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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Lu Verne City Jail

other names/site number Old Calaboose

2. Location

street & number 307 Third Street not for publication n/a

city or town Lu Verne vicinity n/a

state Iowa code IA county Kossuth code 109 zip code 50560

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 10/23/92
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State Historical Society of Iowa

State of 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 certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Patrick Andrews

12/18/92

Iu Verne City Jail
Name of Property

Kossuth Co., IA
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

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

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

Municipal, County, and State Corrections Properties in Iowa

none

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/correctional facility

GOVERNMENT/fire station

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Calaboose

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls CONCRETE

roof ASPHALT

other _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- 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.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

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

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

LAW
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1912-1934

Significant Dates

1912
1934

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

C. Black

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

City of Lu Verne

Lu Verne City Jail
Name of Property

Kossuth Co., IA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	5
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4	1	1	5	7	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	7	5	1	2	6	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

3

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

Zone Easting Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Joyce McKay, Cultural Resources Consultant

organization private consultant date April 10, 1992

street & number P.O. Box 258 telephone 608-424-6315

city or town Belleville state Wisconsin zip code 53508

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

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name City of Lu Verne

street & number 109 De Witt Street telephone 515-882-3508

city or town Lu Verne state Iowa zip code 50560

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 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.

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Kossuth Co., IASection number 7 Page 1

7. Description

The Lu Verne City Jail¹ also known locally as the "Old Calaboose" occupies a triangular lot, lot 1 of block 3, in the City of Lu Verne, Kossuth County, Iowa. It sits just northwest of the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad tracks at the northeast intersection of Third Street and Prospect. The jail was not given a prominent position on the main street but tucked away behind and east of the business district in a residential area. It faces north away from the center of the small city. A lawn with a group of trees to the south surrounds the jail in the center of the lot. The boundary of the property follows the boundaries of the lot along the south side of Third Street, the west side of the legally defined alley, and the north side of the railroad right-of-way. The arbitrary line to the east excludes an adjacent, unassociated, two story, frame outbuilding. To the west of the boundary is located a ranch-style dwelling. The jail belongs to the Calaboose property subtype (2a) of the County and Municipal Corrections Properties in Iowa: 1849-1942 Property Type (2) of the Municipal, County, and State Corrections Properties in Iowa multiple property listing.

The one story, masonry molded cement block building stands on a poured concrete footing. Its concrete blocks were cast to resemble rusticated stone. The 2 by 4 rafters support the sheathing and asphalt roofing of the gable roof. The rectangular building measures 14 feet north-south by 20 feet east-west. The two, frame casement windows, one along the north and one along the south wall, contain four lights. Horizontal bars protect the windows. A double, vertical board door attached with side hinges are placed at the east end of the north facade. The doors close the entrance to the city's fire apparatus. A single, wood door closes the west elevation. The exterior of the building displays no decorative features.

The interior of the building contains a single room with unfinished walls and ceiling and a poured concrete floor. The window and door trim is composed of 2 X 4 framing. Space for fire apparatus which included a truck by 1920 (Lu Verne Historical Society n.d.) sat to the east side of the building behind the double doors. The set of two steel, portable jail cells are now placed along the west side of the south wall facing north. They originally sat just west of the double doors entrance with their backs facing east toward the fire equipment and their doors opening west. Each cell measures 6 feet long by 4 feet wide by 6.5 feet high. Latticed, flat steel composes all the sides and the top of the cells except the wall between them and the floor which are steel plate. Each cell contains a single bunk composed of steel latticework. Individual locks secure

¹ References to the general context on municipal and county jails in section E and a description of the property subtype in section F may be found on pages 94 to 105 and 116-117 and 123-27 respectively.

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~~each door. Whether the cells face north or west, a relatively narrow space remains between the front of the cells and the opposite wall.~~

The calaboose has undergone limited alteration. The city replaced the roof several times. Although a low, relatively recently built residence sits in the adjacent lot, the building remains in its obscure position behind the business district.

The property was not tested for archaeological resources. Since an earlier calaboose sat at this site, the property may contain remains related to this building. Additionally, if extant, related, discrete trash pits would potentially contain data indicating the nature of the activities at the jail, a subject which is currently poorly understood.

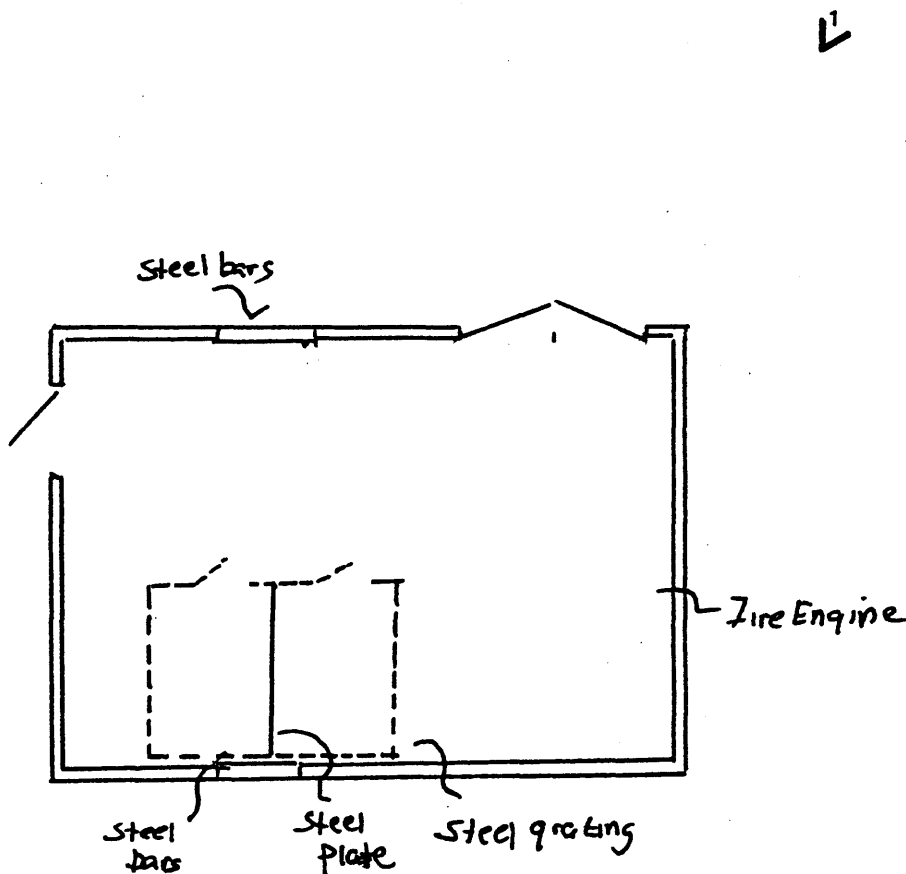
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Lu Verne, Iowa

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Lu Verne City Jail

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8. Significance

The building gains significance within the Iowa Corrections Institutions context as an example of the calaboose property subtype (2a) of the County and Municipal Corrections Properties in Iowa Property Type (2) under criterion C in the area of architecture. It possesses significance under criterion A in the area of law as a representation of community corrections. This example of the calaboose property subtype represents the space and contains the equipment in which a historically poorly understood corrections facility operated. This property subtype was probably in general use in the state from the settlement period to the 1930s. In the area of architecture, this property then represents an example of a property type whose numbers have dwindled considerably since their period of active use. Its period of significance spans its use as a jail from its construction in 1912 to the relocation of the city jail in the city hall in 1934. The significant date of 1912 denotes the construction of the jail, and as importantly, the date of 1934 records the removal of the corrections function from this building. Because the property functioned at the community level, it is locally significant.

Historical Background

Settlers began to arrive in area of the Town of Lu Verne by 1864. The building of the St. Louis and Minnesota Railroad, later the Chicago and Northwestern, attracted additional settlers to the township in 1881. The railroad forming one boundary of the property was built as a spur line now owned by Peavey Grain Company. Although government surveyors did not plat the township until 1887, the communities of Vernon and Whitman which later merged to become Lu Verne were platted in 1881. Businessmen also began to locate in the communities in that year. The two became incorporated as one city in 1887. Business and population expansion began shortly afterwards in the 1890s (Reed 1913: 563-64; S.J. Clarke Publishing Co. 1913: 571; Lindebak 1981).

As the community expanded, public services became necessary. By 1899, the city erected a small, square-shaped jail at the site of the current one. The city referred to and citizens continue to call this jail the "Old Calaboose" or the calaboose. It sold its first calaboose prior to the construction of the new one. The city council decided to erect a 14 by 20 feet by 7 foot high calaboose with two windows and a single door on May 6, 1912. Having decided to begin construction of the jail on June 6, 1912, the council contracted with C. Black to build it for a total cost of \$181.15. E.T. Barnum Ironworks of Detroit, Michigan provided the cell parts which were probably assembled locally. The council procured the cement blocks from Irvington. Like many municipal facilities, this one served more than one function. It also housed a small hose cart. The city may not have included its accommodation in the original plans

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which called for a single door. However, the two current entrances appear unaltered. The community used the calaboose for short term detention, primarily for the inebriant, other misdemeanants, and later hobos. The city financed the cost of food for its prisoners.

The corrections function of the jail ended in 1934 with the building of the city hall. The cells were removed to that building. Sometime after that date, the former calaboose became a welding shop. The cells were removed from the city hall in 1975, and later transferred back to the calaboose. The building is now owned by the city and maintained by the Lu Verne Historical Society (Sanborn-Perris Map Company 1899; 1913; 1933; Lu Verne, City of 5/7/1912: 198-200; Lu Verne Historical Society n.d.).

Statement of Significance

Law

The Lu Verne City Jail gains significance under criterion A in the area of law. This jail represents the space and contains the equipment in which the city carried out its corrections function. These municipal facilities generally held short-term prisoners remaining one to two days. The local constable who operated the jail appears not to have maintained a constant vigil over his prisoner for these short periods. Small facilities such as the Lu Verne City Jail included little space for continuous supervision. The clientele were minor offenders including inebriants, the idle, and persons breaking minor ordinances. Until 1900, county jails charged their prisoners a fee to cover clothing, food, and upkeep. The state provided a subsidy thereafter. Although it is clear that Lu Verne initially paid for the prisoners' food, it is unclear whether the state reimbursed municipalities. And, although the jail keeper frequently gained additional income from the fee and subsidy systems, small local jails maintained too few prisoners to profit from such corruption. The state only required the separation of female and juvenile prisoners from the rest of the cell population in cities over 25,000 after 1897. With only two cells at Lu Verne, the possibility of prisoner separation did not exist. However, juvenile and female prisoners were probably small in number and perhaps taken directly to the county jail in Algona.

The state provided no standards for the operation of either county or municipal jails beyond the subsidy and separation of certain classes of prisoners. County jails and large city jails are legend for their poor conditions including lack of sanitation, cleanliness, lighting, ventilation, heat, exercise areas, building maintenance, and trained personnel and presence of overcrowding. Most observers condemning the jail system from the 1880s to the 1930s focused on these problems.

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However, such comments did not necessarily apply to small municipal facilities which probably experienced less frequent use. Not only the municipal but almost all county facilities lacked the services found at the state reformatory and penitentiary. Medical, religious, and work programs appear almost non-existent. Although several county jails required public maintenance work or the breaking of stone, idleness was pervasive especially for short-term imprisonment. Local jails such as the Lu Verne City Jail were a means of holding public nuisances for a cooling-off period either for the benefit of the prisoner, the community or both. Short term imprisonment only detained the prisoner and certainly did not reform him. Perhaps embarrassed by the actions or the personal status of the prisoners, the community tucked them away in its local jail hidden behind the business district until it received a municipal building (Ensign 1909; 1912; Lewis n.d: 268-71; Burns 1971: 19-21; Haynes 1939: 2; McKelvey 1977: 11, 45, 62, 106, 192, 257, 309; Wines and Dwight 1867: 67, 335-39; Cosson 1912; Queens 1920: 6, 13-17; Bannister 1899; DeFord 1963: 90-95; Moynahan and Steward 1980: 20, 64-65; Briggs 1919: 505; Hollowell 1922: 132; Haynes 1946: 61-83; 1956: 44-45; Garfield). Because the manner in which local authorities operated their jails and the kinds of clientele they maintained remain poorly understood, intact examples such as the one at Lu Verne help to illuminate the system of operation.

Architecture

The Lu Verne City Jail also gains significance in the area of architecture as a representation of the calaboose subtype. In Iowa, municipalities began the construction of the subtype early in their settlement prior to the construction of their municipal building or city hall. The earliest example may date to the early 1850s if the Clermont jail was initially constructed as a calaboose. Their construction continued after the turn of the century, and their use persisted into the 1930s. The latest identified construction date for the subtype is the example at Lu Verne erected in 1912.

Although they may include up to three cells and an entrance area, most calaboses contain a single room. The calaboose is one story in height and in Iowa range in size from 10 by 12 to 16 by 20 feet. Materials vary widely and included rubble stone and brick and later frame and concrete block. Buildings display no stylistic detailing, and interiors remain unfinished. Early examples held their prisoners in small rooms with small, barred windows and heavy wood or iron doors. Those dating to the 1890s have steel grating across the front of the cells and steel plate between the two cells, and the building forms the remainder of the cell walls. Later examples dating after the turn of the century such as the one at Lu Verne usually contain two 4 by 6 foot, moveable steel cells with steel plate floor and dividing wall. These cells were manufactured outside the community. Lu Verne purchased its jail cells from E.T. Barnum, Ironwork, Detroit, Michigan. The cells at the Cascade City Hall in Dubuque County were

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also manufactured by this company. They were usually placed on concrete floors. Municipalities contracted with local builders such as C. Black at Lu Verne to construct their calaboose.

Most examples served only one function, corrections. In this sense, the Lu Verne City Jail is an exception. Although maintaining the appearance of a calaboose in modern materials, functionally it is crossing the boundary between a calaboose and municipal building which usually fulfilled more than two community functions. Thus, with its calaboose form, more modern materials, and several functions, the calaboose at Lu Verne is not only the latest known example but like the example the city calaboose at What Cheer a transition between the calaboose and the municipal building which also served municipal corrections functions.

Period and Area of Significance

The property gains architectural significance for the year of its construction in 1912. The period between 1912 and 1934 recognizes its function as a city jail until the removal of its cells to the new city hall in 1934. The period of significance thus recognizes not only its construction date but its operation as a municipal corrections facility in the area of law. Its significant dates of 1912 and 1934 likewise denote its construction date and removal of the cells. Because it functioned at the municipal level, the calaboose has local significance.

Architectural Integrity

The Lu Verne City Jail has undergone little change. The replacement of its roof eliminated the stove hole in the northwest corner of the building. Roof replacement is a common alteration for this subtype. The city removed its cells from 1934 to sometime after 1975 and then replaced them in a different position. However, the cells remain intact. Thus, as a calaboose the building maintains high architectural integrity. It also possesses integrity of location behind the business district, the usual location for the calaboose. To provide protection, local historical societies have moved some of these buildings. The calaboose also remains in a residential setting although a new residence has been constructed in the area. Importantly, the city records document the building of the jail, and the Sanborn-Perris Insurance Company maps indicate its location. Thus, its construction as a jail and operation as such until the mid-1930s is verified. The property serves as an important document for the building type which it represents.

The Lu Verne City Jail is also significant because few intact examples remaining in their original locations continue to stand. The survey located only six

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examples of what was very likely a more prevalent building subtype. It recorded the demolition of a seventh at Blanchard in Page County. Of the remaining six, two were moved by historical societies. The 1907 example now at Dakota City in Humboldt County was moved from Rutland, and the 1901 calaboose at Henderson was moved and rebuilt at Glenwood in Mills County. Original location provides an important document of how the community viewed minor deviant behavior and should be maintained. The original function of the 1852 or 1853 calaboose at Clermont in Fayette County remains undocumented as does its building date. Built in 1878, the Delmar calaboose is entered onto the National Register. The 1881 example at Cascade is eligible for the National Register. Thus, three intact examples of municipal calabooses are recorded in Iowa. This status gives the Lu Verne calaboose greater significance especially since it now represents the latest identified example of its subtype.

9. Bibliography

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1912 The Report of the Committee Appointed to Investigate the Character of the Warden and the General Management of the Iowa Penitentiary at Fort Madison Together with a Report Concerning the Jail System of Iowa With Recommendations. Iowa Department of Justice, Des Moines [Ms. also in Archives, State Historical Society of Iowa under Governor's Office, Series VIII, Reports, Documents, State Institutions, Penitentiaries]

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~~10. Boundary Description~~

The boundary of the property begins in the northwest corner of lot 1 in block 3 at the south edge of Third Street and at the east side of the legally defined alley. It runs south along the west side of the alley to the railroad right-of-way. It then turns northwest and follows the north edge of the right-of-way northeast to a north-south line which parallels and is twenty feet east of the east elevation of the calaboose. The boundary turns north and follows this line to the south side of Third Street. Here, it turns west and runs along the south edge of Third Street to the point of beginning (see sketch map and USGS map).

Boundary Justification

The boundary around the building follows the original lot lines of the city property except at the east end. This small triangular section of the lot now contains a frame outbuilding unrelated to the calaboose property. The boundary therefore excludes it.

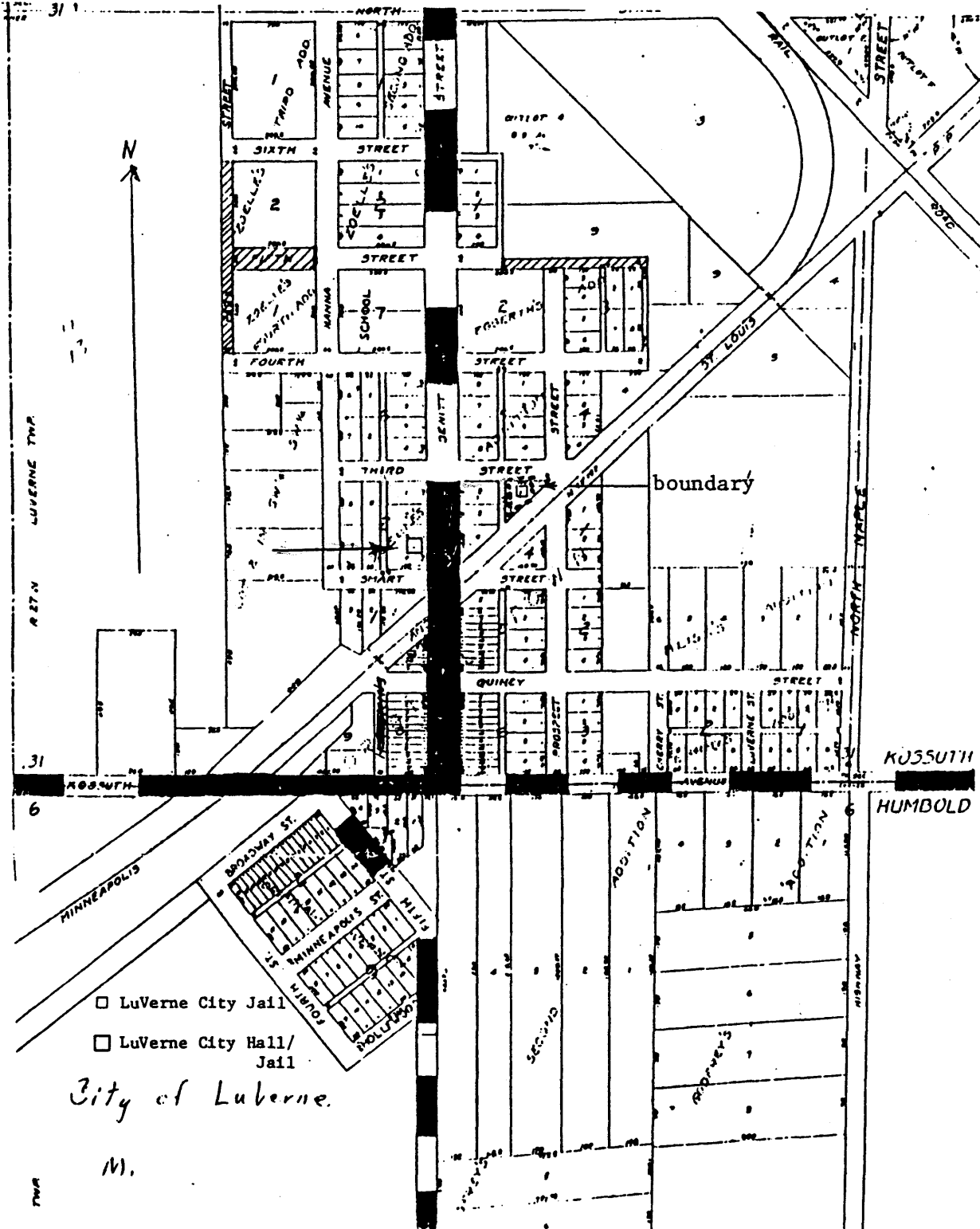
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Lu Verne, Iowa

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Lu Verne City Jail
Kossuth Co., IA

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Photographic Documentation

Name: Lu Verne City Jail

Location: Lu Verne, Kossuth County, Iowa

Photographer's name: Joyce McKay

Date of photographs: 7/14/91

Location of negative: Historic Preservation Bureau, State Historical Society
of Iowa, Des Moines

1. View of the north facade and east elevation of the calaboose facing southwest (16/23).
2. View of the south or rear elevation and the west elevation facing northeast (16/19).