

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
 INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

 SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
 TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS
1 NAME

HISTORIC

Old Noxubee County Jail

AND/OR COMMON

Old Noxubee County Jail

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

209 Monroe Street

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Macon

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Third

STATE

Mississippi

CODE

28

COUNTY

Noxubee

CODE

103

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Vacant

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Noxubee County Board of Supervisors

STREET & NUMBER

Noxubee County Courthouse, Jefferson Street

CITY, TOWN

Macon

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Mississippi 39341

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Noxubee County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Jefferson Street

CITY, TOWN

Macon

STATE

Mississippi 39341

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Statewide Survey of Historic Sites

DATE

1976

— FEDERAL STATE — COUNTY — LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

CITY, TOWN

Jackson

STATE

Mississippi 39205

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Facing south on three small lots at 209-213 Monroe Street, Macon, is the Old Noxubee County Jail, a T-shaped two-story brick structure completed in 1907. Expressions of the Romanesque style, considered in the period so appropriate for penal facilities, are made by the prominent arched fenestration, pantile roof, and fortress-like massiveness and bulk of the building. The facade is five bays wide, with the center three projecting in an entrance pavilion capped by a low parapet. The walls are laid in common bond, with limited decoration such as impostes and belt courses to compliment and reinforce the round-arch theme.

As a primary focal point, the entrance to the jail is contained in a well-proportioned brick frontispiece designed with broad abutments, a four-brick archivolt springing from substantial impostes, and a projecting cornice. The two outer bays which flank the center pavilion contain one-over-one arched windows that recall the entrance composition in their prominent archivolts and thin impostes.

The upper bays of the entrance pavilion are formed into an arcade resting on a wide string course. The outer bays are less important and treated with only functional segmental arches. A wide bracketed eave gives a horizontal counterpoint to the primary verticality of the building. Remaining elevations repeat the simple straight-forward effect of the facade, but with the exception of entrance decoration, they rely exclusively on the segmental arch to carry through the basic design motif.

On the interior, the framing system consists of load-bearing sixteen-inch masonry walls covered with plaster, with corrugated vaulted steel deck and reinforced concrete floors. Some interior walls have been refurbished with quarter-inch pre-finished wood paneling. The first floor consists of a receiving office and security guard housing with kitchen, eating area, and restroom. The second floor and third-floor balcony house the cell area and toilet facilities.

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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" 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 1907

BUILDER/ARCHITECT William S. Hull

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Old Noxubee County Jail on Monroe Street is the second oldest of three county jails in Macon. Because of regional stylistic preferences and the economic stagnation of post-Civil War Mississippi, it remains one of the relatively few examples of Romanesque Revival architecture in the state and is thus a significant expression of the style. It functioned as the county jail for seventy-one years.

Prior to the construction of the Old Noxubee County Jail in 1907, citizens of the county had felt the need for a secure jail. The older 1860 facility, still extant on Washington Street, was even in its early days "no jail at all," according to a local attorney and state representative of the period, Hampton Jarnigan (United States, Joint Select Committee, p. 536). The fact that prisoners simply removed bricks to escape aggravated a public which had been charged twice what the building should have cost.

The new structure, designed by William S. Hull, popular Jackson, Mississippi, architect, and built by Pauly Jail Company of Memphis, was quite different. Although not escape-proof, it facilitated better management of prisoners and provided greatly improved accommodations--"steam heat, electric lights, hot and cold baths. . . ." Inmates were incarcerated on the second floor, while the jailer and his family resided on the first. Reaction to the new building was duly recorded in the local press:

The new jail is really a fine, modern prison and so far as that feature of the county's affairs can, reflects great credit on old Noxubee. (Macon Beacon, May 11, 1907)

The best-known event associated with the jail was a hanging which took place a few months after the building was completed. Monroe Street was closed, and for days the condemned man, Si Connor, preached from his cell window to large predominantly black crowds while a gallows was constructed across the street. Connor claimed to have visited hell and found it "as big as Macon; maybe bigger." He was hanged on September 27, 1907. It was generally agreed that such a spectacle did little to deter crime, and thereafter the practice of public hangings was discontinued.

In 1978 county officials recognized the trend toward single-cell accommodations and constructed a new facility. While presently vacant and facing an uncertain future, the Old Noxubee County Jail enjoys considerable integrity and its preservation is a matter of local public concern.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Macon, Miss. Macon Beacon. May 11, 1907; September 14, 1907; September 28, 1907.

Newsom, Paul, environmental coordinator. Personal inspection, September 25, 1978.

_____. Personal interviews at Macon with Cecil Russell, sheriff, Noxubee County, and T. W. Crigler, Macon resident, September 27, 1978.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY One-fifth acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Macon, Mississippi

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 354390 3663950

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G

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property comprises lots 209, 210, and 211 on the north side of Monroe Street and measures 115 feet by 75 feet. Beginning at the southwestern-most corner of lot 209, proceed east 115 feet along Monroe Street; then north 75 feet; then west 115 feet; then

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 Paul Newsom, Environmental Coordinator
William C. Allen, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION Mississippi Department of Archives and History

DATE September 28, 1978

STREET & NUMBER P. O. Box 571

TELEPHONE 601-354-7326

CITY OR TOWN Jackson

STATE Mississippi 39205

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

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

Elmer B. Williams

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE November 8, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

ATTEST: KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 & 10 PAGE 1

9 - MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

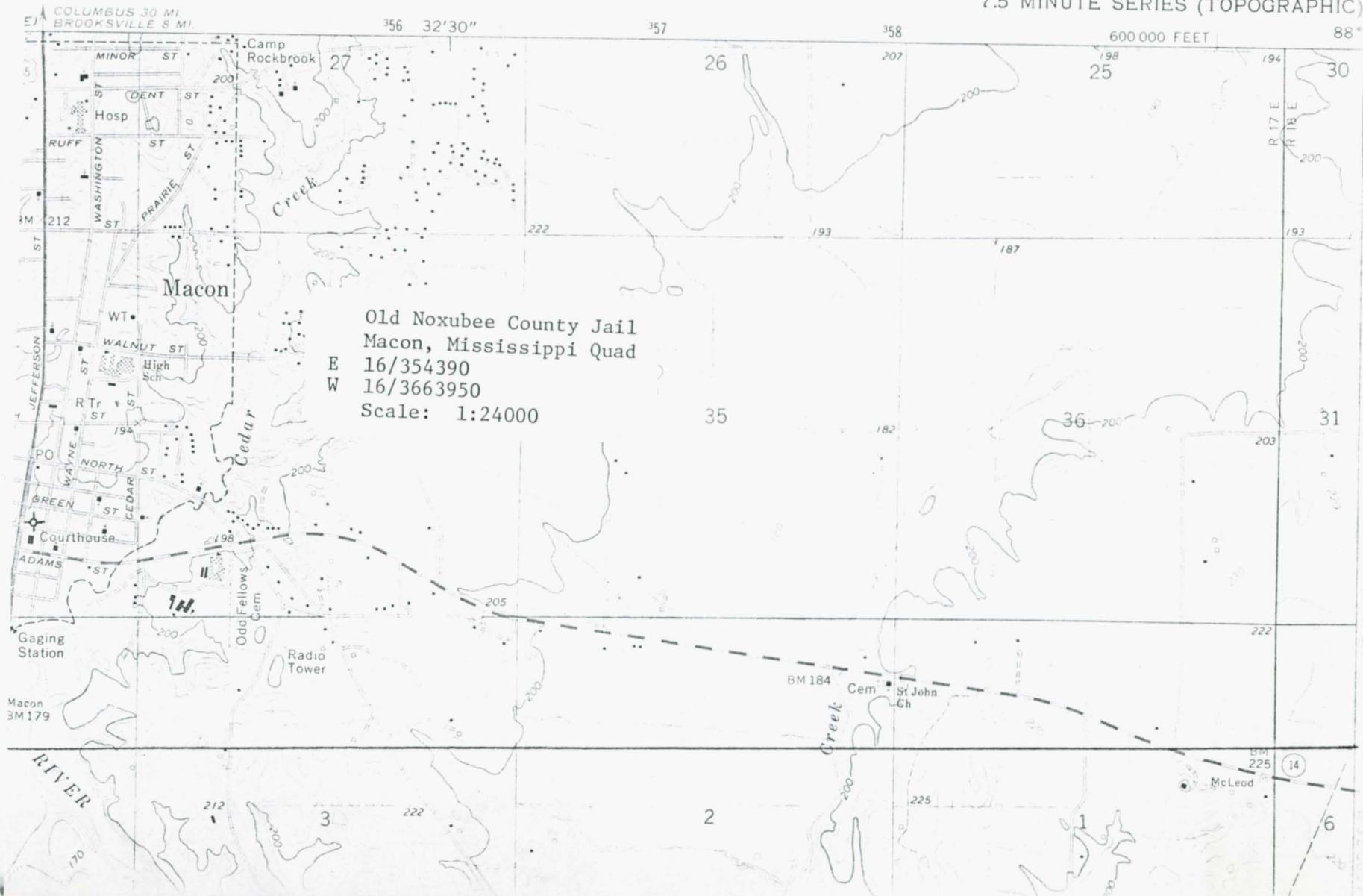
United States. Joint Select Committee

To Inquire into the Condition of Affairs in the Late Insurrectionary States:
Mississippi. Volume I. Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1872.

10 - VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

south to the point of beginning.

MACON QUADRANGLE
MISSISSIPPI-NOXUBEE CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



Old Noxubee County Jail
Macon, Mississippi Quad
16/354390
16/3663950
Scale: 1:24000

COLUMBUS 30 MI
EJ) BROOKSVILLE 8 MI

Macon
3M179

BM
225
14

McLeod



OLD NOXUBEE COUNTY JAIL

Macon, Noxubee County, Mississippi

Paul Newsom

September 25, 1978

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

Facade (south elevation), from the southwest.

Photo 1 of 2



OLD NOXUBEE COUNTY JAIL

Macon, Noxubee County, Mississippi

Paul Newsom

September 25, 1978

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

East elevation, from the east.

Photo 2 of 2