

HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT 601437

PART II
ON
COUNTY JAIL

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Appomattox Court House National Historical Park
Appomattox, Virginia

Architectural Data Section

by
Orville W. Carroll
Architect
September 1963

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United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service
Eastern Office, Design and Construction

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COUNTY JAIL

A P P R O V A L S H E E T

RECOMMENDED

Superintendent

Date _____

Robert G Hall

Chief, EODC

Date 9-18-63

Regional Director, Southeast Region

Date _____

APPROVED

Director

Date _____

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I. FOREWORD

Much has been said about the existing County Jail, located within the village green of the old Appomattox Court House, Virginia, but little conclusive evidence has been found to substantiate these claims. This is due, in part, to the fact that the county records, if any, relating to the construction of the building, were destroyed when the Court House burned in 1892.

Even less is known about the original jail building constructed in 1846 and located some 96 feet to the north just across the Richmond-Lynchburg stage road. The fate of this earlier structure is also in doubt, but archeological excavations of the original site conducted in 1962, revealed the building was damaged by fire. This may account for the relocation and reconstruction of a new jail building sometime after 1865, and which is now the building we are dealing with.

Although the present County Jail does not fall within the cut-off period of restoration (1865), its physical appearance must have been much like the jail of 1846. For this reason alone, it is a building worth preservation. The following report attempts to summarize the architectural findings of the existing jail and to recommend a procedure to follow in its rehabilitation.

Orville W. Carroll
Resident Architect
June 1963

II. WRITTEN REPORTS AND DRAWINGS

A. Historic Structures Report, Part I

A cumulative study of the jail building by former Superintendent Hubert A. Gurney, Park Historians Ralph Happel and W. Jerry Lowrey, Ranger Historian Marvin W. Schlegel, was added to and ultimately synthesized in a written report by Park Historian James N. Haskett in April, 1962. With the small amount of available information on hand, the report is well written and draws a logical conclusion concerning the physical history of the building.

B. Archeological Report

Excavation of the original (ca. 1846) jail site was conducted by John Walker in the summer of 1962. His printed report on the findings at the site is still forthcoming and may contain information related to the construction of the existing jail building.

C. Record Drawings

Five sheets of measured drawings for the County Jail building were completed in 1956 by a student measuring team under the direction of Architect R. L. Raley. These drawings are included as a part of this report.

III. DESCRIPTION AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The present County Jail stands in the southeast corner of the two acre "village green" with its long axis oriented east and west and its principal entrance facing north. It is a third quarter 19th century brick building, three stories high. Each of the three floors contain a central hallway running north and south accessible to a room on either side. An enclosed interior stairway is located along the southeast wall giving access to the second and third floors.

The existing building replaces the original jail built in 1846, located some 96 feet north directly across the Richmond-Lynchburg Stage Road. The orientation of the original structure was at right angles to the present building with its long axis pointing north and south. From the viewpoint of planning the two-acre site, the second building has the better site relationship. In its present location, the square, so to speak, has an established architectural element near each corner. This relationship helps tie the village core together visually, if not historically accurate.

From all existing evidence, the construction of the present County Jail was completed after April, 1865. This does not preclude the fact that its foundations were not started prior to April, 1865, but with all the evidence on hand, it seems likely that we have a building of post-Civil War vintage.

The most conclusive evidence we have to support the theory that the building was commenced after April, 1865, are the two contemporary photographs from the Brady Collection, showing the Courthouse building from the west including a sizeable portion of the landscape on both sides. To the north or left side of the Courthouse, somewhat obscured by the foliage of the tree, can be seen the lower part of the original jail of 1846. Knowing that the floor plan of the present jail was constructed identical to the original building (from Walker's report), and assuming the fenestration was similar, the opening seen in the lower part of the jail wall in the 1865 photograph would be a window located in the west wall of the north room. Projecting a line in plan from this point past the northwest corner of the Courthouse building and intersecting a second line projected through the Courthouse (slightly north of center), we can locate in plan the station point of the camera. This distance scales approximately 60 feet west of the Courthouse fence almost opposite the porch of the Meek's Store and near the center of the Stage Road. By the same token, a line projected from this known station point of the camera, past the southwest corner of the Courthouse in the direction of the present jail, we discover that almost the entire structure should appear in the right hand side of the photograph. This is not the case,

as it is easy to discern fence posts in the distance which would not be seen if the existing jail were standing. (See accompanying drawing of points projected in plan). This demonstration of line projection further substantiates the visual evidence as suggested in Haskett's report. (See Illustrations II and III in the Haskett Report.)

The comparison of the original jail building with the existing structure can be easily verified. The following advertisement appeared in the Lynchburg Virginian, September 8, 1845.

"PROPOSALS FOR BUILDING A JAIL"

The undersigned invite persons to make proposals to (sic) building a jail at Appomattox Court house, as follows, viz: A house 40 x 20 feet, two rooms, 2 below and 2 above, and a passage of 8 feet, and of hammered dressed rock, solid masonry; the rocks secured with iron dowering pins, the walls to be two feet thick. A house of similar size and divisions, of brick, the walls to be 18 inches thick, with two windows to each room, two feet square, with iron grates, with one outer door faced with sheet half inch thick, and the requisite number of doors for the other rooms and passages, of strong plank, similarly faced. The floors of hewn oak logs, 10 or 12 inches wide, and 6 inches thick.

Also a house of hewn logs; of sound heart oak, secured by dowering pins, the logs to be 10 inches square, the house 30 feet long by 18 feet wide, in the clear, with 2 rooms on the lower floor and 2 rooms and a passage on the second floor; the floor and ceiling of one room on second story to be of hewn logs, 10 inches wide and 6 inches thick; the interior of this

room to be faced or ceiled with sheet iron; the balance of the interior of the house to be ceiled with inch oak or pine plank, and the whole exterior surface of this house to be covered by strong sheet iron, with a good and sufficient lap and put on by 20 penny cut nails. The doors and windows of this house to be in all respects like those already described, should the undersigned to conclude to build of logs. The roofs, in either case, to be strong and well constructed, and covered with tin; a chimney at either end of the house, with a fireplace above and below in each.

The object of the undersigned is to elicit proposals as to the cost of the above described buildings; and the time at which they could be finished. Persons disposed to undertake will be prepared to submit their bids or proposals at Appomattox October court, 1845.

Further verification that these specifications were carried out in its construction were the findings of the recent archeological exploration of the original jail site in 1962, by John Walker. The dimensions of the first jail, first floor, were found to be 20' x 40' with an 8' wide hallway and one room on each side. (Walker, page 61.) We also know from the photograph of 1865, and from evidence uncovered at the site, that the original jail was constructed of brick. This compares favorably with the existing County Jail which measures 20'-1" x 40'-2" with a central hallway 7'-11" wide and one room on each side (Record Drawings, Sheet 1). In locating the station point of the camera as previously described, the dimensions of the existing masonry openings were transferred to

the floor plan of the original jail and the visual lines projected accordingly.

The life of the second jail was short lived. According to Haskett, (page 14) the building served as a place of detention up until May, 1896, when a third jail was built in Appomattox, some three miles away. The second jail became an official part of the Appomattox National Historical Park in 1940, when the present land was acquired.

The interior plaster on the side walls and ceilings was removed by the C.C.C. workmen in the early 1940's. Further repairs were completed under the supervision of the Park Superintendent in the mid-1950's. This work included the new metal roof, downspouts and gutters, repairs to the door and window frames, new sash, and replacement of the brick hearths on the first floor. The jail has a great deal of its original fabric. Most of the original hardware is missing but the type and kind can be easily ascertained from existing examples.

IV. EXISTING CONDITIONS

A. Masonry

The brick masonry work in the existing jail structure follows the traditional building practice of laying the best quality brick toward the front or principal entrance of a building. This is also true of brick bonding. Many of the 18th and 19th century buildings in Virginia are so constructed that their main facades have bricks laid in Flemish bond, while the remaining three walls are laid in common bond, often using brick with an inferior quality. We see this is true of the present jail. The entire north wall, which faces the village green, has brick which were obviously hand-picked for their visual appearance. The south, east, and west walls were constructed, for the most part, with bricks of an inferior grade, visually appearing as salvaged material from another building.

Walker concludes his study on the exploration of the original jail site as follows:

(Walker, page 63-64)

2. From archeological evidence we know:
 - a. The original jail was destroyed by fire.
 - b. The floor plans of the first floor the original and present jails are identical in size and arrangement; hence it seems that the change of location was not made with the idea of enlarging or otherwise basically altering the structure. Had the

original been standing, there would have been no reason for building the later one.

- c. That materials salvaged from the original jail were used in the present jail seems almost definite.
 - i. Almost all of the brick from the original jail was salvaged. A large section of the brick in the present jail is identical to that in the original.
 - ii. Two pieces of flat iron bars were found in the excavation of the original jail. These are precisely the same width and thickness as those used in the grillwork of strap covering the walls, ceilings, floors, and doors of the upper two stories of the present jail.
 - iii. Iron spikes were found in the debris of the original jail. Some of these are identical to those used on the present jail as gutter supports.

Both Haskett (Historic Structures Report, page 11, line 19) and Walker (page 64, line 19-20) support the theory that the present jail was not built as a unit but was constructed in as many as five stages over a period of years. This writer, however, does not subscribe to this theory - the only exception being that any delay in its construction might have occurred during the winter months, when work was suspended by cold weather, but certainly started and completed the following spring. This theory is based on both an intuitive feeling as well as on a factual examination of the fabric. The method of construction from floor to floor all show the marks of

the same workmen. The dimensions and type of material used throughout the building is almost identical, and the method employed for joinery, metal work, and masonry work, remains basically the same. It is entirely possible that salvaged brick was used in the present jail. Much of the lower half of the building on the south, east, and west sides (about 54 courses) appear to be brick of a salvaged nature. In addition to the 54 coursed, approximately another 44 rows of brick in the east and west gable end walls including the chimney and chimney caps (2 courses) are of the salvaged type. This is also true of the interior walls. A salvaged type of brick appear over the entire wall surface of the first floor rooms. On the second floor, none of the salvaged brick appear within the wall construction. Rather, the walls are laid with an oversized brick with an unused appearance and of a lighter hue. These same brick occur in the exterior wall above the 54 courses of salvaged brick and measure $2\text{-}3\frac{1}{4}"$ x $3\text{-}7\frac{7}{8}"$ x 8". The salvaged type of brick appear again in the cell rooms of the third floor mixed in with the oversized brick mentioned above. The hallway, third floor, is similar with the exception of the north and south walls which are constructed entirely of the oversized (new) brick. If one concludes that salvaged brick was used on the jail construction, and occurs only in the base and gable ends of the building, then this could mean the period of building occurred during the period of salvaging (the original jail) and the salvaged

bricks were worked into the walls as the building progressed. In the case of the new brick occurring in the center portion of the building, this could mean new materials were ordered and used to prevent a delay in the construction schedule. Also, if the original jail were only two stories high, more brick would be needed to construct the present three story building. This could account for the new brick appearing above the bulk of salvaged brick.

Some interesting features occur in the brickwork of the exterior walls. Brick sizes vary considerably throughout the wall as does their color, ranging from red-orange to black. Brick sizes vary from brick to brick within the same row but generally hold their dimensions between $2\frac{1}{2}$ "- $2\frac{7}{8}$ " x $3\frac{1}{2}$ "-4" x 7"-8" long, with the majority of the small "used" brick measuring $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x $3\frac{1}{2}$ " x $7\frac{1}{2}$ " and the larger new brick measuring $2\frac{3}{4}$ " x $3\frac{3}{4}$ " x 8" long.

Whereas the small brick in the north wall (5⁴ courses) are smooth and uniform, the remaining small "used" brick in the south, east, and west walls are very crude. Many are black in color. Similar bricks of this color can be found in the exterior walls of the Tavern and can be accounted for by overfiring within the brick kiln.

The brick coursing occurs at regular intervals around the building with a header course laid every sixth row. Horizontal mortar joints vary between $\frac{3}{8}$ " to $\frac{3}{4}$ " wide with the majority of joints

measuring between $1/2$ " and $5/8$ " wide. The vertical mortar joints also vary considerably. Some joints are as narrow as $1/8$ " and others are up to $3/4$ " wide. The majority of joints measure about $3/8$ " in width. All of the horizontal and vertical joints were once penciled with white lead paint approximately $1/4$ " wide. The horizontal mortar joints were slightly struck at the lower edge with a steel trowel.

As mentioned before, the north wall consists of 54 courses of very smooth hard red brick, almost machine-like in surface texture. No other original building in the area seems to have this type of brick in the outer walls in such quantity. The McLean House brick are similar in size but not in texture.

Above the 54 brick courses and running completely around the building can be seen approximately 18 to 20 courses of bricks laid in a white lime mortar. This same mortar appears in the interior brick joints of the jail at the same level. The most logical explanation for this variance in color, is a higher lime content in the mortar mix and a lower content of red clay in the sand aggregate. Whatever the coincidence is of the white mortar occurring with the change in brick size can not be explained, but the new oversized brick continues another additional 22 to 25 courses above the change in mortar color.

The masonry construction in the south, east, and west walls are basically the same. The lower portion of the walls consisting of the rough salvaged type of brick followed by 22 to 25 rows of new oversized brick topped again with the salvaged or "used" brick.

Masonry cornice: The cornice on the north and south walls consists of three brick courses corbeled outward from the main wall, 2-1/2", 2" and 2". Above this rests the rafter seat into which the rafters are nailed. Metal gutter spikes are driven into the masonry cornice about 6 feet on center. The original gutter rested above the spikes and were held in place by a metal band running around the gutter and attached to the gutter pin on the upper side. The present gutter and downspouts are new. The masonry gable and walls are finished with a plain 5" verge board extending from the corbeled cornice up to the chimney stem.

B. Fenestration

The window and door openings occur only in the north and south walls of the jail. The openings are symmetrically placed in both walls. Where the north wall has nine openings, the south wall has only seven, the difference in openings occurring where two additional windows appear in the hallway on the second and third floors.

Basically, the window openings are identical in size and location on each floor, however, there is a difference in the size of the masonry openings from floor to floor. There is also a difference in the type of window framing and a difference in the size of the window grillage used on the second and third floors. The difference occurring where the demands of penal security dictated such changes.

It is generally accepted that the two rooms on the first floor were originally intended to be quarters for the jailer. Obviously, it was felt that there was no need to protect the jailer from outside interference in the execution of his duties, hence the first floor window openings were not barred. These openings have no stone lintels or jambs. The first floor door and window openings, including the hallway windows on the second and third floors, were framed with wood.

The masonry opening of the first floor windows 6/6 lights with 10" x 12" glass, measure 3'-3-1/2" x 5'-2"; the second floor cell room windows, 6/6 lights with 8" x 10" glass, measure 2'-10" x 4'-1", while the hallway window second floor measures 2'-8" x 4'-11". The difference in opening size of the masonry accounted for by using a wooden window frame and sill in the hallway and a 5" thick stone lintel and sill in the window openings of the east and west cell rooms.

On the third floor, the masonry window opening of the hallway, 6/6 lights with 8" x 10" glass, measure 2'-6-1/2" x 4'-11", while in the cell rooms, east and west, with the 5" stone lintel and sill, the masonry opening measures 2'-6-1/2" x 4'-1". Thus it can be seen that the window sizes decrease in both width and height from the first floor to the third floor.

The masonry opening of the north door, 3'-9-1/2" x 8'-2", is wider and higher than the south door, 3'-4" x 6'-3", the difference occurring in the north opening where a four light, 9" x 10-1/4" glass transom was framed over the door. The original four panel doors vary as a result of the variation in opening sizes; the north door measures 1-3/4" x 3'-5-1/2" x 6'-6"; the south door measures 1-3/4" x 2'-10-1/2" x 6'-1". The north door has a stone sill (presently below a fill grade) and the south door a brick sill. Set within the brickwork of the inner walls immediately above the door frames (this also occurs above the first floor window frames and second and third floor hallway window frames) is a wood lintel supporting the brickwork above.

Further study of the accompanying illustrations and drawings found in the appendix will show other minor details omitted in the foregoing text.

C. Roof

The existing roof is one put on in the mid-1950's. It is a standing seam metal roof composed of short interlocking sections about 18" wide and 27" long, painted black. The edges are crimped over the verge boards and at the ridge of the roof, the edge is turned up about 1".

D. First Floor

a. Hallway

The first floor contains a central hallway, 8'-0" x 17'-5", with a room on each side. In the southeast corner of the hallway is an enclosed stairway, 3'-4" wide with 13'-8" risers. The treads consist of four winder treads starting at the base followed by eight 11-1/2" rectangular treads running along the east wall to the second floor. A board and batten door (currently removed and stored on the third floor) was hung above the first riser, 8" off the floor. Under the stairway is a closet, formed by the vertical, random width beaded boards, accessible by opening a board and batten door on the north end. With the exception of the vertical boards enclosing the stairway, the remainder of the hall wall and ceiling areas were once plastered.

Part of the original brick floor is intact. It consists of brick laid on edge with running bond, the 7-1/2" dimension of the brick running longitudinal with the hallway and

then turned crosswise of the hallway at each end. No mortar was used between the joints.

b. East Room

The east room measures 13'-5-1/2" x 17'-5" with a (varying) ceiling height of 8'-4". An original four panel door, 1-1/4" x 35-1/4" x 6'-5-1/2", is located near the northeast corner giving access into the room from the hallway. The door still retains its original cast iron butt hinges, 2-3/4" x 4", but the original lock is gone. In the center of the north and south walls, is a double hung window of a recent vintage.

A fireplace breast, 6'-1-1/2" wide, located in the center of the east end wall, projects into the room 12" and forms a ledge 5'-10" above the floor. The fireplace opening in the room is 34" x 34" and 16" in depth. The present brick hearth is not original.

The floor boards are original, Virginia pine, random width, 4" to 6-1/4" full length, running east and west of the room. They are face nailed with a finish cut nail 24" apart. A baseboard, 1-1/4" x 6-1/2" is nailed above the floor boards and runs continuous around the room stopping at the door and chimney breast.

It is possible to examine the ceiling joist of the first floor since the lath and plaster is gone (1940). The joists are of local pine, circular sawn, 3" x 10", 7" on centers. Let into

the joists on the upper side are iron bars, 1/2" thick, 2-1/2" wide on 9-1/4" centers. The walls and ceilings of the room, including the fireplace breast, were once plastered over the brickwork. There was no mantel around the fireplace opening.

c. West Room

The west room, 13'-5-1/2" x 17'-5", in many respects is identical to the east room. It is separated from the hallway by a brick partition 1'-4" in thickness. The doorway leading from the hallway to the west room is not opposite the door to the east room (due to the stairway) but more nearly centered in the room. The size and location of the window openings are similar to the east room, one window centered in the north and south walls with the window sill 2'-3" above the first floor. The four panel door is original and has its original hinges. The door lock, however, is modern.

The west room has a fireplace breast, 6'-0-1/2" wide and 5'-10" high, centered in the west wall and projecting into the room 12 inches. The fireplace opening, 3'-0" x 3'-6-1/2" and 16" deep, is larger than the east room. The brick hearth is not original.

Again we can examine the ceiling joists. These are identical to the east room, 3" x 10" rough, circular sawn, set 7" on centers. Let into the joist just under the second floor are iron bars, 1/2" thick, 2-1/2" wide on 9-1/2" centers.

The floor is the original pine boards, T & G, 4-3/4" to 6-3/8" wide, full length of the room running east to west, face nailed with common cut nails 2 1/4" apart. A plain wooden baseboard, 1-1/4" x 5-1/2", runs continuous around the room. The interior door and window trim, like the east room, is original. The trim and baseboard are not painted. The wall and ceiling surfaces were once plastered. (See Appendix for illustrations showing the original conditions).

E. Second Floor

a. Hallway

The second floor hallway varies in width from 7'-6" on the north end to 7'-11" at the south end. The length is the same as the first floor, 17'-5"; the ceiling height is 7'-11". Underneath, the floor joists, 3" x 10", span across the hallway on varying spacing, 1'-9" to 2'-0" on centers. This permitted the floor boards (of single thickness) 1-1/8" x 6-1/4" to be placed parallel to the long axis of the hallway. A wood baseboard, 7/8" x 8-1/2" runs around the hallway with the exception of the stairway and two door openings. The floor boards do not appear to be the original judging from the marks on the lower side although the floor could have been altered using the same material.

The stairway to the third floor rises above the lower stairway in the northeast corner. Two treads project beyond the

nominal 3'-7" width of the stairway. At the top of the third riser is a board and batten door, 2'-4" x 5'-6", which forms part of the enclosed stairway consisting of random width beaded vertical boards. A small stair landing occurs 2'-6-1/2" above the floor, immediately behind the board and batten door. An additional nine risers, 8-3/4" high and 8-11-1/2" treads continue from the platform in a straight run against the east wall to the third floor.

On each side of the second floor hallway is a jail cell, entered by passing through two doors, an outer door of wood and an inner door of iron bars. The outer door opens into the hallway and swings into the stairwell. The original plaster finish of the stairway soffit prevented the door from swinging to its open position, hence the door stood ajar over the stairway, effectively blocking its use. It can be assumed from this that the outer door was always kept closed and locked.

The outer wooden doors to each cell are almost identical. The east door measures 2'-1/8" x 2'-10" x 6'-4" and is constructed of two thicknesses of T & G beaded boards; the outer boards running horizontally and the inner boards running vertically. A diamond shaped grid of one inch squares was scribed into the face of the door by the builder. This design is further accentuated by nailing at each line juncture alternating sizes of 12d and 4d common cut nails. On the back side, the 12d nails were of sufficient

length to be double clinched. Opposite each 4d nail on the front face, a 4d nail was driven on the back side.

The original pair of cast iron hinges, 5" x 5-1/2", still support the door. The original lock keeper and an original staple is still intact. The staple was used to secure the inner metal door by passing a chain attached to the inner door through a notch in the wooden door and hooking it over the staple. A padlock was used to secure the chain and staple.

The original lock is gone but the outline of its dimensions can be seen. It is identical in size to the one remaining lock kept on display in the Clover Hill Tavern. The lock measures 2-1/2" x 13" x 9". In the course of his research on the County Jail, Haskett discovered the maker's name on the reverse side of the lock. It was made in Lynchburg, Virginia, by G. S. Duiguid, who operated a foundry between 1839 and 1868. The jail was equipped with four such locks on the second and third floors. There is a remote possibility they were purchased for use in the jail of 1846.

The inner cell door swings into the room and consists of an iron bar grillage, 1/2" x 1-1/2", 7-1/4" x 7-3/4" centers, forming a door 2'-7-1/2" x 5'-11" approximately the width of the stone masonry opening. The door is suspended by metal hinges bolted to the grille work and set onto iron pintles. The pintles in turn run through a drilled hole in the stone door jamb and held secure

on the back side with a nut. Three $3/4$ " dowel pins project $3/4$ " beyond the stone jamb to form a stop for the metal door. As previously stated, the metal door was held fast by an attached chain running through a notch in the wooden door and slipping over a staple secured by a padlock.

b. East Room

The two cell rooms on the second floor in their existing condition, that is, without the plaster on the walls and ceilings, offer the visitor the most interesting visual aspect of the jail. These cells represent what we today term maximum security. The wall surfaces are covered with a grid pattern of iron bars, $1/2$ " x $1-1/2$ " set on 8" x 8" centers, floor to ceiling. Rivets hold the bars together at each intersection. Immediately in front of the brick work of the flue, five additional vertical bars, $1/2$ " x $2-1/2$ ", were placed to protect the thin wall. Whether the use of stoves is original to the jail is hard to ascertain. Two stove pipe holes, up 5'-9" and 6'-4" from the floor, were punched through the brick work about midway in the east wall.

Overhead, the exposed ceiling joists, 3" x 10" set 7" on centers have an identical pattern as those on the first floor. Let into the upper part of the joists are iron bars $1/2$ " x $1-1/2$ " spaced 8" on centers, running east and west. (It should be noted the ceiling straps in this room vary in width from the other three rooms having this feature).

The floor consists of two layers of boards running perpendicular to each other. The exposed floor boards are T & G, of uniform width, 5-1/2" and lengths alternating every second row between 5'-11 and 11'-5"; 11'-9-1/2" and 5'-6-1/2". The floor boards are 1-3/4" thick, face nailed with common cut nails, two nails per joist. The heads of the nails are unusually large measuring 5/16" x 3/8" across the top.

One four inch iron ring is anchored to the floor for further security measures within the cell.

The masonry window openings in both cells on the second floor are similar in size and have identical grille work. Compared with the third floor window grillage, the second floor again for maximum security measures, has grille work made from metal bars of a larger cross-sectional area. The inner wall grid work of metal bars are as previously described. In both rooms, the grillage runs past the window openings and is cut at top and bottom, then rebolted to permit access to the 6/6, 8" x 10" double hung window sash. Walker concludes (page 64) that the four center vertical grilles on the second floor appear warped from fire and quite probably were salvaged from the jail of 1846.

c. West Room

The west room is very similar to the east room, 13'-5-1/2" x 17'-5". The one major exception is the location of the

doorway into the cell which is like the east room below, set more nearly in the center of the room. The cell is separated from the hallway by a solid brick partition 1'-4" thick. The door opening is framed with dressed granite stones, 6" thick and 20-1/2" wide. The four stones used for the sill, jambs and lintel are monoliths. The outer wooden door and the inner metal grille door are similar to those described in the east room.

The walls of the west room, second floor, are covered with a strap iron grid system, 1/2" x 1-1/2" set 8" on centers and riveted together. The west wall has five additional vertical iron straps over the brickwork fronting the flue. Up 4'-4" from the floor is a single stove pipe hole. The let-in ceiling straps running east and west measure 1/2" x 2-1/2" on 9" spacings. The floor is similar to the east room, double thickness, uniform widths, 5-5/8", and face nailed. The boards break in uniform lengths every alternating row. A 4" ring is bolted to the floor, formerly used for chaining prisoners.

The prisoner was never aware of the extensive measures taken by the builders to create an escape-proof building. The narrowly spaced joists and the iron wall grillage was all concealed beneath a thick layer of plaster. Nevertheless, according to historical research, and despite the security precautions taken, one jail escape was thought to have taken place in 1870 (Haskett, p. 15).

F. Third Floor

a. Hallway

The third floor hallway measures 7'-11" x 17'-5" with a ceiling height of 6'-11". It is similar to the second floor hallway with only slight modifications. One is the dimensional variation in the door locations from the hallway into the cell rooms. Another is the positioning of the ceiling joists which run parallel to the hall, placed 1'-8" on centers. The cell openings still retain their original board and batten doors on the exterior and the metal grille doors on the interior. Again the doors are similarly constructed to those on the second floor, with identical hardware used in the initial construction.

Sheet 2 of HABS drawings, shows in section the relationship of the hallways, stairways and door openings into the east rooms for all three floors. This should be studied in conjunction with the three floor plans shown.

The original finish of the hallway walls and ceiling areas was plastered with a white coat finish. Some small pieces survive from the stripping of 1940. The brick walls were plastered with a thickness of about 1/2" beginning at floor level and extending to the ceiling where a right angle was formed. No crown or bed mouldings were used throughout the jail. The baseboard, 7/8" x 8-1/2" was nailed to the wall after the plaster was applied to the brickwork.

b. East Room

The third floor cell rooms were constructed less securely than those on the second floor. Although similar in many respects, these rooms lack some of the strengthening features of the rooms below. The floor boards are single thickness, 1-3/4" T & G, running full length of the room, of random width boards, 4-3/4" to 9-3/4", and face nailed with machine made common cut nails. The room lacks the 4" iron ring found in the two second floor cells.

The wall grillage consists of iron bars, 1/2" x 1-1/2" placed on 9" centers horizontally and 7" centers vertically, joined together with a 1/2" rivet. (There were no additional protective bars placed in front of the brick flue, and there is the absence of a stove pipe hole). The ceiling joists are 3" x 10", circular sawn pine, placed on 7" centers without the let-in iron bars above. The window grilles are smaller in cross-sectional area than the second floor, and the masonry window openings are narrower on the exterior which may be due to the sizing of the opening with the width of the metal grille work. The 6/6 double hung sash remains the same size as the second floor with the additional frame width allowed by recessing the brick work for the jambs.

c. West Room

With the exception of the door location, the west room is identical to the east room. Floor boards, wall grillage, ceiling

joists, window sizes and grilles, masonry openings vary but little from room to room.

G. Attic

Today, access can be gained into the attic space between the wider spaced ceiling joists of the hallway on the third floor. The roof framing can be easily examined in the attic, but a light is required. The roof framing consists of the 3" x 10" ceiling joists, 21'-0" long, which rest upon the top course of exterior wall brick. Since the building is 20' wide, the additional 12" is gained by the three 2" corbeled brick courses that form the cornice. The ends of the joists are cut on the same slope as the roof rafters. The rafters, 3" x 4" are 24" on centers, nailed into a 7/8" x 13" pine board plate that rests upon the ceiling joists. At the ridge, each pair of rafters have a half-lapped joint held together by a 3/4" wooden peg. The roof boards are 7/8" thick and vary in width between 8" and 13-1/2". They are spaced 1/2" to 1" apart. No visible evidence suggests that shingles, wood or tin was used as a roof covering prior to the present type roof.

Not unlike the other buildings in this area, the rafters of the jail were marked in pairs with Roman numerals. In this instance, the numbers do not follow any sequence. Starting from the east end of the building, the numbering of the rafters is as follows: I - X - XIV - IIII - VIII - XI - V - II - VII - XII - VI - III - XVI - XVIII -

XIII - XXI - XIX - XVII. Numbers 9, 15 and 20 are missing. If we assume a full complement of rafters from 1 through 21, with the roof rafters starting and ending on the exterior wall line and spaced on 24" centers, we would have a building 40' long. This was the exact length of the original jail. The one identifying feature that all but discounts the rafters coming from the original jail is the circle saw marks found on them. For this part of Virginia, the introduction of the circle saw in lumber mills during 1846 seems unlikely. The accepted date for the earliest use of circular sawn lumber is 1830; however, the use of the circle saw was widely accepted after this period. The fact that other buildings in this area, such as the Plunkett-Meeks Store and House, ca. 1852, Kelly House, ca. 1856, do not contain circular sawn lumber gives further support to this theory. Further examination of the upper surfaces of the rafters and roof boards would be required to determine if they have been used previously.

V. PROPOSED WORK

A. Use Of The Building

The County Jail is one of the secondary exhibit buildings in the village area. It is one building that was not a part of the Surrender scene of April 1865. Architecturally, however, it represents a building style almost identical to the original jail of 1846, and as it has been pointed out, may even incorporate some of the building materials of the earlier jail.

In Haskett's approved Historic Structures Report, p. 1, there are provisions to be made for an interpretative exhibit within the jail, the cost of furnishings to be included in the construction appropriations. The cost or type of such an exhibit was not mentioned.

B. Architectural Recommendations

a. Fumigation

It is recommended that the building be thoroughly fumigated and the wood joists treated with a residue of pentachlorophenol. At the same time, the ground adjacent to the exterior walls should be treated for subterranean termites. The cost would run \$326.00.

b. Grading

The existing grade should be lowered on the north side to its original level. The wooden stairs fronting the north entrance would be removed when the level of the Stage Road is restored. Drain tile should be installed along the north, east and west walls and

carried underground to the south fence line.

c. Masonry

Repointing of some brick work will be required. Most of the masonry work is in good condition and will require a minimum of attention. It is recommended that the mortar joints between brick courses be penciled with a 1/4" white lead stripe. The exterior masonry walls should be waterproofed to help resist further erosion of the brick and mortar.

d. Roof

It is recommended that the existing metal roof be kept and repainted. The present gutters and downspouts be removed and replaced with new tin units fabricated similar to the original ones found in the attic of the jail. New downspout brackets will be required and additional gutter pins. Gutters should be lowered to original level.

e. First Floor

It is recommended that the first floor rooms and hallway be restored to their original conditions. Lath and plaster ceilings, plaster masonry walls; replace deteriorated brick floor in hallway; replace hardware where needed; remove and replace hearth brick.

f. Second Floor

It is recommended that the one cell room and hallway on the second floor be restored to their original condition. Leave the west cell in its present condition with the exposed iron grille work on the walls and the metal reinforced ceiling joists. Note: a small section of the stairway soffit will necessarily be left unfinished to allow the board and batten door to swing against the wall in an open position at all times.

g. Third Floor

It is recommended to keep the third floor locked to the public as in the past because of the hazardous stairway, also, this is almost an exact duplication of the second floor. An explanation of the third floor use could be achieved by placing a small descriptive card on the stairway door. It is recommended that the third floor be replastered to minimize the maintenance problems. An access door should be built into the hallway ceiling to permit inspection of the attic.

h. Hardware

It is recommended to replace all hardware that is not original with authentic reproductions.

i. Carpentry

The following need repairing: doors-sash, door-sash frames and trim, baseboard and other wooden members; build new

rear stoop, first floor; replace closet door under stairway; install handrail on winder steps, first floor stairway; build attic access door; replace hardware.

j. Painting

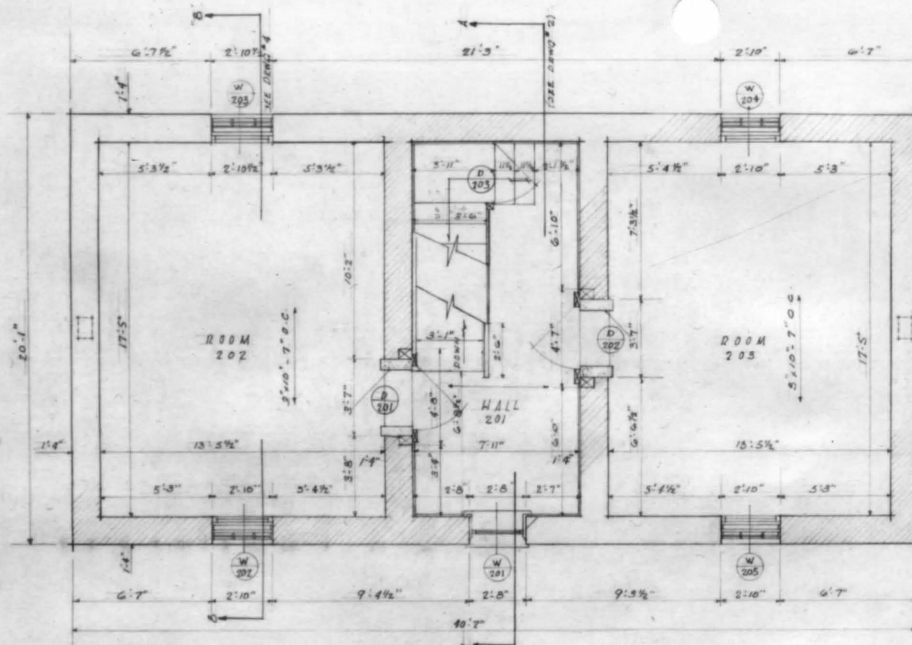
Most of the interior of the jail was whitewashed. On surfaces where there is no bodily contact, whitewash is recommended. On surfaces where bodily contact is expected, a whitewash paint is recommended.

k. Utilities

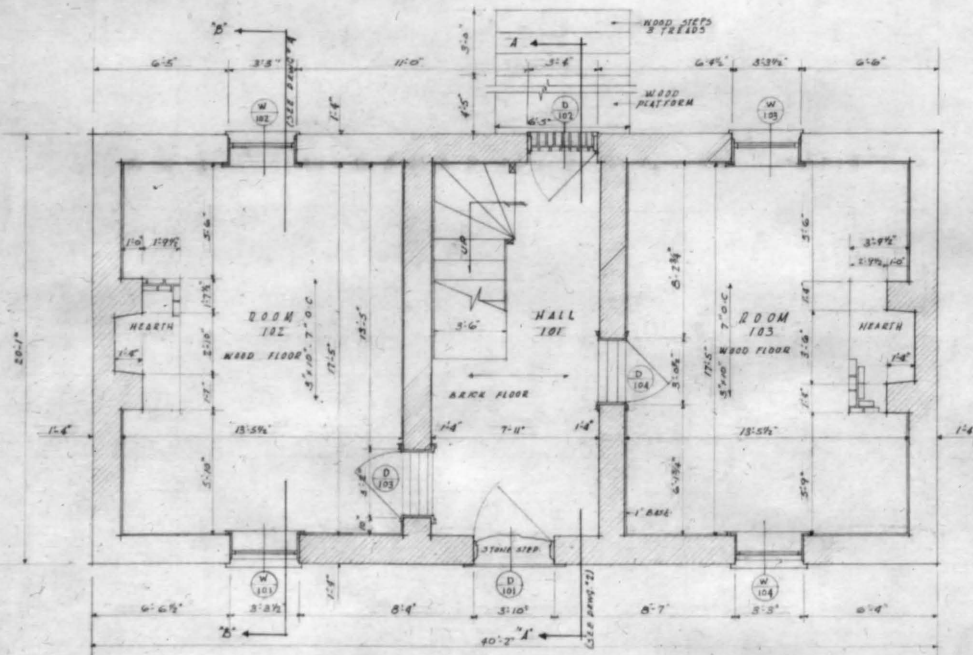
Water - none proposed.

Heat - none proposed. Two cast iron stoves would be required on the second floor cell room.

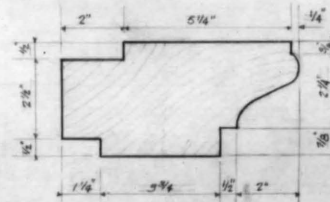
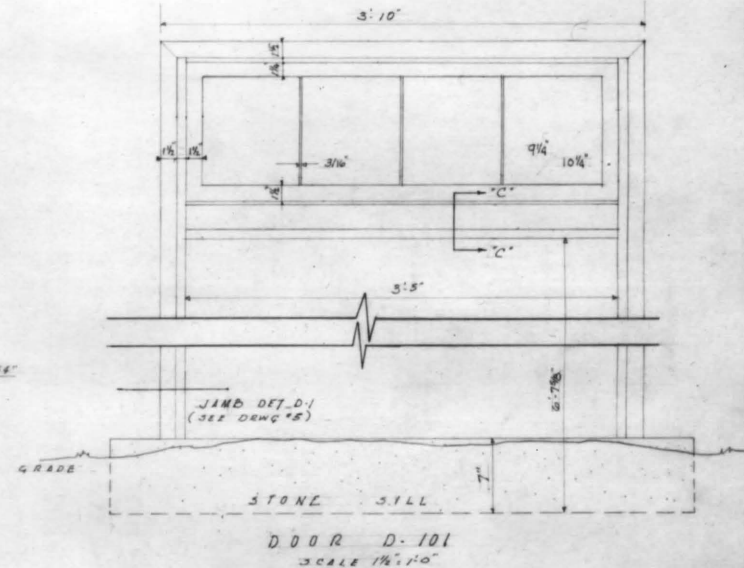
Electrical - This would be a good time to run electrical service into the first floor of the jail. The service could be conveniently located in the closet of the first floor, under the stairway. A service light and convenience outlets can be placed in this location. It is recommended that a flush mounted ceiling light be placed above the winder treads on the first floor. The switch to operate this light would be placed in the small closet on the first floor. If special exhibits required lighting on the first floor rooms, outlets could be placed in the wall at this time by chasing out a portion of the masonry work. This should be studied more and a recommendation given by the Museum Branch on their particular needs.



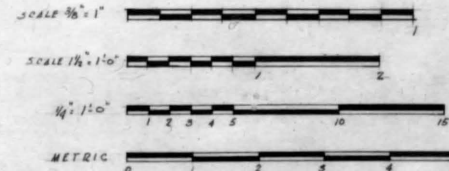
SECOND FLOOR PLAN



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



TRANSOM DETAIL
AT SECTION C-C



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
STUDENT MEASURING TEAM FOR THE
EASTERN OFFICE - DIVISION OF DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

JALH

APPOMATTOX COURT HOUSE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK
APPOMATTOX, VIRGINIA

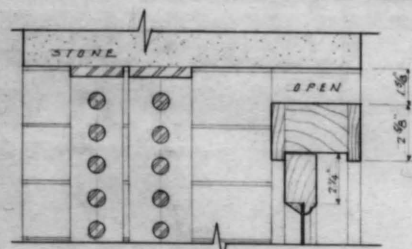
REGION
ONE

SHEET 7 OF 5

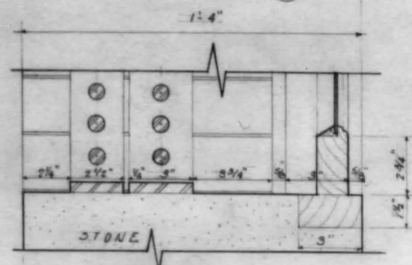
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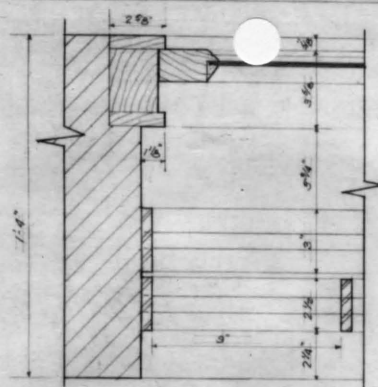
SEPT. 1956



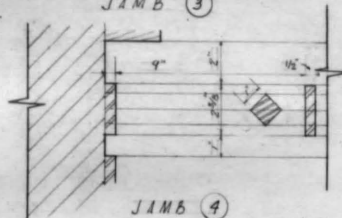
HEAD DET. 1



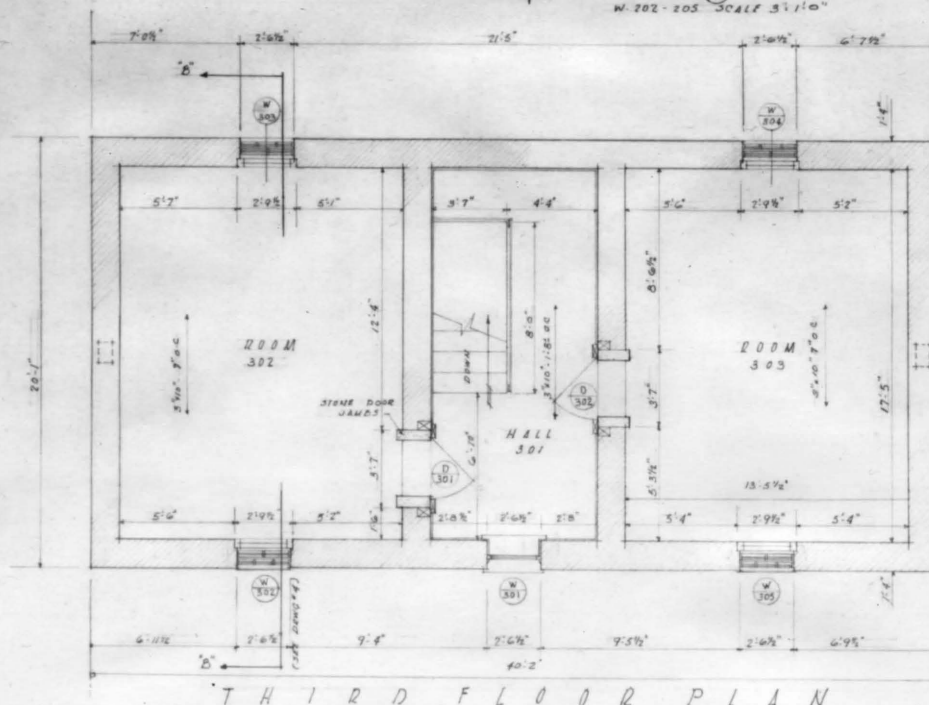
SILL DET. 2 SCALE 3/4" = 1'-0"



JAMB 3

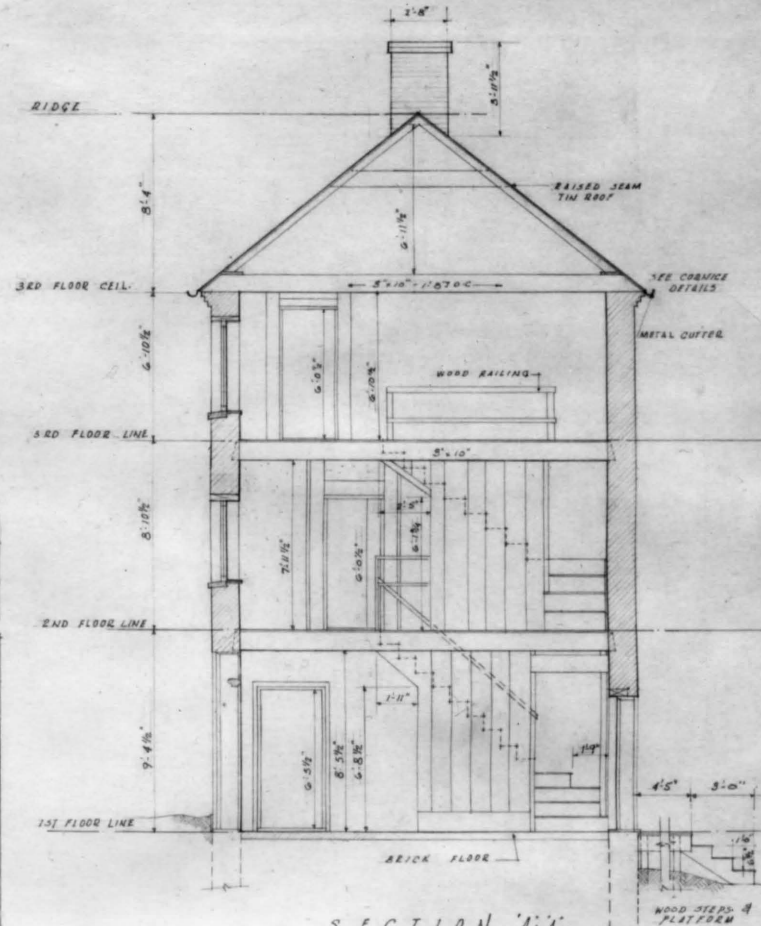


JAMB 4
W. 202-203 SCALE 3/4" = 1'-0"



THIRD FLOOR PLAN

SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"



SECTION 'A-A'

SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"

SCALE 3/4" = 1'-0"

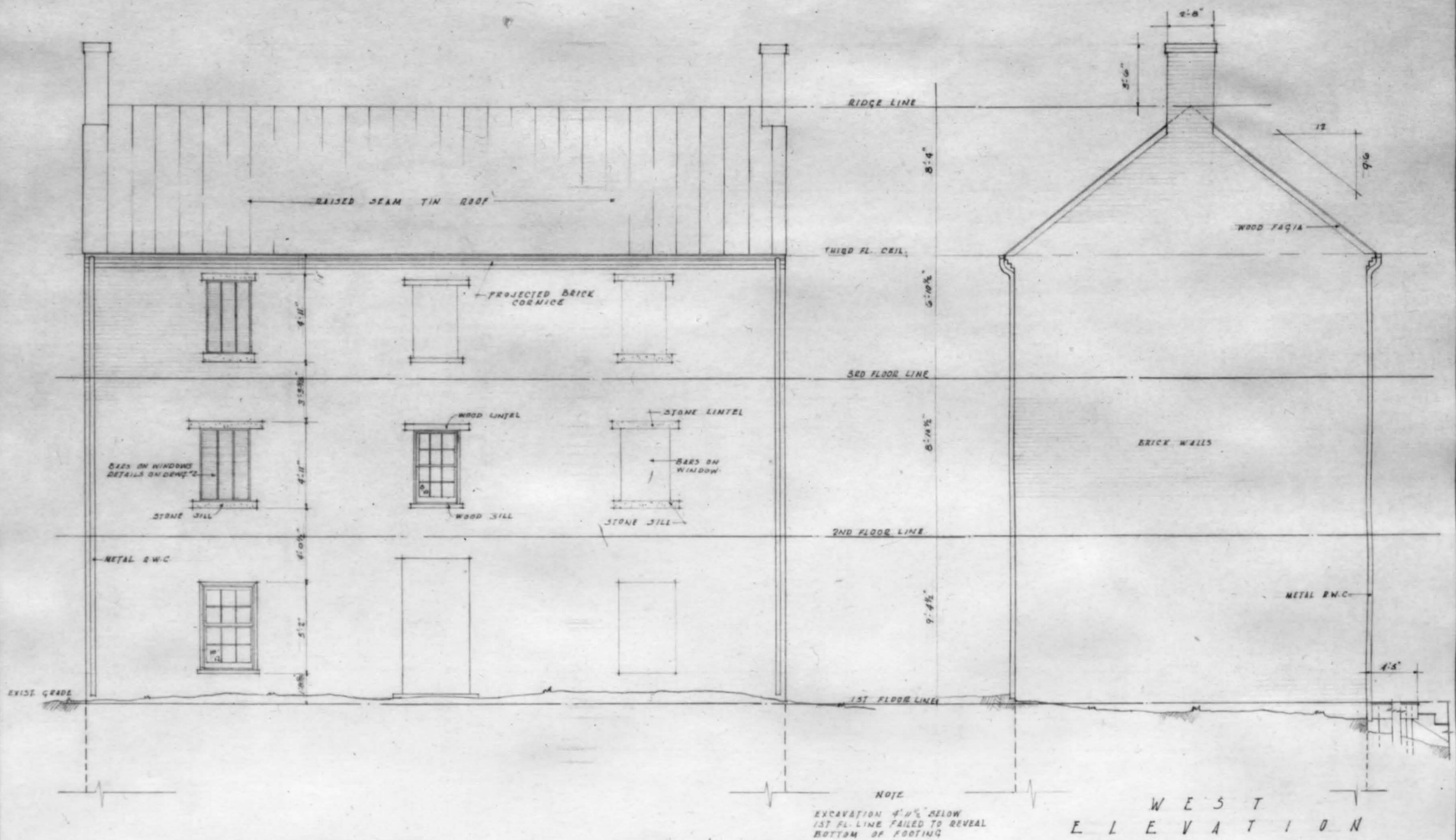
SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"

METRIC

UNITED STATES
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EASTERN OFFICE - DIVISION OF DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

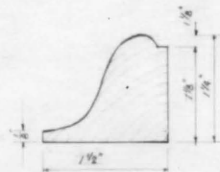
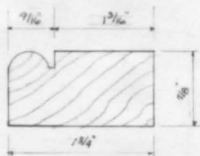
JAIL
APPOMATTOX COURT HOUSE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK
APPOMATTOX, VIRGINIA

REGION
ONE
SHEET 2 OF 3
DRAWING NO
NMHP 3037A
SEPT 1956



NORTH ELEVATION
SCALE $\frac{1}{4}" = 1'-0"$

WEST
ELEVATION
SCALE $\frac{1}{4}" = 1'-0"$



SCALE $\frac{1}{4}" = 1'-0"$

METRIC SCALE



UNITED STATES
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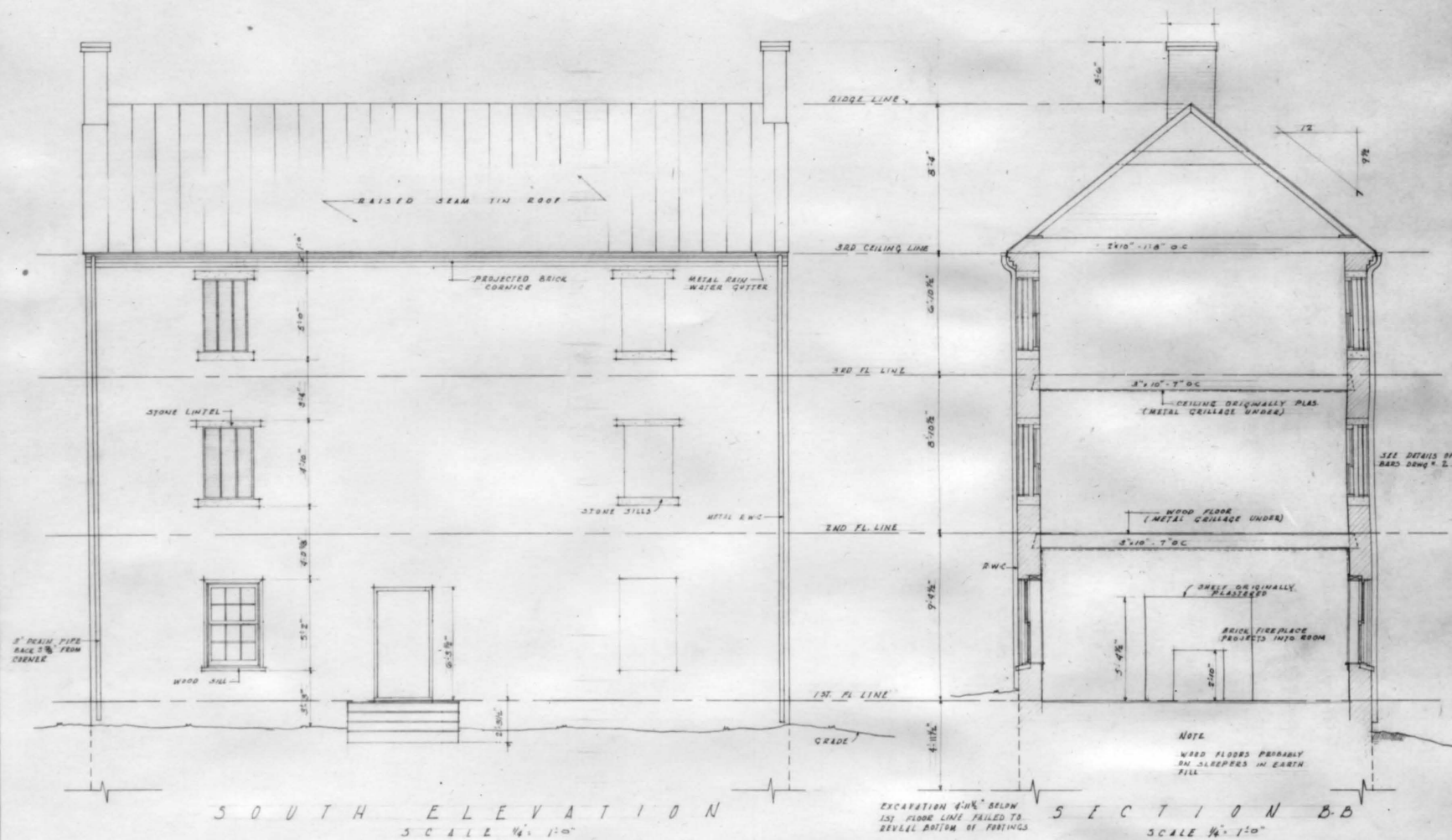
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APPOMATTOX COURT HOUSE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK
APPOMATTOX, VIRGINIA

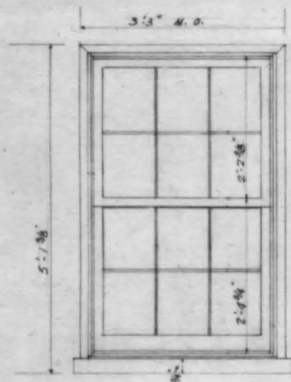
REGION
ONE

SHEET 3 OF 5

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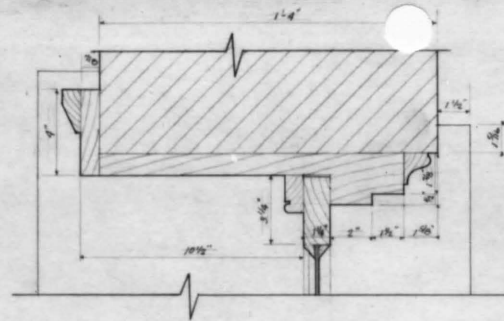


UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE STUDENT MEASURING TEAM FOR THE EASTERN OFFICE - DIVISION OF DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION JAIL APPOMATTOX COURT HOUSE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK APPOMATTOX, VIRGINIA	REGION ONE SHEET 4 OF 5 DRAWING NO NMHP 3057A SEPT. 1966



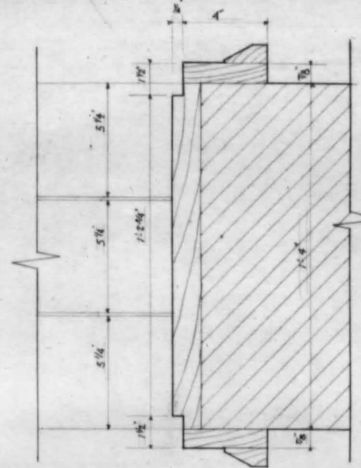
WINDOW ELEV

SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"

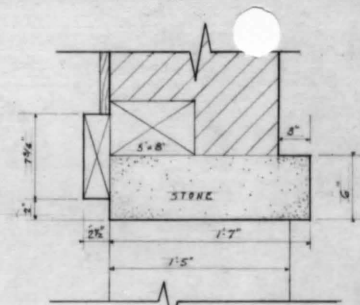


JAMB DETAIL ⑦

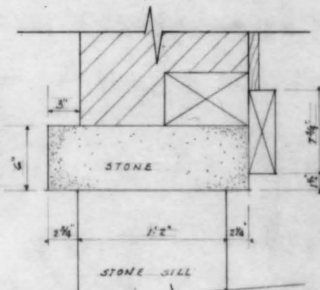
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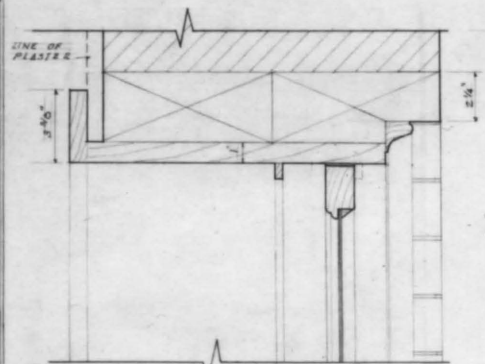
JAMB DET. ⑨



JAMB DET. ⑪

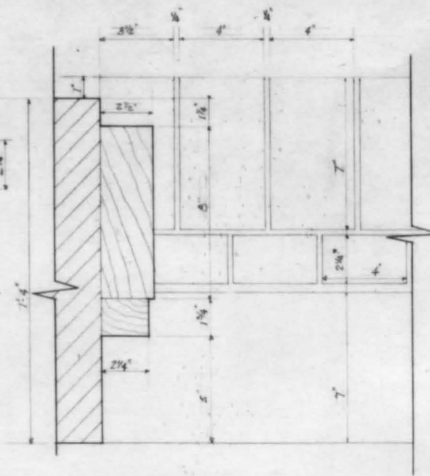


JAMB DET. ⑫



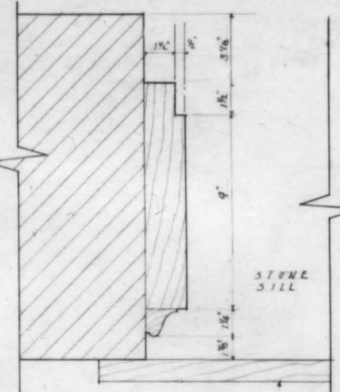
HEAD DET. ⑤

SCALE 3" = 1'-0"



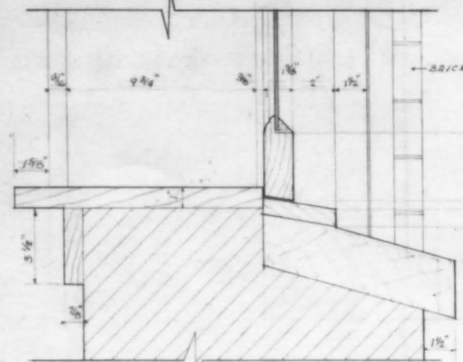
JAMB DETAIL ⑧

AT D-102



JAMB DETAIL ⑩

AT D-101



SILL DETAIL ⑥

SCALE 3" = 1'-0"

NO.	HEAD	JAMB	SILL	REMARKS
101	5	7	6	10' x 12"
102	5	7	6	
103	5	7	6	
104	5	7	6	
201	5	7	6	5' x 10" PANES
302	1	4	2	SQUARE PANE IN END DET
203	1	4	2	
204	1	4	2	
205	1	4	2	
301	5	7	6	5' x 10" PANES
302	1	3	2	
303	1	3	2	
304	1	3	2	
305	1	3	2	

NO.	WD.	HT.	JAMB TH.	REMARKS
101	6'-6 1/2"	8'-5 3/8"	1A	STONE GRADE ABOVE FL LINE
102	6'-1"	2'-10 1/2"	9	BR.
103	6'-5 1/2"	8'-0"	9	WD
104	6'-5"	2'-11 1/4"	9	WD
105	5'-4 3/8"	8'-9"	—	
201	6'-1 1/8"	2'-10"	12	STONE DOOR STUDDED WITH NAILS
202	6'-1 1/4"	2'-10"	11	STONE
203	5'-0"	2'-4"	—	WD.
301	6'-3 1/2"	2'-10"	12	STONE DOOR STUDDED WITH NAILS
302	6'-1 1/2"	2'-9 1/4"	12	STONE



ILLUSTRATION NO. 1

This is the earliest photograph in the ACHNHP files showing the second jail erected in the old Appomattox Court House Village; a general view showing the front or north wall and the east end wall. Grading of the ground to the north, back to its original slope as shown in this photograph, would tend to improve the appearance of the building.

Photo: Unknown, ca. 1913
Neg. on file ACHNHP



The old Jail. Appomattox CH. Va deserted.

ILLUSTRATION NO. 2

A view from the southwest showing the rear portion of the jail prior to stabilization work in the 1950's.

Photo: Unknown, ca. 1950
Neg. on file ACHNHP



ILLUSTRATION NO. 3

Present day view of the north wall. The north facade was the principal entrance to the jail and faced the village square. This building was constructed in the southeast corner of the original two acres of public land, probably around 1870. It replaced the first jail built across the old stage road some 100 feet to the north. Much of the stabilization work dates from 1954.

Photo by: Shearer Robinson, 1962
Neg. on file ACHNHP



ILLUSTRATION NO. 4

West elevation of the jail.

Photo by: Shearer Robinson, 1962
Neg. on file ACHNHP



ILLUSTRATION NO. 5

A view looking south into the hallway, first floor. Taken prior to stabilization work of the early 1940's in which the lath and plaster was removed from the walls and ceiling.

Photo by: Walter H. Sheffield, Feb. 1941
Neg. on file ACHNHP



ILLUSTRATION NO.6

West room, first floor, looking northeast.

The original door and window frames with architraves, two four panel doors, the floor boards and plaster work all show in this photograph.

The plaster was removed in 1941.

Photo by: Walter H. Sheffield, Feb. 1941
Neg. on file ACHNHP



ILLUSTRATION NO. 7

West room, first floor, looking southwest. What may be considered the original appearance of the ca. 1870 jail can be seen in this view, prior to work in 1941 and the eventual removal of all the lath and plaster.

Photo by: Walter H. Sheffield, Feb. 1941
Neg. on file ACHNHP



ILLUSTRATION NO. 8

West cell, second floor, southeast view of prestabilization work. The second floor has two thicknesses of 1-3/4" flooring running at right angles with each other.

Notice the 4" steel ring in the floor used for securing prisoners.

Photo by: Walter H. Sheffield, Feb. 1941
Neg. on file ACHNHP

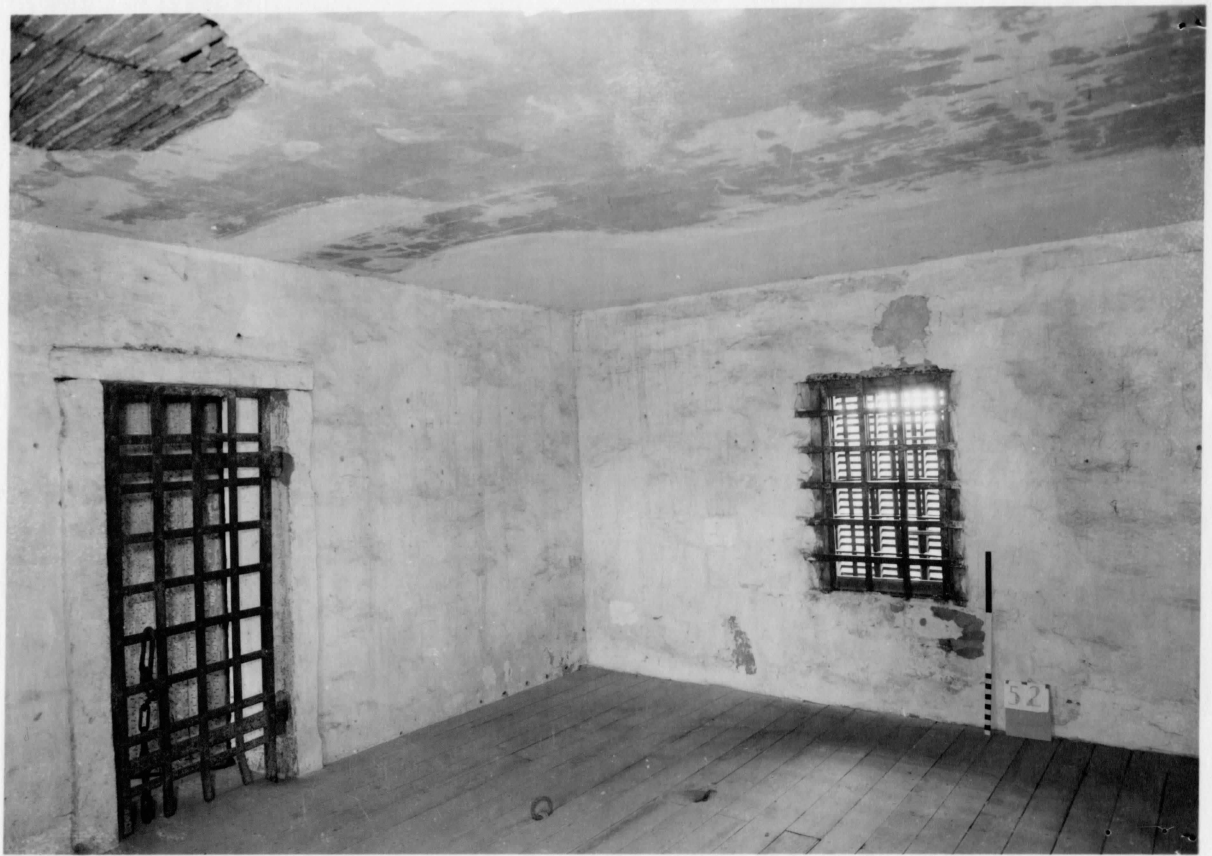


ILLUSTRATION NO. 9

A good study photograph showing the original plaster finish in the second and third floor cell rooms. Notice the absence of wooden baseboards and window trim. West cell, second floor.

Photo by: Walter H. Sheffield, Feb. 1941
Neg. on file ACHNHP



ILLUSTRATION NO. 10

The removal of all the original plaster was done by the C.C.C. in 1941. This in effect exposed the most interesting building features of the structure, the metal grillage on both wall and ceiling surfaces and the size and spacing of the ceiling joists.

Photo by: Walter H. Sheffield, Feb. 1941
Neg. in file ACHNHP

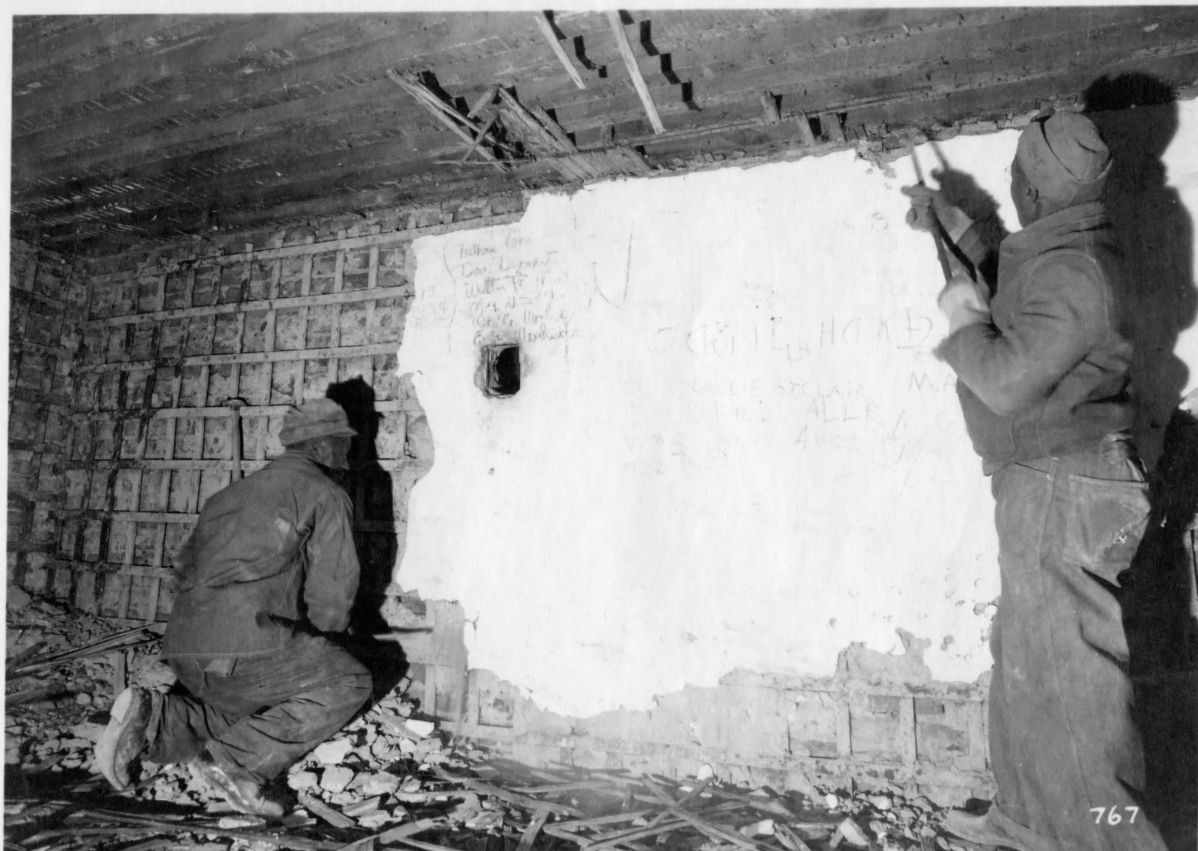


ILLUSTRATION NO. 11

A present day view of the interior cell rooms on the second and third floors. Looking at the east cell, second floor, looking northwest.

Photo by: Shearer Robinson, 1962
Neg. on file ACHNHP



ILLUSTRATION NO. 12

All four cell rooms were equipped with an outer board and batten door hung on a wooden frame, and an inner metal grille door mounted to granite door jambs. Looking into the east cell from the hallway, third floor.

Photo by: Shearer Robinson, 1962
Copy Neg. No. EODC

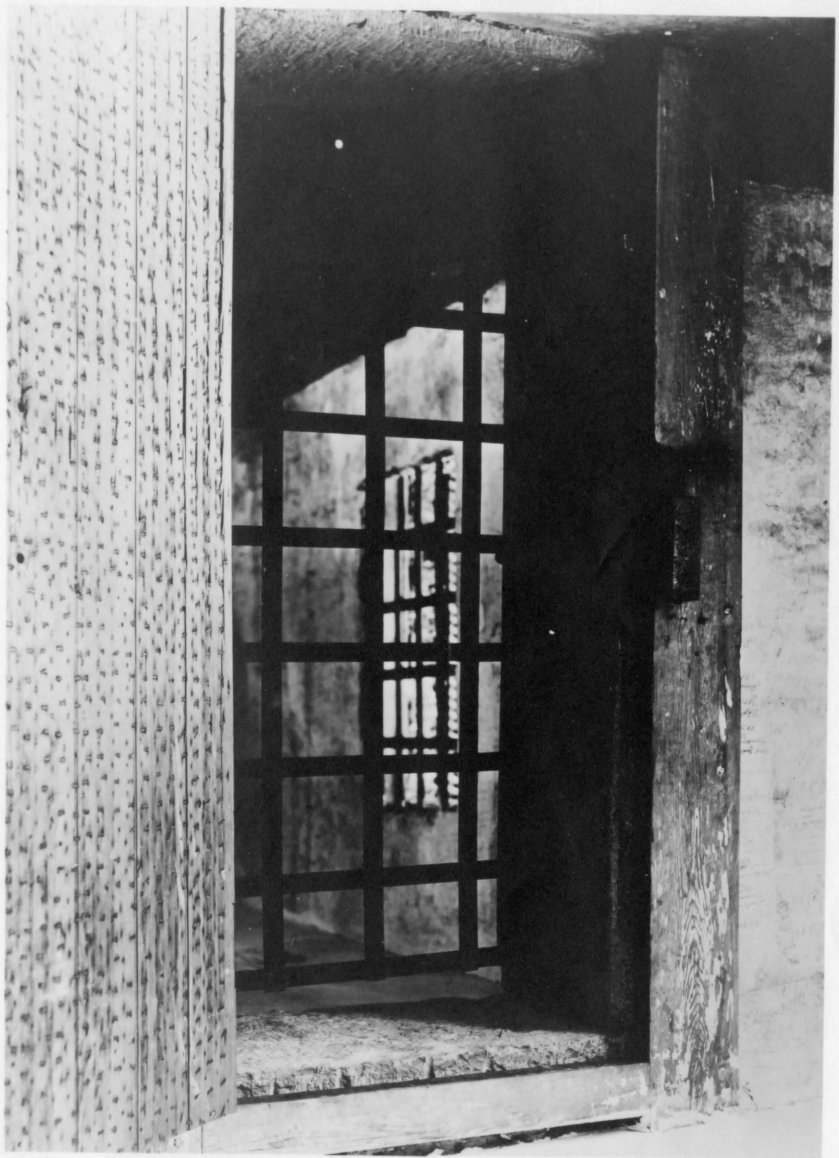


ILLUSTRATION NO. 13

The close spacing of the joists @ 7" o.c., the additional metal grillage above the joists and a double thickness floor provided the needed measure of safety for retaining prisoners in the old Appomattox jail. View looking upward from the first floor, in the east room.

Photo by: Shearer Robinson, 1962
Neg. on file ACHNHP



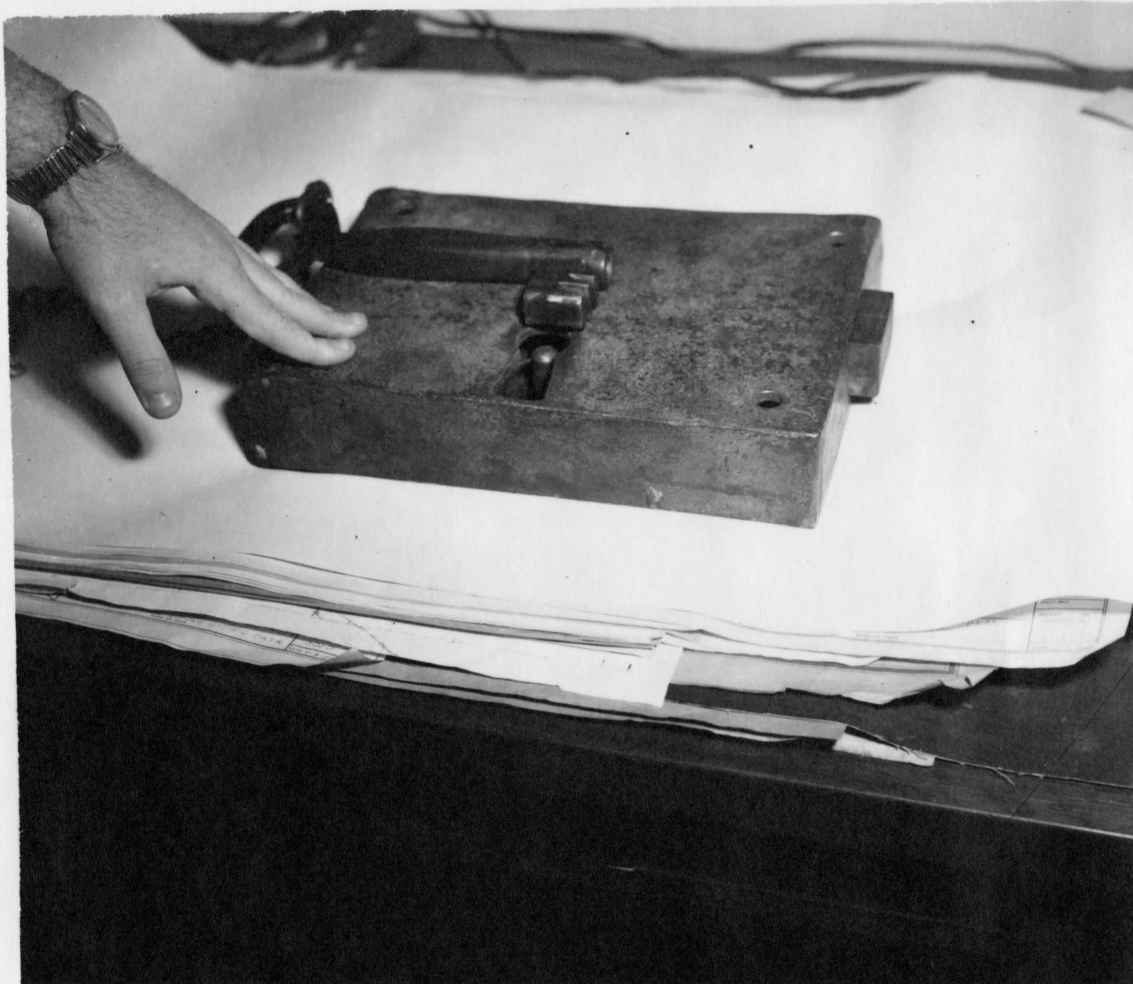


ILLUSTRATION NO. 14

One of the four original cast iron locks remaining from the initial jail construction, removed and now on display at the Clover Hill Tavern, ACHNHP. This lock was mounted to the outer side of the board and batten door.

Photo by: Shearer Robinson, 1962
Neg. on file ACHNHP