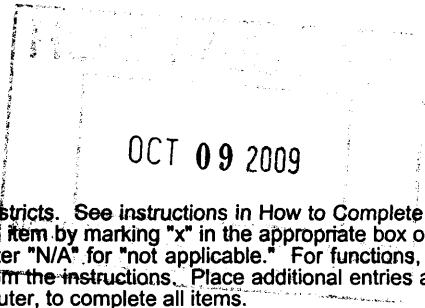


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

927



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 any 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 NASSAU COUNTY JAIL

other names/site number FMSF# NA287

2. Location

street & number 233 South Third Street N/A  not for publication

city or town Fernandina Beach N/A  vicinity

state Florida code FL county Nassau code 089 zip code 32034

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 forth 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.)

Barbara C. Mattick / Interim SHPO 9/30/2009  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources, Bureau of Historic Preservation  
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
  - See continuation sheet.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain) \_\_\_\_\_

Edson H. Beall Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 11.18.09

**5. Classification**

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

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

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

- buildings
- district
- site
- structure
- object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	total

**Name of related multiple property listings**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

"N/A"

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT: Correctional Facility

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION & CULTURE: Museum

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

MODERN MOVEMENT: Moderne

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls BRICK

roof ASPHALT

other

**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**

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

Property is:

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

**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):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 36) 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

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

- POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
- SOCIAL HISTORY
- ARCHITECTURE
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1938-1956

**Significant Dates**

1938  
1954

**Significant Person**

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Benjamin, Roy A.; Hopkins, A.C. (addition)  
Davis, Charles J.; Woodcock, O.P. (addition)

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of Repository \_\_\_\_\_

# \_\_\_\_\_

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.03 acres

UTM References

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 7	4 5 5 5 8 0	3 3 9 2 8 8 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

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 Johnston, Sidney; Carmen Godwin/Robert O. Jones, Historic Preservationist

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date September 2009

street & number 500 South Bronough Street telephone 850-245-6333

city or town Tallahassee state FL zip code 32399-0250

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 Nassau County Jail Museum, Phillis Davis, Director

street & number 233 South Third Street telephone

city or town Fernandina Beach state FL zip code 32034

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 amend listings. 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 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 1 **NASSAU COUNTY JAIL, FERNANDINA BEACH  
NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA**

---

**SUMMARY**

Nassau County Jail is located at 233 South Third Street in Fernandina Beach, Florida. Constructed in 1938 and expanded in 1954 and 2007, the building is a good example of Moderne design. The two-story building contains approximately 6,800 square feet of interior floor space. It faces south and displays a flat roof of reinforced concrete with straight parapets and hard-fired red brick walls laid up in a modified Flemish bond. The brick walls are three rows thick, providing sufficient strength to prevent escape and to stand against hurricane-force winds on the coastal island city. Other exterior finishes include a tripartite belt course, a glass block panel, decorative basket weave brick panels, fleur-de-lis cast stone ornamentation, cantilevers, six-over-six double-hung sash windows, and an articulated foundation. A cast stone head mast contains the words "Nassau County Jail" above the east entrance. Metal exterior doors and an iron cage protecting the south entrance unmistakably identify the building as a jail. All parts of the building remain in excellent condition, in part, because of its uninterrupted use from a jail to a museum, and because of its reinforced concrete and brick construction. The building served as the county's jail until a new facility was built in 1978. Compatible additions were made to the building in 1995 and 2007.

**SETTING**

Fernandina Beach is the seat of government of Nassau County. Located on the leeward side of Amelia Island, Fernandina Beach is known as the "Isle of Eight Flags" for its position near the south end of the Sea Islands and its heritage of having eight nations flags been planted on its shores. It claims to be the northeastern most incorporated city in Florida, Fernandina Beach has a population of 11,815 and the larger Nassau County contains 68,188 residents.

Nassau County Jail faces east on South Third Street, occupying a site one block south of the Fernandina Beach Historic District which was listed in the National Register in 1973 with a boundary extension in 1987. The building stands three blocks east of Fernandina Beach's harbor and three blocks south of Centre Street, the central business district. Most of Centre Street's buildings were constructed of brick after fires in 1876 and 1883 destroyed much of the downtown. Four blocks to the northeast are the Fairbanks House (NR 1973) and the Tabby House (NR 1973), late nineteenth century landmarks. Closer to the jail are relatively small one-story dwellings of recent vintage. To the west is a railroad yard, and the single story Amelia Community Theater Building, formerly owned by the School District of Nassau County.

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

**Exterior**

The asymmetrical east elevation (Photo 1) of the 1938 part of the building displays a straight parapet with cast stone coping. Emphasizing its horizontal massing, three brick belt courses in header bonds are interrupted by

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 2

**NASSAU COUNTY JAIL, FERNANDINA BEACH  
NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA**

---

the "Nassau County Jail" name plate and cast stone belt courses which occupy a location above the offset entrance protected by a metal cantilever and iron door with bars. The modified Flemish bond employed in the brick work adds character and strengthens the bond between the exterior walls of hard fired-clay face bricks and the unglazed clay common brick interior walls. Asymmetrical but regular fenestration includes six-over-six-light double-hung sash windows in single arrangements along the second story and paired and singular arrangements along the first story. The window openings are accented by bricks laid in a rowlock bond for the sills and vertical stretcher patterns for the headers. The first-story window to the right, or north, of the entrance reveals iron bars protecting the interior. This entrance historically led into the cells and jail administration areas. The entrance and window arrangement and the windows opening at the southeast corner are further accented by bricks laid on their beds to form basket weave patterns. Header bonds in corbelled patterns form inset panels. Accented by cast stone drip molding that extends ten feet from the southeast corner, an articulated foundation consists of salmon-colored bricks laid up in American common bond, contrasting with the red brick modified Flemish bond on the primary walls. A stack bond laid vertically accents the upper row of bricks on the articulated foundation, providing an unusual belt course and visually identifying the position of the first floor.

At the north end of the east elevation projects a small one-story flat roof extension (Photo 2). Similar in design and materials to the two-story east elevation, the extension is part of the 1954 addition. It is differentiated from the 1938 part of the building by the absence of any belt courses or decorative brick panels and its use of a cast stone belt course that extends across the top of the articulated foundation. The same modified Flemish brick bond work evident on the older part of the building appears on the addition. The north elevation of the one-story extension (Photo 3) displays a six-over-six and four-over-four-light double-hung sash window and the west elevation of the one-story addition contains no piercings.

The south elevation (Photo 4) is symmetrical with a central iron door with bars protected by a distinctive cantilever enclosed with an iron cage and accented by a decorative metal railing. This entrance historically led into the jailer's quarters. A full-height projecting brick panel further identifies the entrance which is further accented with a central window opening filled with glass blocks and fleur-de-lis floral designs executed in cast stone. The tripartite brick belt courses evident on the east elevation continues along the south elevation, interrupted by the cast stone floral designs and continued with cast stone belt coursing. The basket weave panels accent the walls between first- and second-story windows and entrance. The first-story windows bracketing the entrance have been covered with diagonal boards; the second-story six-over-six-light double-hung sash windows remain evident, a cast stone drip molding that accents the foundation is obscured by vegetation.

The remainder of the south elevation displays a stepped back plan with asymmetrical and irregular fenestration resulting from a combination of the 1954 and 2007 additions (Photos 5&6). Rising two stories, the additions display a parapet line three feet lower than the parapet accenting the wall to the east. The parapet cap on the

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 3 **NASSAU COUNTY JAIL, FERNANDINA BEACH  
NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA**

---

addition intersects the uppermost belt course of the wall to the east with the two lower belt course lines continued in the appropriate alignment. Four blind windows contrast with a single six-over-six double-hung sash window. Supported by a small concrete porch, a door and single window punctuate the southwest corner of the elevation. Hard clay-fired brick walls are accented by a stuccoed foundation finish.

The west elevation (Photos 7&8) displays more of the six-over-six double-hung sash windows set in a regular pattern with the exception of a blank wall at the northwest first-story corner. Three windows on the second floor have been removed for restoration and the openings temporarily boarded over. A cast stone foundation skirt contrasts with the red clay-fired brick walls.

Continuing the irregular plan of the south elevation, the north elevation (Photo 9) displays a projecting flat-roof extension at the northwest corner that yields to a glass enclosure shaded by a green awning and incised within the building to provide ingress and egress at the center of the elevation. Farther east, the two-story walls are interrupted by double-hung sash windows set in an asymmetrical pattern and a brick chimney with an arched cap. Two of the windows on the second story are boarded over; one window has been removed for restoration, the other remains in the opening. The one-story addition projects at the northeast corner.

**EXTERIOR ALTERATIONS**

The east elevation (Photos 1&2) has not been altered with the exception of the one-story 1954 addition, which is part of the historic fabric of the building. The south elevation has been altered by the addition of the ca1986 installation of the iron cage mounted under the cantilever to protect the entrance. Originally, brick walls were located under the cantilever with a four-over-four light double-hung sash window piercing the west elevation and an entrance at the east elevation. An uninterrupted brick wall originally faced Cedar Street. The cantilever and decorative metal railing were part of the original design; salvaged from interior sections of the jail, the iron cage replaced the brick walls to provide a serviceable entrance into the museum and an outward visual indicator of the historic interior function of the building.

Another alteration to the south elevation is the 2007 addition (Photo 5). The 2007 addition covers sixteen feet and four double-hung windows along the west elevation of the 1938 part of the building and twenty-four feet and four windows of the south elevation of the 1954 addition. Designed by Kenneth Smith Architects, Inc., of Jacksonville and approved by the Architectural Services Section of the Division of Historical Resources, the 2007 addition meets the Secretary of the Interior's criteria for a compatible, but differentiated addition to a historic building. Set back appropriately from the historic wall of the south elevation, the 2007 addition displays red brick walls of differing hues, distinct from the red bricks employed on either the 1938 original part or the 1954 addition. The parapet, modified Flemish bond pattern, belt courses, and window headers and sills accenting the windows are copied directly from the historic fabric, but none of the decorative brick panels appear. The stuccoed foundation skirt contrasts from the brick foundation on the 1938 building and the cast

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 4 **NASSAU COUNTY JAIL, FERNANDINA BEACH  
NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA**

---

stone veneer on the 1954 addition. The six-over-six double-hung sash windows and blank windows arranged in an asymmetrical pattern both reflect the fenestration on the unaltered walls of the building.

The north elevation (Photo 9) is altered by the introduction of the 2007 addition that in-fills the space between the 1938 portion of the building to the east and the 1954 addition to the west. The addition covers a space amounting to sixteen feet of historic wall fabric in an area historically that was a two-story flat-roof hyphen that served as a passageway between the 1938 and 1954 parts of the building. Historically, it measured sixteen feet in length by ten feet in width. Reflecting the pattern revealed on the south elevation, the north elevation of the 2007 addition has red clay-fired bricks of various hues that contrast from the historic fabric, but laid up in the same historic pattern. The glass enclosure provides at once an entrance vestibule, visual relief from the massing of red bricks along the elevation, and the original depth of the historic hyphen connecting the parts of the building. Two double-hung sash windows pierce the wall surface above the glass wall. Setbacks emphasize the introduction of a modern addition along the north elevation. The setback from the north wall of the 1938 building amounts to eighteen inches and sixteen feet from the 1954 addition. The 2007 addition includes a new concrete step and ramp system to provide access into the building to meet local building and ADA codes.

**Interior  
First Floor**

The interior of the building contains thirteen primary rooms that support the museum's exhibits, patrons, and administrative staff. The first floor contains exhibition halls, restrooms, central hall and stairs, and storage room. The iron cage and door on the first-story south elevation opens into the reception area and primary exhibition hall (Photo 10). Framed with large wood planks during construction and leaving striation marks, reinforced concrete joists and the second-story floor system remain clearly evident at the ceiling, which rises ten feet. In association with the iron cage and barred iron door at the entrance, the ceiling conveys the feeling of the building's historic use as a jail. Unglazed brick interior walls are apparent above and beside exhibition panels and temporary walls installed to enhance the museum. This area historically served as the jailer's quarters, which consisted of a combined living/dining room, kitchen, bedroom, bathroom, and guest or child's room. To the northeast is an area that historically was a part of the jailer's quarters and now is a exhibition hall (Photo 11) that interprets Nassau County's history. This room displays similar details at the ceiling and walls as found at the primary exhibition hall.

To the east of the Nassau County History Room is the central hall and staircase (Photo 12). The straight stairs have a brick base, iron newels and handrails. The central hall reveals the building's unusual interior brick wall system, barred iron doors, and the iron utilitarian staircase. The iron materials were designed, fabricated, and installed by the Decatur Iron & Steel Company of Decatur, Alabama. Historically containing a temporary holding cell, restrooms (Photo 13) are located to the north of the central hall. Along the south wall of the central hall and at the foot of the staircase is located a barred iron door (Photo 14) that historically provided



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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 5 **NASSAU COUNTY JAIL, FERNANDINA BEACH  
NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA**

---

access between the jailer's quarters and the central hall. East of the central hall lies the sally port, or prisoner's entrance vestibule (Photo 15) which historically served the jailer's quarters to the south, to the west the central hall and jail, and the booking and processing room to the north (Photo 16). The processing room currently supports Spanish mission and Timucuan exhibits. The sally port has its original iron door framing systems, but the barred iron doors have been removed to improve circulation through the museum.

A narrow corridor extends to the west of the Nassau County Exhibition Hall (Photo 17). The corridor visually identifies a transition from the historic building into the modern addition through differentiated red brick walls and a reinforced concrete ceiling to a gypsum-board-and-plaster walls and drop ceiling system. The corridor empties into part of the 2007 addition that contains a hall (Photo 18) which supports a new elevator, vestibule, rear entrance, and handicap ramp. To the north of the elevator is located the entrance vestibule (Photo 19), which visually unites and differentiates historic brick walls and double-hung sash windows with modern spaces and materials. In the vestibule are revealed to the east original brick walls and windows associated with the 1938 original building, and the 1954 addition's materials to the west. Iron bars remain intact on the former windows, indicating the historic use of the facility in the new entrance. West of the elevator and rear vestibule and contained within the 1954 addition is a secondary hall (Photo 20); an exhibition hall with an emergency exit on the south elevation (Photos 21&22); and storage room to the north (Photo 23). The exhibition hall has temporary walls and finishes that obscure the original brick interior walls, windows, and ceiling. Formerly containing the primary electrical service panels and transmitter equipment, and currently undergoing rehabilitation and re-use as an exhibition hall, the storage room reveals plaster-and-brick walls, a reinforced concrete ceiling, and replacement double-hung sash windows.

**Second Floor**

The current and historic system for gaining access to the upper floor is the central staircase (Photo 24). Not available to the general public as part of the overall museum experience, the second floor contains administrative offices, library, archives, and a multi-purpose room for developing exhibits and holding seminars and workshops. It historically contained only cells for inmates. In general, the rooms have double-hung sash windows and brick walls, although some walls have been painted white. Drop ceilings obscure original reinforced concrete ceilings in many rooms, and provide access spaces for electrical and HVAC systems. At the top of the staircase and to its north are located administrative offices (Photos 25&26) and a storage facility (Photo 27), which is protected by a barred iron door (Photo 28). To the south of the staircase is the library and archives (Photo 29). Although the walls of this room have been covered with gypsum board and plaster, the original windows and brick floor remain visible. At the northwest corner of the library is a narrow corridor (Photo 30) that leads into the 2007 addition with modern bathrooms and a new stairwell (Photo 31). To the north of the corridor are the elevator, accompanying hall, and an administrative office (Photo 32). Contrasting with the modern finishes in the office is an original window and supporting brick wall (Photo 33). With the exception of the narrow corridor, these rooms comprise the 2007 addition. To the west of the elevator is a large

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 6 **NASSAU COUNTY JAIL, FERNANDINA BEACH  
NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA**

---

open multi-purpose room (Photo 34), which has drop ceiling panels, double-hung sash windows, and partially exposed brick walls.

**INTERIOR ALTERATIONS**

**First Floor**

The first floor has several alterations made to adapt the building to its present use as a museum. Those changes are largely sensitive to the original circulation system and use. The reception area and primary exhibition hall (photograph 10) originally contained five spaces for the jailer's quarters, that is, a living/dining room, kitchen, two bedrooms, and restroom. The interior walls were removed about 1995 and the space reorganized with partitions for reception, gift sales, main exhibition hall, and a small theater. With the exception of the removal of several metal doors, the original east entrance vestibule, booking room, and dispatch, deputy's lockers, and armament storage room (Photos 15&16) retain their original features and circulation pattern. The original jail laundry (Photo 13) was divided into two spaces around 1995 to accommodate restrooms. Free-standing in the center of the room, the original trustee cells were removed about 1988 to create exhibition space (Photo 11). Red brick walls, metal doors, and reinforced concrete ceiling systems remain visible reminders of the originally intended use of the building.

An addition and modifications made in 2007 altered the interior of the original sally port system and connector between the 1938 and 1954 sections of the jail (Photos 17,18,19&31). Two restrooms and a staircase were added to the south elevation, and the sally port to the north was enclosed to accommodate an elevator, hallway, and handicapped ramp. New interior partitions were finished with smooth plaster. They contrast with the exposed original exterior brick wall and double-hung sash windows complete with iron bars revealed within the new vestibule. Removed about 1988, the original female jail cells for both black and white inmates occupied the large space at the west elevation (Photos 20-22). A wood-frame partition extending north-to-south visually separated the free-standing cells. The wall system was reorganized in 2007 to accommodate a hall serving the elevator and north entrance, and exhibitions in the former cell room for female inmates.

**Second Floor**

The second floor retains its original circulation pattern, materials, and features to a high degree. The most obvious change is the removal of the free-standing iron cells in the two major spaces (Photos 29&34). Most alterations were completed about 1995 to support museum operations. A small partition in the former "Black men's bull pen" (Photo 29) forms a library reading space (2007), and a secure archives (c.1994) with many of the museum's most valuable resources are stored in the locked room. The mentally deficient, padded, solitary confinement, and trustee cells (Photos 24-28) have been adapted for offices, but retain their original walls. Completed in 2007, the addition and alteration above the first-floor sally port (Photos 30-33) provides a

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number   7   Page   7  

**NASSAU COUNTY JAIL, FERNANDINA BEACH  
NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA**

---

staircase, restrooms, and an office on the second floor. A revealed window (Photo 33) serves as a visual reminder that the latter room is an addition with this space originally located outside the exterior walls.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 1 **NASSAU COUNTY JAIL, FERNANDINA BEACH  
NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA**

---

**SUMMARY**

The Nassau County Jail, currently housing the Amelia Island Museum of History, is significant at the local level under Criterion A in the areas of Politics/Government and Social History, and under Criterion C for Architecture. The jail was constructed by Nassau County government in 1938, on the site of an 1878, one-story wood-frame jail and a subsequent two-story masonry jail. Contributing to a local initiative to expand and modernize Nassau County's government buildings, the 1954 addition was part of a larger contract that also expanded and modernized County Courthouse. The jail was the hub of activity for persons charged with crimes and held through trials, incarcerated for one year or less, or transported to the state prison. Under Criterion C, the building possesses significance for its rare Moderne design, and for its distinctive characteristics of a type of construction designed for incarceration. In its original form, the building was designed by Jacksonville architect Roy A. Benjamin and constructed by Charles J. Davis, Inc., of Jacksonville. The Decatur Iron & Steel Company of Decatur, Alabama, designed and installed the iron and steel work and equipment used for the jail's doors and cells. Another Jacksonville architect, Abner C. Hopkins, drafted the plans for the 1954 addition, which gave the building its current irregular shape. The O. P. Woodcock Company of Jacksonville supervised construction of the addition with the Roanoke Iron & Bridge Company of Roanoke, Virginia, supplying the iron work for cells and doors. The Nassau County Jail has played an integral part of Nassau County's history until a new facility was built in 1978. With an adaptive reuse the Amelia Island Museum of History re-opened the building in 1986.

**HISTORIC CONTEXT**

Nassau County, Florida's tenth county designation, was created by Florida's Territorial Legislature in 1824. A German name applied to a river and sound on the south side of the county, Nassau supported numerous plantations dotting the banks of the Amelia River, Nassau River, and St. Mary's River in the colonial and antebellum periods. Established earlier in the century, the Town of Fernandina became the county seat. The major port in Nassau County, Fernandina was one of the largest towns in Florida, and an important northeast Florida port in the decades before the Civil War. The population increased from 1,511 in 1830 to approximately 3,000 in 1860. Built at the north end of Amelia Island, Fort Clinch protected the towns of Fernandina, Florida, and St. Mary's, Georgia. In 1861, Senator David Levy Yulee completed the Florida Railroad from Fernandina to Cedar Key. In the process, he moved Fernandina from its original Old Town site at the north end of the island to a new location south on the Amelia River (WPA 1936; Johannes 2000:27, 30).

The Civil War forced most construction plans to be shelved, particularly after March 4, 1862, when a force of 15,000 Union troops on twenty ships arrived from Hilton Head Island. The Confederates abandoned the island without a fight and most of Fernandina's citizens fled the town. By contrast, within a few months of the Federal occupation, hundreds of runaway slaves arrived on the island, moved into Fernandina, and many able-bodied male ex-slaves joined the Union army. During his tour of the South with Chief Justice Salmon Chase in 1865,

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 2 **NASSAU COUNTY JAIL, FERNANDINA BEACH  
NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA**

---

journalist Whitelaw Reid found the Yulee residence to have a senatorial look “among the forsaken-looking wooden buildings,” which otherwise made up the town. John Muir, the naturalist who passed through Fernandina in 1867 on a 1,000 mile walk, only commented that he walked off a “...ramshackle pier into a ramshackle town.” Both returning black veterans and the white citizenry rebuilt Fernandina. Notably, one of the first elections in the South that included both black and white voters during Reconstruction occurred in Fernandina’s mayoral election of 1865 (Johannes 2000:324; Rerick 1902 2:316).

Beyond fishing and the railroad, the economy of Nassau County consisted of agriculture, lumber, naval stores, and tourism. County government reorganized following the Civil War. Many meetings were consumed with the typical issues associated with the collection of tax revenues, elections and constitutional offices, roads and bridges, the county’s poorest residents, and law enforcement. In the process, the board of county commissioners acted upon petitions to create new roads, bridges, set millage rates, and constructed public buildings, including a courthouse and jail in Fernandina (Johannes 2000:36-37).

The late nineteenth century was Fernandina’s Golden Age (1870-1910) when an influx of investor businessmen helped to transform Fernandina. Some of the growth spilled over into the county as naval stores and timber were harvested. Fernandina became a winter resort and an area in which freed slaves worked to retain the rights and freedom they had won in the Civil War. It was a time of boundless economic optimism for the town. Part of that development was the construction of a county courthouse on Centre Street and a county jail several blocks to the southwest. In addition to public buildings, numerous fashionable residences were built, including the Fairbanks House (NR 1973), fondly called Fairbank’s Folly. This Italianate gem was designed by prominent architect Robert S. Schuyler, who also drafted the plans for St. Peter’s Episcopal Church, the Tabby House (NR 1973), the 1886 School House, and the Hirth House. The Egmont Hotel opened in 1880 and gained a reputation, not only as the best of the eight hotels on the island, but one of the best in the nation. It was located just three blocks from the jail, and visitors to the hotel passed by the fine new jail on the way to the hotel. In 1877, General Grant visited the island at the beginning of his world tour and was feted in Fernandina. By 1880, the town had entered an economic boom. Initially, most commercial buildings lining Centre Street were constructed with wood. Brick became the material of choice after devastating fires burned most of Centre Street in 1876 and 1883 (Wood 1989:223; Johannes 2000:36-37).

The county’s population expanded in the late nineteenth century, climbing from 6,635 in 1880 to 8,294 in 1890 and reached 9,654 in 1900. The growth of Fernandina played an important role in the population boom, expanding from 1,722 in 1870 to 2,562 in 1880. The introduction of new railroads and an increase in port traffic contributed to the county’s growth. Beyond Amelia Island, Fernandina, and the towns of Callahan and Hilliard, Nassau County extended over 650 square miles to include the unincorporated communities of Andrews, Boulogne, Brickyard Landing, Bryceville, Chester, Crackertown, Crandall, Crawford, Dahoma, Dyal, Evergreen, Franklintown, Frink, Gross, Inglehome, Italia, Keene, Kent, Kings Ferry, Lessie, Mattox, Nassauville, O’Neil, Orange Bluff, Ratliff, Romulus, Wilds Landing, Woodstock Mills, and Yulee. The naval

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 3 **NASSAU COUNTY JAIL, FERNANDINA BEACH  
NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA**

---

stores, railroad, and turpentine industries played an important role in the founding and development of most of those communities (Johannes 2000:40-81).

With growth came an increase in crime. Presumably, the initial county jail was contained within the first Nassau County Courthouse between the 1820s and 1870s. A subsequent courthouse was completed in Fernandina in 1891, complete with a lock-up for prisoners awaiting arraignment and trials, but by then a separate county jail had been built. In 1868, the Nassau County Board of County Commissioners took its first tentative steps to create a stand-alone county jail. In December of that year the board authorized the sheriff to develop plans for a jail, but the initiative failed. Then, on 23 May 1871 the county government purchased land south of Fernandina's downtown and east of the railroad tracks for a jail. Standing northwest of the intersection of Cedar Street and Third Street, this first jail was a one-story wood frame building completed in 1878. The county government responded to jail breaks in the early 1880s by improving its selection of jailers and locking mechanisms. In one well-publicized case from 1880 a local resident was robbed on the train from Cedar Key. He left the train and telegraphed ahead to the justice of the peace in Fernandina who met the train with several deputies and conveyed the suspect to the jail for the night. When the justice of the peace returned the next morning, the accused was gone. Suspecting the jailer of releasing him, the justice of the peace arrested the jailer and had him held in his own jail. By 1884, the jail had grown in size with a two-story main building with a supporting stockade and outbuildings. By 1909, the aging nineteenth century jail was replaced with a two-story brick building with a single outbuilding known as a calaboose, a colloquial term for a city lock-up or dungeon (*Florida Mirror*, 11 December 1880; Minutes of the Board of County Commissioners, 1868-1871; Deed Book N, p. 15 Clerk of Court Nassau County FL; Sanborn 1909).

Supported by constables and justices of the peace, the sheriff's department provided law enforcement over unincorporated Nassau County. Deputized officers delivered suspects arrested for criminal activities to the jailer at the Nassau County Jail for processing and incarceration. Jailed suspects formally charged with criminal activities were transported from the jail to the Nassau County Courthouse approximately four blocks northeast for arraignments and trials. Suspects who failed to meet a bond set by the court were held on remand in jail until trial. Some of the accused found guilty were sentenced to the county jail, generally for terms of one year or less. Longer sentences were carried out in the Florida State Prison at Raiford (Minutes of the Nassau County Board of County Commissioners, 1868-1871).

Growth in Nassau County persisted in the first half of the twentieth century, increasing from 9,654 in 1900 to 11,340 in 1920. By 1907, the county contained 138 miles of mainline railroads and, along with the development of United States Highways 1, 17, 23, and 301 and State Road A1A in the 1920s and 1930s, brought visitors, new homeowners, and businessmen into Nassau County. The development of the Intracoastal Waterway and bridges over the Amelia River and the St. Mary's River provided greater access for residents and visitors alike, and more crime into the region. The Era of Prohibition (1918-1933) prompted Nassau County's sheriff's department to launch periodic raids on moonshine stills leading to the destruction of barrels of liquor.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 4 **NASSAU COUNTY JAIL, FERNANDINA BEACH  
NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA**

---

The United States Coast Guard installed a base at Fernandina in the late-1920s to help curb rum-runners along the north Florida and South Georgia coasts. Entered into Nassau County's criminal bench docket books, other common forms of criminal activities included arson, assault, embezzlement, grand theft, interfering with an officer in the discharge of duty, larceny, manslaughter, murder, and rape. The end of prohibition closed an important chapter in the history of criminal activity in Nassau County. The shrimp industry thrived along the coast and the introduction of the factories by the Fernandina Pulp & Paper Company, Nassau Fertilizer & Oil Company, and Kraft Corporation brought new jobs to the county. Notwithstanding those new opportunities, the Great Depression coupled with joblessness and hunger ushered in a new period of criminal activities. Motivated by the desperate times, some residents relied on embezzlement and larceny just to fulfill their basic needs (Tebeau 1971:393-402; WPA 1939:374; Criminal Court Docket Book 1920-1933).

Some relief measures associated with the New Deal, including the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and Public Works Administration (PWA), alleviated the harshest effects of the Depression, but few municipal governments in Nassau County took advantage of the programs. World War II lifted the economy out of the Depression. By 1945, the United States government had allocated more resources to the war and supported more construction projects in any other time in its history. In nearby Jacksonville, the Department of the Navy established Naval Air Station Jacksonville, which was supported by various outlying fields, including an emergency facility at Callahan in west Nassau County. By 1950, the county's population had climbed to 12,811 and, responding to that growth and Florida's image as a tourist and vacation destination, the municipal government at Fernandina changed the city's name to Fernandina Beach, in 1947. Between 1950 and 1957, the county experienced a twenty-five percent increase in population, and in 1960 the county's population reached 17,189 (Johannes 2000:188, 211-212; Morris 1949: 251; Morris 1985:549-551, 557).

**HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The construction of the Nassau County Jail during the Great Depression was precipitated, in part, by a report received in 1936 by the county government from Jesse Elliott Creech, a Jacksonville inventor and inspector of correctional institutions, county jails, and state convicts for the board of commissioners of state institutions. The board of county commissioners then consisted of Chairman John T. Ferreira, Pasco Jones, Harry F. Sahlman, C. J. Walker, and K. K. Wilds. Creech cited the county government for the general poor condition of its aging nineteenth century jail and especially the building's inadequate cells, plumbing, cots, and bedding. In addition, Creech found the county's stockade at Hilliard in a similar poor state of repair. Only five years earlier, the Florida Federation of Women's Clubs had taken a statewide survey of Florida's county jails and found the condition of those facilities less than ideal and in some cases worse than during a similar study conducted nine years earlier. The Club cited inadequate medical care, unsanitary conditions and structures, lack of education and rehabilitation measures for inmates, enforced idleness of prisoners, and a fee system of 65¢ paid by various counties to its sheriffs for board for each incarcerated person. Responding to the state official, Nassau County's commissioners, for their part, promised to improve the condition of both facilities and subsequently made a few

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 5 **NASSAU COUNTY JAIL, FERNANDINA BEACH  
NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA**

---

repairs to the jail. A two-story masonry building, the jail had been constructed about 1891 to complement a new courthouse built the same year on Centre Street (FWP 1939:111; NCBCCM Book 9).

In April 1937, after making additional repairs to the jail, the county determined to replace the building. That month, the board instructed its clerk to contact Jacksonville architect Roy A. Benjamin about his availability to design a new jail for the county. Responding quickly to the unsolicited work, Benjamin submitted a proposal to design a new county jail in May 1937. Benjamin agreed to prepare the preliminary sketches, working drawings and specifications, take bids, let contracts, and supervise the work. The next month, Winter Park architect James Gamble Rogers II, solicited the board with his services, but by then Benjamin's services had been secured. In June 1937, after being hired by the board, Benjamin indicated that "...the present jail will be safe to handle prisoners for the next sixty days or probably longer, at which time it is hoped the new jail will be pretty well on the way." Benjamin completed the jail plans on 23 July 1937 and submitted the plans to the board later that month. Reflecting the decline in the construction business associated with the Great Depression and the accelerated bidding process laid out by county officials, the board received construction bids from several Jacksonville firms by 11 August 1937. The bidders consisted of Charles J. Davis, Inc.; R. H. Gallespie; W. T. Hadlow; George Haydock; J. M. Raymond Construction Company; Ivy H. Smith Company; and the O. P. Woodcock Company. The board submitted the bids to Benjamin for evaluation and recommendation. Later that month, Benjamin recommended that the board approve the bid of \$19,361 submitted by Charles J. Davis, Inc., for construction and the steel work and equipment bid of \$10,069 submitted by the Decatur Iron & Steel Company. Davis's contract stipulated that the contractor would "...demolish the present old two-story Jail Building, and will erect and complete a two-story jail building on the property now occupied by the old jail building..." He agreed to have the new jail "...substantially completed on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of January, 1938." To streamline the process and further reduce costs, at the county's request Benjamin submitted an addenda to his original specifications, which included omitting the parapet wall on the rear elevation, the cast stone belt along the first floor, and furring in and plastering the jailer's office. Demonstrating the completeness of Benjamin's architectural services, the Jacksonville architect included a section on Special Jail Equipment in his specifications, which were used by the Decatur company to formulate its bid. Unfortunately, those documents have been lost (NCBCCM Book 9).

Running slightly behind schedule, Davis appeared before the board of county commissioners at their regularly scheduled meeting on 16 February 1938. The contractor indicated the jail was complete and the commissioners agreed to visit the building following the meeting. Approving the work, the board made its final settlement with Benjamin and Davis at a special session designated for that purpose on 28 April 1938. Satisfied with Benjamin's work on the jail, the board turned to the architect to design a new county hospital, a design that was later rejected (NCBCCM Book 9).

J. C. Colson served as Nassau County's jailer between the late 1930s and the 1950s. A county employee supervised by the sheriff's department, Colson worked closely with deputies to receive and process suspects,



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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 6 **NASSAU COUNTY JAIL, FERNANDINA BEACH  
NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA**

---

incarcerate inmates, transport prisoners between the jail and courthouse, and maintain a secure facility. He supervised several guards, including Owen Barnard whose responsibilities included standing night watch. In 1938 alone, the first year of operations for the new jail, Colson reported the cost of handling the prisoners, that is, booking them and escorting them between jail and courthouse, as \$448.75. In contrast, the jailer reported that the cost to feed inmates during the first six months of operations as \$125. Between the late 1930s and 1950s, Colson's annual salary increased from \$270 to \$350 (NCBCCM Book 9).

As an arm of the county's law enforcement department, Colson held an appointed post and over time worked closely with two Nassau County sheriffs, an elected position. A resident of Hilliard with vast landholdings and a saw mill, Andrew J. Higginbotham served as Nassau County sheriff for nearly forty years, a period spanning the 1910s through the 1940s. In 1944, after several failed bids to win the top post, Henry J. Youngblood won election as Nassau County sheriff. A native of Nassau County, Youngblood initially worked as superintendent of the county's road department in the 1920s and 1930s. Because of his wide travels across the county Sheriff Higginbotham deputized Youngblood. Aspiring to a better paying county position, Youngblood won the sheriff's election in the mid 1940s and held the post for several decades. Deputized officers working under Higginbotham and Youngblood between the 1930s and 1950s included Joseph Hendricks, D. B. Higginbotham, Arthur Hunt, L. W. Pickett, O. Z. Rowe, Clement P. Rutishauser, P. H. Sauls, Ben Scott, H. S. Skipper, S. D. Trego, and E. A. Yates. The sheriff's department also worked closely with several constables in Nassau County's unincorporated communities to protect citizens, apprehend law breakers, and arrest suspects. In 1950, Youngblood hired Jeremiah Mattox, the first African American to serve in county law enforcement. Mattox patrolled the African-American communities on Amelia Island, but was deputized to make arrests only in those areas. He was killed in 1954 while responding to a domestic dispute south of Fernandina Beach, the first black sheriff's deputy killed in the line of duty in the State of Florida. In addition to these deputy sheriffs, bailiffs who often escorted inmates from the jail to the nearby courthouse for arraignment and trial included John Cone and S. A. Sapp. These law enforcement officials were in the jail on a daily basis participating in the process of law enforcement in Nassau County between the 1930s and 1950s (NCBCCM Book 9; Johannes 2000:11, 12, 45, 249, 274, 315).

In addition to housing drunks found wandering the streets late at night, the jail served its larger purpose of holding persons charged with violent crimes, such as larceny, murder, and rape. Beyond the jailer, guards, and law enforcement officials conducting affairs in the jail were various lawyers representing defendants accused of these and other crimes. Some of the attorneys who consulted with their clients in the jail included Frank D. Brennan, Mabry Carlton, Thomas G. Hall, Lester W. Jennings of Jennings & Coffee, Thomas M. Linton, L'Engle & Kelly, and Frank D. Upchurch. Some of these defense attorneys represented high-profile murder cases in Nassau County, became involved in state politics, and held other posts in the legal and legislative systems. Most were from Jacksonville and St. Augustine. Mabry Carlton opened his law practice in Jacksonville in 1930 and later became a Duval County judge. Representing Nassau County, Frank D. Upchurch served in the Florida Legislature in the 1920s, but then moved his law practice to St. Augustine in the 1930s and

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 7 **NASSAU COUNTY JAIL, FERNANDINA BEACH  
NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA**

---

served as a delegate from St. Johns County from Florida in the Democratic National Convention in 1948. Nassau County's prosecuting attorneys of the period included Thomas J. Shave and J. B. Stewart. Circuit court judges presiding over these cases in the seventh judicial circuit included Bayard Shields and W. A. Stanly. Criminal bench docket books and other official documents provide details of attorneys, inmates, arraignments, and trials, and many of the criminal activities in Nassau County during the period and the names of those incarcerated in Nassau County Jail between the 1930s and 1950s (NCCBD Book 4; Dovell 1952 4:669-670).

Dozens of suspects jailed between the 1930s and 1950s for more serious crimes included Charles Armstrong for grand larceny, Della Fullwood for first degree murder, Charles Henley for manslaughter, and Lawrence Verdier for assault with intent to commit murder. After processing and booking into the jail, the suspects awaited arraignment and some bonded out of the facility. Others, failing to obtain a bond, were held on remand in the jail until trial. Most arraignments and trials occurred in a speedy and timely fashion. Jailed for first degree murder in October 1941, Flora Bell Wilson was arraigned later that month and after several continuances filed by her attorneys, L'Engle & Kelly of Jacksonville, was found not guilty in a jury trial in February 1942. Accused of killing her husband, Vander Fullwood, Della Fullwood was jailed and arraigned in February 1942. Found guilty on a reduced charge of second degree murder on 1 June 1942, Fullwood was sentenced by Judge Shields to thirty years hard labor at Florida State Prison at Raiford. Also charged with second degree murder, Brantly Hicks was found guilty in February 1942, but was sentenced to only three years hard labor at Raiford. Other persons charged with murder and jailed at the Nassau County lockup for a period included Herman Conner, Roscoe Dixon, Fred Higginbotham, Ernest Hinson, the Melzer brothers H.C., Paul, and W.H., and Allen Rowe and William Rowe (NCCBD Book 4).

In one bizarre case, deputy Rutishauser shot William King of Fernandina Beach while trying to arrest him in early 1949. After transporting King to the jail, Rutishauser worked with Colson, but could not stop the bleeding and drove the suspect to nearby Nassau County Hospital. After stabilizing the patient but finding the bullet had shattered the bone and severed a main blood vessel, Dr. H. B. Dickens, Jr., ordered the law enforcement officials to transport the suspect to Brewster Hospital in Jacksonville to "...save his life." After an operation, deputies transported the World War II veteran to the Veteran's Administration Hospital in Lake City to recuperate. By August 1949, the deputies had returned King to Fernandina Beach, where he was incarcerated in Nassau County Jail for arraignment and trial. Several unusual court cases unfolded, in part, in the Nassau County Jail. Charged with breaking and entering with intent to commit a misdemeanor, Jacob Wall remained in jail between April and June 1942. In the latter month at a subsequent hearing, Judge Shields ruled Wall to be insane and sentenced him to Florida State Hospital at Chattahoochee. In October 1942, after admitting thirteen-year-old Kenneth York into the jail, Colson caught the youth with a concealed a weapon that he intended to deliver to a relative. The jailer disarmed the youth and then placed him in a holding cell for formal charges and arraignment. Subsequently, the state attorney charged the youth with conveying a weapon into Nassau County Jail to aid an escape. At his arraignment, York pleaded guilty and Judge Shields released him from jail, remanding the juvenile to the custody of the Nassau County Sheriff for further appropriate proceedings. Other

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 8 **NASSAU COUNTY JAIL, FERNANDINA BEACH  
NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA**

---

youths placed in jail temporarily included fifteen-year-old Willie Walthour, Jr., and fourteen-year-old James Wallace. Arrested for armed robbery, the youths allegedly perpetrated the crime with James Williams, an adult, but all were found not guilty in Judge Shield's courtroom in February 1943. In February 1955, A. A. Justice pleaded guilty to willful and intentional burning of woods and received a sentence of one year of hard labor at Florida State Prison (NCCBD Book 4; NCBCCM 11).

Many of the court's sentences were completed in Nassau County Jail. Those included a ten-month sentence for Beulah Benton who the court found guilty of breaking and entering with intent to commit a misdemeanor; Jasper Jones for six months at hard labor for embezzlement of less than \$50.00; and six and three month sentences for Sarah Hooper and Altamese Hooper, respectively, for interfering with an officer in discharge of duty. In 1954, Charles Armstrong received a sentence of nine months hard labor at Nassau County Jail for grand larceny. Perhaps the harshest sentence handed down by the court during the period to be served in the jail went to Clyde Pritchett. In 1943, Judge Shields sentenced the forty-year old to one year hard labor at Nassau County Jail for assault with intent to commit murder (NCCBD Book 4).

By the early 1950s, an increase in the size of county government and the rates criminal activities and incarceration in Nassau County had increased sufficiently to compel the board of county commissioners to expand the courthouse and county jail. Providing continuity over county politics during the era, John T. Ferreira still served as the chairman of the county commission. Other commissioners included Harry L. Dunman, McKendree, Shaffer, and Walker. In their September 1953 meeting, the commissioners enacted a resolution for the "...remodeling and erecting additions to the Nassau County Courthouse and modernizing the Nassau County Jail and erecting additions thereto..." Passing a special building tax, the commissioners and the county engineer estimate the combined projects would amount to \$250,000. Later that year, the board hired Jacksonville architect Abner C. Hopkins to draft the addition plans for the courthouse and jail. The board publicly advertised the projects and opened the bids in December 1953, but rejected the two bids from the Auchter and Woodcock companies of Jacksonville as too costly. The county re-advertised the bids and opened those submitted by Jacksonville contractors Clyde P. Knowles and Owen P. Woodcock in March 1954. After reviewing the documents, the board awarded the jail contract for \$57,406 to the Woodcock company and the Knowles company received the bid for the courthouse expansion. In addition, the board awarded the equipment and iron work for the jail addition, amounting to \$19,700, to the Roanoke Iron and Bridge Works, of Roanoke, Virginia. In addition to fabricating and installing its own iron cells and doors, the county stipulated that the Virginia company install a "Patented Creech Cell" in the jail. Patented in 1943 by the Jacksonville, Florida, inventor Jesse Elliott Creech, and a former prison inspector, the cell was designed specifically for "...confining violent prisoners and mental patients, the salient objects being to safeguard the occupants of the cell against self-inflicted injuries as far as possible, to prevent the occupant from damaging the cell, and to provide for convenient and thorough cleansing of the cell" (NCBCCM Book 11; United States Patent Office 1943: Patent#2,323,455).

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 9 **NASSAU COUNTY JAIL, FERNANDINA BEACH  
NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA**

---

Construction began in early 1954, but delays in the shipment of steel and iron slowed progress. In August 1954, Sheriff Youngblood expressed concerns about the quality of some of the workmanship. Although Woodcock took some steps to address the sheriff's concerns and those of several commissioners, at the scheduled final inspection in October 1954 the board refused to accept the project. At the next inspection, the sheriff and board found Woodcock had "...remedied all things pointed out as not complete or needing changing to comply with plans and specifications..." In November 1954, architect Hopkins conducted his final inspection and provided his closing certificate, turning over the addition to the county government (NCBCCM Book 12; *Fernandina Beach News-Leader*, 27 August 1954).

The addition nearly doubled the size of Nassau County Jail. New spaces included a desk clerk's office with two guest rooms, lockers, and showers. Four cells and two day rooms for inmates occupied spaces on the first floor and six cells with sixteen bunks radiated across the second floor. Built during the period of segregation, the addition provided the necessary accommodations to uphold the "separate, but equal" constitutional clause. Prior to 1954, black and white inmates in Nassau County Jail often faced overcrowded cells with upwards of four or five persons incarcerated in a single cell for brief periods. The addition included what became known as the "Black Bull Pen" for African-American male prisoners on the second floor in the original building. White males were imprisoned in cells on the second floor of the addition. On the first floor of the addition, white females were held in three iron cells separated by a solid partition from three additional iron cells reserved for black women. Annis Moore-Littles stated that when she and her husband lived on the first floor of the original part of the jail Sheriff McKendree ended the segregation of deputies at meal times (Interview with Annis Moore-Littles and daughter, Cindy, conducted by Marlene Schang and Suanne Thamm 1999; *Fernandina Beach News-Leader*, 27 August 1954).

**ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT**

The Oxford English Dictionary defines a jail (gaol) as a French term for "a place or building for the confinement of persons accused or convicted of a crime or offence. Now, a public building for the detention of persons committed by process of law." Other dictionaries define the term as a detention building for persons awaiting trial or convicted of minor offenses. Typically, jails are intended to hold persons awaiting trial or convicted of minor offenses and serving sentences of less than one year, whereas prisons incarcerate inmates convicted of significant crimes or sentenced by a court to longer sentences. Jails historically have operated in the shadow of prisons, which have informed their general design and operation features. A jail is a specific type of building designed for a singular purpose, and jails have mirrored prisons general design and operation features. Historically a town or county jail consisted of a small one-story wooden building that yielded to a larger masonry building as the community grew in population and criminal activity. Some jails were ornate masonry buildings with cast stone walls, turrets, and castellated parapets; others were relatively simple brick buildings. Generally constructed with load bearing walls, jails were sometimes built adjacent to a courthouse or city hall, but more often as a free-standing building generally separated from commercial buildings in a

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 10 **NASSAU COUNTY JAIL, FERNANDINA BEACH  
NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA**

---

downtown with a cleared paved area around the building that enhanced security and identified its specialized function. In other cases, a jail was incorporated into the design of a county courthouse or town hall with iron bars in the fenestration and a high fence protecting a flat-roof jail section of the larger building.

Architectural historian Henry Hitchcock-Russell once observed that America's first great contribution to architecture was through its novel designs of jails and prisons, which conveyed a sense of the "strictly social and organizational." As early as 1790, the City of Philadelphia introduced individual cells into its Walnut Street Jail, a typical colonial building that previously had permitted the intermingling of convicts of every crime and description in large rooms. Cellular construction followed in the 1820s with Eastern Penitentiary in Philadelphia, and Sing Sing, in Ossining, New York, and New Jersey State Prison in the 1830s. Nineteenth century jails and prisons evolved, in part, using the Auburn System in which inmates worked together during the day and were locked into solitary cells at night. The primary architectural feature of the Auburn System consisted of a cell block where cells were placed back-to-back with air space between the cell block and outer walls. Prison and jail design, however, was generally a low-priority, if necessity, for local governments. Consequently, many architects turned to existing models for new facilities. The 1840s Charles Street Jail in Boston offered H. H. Richardson a model for his 1880s boldly massed Allegheny County Courthouse and Jail in Pittsburg, and Jeremy Bentham's circular Panopticon in England from the eighteenth century served as the model for Illinois State Penitentiary of the 1920s. In some cases, some counties replaced an aging masonry building with a larger, stronger, and newer facility of similar materials and design.

Since the primary purpose of jails is to isolate people who have broken a law, efficiency and economy in separating and guarding inmates were guiding principles in jail design and construction. Jail and prison reform movements periodically responded to civic outcries to rehabilitate inmates. Apart from isolating persons, jail architects were left wide latitude to select a specific architectural solution to the general need. The designs assured constant retention of inmates, unwanted contact between prisoners within the jail population, guards and law enforcement officials, and members of the community. Architects generally provided a complex arrangement that provided for secure accommodations, gender segregation and various categories of inmates, sanitation and hygiene, daily routines of the jailer, guards, and inmates, and opportunity for exercise and physical activity. In the American South, many jails provided accommodations for African-American and Caucasian inmates between the 1890s and 1950s predicated on the Plessy v. Ferguson "separate, but equal" clause. Interior spaces generally included a booking and processing room, individual cells, galleries, jailer and/or guard quarters, a public entrance, and a sally port.

The Amelia Island Museum of History re-opened the historic jail to its adapted reuse in 1986. The adaptive reuse plan resulted in the removal of the original iron cells and the introduction of temporary partitions in about 1995 to support exhibits. Notwithstanding that change, the original circulation pattern in the jail and many of the original iron doors, frames between rooms and iron bars protecting windows remain intact. In 2007, the museum completed an addition supported by Special Category grant assistance from the Florida Department of

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 11 **NASSAU COUNTY JAIL, FERNANDINA BEACH  
NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA**

---

State, Division of Historical Resources. Designed by Kenneth Smith Architects, Inc., of Jacksonville with oversight by the Division's Architectural Preservation Services Section, the 2007 addition meets the Department of the Interior's criteria for compatible but differentiated additions to historic buildings. The jail contributes to the sense of time, place, and historical development of Nassau County and the City of Fernandina Beach. The jail retains its integrity through its location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The building provides an important architectural, political, and social link to the heritage of Fernandina Beach.

**ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE**

Nassau County Jail possesses significance for its Moderne Style construction. Its masthead, solid brick utilitarian massing, and unusual fenestration represent a building developed for a particular function. Displaying an irregular shape, the building has a straight parapet with cast stone coping, translucent glass blocks accented by cast stone fleur-de-lis floral patterns, cantilevered ledge projecting over the east entrance, red brick walls accented by basket-weave bond patterns and slender belt courses of brick and cast stone. Slightly projecting and receding surfaces contrast with the horizontal bands and emphasize the building's verticality at the south entrance and corner window fenestration. A masthead on the east façade spells out Nassau County Jail. Original metal doors and an iron cage at the south entrance remain prominent features identifying it as a jail. The features and floor plan of the original 1938 building, 1954 expansion, and 2007 addition with alterations are readily apparent in its present museum incarnation.

**Architects**

***Roy A. Benjamin***

Jacksonville architect Roy A. Benjamin drafted the plans for the original 1938 jail. A charter member of the Florida Association of Architects, Benjamin was the 31<sup>st</sup> architect to be granted a license to practice in Florida by the Florida State Board of Architecture. Relocating from Ocala to Jacksonville in 1902, Benjamin opened his practice about 1905 and contributed to the rebuilding of Jacksonville following its devastating May 1901 fire. Between 1919 and 1924, he associated with Mellen Greeley, another prominent Jacksonville architect. Benjamin's landmark projects included Jacksonville's Chamber of Commerce Building, Elks Club Building (NR 2000), Jewish Center, Otis Elevator Building, Park Lane Apartments, Scottish Rite Temple, and the State Board of Health Building. Benjamin's elaborate Tudor Revival Cheek Mansion on River Boulevard was completed in 1929 by Charles J. Davis, Inc., one of the few projects other than Nassau County Jail in which the architect and builder collaborated on a project. Benjamin's school plans included Central School (NR 1998) in Putnam County and Nassau County's Public School No. 1 and Peck High School, both in Fernandina in the 1920s. Beyond the Nassau County and Putnam County schools, Benjamin drafted the plans for the John Gorrie and Kirby Smith junior high schools in Jacksonville. Despite his wide experience, Benjamin became best

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 12 **NASSAU COUNTY JAIL, FERNANDINA BEACH  
NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA**

---

known as a theater architect, designing approximately 200 movie houses throughout the American South. These included the Arcade Theater, Center Theater, Florida Theatre (NR 1982), Riverside Theater, and San Marco Theater in Jacksonville; Edwards Theatre (NR 1984) in Sarasota, Florida; the Saenger Theater (NR 1984) in Biloxi, Mississippi; and the Albany Theatre (NR 2006) in Albany, Georgia. Benjamin sold his practice after World War II to William Kemp, Franklin Bunch, and William Jackson, who continue to operate as KBJ Architects, Inc., in the twenty-first century as Jacksonville's oldest architectural firm (Wood 1989:8; Dovell 1952 4:839-841; *Florida Times Union*, 29 January 1963, 10 October 1982; Florida Master Site File).

***Abner C. Hopkins***

Abner C. Hopkins prepared plans for the 1954 addition. The 940<sup>th</sup> architect licensed to practice in Florida by the Florida State Board of Architecture, Hopkins was born in Texas about 1903 and was graduated from Texas Agricultural & Mechanical University with a degree in architecture in the early 1920s. In 1928, after working in a Texas office for several years, he moved to Jacksonville, Florida. Organizing his business in Florida after the collapse of the land boom proved difficult, but eventually Hopkins landed commissions in several fashionable neighborhoods, including San Jose and San Marco. During the late 1930s, Hopkins formed a partnership with Prentiss Huddleston, another Jacksonville architect who later relocated to Tallahassee. Specializing in residential designs, Hopkins initially worked in the Mitchell Building, then on West Forsyth Street, and later on West Adams Street. A member of the American and Florida institutes of architects, Hopkins maintained his home on Ingleside Street in the 1930s and later moved to Julington Creek Road. Many of his early projects were in the San Marco neighborhood of Jacksonville, where he designed homes in the Classical Revival, Colonial Revival, and Tudor Revival styles. Many of his projects were in association with builders and developers Stockton & Company, Whatley, Davin & Company, and Victor Zambetti. A departure from earlier projects, Hopkins's Royal Crown Cola Bottling Company in 1938 embodied the International style and his 1941 Campus Art Theatre in Tallahassee had the trappings of the Art Deco Style. Later, Hopkins' projects reflected Minimal Traditional, Ranch, and Split Level influences. Beyond dwellings, Hopkins drafted the plans for Southside Christian Church and commercial buildings on San Marco Boulevard. In the 1930s and 1940s, Hopkins, along with architects Bernard W. Close, Jefferson D. Powell, D. Floyd Rosser, and Ivan H. Smith, drafted the plans for homes in several of Jacksonville's fashionable neighborhoods and at Ponte Vedra Beach. In 1940, Hopkins contributed to *Jacksonville Architecturally*, a coffee-table picture book showcasing notable projects they had completed during the late-1930s. Outside of Duval County Hopkins designed Lovett's Groceteria in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, in 1937, and in 1941 the Nassau County Hospital, a \$60,000 building in Fernandina. Hopkins competed for the hospital design with several other Jacksonville architects, including Roy A. Benjamin. Hopkins's practice found new energy after World War II and he practiced until just before his death in 1972 (*Florida Times Union*, 10 June 1972; Nassau County Jail File AIMH; Minutes, Board of County Commissioners, Nassau County, 14 April, 11, 17 August 1937, 28 April 1938, 11 September 1940, 4 August 1941).

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 13 **NASSAU COUNTY JAIL, FERNANDINA BEACH  
NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA**

---

**Builders**

***Charles J. Davis, Inc.***

A native of Florida, born about 1891, Charles J. Davis, Jr., learned the construction trade in Jacksonville's busy building boom that persisted between the Great Fire of 1901 and the years preceding World War I. In the 1920s, he expanded and then incorporated his construction company as Charles J. Davis, Inc. During the decade, Davis built some of his most important projects, which consisted of commercial buildings in Jacksonville's downtown, such as the Hamby Building and the South Atlantic Investment Company Building. Most of his work was residential in the exclusive neighborhoods of Avondale, Riverside, and St. Nicholas. Davis's construction projects included designs by some of Jacksonville's leading architects, such as Roy A. Benjamin, Henry J. Klutho, Jefferson D. Powell, and Marsh & Saxelbye. In 1937, contemporaneous with the construction of Nassau County Jail, Davis completed an addition to the McIver Residence, a fashionable home in Jacksonville's St. Nicholas neighborhood (Wood 1989:63, 80, 121, 125, 135, 148, 150, 165, 171, 232).

***O. P. Woodcock Construction Company***

A prominent Jacksonville contractor, Owen Prescott Woodcock arrived in Jacksonville about 1893 and constructed various buildings until 1904. He then left for business opportunities in the oil fields of Pennsylvania. He returned to Jacksonville in 1905 and incorporated the \$100,000 Halsema-Woodcock Construction Company with builder J. C. Halsema. Several years later, Halsema and Woodcock ended their partnership with Halsema organizing the Florida Engineering and Construction Company and the latter establishing O. P. Woodcock Construction Company. During a career that spanned nearly six decades, Woodcock constructed residences and buildings in Duval County's beach communities of Atlantic Beach, Jacksonville Beach, Neptune Beach, Ponte Vedra Beach, downtown Jacksonville, and the Jacksonville neighborhoods of Lackawanna, Riverside, North Riverside, San Jose, San Marco, and Springfield. His distinctive buildings and schools included Buckman & Ulmer Building, Cookman Elementary School, Eastside Elementary School, Elizabeth Swaim United Methodist Church, Fire Station No. 5, Fishweir Creek School, John Gorrie Junior High School, Kirby Smith Junior High School, Public School No. 3, and Willow Branch Library. In 1918, he completed a large addition to the Lackawanna Public School No. 10. In 1925, the Woodcock Company built the Jacksonville Terminal Company's express terminal on Myrtle Avenue at a cost of approximately \$400,000. In 1942, Woodcock completed the Lane Drug Company Building on Park Street, one of Jacksonville's early examples of the Streamline Moderne Style. His construction of Boston Avenue Elementary School in DeLand, Flagler County Courthouse in Bunnell, Hastings High School (NR 2006), and the 1954 addition to Nassau County Jail represent the few large projects completed by Woodcock outside of Duval County between the 1920s and the 1950s (*Jacksonville Florida Times-Union*, 3 November 1905, 25 June 1916, 10, 17 July 1917, 24 April 1952; Wood 1989:120, 141, 142).



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 14 **NASSAU COUNTY JAIL, FERNANDINA BEACH  
NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA**

---

**Iron & Steel Works Companies**

*Decatur Iron & Steel Works*

The Decatur Iron & Steel Works, the contractors for the iron and steel cells and doors in the 1938 Nassau County Jail, was organized about 1910 in Decatur, Alabama. The company initially operated as a subsidiary of the Decatur Cornice and Roofing Company, a nineteenth-century metal works that specialized in decorative metallic roof shingles for dwellings and decorative cornices and storefronts on commercial buildings. By the mid-1930s, the iron and steel company operated on its own and in addition to its specialty of fabricating cells and doors for jails and prisons the company assembled bridges, primarily swing and lift spans. In the 1930s, H. R. Sears served as the company's president and A. L. Stephenson as its secretary. During World War II, the company re-tooled its metal works to meet some of the exigencies associated with war-time construction. Between 1942 and 1944 the Decatur Iron & Bridge Works built thirty-three steel Landing Craft Tank (LCT), amphibious assault vehicles operated by the United States Navy. These vehicles carried tanks ashore during the allied invasion of Europe on D-Day in World War II. The company also fabricated thirty-nine steel tugboats for the United States Army. Following the war, the company returned to its traditional iron and steel work. Important projects included the Frederick County Jail in Virginia, in 1949 and the eight-story Queens Jail, part of the Criminal Courts Building complete with 360 cells in 1959. Important company officials included James W. Fitzpatrick, chief engineer of the jail and prison division, and civil engineer Forrest Anderson who worked as chief engineer of the architectural metals division. In 1957, three years after the addition was completed for Nassau County Jail, the iron and steel company acquired the patent from Perry M. Smith and James H. Whitfield for a new operating and locking mechanism for jail and prison doors (*New York Times*, 25 April 1959).

*Roanoke Iron and Bridge Works, of Roanoke, Virginia*

The Roanoke Iron and Bridge Works fabricated and installed the iron and steel work in the 1954 addition of Nassau County Jail. Organized in Roanoke, Virginia, about 1905, the Roanoke Iron and Bridge Works built a variety of metal products during the first half of the twentieth century, including bridges, jails, and decorative metal objects throughout the American South. Early projects included the 1912 Sharptown Bridge (HAER 1984) across the Nanticoke River in Maryland, the Cedar Creek Bridge in Roanoke, Virginia, in 1929, and the Saluda Bridge No. 1 (HAER 1982) in Newberry County, South Carolina, in 1930. In 1932, the company fabricated and installed the draw in the Wright Memorial Bridge that spanned Currituck Sound in Dare County, North Carolina. The company's jail work included the Frederick County Jail in Winchester, Virginia, in 1949. That year the company fabricated and installed the Roanoke Star on Mill Mountain (NR 1999) in Roanoke, Virginia, the world's largest freestanding illuminated man-made star. In 1951, several years before the company designed and installed jail cells in Nassau County Jail, the United Steelworkers Union of America reached an agreement with the Roanoke Iron and Bridge Works in the union's first collective bargaining

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 15 **NASSAU COUNTY JAIL, FERNANDINA BEACH  
NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA**

---

agreement with a major iron works company. The Virginia company endured into the late twentieth century, designing prison equipment in the Arlington County Police Facility and Detention Center in Arlington, Virginia; Bibb County Jail in Macon, Georgia; North Carolina's state prison at Caledonia; and Attica Correctional Facility in Attica, New York. Eventually the company was acquired by Crowder Detention Equipment Parts & Service, Inc., a leading American detention contractor based in Indiana (*Washington Post*, 8 July 1972; *New York Times*, 17 July 1977).

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 9 Page 1 **NASSAU COUNTY JAIL, FERNANDINA BEACH  
NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA**

---

**Primary Sources**

Legal Instruments and Documents

Nassau County. Clerk of Court. Fernandina Beach, FL.  
Deed Book N, p. 15.  
Deed Book B-3, p. 180.  
Docket Book. Criminal Court, 1920-1933.  
Minutes. Board of County Commissioners, 1868-1958.

Maps

Sanborn Map Company. *Fire Insurance Map of Fernandina Beach, Nassau County, Florida*. New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1909.

Works Projects Administration (WPA). *Creation of Florida's Counties, 1821-1925*. Tallahassee: WPA, 1936.

Newspapers

*Fernandina Beach News-Leader*, 27 August 1954, 27 March 1958.  
*Florida Mirror*, 11 December 1880.  
*Nassau County Leader*, 27 March 1925.

**Secondary Sources**

Article and Books

Blumenson, John J.G., *Identifying American Architecture*. New York: W.W. Norton, 1981.

Brown, Canter, Jr. *Florida's Black Public Officials, 1867 -1924*. Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 1998.

Carter, James J. "Florida and Rumrunning During National Prohibition." *Florida Historical Quarterly*. 48 (July 1969):47-56.

Hardee, Susanne. *The Golden Age of Amelia Island*. Fernandina Beach: Amelia Island Museum of History, 1993.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number     9     Page     2     **NASSAU COUNTY JAIL, FERNANDINA BEACH  
NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA**

---

- Jaccard, Deon Lawrence. *The Historic Splendor of Amelia Island*. Fernandina Beach: Larus Book Publisher, 1997.
- Johansen, Jan H. *Yesterday's Reflections, Nassau County, Florida*. Jacksonville: Lexington Ventures, Inc., 2000.
- Morris, Allen. *Florida Handbook*. Tallahassee: Peninsular Publishing, 1949, 1985.
- Muir, John. *Thousand Mile Walk to the Gulf*. Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1916.
- Reid, Whitlow. *After the War: A Tour of the Southern States 1865-1866*. Cincinnati, New York and London: Moore, Wilstach and Baldwin, 1886.
- Rerick, Rowland H. *Memories of Florida, Volume II*. Atlanta: Southern Historical Association, 1902.
- Rogers, William R. and James M. Denham. *Florida's Sheriffs: A History, 1821-1945*. Tallahassee: Sentry Press, 2001.
- Tebeau, Charlton. *A History of Florida*. Coral Gables: University of Miami Press, 1971.
- Webb, Wanton. *Webb's Historical, Industrial and Biographical*. New York: Wanton S. Webb, 1885.
- Wood, Wayne. *Jacksonville's Architectural Heritage*. Gainesville: University of Florida Press, 1989.
- Works Projects Administration (WPA). *Florida: A Guide to the Southernmost State*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1939.

Interviews and Statements

- Cotner, John, Architect. Interview with Carmen Godwin. Interview at the Amelia Island Museum of History, 20 February 2007.
- Moore-Littles, Annis and Cindy Moore. Interview with Marlene Schang and Suanne Thamm. Interview at Amelia Island Museum of History, 4 November 1999.
- Richardson, Michael, Architect. Interview with Jim Longacre. Interview at the Amelia Island Museum of History, 3 August 2006.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number     9     Page     3     **NASSAU COUNTY JAIL, FERNANDINA BEACH  
NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA**

---

Smith, Kenneth Architect. Interview with Susan Little. Interview at the Amelia Island Museum of History 17 August 2006.

Saylor, Sammy. Written statement recorded on 7 August 1980 at the old Nassau County Jail regarding a hanging.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 10 Page 1

**NASSAU COUNTY JAIL, FERNANDINA  
BEACH, NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA**

---

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

See attached scaled site plan. The boundary encloses approximately a one-half acre tract associated with lots 15 through 21 in block 273 of the Town of Fernandina (00-00-31-1800-0273-0150).

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The boundary encloses property historically associated with the historic jail.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number Attachments Page 1 **NASSAU COUNTY JAIL, FERNANDINA BEACH  
NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA**

---

1. Nassau County Jail, 233 South Third Street, Fernandina Beach
2. Nassau County, Florida
3. Sidney Johnston
4. September 2008
5. Bland & Associates, Inc. Jacksonville, FL
6. East elevation, facing west
7. Photo #1 of 34

Numbers 1-5 are the same for the remaining photographs.

6. East elevation of the one-story 1954 addition, facing west
7. Photo #2 of 34

6. North elevation of the 1938 portion and one-story 1954 addition, facing southeast
7. Photo #3 of 34

6. South elevation of 1938 part of the building, facing northwest
7. Photo #4 of 34

6. South elevation addition, facing north
7. Photo #5 of 34

6. Detail of south elevation, facing northeast
7. Photo #6 of 34

6. West elevation, facing northeast
7. Photo #7 of 34

6. West elevation, facing east
7. Photo #8 of 34

6. North elevation, facing south
7. Photo #9 of 34

6. Main exhibition hall, facing east
7. Photo #10 of 34

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number Attachments Page 2

**NASSAU COUNTY JAIL, FERNANDINA BEACH  
NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA**

---

- 6. Nassau County History exhibition hall, facing north
- 7. Photo #11 of 34
  
- 6. Central hall stairway and Heritage Exhibition hall, facing west
- 7. Photo #12 of 34
  
- 6. First-floor restrooms and barred iron door, facing northwest
- 7. Photo #13 of 34
  
- 6. Barred iron door on south wall of central hall, facing south
- 7. Photo #14 of 34
  
- 6. Sally port and central hall, facing east
- 7. Photo #15 of 34
  
- 6. Spanish Mission/Timucuan exhibition hall doorway, facing southeast
- 7. Photo #16 of 34
  
- 6. Narrow corridor and elevator, facing east
- 7. Photo #17 of 34
  
- 6. Elevator and rear entrance vestibule, facing north
- 7. Photo #18 of 34
  
- 6. Rear/north entrance vestibule, facing east
- 7. Photo #19 of 34
  
- 6. Secondary hall in 1954 addition, facing north
- 7. Photo #20 of 34
  
- 6. Exhibition hall, facing southwest
- 7. Photo #21 of 34
  
- 6. Exhibition hall, facing south
- 7. Photo #22 of 34
  
- 6. Storage room, facing east
- 7. Photo #23 of 34



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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number Attachments Page 3

**NASSAU COUNTY JAIL, FERNANDINA BEACH  
NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA**

---

6. Central staircase, facing east

7. Photo #24 of 34

6. Administrative office, facing north

7. Photo #25 of 34

6. Administrative office, facing north

7. Photo #26 of 34

6. Storage room, facing northwest

7. Photo #27 of 34

6. Iron door protecting storage room, facing northwest

7. Photo #28 of 34

6. Library and archives, facing west

7. Photo #29 of 34

6. Corridor into 2007 addition, facing west

7. Photo #30 of 34

6. Stairwell, facing south

7. Photo #31 of 34

6. Elevator and hall, facing north

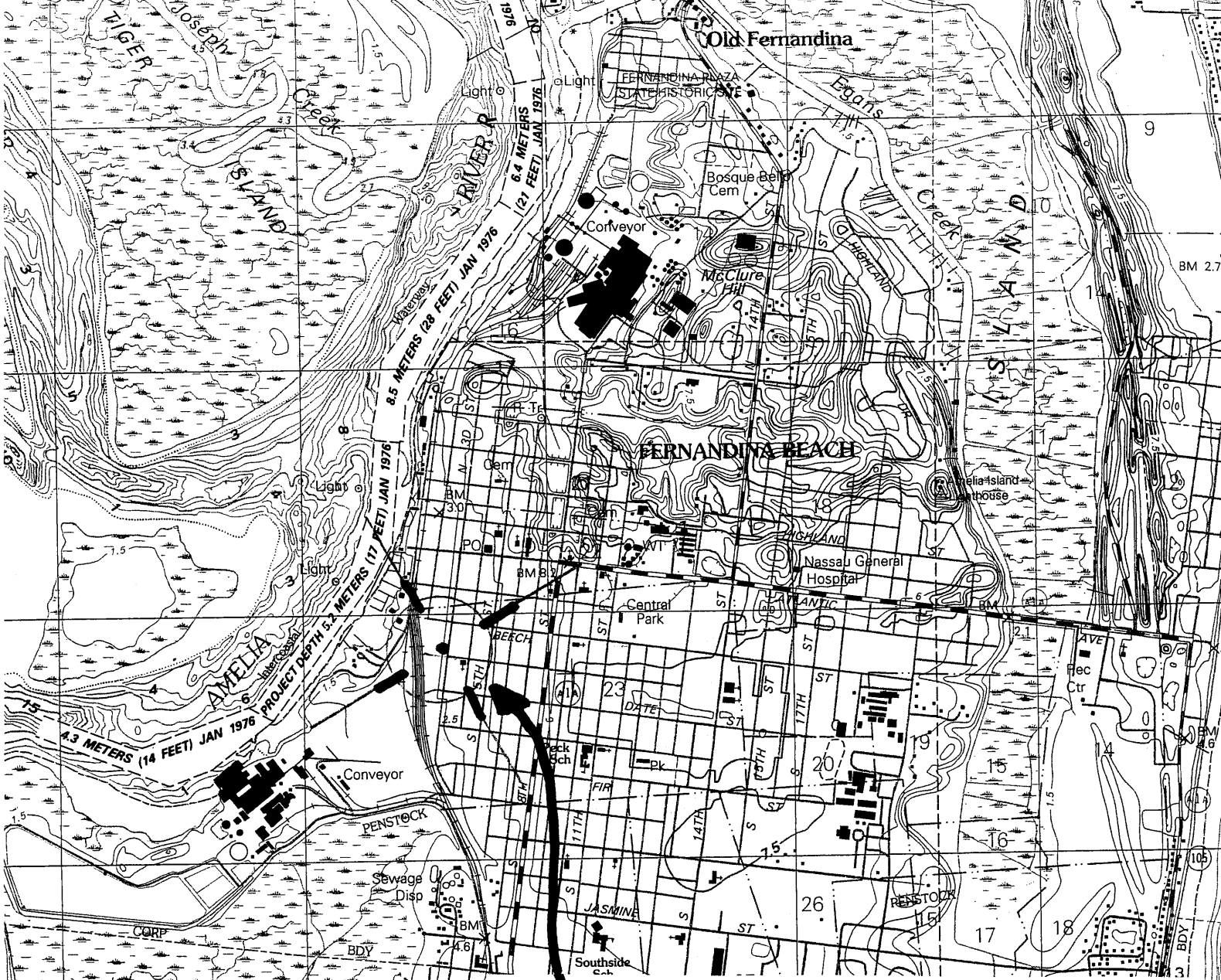
7. Photo #32 of 34

6. Office and window, facing southwest

7. Photo #33 of 34

6. Multi-purpose room, facing northwest

7. Photo #34 of 34

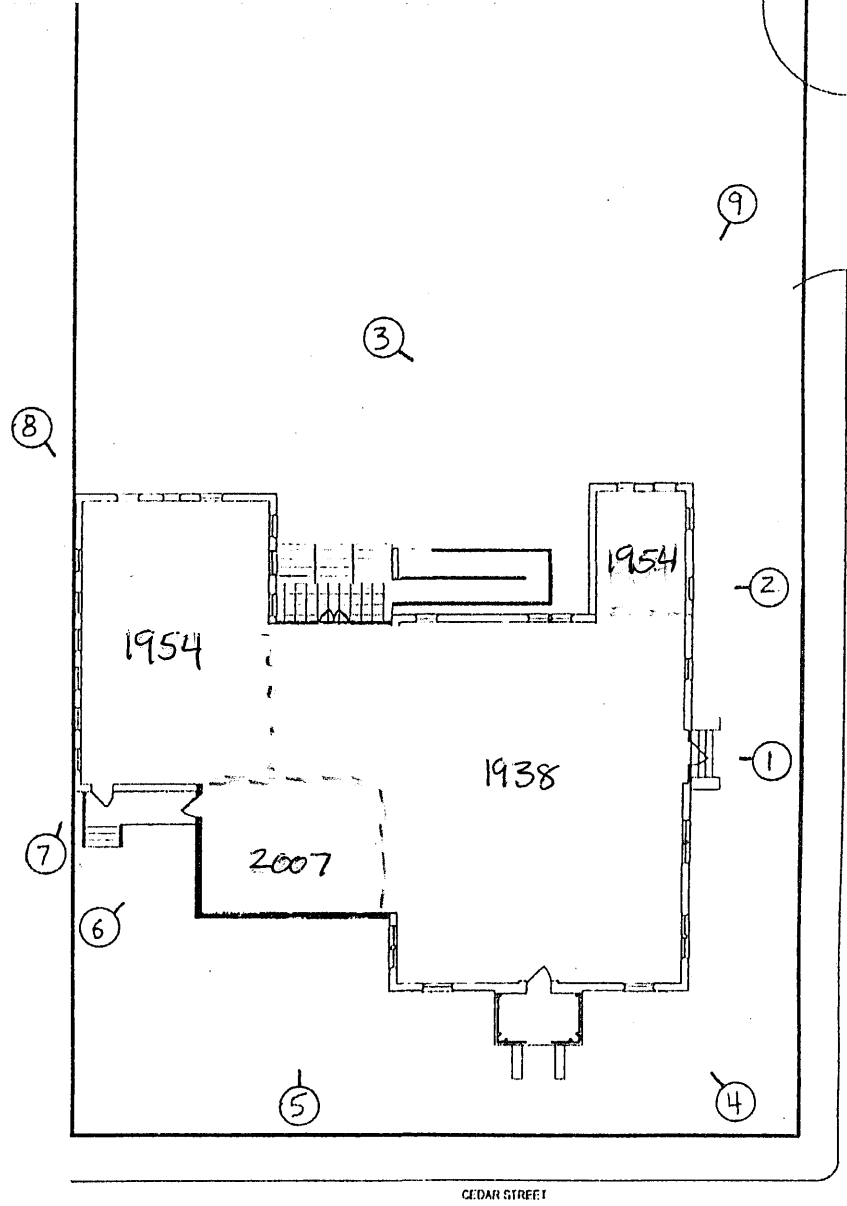
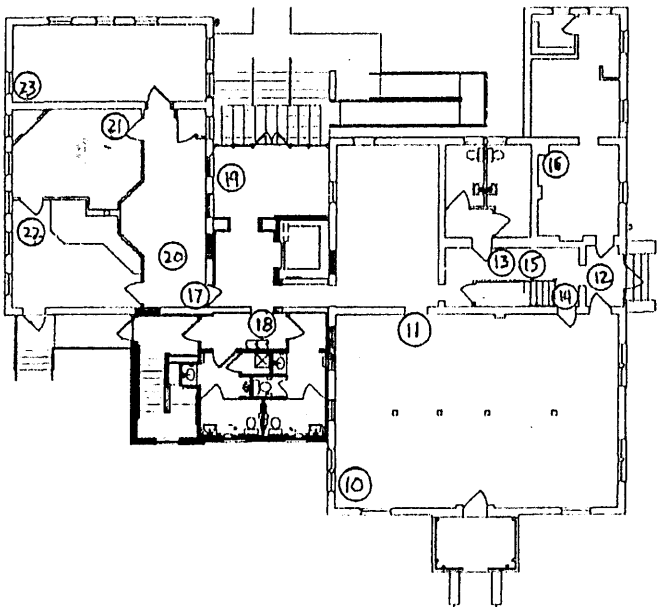
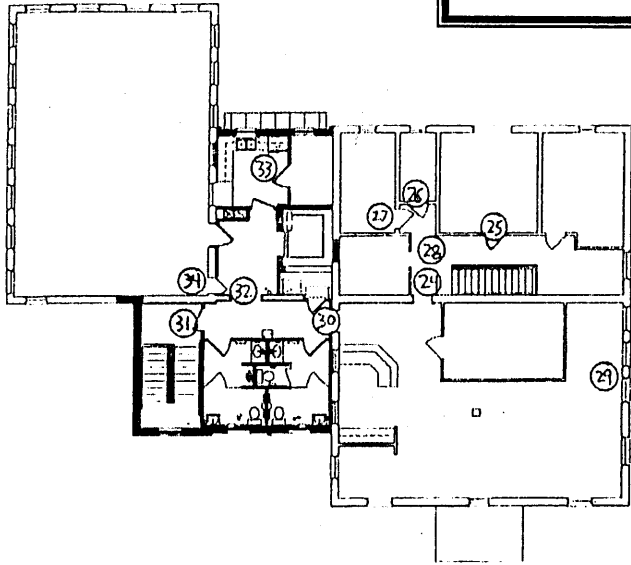


**NASSAU COUNTY JAIL**  
**Fernandina Beach, Nassau County, Florida**  
**LOCATOR MAP**



**NASSAU COUNTY JAIL**  
**Fernandina Beach, Nassau County, Florida**

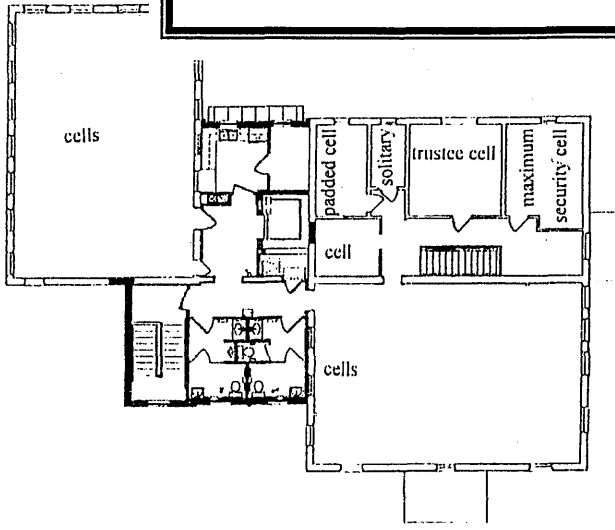
**SITE PLAN & FLOOR PLAN**  
**PHOTO DIAGRAM**



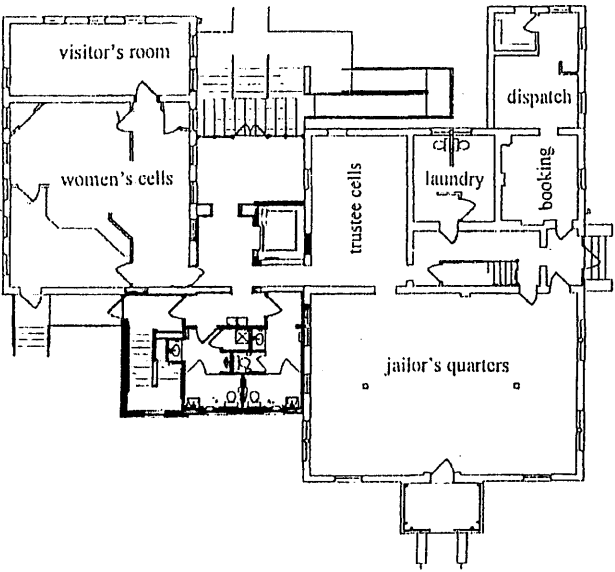
2.04. THE SUBJECTIVE INTERPRETATION OF ARCHITECTURAL RECORDS AND REPRODUCTION WORKS IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CONSULTANT. THE CONSULTANT IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ACCURACY OF THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE CLIENT. ALL RIGHTS OF DESIGN AND INVENTION ARE EXPRESSLY RESERVED.

**KENNETH SMITH ARCHITECTS INC.**  
 1000 W. PALM BEACH BLVD. SUITE 200  
 PALM BEACH, FLORIDA 33480  
 Nassau County Jail Site and Floor Plans  
 Property Boundary  
 Photograph Arrow

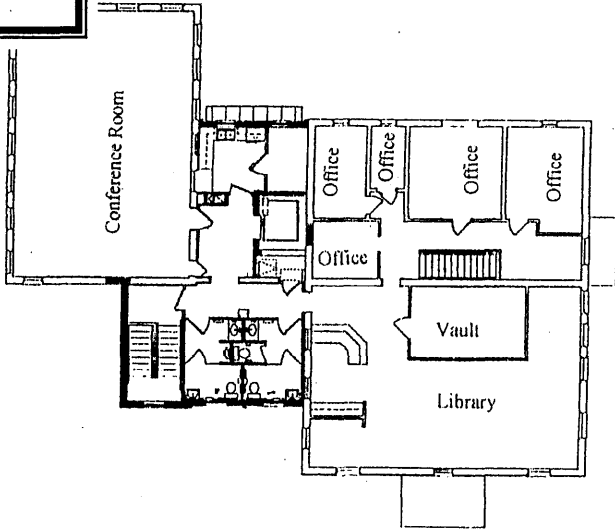
**NASSAU COUNTY JAIL**  
**Fernandina Beach, Nassau County, Florida**  
**FLOOR PLAN - ORIGINAL & CURRENT USES**



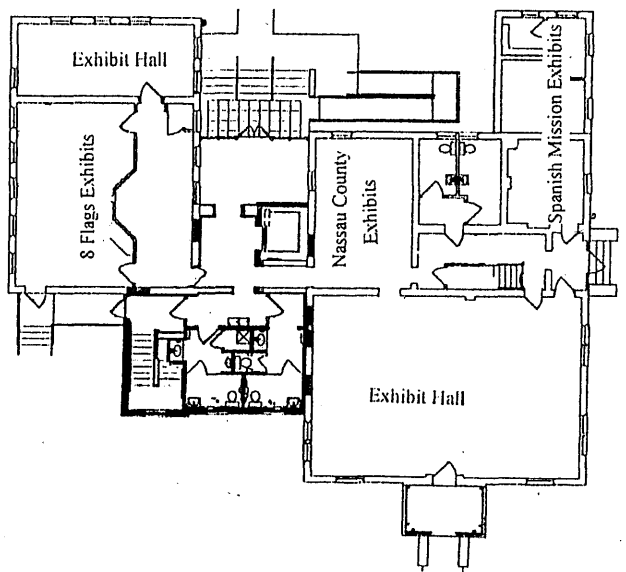
⊕ SECOND FLOOR



⊕ FIRST FLOOR



⊕ SECOND FLOOR



⊕ FIRST FLOOR

Original Uses

Present Uses

© 1987 THE ARCHITECTS ARE THE REGISTERED ARCHITECTS OF FLORIDA. ALL RIGHTS OF DESIGN AND INVENTION ARE RESERVED. THE ARCHITECTS ASSUME NO LIABILITY FOR THE ACCURACY OF THE INFORMATION OR THE COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT. THE ARCHITECTS ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DESIGN OF THE STRUCTURE OR THE PERFORMANCE OF THE STRUCTURE. THE ARCHITECTS ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DESIGN OF THE STRUCTURE OR THE PERFORMANCE OF THE STRUCTURE.