

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PHO 697 486

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RECEIVED FEB 14 1979

DATE ENTERED

MAR 28 1979

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Madison County Jail

AND/OR COMMON

Old Madison County Jail

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

234 East Fulton Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Canton

VICINITY OF

Third

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Mississippi

28

Madison

89

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

## OWNERSHIP

## STATUS

## PRESENT USE

☐ DISTRICT☐ PUBLIC☐ OCCUPIED☐ AGRICULTURE☒ MUSEUM☒ BUILDING(S)☒ PRIVATE☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ STRUCTURE☐ BOTH☒ WORK IN PROGRESS☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ SITE**PUBLIC ACQUISITION****ACCESSIBLE**☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ OBJECT☐ IN PROCESS☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ BEING CONSIDERED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ NO☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Madison County Historical Society, Inc.

STREET &amp; NUMBER

234 East Fulton Street

CITY, TOWN

Canton

VICINITY OF

STATE

Mississippi 39046

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.Office of the Chancery Clerk  
Madison County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Court Square

CITY, TOWN

Canton

STATE

Mississippi 39046

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Statewide Survey of Historic Sites

DATE

July 9, 1973

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

CITY, TOWN

Jackson

STATE

Mississippi 39205

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT  
☒ ~~GOOD~~  
☒ FAIR  
☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located at 234 East Fulton Street in Canton, Mississippi, the Old Madison County Jail is a two-story brick structure erected 1870-71. While the massive appearance of the entire building suggests strength, permanence, and security, the front (or north) section is decidedly less forbidding than the rear since the front section was planned to house the jailer and his family and as such offers an interesting architectural contrast to the ominous cell block behind. The residence is five bays wide by four bays deep, with walls laid in five-course common bond, with double string courses, a stuccoed water table, and a parapet to mask the low-pitched hip roof. The central-entrance double-leaf door on the north elevation is sheltered by a modern single-bay Colonial Revival porch and is flanked by double-hung two-over-two windows trimmed with stone lintels and sills. A one-story wing containing dining room, kitchen, and bath was added to the east elevation of the residence ca. 1900. Except for its all-stretcher veneer, the addition is carefully matched to the existing structure. Interior trim of the 1870-71 residence is quite simple and almost wholly intact. Door and window frames are unmolded with corner blocks, mantels are designed with chamfered pilasters supporting frieze and shelf, and the single-run staircase located in the center passage is fitted with unpretentious turned newel and balusters. There is no ornamental plasterwork. Doors have four ogee-molded panels except in the room that served as jailer's office and prisoner-receiving room, where iron-sheathed doors are used. Clearly expressing its function, the cell block to the rear of the residence is designed with thick piers visually reinforced with quoins and corbel course, and barred windows placed high in each bay. The brick walls are laid in English bond for added strength. Access to the cell-block interior is through an iron-sheathed door leading from the jailer's office and then through double iron doors into a large bull pen. Originally, cave-like cells lined the east wall on both first and balcony levels. Three of these remain intact, the others having been removed to make way for larger, more efficient steel cages with a lever-locking system bearing a patent date of 1916. Originally the cell block was heated by a single wood-burning fireplace on the south wall of the bull pen. Later, heat was supplied by a stove, and later still by gas-fired heaters.

## 8 SIGNIFICANCE

### PERIOD

### AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

### SPECIFIC DATES

1870-71

### BUILDER/ARCHITECT

C. W. Oates

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Old Madison County Jail, at 234 East Fulton Street in the county seat of Canton, Mississippi, is among the most outstanding and best preserved nineteenth-century penal facilities extant in Mississippi. In addition to the integral place it had in local government, the jail is significant as an example of post-Civil War architecture, exhibiting both domestic and institutional characteristics of the period. Middle-class taste in residential interiors of the 1870s is well reflected in the jailer's quarters, which occupy the front section of the building, while the cell block to the rear illustrates both the nineteenth-century concern for prisoner penance, in its solitary confinements, and later "improvements" to the penal system brought by twentieth-century technology in the form of machine-made and -operated steel cages installed ca. 1920. Present-day standards for prisoner confinement, which prompted the closing of the jail in 1969, represent a third phase of penal history coeval with the jail. The jail was constructed 1870-71 by Valentine Warner under the supervision of architect C. W. Oates at a cost of \$25,000 (Mrs. Sam Latimer, treasurer, Madison County Historical Society, interviewed by William C. Allen, architectural historian, at Canton, Miss., Nov. 14, 1978). None of the few changes the jail has undergone since its construction mars its overall architectural integrity. Ca. 1900 a wing containing a kitchen was added, presumably to replace an earlier detached kitchen, and the cell block was altered to accommodate steel cages ca. 1920. The changes will remain as part of the overall interpretation of the site by the present owners, the Madison County Historical Society, which acquired the property in 1974. Restoration of the building is being planned.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Allen, William, C., architectural historian. Inspection of Old Madison County Jail, Canton, Miss., Nov. 14, 1978.

Latimer, Elwyn S., treasurer, Madison County Historical Society. Interviewed by William C. Allen, architectural historian, at Canton, Miss., Nov. 14, 1978.

Madison Co., Miss. Chancery Clerk. Deed Books U:76, 120:38, 137:83.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 1.25 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Canton, Miss.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:62500

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 778575 3611800

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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

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### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point on the south side of Fulton Street at the NW corner of the Old Cemetery lot, then south 214', then west 245', then north 214', then east 245', to point of beginning.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

William C. Allen, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Private consultant

December 7, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

1115 Quinn Street

601-353-5309

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Jackson

Mississippi 39202

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL   

STATE   

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

William C. Allen

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

February 9, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER  
ATTEST: Charles A. Williams  
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 3/28/79

DATE 3/27/79



MADISON COUNTY JAIL

Canton, Madison County, Mississippi

William C. Allen - 1115 Quinn Street

Jackson, MS 39202

November 14, 1978

View of the facade and south elevation from  
the southwest.

Photo 1 of 2

MAR 28 1979

FEB 14 1979



MADISON COUNTY JAIL

Canton, Madison County, Mississippi

William C. Allen - 1115 Quinn Street

Jackson, MS 39202

November 14, 1978

View of the rear cell block and north wing  
from the northeast.

Photo 2 of 2

FEB 14 1979

MAR 28 1979