NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

OMB No. 1024-0018

379

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: The Old Municipal Courtroom & Jail
other names/site number: Old Sumrall Jail

2. Location

street & number: 405 Pine Street at Railroad Avenue not for publication N/A
city or town: Sumrall vicinity ___
state: Mississippi code: MS county: Lamar code: 73 zip code: 39482

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination ____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets ____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ___ nationally ___ statewide X locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Kenneth H. P'Pool — FEB. 25, 2000

Signature of certifying official — Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ____ meets ____ does not meet the National Register criteria. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:
✓ entered in the National Register,
___ See continuation sheet.
____ determined eligible for the National Register
___ See continuation sheet.
____ determined not eligible for the National Register
____ removed from the National Register
____ other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

for Edson W. Beall — 4/14/00

5. Classification

Ownership of Property:
Public-local

Category of Property:
Building

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:
GOVERNMENT/courthouse
GOVERNMENT/correctional facility

Current Functions:
VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification(s): No style

Materials:
foundation: concrete
roof: composite shingles
walls: brick, concrete
other

Narrative Description:

See Continuation Sheets

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

X **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations:

Property is:

____ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

____ **B** removed from its original location.

____ **C** a birthplace or a 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
Politics/government

Period of Significance
1907-1950

Significant Dates
1921

Significant Person(s)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation(s)
N/A

Architect/Builder
unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance: See continuation sheets.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

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

Primary Location of Additional Data

___ State Historic Preservation Office
___ Other State agency
___ Federal agency
_X_ Local government
___ University
___ Other
Name of repository:

_____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: ¼ of an acre

UTM References:		Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
	A	16	258120	3478270	C			
	B				D			

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description See continuation sheet.

Boundary Justification: See continuation sheet.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Laura Young, County Planner
organization: Lamar County — date: 7/2/99
street & number: P.O. Box 1240 — telephone: (601) 794-1024
city or town: Purvis — state: MS — zip code: 39475

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(s)

name: Town of Sumrall
street & number: P.O. Box 247 — telephone: (601) 758-3591
city or town: Sumrall — state: MS — zip code: 39482

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 to amend existing 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 the 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.

Narrative Description

The Old Municipal Courtroom and Jail, Sumrall, Mississippi, also known as the Old Sumrall Jail, is locally significant in the areas of politics and government as a rare surviving example of a municipal court building and jail from the early 20th century. It is a two-story brick structure erected in 1907. The jail is located on a ¼ acre lot at the intersection of Pine Street and Railroad Avenue, Sumrall, Mississippi.

The first floor of the building housed the jail. It consists of a foyer area immediately inside the front door and five cells, one of which contains a 7'6" x 5' cage which housed the most dangerous criminals. This cage is 6'7" tall with a solid metal top and bottom. It is constructed of 1 ½" flat steel straps ¼" thick riveted together leaving approximately 3" square openings.

A wooden front entrance door is protected by a 3'1" wide steel door. The walls of the building are 13" thick, solid brick. The individual cells range in size from 7'10" x 8'7" up to 8'8" x 11'5". All doors of the cells are 9 ½" thick. These doors are constructed of the same riveted steel as the above-described cage. The 2'7" wide by 5' tall windows inside the cells are unmolded and protected by iron bars and lattice-type metal wire. The ceiling of the first floor of the building is constructed of concrete and crushed brick reinforced by metal bars.

The second story of the building served as the courtroom. Originally it was one large room but was later divided into two rooms when its use was converted to the Town library for several years. Plans for restoration include removing this dividing wall. At the present time, the upstairs is used only for storage.

Presently the building is in poor condition due to lack of use and vandalism. The original wooden stairs outside were replaced with metal stairs in the 1970s. This staircase is rapidly deteriorating and will be replaced as a part of the buildings restoration. The town plans to restore the facility to its original appearance and use it as a museum.

Statement of Significance

The Old Municipal Courtroom and Jail, Sumrall, Mississippi, also known as the Old Sumrall Jail, is locally significant in the areas of politics and government as a rare surviving example of a municipal court building and jail from the early 20th century.

The building was built in 1907 when the town of Sumrall issued $17,500 in bonds to pay for the Jail, as well as a public school building, a new town hall, and the paying off of outstanding bonded indebtedness at that time.

On August 23, 1921, the courtroom above the jail was the site of the first all women jury in the state of Mississippi, and possibly the United States, since at that time selecting women for jury duty was unheard of. Justice of the Peace Dr. C. Cox had a case come before him that involved two women in a dispute over a cow and a calf. Judge Cox, being a sympathizer of women's suffrage movement, was determined to seat an all woman jury to hear the case. The order was given to the constable to gather six "good and lawful" women for the jury. The constable flatly refused to seat women as jurors. At that time, Dr. Cox deputized Mr. W.A. Loggin to summons the women as jurors. Five women were seated and the case proceeded.

Bibliography

"Sumrall J.P. Has Women for Members Jury." The American 22 August 1921.

The American 23 August 1921 (Announcement-Untitled)

Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description
Begin at the Southwest corner of Lot 9 of Block 28 on the W.A. Stevenson Survey of the Town of Sumrall, Mississippi, as per map o plat thereof, now on file in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of Lamar County, Mississippi and thence go East a distance of 50 feet to and for the point of beginning of the land hereby conveyed; thence run East along the Southern boundary line of said Lot 9 a distance of 25 feet; thence run North a distance of 5 feet; thence rum west a distance of 25 feet; thence run South a distance of 5 feet, back to the point of beginning, said strip of land lying and being situate in Lot 9 of Block 28 of the W.A. Stevenson Survey of the Town of Sumrall, Mississippi.

Boundary Justification
The nominated property includes the area historically associated with the Old Sumrall Municipal Courtroom & Jail, and its immediate setting.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

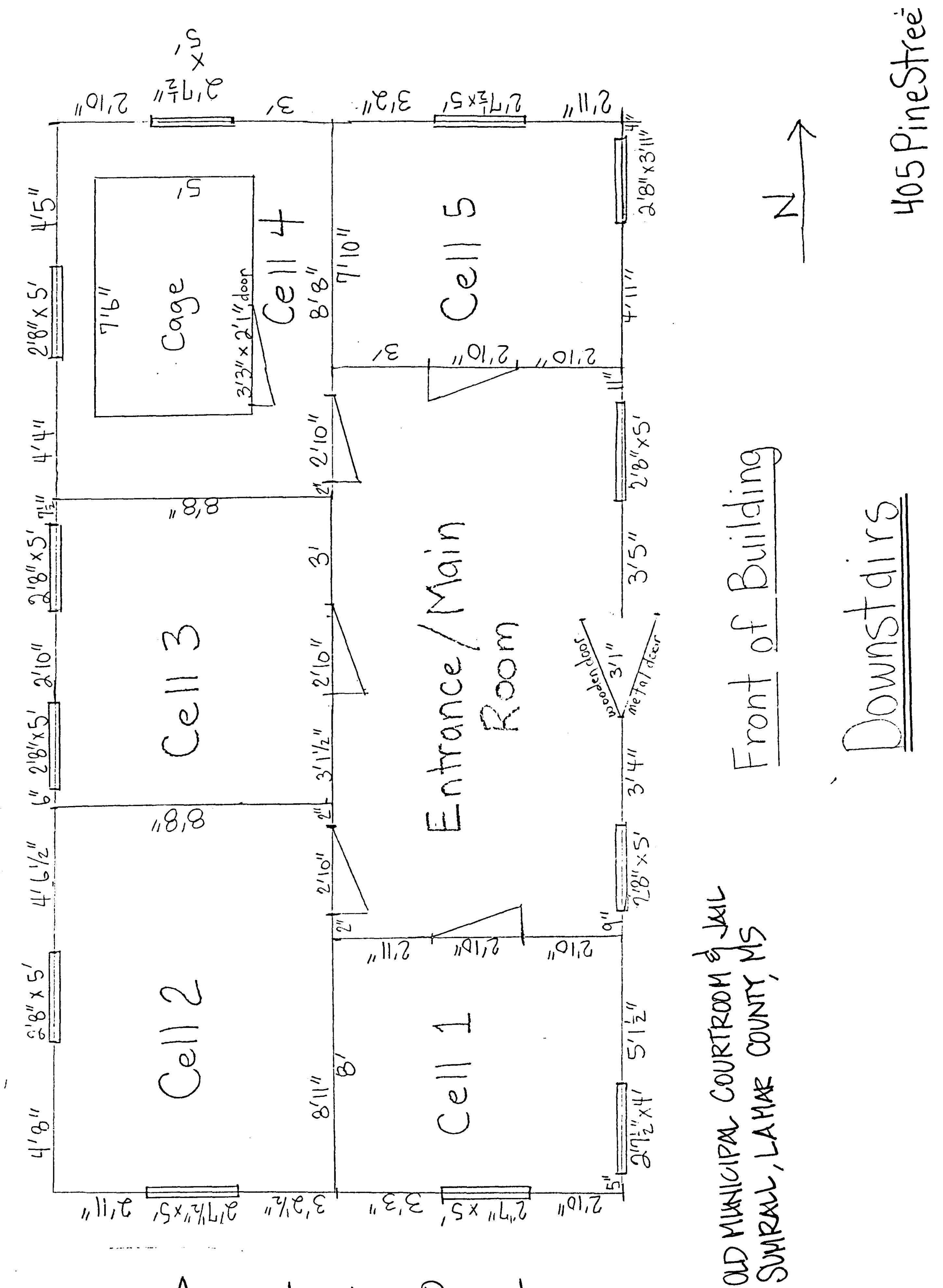
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Photographs

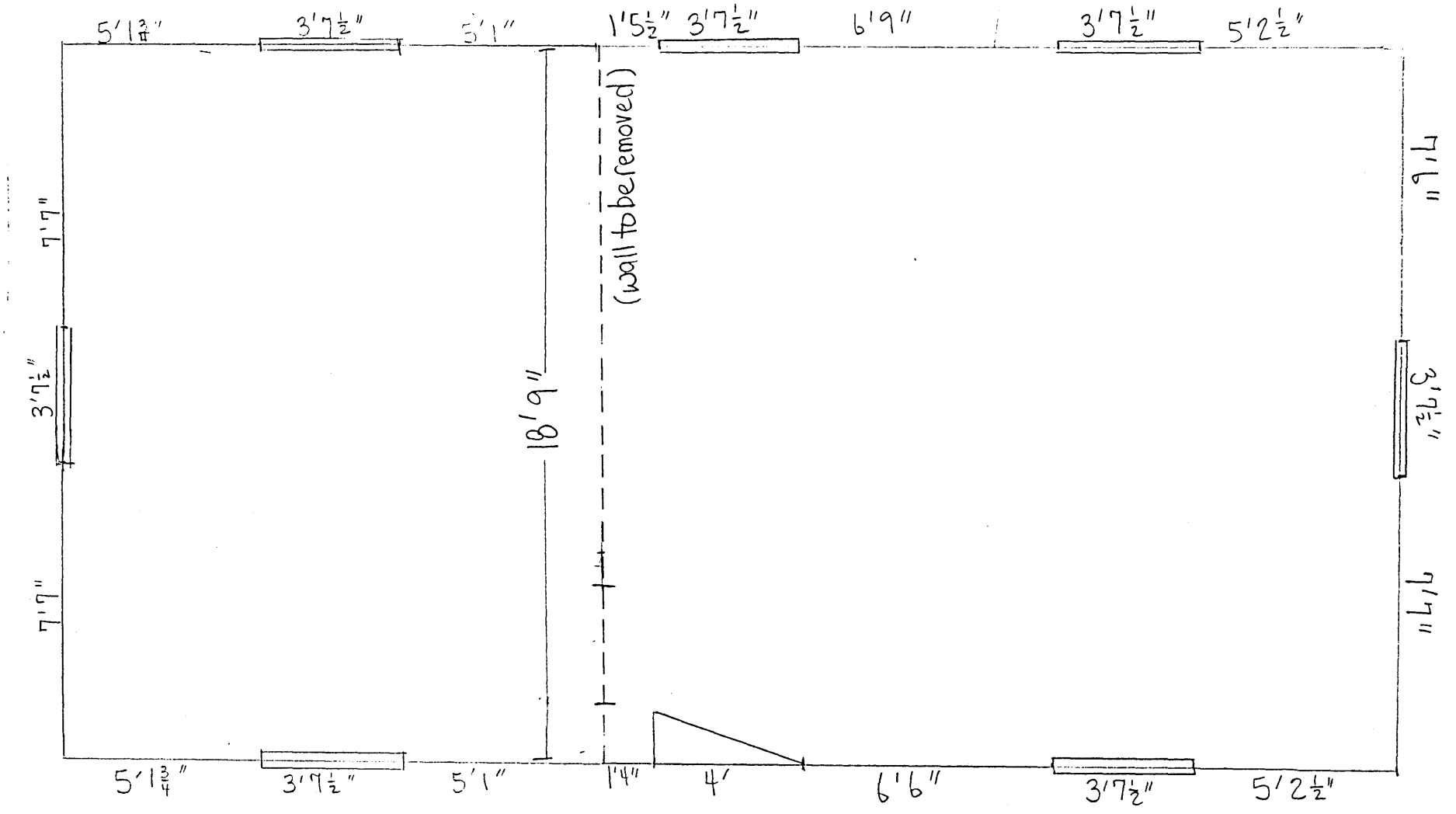
The following information is the same for all photographs:

1. The Old Municipal Courtroom & Jail
2. Sumrall, Lamar County, Mississippi
3. Laura Young, County Planner
4. May 1999

Photo 1 of 23	Exterior front
Photo 2 of 23	Exterior north side (right)
Photo 3 of 23	Exterior south side (left) with front showing
Photo 4 of 23	Exterior south side (left)
Photo 5 of 23	Exterior rear and south side
Photo 6 of 23	Exterior mostly rear
Photo 7 of 23	Exterior close-up of metal front door
Photo 8 of 23	Exterior close-up of staircase with both front doors
Photo 9 of 23	Exterior close-up of right front downstairs window demonstrating ironwork
Photo 10 of 23	Interior entrance/main room, south and west walls
Photo 11 of 23	Interior entrance/main room, west and north walls
Photo 12 of 23	Interior entrance/main room, west and north walls, door closed
Photo 13 of 23	Interior entrance/main room, ceiling above front door demonstrating second floor construction of concrete and crushed brick reinforced by metal rebar
Photo 14 of 23	Interior Cell #1, east (front) window
Photo 15 of 23	Interior Cell #3 (center cell)
Photo 16 of 23	Interior Cell #5
Photo 17 of 23	Interior Cell #5, north and east (front) walls
Photo 18 of 23	Interior Cell #4, close-up of hinge on iron cage
Photo 19 of 23	Interior Cell #4, close-up of iron cage and unidentified detached iron rod
Photo 20 of 23	Interior Cell #4, view from inside of iron cage, east and south walls
Photo 21 of 23	Interior Cell #4, view from inside of iron cage, east and south walls



Appendix D - Page 1



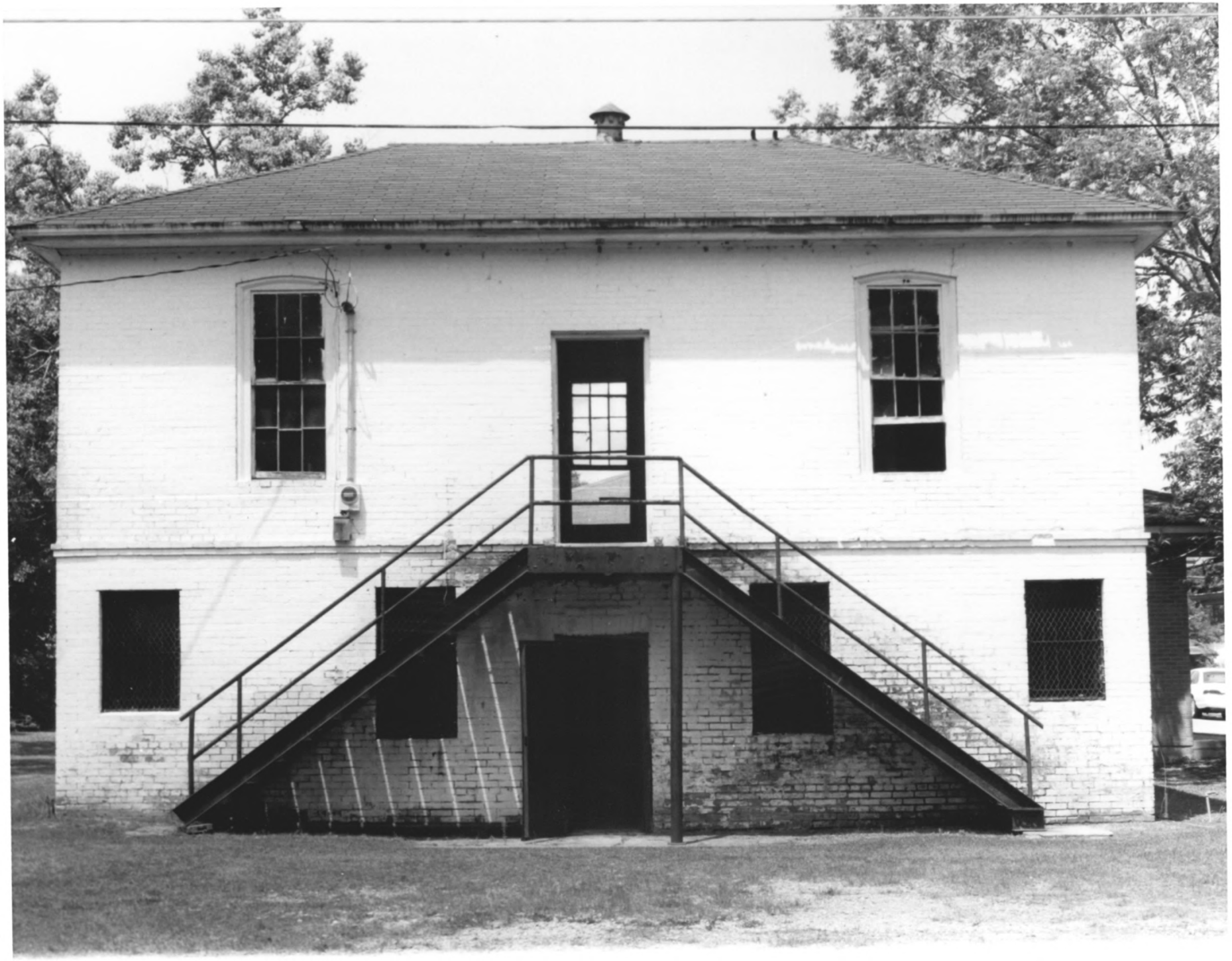
OLD MUNICIPAL COURTROOM & JAIL
SUMRALL, LAMAR COUNTY, MS

Front of Building

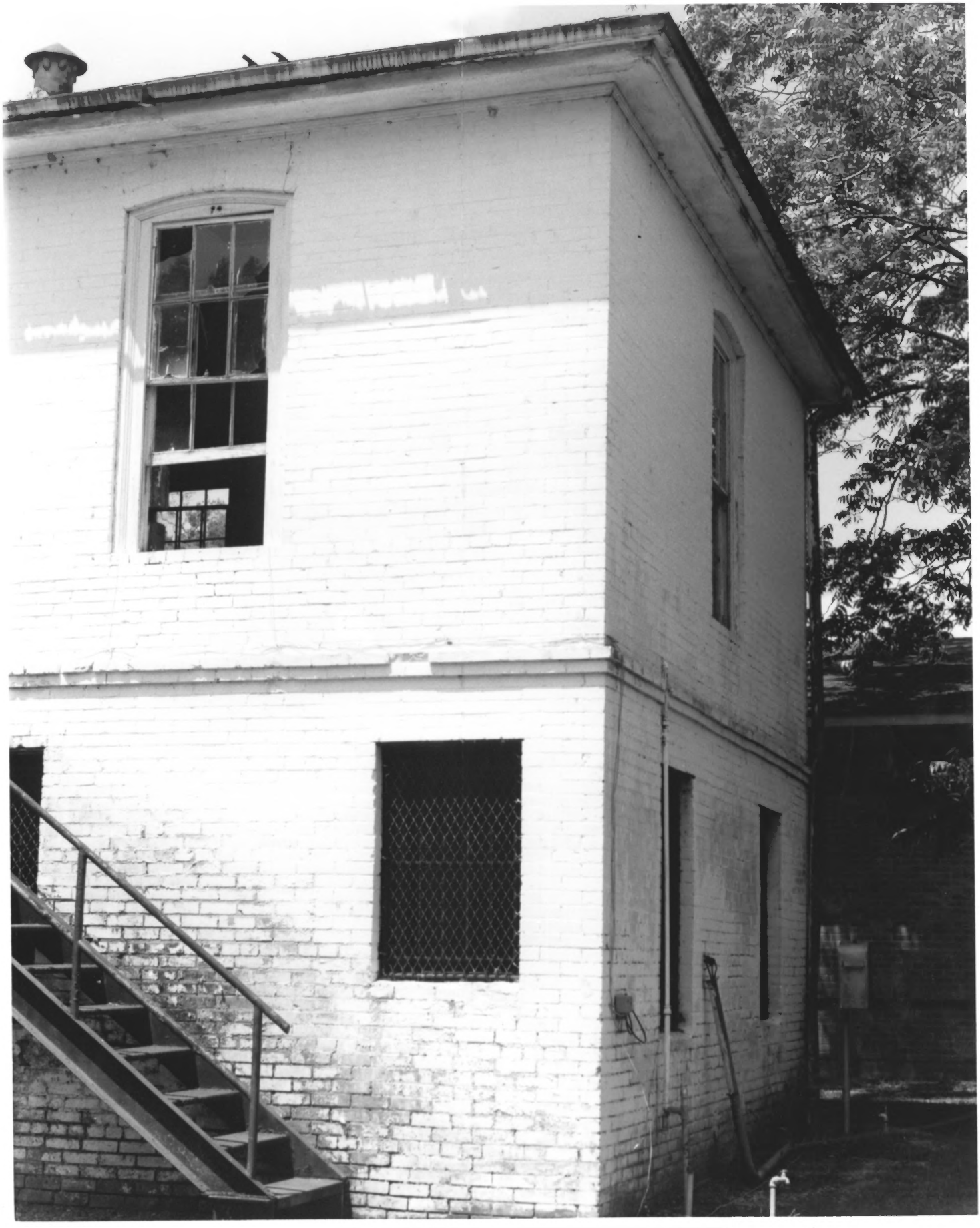
N

Upstairs

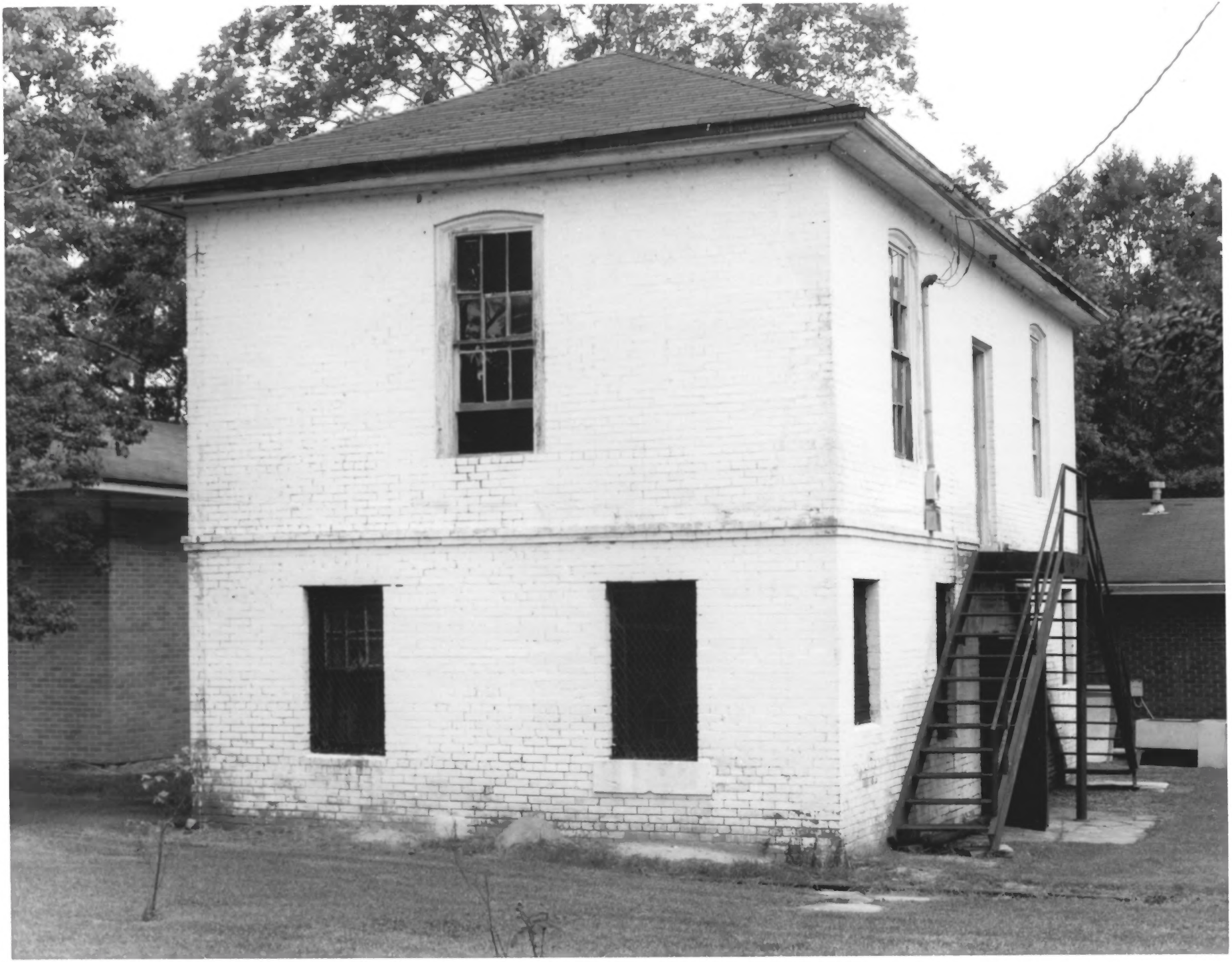
405 Pine Street



Old Municipal Courtroom and Jail
Sumrall, Lamar County, MS
Exterior Front
Photo 1 of 23



Old Municipal Courtroom and Jail
Sumrall, Lamar County, MS
Exterior northside (right)
Photo 2 of 23



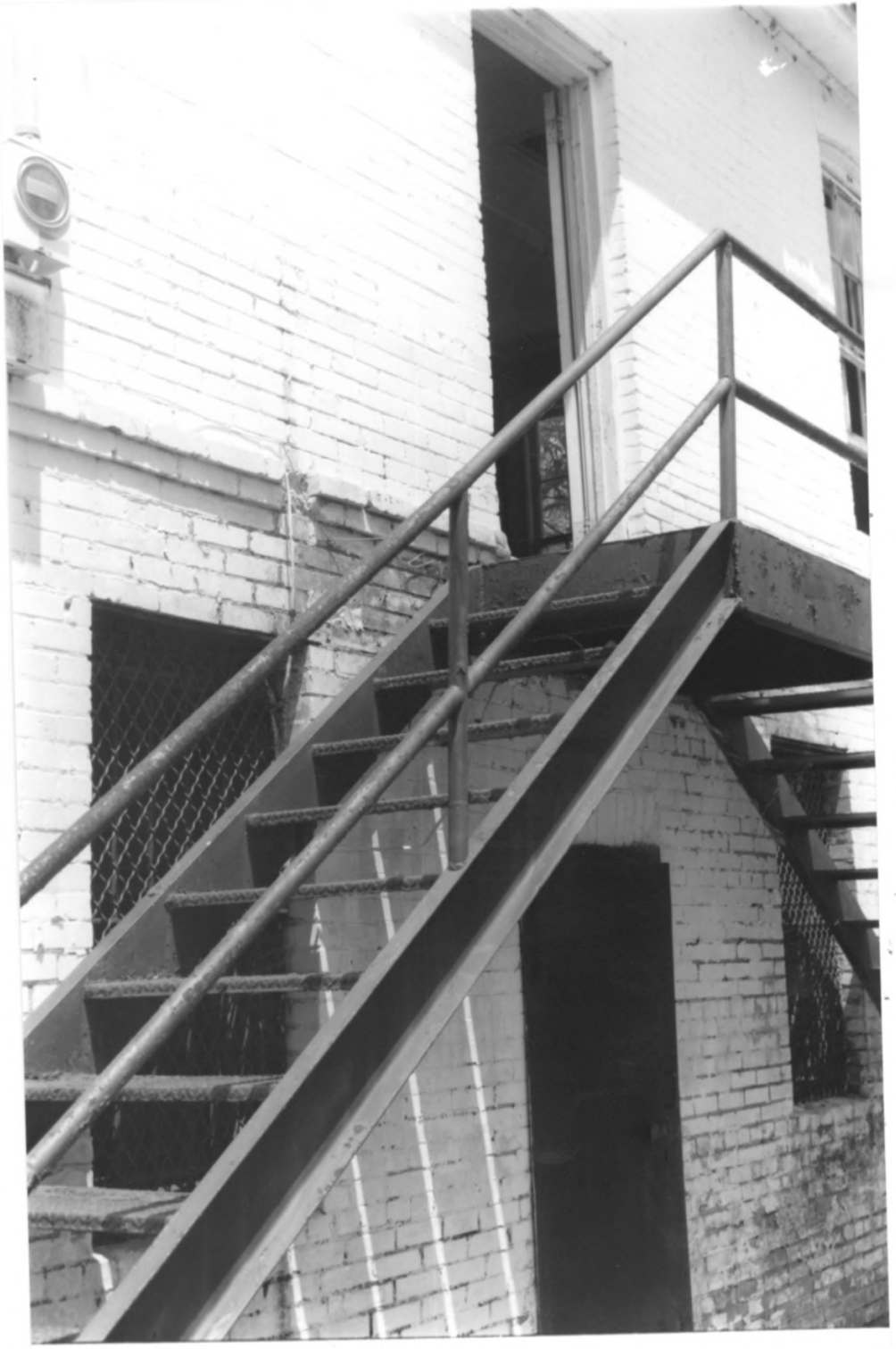
Old Municipal Courtroom and Jail
Sumrall, Lamar County, MS
Exterior south side (left) with front showing
Photo 3 of 23

Old Municipal Courtroom and Jail
Sumrall, Lamar County, MS
Exterior south side (left)
Photo 4 of 23

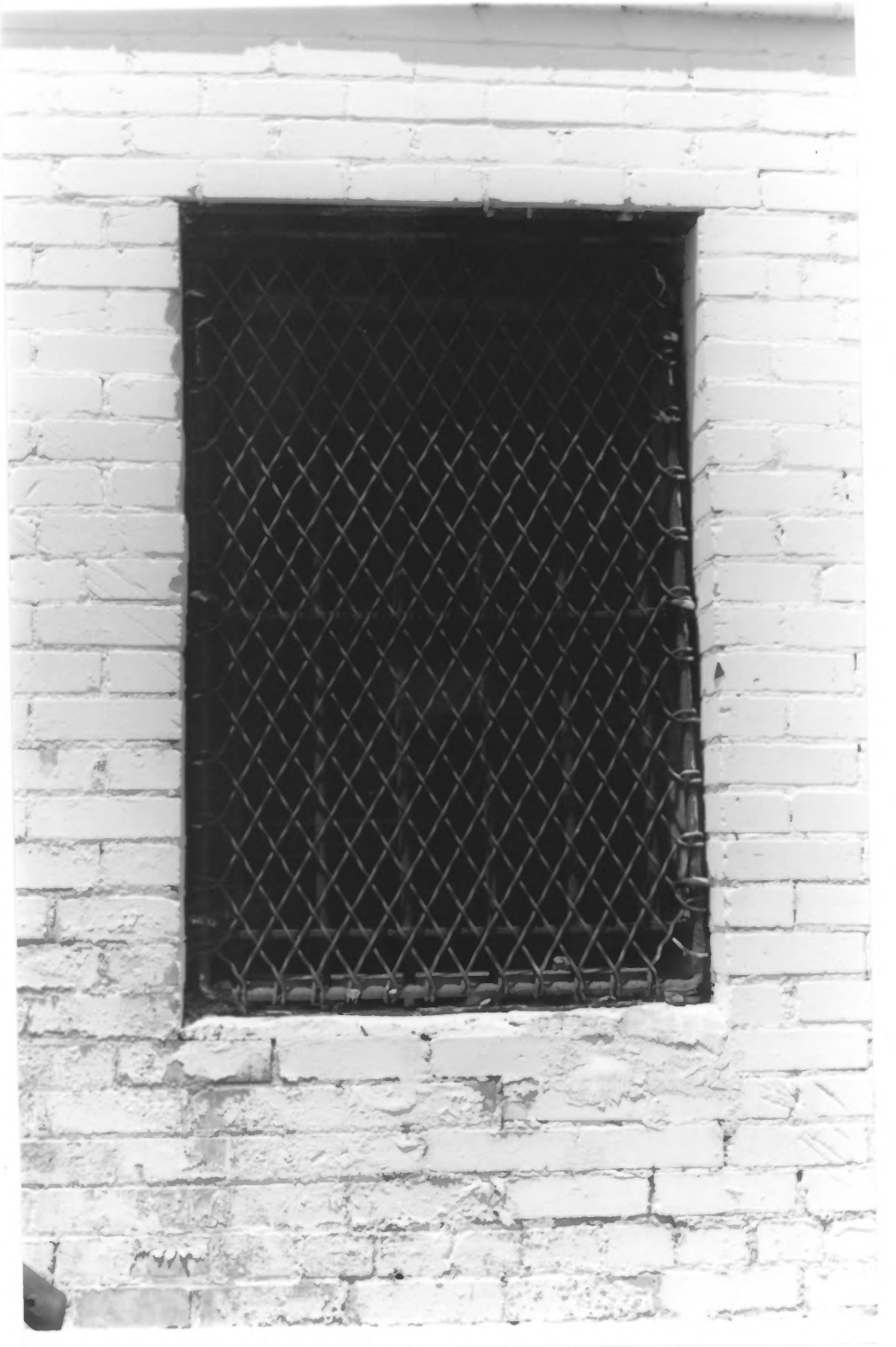
Old Municipal Courtroom and Jail
Sumrall, Lamar County, MS
Exterior rear and south side
Photo 5 of 23

Old Municipal Courtroom and Jail
Sumrall, Lamar County, MS
Exterior mostly rear
Photo 6 of 23

Old Municipal Courtroom and Jail
Sumrall, Lamar County, MS
Exterior close-up of metal front door
Photo 7 of 23

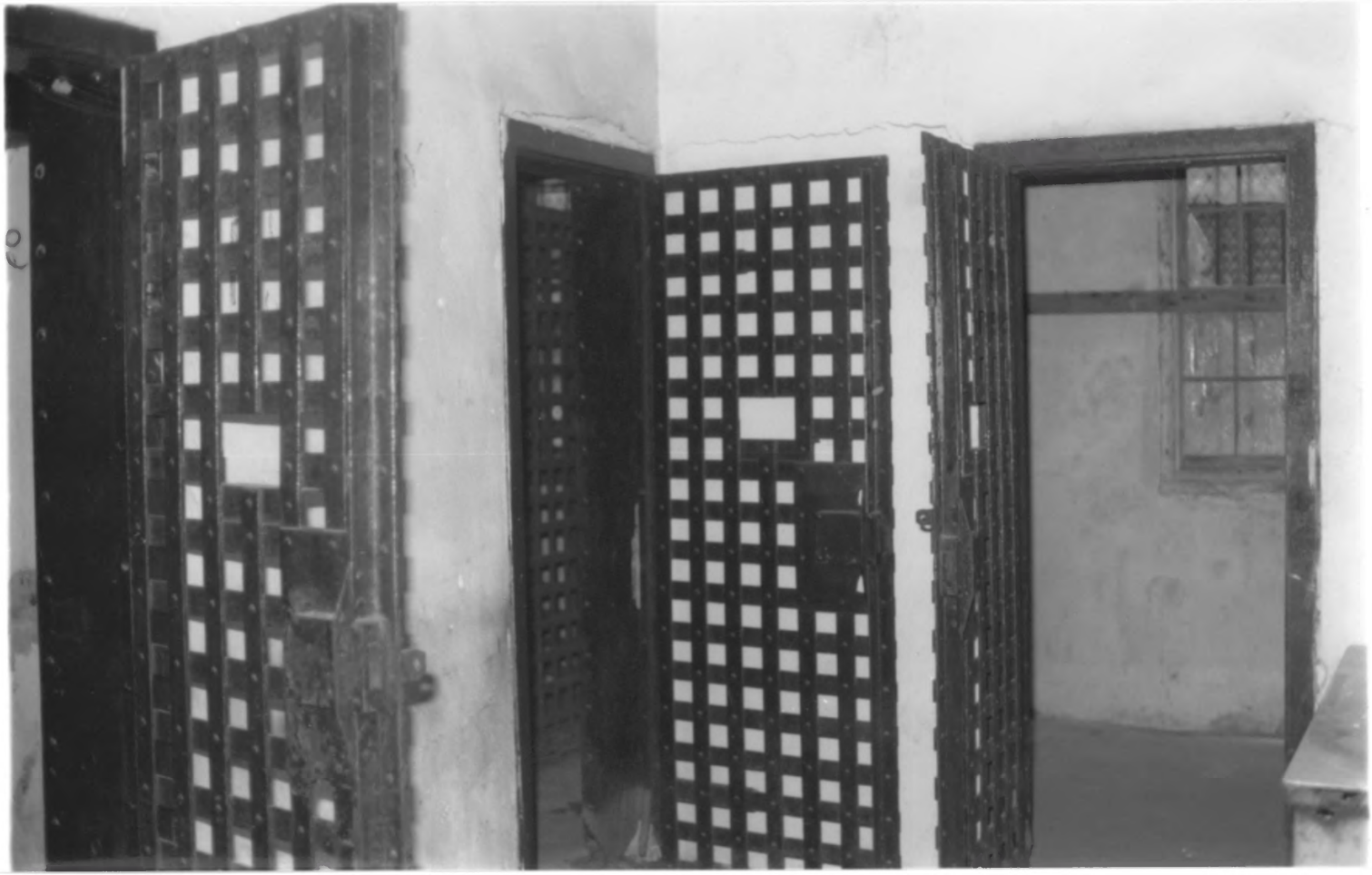


Old Municipal Courtroom and Jail
Sumrall, Lamar County, MS
Exterior close-up of metal stair case
with both front doors
Photo 8 of 23



Old Municipal Courtroom and Jail
Sumrall, Lamar County, MS
Exterior close-up of right front
downstairs window with iron work
Photo 9 of 23

Old Municipal Courtroom and Jail
Sumrall, Lamar County, MS
interior Entrance / Main Room
south and west walls
Photo 10 of 23



Old Municipal Courtroom and Jail
Sumrall, Lamar County, MS
Interior Entrance / Main Room
west and north walls - doors open
Photo 11 of 23

BLOODY

Old Municipal Courtroom and Jail
Sumrall, Lamar County, MS
Interior Entrance / Main Room,
west and north walls - doors closed
Photo 12 of 23

Old Municipal Courtroom and Jail
Sumrall, Lamar County, MS
Interior Entrance / Main Room
ceiling above front door
Photo 13 of 23

Old Municipal Courtroom and Jail
Sumrall, Lamar County, MS
Interior Cell 1
east (front) window with iron work
Photo 14 of 23

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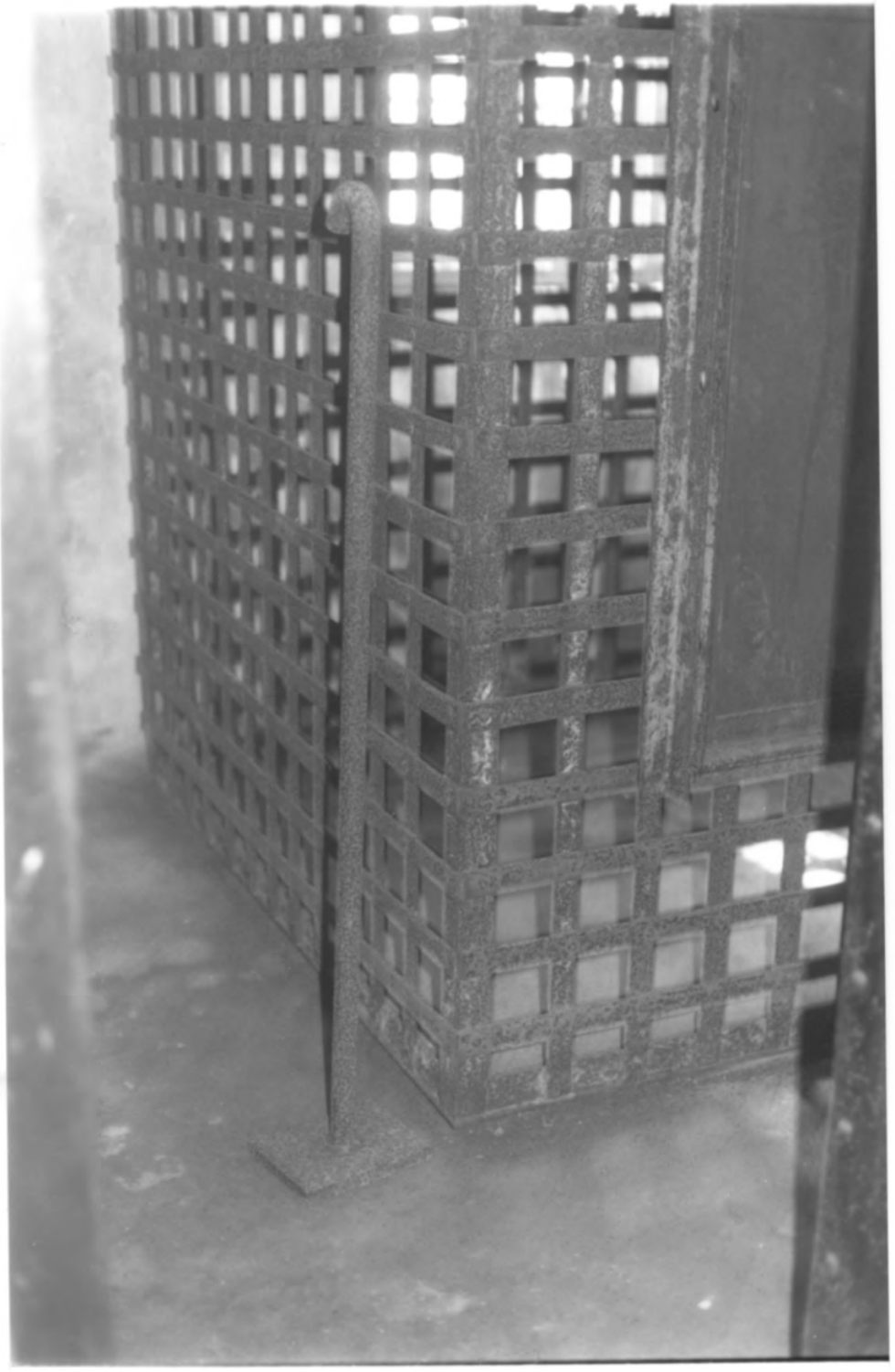
Old Municipal Courtroom and Jail
Sumrall, Lamar County, MS
Interior Cell 3 (center cell)
toilet tank on north wall
Photo 15 of 23

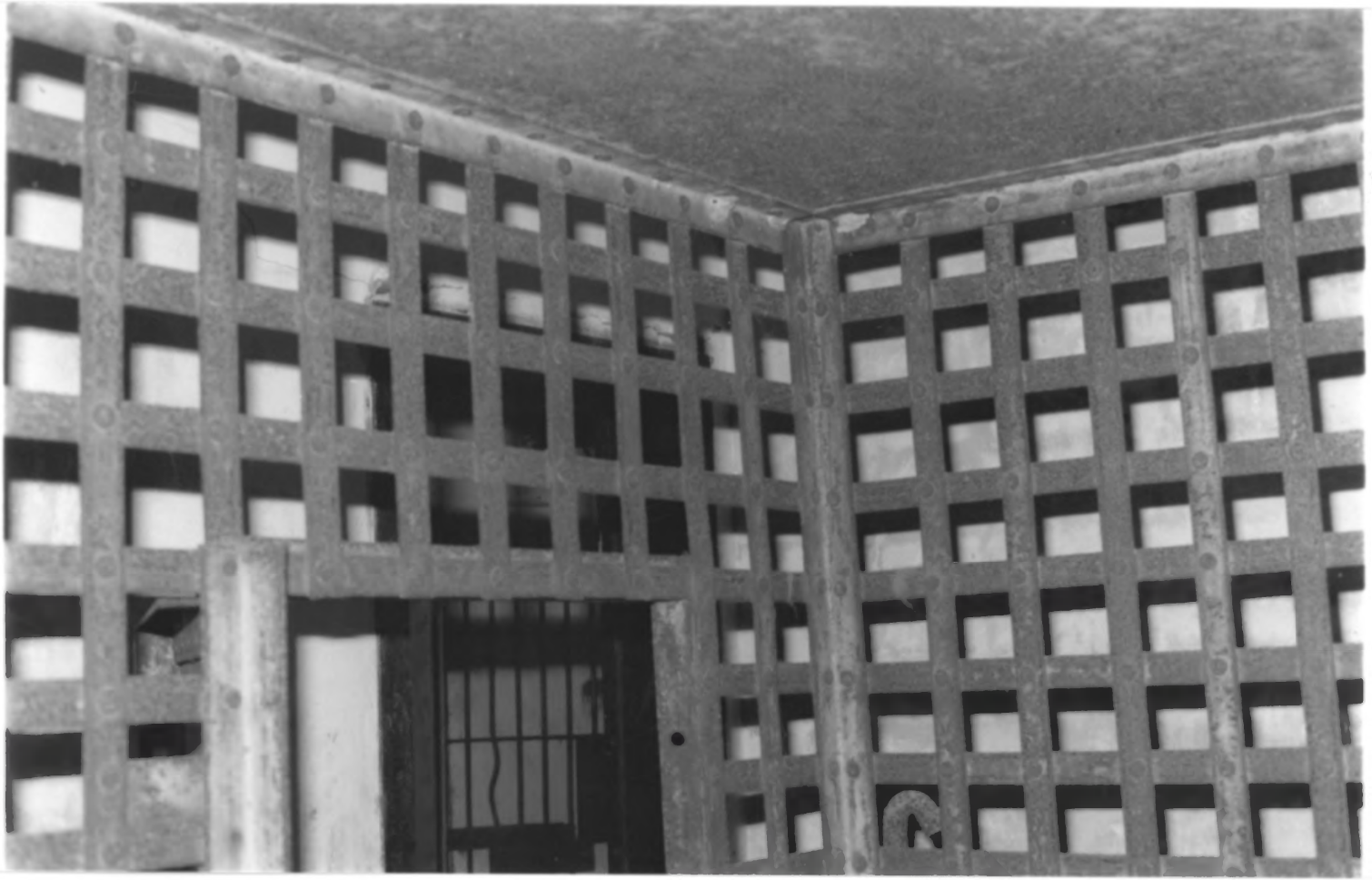
Old Municipal Courtroom and Jail
Sumrall, Lamar County, MS
Interior Cell 5
toilet tank on west wall and old cabinet
Photo 16 of 23

Old Municipal Courtroom and Jail
Sumrall, Lamar County, MS
Interior Cell 5
north and east (front) walls
Photo 17 of 23

Old Municipal Courtroom and Jail
Sumrall, Lamar County, MS
Interior Cell 4
close-up of hinge on iron cage
Photo 18 of 23

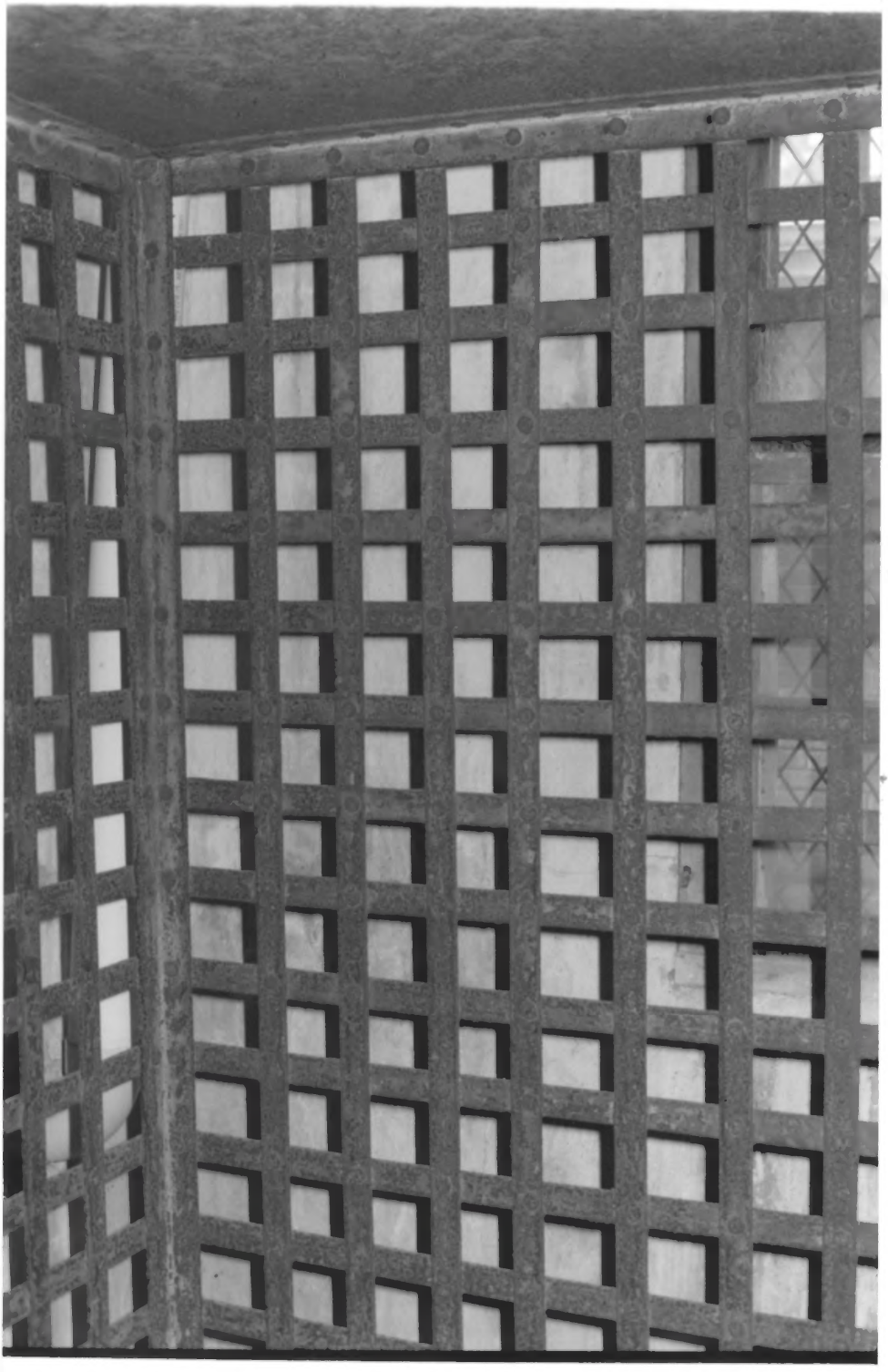


Old Municipal Courtroom and Jail
Sumrall, Lamar County, MS
Interior Cell 4 - close up of iron cage,
and unidentified detached iron rod
Photo 19 of 23



Old Municipal Courtroom and Jail
Sumrall, Lamar County, MS
Interior Cell 4 - view from inside iron cage
east and south walls
Photo 20 of 23

Old Municipal Courtroom and Jail
Sumrall, Lamar County, MS
Interior Cell 4 - view from inside iron cage
east and south walls and floor
Photo 21 of 23



Old Municipal Courtroom and Jail
Sumrall, Lamar County, MS
Interior Cell 4 - view from inside iron
cage · south and west walls + ceiling
Photo 22 of 23

Old Municipal Courtroom and Jail
Sumrall, Lamar County, Ms
Interior Upstairs Courtroom
ceiling and south window
Photo 23 of 23