

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED **AUG 9 1978**

DATE ENTERED **MAR 7 1979**

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

### 1 NAME

HISTORIC

Franklin County Jail

AND/OR COMMON

Old Jail Museum

### LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Decherd Boulevard

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Winchester

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Fourth

VICINITY OF

STATE

Tennessee

CODE

47

COUNTY

Franklin

CODE

51

### CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<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:

### OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Franklin County

STREET & NUMBER

Franklin County Courthouse, Court Square

CITY, TOWN

Winchester

VICINITY OF

STATE

Tennessee

### LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Franklin County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Court Square

CITY, TOWN

Winchester

STATE

Tennessee

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Tennessee Historical and Architectural Survey

DATE

October 1977

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Tennessee Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Nashville

STATE

Tennessee

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT       DETERIORATED  
 GOOD             RUINS  
 FAIR              UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Franklin County Jail is located two blocks northeast of the courthouse in Winchester, on the southeast side of US 41A. Erected ca. 1898 on the site of an 1855 jail, the building stands on a bluff overlooking Boiling Fork Creek.

The two-story brick building has an L plan. It stands on a cut and coursed stone foundation and has a full basement. A hip roof covers the northwest section of the building which originally provided office space and living quarters for the sheriff. The ell, which housed the jail cells, has a gable roof. Metal roofing material covers all roof surfaces, and there are five chimneys: two internal brick stacks rising above the southwest walls, two similar units above the northeast wall, and a brick flue attached to the same wall.

A two-story, projecting tower, which shelters the entrance, is centered on the three-bay facade (northwest elevation); brick belt courses are the only ornamentation on the flat-roofed tower. The windows throughout the building have two-over-two light patterns and segmental brick arches with plain, stone sills. Bars cover the windows in the ell and basement. A corbeled brick cornice girds the entire building except for the southeast wall of the ell. Attached to the corner formed by the southeast wall of the main section and the southwest wall of the ell stands a hip-roofed porch supported by simple square pillars; the porch roof is covered with metal roofing material. An early photograph reveals that an enclosed frame porch once was attached to the center of the northeast wall; the ghost of this element remains visible. Apparently the original window was converted to a door when the porch was built and returned to a window after the porch was removed.

The entrance hall terminates in a double-run staircase and is flanked by large rooms on both floors. Since these rooms have been converted into museum exhibit space few of the original finishes remain. The ell in large measure retains its original appearance. This area contains the museum office on the first floor and cell blocks on both levels; the latter are steel cages which still have their rudimentary plumbing; the walls of some of the cells retain the graffiti placed there by generations of bored and frustrated inmates. Some of the cells on the second floor now house exhibits.

The property nominated is the entire tract owned by Franklin County. It is a 1/4-acre rectangular tract which measures approximately 100 feet by 120 feet.

# 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES      ca. 1898                                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Franklin County was created by the Tennessee General Assembly on December 3, 1807, but the county's first jail, a log building, was not erected until 1813. Shortly after the completion of the jail the citizens held a gala celebration and accidentally burned it down. Early the next year the second jail was built on the site of the first. In 1855 a new building was erected on the lot adjacent to Boiling Fork Creek, and the 1814 jail was condemned and sold. The present building, the county's fourth jail, was built ca. 1898 on the site of its predecessor. For nearly seventy-five years the Franklin County Jail served as the sheriff's office and county penal institution. A new facility was completed in 1972, and the Franklin County Historical Society acquired the old jail.

The historical society rents the building for \$1.00 per year from the county court and uses it as a museum. The Old Jail Museum, as it is now called, contains exhibits which relate the history of the county from prehistoric to modern times. There are five exhibit areas: the Indian and Early Frontier Room features aboriginal artifacts and tools used by the early settlers; the War Room houses a fine rifle collection and about 200 Civil War relics; in the Gallery are books, household items, and musical instruments; the Heritage Room contains exhibits on the history of education, literature, athletics, and politics in the county; and in a section of the cell block is found the Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition.

The Franklin County Jail was a solidly built edifice, and the eighty-year-old building remains in good condition. Like similar institutions across the state, function played a more important role than style in the design of this jail. Originally conceived to keep criminals inside, it now adequately protects the museum collection from theft from without.

The building has been a landmark in Winchester for many years, and as the Old Jail Museum, it is a tourist attraction. Visitors have the opportunity to see the artifacts which help to relate the county's history and examine the interior of a turn-of-the-century jail, a facility which many have never seen. The Franklin County Historical Society has done a commendable job of renovating and maintaining the building, and the organization intends to continue its preservation efforts.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Franklin County Minute Books, Franklin County Courthouse, Winchester, Tennessee.  
 Rauchle, B. C. "A Jail Becomes a Museum," The Franklin County Historical Review, VII, (January 1976), 3-8.  
 Tribble, Edward J. "A Brief Sketch of the Jails of Franklin County," The Franklin County Historical Review, IV (December 1972), 39-43.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/4

QUADRANGLE NAME Winchester, Tennessee QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,6	5,8,10,8,0	3,8,9,40,4,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			
E				E			
G				H			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION The property nominated is a rectangular lot which measures approximately 120' by 100'; it is bounded as follows: beginning at the east corner of US 41A and First Avenue, SE; thence southeast along First Avenue, SE approximately 120'; thence northeast approximately 100' to the creek bluff; thence northwest along the creek bluff

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE	beginning

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Barbara Hume Church, Architectural Historian  
Robert E. Dalton, Director of Field Services

ORGANIZATION Tennessee Historical Commission DATE July 24, 1978

STREET & NUMBER 170 Second Avenue North TELEPHONE (615) 741-2371

CITY OR TOWN Nashville STATE Tennessee

# 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 Herbert Z. Hays

TITLE Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission DATE 8/1/78

**FOR NPS USE ONLY**

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: [Signature] DATE 3-7-79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER DATE 3/6/79

TITLE REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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The Franklin County Jail is the oldest public building in the county. A courthouse, which predated the jail by eight years, was replaced with the present Franklin County Courthouse in 1937.

The portion of the building which served as the sheriff's residence has been altered to accommodate museum exhibits, but the rear section which contains the cells remains largely intact and unchanged. The late nineteenth-century cells are sheet steel-walled cages with riveted strip doors; large padlocks were used to secure the doors. Toilet facilities in the cells are rudimentary at best. The more familiar bars and stretchers enclose the entire cell area, creating a cage-within-a-cage arrangement. There are cells on both floors of the ell.