

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0688045

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	NOV 20 1978
DATE ENTERED	JAN 8 1979

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

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
CITY, TOWN
Macon
STATE
Mississippi
VICINITY OF
Third
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
COUNTY
Noxubee
CODE
28
STATE
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<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
Mississippi
STATE
39341

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
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
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Mississippi Department of Archives and History
CITY, TOWN
Jackson
STATE
Mississippi 39205

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT DETERIORATED
 GOOD RUINS
 FAIR UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

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
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

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 X 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

[Signature]
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 1.8.79

ATTEST: Juan H. [Signature]
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 1/5/85

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 &10 PAGE 1

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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.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

- EXCELLENT
- GOOD
- FAIR
- DETERIORATED
- RUINS
- UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

- UNALTERED
- ALTERED

CHECK ONE

- ORIGINAL SITE
- MOVED DATE _____

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TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE November 8, 1978

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DATE 1.8.79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
ATTEST: Juan H. [Signature]

DATE 1/5/85

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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