

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received APR 26 1984  
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Old Fentress County Jail

and/or common The Alvin C. York Museum

2. Location

street & number Corner of North Smith Street and Tennessee Hwy. 52 N/A not for publication

city, town Jamestown N/A vicinity of

state Tennessee code 047 county Fentress code 049

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Fentress County, Tennessee

street & number Fentress County Courthouse

city, town Jamestown N/A vicinity of state Tennessee 38556

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Fentress County Courthouse

street & number Public Square

city, town Jamestown state Tennessee 38556

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date N/A N/A  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A state N/A

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## 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

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### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Built in 1898, the Old Fentress County Jail is an austere quarry-faced sandstone building located on the north side of the Public Square in Jamestown, Tennessee. This building served as both the County Jail and sheriff's residence from 1898 to 1979 when the new jail was opened behind the county courthouse. Although the front of the structure, the sheriff's quarters has been altered through time by the use of paneling and other superficial treatments, the rear ell retains the original metal cells, installed by the Pauly Jail Company of St. Louis, Missouri. A small cinderblock addition was attached to the west side of the building to accommodate juvenile offenders in the early 1970s. Despite these changes, the building retains its historical and architectural integrity.

The Old Fentress County Jail is a two-story, L-shaped, quarry-faced ashlar, sandstone building with a corbeled cornice and belt course separating the first and second stories. The low pitched hip roof is covered with standing seam tin and is pierced by two interior chimneys of matching stone. The south facade is three bays wide with a one story, hip-roofed frame porch. The porch posts are chamfered at the top and bottom and the deck was replaced with concrete block. The central door has a transom and the windows are two over two light double hung sash type. Fenestration throughout the rest of the building is irregular. The windows along the cell block area originally were the same size as those on the front of the building. Some have been filled in and barred to allow only a small opening into the interior.

The two bay wide ell has a hipped roof structure covered in standing seam tin and pierced by an interior stone chimney.

A small concrete block addition was attached to the west side of the building in the early 1970s to help comply with federal regulations addressing the segregation of juvenile offenders from the older inmates. The Alvin C. York Museum plans to remove this addition.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1898 **Builder/Architect** Conner and Cusak

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Old Fentress County Jail, located in Jamestown, Tennessee (pop. 1899) is being nominated under National Register criteria A and C for its historical significance as the oldest public building in Fentress County and its architectural significance as one of the oldest examples of the use of quarry-faced sandstone as a building material, which was popular in the Upper Cumberland region of Tennessee and more particularly in Jamestown, from the late 1890s to the late 1940s.

The Old Fentress County Jail was built in 1898, according to the Minute Books of Fentress County Court Sessions January 1, 1894 through November 6, 1899. Replacing a small log structure built in 1827, the new jail was to be made of stone and was to house both prisoner and sheriff. The contract for construction of the building was awarded to the firm of Conner and Cusak of Knoxville.

The contract for the interior steel and ironworks was granted to the Pauly Jail Company of St. Louis, Missouri who built several county jails throughout the state from 1886 to 1905, including those for Fayette County (1886), Lawrence County (1893-4), Cumberland County (1898), Blount County (1900) and Williamson County (1905).

The Old Fentress County Jail, a two story, gable roofed, L-shaped building survives as one of the earliest examples of the use of quarry-faced sandstone as a building material in Jamestown, Tennessee. This material was very popular from the late 1890s to the late 1940s and many downtown buildings display it including the Fentress County Courthouse (1901).

The Old Fentress County Jail served the needs of the County penal system from 1898 to 1979 when the new jail was built adjacent to the rear of County Courthouse building. Renovations to the Old Jail occurred in 1956 and 1982 when the building was rehabilitated to house the Alvin C. York Museum and Fentress County Chamber of Commerce.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Minutes of the Fentress County Court Sessions, January 1, 1894 to November 6, 1899.

Crane, Sophie and Paul, Tennessee's Troubled Roots, Earle-Shields Publishing, Old Hickory, TN, 1979.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1 acre

Quadrangle name Jamestown, Tennessee

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

1	6	6	8	5	3	4	0	4	0	3	3	1	8	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

**Verbal boundary description and justification** The nominated property is being bounded on the south by Central Avenue, on the west by North Smith Street, on the north by an adjacent property line and on the east by an alley. This is the property historically associated with the Old Fentress County Jail.

**List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries.**

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Thomas C. Coleman, Jr., Treasurer  
Robin Krawitz, Architectural Historian  
organization Sargent Alvin C. York Memorial Museum, Inc.  
Tennessee Historical Commission date January 14, 1984  
street & number P.O. Box 770 telephone 615-879-7568  
701 Broadway telephone 615-742-6728  
city or town Jamestown state Tennessee 38556  
Nashville state Tennessee 37203

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

Deputy

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*Herbert L. Hays*

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

date 4/23/84

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

date

5/24/84

*Allovera Byer*  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration