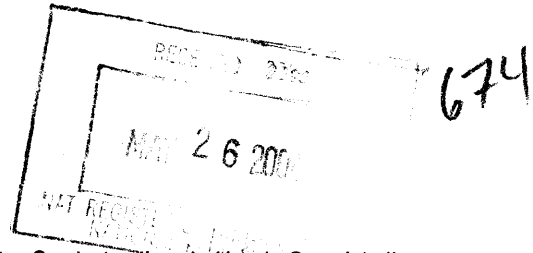


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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 an 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 Medina City Hall  
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 115 Second Street N/A  not for publication  
city or town Medina N/A  vicinity  
state Tennessee code TN County Gibson code 053 zip code 38355

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 for 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.)

Herbert E. Hoyer 5/25/04  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission  
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
  - removed from the National Register.
  - other, explain

Edson V. Beall 10/7/04  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Medina City Hall  
Name of Property

Gibson, TN.  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

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

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

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**  
N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT: City Hall, Correctional Facility  
SOCIAL: Civic

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Work in Progress

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Two-part Commercial

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick  
walls Brick  
roof Roll roofing - tar  
other Glass, wood

**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 N/A**

(Mark "x" in all boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** moved from its original location.
- 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)

Politics/Government  
Social History

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**Period of Significance**

1936-1954

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**Significant Dates**

1936

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**Significant Person**

(complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

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**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

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**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): N/A**

- 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
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Medina City Hall  
Name of Property

Gibson, TN  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreege of Property** Less than one (1) Acre (Medina 437 SE)

**UTM References**

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>16</u>	<u>339470</u>	<u>3963530</u>	3	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	4	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

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 Cheryll Johnson  
organization City of Medina date September 15, 2003  
street & number P.O. Box 277 telephone 731-783-3031  
city or town Medina state TN Zip code 38355

**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 City of Medina c/o Mayor Norman Spencer  
street & number 112 N. Main St. telephone 731-783-3913  
city or town Medina state TN zip code 38355

**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 listing. 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 20303.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Medina City Hall  
Gibson County, Tennessee

## NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Medina City Hall is located at 115 Second Street in Medina, Gibson County, Tennessee, population 1,066. There is no landscaping around the building with the exception of some trees and grass. The front of the building (east façade) sits approximately five feet back from Second Street. To the north it is approximately eight feet from a residence. Bordering the city hall on the south is a drive for the neighboring lot, and on the west is a fenced lot where the city's water tower is located. Built in 1936, the building served as the city hall and jail until the construction of a new city hall in 1960. The building has been used mostly for city storage since the move into the new city hall. It is currently vacant and will be rehabilitated and utilized as a local museum to teach future generations about the history of Medina and surrounding Gibson County.

Medina City Hall is a two-part commercial, two-story rectangular brick building with a brick foundation. The roof is a flat, or rolled tar, roof that gradually steps down as it reaches the rear of the building. There is evidence of an interior brick chimney at the rear of the building. The east façade has an original narrow paneled entrance door with a three-light transom on the north side of the façade and a 1950s wood sliding door on the south side of the façade. The wide door replaced two smaller openings – either doors or windows - in order to accommodate the city's first fire engine. On the second story are three boarded over windows and centered above them is a marble dedication stone with the inscription "City Hall", along with the names of the 1936 mayor and aldermen.

The north elevation has two 6/1 wood double-hung windows on the second story. The west rear elevation also has two 6/1 wood double-hung windows on the second story.

The south elevation has four centered and symmetrically placed windows. There are two 1/1 double-hung windows on the first story which still have the bars on the windows, and two 6/1 wood double-hung windows on the second story.

The interior of the building on the first story is a single, open room. Portions of the brick walls are covered in plaster, the ceiling is covered in bead-board, and the floors are concrete. Inside the room are the two original side-by-side jail cells and a small washroom, which is located under the staircase. The cells are contained within a 7' 2" metal enclosure at the rear of the room. The entrance to the cells are barred and have separate doors and locks for each cell. The barred enclosure sits on a concrete floor and does not reach the 9' 4" ceiling. The west wall of the cell enclosure is the exterior wall of the structure. The east wall of the cell enclosure is constructed of solid steel. The eastern cell still contains two sleeping bunks attached to the steel wall dividing the two cells. The bunks in the other cell were removed to create a storage room after the move to the new city hall.

Directly inside the exterior door is a wood door with an open transom. Behind this door is a wide, wood staircase that leads to the second story. The south wall of the stairwell is covered in bead-board and the north

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Medina City Hall  
Gibson County, Tennessee

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wall is a plaster over brick exterior wall. A wood balustrade with simple square balusters surrounds the stairwell.

The second story floor is hardwood, the walls are plaster over brick, and the ceiling is original pine bead-board. This space was used as the city courtroom. On the east end of the second floor, there is a section six feet wide that runs the width of the building. This section is separated from the rest of the room by a low wood balustrade with simple square balusters. Access to the enclosed area is gained through a swinging gate with the appearance of a picket fence. The six-foot section was where the judge and mayor sat and the larger space was for the audience. The audience would sit on wood benches facing the judge, some of which are still there. The second story was also used as city council chambers with the city council member seated in the judge's area.

The Medina City Hall is currently vacant and in a mildly deteriorated condition. Current plans are to replace the windows and repair the bead-board ceiling. The roof will be replaced and the wide wood sliding doors on the façade will be replaced with something more historically appropriate. Despite some of the cosmetic issues, the building still retains its overall integrity.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

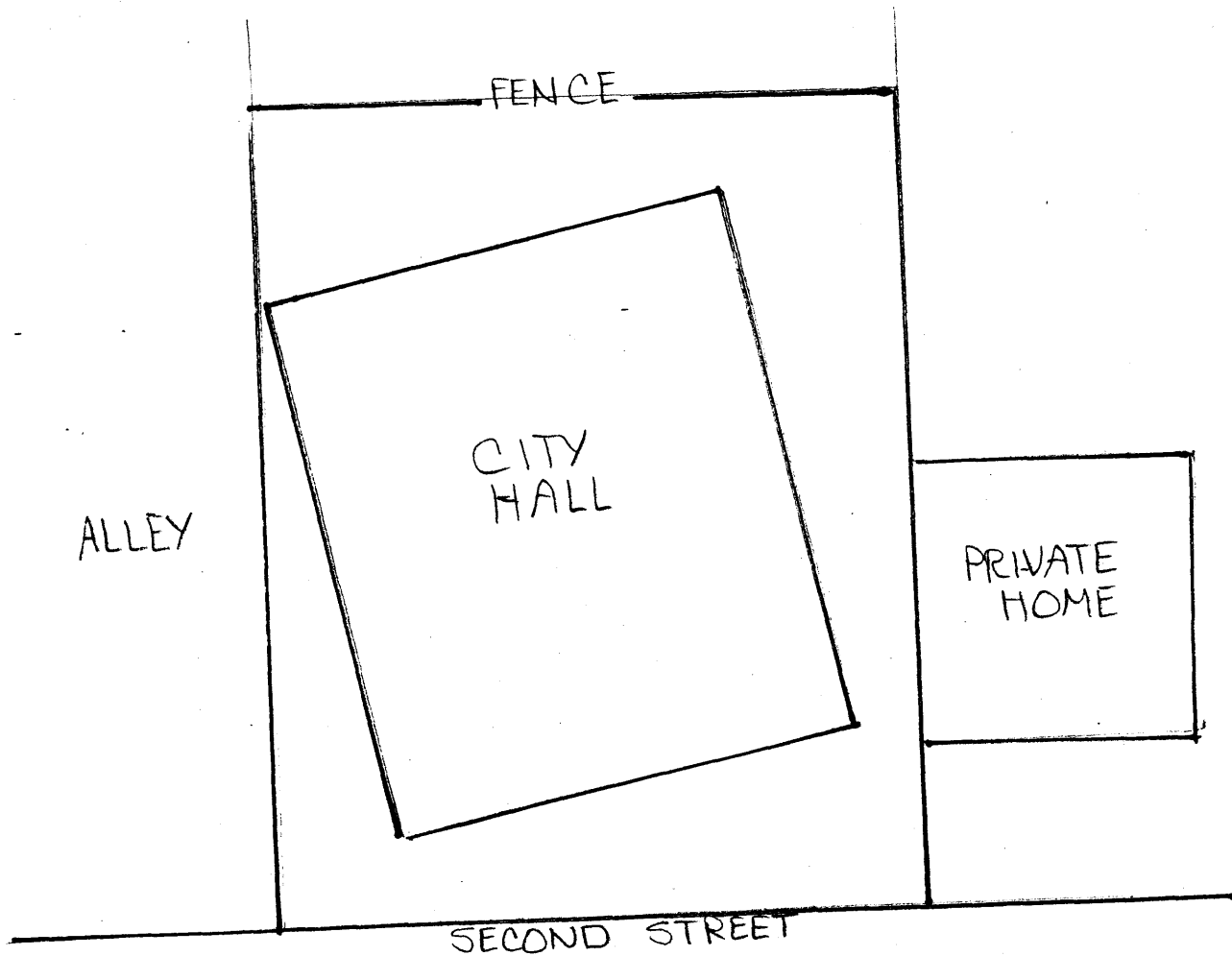
Section number 7 Page 3

Medina City Hall  
Gibson County, Tennessee



Site Plan

Not to Scale



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

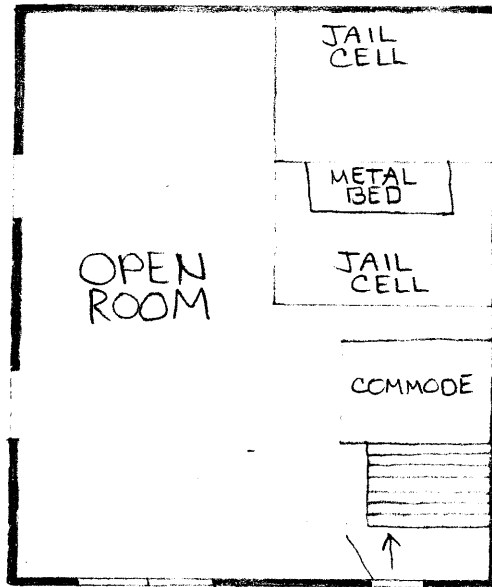
Section number 7 Page 4

Medina City Hall  
Gibson County, Tennessee

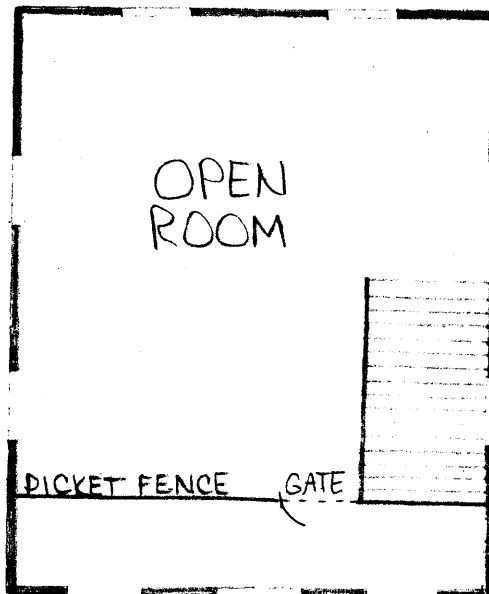
First and Second Floor Plans

Not to Scale

FIRST FLOOR  
PLAN



SECOND FLOOR  
PLAN





United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5

Medina City Hall  
Gibson County, Tennessee

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Medina City Hall is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historical Places under Criterion A for its local significance in the areas of government and social history. The Medina City Hall served the citizens of Medina from 1936-1960 in many different capacities. The first story always used as the mayor's office and the city jail, while the second story was a multi-function space. The varied uses of the building included being used for community socials, serving as voting headquarters, and serving as draft board operations during World War II. At one time, the county nurse used this space to give immunizations once a month. The Medina City Hall is a good representation of the role of the local government to serve the citizens of the community.

The city of Medina was founded in 1873 as a result of the railroad coming into Gibson County. Local legend says that Egyptian workers laying the railroad track for the Illinois Central Railroad named Medina. The workers were from Medina, situated about one hundred miles from Memphis. Since this part of Gibson County was about the same distance from Memphis, Tennessee, as the Egyptian Medina was from Memphis, the name was used informally at first and later adopted as the name of the community.<sup>1</sup> Not only did the railroad arrive here in 1873, but the post office was also established that year. The fertile lands and the railroad played major roles in the history of the small community. The first seventy years after the railroad arrived, Medina served as an important center for shipping fruits and vegetables, mainly cabbages, tomatoes, and strawberries. The city grew the produce and shipped it out for distribution via the railroad.

The years between 1873 and 1907 saw tremendous growth. This included the construction of four churches, two banks, a school serving all grades until county consolidation, and many new family homes to the east of the railroad tracks. The 1901 Illinois Central Railroad books show that Medina shipped seventy-five cars of strawberries, twenty-five cars of tomatoes, twenty-five cars of vegetable and orchard products, five cars of poultry and eggs, ninety cars of lumber, and 600 cars of cotton bales. Opened for business on April 17, 1905, the Medina Banking Company is the oldest remaining bank in Medina. The railroad and associated residential and commercial growth resulted in the incorporation of Medina on April 6, 1907.

Cary Todd Lumber Company opened in 1916 and still remains in business today. In the years from 1920 through 1970, with a population of less than 800, Medina supported two grocery stores, a lumber company, two cotton gins, a movie theatre, a drug store, a bank a full service car garage, hardware store, two dry goods stores and a weekly newspaper. The Mississippi Valley Highway, better known as US 45 E was built in 1925 through the center of Medina. In time, this road and State Route 152 eclipsed the railroad in importance for the city. The community's infrastructure was improved during the 1930s when roads were first graveled and then paved, and sidewalks were built. The police and fire departments continued to grow as the community grew. With the construction of the City Hall building in 1936, Medina was able to consolidate its operations into one building. As the first municipal building in Medina, it served as a focal point for government and community events. Prior to the construction of the Medina City Hall, the city's

<sup>1</sup> Larry Miller, *Tennessee Place Names* (Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2001), p. 136.

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National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 6

Medina City Hall  
Gibson County, Tennessee

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business was conducted out of the backs of trucks, in churches, and at school. One citizen even remembers getting immunization shots in an old packing shed by the railroad tracks.

The twenty-four years the City Hall was in use, it served as a political headquarters, the Mayor's offices, the city jail, and a place for community events such as a meeting place for various city clubs. In 1936, during the Depression, people would come to the city hall to collect their government commodities/rations such as cheese, beans, raisins and crackers. When World War II started in 1941, the draft board for the city operated out of the upstairs space. There are still citizens living in Medina that were inducted into service in the City Hall. During the 1950s the county nurse used the second story once a month to give immunizations.

In 1960, the town of Medina built a new city hall to serve the growing community needs and provide new offices for the mayor, police, and fire departments. After the move into the new city hall the old Medina City Hall was closed. Since its closure, it has mainly been used as a storage facility for city materials and maintenance supplies. The building has fallen into disrepair over the years, but with the interested citizens of Medina, the hope is to make it a vital part of Medina's history for future generations to enjoy.

Things changed for Medina in the early 1970s. The U.S. 45 Bypass was extended around downtown Medina. This bypass went from Jackson in neighboring Madison County to Milan in Gibson County, which is seven miles away. Many of the local businesses closed, and growth slowed for a while since the bypass provided easier access to larger cities than Medina. In the last five years things have started to turn around. New neighborhoods are being built and young families are coming back to the area. A renovated Medina City Hall may again be a focal point for the community.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Medina City Hall  
Gibson County, Tennessee

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**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

# **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Section number PHOTOS Page 9

Medina City Hall  
Gibson County, Tennessee

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## **PHOTOGRAPHS**

Medina City Hall  
Gibson County, Tennessee

Photos by: Cheryll Johnson  
P.O. Box 277  
Medina, TN 38355

Date: September, 2003

Negatives: Tennessee Historical Commission  
2941 Lebanon Road  
Nashville, TN 37243

East façade and south elevation, facing west  
1 of 12

East façade, facing northwest  
2 of 12

South elevation, facing northwest  
3 of 12

West elevation, facing northeast  
4 of 12

Interior – facing southwest showing office  
5 of 12

Interior – facing northwest showing jail cells and entrance to washroom  
6 of 12

Interior – facing northwest showing bunks inside of a cell  
7 of 12

Interior – facing north showing door to stairwell  
8 of 12

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number PHOTOS Page 10

Medina City Hall  
Gibson County, Tennessee

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Interior – facing west looking up the stairs  
9 of 12

Interior – second story facing southeast  
10 of 12

Interior – facing north showing railing around stairwell on second story  
11 of 12

Interior – facing southeast showing judge area  
12 of 12

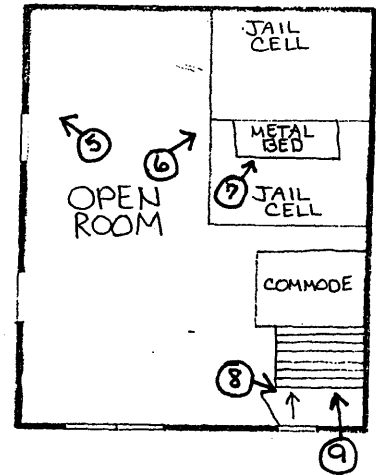
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Medina City Hall  
Gibson County, Tennessee

FIRST FLOOR  
PLAN



SECOND FLOOR  
PLAN

