

379

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

**1. Name of Property**

historic name: The Old Municipal Courtroom & Jail  
other names/site number: Old Sumrall Jail

**2. Location**

street & number: 405 Pine Street at Railroad Avenue not for publication N/A  
city or town: Sumrall vicinity \_\_\_\_\_  
state: Mississippi code: MS county: Lamar code: 73 zip code: 39482

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_\_\_ nationally \_\_\_\_\_ statewide X locally. (\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Kenneth H. P. Paul \_\_\_\_\_ FEB. 25, 2000  
Signature of certifying official Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
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 commenting or other official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby certify that this property is:  
✓ entered in the National Register, \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.  
\_\_\_\_\_ determined eligible for the National Register \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.  
\_\_\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the National Register  
\_\_\_\_\_ removed from the National Register  
\_\_\_\_\_ other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Edgar W. Beall \_\_\_\_\_ 4/14/00  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Old Sumrall Jail

Name of Property

Lamar County, Mississippi

County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property:**

Public-local

**Number of Resources within Property:**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

**Category of Property:**

Building

Contributing

1

Noncontributing

buildings  
sites  
structures  
objects  
Total

1

**Name of related multiple property listing**

(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

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions:**

GOVERNMENT/courthouse

GOVERNMENT/correctional facility

**Current Functions:**

VACANT/NOT IN USE

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification(s):** No style

**Materials:**

foundation: concrete

roof: composite shingles

walls: brick, concrete

other

**Narrative Description:**

See Continuation Sheets

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

- 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.

**Areas of Significance**  
Politics/government

**Period of Significance**  
1907-1950

**Significant Dates**  
1921

**Criteria Considerations:**

Property is:

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

**Significant Person(s)**

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation(s)**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**  
unknown

**Narrative Statement of Significance:** See continuation sheets.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography** 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**

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

Name of repository:

---

**10. Geographical Data**

---

Acreage of Property: ¼ of an acre

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	16	258120	3478270	C		
B				D		

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

**Verbal Boundary Description** See continuation sheet.

**Boundary Justification:** See continuation sheet.

---

**11. Form Prepared By**

---

name/title: Laura Young, County Planner	date: 7/2/99
organization: Lamar County	telephone: (601) 794-1024
street & number: P.O. Box 1240	zip code: 39475
city or town: Purvis	state: MS

---

**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(s)**

---

name: Town of Sumrall	telephone: (601) 758-3591
street & number: P.O. Box 247	zip code: 39482
city or town: Sumrall	state: MS

---

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing 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 the 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: 7

Page: 1

The Old Municipal Courtroom & Jail  
Sumrall, Lamar County, Mississippi

---

**Narrative Description**

The Old Municipal Courtroom and Jail, Sumrall, Mississippi, also known as the Old Sumrall Jail, is locally significant in the areas of politics and government as a rare surviving example of a municipal court building and jail from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. It is a two-story brick structure erected in 1907. The jail is located on a ¼ acre lot at the intersection of Pine Street and Railroad Avenue, Sumrall, Mississippi.

The first floor of the building housed the jail. It consists of a foyer area immediately inside the front door and five cells, one of which contains a 7'6" x 5' cage which housed the most dangerous criminals. This cage is 6'7" tall with a solid metal top and bottom. It is constructed of 1 ½" flat steel straps ¼" thick riveted together leaving approximately 3" square openings.

A wooden front entrance door is protected by a 3'1" wide steel door. The walls of the building are 13" thick, solid brick. The individual cells range in size from 7'10" x 8'7" up to 8'8" x 11'5". All doors of the cells are 9 ½" thick. These doors are constructed of the same riveted steel as the above-described cage. The 2'7" wide by 5' tall windows inside the cells are unmolded and protected by iron bars and lattice-type metal wire. The ceiling of the first floor of the building is constructed of concrete and crushed brick reinforced by metal bars.

The second story of the building served as the courtroom. Originally it was one large room but was later divided into two rooms when its use was converted to the Town library for several years. Plans for restoration include removing this dividing wall. At the present time, the upstairs is used only for storage.

Presently the building is in poor condition due to lack of use and vandalism. The original wooden stairs outside were replaced with metal stairs in the 1970s. This staircase is rapidly deteriorating and will be replaced as a part of the buildings restoration. The town plans to restore the facility to its original appearance and use it as a museum.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section: 8

Page: 2

The Old Municipal Courtroom & Jail  
Sumrall, Lamar County, Mississippi

---

**Statement of Significance**

The Old Municipal Courtroom and Jail, Sumrall, Mississippi, also known as the Old Sumrall Jail, is locally significant in the areas of politics and government as a rare surviving example of a municipal court building and jail from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The building was built in 1907 when the town of Sumrall issued \$17,500 in bonds to pay for the Jail, as well as a public school building, a new town hall, and the paying off of outstanding bonded indebtedness at that time.

On August 23, 1921, the courtroom above the jail was the site of the first all women jury in the state of Mississippi, and possibly the United States, since at that time selecting women for jury duty was unheard of. Justice of the Peace Dr. C. Cox had a case come before him that involved two women in a dispute over a cow and a calf. Judge Cox, being a sympathizer of women's suffrage movement, was determined to seat an all woman jury to hear the case. The order was given to the constable to gather six "good and lawful" women for the jury. The constable flatly refused to seat women as jurors. At that time, Dr. Cox deputized Mr. W.A. Loggin to summons the women as jurors. Five women were seated and the case proceeded.

**Bibliography**

"Sumrall J.P. Has Women for Members Jury." The American 22 August 1921.

The American 23 August 1921 (Announcement-Untitled)

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section: 10

Page: 3

The Old Municipal Courtroom & Jail  
Sumrall, Lamar County, Mississippi

---

**Geographical Data**

**Verbal Boundary Description**

Begin at the Southwest corner of Lot 9 of Block 28 on the W.A. Stevenson Survey of the Town of Sumrall, Mississippi, as per map o plat thereof, now on file in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of Lamar County, Mississippi and thence go East a distance of 50 feet to and for the point of beginning of the land hereby conveyed; thence run East along the Southern boundary line of said Lot 9 a distance of 25 feet; thence run North a distance of 5 feet; thence rum west a distance of 25 feet; thence run South a distance of 5 feet, back to the point of beginning, said strip of land lying and being situate in Lot 9 of Block 28 of the W.A. Stevenson Survey of the Town of Sumrall, Mississippi.

**Boundary Justification**

The nominated property includes the area historically associated with the Old Sumrall Municipal Courtroom & Jail, and its immediate setting.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section:        Photos        Page: 4        The Old Municipal Courtroom & Jail  
Sumrall, Lamar County, Mississippi

---

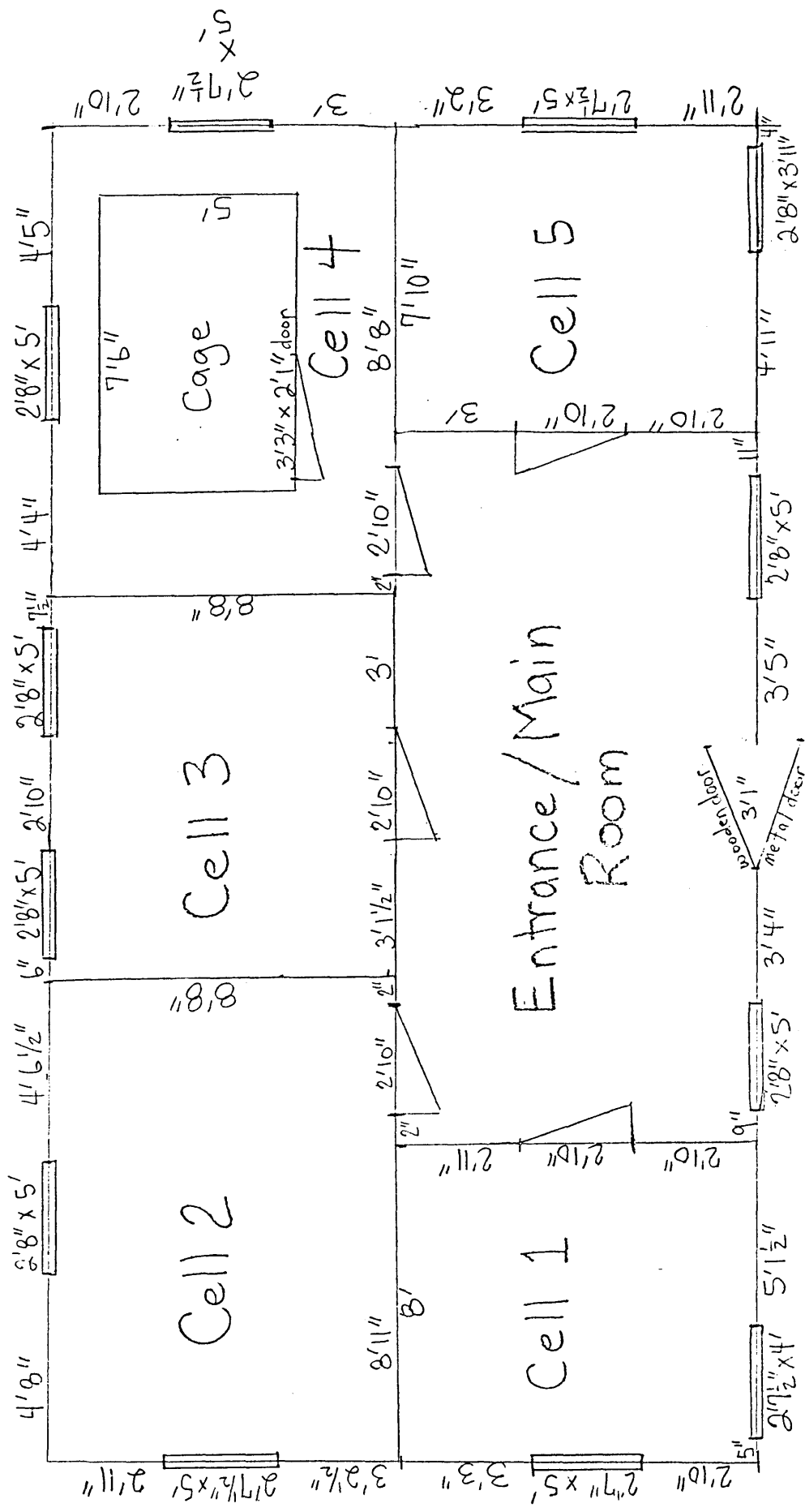
**Photographs**

The following information is the same for all photographs:

1.     The Old Municipal Courtroom & Jail
2.     Sumrall, Lamar County, Mississippi
3.     Laura Young, County Planner
4.     May 1999

Photo 1 of 23	Exterior front
Photo 2 of 23	Exterior north side (right)
Photo 3 of 23	Exterior south side (left) with front showing
Photo 4 of 23	Exterior south side (left)
Photo 5 of 23	Exterior rear and south side
Photo 6 of 23	Exterior mostly rear
Photo 7 of 23	Exterior close-up of metal front door
Photo 8 of 23	Exterior close-up of staircase with both front doors
Photo 9 of 23	Exterior close-up of right front downstairs window demonstrating ironwork
Photo 10 of 23	Interior entrance/main room, south and west walls
Photo 11 of 23	Interior entrance/main room, west and north walls
Photo 12 of 23	Interior entrance/main room, west and north walls, door closed
Photo 13 of 23	Interior entrance/main room, ceiling above front door demonstrating second floor construction of concrete and crushed brick reinforced by metal rebar
Photo 14 of 23	Interior Cell #1, east (front) window
Photo 15 of 23	Interior Cell #3 (center cell)
Photo 16 of 23	Interior Cell #5
Photo 17 of 23	Interior Cell #5, north and east (front) walls
Photo 18 of 23	Interior Cell #4, close-up of hinge on iron cage
Photo 19 of 23	Interior Cell #4, close-up of iron cage and unidentified detached iron rod
Photo 20 of 23	Interior Cell #4, view from inside of iron cage, east and south walls
Photo 21 of 23	Interior Cell #4, view from inside of iron cage, east and south walls

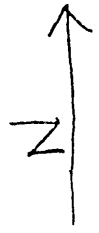


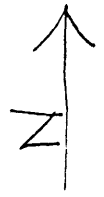
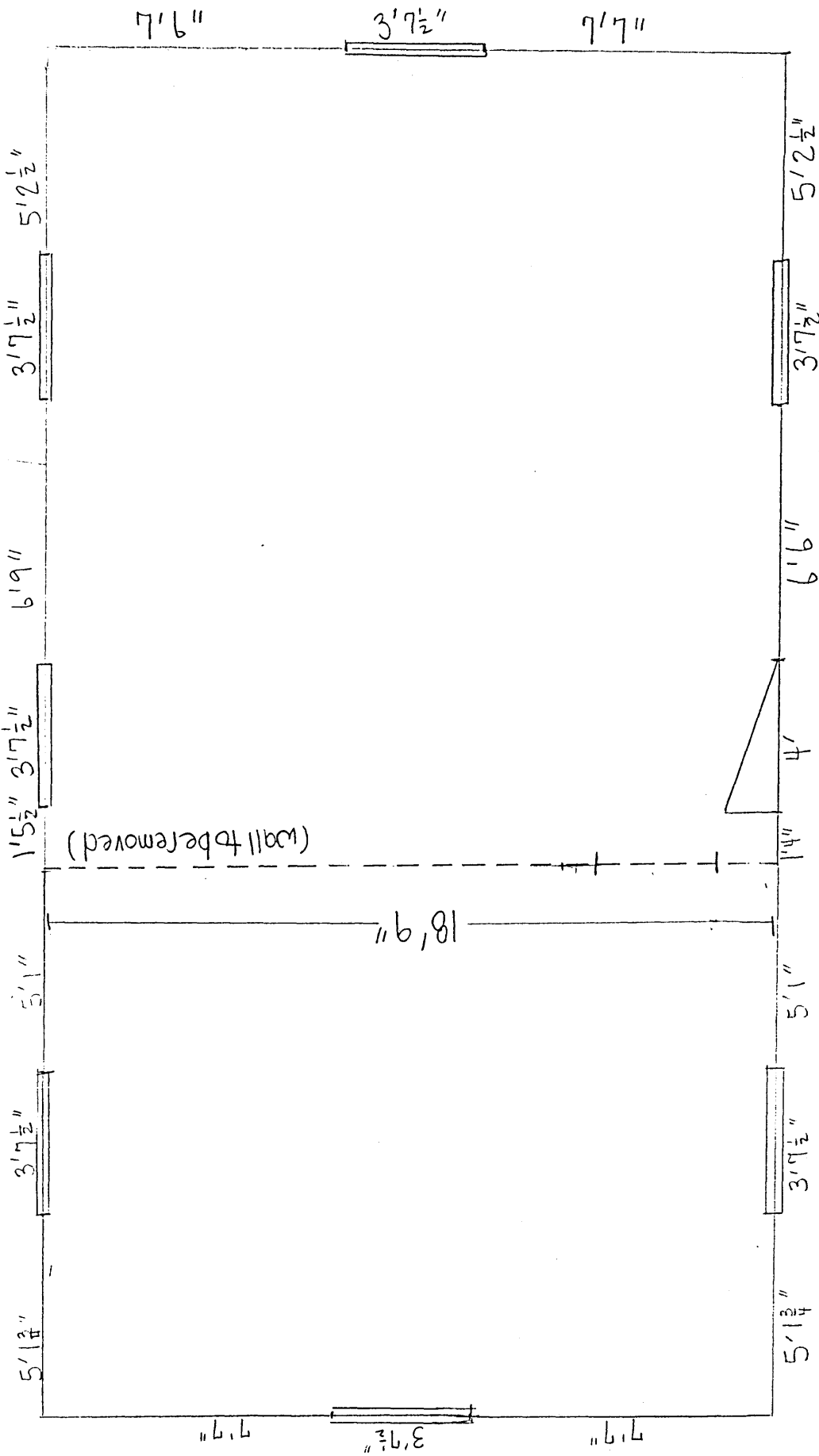


OLD MUNICIPAL COURTROOM & JAIL  
 SUMRALL, LAMAR COUNTY, MS

Front of Building

Downstairs





Front of Building

Upstairs

OLD MUNICIPAL COURTROOM & JAIL  
 SUDBALL, LAMAR COUNTY, MS

405 Pine Street