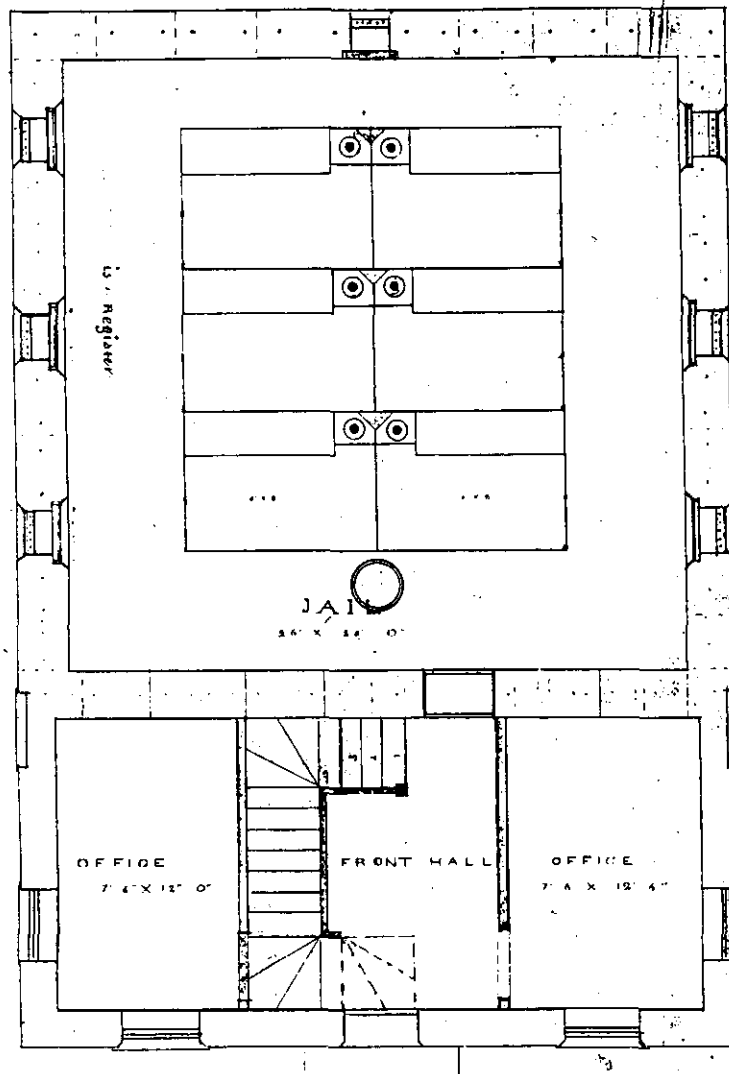
EAST FRONT.

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Reduced copy of drawing by Charles H. Pond, 1870. Ground Floor Plan.



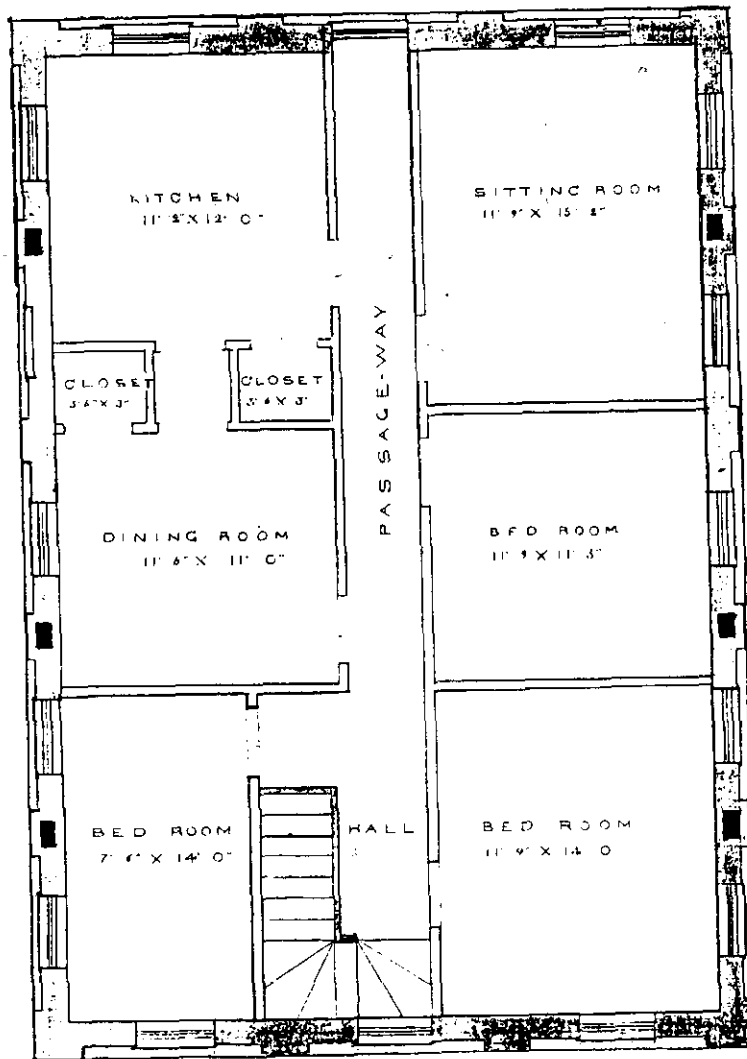
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St. Francois County Jail and Sheriff's Residence
St. Francois County, Missouri

Reduced copy of drawing by Charles H. Pond, 1870. Second Floor Plan.



SCALE 4 FT TO ONE INCH

Charles H. Pond
Arch.
St. Louis

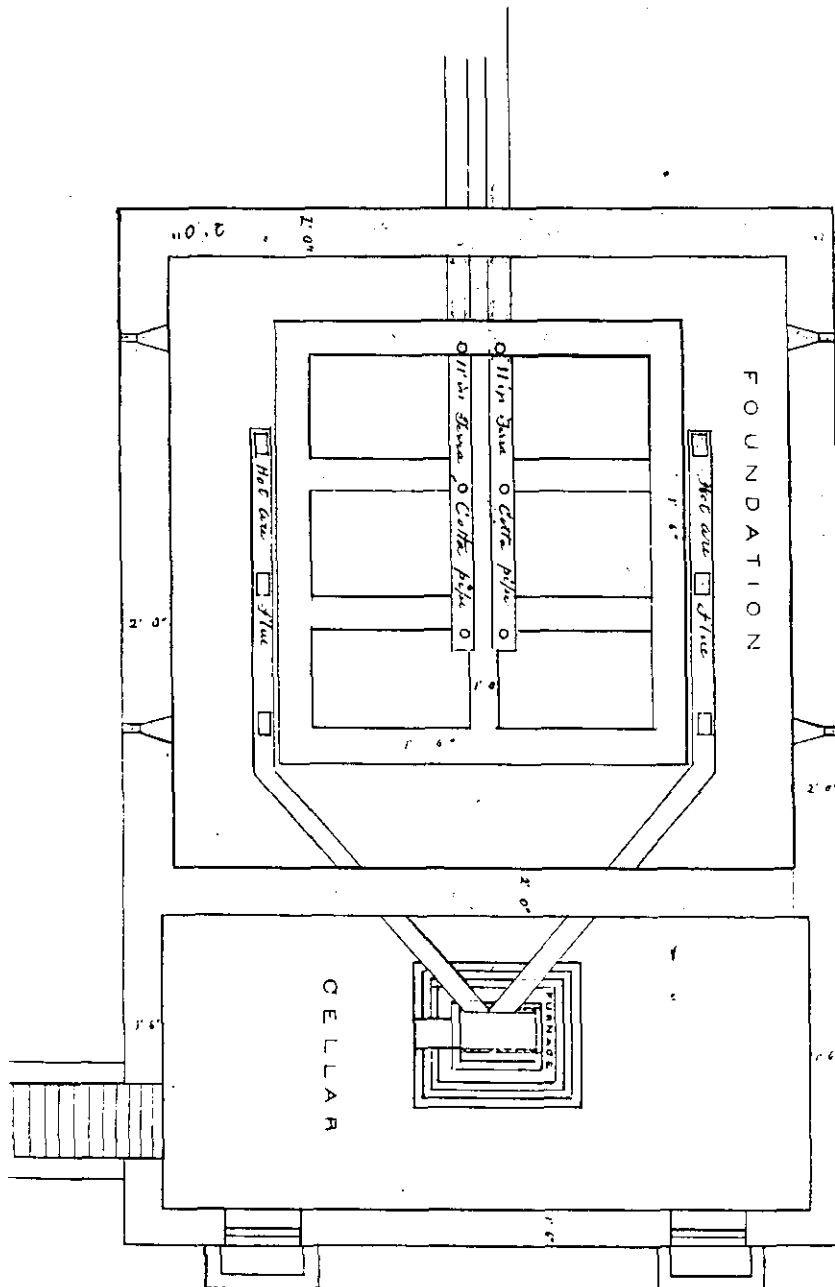
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Reduced copy of drawing by Charles H. Pond, 1870. Basement Plan.



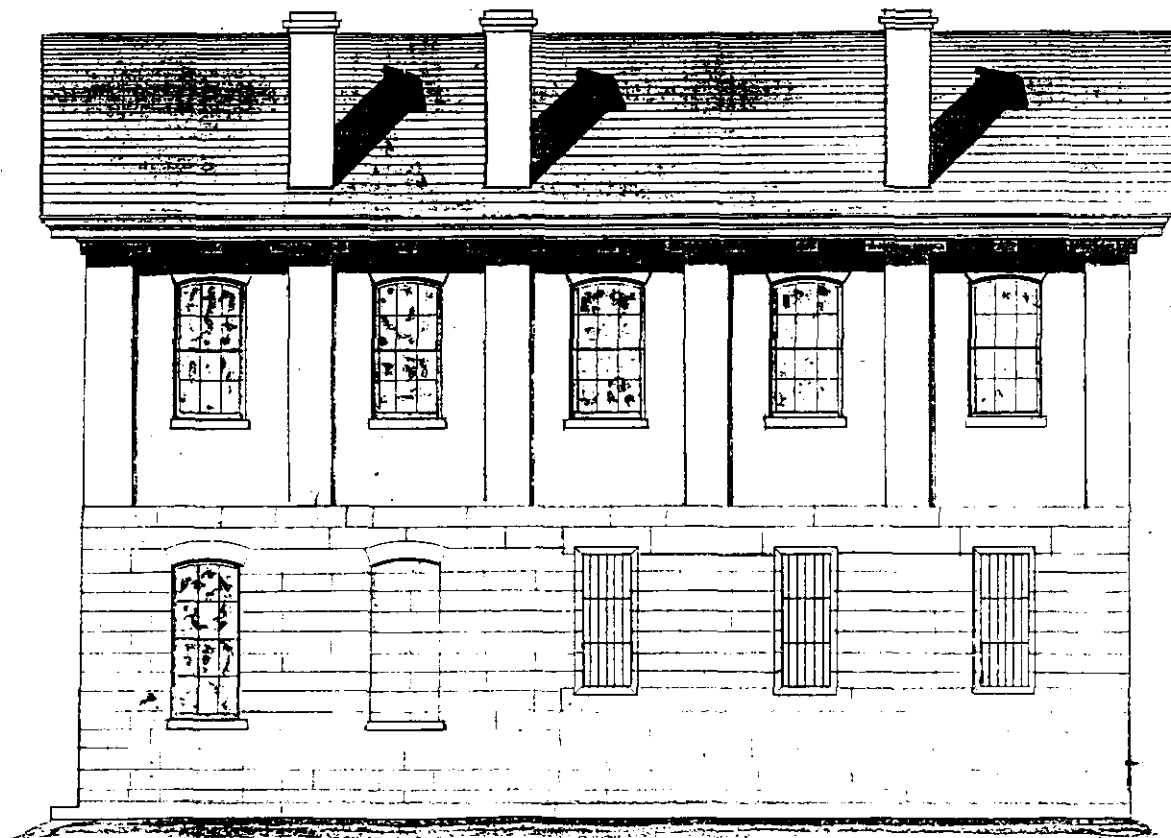
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Reduced copy of drawing by Charles H. Pond, 1870. Side Elevation.



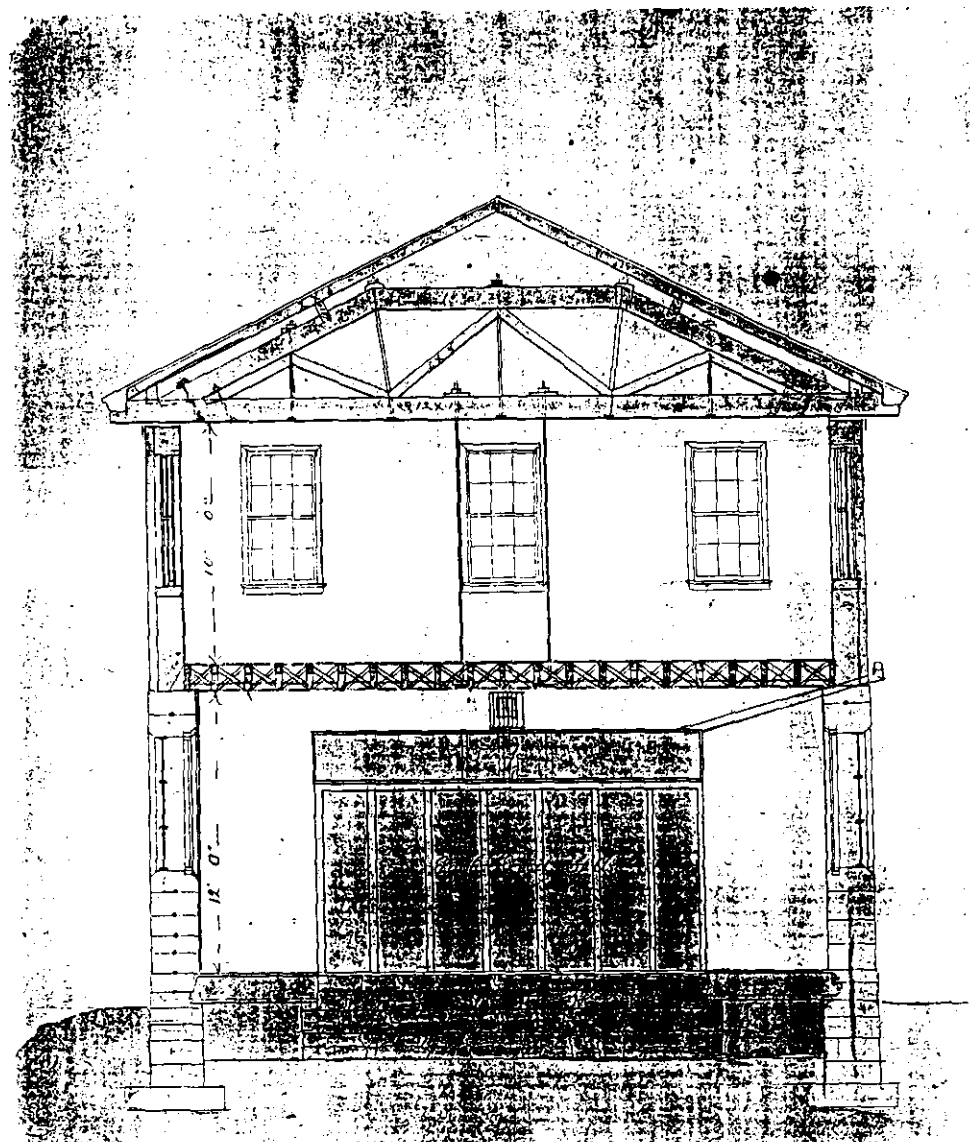
WEST VIEW.

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Reduced copy of drawing by Charles H. Pond, 1870. Transverse Section.



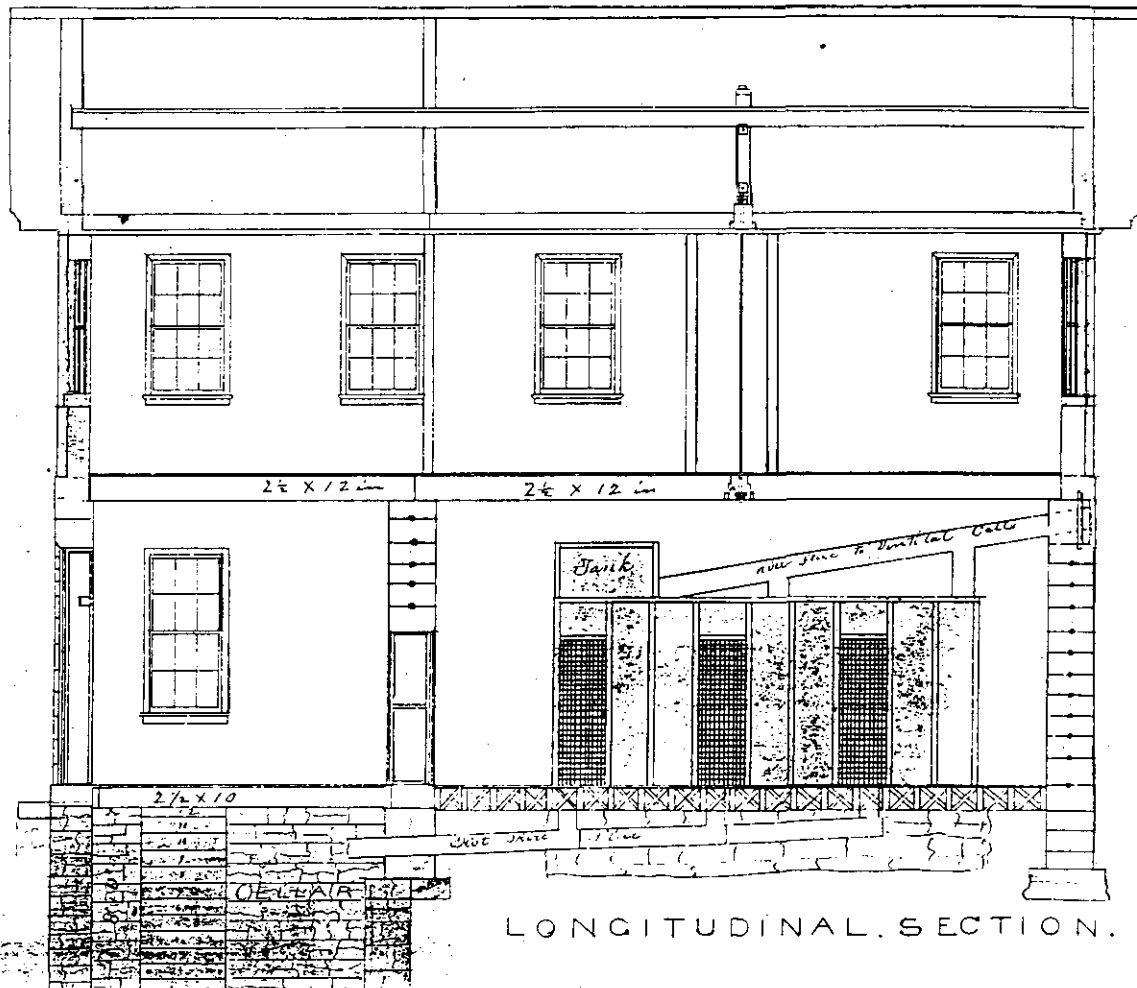
TRANSVERSE SECTION.

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Reduced copy of drawing by Charles H. Pond, 1870. Longitudinal Section.



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Verbal Boundary Description

The north half of Lot 63, in the Original Town of Farmington, measuring 76.89 feet along the south side of W. Liberty St., and 94.05 feet along the west edge of Franklin St.

Boundary Justification

This is the property which has always been associated with the present building, and upon which two earlier county jails were built.

Photographs

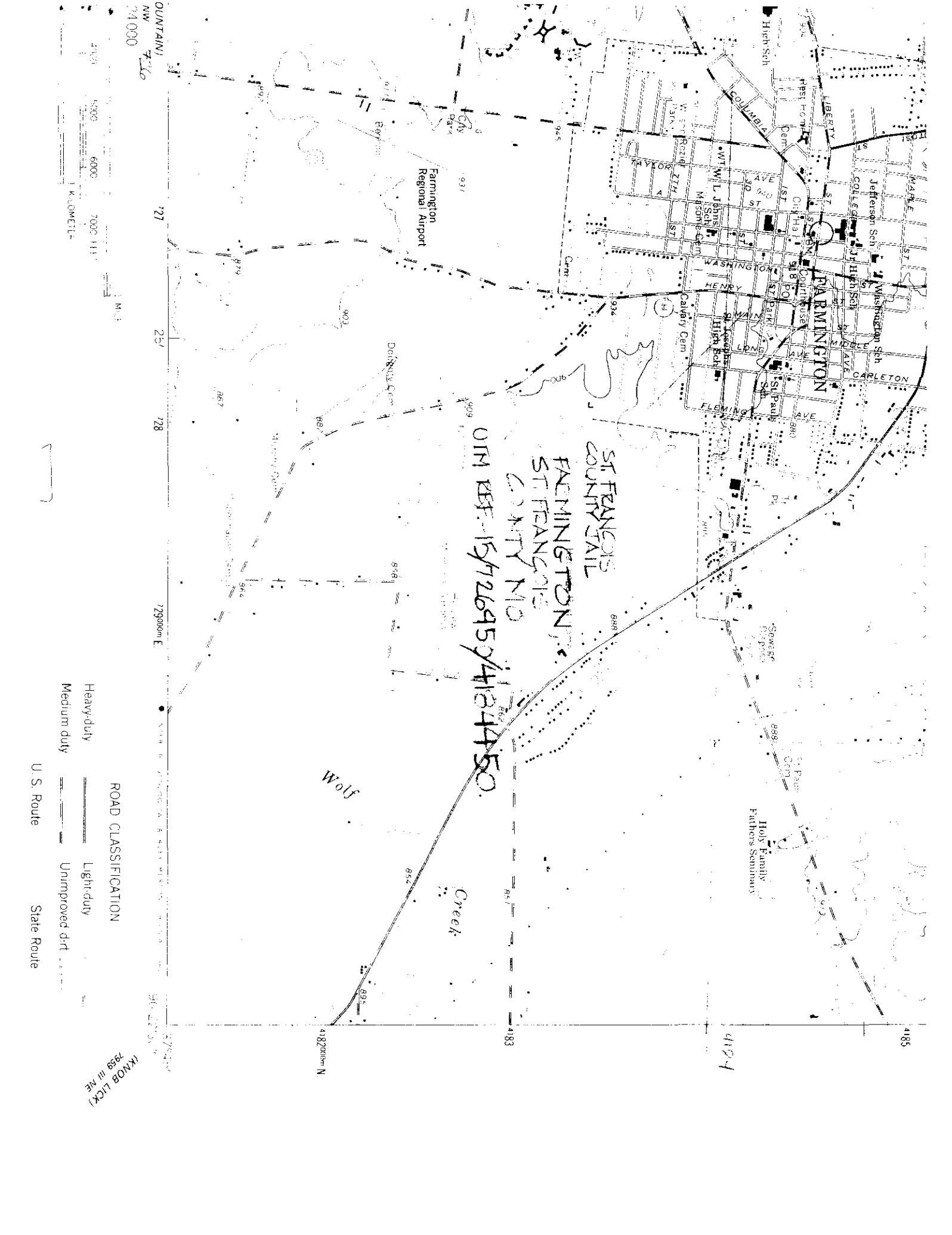
The following information is the same for all photographs:

St. Francois County Jail
11 North Franklin Street
St. Francois County, Missouri
Debbie Sheals
March, 1996
Negatives on file with Debbie Sheals,
406 West Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65203

List of Photographs

See current plans for indications of camera angles.

1. Facade, east elevation.
2. Southeast corner.
3. Rear, west elevation.
4. Northeast corner, 1970 addition in foreground.
5. ca. 1910 photo, from St Francois County, Missouri: Detailed Financial Statement. (Farmington: Waters Press, 1910.)
6. Datestone over front door and awning, east facade.
7. Upper corner of front window, south wall, note numbers in stone and tooled window margin.
8. Detail, southeast corner. Note tooled stone lintel on right window, and drill marks in stone at upper right corner.
9. Second floor window and brickwork detail, facade.
10. Interior window detail, second floor, south wall.
11. Early iron door in front room of ground floor.



ST FRANCIS
 COUNTY SAIL
 FARMINGTON
 ST FRANCIS
 COUNTY MO
 UTM REF. 157269504182450.

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Heavy-duty
- Light-duty
- Medium duty
- Unimproved dirt

U.S. Route

State Route

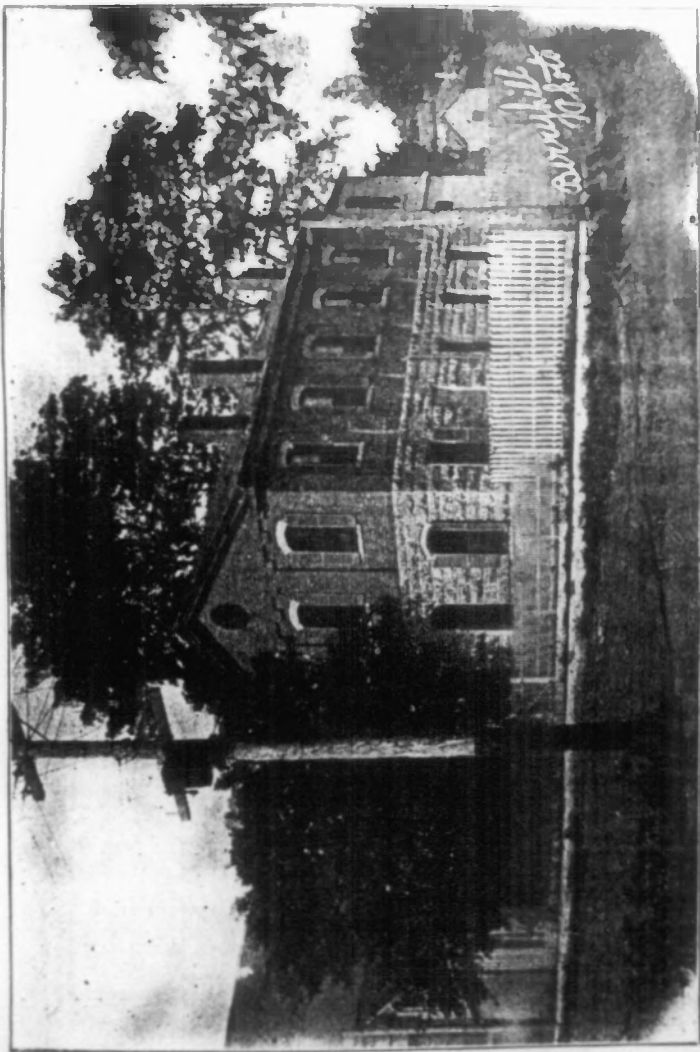
(KNOB LICK)
 7839 1/2 NE



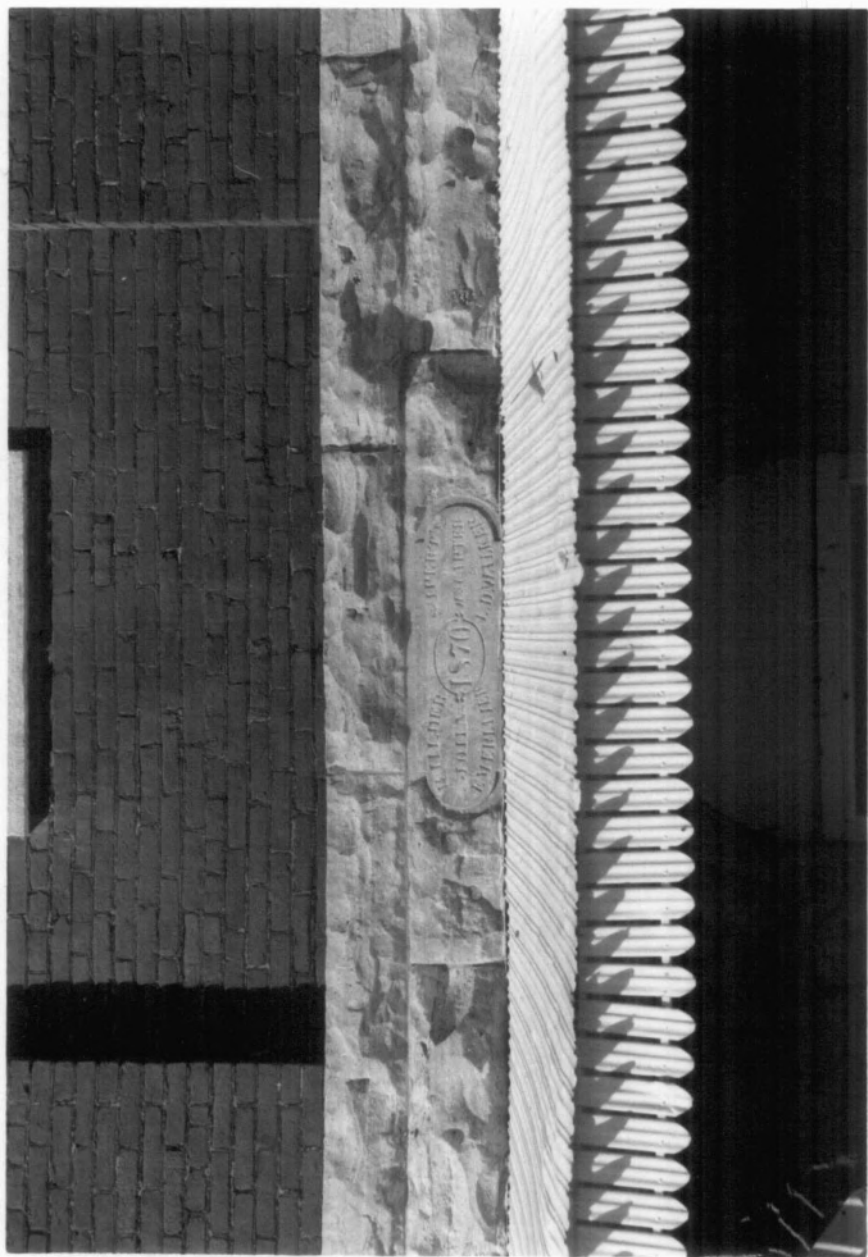




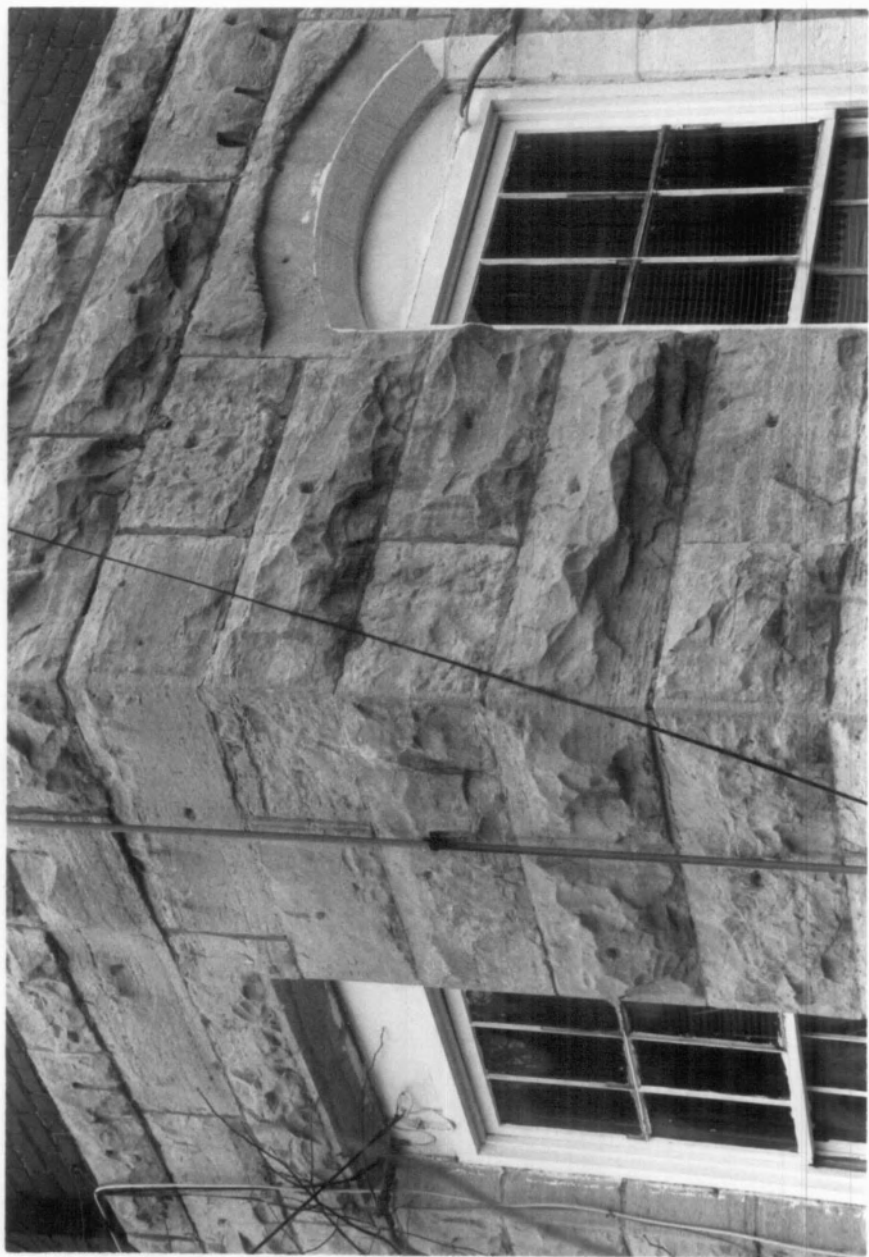




The present jail; built in 1870; original cost, \$110,000; additions since, about \$2,000.











**NO
SMOKING**

