

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

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1. Name of Property

=====

historic name: Newton County Jail

other name/site number: N/A

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2. Location

=====

street & number: Adjacent to the intersection of Spring and Elm Streets

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Jasper

vicinity: N/A

state: AR county: Newton code: AR 101 zip code: 72641

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3. Classification

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Ownership of Property: Public-local

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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4. State/Federal Agency Certification

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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. _____ See continuation sheet.

Cathryn A. Slater _____ 10-21-94
Signature of certifying official Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria. _____ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

=====

5. National Park Service Certification

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I, hereby certify that this property is:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register	<u>Edson H. Beall</u>	<u>12.1.94</u>
_____ See continuation sheet.		
_____ determined eligible for the		
_____ National Register		
_____ See continuation sheet.		
_____ determined not eligible for the	<u>Entered in the</u>	
_____ National Register	<u>National Register</u>	
_____ removed from the National Register		
_____ other (explain): _____		

Signature of Keeper Date
of Action

=====

6. Function or Use

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Historic: <u>GOVERNMENT</u>	Sub: <u>Correctional facility</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
Current: <u>GOVERNMENT</u>	Sub: <u>Correctional facility</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification:

Other

Italianate

Other Description: Native Ozark stone tradition

Materials:	foundation	<u>Stone</u>	roof	<u>Asphalt</u>
	walls	<u>Stone</u>	other	<u>Stone chimneys</u>

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

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8. Statement of Significance

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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Locally.

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: ARCHITECTURE

Period(s) of Significance: 1902-03

Significant Dates: 1902-03

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Heilman Construction Company

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.
X See continuation sheet.

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1

RECEIVED 413

NOV - 2 1994

INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Summary

The Newton County Jail, located northeast of the courthouse square near the intersection of Spring and Elm Streets, is a two-storey, stone masonry jail building designed in the native Ozark tradition indigenous to the region, but with some minimal Italianate influences. The details of note include the raised orbs atop the cornice at the corners and the arched opening into the second floor on the western elevation; otherwise the dominant aesthetic impression is made by the texture of the rough-hewn stone masonry walls.

Elaboration

The Newton County Jail, located northeast of the courthouse square near the intersection of Spring and Elm Streets, is a two-storey, stone masonry jail building designed in the native Ozark tradition indigenous to the region, but with some minimal Italianate influences. Two stone chimneys rise from the flat roof just behind the stone parapet. The built-up tar roof and stone walls are supported by a continuous stone foundation.

The western or front elevation is anchored by the central, single-leaf entrance on the first storey; it is accessed via a low set of stone steps. Symmetrically-placed to either side are two rectangular window openings, each of which is filled with two-over-two wood windows and covered with reinforced vertical security bars. The second storey is dominated by the single, central arched window opening. It contains two paired windows of identical pane configuration as those below, surmounted by a stationary arched transom window. A stone lintel separates the transom from the windows below, and the arch above is ornamented with a central keystone.

The northern elevation is fenestrated with two window openings on each floor, one placed above the other, flanking the chimney that rises through the roof above. The southern elevation contains a single window on each floor to the west of the chimney, and another window opening in the second floor to the south. On the first floor, a single-leaf entrance provides access to the rooms directly behind.

The eastern elevation of the original building has been obscured by the later, single-story concrete block addition.

Significant details include the projecting watertable that surrounds all three visible facades at the first storey floor level, the dentil detail that ornaments the cornice frieze, and the round stone

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

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balls that decorate the corners of the raised parapet.

The interior retains most, if not all, of its original cells. Original features include the metal strap doors, the solid and strap metal wall and ceiling partitions, and other security bars.

The Newton County Jail remains in use as such; it is in good condition.

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Section number 8 Page 1

Summary

Criterion C, local significance

Constructed between 1902 and 1903, the Newton County Jail remains locally significant under Criterion C as the finest example of an early twentieth-century public building in Jasper constructed in this particularly Ozark native stone tradition. Formal details are held to a minimum while the overall aesthetic is created by the rough, random texture of the stone itself.

Elaboration

Located in the heart of Arkansas's Ozark Mountain region, Newton County was established by an act of the state legislature on December 14, 1842. The county was named for Thomas W. Newton, a Virginian who moved to Arkansas and became known for his mail deliveries from Arkansas Post to nearby Cadron. Yet Newton was also politically well-connected. A close associate of Robert Crittenden, one of the most influential early settlers of the state, Newton also served as clerk of the legislature, a member (at different times) of the Arkansas house and senate, postmaster at Little Rock, private secretary to Governor Yell, and even finished out Yell's final month in the United States Congress after Yell's death.

The first county seat was designated at John Bellah's house, located on the Buffalo River; soon, however, it was moved to the centrally-located village of Jasper. Clinging to the sides of the narrow Little Buffalo River valley, Jasper has always retained a small town atmosphere. The 1850 census recorded the presence of approximately 75 families; the 1930 census established the town's total population at 412. Furthermore, this character is representative of the county as a whole. Arguably the most rural county in the state, it is the only county never to have been crossed by a single mile of railroad.

On October 16, 1901, the county agreed to levy a five mill tax on all taxable Newton County property for the purpose of constructing a new courthouse and jail; by January of 1902, the county formally initiated efforts to construct a new courthouse and jail (the courthouse has since burned). The jail lot was purchased for \$137, and County Commissioner of Public Buildings, W. S. Moore, hired the Heilman Construction Company (the same contractor that built the courthouse) to construct the new jail. Unfortunately, the name of the architect -- if, indeed, there was one -- has not survived.

The Newton County Jail is locally significant under Criterion C by virtue of both the quality of its stone masonry construction and its unique synthesis of the native Ozark Mountain stone

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construction tradition and the residual Italianate style influence. An otherwise traditional stone masonry building -- found in commercial and institutional construction throughout the Ozark region -- is enhanced through the employment of such ornamental details as decorative stone orbs at the parapet corners, the minimal stone dentil course, and the arched window opening for the second story window. Such hybrids are unusual in this relatively isolated, rural section of the state, if not rare. The presence of this historic building design reflects the true level of exposure to outside ideas and influences in this part of the Ozarks, in spite of the lack of "modern" transportation and communications at the time, and as such remains a significant part of the historic built landscape of Jasper.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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X See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- X State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: _____

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property: Less than one

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	<u>15</u>	<u>483180</u>	<u>3984730</u>	B	<u>15</u>	_____
C	<u>15</u>	_____	_____	D	<u>15</u>	_____

____ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: ____ See continuation sheet.

Beginning at a point formed by the intersection of a line running along the eastern edge of Spring Street with a perpendicular line running parallel with the building's southern elevation and located 10 feet to the south thereof, proceed easterly along said line for a distance of approximately 100 feet to its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel with the building's eastern elevation; thence proceed northerly along said line for a distance of approximately 60 feet to its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel with the building's northern elevation; thence proceed westerly along said line for a distance of approximately 100 feet to its intersection with a perpendicular line running along the eastern edge of Spring Street; thence proceed southerly along said line for a distance of approximately 60 feet to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification: ____ See continuation sheet.

This boundary includes all of the narrow lot upon this building was originally constructed that retains its integrity.

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Continuation Sheet**

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Bibliography

Deane, Ernie, *Arkansas Place Names*, (Branson, Missouri: 1986).

Gill, John Purifoy and Marjem Jackson Gill, *On The Courthouse Square In Arkansas*, (1980).

Lackey, Walter F., *History of Newton County, Arkansas*, (Independence, Missouri: 1950).

Workers of the Writers' Program. *The WPA Guide to 1930's Arkansas*, with a new introduction by Elliot West. Lawrence, Kansas: University Press of Kansas, 1987 (original copyright 1941).

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11. Form Prepared By

=====

Name/Title: Kenneth Story, Architectural Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 10/13/94

Street & Number: 323 Center Street, Suite 1500 Telephone: (501) 324-9880

City or Town: Little Rock State: AR Zip: 72201

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Newton County Jail

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Newton

DATE RECEIVED: 11/02/94 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 11/15/94
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 12/01/94 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/17/94
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 94001414

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 12.1.94 DATE

Entered in the
National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA _____
REVIEWER _____
DISCIPLINE _____
DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

CLASSIFICATION

___ count ___ resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

___ historic ___ current

DESCRIPTION

___ architectural classification
___ materials
___ descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

___ summary paragraph
___ completeness
___ clarity
___ applicable criteria
___ justification of areas checked
___ relating significance to the resource
___ context
___ relationship of integrity to significance
___ justification of exception
___ other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

___ acreage ___ verbal boundary description
___ UTMS ___ boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

___ sketch maps ___ USGS maps ___ photographs ___ presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Phone

Signed

Date



NEWTON Co. Ark

JASPER, NEWTON Co., ARKANSAS

PHOTO BY R. BALDWIN

JULY, 1994

NEG. ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW FROM WEST



NEWTON Co. Jail

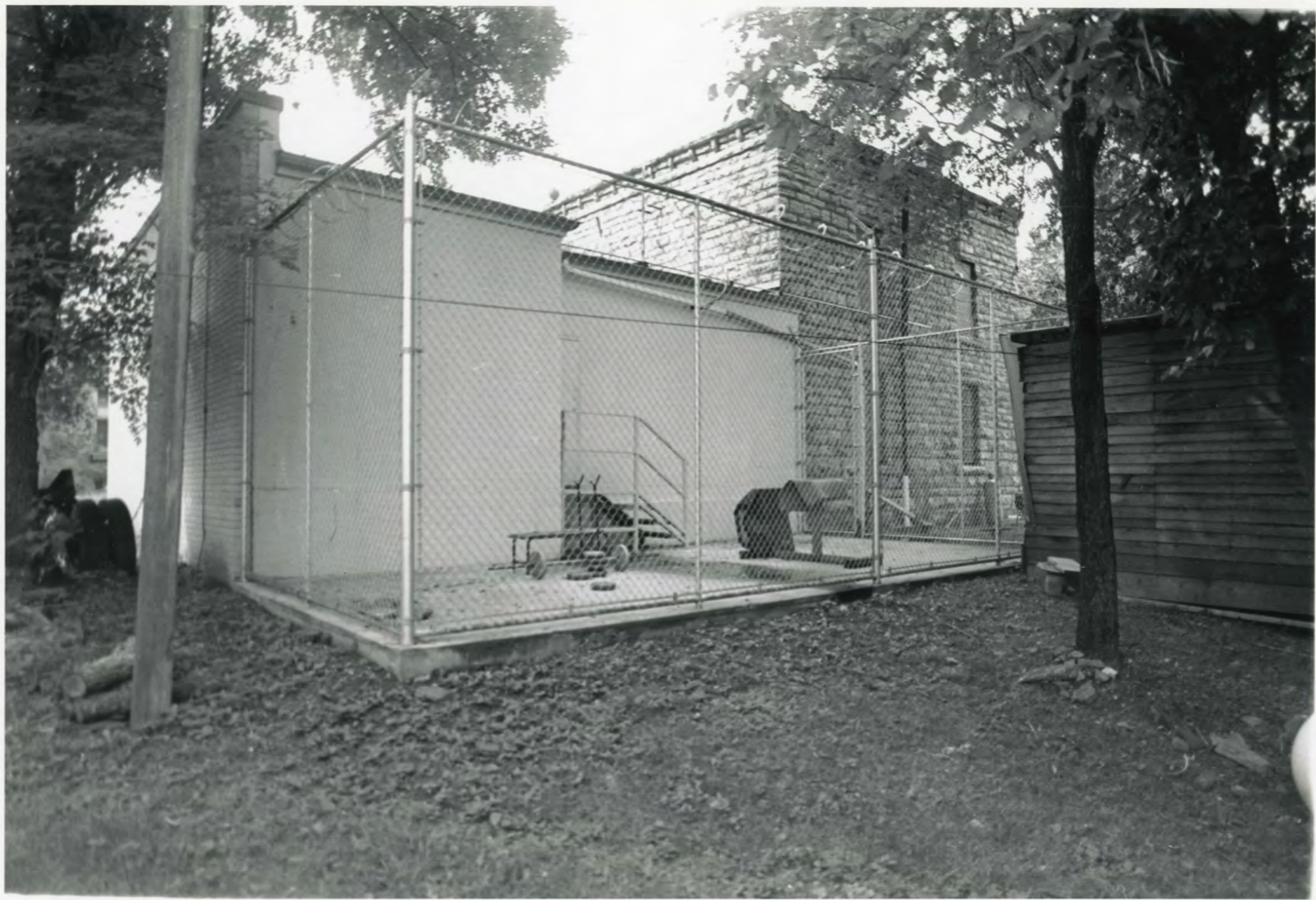
JASPER, NEWTON Co., ARKANSAS

PHOTO. BY R. BALOWIN

JULY, 1994

NEG. ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW FROM SOUTHWEST



NEWTON Co. VAIL

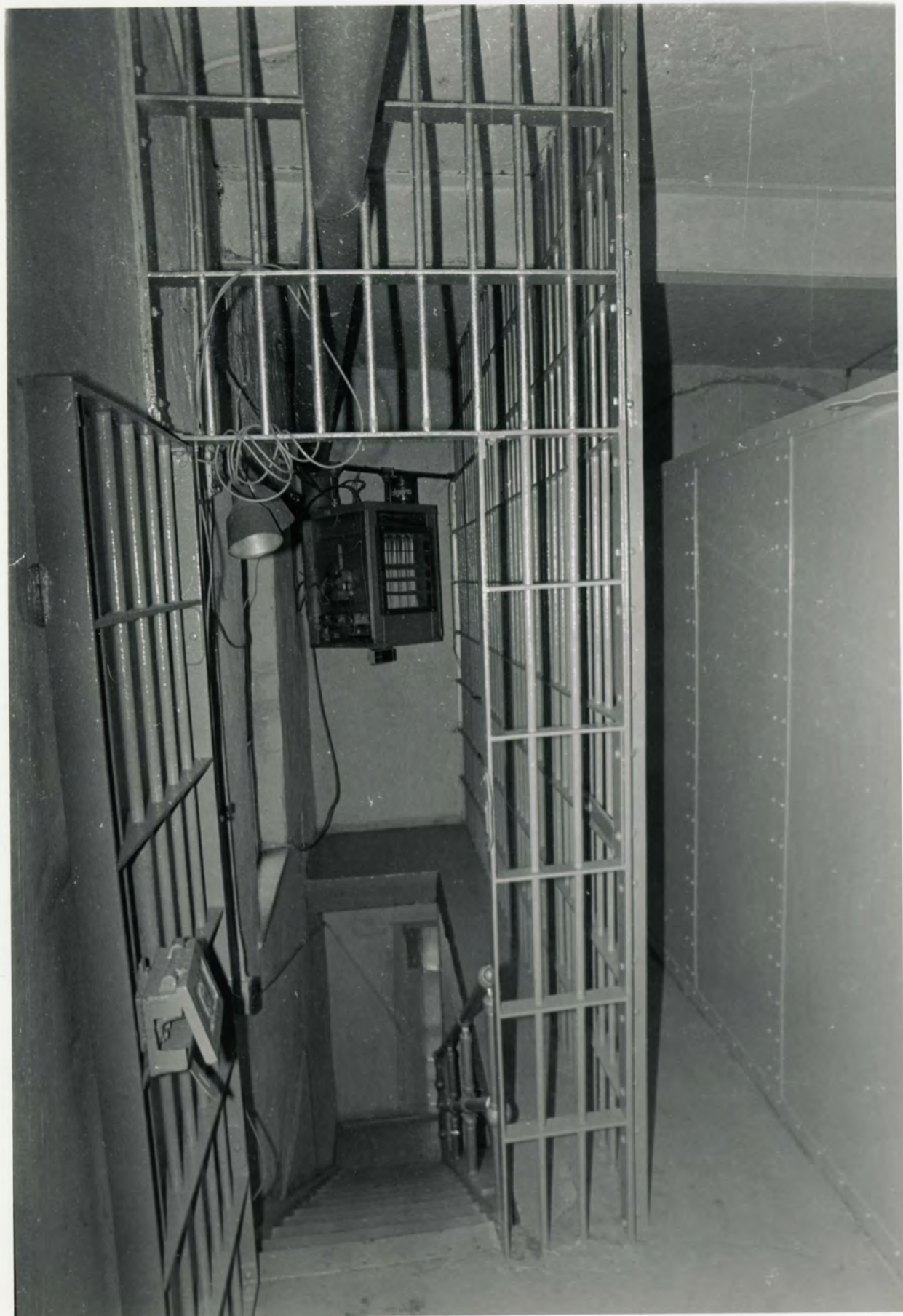
VASPER, NEWTON Co., ARKANSAS

PHOTO. BY R. BALLOWIN

JULY, 1994

NEG. ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW FROM NORTHEAST



NEWTON Co. Jail

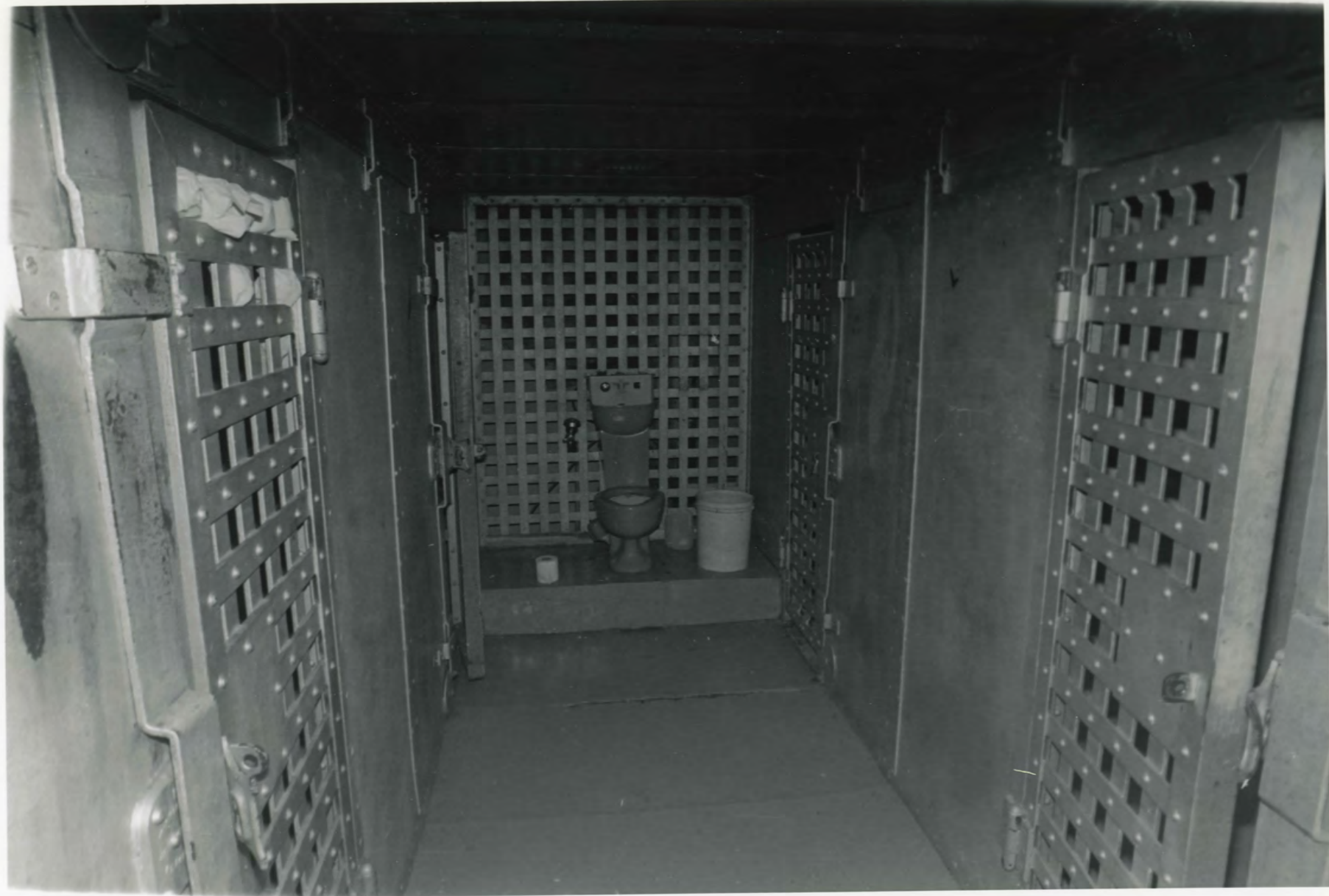
VASPER, NEWTON Co., ARKANSAS

PHOTO. BY R. BLOWIN

JULY, 1994

NEG. ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW OF INTERIOR STAIRCASE



NEWTON Co. Jail

VASPER, NEWTON Co., ARKANSAS

PHOTO BY R. BALDWIN

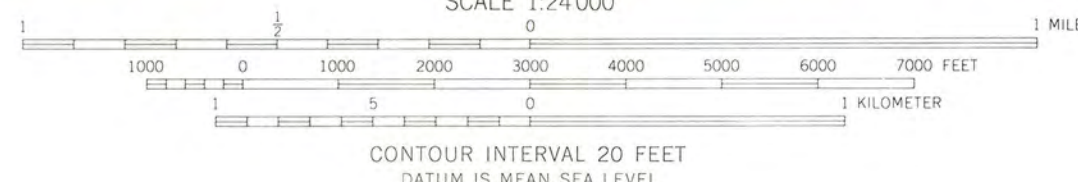
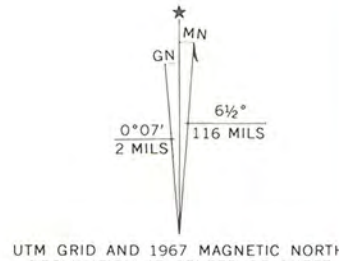
JULY, 1994

NEG. ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW OF INTERIOR HALLWAY



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1964. Field checked 1967
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Arkansas coordinate system, north zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 15, shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72204
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Map photinspected 1975
No major culture or drainage changes observed

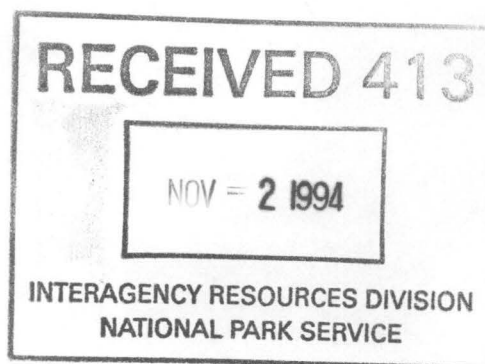


ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Medium-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Unimproved dirt ———
State Route ———

JASPER, ARK.
N3600—W9307.5/7.5
PHOTOINSPECTED 1975
1967



ARKANSAS
HISTORIC
PRESERVATION
PROGRAM



October 24, 1994

Carol D. Shull
Chief of Registration
United State Department of the Interior
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
800 North Capitol Street, Suite 250
Washington, D.C. 20002

RE: Newton County Jail
Jasper, Newton County

Dear Carol:

We are enclosing for your review the nomination of the above referenced property. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has complied with all applicable nominating procedures and notification requirements in the nomination process.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Cathy Buford Slater
State Historic Preservation Officer

CBS:br

Enclosures

