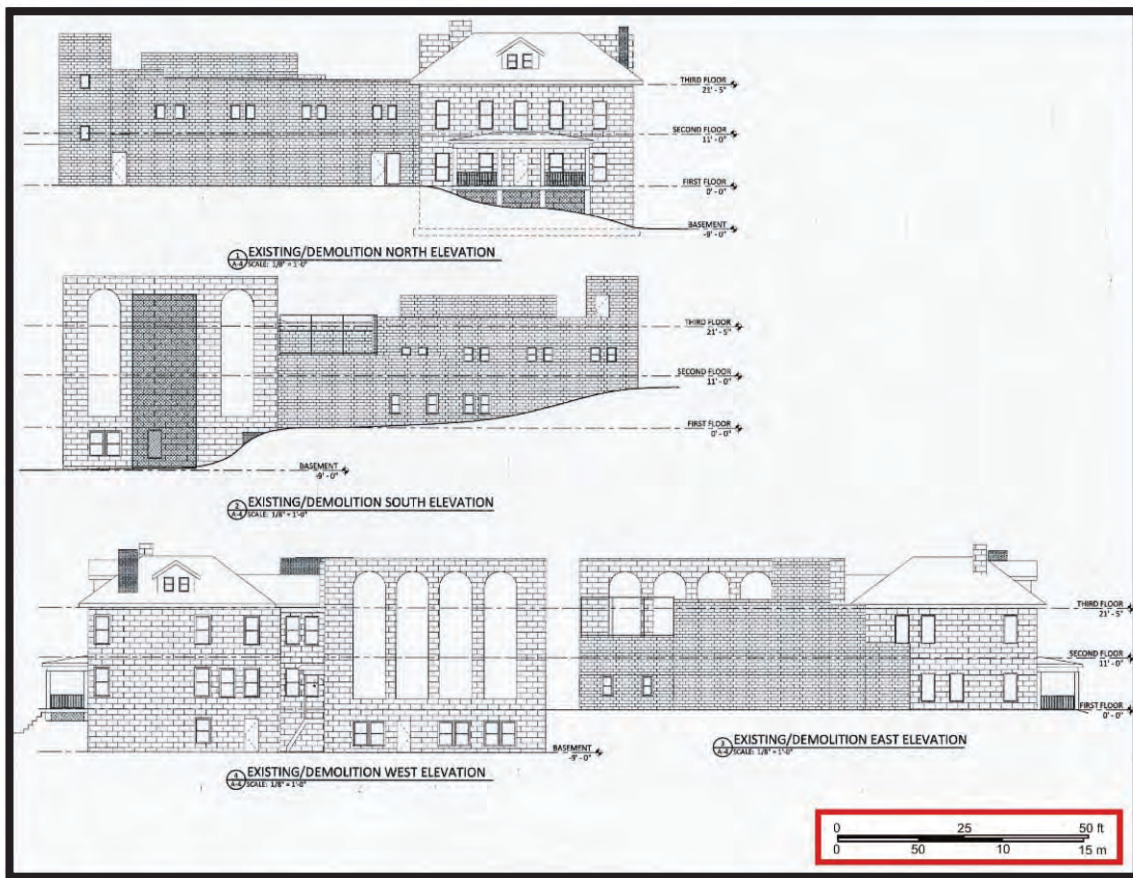


Historic Structural Assessment Greene County Jail Complex Village of Catskill, Greene County, NY



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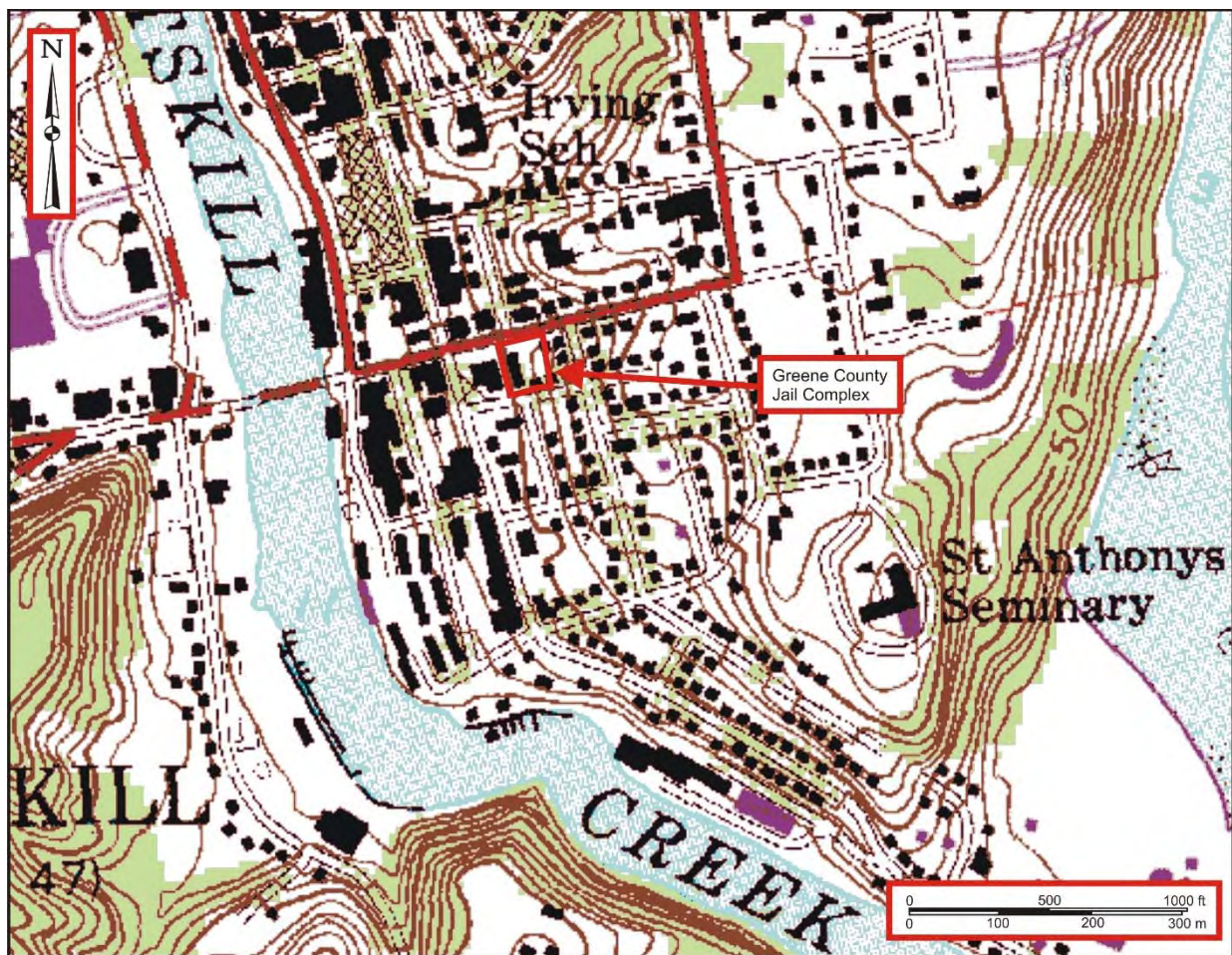
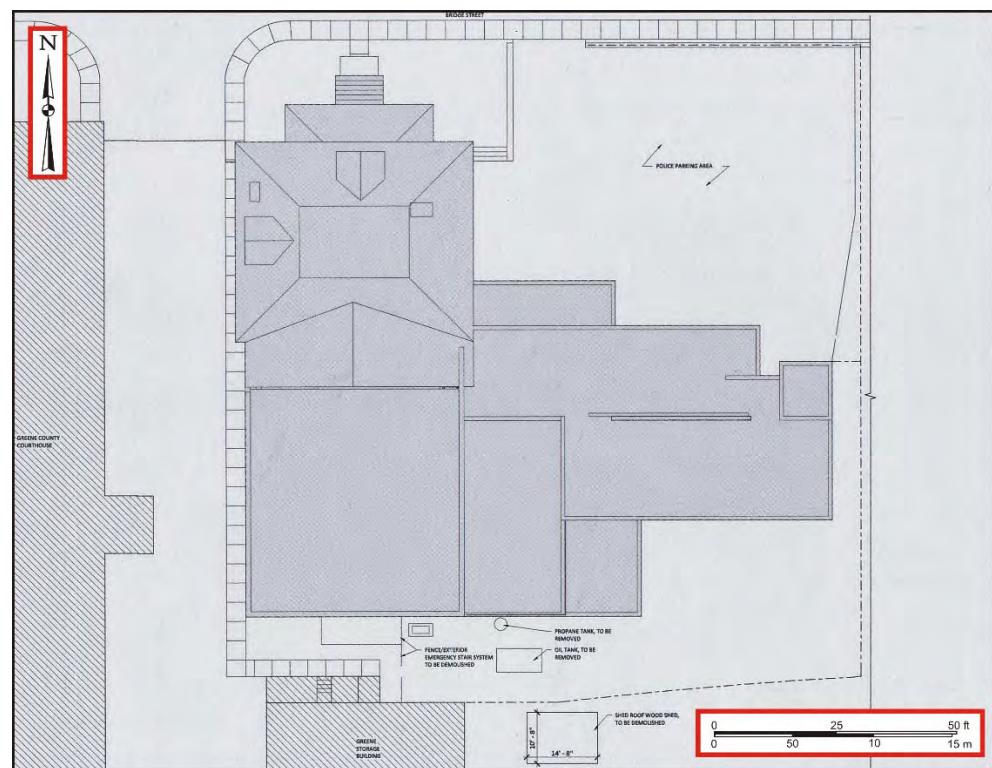
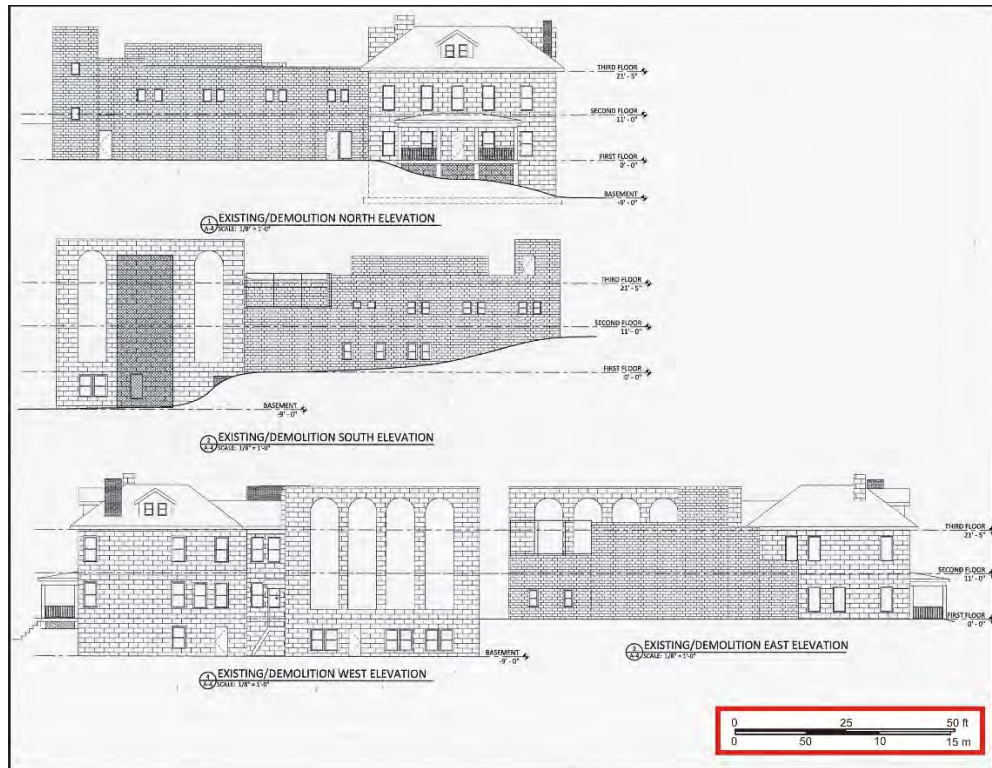


Figure 1. Detail of 1980 Hudson South USGS 7.5 minute topographic showing the location of the Greene County Jail Complex in Catskill, NY.

Introduction

This report provides the results of a historic architectural assessment conducted for the Greene County Jail Complex located on Bridge Street in the Village of Catskill, Greene County, New York (Figures 1-5; Photos 5-99). The Greene County Jail Complex is slated for demolition and a Phase IA/IB Cultural Resources Survey was conducted by Birchwood Archaeological Services in December of 2018 as part of the Greene County Jail Complex Demolition Project. The results of that survey showed no historic or precontact artifact or features were located, and no archaeological sites were identified as part of the subsurface testing (Moyer and Idleman 2018).

The proposed project is situated in an urban area on the south side of Bridge Street in the Village of Catskill and involves the complete demolition and removal of the Greene County Jail Complex structures, which includes the Jail, Sheriff's Office, and D-Block Structures (Figures 2-5). A two-story, three-bay carriage house in the southern part of the project area will be preserved. Following the demolition, the cellar holes will be filled, and the area will be paved in asphalt and converted to a parking lot.



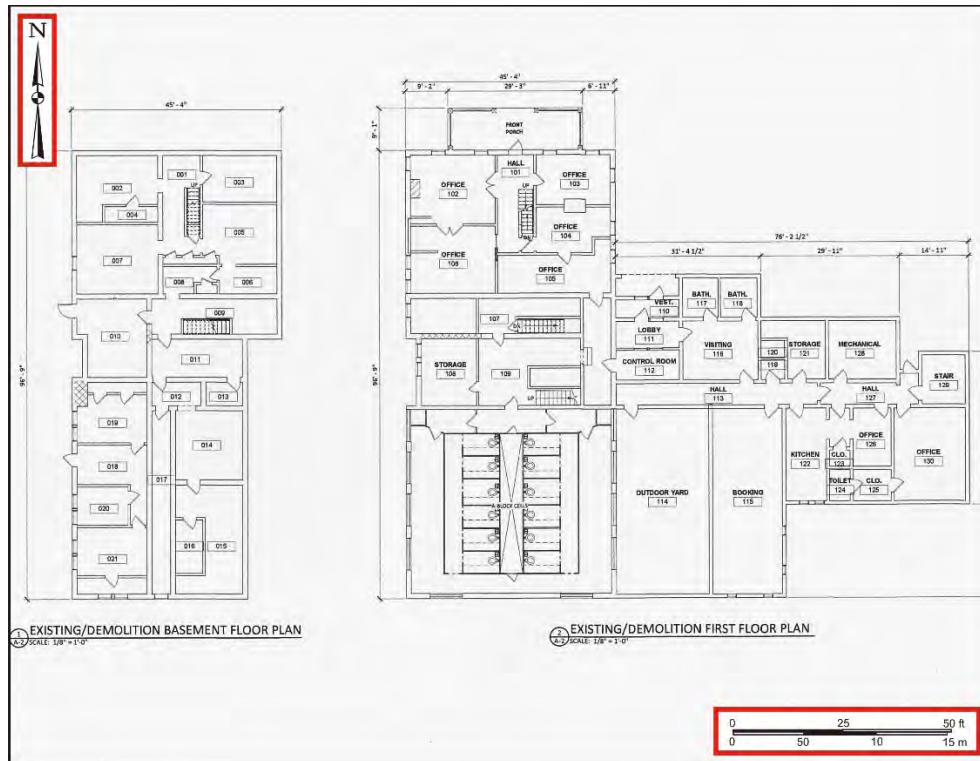


Figure 4. Plan view showing the jail complex basement and first floor layouts from the demolition plan.

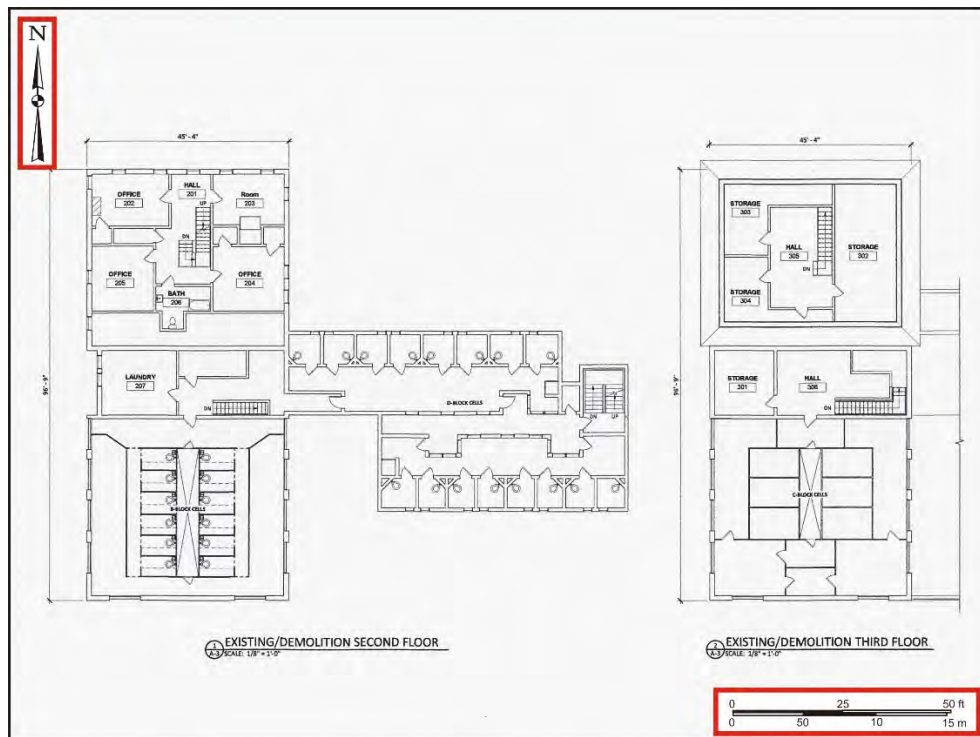


Figure 5. Plan view showing the jail complex second and third floor layouts from the demolition plan.

History of Catskill

The Town of Catskill was formed in 1788 when the area was still a part of Albany County. The Village of Catskill was incorporated in 1806 and has been the Greene County Seat since. The area that would become Catskill began to be settled by Dutch colonists in 1684 after land there was purchased from a Native American group (Sullivan 1927). These early settlers were primarily farmers and those using Catskill Creek to move products from the highlands to the west to the Hudson River. The lands around Catskill remained lightly populated during the late 1600's and throughout the 1700's. Even in 1792, after the end of the Revolutionary War, only ten houses made up the hamlet of Catskill. But soon after, the population increased quickly and by 1803, 13 warehouses and 31 stores could be found in the soon-to-be Village of Catskill. (Beers 1884). Early industry focused on the mills, tanneries, and farms that were started by the early residents. As the population grew in the early 1800's, so too did the industrial aspects of Catskill. Manufacturing grew quickly throughout the 19th century. Brickmaking was significant industry in Catskill due to the large clay deposits along the Hudson River. Much of this was controlled by Thomas Ferrier and his brother Robert, who together ran three separate brick-making companies in the late 19th century in the west sections of Catskill. Other industries included clothing mills and factories, foundries, lime factories, pottery, and drain tile production. Steamboat companies, based in Catskill, operated along the Hudson River (Beers 1884).



Figure 6. 1889 Burleigh map of the Village of Catskill.



Photo 1. View of the former Greene County Jail/Heidelburgh Inn from Clark St., facing northeast. Photo taken from Gallt 1915.

The First Greene County Jail

Prior to the completion of the Greene County Jail in 1909, an earlier jail facility was used throughout the 19th century (Photos 1-2). This structure is located at 37 Clark St, a block east of the Greene County Jail Complex. Construction for the first jail began in 1804. This three-story, brick structure has a gambrel roof and a stone foundation with additions to the structure built in 1862 and in the 1880's (Flanagan 1980). The building itself held cells for prisoners but was also a residence for the county sheriff. Having a history of over 100 years as an active jail, what were thought to be suitable conditions early on were shown to be problematic even by the 1850's, when an inspection of the jail found it to be unsuitable for prisoners (Columbia Republican 1906). An inspection of the jail in 1907 indicated that the four rooms or cells used for prisoners were not sufficient for the numbers and types of prisoners held there. The interior construction of the jail was mainly wooden framing, which led to both rodent and pest issues along with being a potentially great fire hazard for those inside. There was insufficient light

because of both a lack of windows and the iron bars over the existing windows that cut out much of the light from the outside. The cells were poorly ventilated and contained no plumbing. Three of the cells were used for male prisoners while the remaining cell was used for female prisoners, which led to overcrowded conditions much of the time. Also, different classes of prisoners were mixed together, often with grand jury witnesses placed in the same areas as those prisoners with longer sentences considered much more dangerous (McLaughlin 1907). The old Clark St. jail was closed when the new Bridge St. jail was opened in 1909. The old jail was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Beardsley at auction for \$3,000. Charles Beardsley was a well-known, local architect, but it was Mrs. Beardsley who is credited with turning the old jail into a well-known and respected boarding house and residence. Calling it the Heidelburgh Inn, the Beardsleys renovated the building from top to bottom. Mrs. Beardsley was said to have made a shrewd deal to sell all the iron associated with the cells and other jail features, and the building was converted into a residence for the Beardsleys and an eleven room boarding house with a large hall and an expanded third floor with grand views of the Catskill Mountains to the west. Mrs. Beardsley was also known to do some of the demolition work herself (Gallt 1915). After the Beardsleys, the Heidelberg Inn was converted into apartments. As of the late 1970's, iron bars were still visible in the basement windows (Flanagan 1980).



Photo 2. View of the former Greene County Jail/Heidelburgh Inn from Clark St., facing southeast. Photo taken from Flanagan 1980.

History and Construction of the Jail Complex

Because of the poor conditions of the jail built in 1804, discussions began at the turn of the 20th century to find a solution to the inadequacies of the current jail. Inspections by the State Commission of Prisoners in 1907 indicated that recommendations to upgrade the old jail were mostly ignored previously, and conditions were such that the inspector strongly recommended that major renovations were needed, or better yet, an entirely new building should be constructed to serve as the Greene County Jail (McLaughlin 1907)

The Greene County Board of Supervisors awarded the contract for the new courthouse, jail, and sheriff's residence to the Peter Keeler Building Company of Albany for \$128,646. While also having the lowest bid for the project, the Peter Keeler Building Company had a good reputation and was well known for building projects such as the State Hospital in Poughkeepsie. The intention of the Board was to create a very grand complex and they decided it was worth investing in high quality materials such as Ohio sandstone blocks as the primary material the buildings would be made from (Windham Journal 1908). The corner of Bridge Street and Main Street was chosen as the location of the new Court House, with the jail and sheriff's residence located behind it to the east (Photo 3). This demanded the demolition of multiple buildings already existing at that location, which began in 1908. The structures located at the site that were demolished housed Cargill's Livery, a restaurant in the location of the first automobile showroom in Catskill, the offices for the Examiner newspaper, a Western Union Telegraph office, a laundry, a telephone exchange, and a hotel named the Irving House (Philip (ed.) 2006). A cornerstone ceremony was held on Nov. 12, 1908 (Photo 4) and the complex was finished in 1909.

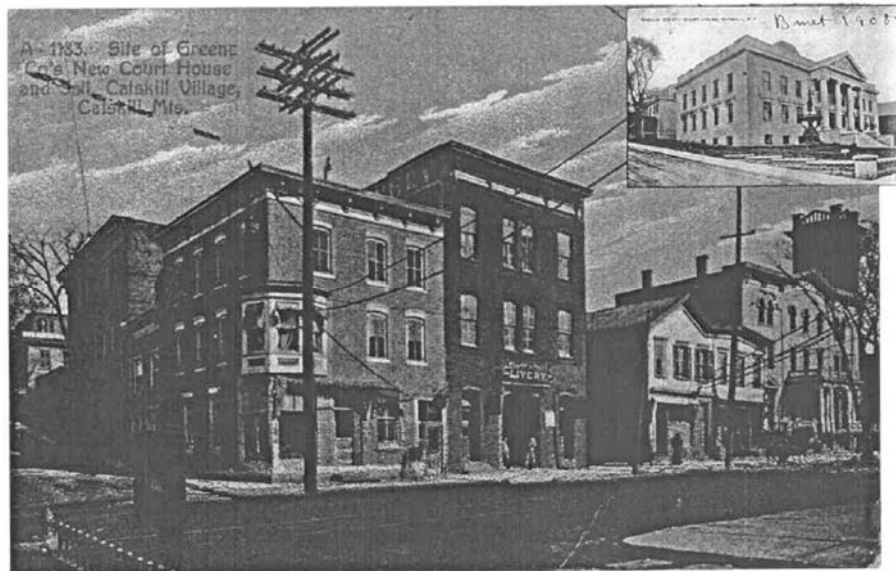


Photo 3. Corner of Bridge St. and Main St. prior to the Greene County courthouse construction. Top left photo shows the newly constructed courthouse. Photo taken from Philip 2006.



Photo 4. Cornerstone ceremony for the new Greene County jail and courthouse, Nov 12, 1908. Photo taken from Gallt 1915.

George McLoughlin, who had previously inspected the old jail mentioned above, inspected the new jail in January of 1910. He found the modern plan, cell layout of 30 cells, wash basins, flush toilets, and exercise space to be sufficient and a ‘credit’ to the work and money Greene County put into the project (Hudson Evening Register 1910). It appears the first Greene County Sheriff to oversee the new jail and live in the attached residence was Elmore Mackey, of Athens, NY, born in 1871 (Photo 5). Mackey’s ancestors had lived in Greene County since the early 1700’s, likely in Coxsackie. Elmore Mackey was elected as the Town Supervisor of Athens and was the youngest member of the Board of Supervisors when he was first elected in 1907. Mackey was elected to the position of Greene County Sheriff in 1912 with a clear majority over his one opponent. He and Mrs. Mackey moved into the new residence and Mrs. Mackey took over as ‘matron’ for the jail complex (Gallt 1915).

A new, modernized section known as D Block (Photos 75-99) was added in 1978 bringing the number of cells up to 48, and accommodations were added bringing the number of beds to 56 in 1981 (Zangla 2014).

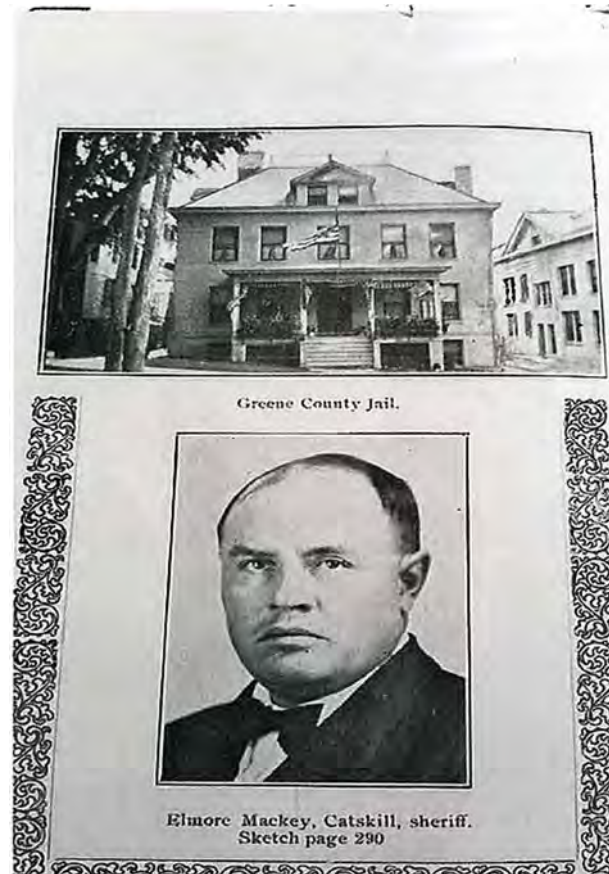


Photo 5. Front view of the Sheriff's Residence (top) and Sheriff Elmore Mackey (bottom) circa 1910. Photo taken from Gallt 1915.



Photo 6. Detail of a parlor in the Sheriff's Residence in 1910. Photo taken from Gallt 1915

Architectural Assessment

The Greene County Jail Complex (Figures 2-5; Photos 5-99) slated for demolition is made up of three sections: the original jail (A-C Blocks), an attached former Sheriff's residence and offices finished in 1909, and D Block, located just to the east of the 1909 sections and completed in 1978. As previously mentioned, the Greene County Courthouse on Main St. was also part of the original 1909 construction, but it will remain in use.

The Original Jail

The jail itself is a cubical structure comprised of three floors and a basement. The outer walls are steel and concrete while the inner walls are comprised of riveted steel plating. One of the structural issues with the jail complex has to do with the south wall of the jail. The south wall is separating away from the rest of the structure (Photo 19). Heavily screened windows with exterior steel bars run vertically on the east, south, and west sides of the jail (Photos 7-8, 20). All floors and ceilings are made from steel-reinforced concrete. The three above ground floors are the active areas used for inmate incarceration. A Block makes up the first floor, B Block makes up the second floor, and C Block is the third floor of the jail. A Block and B Block are identical in layout with six cells running north-south, one set facing east and the other facing west. These cells had steel-plate walls and iron-barred doors (Photos 10, 21) controlled by a lever system located at the north end of each cell block (Photo 14). In front of these cells was an open corridor where the prisoners would take their meals at permanently placed stools and tables and be able to move about (Photos 11-12). Beyond the communal corridors, enclosed by iron bars, were corridors running around the inside of the exterior walls for the corrections officers to perform their jobs. A single shower was located in both the southeast and southwest corners of A Block and B Block, which had barred doors that would allow inmates access to the showers, but close off the outer corridors used by corrections officers (Photo 18). For both A Block and B Block this configuration was mirrored on both the east and west sides of the jail. C Block also had a mirrored layout, but there were only three cells per side located at the north end of the building. Dorm-like rooms were located at the south end of the C Block (Photos 22-24) and generally used by female prisoners. This was one of the isolated places where individuals had left graffiti within the jail itself (Photos 26-27). Bisecting the cells was a 'chase', or conduit where the plumbing for each cell and electric for the jail was located (Photos 13, 16-17, 28-29). This was a narrow access that was open from the base of A Block to the ceiling of C Block. It is very dark with a mass of plumbing and electrical conduits throughout. While the chase had a concrete floor in A Block, to access the to access the plumbing or electrical utilities in B Block or C Block, one would have to walk along a steel catwalk with no sides or railings that was less than 3 ft. (1 m) wide (Photos 16-28).

The basement contained a corridor that was structurally tied to the chase on the three floors above, but it is not open to the first floor containing A Block (Photos 32-33). Inmate property storage (Photo 35) was also located in the jail basement along with other storage and utilities (Photo 34). Several adjustable jacks were placed at the base of the south wall to help support the wall (Photo 36), which as previously mentioned, is separating from the rest of the structure. Water leaks and moisture issues were also noticeable in the basement (Photo 37) along with other examples of the decaying structure (Photo 38-39). These areas that have decayed do illustrate a few of the building techniques used in the construction, such as steel-reinforced

concrete used in the floor construction of the jail (photo 38) and how the interior brick walls of the basement meet the exterior Ohio sandstone blocks meet (Photo 39)



Photo 7. View of the west side of the jail, facing east.



Photo 8. View of the south wall of the jail showing the outside of the exercise yard (center), facing northwest.



Photo9. View of the main entrance to A Block.

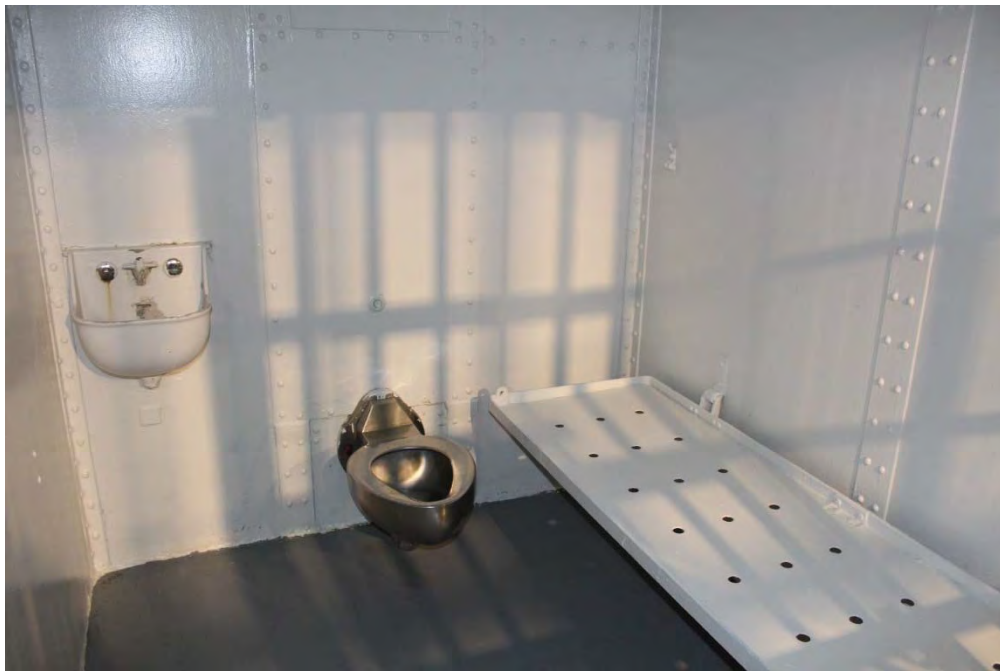


Photo 10. View of a typical cell interior, A Block.



Photo 11. View of the exercise corridor/public area in front of the cells in A Block, facing south.



Photo 12. View of the exercise corridor/public area in front of the cell row in A Block, facing north.



Photo 13. View of the chase in A Block, facing south.



Photo 14. View of the cell door controls in A Block.

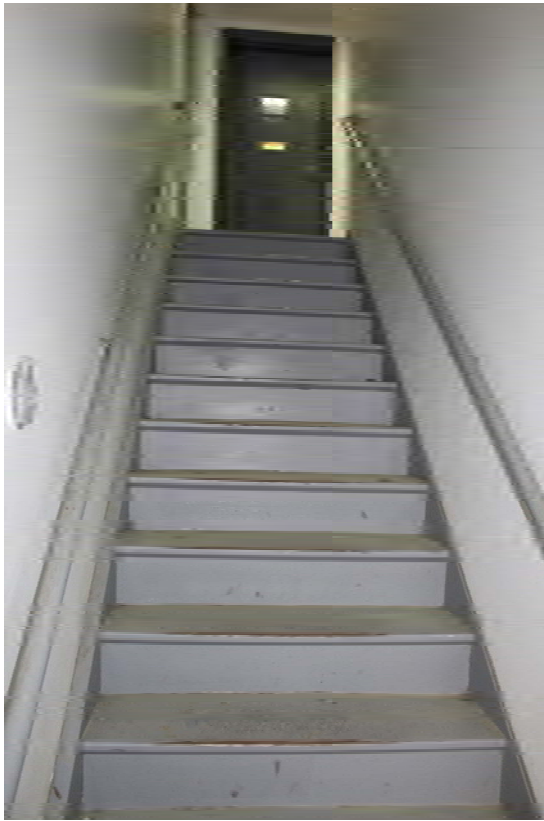


Photo 15. View of the stairs leading from the first floor to the second floor of the 1909 jail.



Photo 16. View the chase in B Block, facing south.

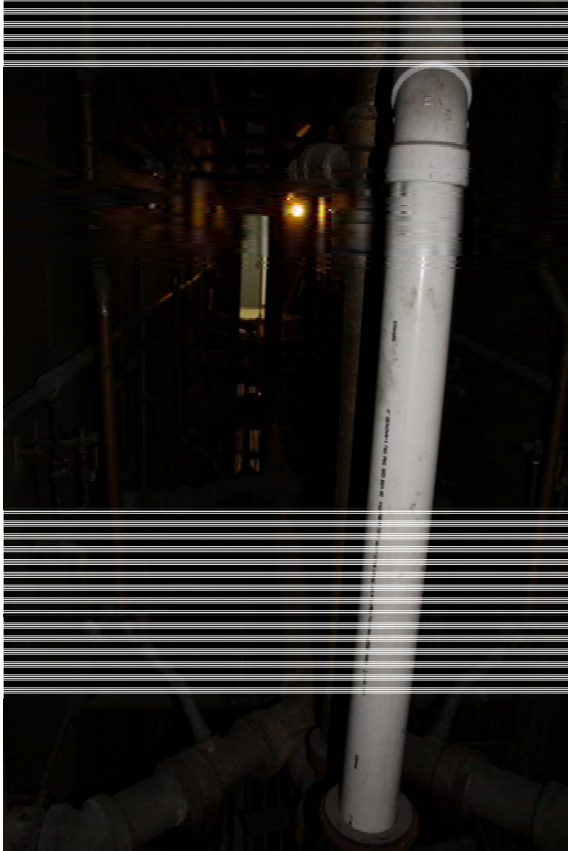


Photo 17. View of the chase in B Block, facing north. Note the open door at north end of the chase.

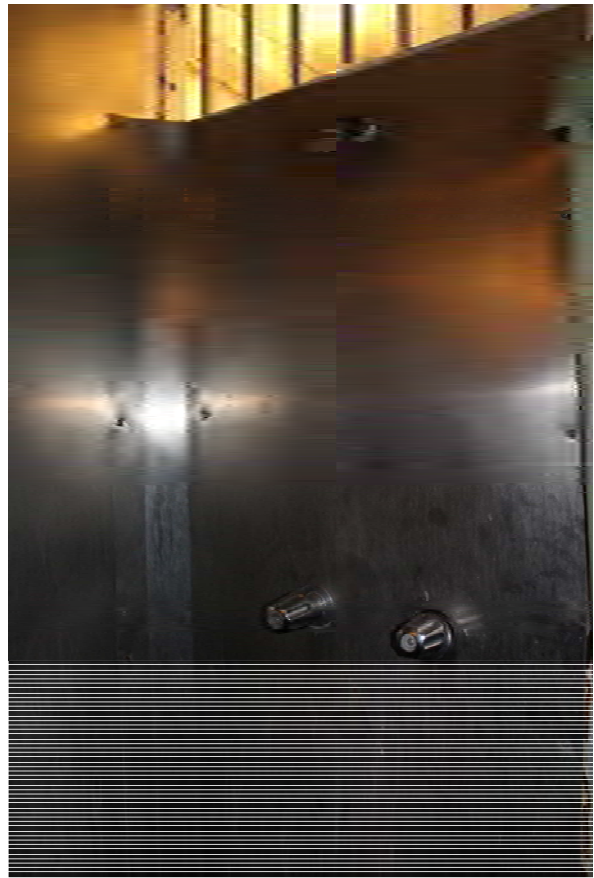


Photo 18. Interior of a typical shower in A Block.



Photo 19. View of the south cell block hallway showing exterior of the shower (right), and the south wall separating from the main structure.



Photo 20. Detail of a typical jail exterior window with exterior steel bars and interior screen in C Block, facing south.



Photo 21. Detail of cell in C Block.



Photo 22. View of C Block dorm housing, facing northwest.



Photo 23. View of C Block dorm housing, facing southeast.



Photo 24. Detail of the interior of C Block dorm restroom



Photo 25. View of the C Block fire exit on south wall.



Photo 26. Detail of flower graffiti on C Block dorm wall.



Photo 27. Detail of additional graffiti on C Block dorm wall.



Photo 28. View of the C Block chase, facing south.



Photo 29. View of the C Block chase (left) and a correction's officer station (right).



Photo 30. View of the corrections officers' break room.



Photo 31. View of the staircase leading from the basement to the first floor.



Photo 32. View of the basement alcove located under the chase.



Photo 33. Detail of the ceiling under the A Block portion of the chase floor.



Photo 34. Detail of the basement furnace servicing the jail.



Photo 35. View of the inmate property room.

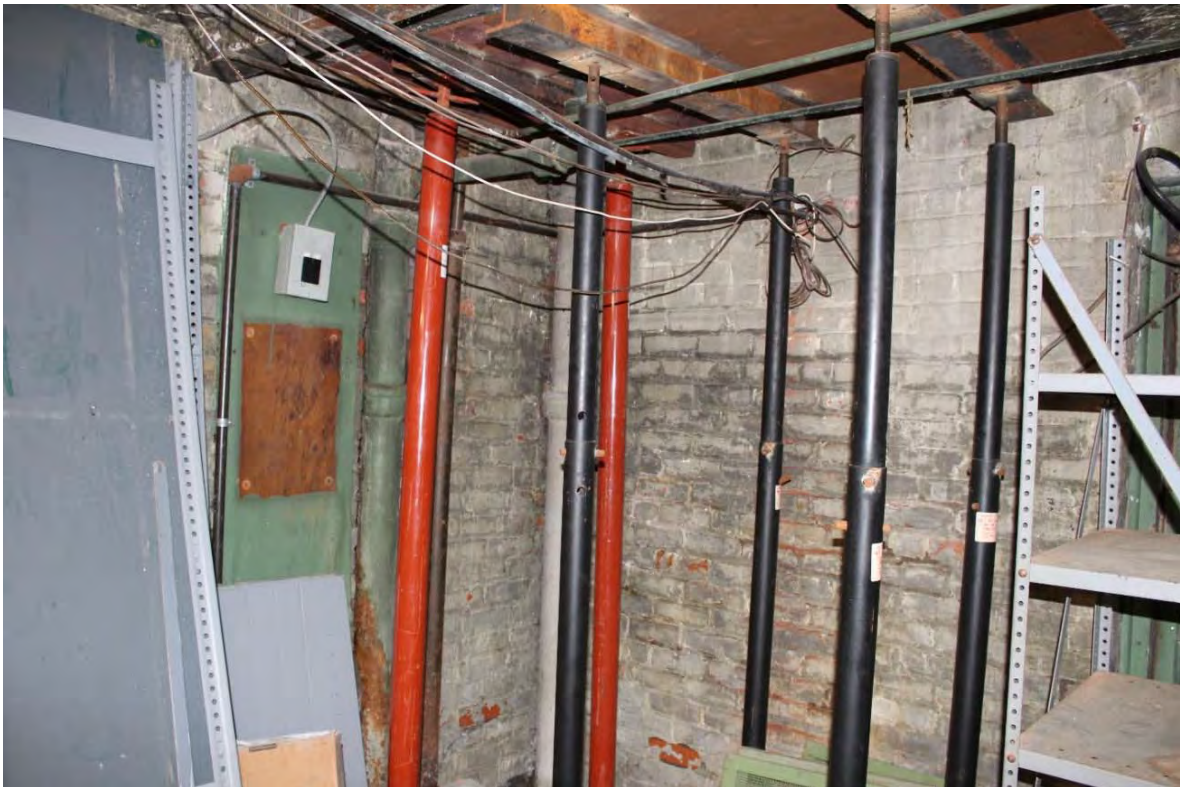


Photo 36. Detail of the floor jacks supporting the south wall that is separating from the rest of the structure.



Photo 37. Detail of water leaks along the interior walls in the basement.



Photo 38. Detail of ceiling erosion in the basement under jail.



Photo 39. Detail of the juncture of the exterior and interior jail walls in the basement.

Sheriff's Residence and Offices

The Sheriff's Residence and Offices (Photos 40-74) were part of the original 1909 construction of the Greene County Jail and Courthouse. As previously mentioned, Elmore Mackey was the first sheriff documented as residing here. It was used by the sheriffs until the middle of the 20th century, when plans were made for the sheriffs to move offsite and convert the residence into the offices for the Greene County Sheriff's Department.

This structure is a three-story house faced with the same Ohio sandstone used in the construction of the jail and courthouse. It also appears that brick was used in the construction of the interior portions of some of the exterior's walls (Photos 72-73), but the extent of the brick use is unclear. The residence has a truncated, tiled, hip roof; pedimented dormers; molded cornices and frieze; and stone sills and lintels (Photos 40-41). The open front porch has a low pitch roof supported by Doric columns with recessed panels (Photo 44). The main entrance to the residence were originally double front doors with a double transom over the doors (Flanagan 1980), but this was replaced with a single door sometime after 1980.

Through the front doors lies a hallway that divides the first floor (Photo 45). A staircase to the second floor is located along the east side of the hallway. The former sitting rooms and parlors of the residence were converted to offices for the Sheriff's Dept and reflect that usage. While the detail work of the original construction is still noticeable around the residence, including trim work and windows, (Photos 46-47, 54, 68-69), very little remains of the structure's original use as a living space. Two offices are located on the west side of the structure, while three smaller offices are on the east side. The south wall of the residence is shared by the jail as the jail's north wall.

The second floor of the residence is similar to the first, with the staircase running down to the first floor and up to the third floor in the middle of the structure (Photo 59). On the second floor, offices are located in the northwest, southwest, and southeast corners, while a general-use room is located in the northeast corner. A full bathroom is located along the south wall of the residence (Photo 57).

The third floor contains three storage rooms off the main central hall containing the staircase: two are located along the west wall, while a single large storage room runs the length of the east wall. At the time of the structural assessment, the large, east storage room was still in use as evidence storage and access was not allowed for the assessment. Unfinished attic space is also found on the third floor showing the original rafters and lathe and plaster construction of the structure (Photos 61-64).

The basement underlying the residence is fully connected to the basement under the jail itself. The rooms are primarily used for utilities, such as the electrical room that has both original and updated fuse and breaker boxes (Photo 71). Other rooms are used for jail procedures and storage, an example being an office that connects directly to the jail that was used for inmate processing and inmate uniform storage (Photos 72-74). It was this room where a portion of the wall was exposed, and the Ohio sandstone used for the exterior of the original jail complex met the interior brick walls of the residence (Photo 72-73).



Photo 40. View of the Sheriff's Offices from Bridge Street, facing south.



Photo 41. View of the Sheriff's Offices from the main parking lot, facing west.



Photo 42. View of the modern front door on the Sheriff's Offices.



Photo 43. View of the transom above the front door of the Sheriff's Offices.



Photo 44. Detail of a Doric column on the front porch of the Sheriff's Offices.

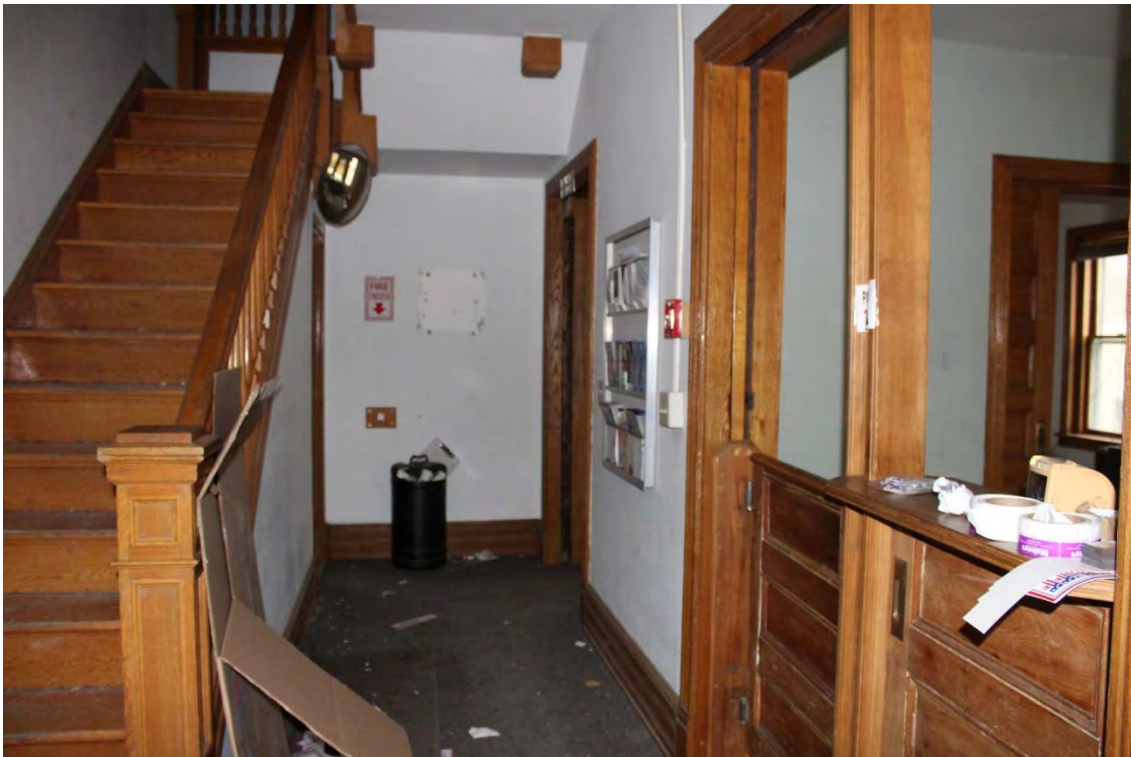


Photo 45. View of main hall in Sheriff's Offices.



Photo 46. Detail of an original radiator in the Sheriff's Offices.

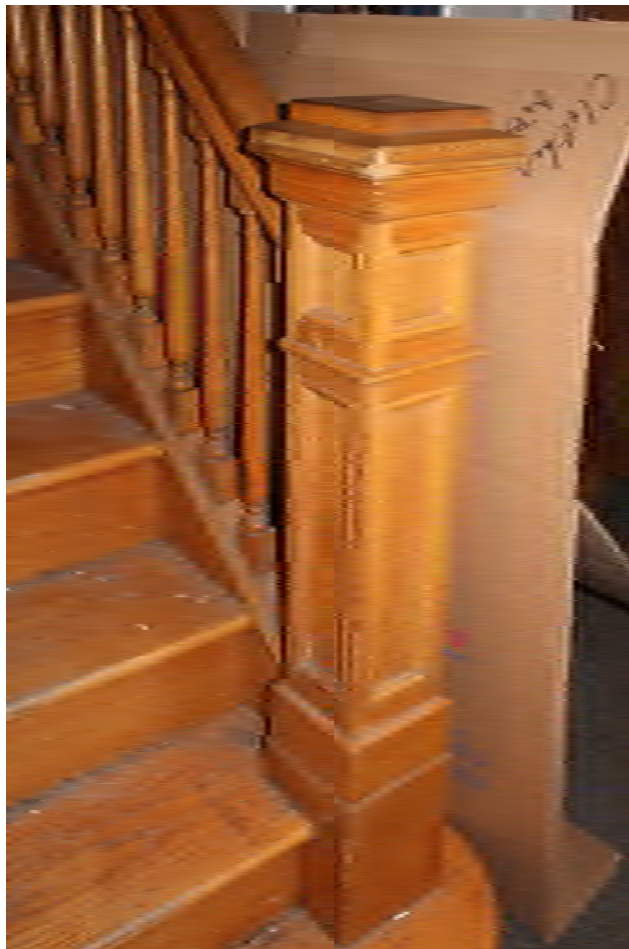


Photo 47. Detail of a newel post at base of first floor staircase in the Sheriff's Offices.



Photo 48. View of an office on northwest corner of the Sheriff's Offices.



Photo 49. View of an office on southwest corner of the Sheriff's Offices.



Photo 50. Detail of an office fireplace on the first floor of Sheriff's Offices.



Photo 51. View of an office on second floor of Sheriff's Offices.



Photo 52. View of a doorway on the second floor in the Sheriff's Offices.



Photo 53. View of a window on second floor of the Sheriff's Offices with the Greene County Courthouse beyond, facing west.



Photo 54. Detail of a frame and sash chain from a second floor window in the Sheriff's Offices.



Photo 55. View of the north office on the second floor of the Sheriff's Offices.



Photo 56. View of the second-floor office in the northeast corner of the Sheriff's Offices.

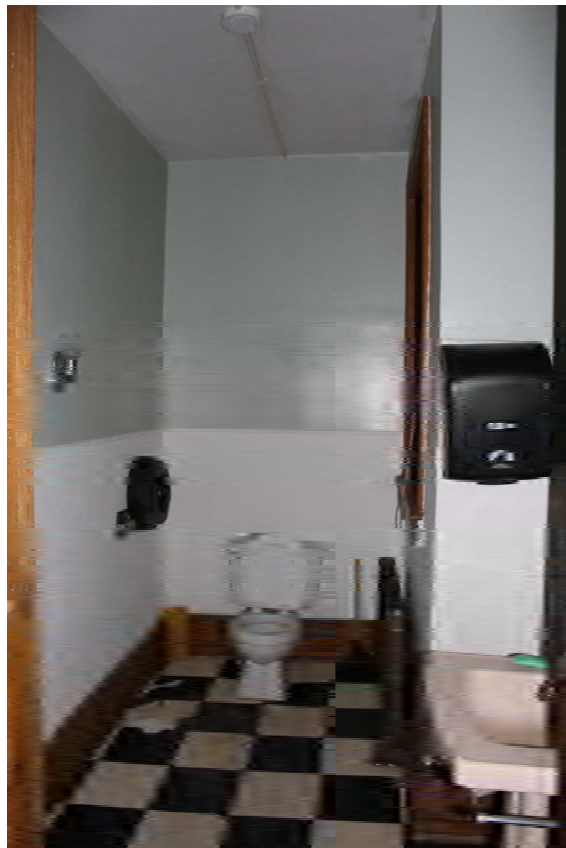


Photo 57. View of the second-floor restroom in the Sheriff's Offices.



Photo 58. View of a second-floor office with removed doors in the Sheriff's Offices.



Photo 59. View of the stairs leading from the second floor to the third floor of the Sheriff's Offices.



Photo 60. View of a storage room on the third floor of the Sheriff's Offices.



Photo 61. View of a portion of the unfinished attic on the third floor of the Sheriff's Offices.



Photo 62. View of a portion of an unfinished attic on the third floor of the Sheriff's Offices.



Photo 63. Detail of rafters in a portion of an unfinished attic on the third floor of the Sheriff's Offices.



Photo 64. View of lathe and plaster walls in the unfinished attic on the third floor of the Sheriff's Offices.



Photo 65. Detail of lathe and plaster walls on the third-floor attic of the Sheriff's Offices.



Photo 66. View of shared jail wall and roof peak on third floor of the Sheriff's Offices, facing south.



Photo 67. View of an unused restroom on the third floor of Sheriff's Residence.



Photo 68. Detail of a door frame and baseboard next to the third-floor restroom in the Sheriff's Offices.



Photo 69. Detail of molding and the stairs railing on the third floor of the Sheriff's Offices.



Photo 70. View of a narrow closet door on the third floor of Sheriff's Offices.



Photo 71. Detail of the original and updated fuse and breaker boxes in the basement of the Sheriff's Offices.



Photo 72. View of an exposed east wall in the basement office of the Sheriff's Offices used for inmate processing.



Photo 73. Detail of a wall showing the exterior Ohio sandstone wall and interior brick walls in the east wall of the basement in Sheriff's Offices.



Photo 74. Detail of a closet in the basement of the Sheriff's Offices used for inmate uniform storage.

D Block

In 1978, an addition was built on the east side of the original jail to expand inmate housing. This addition was known as “D Block”. It is a two-story, modern concrete block structure that contains cells, recreation areas, visitor areas, food preparation facilities, an infirmary, and other infrastructure required for a jail.

The primary entrance to the Greene County Jail is found in D Block (Photo 75). After entering a vestibule and then a lobby, a locker room (Photo 76) and an area for visitations with the inmates can be found down a secured hallway (Photo 77) to the east of the lobby. Two visitation areas have been set aside for this purpose: the larger area where the visitors and the inmates are in the same room at the same table separated by a low metal partition (Photo 78), and another smaller area allowing only one inmate and one visitor for non-contact visitation (Photos 79-81). A concrete block wall with a small closed window separates the visitor from the inmate in the non-contact visitation room (Photo 81). Noticeable graffiti was documented on the non-contact visitation room door (Photo 80). From the main lobby, the control room (Photo 82) is to the south, and a hallway is to the west. This hallway is open to the corrections officers and other employees of the Sheriff’s Dept. and is the primary point of access for the entirety of the jail.

D Block is an offset, rectangular structure oriented east-west. A central hallway runs through the structure on the first floor with rooms running along either side (Photo 83). Running along the north side of the structure from west to east are: the visitation areas including entrances for inmates to both the previously mentioned contact and non-contact visitation rooms (Photos 77-81), a storage room, a mechanical / boiler room (Photos 90-91), and an entrance to a second-story stairwell at the east end of the hallway. Running along the south section of D Block from west to east are: an enclosed outdoor yard for the inmates to exercise (Photo 8), a laundry room (Photo 85), a recreation room (labeled as ‘Booking’ on the demolition site plan) (Photo 86-87), a kitchen (Photos 88-89), an office, and the infirmary (Photos 92-93).

The second floor of D Block contains cells and other areas for inmates. Instead of a central hallway accessing both sides of the second story, this area is divided more into a collection of cells and a general inmate use area on the north side (Photo 94), with a mirrored layout on the south side. A hallway that can access both areas does run part of the way down the structure from the east, but it does not directly connect to the other end of the structure. The cells are located along the outside walls and there are eight in each section, for a total of 16 cells in D Block. The cells in D Block are of a more modern design from the original jail and are closed by steel doors and contain clear windows (Photo 95-96). General areas for inmate use are located towards the interior of D Block (Photos 94). The cells directly open into these areas and they contain bolted-down tables for meals and barred access windows (Photo 97). The D Block cell doors are controlled by electrical control system located at one end of the cell block (Photo

98), but mechanical locks using an assortment of keys were still in use throughout the jail (Photo 99).



Photo 75. View of the main entrance to the Greene County Jail and D Block, facing south.



Photo 76. View of the storage lockers in D Block.



Photo 77. View of the hallway leading from the lobby to the visitation rooms in D Block.



Photo 78. View of the visitation room in D Block.



Photo 79. View of the non-contact visitation room in D Block.



Photo 80. Detail of graffiti on the door to the non-contact visitation room in D Block.



Photo 81. Detail of the non-contact visitation room, visitor side.



Photo 82. View of the jail control room in D Block.



Photo 83. View of the first-floor main hallway in D Block, facing east.



Photo 84. View of the boiler room on northside of D Block.



Photo 85. Detail of the boiler in D Block.

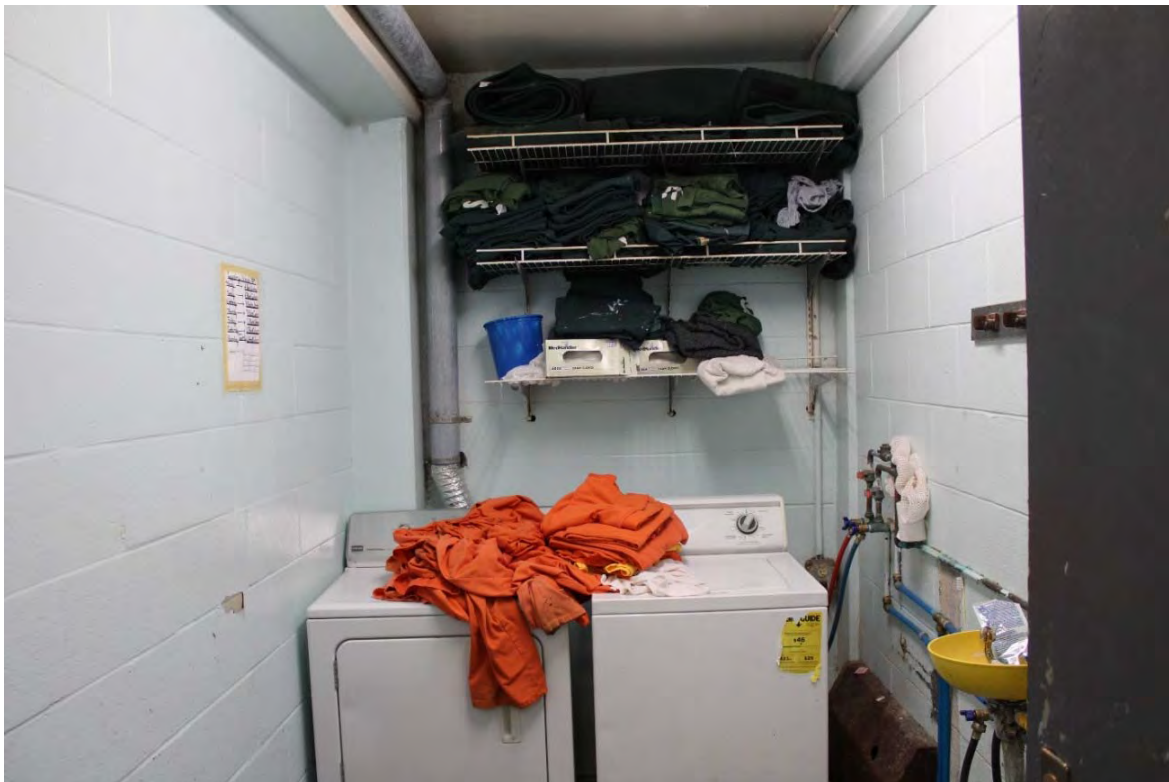


Photo 85. Detail of the laundry facilities in D Block.



Photo 86. View of the recreation room in D Block.

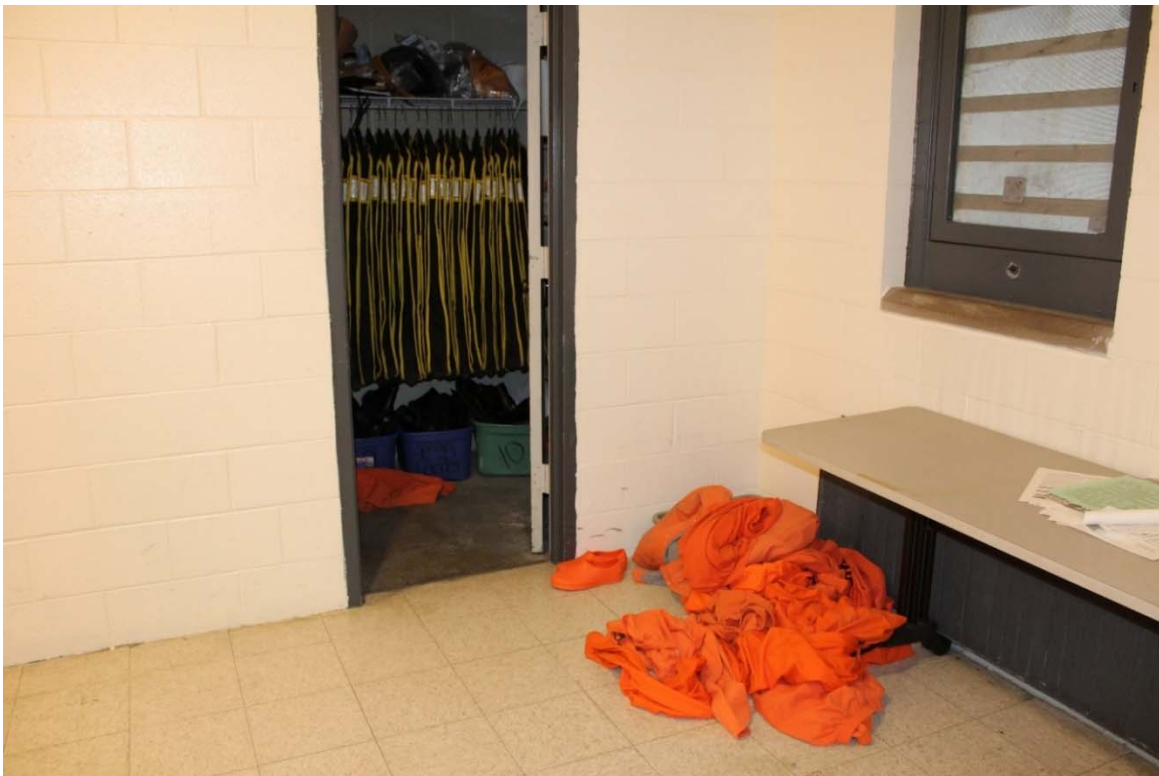


Photo 87. Detail of the recreation room closet with inmate uniforms.



Photo 88. View of the kitchen in D Block, east half.



Photo 89. View of the kitchen in D Block, west half.



Photo 92. View of the infirmary in D Block.



Photo 93. View of the infirmary alcove and rest room in D Block.



Photo94. View of the inmate cells and common area on the north side of second floor of D Block.



Photo 95. View of a typical cell door in D Block.



Photo 96. View of the interior of a D Block cell facing out.



Photo 97. Detail of an access window into the common area of D Block.



Photo 98. Detail of the D Block cell door controls.



Photo 99. Detail of the keys needed for access to secured areas of the jail.

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