

D.C. 1/9/92

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 18). 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 Knox County Jail
other names/site number Knoxville Jail

2. Location

street & number Public Square, Market Street not for publication
city, town Knoxville vicinity
state Illinois code IL county Knox code 095 zip code 61488

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> objects
			<u> </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.

William C. White SHPO 12-30-91
Signature of certifying official Date
Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
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)
RECREATION AND CULTURE/museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)
MID-19th century

Materials (enter categories from instructions)
foundation stone
walls stone
brick
roof asphalt
other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

KNOX COUNTY JAIL

The Knox County Jail is a two-story brick and stone structure situated on its original location at the northwest corner of the Public Square, facing Market Street, in Knoxville, Knox County, Illinois. The building with a one-story wooden addition on the north is approximately eight feet from the street edge with a driveway to an apartment and commercial building to the south and a small grass yard to the north and west, separating it from private residences. Just across the street to the south and east is the Public Square where the courthouse and city hall are located.

The jail was completed in 1845, a rectangular building that measures approximately 30' by 42'. Around the turn of the century, a 12' by 24' wooden addition was built on the north side of the jailer's quarters in order to add to the building space when it was used as a private residence.

The foundation is described as local stone. The basement is excavated under the original building but does not extend under the wooden addition. The front part of the building is constructed of soft red brick made locally while the back, which is the cell portion, is built of stone. The front section, which provided an office and living quarters for the jailer, is approximately 22' by 30', and the stone cell section is 20' by 30'. An asphalt flat roof covers the original building; the wooden addition had a tin lean-to roof, now covered with ordinary asphalt shingles.

The front, or east, facade has a molded cornice of wood across the top, four six over six paned windows with stone lintels on the second story and three similar windows on the first floor. The door has sidelights and small transom window across the top with a slightly projecting stone crown over it. The windows have stone sills. Two stone steps, the lower one larger than the top one, lead to the door.

The south side of the building has three similar windows, two on the second story and one on the first floor. The door on the south is set at the back of the brick section and is a wooden door recessed with one stone step. Above this door, on the second story, is a small window, similar in style as the six over

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KNOX COUNTY JAIL

six paned windows but only half the size of the other windows. The south side of the cell portion has four recessed small barred windows, two on the second story and two on the first floor. Several cast iron decorative pieces are fastened to the front and south sides.

The north side of the cell portion is similar to the south side. The west, or back, of the jail has no windows and no doors. On the back is a two-foot wide by eighteen-foot long stone projection which extends from roof to ground in the middle of the wall.

The wooden addition was built onto the north side of the brick portion. A porch extends the length of the addition with one window and one door under the porch structure. Steps onto the porch are from the east side. There are two windows on the east side of the addition. The west side of the addition has one window. The north side of the brick portion of the jail has a small window on the second story which matches the one on the south side.

There are four chimneys--two on the north and two on the south sides of the original structure. Two are for the cell sections and two are for the sheriff, or jailer, quarters.

The north and south sides of the cell portion of the building have brickwork at the top of the stonework.

The interior plan of the jail provided six solitary confinement cells, three on the south and three on the north, each being five feet by nine feet. Massive stone block walls and ceilings surround each of these cells. A hallway along the north and south sides respectively leads to the cells on the first floor. Two holding cells are on the second floor. The floor of the north side of the jail section on the first floor is of iron with an iron door leading into the hallway to the three solitary cells. The south side on the first floor has a stone floor, and the door leading into this section is of pieces of iron bolted together to form a lattice while the door on the north is a solid iron one. Upstairs in the cell portion, the north holding cell is divided in half with bars reaching from floor to ceiling. Iron rings set in the huge stone which form the floor were

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KNOX COUNTY JAIL

reportedly used for chaining insane or violent prisoners temporarily before they were transported elsewhere. Two small round holes in the floor of the two cells on the second floor provided the sanitary facilities. The cell on the south side of the second story is one large room with stone floor and walls.

The living quarters for the sheriff and family as shown on the floor plan reveal a hallway extending from the front door to the cells at the rear with the stairway at the end of the brick section. A narrow room to the south was the office. To the north off the hallway is the living room with fireplace. Upstairs above the living room is a bedroom of the same size as the living room, also with a fireplace. A small room opening from this bedroom to the south was probably a child's bedroom. Another small L-shaped room opens off the upper hallway opposite the south cell. When the wooden addition was built, a kitchen and storeroom area provided larger living quarters.

The exterior of the jail, being of stone and brick, looks much today as it must have originally. The wooden addition has been there for so many years that no one remembers the building any other way. The white wooden addition does not detract from the original building but instead highlights the white paint of the wooden portions of the doors and windows of the brick section. The interior cell portion, especially the solitary cells, have been retained in the original except for one of the solitary cells on the south; in this cell electric wiring has been added in order for visitors to see the inside of the cell.

Restoration by Knox County Historic Sites was begun in 1961 and was completed in 1968. The brickwork was tuckpointed, bad brick replaced, sandblasted, and water-proofed in 1961 and has been kept up since then. The wooden parts have been painted white, the last painting being done in 1990. The stonework was sandblasted, repaired with stone patching mortar, and coated with two coats of waterproofing grout and mortar joints then tuckpointed in 1961.

Inside the brick section, walls have been replastered due to water pipe leaks, woodwork stripped and finished in a natural finish, fireplaces restored, window panes replaced where necessary. Interior construction originally was lath and

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Continuation Sheet**

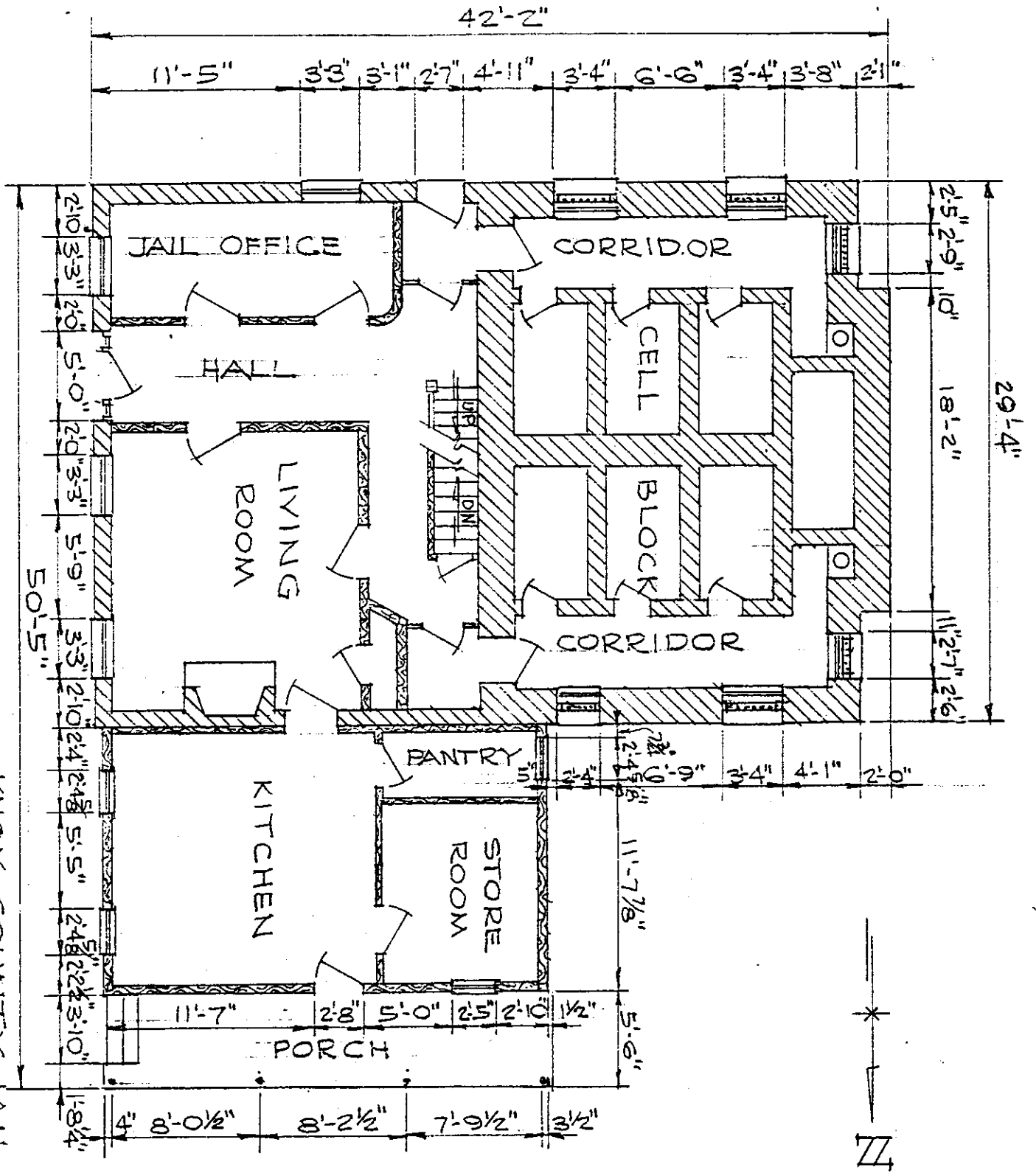
Section number 7 Page 5

KNOX COUNTY JAIL

plaster; woodwork is pine. The handrail for the stairway is one solid piece of walnut. The wooden addition was remodeled to provide two rest rooms in the pantry and storeroom area while the kitchen contained the heating plant.

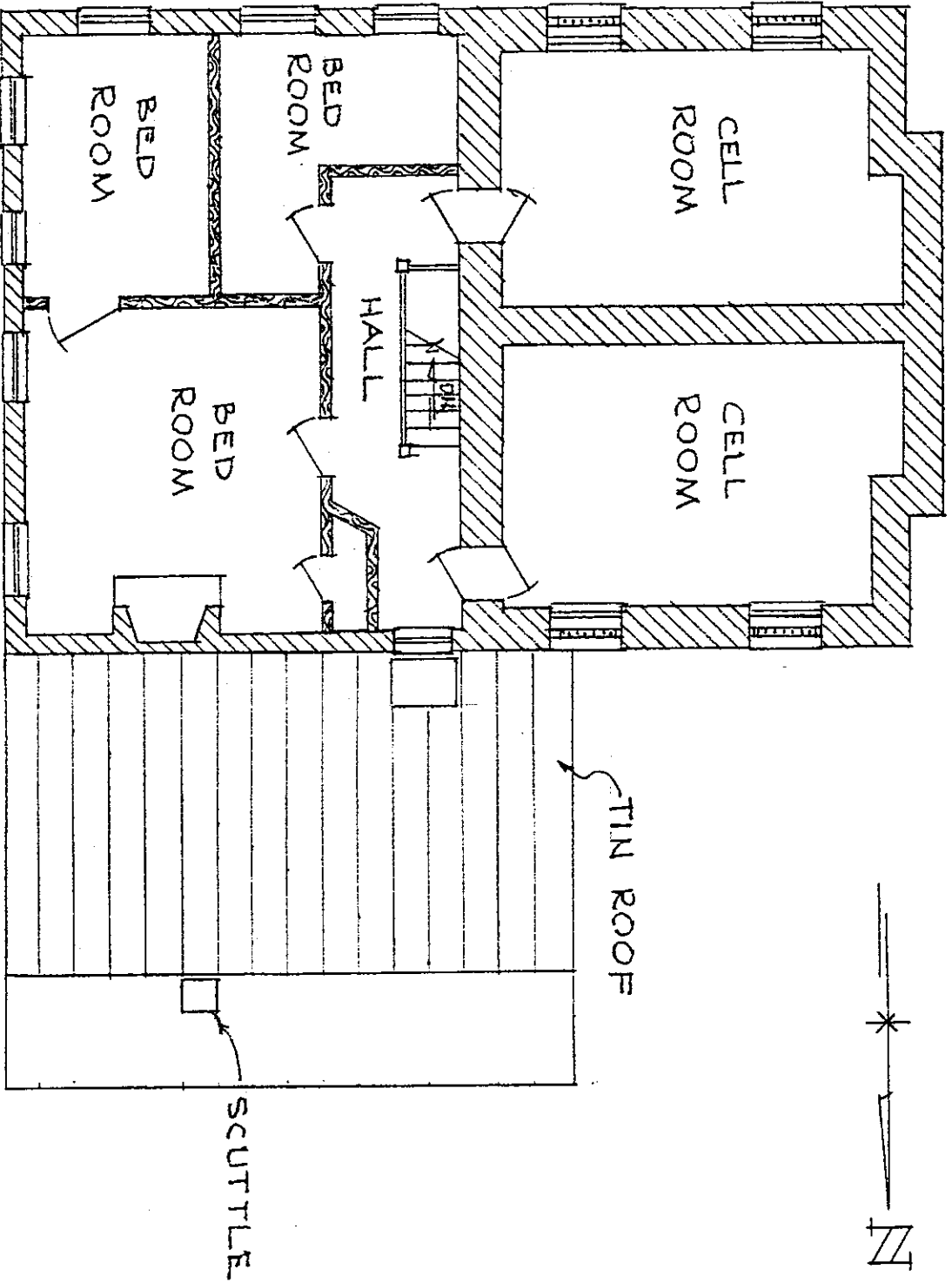
Today the rest rooms have been closed off, and the entire wooden addition is being used as a storage area for the Knox County Museum. The remainder of the building is open to the public as part of the museum.

The living quarters have electrical lighting. Upstairs the north cell has electrical lighting, but the south cell has none. The small L-shaped upstairs is used as the Sites office.



FIRST FLOOR PLAN
SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"

KNOX COUNTY JAIL
1845 - 1873

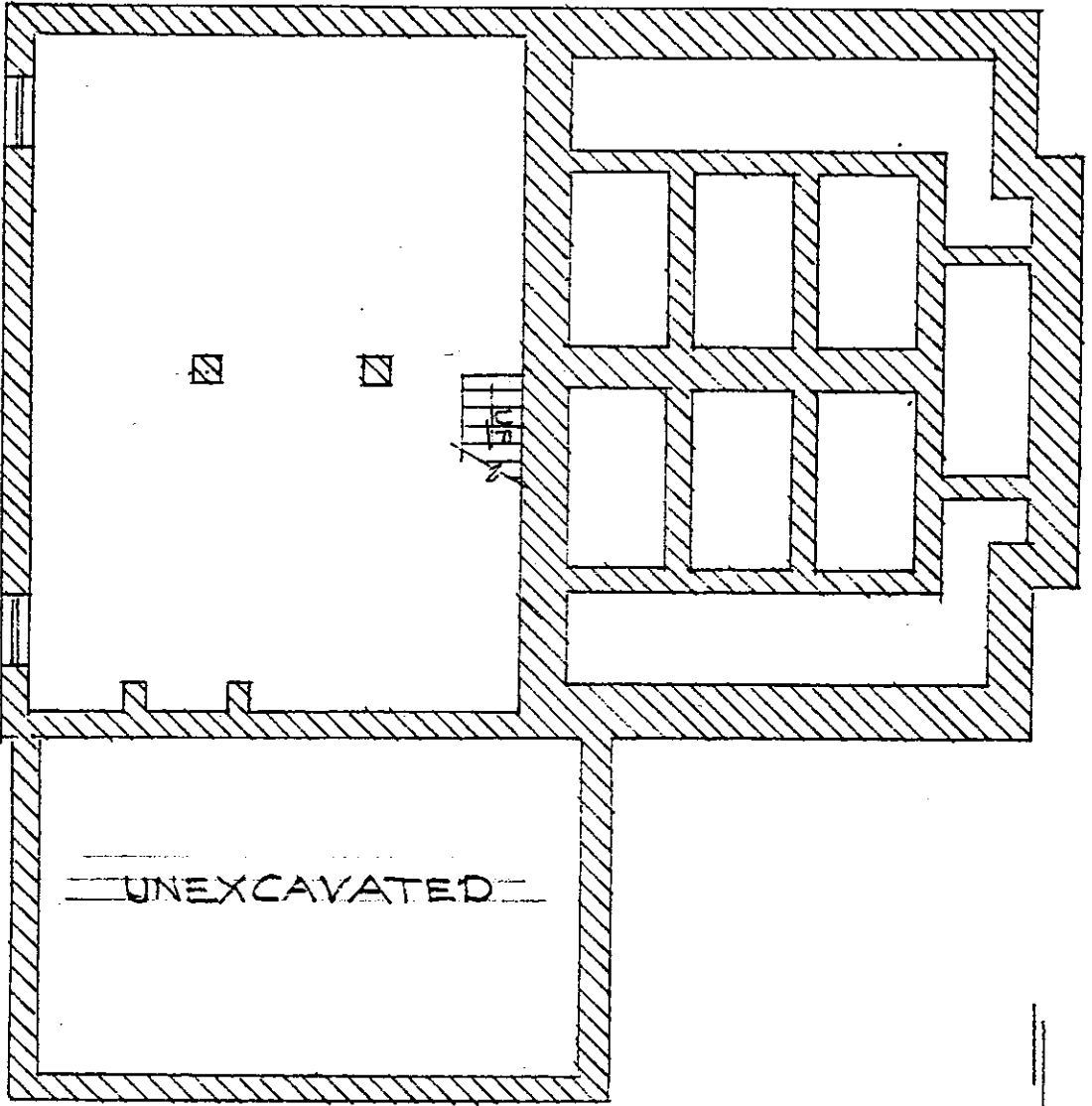


SECOND FLOOR PLAN

SCALE 1/8"=1'-0"

KNOX COUNTY JAIL

1845-1873



BASEMENT PLAN
SCALE 1/8"=1'-0"

KNOX COUNTY JAIL
1845 - 1873

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)

Politics/Government

Period of Significance

1845-1873

Significant Dates

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Cooley, Zelotes
Wheeler, Alvah

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

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KNOX COUNTY JAIL

The Knox County Jail meets Criterion A for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. It is a locally significant example of a jail building associated with the governmental and political administration of Knox County from 1845-1873. It is the site of the only official hanging in Knox County.

The early settlers had a respect for law and order and took the responsibility of providing for the safety of county residents almost immediately after the organization of the county in 1830. In the first history of Knox County, written by Chas. C. Chapman in 1878, he states, "Necessarily, as faithful historians, we must mar the pleasant progress of this chapter by reference to prison bars. Among the pioneers there were wicked and vicious people,--those who wantonly violated law and order, thus making themselves odious and dangerous to the community. Such characters must be restrained and punished." (p.140). Accordingly, in 1832, a contract was let to John G. Sanburn to build a log jail; the price was \$250. Sanburn received his money in 1838, less \$5.25, after the jail had been in use for several years. This prison was of logs, about twenty feet square. It was of two stories, the lower story having no windows or doors. An outside stairway led to the office on the second floor. Access to the jail cell was through a trap door in the office from which the prisoners were lowered into the cell. The log jail was used but deemed insecure.

After the brick courthouse was built, the Commissioners of the County decided to build a new jail. The contract for \$8,724 was let to Zelotes Cooley. This was rescinded soon after, and the contract was relet to Alvah Wheeler for \$7,724. The building was completed in 1845, four years after the contract was let. The old log jail had been constructed on Lot 3 of the subdivision of Lot 10, Block 5. However, this lot was exchanged with Jonathan Rice for the south half of Lot 1, Block 5, which is at the northwest corner of the square. This is the location of the Knox County Jail.

Records of the county reveal that the jail was used to hold prisoners who committed a variety of crimes. Murderers, horse thieves, slaves, mentally ill who were being transported to other institutions, abortionists as well as drunks and petty thieves

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KNOX COUNTY JAIL

all spent time in either the holding cells or the solitary cells. Since the jail was the most secure jail and for most of the years from 1845-1873 the only jail in the county, it was in use continuously until the removal of the county seat to Galesburg in 1873.

One of the murder cases tried in Knox County resulted in the only official hanging in the county, and the jail was the site of this event. A bitter fight between the citizens of Galesburg and Knoxville had been gaining momentum over several years and finally culminated in the removal of the county seat from Knoxville to Galesburg in 1873. Before a jail in Galesburg had been constructed, John M. Osborne murdered his employer's wife, Adelia Mathews, of Yates City, on August 5, 1872. He was caught, tried, and convicted; he was sentenced to death. Before the date of his hanging, on March 14, 1873, he was held in the Knoxville jail. A scaffold was built outside at the northwest corner of the building. On the day of the hanging, hundreds of people assembled in the town to watch the hanging. Osborne was taken out of the jail through a window onto the scaffold and hanged. Soon after this, the new jail in Galesburg was completed, and the jail in Knoxville was no longer used.

Later the addition was built onto the jail so that it could be used as a residence. This addition does not detract from the jail. Since the stone cell portions have been left as they were, the grimness and bleakness of prison life is obvious in the dark and dingy solitary cells.

In the early 1950s the Knox County Historic Sites was organized to preserve sites of historic significance to Knox County. After the restoration of the courthouse, attention was turned to the jail. Since its restoration in the 1960s, the jail has been a part of the Knox County Museum, receiving hundreds of visitors each year.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Chapman, Chas. C. History of Knox County, Illinois. Chicago: Blakely, Brown & Marsh, 1878.

Records of Knox County. Knox County Courthouse, Galesburg, Illinois.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property Less than one acre

UTM References

A

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

B

Zone			Easting					Northing						

C

Zone			Easting					Northing						

D

Zone			Easting					Northing						

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The Knox County Jail is located on the south half of Lot 1, Block 5, which is at the northwest corner of the Public Square.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary lines include the structure that is the Knox County Jail and a small area of grass and yard to the north and west that comprise the south half of Lot 1, Block 5. The south and east sides of the lot are bounded by a driveway to the south and Market Street to the east.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sally Hutchcroft date October 20, 1991
 organization Knox County Historic Sites, Inc. telephone 309-289-2585
 street & number 301 East North Street city or town Knoxville state Illinois zip code 61448



United States Department of the Interior



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

P.O. BOX 37127

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20013-7127

IN REPLY REFER TO:

The Director of the National Park Service is pleased to inform you that the following properties have been entered in the National Register of Historic Places. For further information call 202/343-9542.

FEB 21 1992

WEEKLY LIST OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON PROPERTIES: 2/10/92 THROUGH 2/15/92

KEY: State, County, Property Name, Address/Boundary, City, Vicinity, Reference Number NHL Status, Action, Date, Multiple Name

- ALABAMA, MADISON COUNTY, Urguhart House, 8042 Pulaski Pike, Huntsville vicinity, 92000034, NOMINATION, 2/13/92
- ARKANSAS, CLARK COUNTY, Clear Springs Tabernacle, Jct. of AR 26 and Bobo Rd., Okolona vicinity, 92000057, NOMINATION, 2/13/92
- CALIFORNIA, IMPERIAL COUNTY, US Inspection Station--Calexico, 12 Heffernan Ave., Calexico, 91001749, NOMINATION, 2/14/92
- CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO COUNTY, US Inspection Station--Tecate, CA 188, Tecate, 91001748, NOMINATION, 2/14/92
- CONNECTICUT, NEW HAVEN COUNTY, Jones, Theophilus, House, 40 Jones Rd., Wallingford, 91001981, NOMINATION, 1/30/92
- FLORIDA, SARASOTA COUNTY, Bachelor--Brewer Model Home Estate, 1903 Lincoln Dr., Sarasota, 91002034, NOMINATION, 2/10/92
- ILLINOIS, COOK COUNTY, Municipal Pier, 200 Streeter Dr., Chicago, 79000825, REMOVAL, 2/14/92
- ILLINOIS, KNOX COUNTY, Knox County Courthouse and Hall of Records, Public Sq., Main St., Knoxville, 92000051, NOMINATION, 2/13/92
- ILLINOIS, KNOX COUNTY, Knox County Jail, Public Sq., Market St., Knoxville, 92000050, NOMINATION, 2/13/92
- ILLINOIS, WHITE COUNTY, Gray, William W. House, 119 N. Court St., Grayville, 92000049, NOMINATION, 2/13/92
- IOWA, POLK COUNTY, Stoner, Thomas I., House, 1030 56th St., Des Moines, 92000006, NOMINATION, 2/12/92
- KENTUCKY, MERCER COUNTY, Tobin House, 1450 Curry Pike, Harrodsburg vicinity, 88003350, REMOVAL, 1/31/92 (Mercer County MRA)
- LOUISIANA, IBERVILLE PARISH, Plaquemine High School, 600 Plaquemine St., Plaquemine, 92000041, NOMINATION, 2/13/92
- LOUISIANA, ST. JAMES PARISH, Lutcher United Methodist Church, 2347 Texas St., Lutcher, 92000042, NOMINATION, 2/13/92
- LOUISIANA, WEST BATON ROUGE PARISH, Bank of Addis, 7843 Ray Rivet St., Addis, 92000038, NOMINATION, 2/13/92
- LOUISIANA, WEST FELICIANA PARISH, Oak Grove Plantation Dependencies, US 61 S of jct. with LA 421, St. Francisville vicinity, 92000036, NOMINATION, 2/13/92
- MASSACHUSETTS, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, Cutter, Jefferson, House, 1 Whittemore Park, Arlington, 85001028, NOMINATION, 1/23/92 (Arlington MRA)
- MASSACHUSETTS, NORFOLK COUNTY, Central Square Historic District, Roughly, Broad St. from Middle to Putnam Sts. and Middle from Charles to Center Sts., Weymouth, 92000040, NOMINATION, 2/13/92
- MISSISSIPPI, CLAIBORNE COUNTY, Hollyrood, Old Hwy. 61 S, Port Gibson, 79003413, REMOVAL, 1/31/92 (Port Gibson MRA)
- MISSISSIPPI, YALOBUSHA COUNTY, Coffeeville Hotel, Off MS 330, Coffeeville, 82003123, REMOVAL, 1/31/92
- NEW YORK, HERKIMER COUNTY, Newport Stone Arch Bridge, Bridge St. across W. Canada Cr., Newport, 91002035, NOMINATION, 2/10/92
- NEW YORK, PUTNAM COUNTY, Plumbush, NY 9D between Peekskill and Moffet Rds., Philipstown, 82005386, NOMINATION, 1/30/92 (Hudson Highlands MRA)
- NEW YORK, QUEENS COUNTY, Flushing High School, 35-01 Union St., Queens, 91002036, NOMINATION, 2/10/92
- NEW YORK, ULSTER COUNTY, Poppietown Farmhouse, Jct. of Old Post Rd. and Swarte Kill Rd., Esopus, 91001656, ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION, 1/17/92
- NEW YORK, WAYNE COUNTY, Smith--Ely Mansion, 39 W. Genesee St., Clyde, 92000032, NOMINATION, 2/10/92
- NEW YORK, WESTCHESTER COUNTY, The Woodpile, Jct. of Croton Lake and Wood Rds., Mt. Kisco vicinity, 92000030, NOMINATION, 2/10/92
- SOUTH CAROLINA, ANDERSON COUNTY, Ramer, Ralph John, House, 402 Boulevard, Anderson, 92000023, NOMINATION, 2/10/92
- SOUTH CAROLINA, BERKELEY COUNTY, Pineville Historic District, Rd. S-8-204 S of jct. with SC 45, Pineville, 92000024, NOMINATION, 2/10/92
- SOUTH CAROLINA, KERSHAW COUNTY, Murchison House, Kershaw County Rd. 12, Camden, 82003871, REMOVAL, 1/31/92
- SOUTH CAROLINA, OCONEE COUNTY, Waihalia Graded School, 101 E. N. Broad St., Waihalia, 92000059, NOMINATION, 2/13/92
- TEXAS, DALLAS COUNTY, Interstate Forwarding Company Warehouse, 3200 Main St., Dallas, 92000021, NOMINATION, 2/14/92
- TEXAS, NACOGDOCHES COUNTY, Blount, Eugene H., House, 1801 North St., Nacogdoches, 92000014, NOMINATION, 2/14/92 (Nacogdoches MPS)
- TEXAS, NACOGDOCHES COUNTY, Cotton Exchange Building, Old, 305 E. Commerce St., Nacogdoches, 92000008, NOMINATION, 2/14/92 (Nacogdoches MPS)
- TEXAS, NACOGDOCHES COUNTY, Davidson, Maria A., Apartments, 214 S. Fredonia St., Nacogdoches, 92000009, NOMINATION, 2/14/92 (Nacogdoches MPS)
- TEXAS, NACOGDOCHES COUNTY, Hayter Office Building, 112 E. Main St., Nacogdoches, 92000010, NOMINATION, 2/14/92 (Nacogdoches MPS)
- TEXAS, NACOGDOCHES COUNTY, Hoya Land Office Building, 120 E. Pilar St., Nacogdoches, 92000015, NOMINATION, 2/14/92 (Nacogdoches MPS)
- TEXAS, NACOGDOCHES COUNTY, Jones, Roland, House, 141 N. Church St., Nacogdoches, 92000007, NOMINATION, 2/14/92 (Nacogdoches MPS)

1. Name of Site:

Common Knoxville Historic District
Historic

119054 119128
119055 119042
119037 119044
119057 119045

2. Location:

Courthouse Square area adjacent on north

Street and Number Township Section
City or Town Zip Code Range 1/4 Section
Knoxville
County
KNOX

3. Classification:

Category (check one)

Integrity (check one)

District Building
 Site Structure

Altered Unaltered
 Moved Original Site

4. Ownership:

Status (check one)

Private
 Public

Occupied
 Unoccupied
 Preservation work in progress

Access to Public

Yes Restricted Unrestricted No

Present Use (check one or more)

Agricultural Industrial Religious
 Commercial Military Scientific
 Educational Museum Transportation
 Entertainment Park Other
 Government Private Residence

URBAN PLANNING

5. Ownership of Property:

Owner's Name Phone Number
Various
Street and Number
City or Town
State County Zip Code

6. Description: Grouping of several mid-19th c. buildings

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated
 Ruins Unexposed

Is there a program of preservation underway? Yes No

7. Historical Themes: (check one or more of the following)

- Archeological Site (Pre-Columbian)
- Archeological Site (Post-Columbian to 1673)
- French Influence (1673-1780)
- Illinois Frontier (1780-1818)
- Illinois Early (1818-1850)
- Illinois Middle (1850-1900)
- Illinois Late (1900-present)
- Famous People (give names & dates)

8. Specific Date: From 1830s-40s

Areas of significance (check one or more of the following)

- Aboriginal (historic) Literature
- Aboriginal (pre-historic) Military
- Agriculture Music
- Architecture Political
- Art Religion/Philosophy
- Commerce Science
- Communication Sculpture
- Conservation Social/Humanitarian
- Education Theater
- Engineering Transportation
- Industry Urban Planning
- Invention Other (specify)
- Landscape Architecture Early settlement

Brief statement of significance: (include all names and dates)

Use additional sheets if necessary. Knoxville 1st Co. seat. County created 1825, 1831. Principal bldgs.: Old Courthouse (1839-now a museum, HABS, Greek Rev

9. Form prepared by: Hall of Records (1854) now Knoxville Library; Sanburn Store (reconstructed log cabin in which county was founded; Lacy England Agency Bldg. Name and Title: (ca. 1865); Masonic Hall (ca. 1870); Commercial Bldg. (ca. 18 (NW cor Timber & North Sts.); House (ca. 1850) Greek Rev (Timber bet/North Organization: Ann Sts.); House (ca. 1850) 101 North Street, Old Jail (1845-114 Market St., HABS.

Street and Number:

City or Town:

County:

Zip Code

During the course of the Survey we often find it necessary to search for a particular site. When filling out the Survey form, please list according to the following example, published references to the site for which forms are being completed. If a bibliography can be compiled, it will greatly deduct from the Survey's task.

Bibliography

Robertson, Robert, Of Whales and Men. New York, Alfred K. Knopf, Inc., 1954.



119050



119050



119039



119057



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119048