

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in "Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms" (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name LIBERTY COUNTY JAIL
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 302 South Main St.
city, town Hinesville (N/A) vicinity of
county Liberty code GA 179
state Georgia code GA zip code 31313

(N/A) not for publication

3. Classification

Ownership of Property:

- private
- public-local
- public-state
- public-federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property:

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

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination 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 the National Register criteria. () See continuation sheet.

Elizabeth A. Lyon
Signature of certifying official

6/23/92
Date

Elizabeth A. Lyon
State Historic Preservation Officer,
Georgia Department of Natural Resources

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 or bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

Entered in the
National Register

entered in the National Register

Delores Byers

8/18/92

() determined eligible for the National Register

() determined not eligible for the National Register

() removed from the National Register

() other, explain:

() see continuation sheet

Signature, Keeper of the National Register

Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

GOVERNMENT/correctional facility

Current Functions:

to be determined

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

LATE VICTORIAN

Materials:

foundation	brick
walls	brick
roof	composition shingle
other	N/A

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Liberty County Jail, located in the small county-seat town of Hinesville, is a two story vernacular structure with elements of Late Victorian style. The building's plan is in the shape of a stubby T. The roof is hipped and is of medium pitch. There are four inside chimneys, two each on the north and south (side) elevations. The structure is centered in the property and is surrounded by a brick wall (3' high x 1' thick) topped with 5 high metal security bars. There is a metal gate in the center front (west) of the brick wall which allows access to the building.

The masonry walls of the jail have been sandblasted. The bricks were laid in common bond masonry with a patterned brick frieze below the eaves which encircles the building. The history of the jail indicates that it has been whitewashed and painted (white).

On the west facade there are four 2/2 wood frame windows with rowlock header sills as well as metal security bars (7 vertical, 3 horizontal). There is a gabled dormer attic window in the center of the facade. The patterned masonry capping the gabled window has a segmental arch. The front door is the only entry to the building. The surviving door is possibly the original door. It is 1/2" thick metal with an interior bolt-locking box. Above this door is a rounded arch, and a single paned fanlight with security bars (9 vertical). A modern porch or stoop with a flat square roof supported by two metal poles has been added at the front entrance.

The east facade has a blank common bond wall with continuous cornice treatment. The north and south facades have, on the rear (east) section of each facade, two 6/6 framed windows with security bars (on upper half of windows 8 vertical and 3 horizontal, on lower half stationary metal louvres). The lintels consist of a segmental

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arch, sills are rowlock headers. The forward (west) section of the north facade has two windows, and the south facade has four windows, all 4/4 wood frame with security bars (7 vertical, 3 horizontal) with rowlock headers for sills.

The foundation is continuous brick.

On the interior, the front (west) section on the first floor contains two cells and a conference room, separated by stairs running east to west. On the second floor there is an office and two cells. In the rear (east) section there is a double security lock system to four cells (two on each floor) and stairs to the second floor are on the west wall. This section is known as the "bull pen" or "drunk tank."

The floor of the first story is concrete, three feet thick; all other floors are plate metal. The cell walls are plate metal; all other brick walls are stuccoed (no furring).

There is no interior ornamentation and considerable prisoner graffiti on cell walls.

Changes include the addition of a new HVAC system and electric wiring; one toilet and sink, undated (and in working order). The original fold-down, metal bunks remain in one cell; others are stored in a rear cell.

The property is a flat lot with a grass yard surrounded by a brick wall. There is some landscaping, including four azaleas, two camellias, two red tips, two live oaks, one dogwood, begonias and chrysanthemums. There are no current outbuildings, but the County Commissioners' meeting minutes (1940) refer to a coal shed on the property (no longer there), exact location unknown. The jail was built on open land. There has been no other development associated with the site.

The jail is situated nearly in the center (north/south) of a block that is approximately 940' (north-south) by 190' (east-west). The jail fronts South Main Street and is across from a modern landscaped park and the late-1930s Coca Cola Bottling Plant. Directly north of the jail is the Hinesville Bank (1969), which is slightly related in materials and symmetry. North of the bank is a three-unit commercial building (1953), a two-unit dwelling (1948) which has been converted to commercial use, and a 1965 commercial building. South of the jail is the 1926 Liberty Ice Company and a 1926 four-unit apartment building.

Changes include, on the exterior: sheet metal roof replaced with No. 240 composition shingle in 1974; original hipped roof portico

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altered in 1941 (as evidenced by a newspaper photograph showing tile roof in 1940); on the interior: HVAC installed in 1988; chimneys enclosed at unknown date; some of the original metal bunks and toilet/sink facilities removed in the late 1970s.

8. Statement of Significance

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

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):

ARCHITECTURE
POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance:

1892-1942

Significant Dates:

1892

Significant Person(s):

N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Unknown

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Significance of property, justification of criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above:

Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)

Statement of Significance: The Liberty County Jail is significant in architecture because it is a good example of a building built for a specific, utilitarian purpose, in this case a jail. For that purpose it contains only one entryway with a metal door, original jail cells which were created by a jail-cell company, and is brick for fire safety and security. It is functional, with few frills. Its only ornamentation or special features are the four tall original chimneys and some brick detailing on the window openings. This type of design and construction is typical of the many county jails built throughout Georgia in the late-19th century. The jail is also significant in politics and government because it was the only county jail from 1892 to 1971 and thus served as the center for law enforcement activities. Due to its prominent location within the county seat, it served as a symbol of justice and in that capacity as an admonition to those who might contemplate illegal activities.

National Register Criteria

The Liberty County Jail meets National Register Criterion A because it is associated "with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history" because it served as a county jail, the county's only jail, for fifty years within the historic period. This building thus was not only the pre-trial detention center (to use more recent terminology) but was also the long-term residence for those who did not warrant transfer to the state penitentiary. It thus stood as a sentinel to those who wavered between right and wrong and was thus a community focal point in keeping younger people on the right track.

The jail also meets criterion C because it exemplifies a distinct type of building, that built with the utilitarian function of being a county jail. It was built around a prefabricated and purchased jail works, as were many other small Georgia jails. It contained cells with fold-down beds to conserve space, a holding tank for temporary prisoners, such as those brought in after a weekend drinking spree. It also contained an office/residence room for the jailer who was more often than not the county sheriff. All of these functions in so small a property indicate that its utilitarian design was the product of many years of trial and error to come up with a design that placed the

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most important needs for this utilitarian structure ahead of aesthetics. This allowed the county to allocate a small city lot for the jail.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

N/A

Period of significance (justification)

The period of significance is from the creation of the jail (1892) until the end of the historic period (1942). The jail continued in operation another thirty years, until 1971.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

N/A

Developmental history/historic context (if applicable)

The Liberty County Jail, which replaced a one-story wooden jail, was completed and occupied in 1892. The following description of the jail appeared in the local newspaper on October 19, 1892:

"Our new jail just completed and turned over to the County Commissioners by Mr. Parkhill, contractor, is a handsome structure of brick. It has all the modern improvements and conveniences of a first class prison.

"The building is divided into two apartments by a wall of brick between. The front division as you enter the door, is divided, on the right, into two female cells. The cells are 7 by 10, 11 feet in story, designed for three occupants each. There is one iron cot and two swinging hammocks in each cell, water tank and closet. In this room is the Jailer's office with fire place.

"The second room contains two cells, 7 by 18. These cells open into a corridor 6 by 16 where the water basin and other fixtures for cleanliness are situated. The cells are designed for four occupants each, with swinging cots that are taken down when not occupied; there is also an airtight closet in each to be used at night when the doors are closed to the corridor, each has a ventilator running from closet to top of roof, which is of tin,

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for the escapement of foul air. The walls of these cells are made of cross bars of steel, composed each of three plates of tempered and two of soft steel between that cannot be sawed or broken.

"The height of this room is 17 feet between floor and ceiling. There is an open space of several feet between the cells and wall of building, with two fire places. The windows are closed with heavy iron grating on the outside, inside of this a wire-netting and again inside of this glass sashes.

"The water fixtures are complete, composed of a force-pump attached to a driven well, with pipe extending to the water-tank over the male cells, with pipes from thence into the female cells. The tank holds, it is said, 300 gallons.

"The doors of the male cells are closed with bars of steel worked by a lever outside the cells, enclosed in a box of iron. When the bolts are closed the lever handle is locked with a heavy padlock inside of lock-box, and the door of the box closed with a key and then with combination lock, making it almost as hard to get in as out; besides there is a padlock to each cell door.

"The outside walls are 17 inches thick, and the floors are composed of three feet of cement. The ventilation and hygienic arrangements are perfect. There are pipes from each cell leading to the main sewer through which all the water used is conveyed off. A main pipe leads from the gutters on the tinned roof to the main sewer through which all the rain water is carried, making it self-cleansing. Altogether we have a jail that is a credit to the good old county of Liberty."

The building served as a jail continuously until 1971 when the new regional jail was completed. At the ground breaking ceremony for the new prison in 1970 the old jail was condemned by Georgia Governor Lester Maddox as a "rotten filthy rat hole."

The old jail was auctioned by the Liberty County Commissioners of Roads and Revenues to the highest bidders, the Liberty County Historical Society and the Hinesville Garden Club, on March 3, 1970. It sold for \$4,500. The society later purchased the club's interest.

The Old Jail has been used as the Liberty County Chamber of Commerce (ca. 1983-1988), Garden Club office, the Jaycee's Halloween Haunted House, and the office of the Hinesville Main Street Manager (ca. 1988-1990).

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Over the years a variety of repairs and alterations have been made to the structure, including:

- 1913 - repairs to chimney
- 1914 - repairs to cells and chimney; roof repaired
- 1915 - repairs to chimney; building exterior white-washed; "laying brick at Jail"
- 1916 - repairs and painting of jail
- 1940 - fence around jail completed
- 1941 - jail "covered"; heaters installed; portico replaced
- 1960s - exterior brick painted white
- 1970s - exterior white paint removed; roof replaced; HVAC

Funds were being raised by the Liberty County Historical Society and by Hinesville Main Street for repointing the exterior mortar and for the continued restoration of the Old Jail.

When it served as a county jail, it was the holding place for prisoners who were awaiting trial, or those already convicted with short sentences. Anyone convicted in the county Superior Court of a major criminal offense, necessitating a long incarceration, would have been transported to the State Penitentiary near Milledgeville once that institution was rebuilt and reopened in 1911. Later the state pen was moved to Reidsville, to a newly-built structure.

The jail was sold in 1991 to the City of Hinesville.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Johnson, Suzanne Parfitt. "Liberty County Jail" Historic Property Information Form, April 17, 1991. Original on file at the Office of Historic Preservation, Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, GA.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): (X) N/A

- () 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
- (X) Other, Specify Repository: Liberty County Historical Society, Hinesville, GA.

Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

A) Zone 17 Easting 443550 Northing 3523330

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary is marked on the enclosed tax map.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property is the small, city lot on which the jail rests. It is all the land still associated with the jail.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Historian
organization Office of Historic Preservation, Georgia Department of
Natural Resources
street & number 205 Butler Street, S.E., Suite 1462
city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30334
telephone (404) 656-2840 **date** June 22, 1992

(HPS form version 10-29-91)

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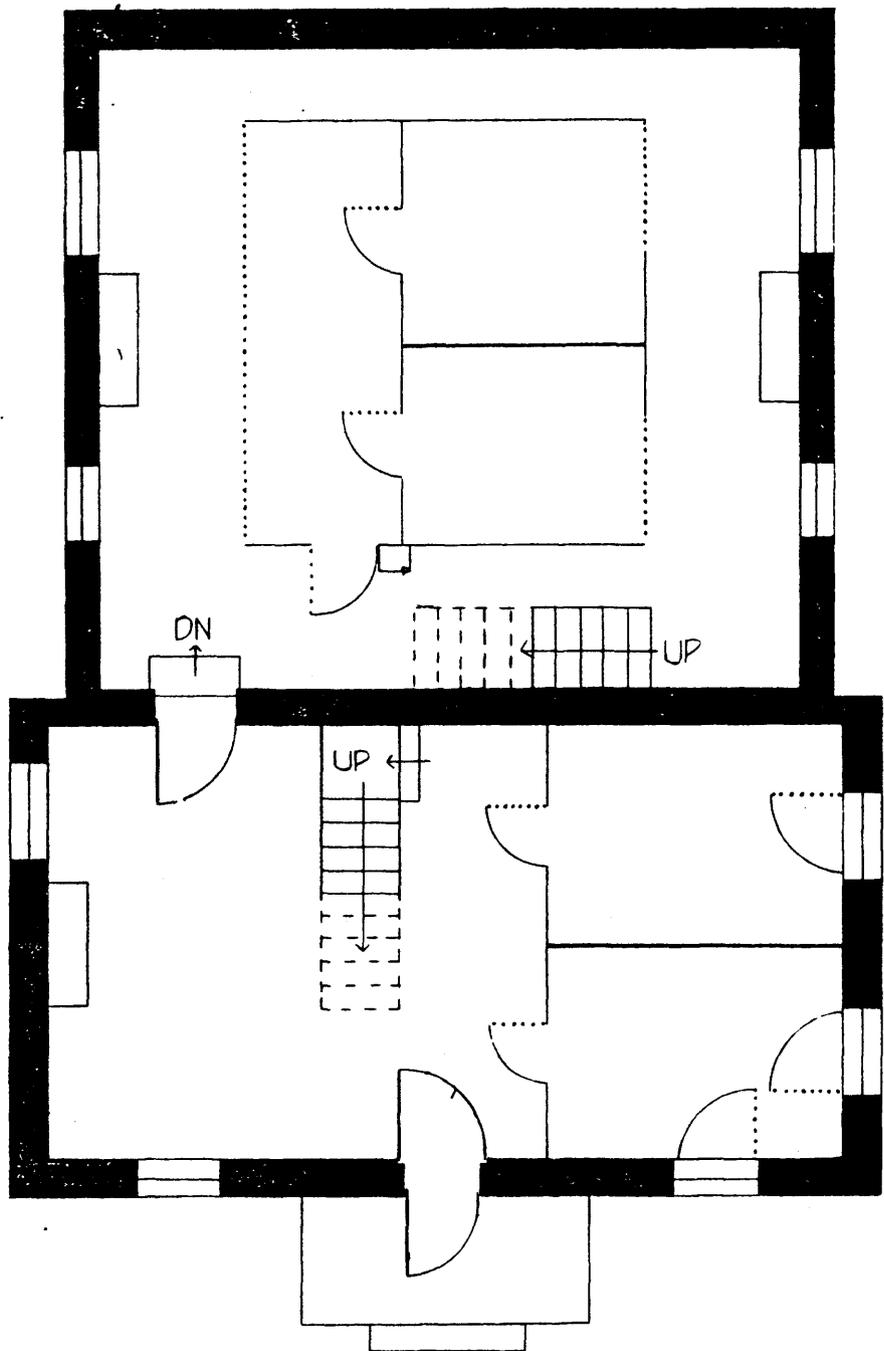
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Photographs

Name of Property: Liberty County Jail
City or Vicinity: Hinesville
County: Liberty
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: December, 1991

Description of Photograph(s):

- 1 of 8: Front facade, photographer facing northeast.
- 2 of 8: Rear facade, photographer facing northwest.
- 3 of 8: Front facade, closeup, and fence, photographer facing southeast.
- 4 of 8: Corner detail of brickwork, northeast corner, photographer facing northeast.
- 5 of 8: Interior, first floor, entranceway, photographer facing southwest.
- 6 of 8: Interior, first floor, entranceway, across same room as photograph no. 5, photographer facing northeast.
- 7 of 8: Interior, first floor, rear room, photographer facing north.
- 8 of 8: Interior, first floor, rear room, details of cell with built-in features, photographer facing north.



Floor Plan

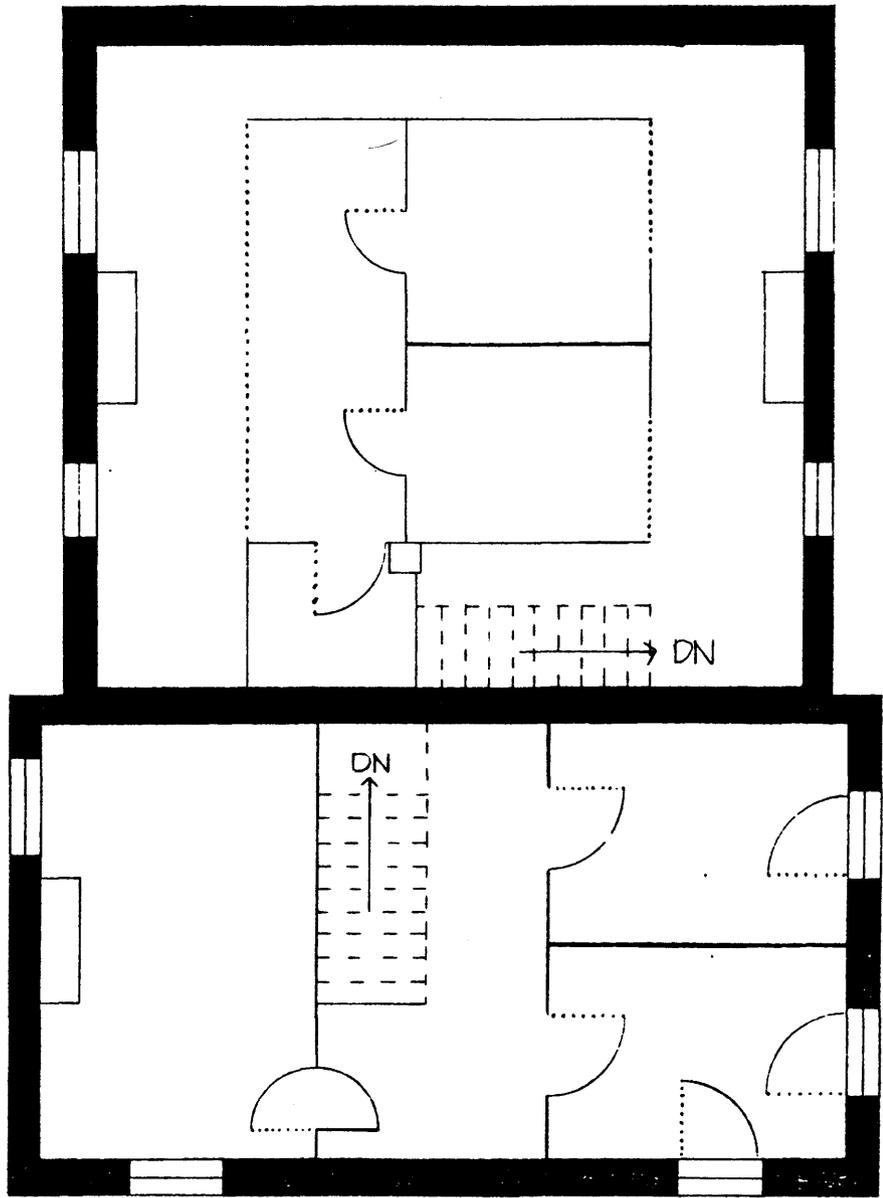
Liberty County Jail
Hinesville, Liberty County, Georgia

Scale: Not to scale

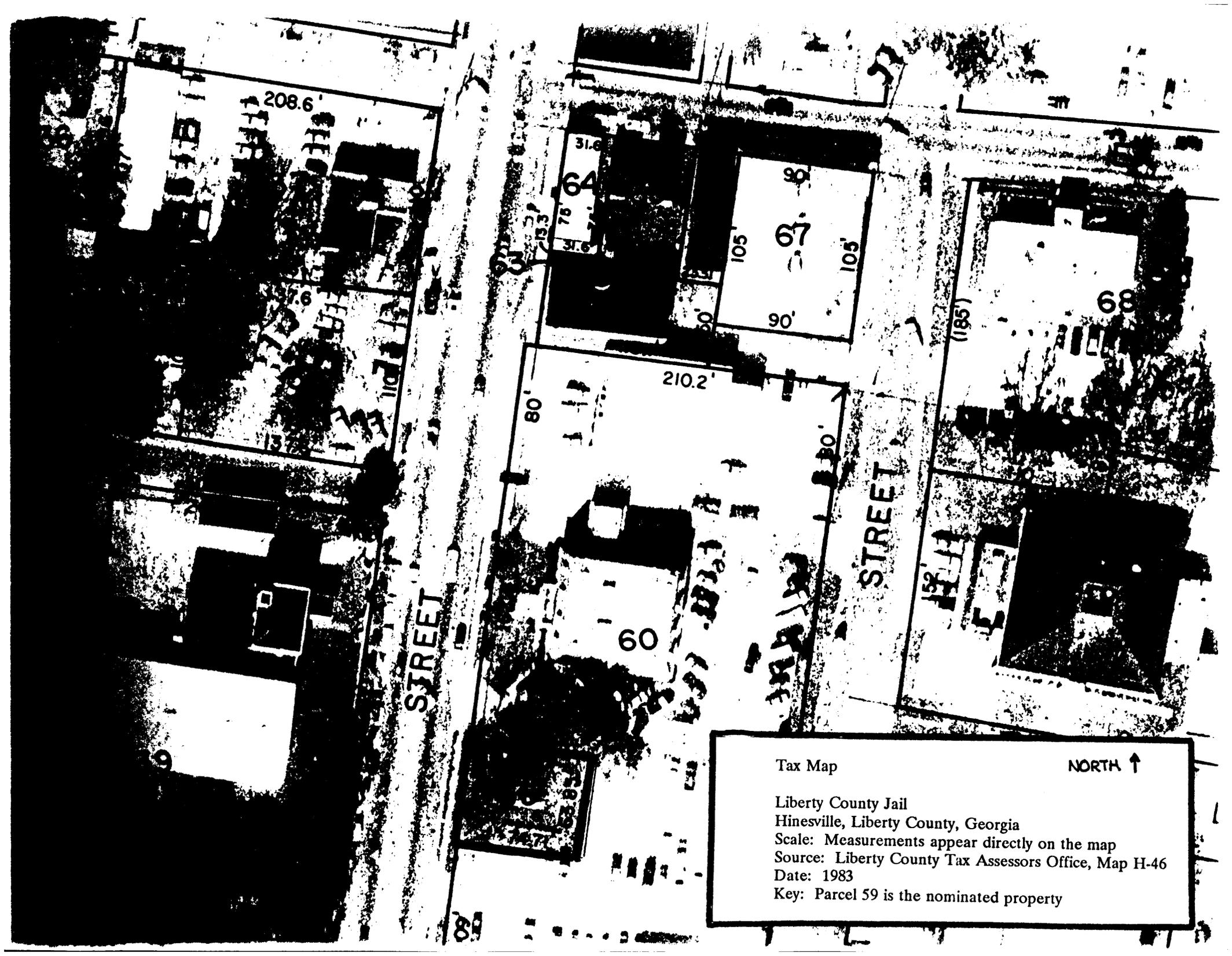
Source: Drawn by Johnson

Date: 1989

Key: First Floor



Floor Plan
Liberty County Jail
Hinesville, Liberty County, Georgia
Scale: Not to scale
Source: Drawn by Johnson
Date: 1989
Key: Second Floor



208.6'

31.6'

64

90'

67

105'

105'

90'

68

(185')

210.2'

80'

80'

STREET

STREET

60

Tax Map

NORTH ↑

Liberty County Jail
Hinesville, Liberty County, Georgia
Scale: Measurements appear directly on the map
Source: Liberty County Tax Assessors Office, Map H-46
Date: 1983
Key: Parcel 59 is the nominated property