

PH0019117

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Kentucky	
COUNTY: Jefferson	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUL 16 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:
Jefferson County Jail

AND/OR HISTORIC:
same

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
514 West Liberty Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Louisville

STATE Kentucky	CODE 21	COUNTY: Jefferson	CODE 111
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) County Jail	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Jefferson County Fiscal Court

STREET AND NUMBER:
531 West Jefferson Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Louisville

STATE: Kentucky	CODE 21
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Jefferson County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
531 West Jefferson Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Louisville

STATE: Kentucky	CODE 21
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE OF SURVEY: **1971** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Kentucky Heritage Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
401 Wapping Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Frankfort

STATE: Kentucky	CODE
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS



7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

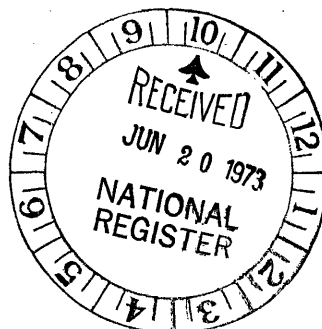
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Jefferson County Jail by D.X. Murphy & Co. was built between 1902 and 1905. The structure consists of two blocks of approximately equal size and height but different functions and architectural treatment. The two parts are united by a slightly recessed connecting link and by the consistent use of materials; both have a strong horizontal rough-cut base of Indiana limestone. The upper stories are of finely laid red brick with a minimal amount of trim and a thin limestone finishing course. The entrance is into the center of the Eastern block off Liberty Street between projecting turrets which continue up through the corbelled parapet. These turrets were originally to have had ogival peak roofs, not now there. This wing, which houses the administrative, health, and social activities of the jail complex, has two rows of symmetrical windows above the base with its similarly spaced arched openings. Originally four groups of inmates were segregated by means of an elaborate system of corridors and separate facilities for men and women, black and white prisoners. The block itself consists of a U-shaped outer unit with a detached chapel and dining unit within its arms.

In contrast, the cell-block to the West, entered only through the narrower link, is a single large self-contained unit, with several stories of cagelike steel catwalks contained within-- but separate from-- the outer masonry walls. Its dominant purpose is effectively expressed on the exterior by the simplicity of treatment, with rhythmic groups of tall, narrow windows (surmounted by small circular recesses) extending from almost sidewalk level to the cornice. The latter is the most striking architectural feature of the building, with its tapered brick curve continuing and completing the sweep from the battered base. The brick surface of the main mass of the cellblock is broken only by the huge ashlar voussoirs of the wide central windows.

Except for the non-existent cupolas, there seems to have been no significant exterior change in the structure. A tunnel to the courthouse a block away was constructed at the same time as the jail.

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SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) circa 1905

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Philosophy | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> itarian | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |

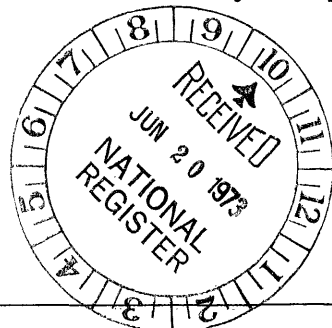
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Jail is an outstanding example of American civic architecture at the turn of the century. It reflects the style of the Chicago School of Architecture at its height; the cornice of the cell-block, for instance, bears a strong resemblance to that of Burnham and Root's 1889-91 Monadnock Building, and the heavy base suggests the late work of H.H. Richardson. The overall effect is of great power and stability, suited to a prison as it was conceived at that time. Aside from its stylistic references to the most advanced trends in American building, however, this was a highly original solution to a difficult problem; that of the secure yet humane urban jail. The scale is impressive, especially as seen from the northwest angle, without being overwhelming to the pedestrian.

The two wings of the building are differentiated in treatment, according to their interior arrangements and functions, while forming a unified visual whole. Although the administrative wing has a rather formidable fortified appearance, it is still at human scale. The vertical cell-block, on the other hand, has a monolithic effect, suggesting a vast vault, and complements the large-scale public buildings adjacent to it.

The architects were one of the leading local firms of the period, with a number of important public and private buildings to their credit. They were the successor firm to the noted mid-19th century Louisville architect, Henry Whitestone. The jail is their outstanding work. It has been admired by many contemporary architects, including the late Eero Saarinen, who visited Louisville shortly before his death in 1961. Although the jail has long outgrown its usefulness and original humane intentions, the structure would be suited for many adaptive uses.

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9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

A large body of the original working drawings is preserved at the successor firm to D.X. Murphy; Luckett & Farley, Inc., 215 West Breckinridge Street, Louisville, Kentucky.

The Jail is included in Theodore M. Brown, An Introduction to Louisville Architecture.

On D.X. Murphy see: Henry F. Withey, A.I.A., and Elsie Ratburn Whitey, Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (1956)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

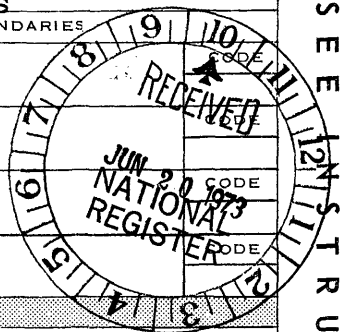
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		38° 15' 11"	85° 45' 36"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

UTM
16/608490/
4234420
CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **less than 10 acres**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY



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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Walter E. Langsam, Assistant Professor of Fine Arts**

ORGANIZATION: **University of Kentucky** DATE: **6/1/1973**

STREET AND NUMBER: _____

CITY OR TOWN: **Louisville** STATE: **Kentucky** CODE: **21**

12 STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

<p>As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u>Mrs Simeon Willis</u></p> <p>Title <u>State Historic Preservation Officer</u></p> <p>Date <u>June 15, 1973</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>Robert Van Utley</u> Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date <u>7/16/73</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u>[Signature]</u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date <u>7 9 73</u></p>
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