

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received JUL 27 1987
date entered AUG 27 1987

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

1. Name

historic Old St. Johns County Jail

and or common Authentic Old Jail

2. Location

street & number 167 San Marco Avenue

N/A not for publication

city, town St. Augustine

N/A vicinity of

state Florida

code 012

county St. Johns

code 109

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Authentic Old Jail, Inc.

street & number 167 San Marco Avenue

city, town St. Augustine

N/A vicinity of

state Florida

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Johns County Courthouse

street & number 95 Cordova Street

city, town St. Augustine

state Florida

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Historic Sites and Building Survey

title of St. Augustine, September, 1980

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records Florida Master Site File, Bureau of Archaeological Research

city, town Tallahassee

state Florida

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<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		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Old St. Johns County Jail is a two and a half story, masonry, Romanesque Revival style building located on the east side of San Marco Avenue in St. Augustine, Florida. Constructed in 1891, it served as the county jail until 1953. Since that time, it has been used as the "Authentic Old Jail" tourist attraction. With the exception of the application of stucco to its exterior during the 1920s, the building retains its original appearance to a remarkable degree.

The former jail is located one-half block from San Marco Avenue on the east 100 feet of Block H of Williams Subdivision. The area surrounding the jail was once composed largely of single family residences but since World War II has become increasingly commercialized, particularly along San Marco Avenue, which now forms one of the principal north-south traffic arteries in St. Augustine. The jail itself was affected by this development, changing from governmental to commercial use.

The jail is a detached building surrounded by a complex of one-story shops. Its ground plan is slightly irregular and consists of the square jail wing on the north side of the building and the rectangular residential wing on the south side. The massing of the building is regular with the exception of a prominent square tower offset on the east side of the two wings.

The building rests on a continuous, poured concrete foundation, and its structural system consists of load bearing brick walls. It rises two and a half stories, although the half story is not currently accessible. The tower adds an additional story and a half of height to the building.

The wing containing the jail is three bays wide on the east, west, and north elevations. The residential wing also contains three bays on the east and west sides, and is two bays on the north side.

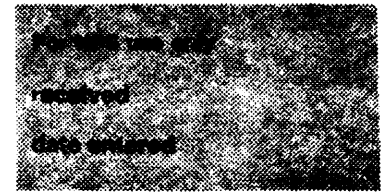
The exterior finish of the building is smooth stucco over brick. The original brick was laid in running bond with headers every six courses. The masonry exterior is broken by parallel wooden porches which flank the residential wing. The porches feature wooden millwork details.

The roof covering the structure is complex in shape. That portion covering the jail wing consists of a hip roof with an octagonal cupola and three slightly projecting gabled pavilions on the north, east, and west sides. The tower has a concave pyramidal roof, typical of the Romanesque Revival style. The residential wing is topped by a hip roof with cross gables on the north and south, and has hip roofs on the porches. The roof is covered with standing seam metal sheeting.

The porches display features associated with the Eastlake style of decorative ornamentation. The style took its name from Charles Locke Eastlake (1833-1906), an English interior designer and critic of the Gothic Revival style. The porch posts, railings, balusters, and brackets were probably turned on a mechanical lathe or cut with a scroll saw giving the appearance of the heavy-legged furniture of the period.

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The windows on the first floor of the jail wing consist of flat arched 1/1 light, double hung sashes covered by double bars. On the second floor, there are casement windows with segmental arches and a single set of bars. Modern aluminum awning windows now occupy the first story of the tower, which has also had its main arch enclosed. On the second story, there are two round arched double hung windows. The open belfry has round arches.

The residential wing has flat arched, double hung sash windows on the east and west elevations. The windows on the first story of the south elevation have been filled in. The second story has two round arched, double hung sash windows. Some of the building's original doors and their hardware remain, particularly in the residential wing. Several doors were relocated during the course of various remodelings when the structure was still used as a jail.

The jail wing has four brick chimneys with corbelled caps. One is located on the south interior slope of the roof and serves the kitchen. The other three are located on the north, east, and west sides on the interior ridge of the roof. The residential wing has a single brick chimney located on the central ridge of the roof.

The old jail contains a number of decorative elements. The jail wing features lintels, window sills, and a belt course made of stone. A dominant feature is the cast metal cornice on the east and west elevations. A cast metal coping is found on the verges of the gables of the north and south pavilions.

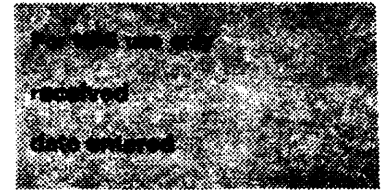
The jail wing contains a kitchen with an elevator. The rest of the space in the wing is devoted mainly to cells and features poured concrete floors and a riveted metal ceiling. The cells on the first floor have windows that are barred both inside and outside. The second floor has two tiers of cells. The upper tier, apparently an addition to the original structure, has riveted metal floors and a corrugated metal ceiling. The cells are surrounded by a walkway. The second floor is accessible by a concrete stairway running along the north side of the residential wing. Apparently, this stairway replaces an earlier wooden one.

The first and second floors of the tower were fitted with bathrooms while the jail was still in service. The third floor of the tower and the belfry are not currently accessible to the public.

The interior of the residential wing consists of two rooms on each of the first two floors. The first floor was used as office space and the second served as the jailer's living quarters. There are two fireplaces with intricately carved mantels on the first floor. The original plaster walls and pine flooring are still extant.

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The jail was in service from 1891 to 1953, when a new facility was completed north of the city of St. Augustine. The county government sold the abandoned structure to H.L. McDaniel who developed the Authentic Old Jail tourist attraction. Because of the theme of the attraction, many features of the structure have been preserved largely as they existed when the building was surplused.

Contributing Resources: Old St. Johns County Jail

Non-Contributing: None

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1891 **Builder/Architect** P.J. Pauly Jail Building and Manufacturing Co.

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Old St. Johns County Jail in St. Augustine, Florida, fulfills criteria A, B, and C for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Built in 1891 by the P.J. Pauly and Brother Jail Building and Manufacturing Company, it has significance in the areas of architecture and politics/government, and the social/humanitarian category. The building is associated with Henry F. Flagler, one of Florida's pioneer railroad builders and real estate developers, who lobbied and paid for its construction. It is the only extant historic building in St. Johns County originally designed for use by the county government and is one of the few remaining jail structures in Florida dating from the 19th century. It has architectural significance for its Romanesque Revival style and its association with the Pauly Jail Company. While it has lost some of its physical integrity, it has been maintained as the Authentic Old Jail tourist attraction since 1953 and retains much of its original appearance.

The construction of the St. Johns County Jail was a significant event within the context of the Flagler era, one of the most important periods in the development of St. Augustine and the state of Florida. Henry Morrison Flagler was a business partner with John D. Rockefeller in the Standard Oil Company. He visited St. Augustine in 1885 and was struck by the charm of the quaint old Spanish town, and set out to provide it with the proper facilities for becoming a winter resort for wealthy northerners. To that end, Flagler constructed two major hotels in St. Augustine--the Ponce de Leon and the Alcazar--and subsequently purchased a third--the Cordova--to add to the complex. He later established the offices and workshops of the Florida East Coast Railway in the city, providing still another major source of employment for local residents.

Paralleling his commercial endeavors, Flagler undertook a number of philanthropic projects in St. Augustine. He contributed funds for the construction of the Ancient City Baptist Church, Grace Methodist Church, and Flagler Memorial Presbyterian Church. He also contributed funds for the construction of the St. Augustine City Hall, the St. Johns County Courthouse, and the County Jail. Of the three public buildings funded by Flagler, the jail is the only one that remains standing.

Flagler's association with the St. Johns County Jail arose in large part from self interest. The previous jail was located on Cordova Street, opposite Flagler's opulent Ponce de Leon Hotel. In 1889, a grand jury described the jail as a local nuisance in its existing location. In October of that year Flagler offered the county funding to construct a new jail in a different location.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than one

Quadrangle name St. Augustine

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	1	7
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 Zone

4	6	9	2	2	0
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 Easting

3	3	0	8	4	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

 Northing

B

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 Zone

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 Easting

--	--	--	--	--	--

 Northing

C

--	--

 Zone

--	--	--	--

 Easting

--	--	--	--	--	--

 Northing

D

--	--

 Zone

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 Easting

--	--	--	--	--	--

 Northing

E

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 Zone

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 Easting

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 Northing

F

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 Zone

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 Easting

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 Northing

G

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 Zone

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 Easting

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 Northing

H

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 Zone

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 Easting

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 Northing

Verbal boundary description and justification

East 100 feet of Block H, Williams Subdivision

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 W. Carl Shiver, Historic Sites Specialist

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation

date July 1, 1987

street & number R.A. Gray Building

telephone (904) 487-2333

city or town Tallahassee

state Florida

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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date July 20, 1987

For NPS use only

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

Entered in
National Register

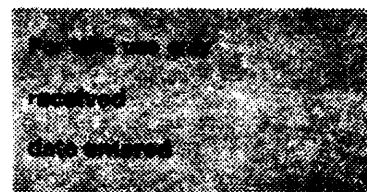
date 8-27-87


Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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The following year Flagler, aided by local residents, pressured the county commission to construct a new jail rather than enlarging the existing one. In June of 1890, the commissioners accepted Flagler's offer and decided to purchase a parcel of land in northern St. Augustine. They accepted bids for the construction of the facility and selected the Pauly Jail Building and Manufacturing Company as both architect and building contractor. Construction of the jail was begun in August of 1890 and was completed early in the following year. Flagler contributed \$10,000 toward the construction of the new facility and purchased the old jail and the property it stood on from the county for \$2,500. He had the old jail demolished and erected the Bacchus Club, Florida's first plush gambling casino, on the site.⁴ The Flagler boom in St. Augustine had run its course by the dawn of the twentieth century, as Flagler increasingly focused his attention on railroad and hotel construction farther south along the east coast of the state.

The Old St. Johns County Jail also has significance for its association with the Pauly Jail Company. The P.J. Pauly and brother Jail Manufacturing Company was incorporated in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1885 by Peter Joseph Pauly and his brother John. The Paulys were natives of Germany who had immigrated to St. Louis about 1856. They founded the P.J. Pauly and Brother Steamboat Blacksmith Company which manufactured and repaired hardware for paddlewheel steamboats operating on the Mississippi and Missouri rivers. They abandoned this occupation in 1870 because of the decline in steamboat traffic and entered the business of jail and prison construction and repair. They were innovators in the field, obtaining patents for their steel-clad and fire proof cells.

The Pauly Jail Company did business in the United States (particularly the Midwest and Southwest), Canada, and Mexico. They also designed and constructed the Hamilton County Jail (1893) in Jasper, Florida, which was listed in the National Register in 1983. The building in Jasper is the only other 19th century jail in Florida to have survived largely intact. The Monroe County Jail in Key West, built in 1888, is still in service, but alterations made in the 1970s have destroyed much of the structure's original fabric. By 1900, the company had widened its interests and established a second firm called the St. Louis Art Metal Company to manufacture wall safes, safe deposit boxes, and receptacles for securing valuables and documents. Both companies went out of business in 1964.⁵

The Old St. Johns County Jail also has significance as an example of Romanesque Revival style architecture. The use of this round-arched, pre-Gothic, Medieval style began in the United States about the mid-1840s and was so successful that in the 1850s and 60s it had become the preferred style in many locations for churches and public buildings. In addition to the round arch, the style often featured asymmetrical massing, rusticated and rough-finished wall surfaces, squat

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columns, corbelling, and towers or projecting pavilions. A favorite form of tower roof was pyramidal with concave slopes. The style continued in use during the 1870s and 80s and was given a new boost in popularity by the work of the innovative Boston architect Henry Hobson Richardson (1838-1886). Unlike the more "correct" earlier Romanesque Revival, Richardson borrowed from many sources, giving the style greater flexibility. Richardson's Allegheny County Courthouse and Jail (1884) in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, became the model for many courthouses and penal facilities in the United States.⁶

The old jail, therefore has significance for its association with Henry Morrison Flagler, the Florida entrepreneur who lobbied for and financed its construction. It is the oldest county government building in St. Johns County, and is one of only two intact 19th century county jails left in Florida. The St. Johns County Jail is further significant for its association with the Pauly Jail Company and its Romanesque Revival style.

NOTES

¹ Thomas Graham, The Awakening of St. Augustine: The Anderson Family and the Oldest City 1821-1924 (St. Augustine, 1978), 166-169, 203.

² Jean Parker Waterbury, The Oldest City: St. Augustine Sage of Survival (St. Augustine, 1983), 196.

³ St Augustine Weekly News, September 26, 1889 and October 3, 1889.

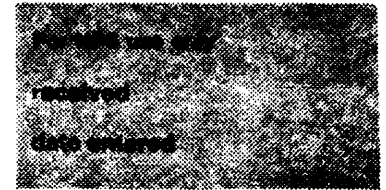
⁴ St Augustine Evening News, February 7, 1890, June 4, 1890, June 5, 1890; St. Augustine City Council, Minutes, August 14, 1890; Graham, The Awakening of St. Augustine, 198.

⁵ Florida Master Site File, Division of Historical Resources, "National Register Nomination of Old Hamilton County Jail," May, 1983.

⁶ John Blumenson, Identifying American Architecture: A Pictorial Guide to Styles and Terms 1600-1945 (Nashville, 1982), 42-47; National Trust for Historic Preservation, Built in the U.S.A. (Washington, D.C., 1985), 124.

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St. Augustine Evening News, February 7, 1890, June 4, 1890, June 5, 1890.

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