NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90

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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1072

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 for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name JEFFERSON COUNTY JAIL

other names/site number Old Jefferson County Jail; Monticello Jail FMSF#JE1085

2. Location

street & number 380 West Dogwood Street N/A ☐ not for publication

city or town Monticello N/A ☐ vicinity

state Florida code FL county Jefferson code 065 zip code 32344

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Barbara E. Mattick / DSHPO 11/22/2013
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources, Bureau of Historic Preservation
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:

☒ entered in the National Register
☐ See continuation sheet
☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ removed from the National Register.
☐ other, (explain)

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

1/15/2014

Jefferson County Jail
Name of Property

Jefferson Co., FL
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☐ private
- ☒ public-local
- ☐ public-State
- ☐ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- ☒ buildings
- ☐ district
- ☐ site
- ☐ structure
- ☐ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include any previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	2	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	2	total

Name of related multiple property listings
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

"N/A"

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT: Correctional Facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT: Government Offices

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Masonry Vernacular

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK
walls BRICK
roof ASPHALT
other STEEL

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

☒ **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
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

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

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL HISTORY
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1909-1963

Significant Dates

1909
1940

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

1909-Southern Structural Steel Company
1940-Architect: Rogers, James Gamble, II

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 36) 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

Name of Repository

#

Jefferson County Jail
Name of Property

Jefferson Co., FL
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.459 acres

UTM References
(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	17	224425	3382804
2			
3			
4			

☐ 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 Sawnor, Julie/Robert O. Jones, Historic Preservationist

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date November 2013

street & number 500 South Bronough Street telephone 850-245-6333

city or town Tallahassee state FL zip code 32399-0250

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 FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

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

name Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners: attn: Kirk Reams

street & number Courthouse Room 10 telephone 850-342-0213 x232

city or town Monticello state Florida zip code 32344

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and amend listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

SUMMARY

The Historic Jefferson County Jail faces south at 380 West Dogwood Street in Monticello, Florida, and was constructed in 1909, with alterations in 1940 and 1960. It is a good example of a Masonry Vernacular building type to serve as a jail. The brick jail with an irregular footprint has two stories and a basement, and a gable-on-hip roof. The main two-story building block has a "T" foot print, and a smaller rectangular two-story building to the north was built to house women and children. The 1960 one-story addition fronts onto West Dogwood Street and connects to the 1909 block with an enclosed brick hyphen.

The first floor consists of living quarters for the sheriff or deputy and his family, and the second floor houses freestanding steel cages and other areas for the inmates. This was a typical design for small jails in the turn-of-the-century South.[1]

SETTING

The Jefferson County Jail is located in the small town of Monticello, Florida, the county's seat of government, two blocks northwest from the County Courthouse and the center of the town. Monticello, with a population of about 3,000 residents, is twenty-three miles east of Tallahassee, in the Florida Panhandle. It is named after the home of Thomas Jefferson, the third president of the United States. Jefferson County is known as the "Keystone County" because it is the only county in Florida that extends all the way from the Georgia border to the Gulf of Mexico. It is also the mid-point between the port cities of Pensacola and Jacksonville. This rural county has a pastoral landscape, interrupted by Lake Miccosukee; the Wacissa, Aucilla, and St. Marks Rivers; and ponds.[2]

The jail faces south on West Dogwood Street on a site one block north of West Washington Street, which is a main east/west thoroughfare into the town center. The building is at the corner of West Dogwood Street and Water Street. The jail is two blocks west of the Monticello Historic District, which was listed in the National Register in 1977.

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[1] Edward A. Blackburn, Jr., *Wanted: Historic County Jails of Texas* (College Station, TX: Texas A&M University Press, 2006), 8.
[2] Jefferson County, "About Jefferson County," *Jefferson: The Keystone County,* accessed April 12, 2013, http://www.jeffersoncountyfl.gov/p/about-jefferson.

The buildings in the district date from the mid-nineteenth century to the early twentieth century and are predominantly in Classical Revival, Queen Anne, and Frame Vernacular styles.[3] Typical to turn-of-the-century design and planning, the Jefferson County Jail was constructed close to the Court House, which coincidentally was re-built the same year as the jail.[4] The jail today faces a sprawling grassy field rimmed by mostly brick masonry structures and wood frame buildings to a lesser extent. It shares its lot with the single story Hiram Lodge building to the east and an outcropping of trees to the north. According to the 1922 Sanborn Map of Monticello, the jail lot used to be shared by a one-story frame building with a shingle roof, which could have been a carport for the jail.[5]

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Exterior

The 1909 Jefferson County Jail is constructed out of brick with continuous brick foundations. On each elevation of the original "T" footprint building, the brickwork has been laid in different patterns. The roof of the main building consists of a front gable-on-hip sheet metal roof. The roof of the eastern addition is a hip roof.

The north, main elevation fronting onto Dogwood Street consists of the 1909 two-story main block on the west, a 1960 one-story eastern block to the east, and a brick enclosed hyphen joining the two building blocks (Photo #1). The one story hyphen and eastern block have running bond brick work, and the block has one large window filled with three steel double-casement sashes, and further to the east is a window filled with two steel double-casement sashes (Photo #2). The hyphen has a single door. The two-story western block has four windows and a single door accessed from three concrete steps on the first story, and three single windows in the second story (Photo #3). The door has a small wooden awning. The first story has protruding rows of stretcher bricks that form decorative bands across the elevation. Another design element includes two courses of

[3]Florida Department of State Division of Historical Resources, "Historical Reports: Florida History Through Its Places: Jefferson County," last modified 2013, http://www.flheritage.com/facts/reports/places/index.cfm?fuseaction=ListAreas&county=Jefferson.
[4] Blackburn, *Wanted,* 8.
[5] Sanborn Map Company, *Fire Insurance Map of Monticello, Jefferson County, Florida* (New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1922).

soldier brickwork that extend across the whole building near its eaves. These soldier rows are separated by four rows of alternating stretcher and header rows. Also noteworthy are the alternating pairs of sailor and shiner bricks that surround the second story windows giving a checkerboard effect. The most frequently used windows on the basement and first story levels of the main building are recent 2/2 double-hung new aluminum sashes. These windows match the configuration of the mid-twentieth century sashes. They have brick lintels, concrete sills if they are on the basement level, and protruding header brickwork sills if they are on the first floor level. The second story, which housed prisoners, has 1/1 sash windows with steel grating covering them from the inside. In addition, they all have white painted steel frames, a row of protruding header bricks for a sill, and a row of soldier bricks across the top acting as a lintel.

The east elevation of the main block has a short extension at the southwest corner, and shows the basement of the main jail building (Photo #4). On the north extension is the main entrance into the jail that leads to the booking room inside. Concrete stairs lead to a white wood door with four glazed sections on the upper portion and two horizontal panels on the bottom section. A prominent feature of this entrance includes a flat semi-circular concrete awning above the door. The second story consists of six evenly spaced steel jail windows, with the two on the far right having the sailor brickwork. The view is partially blocked by a metal non-historic carport. On the basement level is a wood door with glazed panels covered in metal meshing on the upper portion. The door is situated between two side-light fixed windows, each with four glazed panels and metal frames. Concrete steps with a metal railing lead down to this basement entrance. The first story of the west elevation includes four double hung sash windows, with the second window being filled with a pair of sashes.

The south elevation of the jail consists of the three-story portion of the main jail block, the two-story westerly addition, and the hyphen and concrete stairs that joins the two (Photo #5). The main jail block that has two external square brick chimneys. At the basement level is a single central door placed between the chimneys (Photo #6). On either side of the chimneys are single windows. On the second level are three single windows aligned with the windows and door on the basement level. The upper level has one window between the chimneys. Being the back of the jail, the brickwork on this elevation is very plain and unornamented. The hyphen between the two building blocks is a narrow and

brick, with a window (Photo #7). Several rises of concrete steps between the blocks give access from the lower elevation of the property to the higher Dogwood Street level. Steps provide access to a single door in the western side of the original jail block at the first-story level. The two-story westerly block has a single door centrally located on what is a basement level (Photo #5). Flanking the door are two windows that are filled with pairs of steel double-casement sashes. Identical windows are positioned above these on the first-story, and above the door is a smaller window filled with one steel double-casement sash.

The west elevation of the westerly building block contains two windows (Photo #8). The window to the north has a steel double-casement sash, and to the south has a 1/1 double-hung sash. The west elevation of the original eastern building block contains four windows at the basement level with recent 2/2 double-hung sashes (Photo #9). The first-story contains one 2/2 double-hung sash window, a narrow fixed window, and a window with a three-section steel casement sash. The single door mentioned in conjunction with the concrete steps is adjacent to this three-section sash. The second-story has four windows with screens and bars.

Interior

The floors and ceilings inside the jail are poured concrete. Lumber was originally used as a support for the concrete while drying, and when it was removed, it left imprints in the concrete, making it look like wood (Photo #10). All interior walls on the basement and second floor are exposed brick, but the first floor brick walls have been covered in dry wall and paint.

The basement (Photo #11) has three large rooms used for storage, with a central hall accessed from the door at the south end. The jail's furnace is located in a southeast corner room. When laundry machines were located on the floor during the 1950s, the basement was little utilized. The furnace was initially powered by coal.

The first floor of the jail was a residential apartment space. The main entrance on the east side of the building that leads to the booking room (Photo #12) where newly arrested persons were processed before going upstairs to the cells. This room has a tiny holding cell in the northwest corner (Photo #13), and built-in cabinets and shelving underneath the

staircase in the northeast corner. Historically, this room only would have contained a desk, table, and filing cabinet. A set of steep steel stairs leads up to the cell area. The stairs (Photo #14) are so steep that inmates with leg shackles would have had to walk up them sideways, making their progression slow to avoid any escape situations. The door on the west end leads to the living room (Photo #15). The entrance on the front, north elevation, of the building leads to this room as well. The south end of the living room leads to the kitchen, where the wife of the jailor and sometimes an extra cook would prepare food for both the jailor and for the inmates. A central hallway opens out from the southeast corner of the kitchen and southwest corner of the dining room (Photo #16). Facing south, the hallway leads to two bedrooms on the left-hand side and a bathroom (Photo #17), storage closet, and a two-closet bedroom on the right (Photo #18). Currently, two bedrooms and the dining room are being converted into the display areas of the Historic Jefferson County Jail Museum. The 1960 wing of the building contains additional living space and is currently being used as an office for the Jefferson County Supervisor of Elections.

In the second floor jail area, a small hallway is located in the northeast portion of this floor, leading to a linen closet, infirmary, and bathroom (Photo #19) on the east. The west portion of the hallway is a double cellblock where white male prisoners were held. These cells (Photo #20) consist of two freestanding steel cages with double bunks, a toilet, and a sink. A metal built-in shower occupies the southeast end of the room. One notable historic feature about this room is evidence of escape attempts. The mortar around one of the exterior wall bricks has been chipped away, and the brickwork supporting one of the steel bars over the window has been mutilated (Photo #21). The main cellblock, also known as the "bull-pen," occupies the rest of the floor. This area is reached via a steel barred door. During the Jim Crow era, this larger holding area held black males, keeping them separate from the white inmates and women. A large freestanding steel cage built by Southern Structural Steel Company dominates this main room (Photo #22). The inside of the cage is divided into six individual cells (three on each side) with a toilet and bunks in each of them. Two sinks are located at the end of the cage row. The interlocking bar grating along with the lever locking mechanism (Photo #23) that controls the opening and closing of cell doors are turn-of-the-century patented inventions from Southern Structural Steel. These patented mechanisms marked the best of jail innovation and technology at the time the jail was constructed. Other prominent features in this cellblock include a metal shower in one of the corners and exposed brick walls. Painted gray on the bottom and

white on the top, the walls also boast a variety of evocative graffiti markings. All graffiti— including calendars, poems, notes, and drawings—date to after 1945 since all the walls were repainted that November after being damaged by smoke generated from a fire set by prisoners in an escape attempt.[6]

The 1960 addition to the main building, designed by architect E.W. Davis, was added to include additional living space for the sheriff or deputy and his family, and eliminate overcrowding in the jail. The interior has hardwood floors on the main level and concrete floors in the basement. While the walls of the basement are exposed brick and painted concrete blocks, the brick walls on the main level have been covered in drywall and painted. The basement level is half the size of the main level. A stairway (Photo #24) enters the middle of the floor which is divided into two open storage areas, with a bathroom east of the stairs. The first floor has its main entrance from the northeast corner. The north half of the floor consists of two offices. A hallway accesses a reception area in the southeast corner, the stairs to the basement, a bathroom, and an office in the southwest corner (Photo #25). During the time the building was in use as the Jefferson County Jail, this whole addition area was used as offices for the Sheriff and extra living space.

Women and Children's Jail Building

The women and children's jail (Photo #26) is a separate building directly to the south of the main jail, most likely constructed in 1941, and in use until the jail closed in 1971. State law required that women and juvenile inmates be kept separate from the male population of the jail. Women and juveniles were kept in this building despite its poor condition. By 1968, the situation was so bad that any female prisoner staying at the jail for over a day was sent to the Leon County Jail in Tallahassee, since they had better facilities. This building's condition was one of the reasons the Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners decided to build a new jail in the late sixties.[7]

This building is constructed of brick although without the patterned brickwork as on the

[6] "Prisoners Start Jail Fire Sunday," *Monticello News,* November 9, 1945.
[7] "Poor Report Is Given Jail By State Inspector," *Monticello News,* March 12, 1965; "Bad Report Is Given County Jail By State Inspector," *Monticello News,* December 9,1966; "Commission Agrees To Build A New Jail," *Monticello News,* December 6, 1968.

main building. It consists mostly of rows of stretcher laid bricks with a few interspersed rows of header bricks. The flat roof has extended wood eaves and rolled tarpaper for surfacing.

The north elevation (Photo #26) has an external concrete staircase that hugs the left side of the elevation. Brick columns support the staircase, which leads to a second story arched entry with a steel door. The otherwise plain brick elevation rises above a flat roof, creating a straight parapet. The flat roof has eaves that extend on the other three elevations. The east elevation has a centrally located external square brick column, which may have been a chimney that rises short of the eaves (Photo #27). To the north of this column on the first story is an arched doorway with a steel door. Above it on the second story is an industrial, steel window with fixed lights around the periphery and a six-light hopper panel in the center that opens downward to the interior. The south elevation (Photo #28) has a single industrial window on the first story slightly offset to the west, with another window like it directly above it on the second story. The west elevation has two industrial windows on the first story and two above them on the second story.

The interior layout is extremely basic with one room on both floors. There is a small stairwell at the southeast area of the interior.

Non-Contributing Resources

There are two non-contributing, not historic resources on the Jefferson County Jail property. The first is a carport (Photo #29) on the east side of the jail. It has a concrete floor and steel beams holding up a tin roof and sides. The carport was built in the late 1960s when the sheriffs managed the county ambulance service. The other non-contributing resource is a small concrete block shed (Photo #30), located to the south of the main jail and to the east of the women and children building. The shed has a front door and small windows on the sides. It has a side gable wooden roof with exposed rafters and ribbed tin panels. The shed is a non-contributing resource because it is a modern structure and does not contribute to the character or engineering of the jail.

ALTERATIONS

The basement and first floor windows were recently replaced because the existing

windows were a later addition and were in bad condition. The new windows are historically accurate in form. The main door on the north elevation of the original jail building used to be a window. The original roof was flat concrete covered in tile shingles and slate or tin paneling, according to the 1922 Sanborn Map of Monticello.[8] The tin hip roof was added sometime before 1948. The Monticello Main Street organization that is currently managing the jail museum project has recently improved roofing elements of the building with grant money. They replaced the fascia boards, repaired and painted the dormers, painted the eaves and rafters, and sealed and coated the tin roof panels.

[8] Ibid.

SUMMARY

The Jefferson County Jail, built in 1909, is significant at the local level under Criteria A and C in the areas of Social History and Architecture/Engineering. The jail is a county government entity, and the sheriffs who ran the jail were elected officials. The jail has significance as a building type, distinctive of the function it performed, and has similar and distinct features to other contemporary jails in the South. The jail was built by a prominent jail manufacturing company and still retains its patented mechanisms that were the foremost in jail technology at the time. The jail is significant for its social history as it reflected local attitudes regarding correctional methods and procedures, as practiced in Jefferson County during the 20th century.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

Jefferson County was one of the earliest county designations in Florida, since it separated from Leon County in 1827, soon after Spain ceded Florida to the United States and it became a U.S. territory in 1821. The county was named after Thomas Jefferson and Monticello, its largest city and the county seat, is named after Jefferson's famous Virginia home. Early residents of the county bought large tracts of land and cleared forests for cotton production. After the Civil War, however, many farmers and store owners struggled with debt and fluctuations in cotton prices, leading to the sharecropping system that kept many residents in poverty. By the 1880s, agriculture in Jefferson County had begun to expand. Residents entered into the pecan, turpentine, and lumber industries, and produced eighty percent of the world's watermelon seed supply at one point.[1] Although the stock market did not crash until 1929, citizens of rural Jefferson County were hit with the depression earlier than the rest of the country because a Florida hurricane three years earlier had already caused farm prices to collapse. Like the rest of the country, Jefferson County received federal relief aid and recovered once they mobilized during World War II.[2] Today, Jefferson County is still rural and agricultural, although it is also a tourist

[1] Jefferson County, "History & Culture," *Jefferson: The Keystone County* accessed April 12, 2013, http://www.jeffersoncountyfl.gov/p/history-culture.
[2] Jerrell H. Shofner, *History of Jefferson County* (Tallahassee, FL: Sentry Press, 1976), 525.

destination and serves as a way station for those headed to Tallahassee.[3]

Territorial Florida was generally frontier land without many amenities. Very few jails even existed, and the ones that did were not designed to keep inmates imprisoned. The lack of jails during this period occurred because many counties did not have sufficient financial resources to build and maintain a jail, and because there were not many citizens employed, specifically for law enforcement. Jefferson County did have a jail during the territorial period (1821-1845, but this jail was a shack. Historian James Denham called it the most "leaky" jail in the state because almost all the prisoners confined there escaped.[4] A somewhat stronger building replaced this "squalid hut" in 1835, but this jail, too, was not sufficient. Jefferson County built its next jail in 1846. Designed and constructed by local carpenter John Stevens, the new building was constructed of brick and was the first effective jail building in the county.[5] Although much of Florida was still considered frontier, statehood in 1845 helped to provide better government resources and infrastructure, resulting in a better jail. The jail burnt down in 1909, however, making way for the construction of the Jefferson County Jail on the corner of West Dogwood and Water streets. By this time, the office of the Sheriff was professionalized and incumbents performed a myriad of different responsibilities.[6]

The Works Progress Administration (WPA) funded the 1940 changes to the jail, including the Woman's and Children's building. The WPA was an acclaimed New Deal program established in order to help the nation recover from the Great Depression. The WPA, established in 1935, offered jobs to the unemployed in community development projects. The WPA projects benefited many Florida communities, and local residents were employed to work on them. By the time the program was terminated in 1943, the nationwide WPA had spent over $11 billion dollars employing over 8.5 million people, who worked on over 1.4 million different projects, including repairing and building roads,

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[3] Jefferson County, "Economic Development & Commerce." *Jefferson: The Keystone County* accessed April 12, 2013, http://www.jeffersoncountyfl.gov/p/commerce-development.
[4] James M. Denham, *"A Rogue's Paradise": Crime and Punishment in Antebellum Florida, 1821-1861* (Tuscaloosa, AL: University of Alabama Press, 1997), 166, 181.
[5] Shofner, *Jefferson County,* 165, 188.
[6] William R. Rogers and James M. Denham, *Florida's Sheriffs: A History, 1821-1945* (Tallahassee, FL: Sentry Press, 2001), 113.

bridges, public buildings, parks, and airport landing fields.[7] Other jails in Florida took advantage of WPA funding, and Jefferson County itself initiated over 19 projects, including building three schools, a community center, athletic field, roads, and wire fences.[8]

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

Construction of the Jail and Historic Alterations

In the spring of 1909—the same year that Jefferson County was constructing the new courthouse—the county's jail building burned to the ground. Elected county officials immediately planned to rebuild and needed to find a new piece of land to build. They selected two plots near the courthouse owned by prominent citizen Samuel Pasco and purchased them for a sum of $350. After running advertisements in the *Monticello News* and in a popular national architecture journal, the commissioners decided to hire the Southern Structural Steel Company (Photo #31) to build the new jail for a total of $10,300. They were the lowest bidders and were well known jail manufacturers.[9]

The commissioners hired George D. Shaw as a supervising architect, and obtained some plans and specifications from the Pauly Jail Building Company, another well-known jail building company. The Mutual Construction Company was also involved in the construction process, being paid $2,835 for labor and building material. In the interim period before the jail was completed, however, the county had to find somewhere to house their inmates and keep them secure. There is good evidence to suggest that at least some inmates were placed in the Madison County jail facilities during this time. The jail was completed swiftly, for it was already in operation by December 1909, only nine months after its initiation.[10]

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[7] Lilly Library, Indiana University Bloomington, "More About the WPA," *Indiana University Bloomington Lilly Library,* accessed April 12, 2013, http://www.indiana.edu/~liblilly/wpa/wpa_info.html.
[8] Fred P. Cone, letter to C.T. Bryan, 5 December 1938, Governor Cone Correspondence, 1937-1941, Record Group 102, Series .S 368, Folder "1938-Jefferson County," State Archives of Florida, Tallahassee, FL.; "Four Millions Approved for WPA Projects," *Monticello News*, November 22, 1935.
[9] Jefferson County, "Board of County Commissioners Meeting Minutes Book 3" (Office of the Clerk, Monticello, FL, 1907-1912), 330-339.
[10] Ibid, 342-367.

The structure of the Jefferson County Jail shares some similar characteristics with other jails in the region, but it has several unique characteristics as well that are distinct from other Florida jails listed on the National Register. First, the Jefferson County Jail is constructed of brick, a material that was gaining in popularity in the early twentieth century because it was sturdy and fireproof.[11] Like many other jails constructed by Southern Structural Steel Company, the Jefferson County Jail is two stories tall, housing the jailer and his family on the first floor, with freestanding jail cells above. It has a T-shaped floor plan and is constructed of brick with ceilings and floors created from poured-in-place concrete. On the other hand, many Southern Structural Steel buildings have a distinct Romanesque style with towers and crenellations.[12] The Nassau County Jail, (Fernandina Beach), Taylor County Jail, (Perry), Hamilton County Jail, (Jasper), and St. Johns County Jail, (St. Augustine), which are other Florida Jails listed on the National Register, follow similar Romanesque and Colonial Revival designs. The Jefferson County Jail stands apart from this since it is a masonry vernacular building with utilitarian and unadorned design elements. In addition, none of the other National Register jails have a separate outbuilding that provides space for female and juvenile inmates.[13]

Southern Structural Steel Company

The Jefferson County Jail is significant in its architectural and engineering design because the Southern Structural Steel Company built the jail and installed notable patented jail cell equipment. In 1897, David Franklin Youngblood founded Southern Structural Steel Company in San Antonio, Texas. Originally, the company manufactured a variety of steel products, including jails, bridges, and steel vaults, but by 1927, the company decided to focus purely on steel jail technology.[14] By 1930, Southern Structural Steel was the largest detention-industry company in the nation. Now called Southern Steel, the company

[11] Mary Oakley McRory and Edith Clarke Barrows, *History of Jefferson County, Florida* (Monticello, FL: Kiwanis Club, 1935), 136.
[12] Kara M. Dotter, "Early 20th Century Prison Technology in Texas: Southern Structural Steel Company," *APT Communique* 33, no. 4 (2004), 24.
[13] American Dreams Inc., "National Register of Historic Places: Florida," *National Register of Historic Places.com,* accessed April 12, 2013, http://www.nationalregisterofhistoricplaces.com/FL/state.html.
[14] Blackburn, *Wanted,* 14.

continues to be a successful jail manufacturer into the modern day.[15] Youngblood had over a dozen patents for his steel designs, and two of his early jail patents are utilized in the Jefferson County Jail. The first of these inventions is interlocking bar grating, patented in 1902 (#714,350).[16] This grating is seen on the jail windows and on the walls of the freestanding cages, and is characterized by flat steel bars that perpendicularly cross each other in opposite directions, preventing inmates from forcibly spreading them in escape attempts. The other Youngblood patent in the jail is a lever locking mechanism, patented in 1903 (#714,350).[17] This locking system can open all of the doors in the main cell block area at once, and can open each cell door individually as well. These early innovations created by Southern Structural Steel eventually were incorporated into prominent jails throughout the nation, including ones in Huntsville, Texas, and Rikers Island, New York.[18]

Southern Structural Steel's original steel jail cells are still present in the jail and the automatic cell locking system is still in working condition. This is a feature unique to the Jefferson County Jail, since many of the other jails that were similar to this one have been demolished, completely repurposed, or do not have original locking mechanisms that still function. The freestanding cages and steelwork are all original, revealing an accurate picture of jail technology from the early twentieth century.

The first major changes to the jail came in 1940, because the building was in bad condition and the plumbing system was in extreme disrepair. Although the Jefferson County Commissioners had been aware that the jail was in poor condition for quite a while, they acted at this time because the Works Progress Administration (WPA) was giving grants for community projects.[19] By October 1939, the commissioners had hired prominent Winter Park, Florida, architect James Gamble Rogers II to create plans for the jail renovations. The plans were then forwarded to the WPA, who approved them with slight modifications

[15] Dotter, "Prison Technology," 24-25.
[16] United States Patent Office, *Interlocking-Bar Gratings For Jails,* number 714,350, issued November 25, 1902.
[17] United States Patent Office, *Locking System For Jail Doors,* number 719,169, issued January 7, 1903.
[18] Kara M. Dotter, "Coke County Jail," National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2004), continuation sheet 8.
[19] Fred P. Cone, letter to C.T. Bryan, 5 December 1938, Governor Cone Correspondence, 1937-1941, Record Group 102, Series .S 368, Folder "1938-Jefferson County," State Archives of Florida, Tallahassee, FL.

in January 1940.[20] While some sources claim that the jail was completely demolished and rebuilt during this time, it is more likely that the WPA funding actually built the Women and Children's Jail Building, as other sources suggest. In any case, the complete project cost $25,019 and employed forty-one people for six months, allowing many local citizens to make money and support their families.[21]

James Gamble Rogers II

The 1940 jail changes were designed by James Gamble Rogers II, one of Florida's most respected architects. Rogers' architectural career spanned over seventy years and his firm designed residential, health-care, commercial, military, educational, industrial, correctional, and religious buildings. He work is located in all parts of Florida and in many other regions of the country, although his residential homes in Winter Park, Florida, are probably the best known. Most of his buildings are in Spanish Eclectic, French Provincial, or American Colonial Revival styles. His most renowned designs include the Florida Supreme Court building in Tallahassee and the Robert Bruce Barbour House (Casa Feliz) (NR 2008) in Winter Park. Rogers followed the theory that every building was part of the larger community, so he designed buildings that contributed to community character.[22] This architectural belief is evident at the Jefferson County Jail, with the Women and Children's addition closely reflects the character of the larger original jail building.

1960 Addition

The next significant renovation on the jail came in 1960, with the addition of a wing on the west portion of the main jail building. This extension was a result of overcrowding. A 1960 audit report of county government reveals that overcrowding was so bad at the jail that the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office was obligated to release several prisoners before their sentences were over.[23] The addition cost $11,775 and was completed under the

[20] Jefferson County. "Board of County Commissioners Meeting Minutes Book 7" (Office of the Clerk, Monticello, FL, 1934-1956), 176, 179-180.
[21] "County Jail Project Approved," *Monticello News,* July 19, 1940.
[22] Patrick W. McClane and Debra A. McClane, *The Architecture of James Gamble Rogers II in Winter Park, Florida* (Gainesville, FL: University Press of Florida, 2004), 50-51.
[23] "Audit Reports Are Given On Board, Two County Offices," *Monticello News,* August 5, 1960.

direction of architect E.W. Davis.[24] Although the addition was originally intended to provide more space for inmates, it was used for extra living space and offices instead.

As late as 1966, state inspectors were still criticizing the poor condition of the jail because inmate spaces were inadequate and overcrowded. This, along with the lack of recreational facilities and work training programs for inmates, eventually led to the Jefferson County commissioners' decision to build an entirely new jail.[25] Although the commissioners originally had the architectural firm of Robert Maybin draw up plans for renovating the current jail, it quickly became clear that it was more worthwhile to construct a new facility. Architect Bill Price designed the new jail, located south of Monticello on the east side of U.S. 19. After receiving several bids for the jail that were too high, the county commissioners re-advertised, and, in consultation with the architect, eventually accepted the low bid of Knight & Dodson Construction Company at $132,000.[26] The 1909 Jefferson County Jail finally shut its doors after the new jail opened in May 1971. Once the old jail was no longer in operation, the building itself was considered as a new location for School Superintendent offices and Supervisor of Elections storage.[27] The main building eventually became general county government office space for many years before being abandoned. The Jefferson County Supervisor of Elections is currently using the 1960 addition.

It was not until 2009 that the Jefferson County Jail building once again became a functioning part of its local community. Main Street Monticello (MSM) decided to lease the empty building virtually free of charge from the county to turn it into a museum. Although still under renovation, the goal is to offer a glimpse into life in rural north Florida during the early twentieth century. In addition, the museum will also offer educational programming and community events.[28]

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[24] Jefferson County. "Board of County Commissioners Meeting Minutes Book 8" (Office of the Clerk, Monticello, FL, 1956-1970), 117.
[25] "Bad Report Is Given County Jail By State Inspector," *Monticello News,* December 9, 1966.
[26] Jefferson County, "Minutes Book 8," 387, 414-415.
[27] Jefferson County. "Board of County Commissioners Meeting Minutes Book 9" (Office of the Clerk, Monticello, FL, 1971-1972), 11, 14-15, 80.
[28] Main Street of Monticello, Florida Inc., "Old Jail Museum Project," *Main Street of Monticello,* accessed April 12, 2013, http://s419538548.initial-website.com/local-projects/old-jail-museum-project/.

Crime and Punishment

This rural county has always had a relatively low crime rate.[29] At the turn of the twentieth century, common crimes included obscene language, fornication, drunkenness, gambling, carrying concealed weapons, aggravated assault, illegal branding of lifestock, trespassing, vagrancy, larceny, fishing and hunting without a license, and violating railroad laws.[30] By the 1920s, Jefferson County dealt with common crimes such as petty larceny, vagrancy, forgeries, gambling, carrying concealed weapons, manslaughter, murder, and rape, although the most common crimes involved illegal liquor activities.[31] By this time, offences relating to automobiles and driving were also occurring more often. During the Great Depression, crime generally increased all over Florida, especially theft and robbery.[32]

After receiving a sentence from a circuit court or county court session, one of several things could happen to those convicted of crimes. People convicted of serious crimes with long sentences—like rape, murder, manslaughter, arson, and repeated breaking and entering —were often sent to the state prison. For less serious crimes like larceny, vagrancy, carrying concealed weapons, drunkenness, gambling, and producing or selling whiskey, the sentence was often a fine or a short stay at the Jefferson County Jail. Although jails in general are mainly used to hold people in custody before their trials, the Jefferson County jail also confined convicted criminals who failed to pay their fine.[33] There are hundreds of examples of individuals who received this kind of sentence in Jefferson County.

From the late nineteenth century up until the mid-1920s, Jefferson County participated in a convict leasing system for its inmates, as much of the country did. All convicted able-bodied men entered this program within twenty-four hours of their jail sentencing. In this brutal system, prisoners were hired out to private companies or local governments and forced to perform hard labor in chain gangs. The convicts of Jefferson County were

[29] Jefferson County, "About Jefferson County."
[30] Rogers and Denham, *Sheriffs,* 198.
[31] Shofner, *Jefferson County,* 502.
[32] Rogers and Denham, *Sheriffs,* 194, 199.
[33] Criminal Law Lawyers, "Difference Between Prison and Jail," *Criminal Law Lawyer Source* accessed April 30, 2013, http://www.criminal-law-lawyer-source.com/terms/jail-prison-difference.html.

mostly hired out to turpentine, lumber, or naval stores companies like Mallory Brothers, Blue Creek Company, Dowling Park Naval Stores Company, and Putnam Lumber Company. After a 1923 Florida law made it illegal for counties to lease their convicts to private companies, Taylor County started to hire the convicts from Jefferson County.

By 1930, Jefferson County had ceased the convict leasing program and instead began utilizing their convicted prisoners for road construction.[34] By the summer of 1931, the Jefferson County commissioners had authorized, purchased land for, and built a convict camp so that prisoners working on county roads could be close to their worksites.[35] This also helped to reduce problems of overcrowding that the Jefferson County Jail often experienced. Before this, convicts were housed in the county jail along with other prisoners awaiting trial.[36]

Daily life at the Jefferson County Jail

The jail was often overcrowded and in poor condition. Law enforcement officers often targeted blacks over whites, and many inmates found incarceration unbearable and attempted to escape. The ways in which inmates were treated at the Jefferson County Jail signifies how little mainstream community members cared about prisoners, and reflected mid-twentieth century public attitudes. Many of the years the Jefferson County Jail was in operation fell within the Jim Crow era, when racism was rampant. Based on the numbers of white prisoners versus black prisoners at any given time, it is evident that the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office sustained and furthered this unequal status quo.[37] The inmate's poor treatment was derived from the inadequate funding of the facility, and harsh attitudes toward inmates, especially African American ones, who were victims of Jim Crow era practices.

The Jefferson County Jail served as the home of jailers and their families. Depending on different circumstances, either the Sheriff or one of his Deputies took up this role. The

[34] Shofner, *Jefferson County,* 449, 502.
[35] Jefferson County, "Board of County Commissioners Meeting Minutes Book 6" (Office of the Clerk, Monticello, FL, 1925-1934), 341-348.
[36] B.H. Dickson, letter to Nathan Mayo, 30 June 1931, Governor Carlton Correspondence, 1929-1933, Record Group 102, Series .S 204, Folder "Jefferson County," State Archives of Florida, Tallahassee, FL.
[37] Jefferson County, "Economic Development."

jailor often received help from his family when it came to handling prisoners. The jailor's wife cooked meals for the inmates twice a day and the children took the food to them, pushing the plates through the slots cut out of the steel doors. In the early and mid-1950s, Deputy Sheriff Woodrow Bell was the jailor living in the first floor apartments with his wife and three children Zella, Joe, and Lillie May. During a modern tour of the jail, the now-grown Bell children explained how they were fortunate to reside in the jail because it was the nicest place they had ever lived. The Bells also indicated that they always felt safe living there, with a locked steel door separating them from the prisoners upstairs.[38]

[38] *Old Monticello Jail,* produced by Mike Plummer, December 14, 2011 (Tallahassee, FL: WFSU Dimensions), Online News Segment, http://www.wfsu.org/dimensions/admin/uploads/videos/viewvideo.php?num=199.

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PHYSICAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Jefferson County Property Appraiser parcel # 00-00-00-0360-0000-0640
Lots 64 & 64 OPM CB FF P 116
0.459 acres

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

This property is historically associated with the Jefferson County Jail

PHOTOGRAPHS

1. Jefferson County Jail, 280 West Dogwood Street, Monticello
2. Jefferson County, Florida
3. Julie Sawnor
4. April 2013,
5. Jefferson County Jail Museum, Monticello, Florida
6. Main facade of Jail, camera facing northeast
7. Photo #1 of 31

The items 1 – 5 are the same for the following photographs.

6. Façade of 1960 addition, looking north
7. Photo #2 of 31

6. Façade of original 1909 jail, looking north
7. Photo #3 of 31

6. West elevation of 1909 jail, looking east
7. Photo #4 of 31

6. North elevation of 1960 addition, looking south
7. Photo #5 of 31

6. North elevation of 1909 portion, looking southeast
7. Photo #6 of 31

6. South elevation of hyphen between 1909 and 1960 portions of the jail, looking south
7. Photo #7 of 31

6. East elevation of 1960 addition, looking west
7. Photo #8 of 31

6. East elevation of 1909 portion of the jail, looking southwest
7. Photo #9 of 31

6. Wood textured concrete ceiling, looking north
7. Photo #10 of 31

6. Basement of 1909 portion of jail, looking
7. Photo #11 of 31

6. Booking room, looking east
7. Photo #12 of 31

6. Holding cell, looking north
7. Photo #13 of 31

6. Stairs in booking room, looking north
7. Photo #14 of 31

6. Living room, looking west
7. Photo #15 of 31

6. Dining room, looking northeast
7. Photo #16 of 31

6. Bathroom, looking west
7. Photo #17 of 31

6. Bedroom, looking northeast
7. Photo #18 of 31

6. Second floor bathroom, looking northwest
7. Photo #19 of 31

6. Cell block, looking north
7. Photo #20 of 31

6. Damage around cell window, looking southwest
7. Photo #21 of 31

6. Center of cell block, looking north
7. Photo #22 of 31

6. Locking mechanism in cell block, looking north
7. Photo #23 of 31

6. Stairs in 1960 portion, looking north
7. Photo #24 of 31

6. Entrance hallway to 1960 addition, looking east
7. Photo #25 of 31

6. Woman's and children's building, looking northwest
7. Photo #26 of 31

6. Woman's and children's building, looking east
7. Photo #27 of 31

6. Woman's and children's building, looking south
7. Photo #28 of 31

6. Non-contributing parking shelter, looking northeast
7. Photo #29 of 31

6. Non-contributing utility shed, looking north
7. Photo #30 of 31

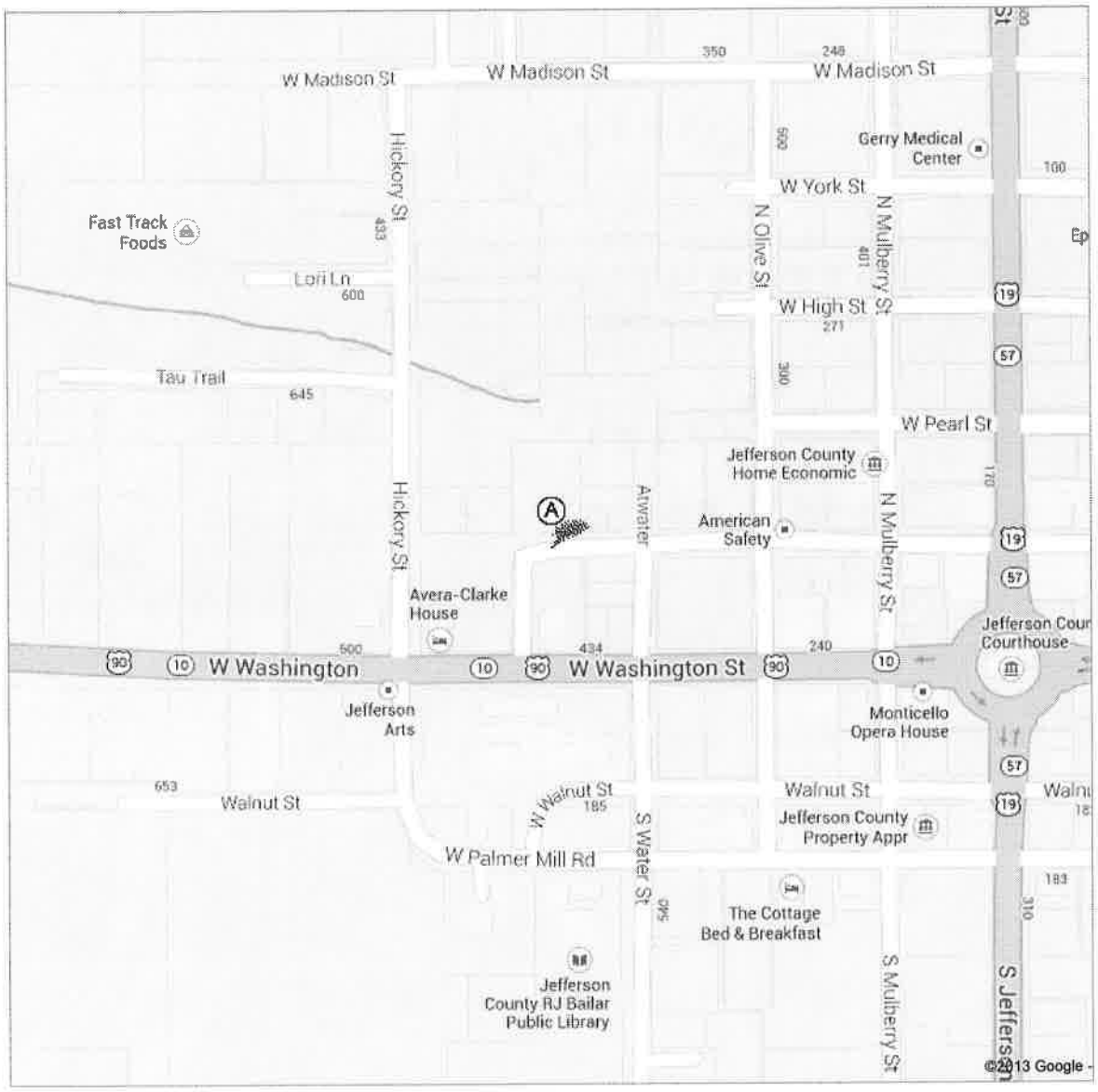
6. Steel Structural Steel Company plaques, looking
7. Photo #31 of 31

JEFFERSON COUNTY JAIL
Monticello, Jefferson Co., Florida

LOCATOR MAP
Lat – Long
30.546057°
-83.872516°

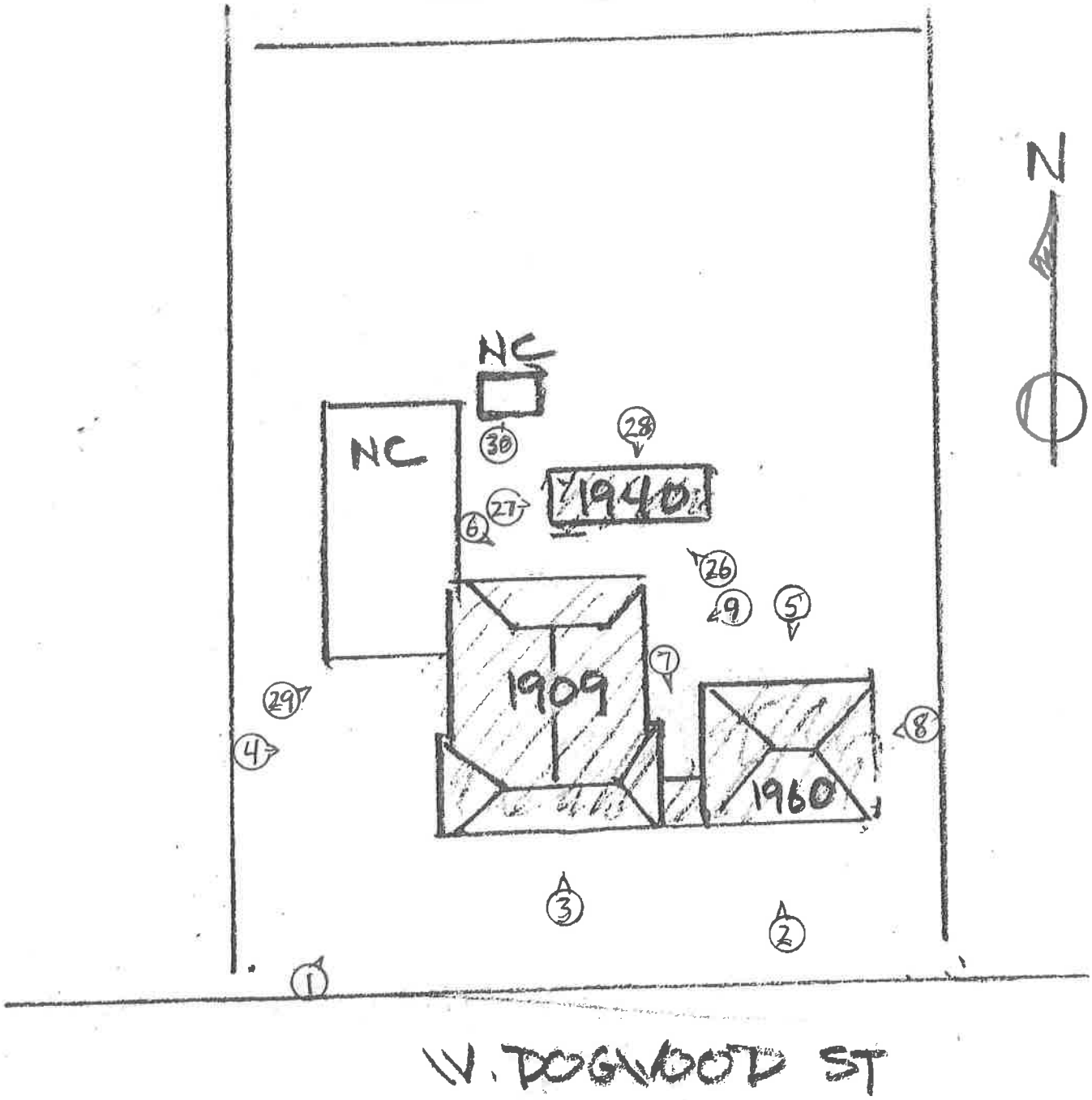
Google

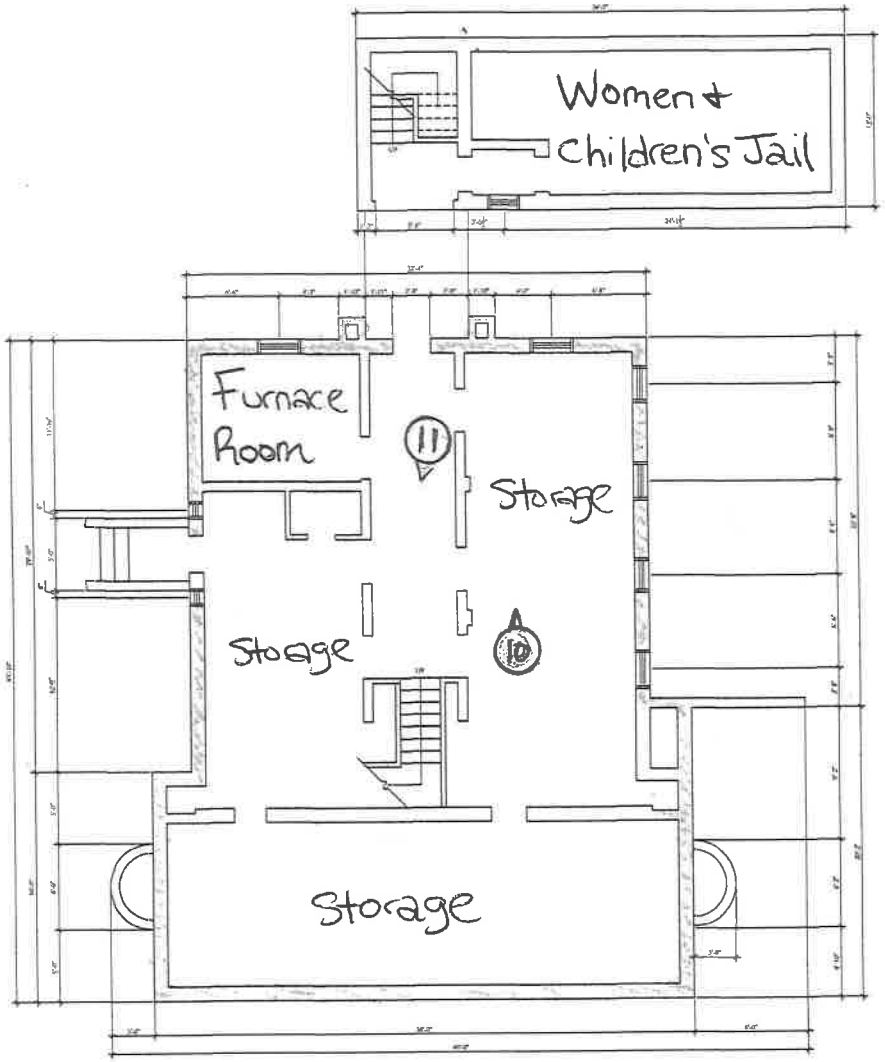
Address **380 W Dogwood St**
Monticello, FL 32344

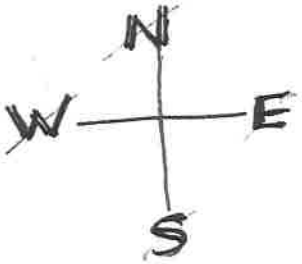


Historic Jefferson County Jail

380 West Dogwood Street
Monticello, FL 32344







BASEMENT PLAN
SCALE: 1/4"=1'-0"

JEFFERSON COUNTY JAIL
Jefferson County, Florida

Basement Plan & Photo Diagram

4M Design Group PA

322 Beard Street
Tallahassee, FL 32303
850.421.3333
850.421.3676 fax
Architecture Reg. AA26001466

Architecture
Preservation
Sustainability

Monticello Jail

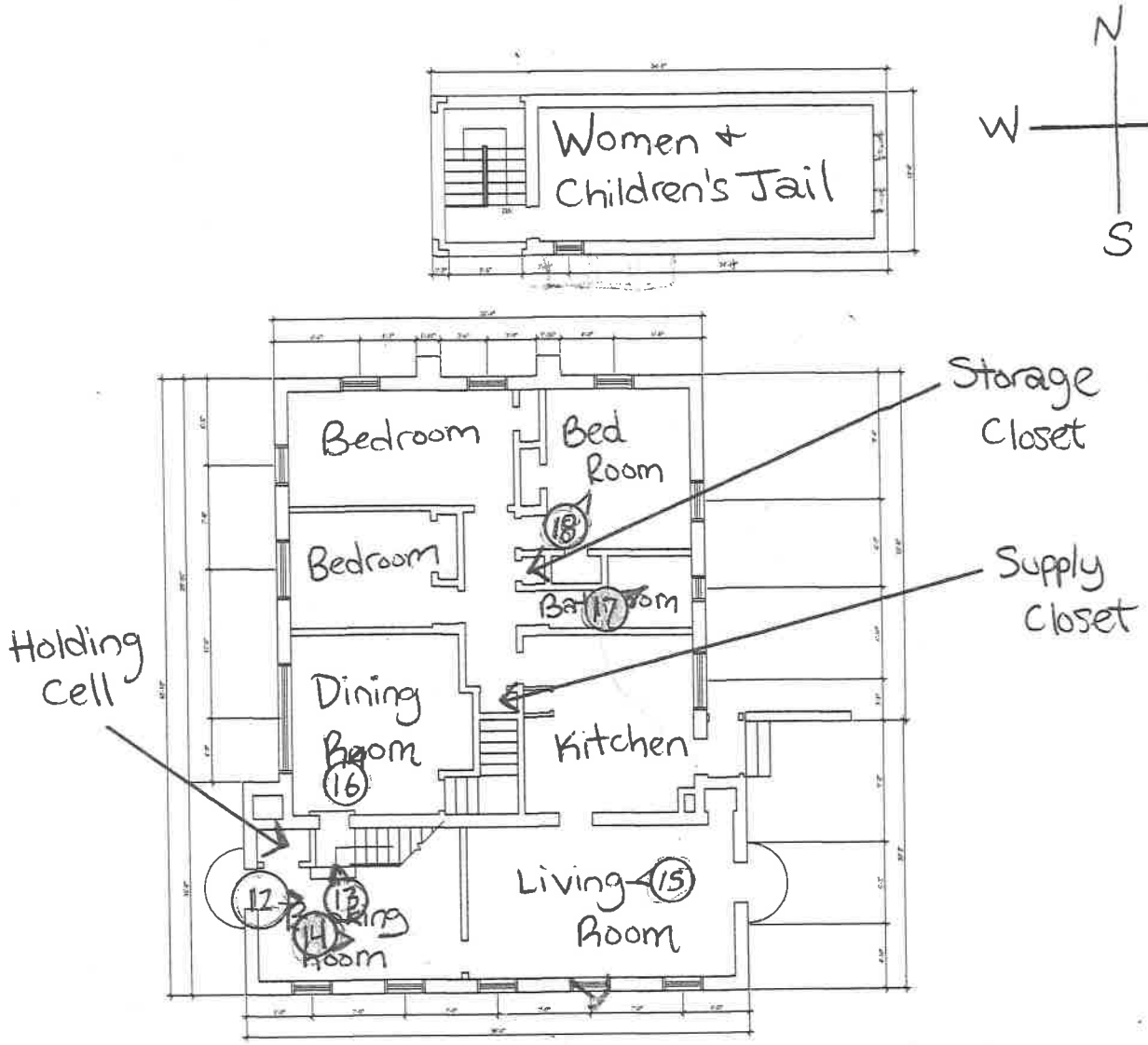
Monticello, Florida

Rev. #	Description

February 18, 2013
Design
Development
4M Project #4M-013-002

Basement Plan

A-1.0



FIRST FLOOR PLAN
SCALE: 1/4"=1'-0"

JEFFERSON COUNTY JAIL
Jefferson County, Florida

First Floor Plan & Photo Diagram

4M Design Group PA
Architecture
Preservation
Sustainability

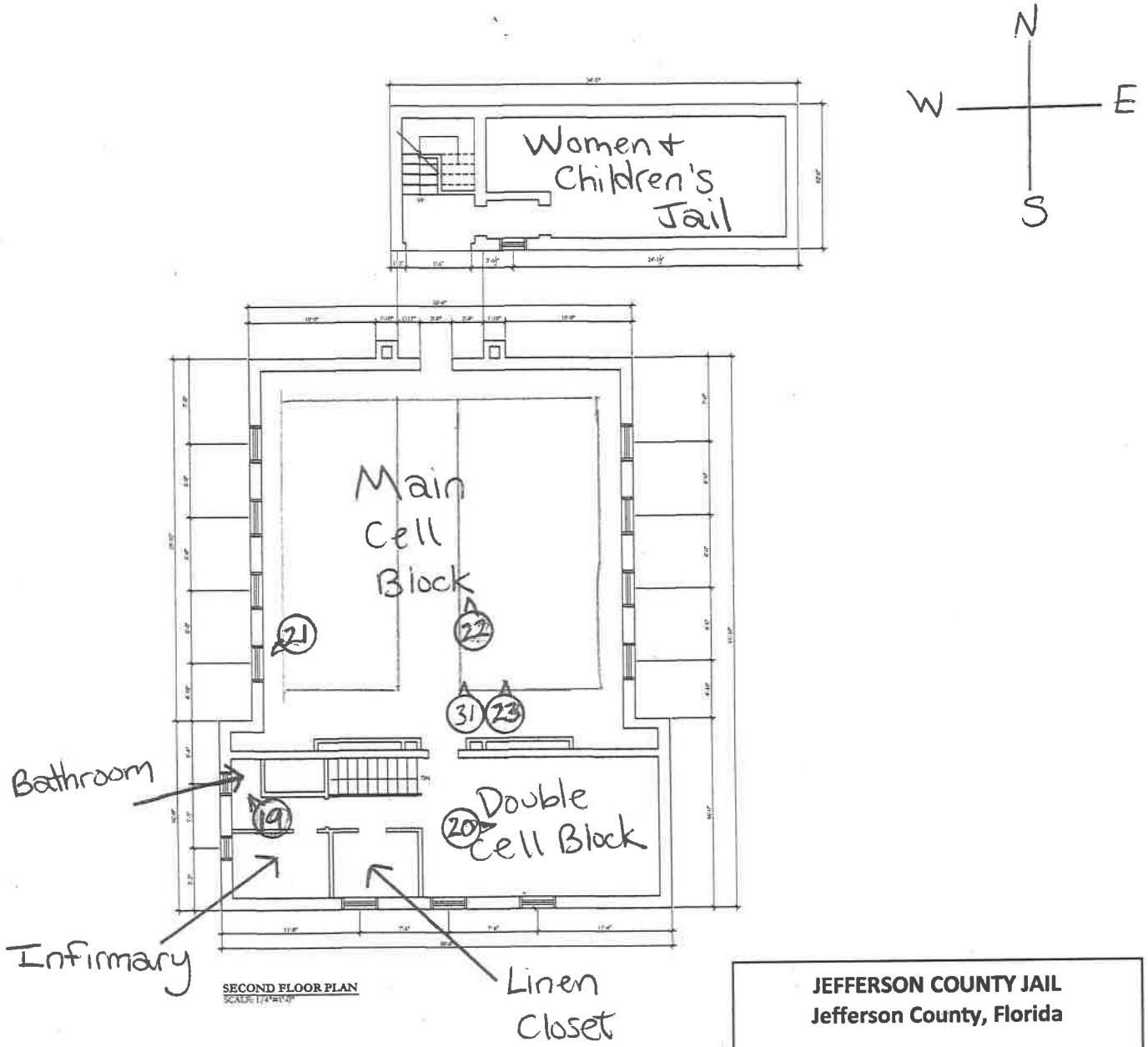
Monticello Jail
Monticello, Florida

Rev. #	Description

February 18, 2013
Design Development
4M Project #4M-013-002

First Floor Plan

A-2.0



JEFFERSON COUNTY JAIL
Jefferson County, Florida

Second Floor Plan & Photo Diagram

4M Design Group PA
Architecture
Preservation
Sustainability

Monticello Jail
Monticello, Florida

Rev. #	Description

February 18, 2013
Design
Development
4M Project #4M-013-002

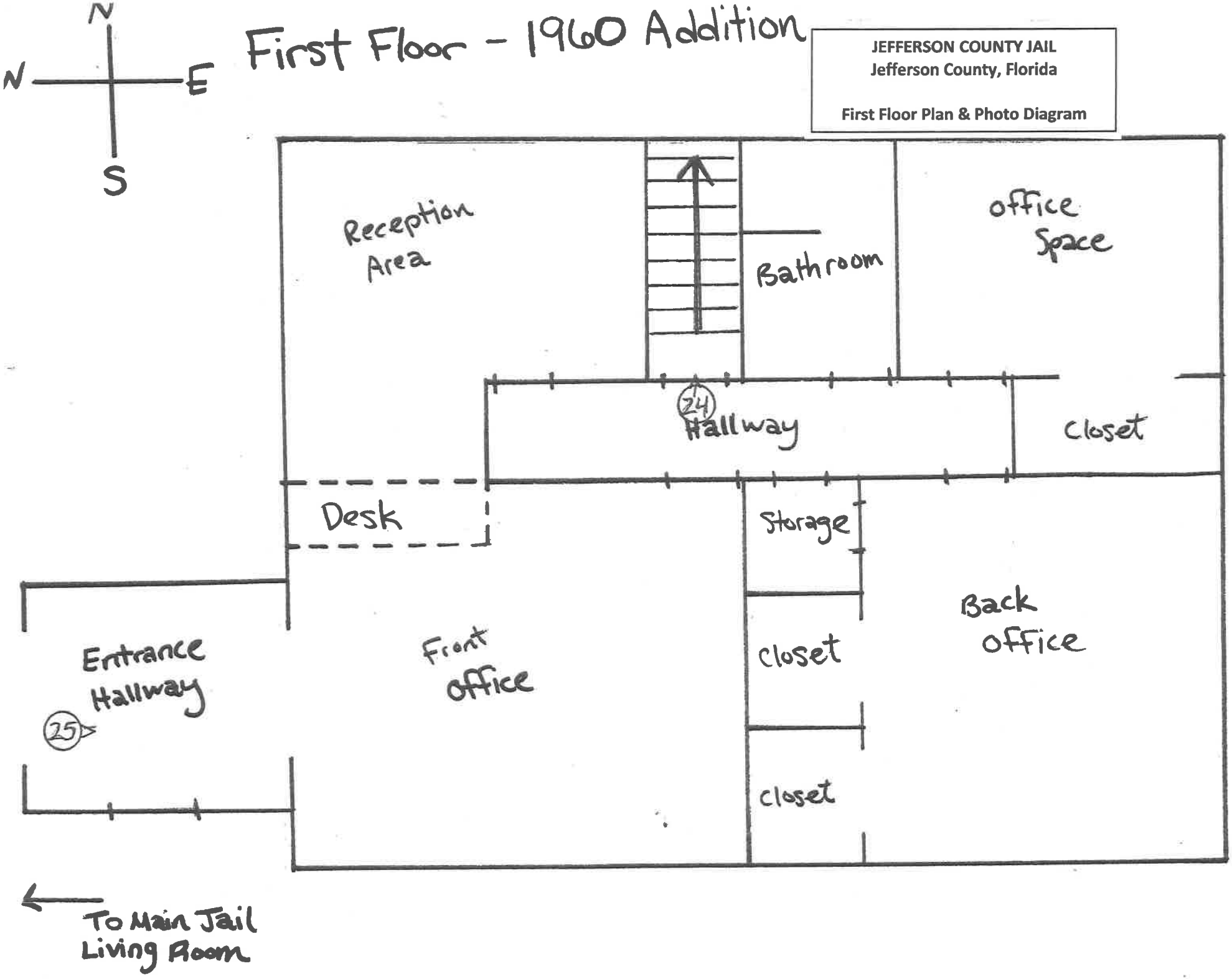
Second Floor Plan

A-3.0

First Floor - 1960 Addition

JEFFERSON COUNTY JAIL
Jefferson County, Florida

First Floor Plan & Photo Diagram



OLD COUNTY JAIL
RESTORATION
A MAIN STREET PROJECT
TO: VOLUNTEER OR DONATE
VISIT: www.mainstreetmonroeinfl.org
Mary Baker

OLD COUNTY JAIL
RESTORATION
AIN STREET PROJECT
OLUNTEER OR DONATE
w.mainstreetmonticellofl.org
Marty Bishop
Supervisor of Elections
Monticello, Florida 32344

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