

422

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

JAN 10 1992

DMP

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 Davenport Jail

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 1 Center Street

n/a  not for publication

city, town Davenport

n/a  vicinity

state California code CA

county Santa Cruz

code 087

zip code 95017

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

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

Name of related multiple property listing:  
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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  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.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

Date

California Office of Historic Preservation

State or Federal agency and bureau

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 and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this 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:)

Shelonee Byers

4/27/92

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Government/correctional facility

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Recreation/culture:museum**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th/early 20th century  
Revivals/Mission/Spanish Colonial  
Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concretewalls Concreteroof Concreteother Metal/iron (door/windows)

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The old Davenport Jail was constructed in 1914, in the Mission Revival style, of Santa Cruz Portland Cement from an adjacent plant. The building measures 18' x 14.5', and contains two cells (each 7.5' x 8'), fronted by a wide, shallow anteroom (16.75' x 5'). The symmetrical facade has a curved, banded parapet, and a flat, close-eaved roof, inspired by parapets of the California missions. A vertical board door of 2" thick redwood planks, fastened with forged iron spikes is centered in the front facade, and bordered on either side by flat, rectangular windows with heavy lugsills and lintels of equal dimensions. A similarly constructed fanlight is situated above the door, emphasizing the sheer bulk and security function of the window. The fanlight and double-hung windows are barred by half-inch iron rounds set directly into the eight-inch thick, poured concrete walls. A small lamp overhangs the front door, and a wooden bench, functioning as a seating area, extends perpendicular to the front facade for approximately 4'.

The building is virtually unaltered. The bench and "Rose's Jail Garden" were added between 1979-81 after the building was acquired by the Santa Cruz County Society for Historic Preservation. A blue oval plaque, issued by the Santa Cruz County Society for Historic Preservation to recognize the structure, was affixed in 1981. A small picket fence on the south boundary of the property was also added during this time period.

In 1980, the building was stabilized, cleaned, repainted and required for use as an interpretive property, and pitted and crumbled areas in the facade filled and finished. Shortly thereafter, the local chapter of *E Clampus Vitus* installed a septic tank and flush toilet for the use of volunteers working at the historic site. The jail sustained damages during the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake, such as spalls and cracks to its interior and exterior wall surfaces. These damages were repaired in 1990 by filling hairline cracks with EUCO #452 epoxy system, removing all unsound concrete, cleaning rust from exposed rebar, and patching concrete cavities. Interior and exterior walls were painted using a masonry finish Bondsal Sure Coat in place of latex paint.

**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)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

\_\_\_\_\_  
Social History  
\_\_\_\_\_

1914-30  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

n/a  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder

Unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Although the tiny settlement of Davenport Landing had existed on Santa Cruz' north coast since the 1860s, its primary activity prior to the introduction of a large-scale modern cement plant in 1905 had involved operation of a wharf for shipments of area lumber and dairy products. The entire landholding was owned by Coast Dairies and Land Company, which sold several hundred acres to the Santa Cruz Standard Cement Company in 1906. The arrival of the cement industry soon began to dominate local commerce, and the new community of Davenport which grew up around it. In 1914, responding to community concerns, the County Supervisors authorized construction of a small jail for Davenport with cement provided by the cement company. Because of the community's isolation from other cities, all its basic services, including the presence of a jail were provided through the combined forces of the cement plant, public agencies and a private investment company. Although the jail was used only twice between 1914 and 1930 when it was no longer needed for its intended purpose, it symbolized the isolated, tight-knit community's desire to meet its own needs, and its simultaneous dependence on the dominant cement industry.

Historical Context

High quality limestone deposits along the Santa Cruz County coast had been successfully quarried since before the Gold Rush, and development of the West in the second half of the nineteenth century created an enormous demand for this basic building ingredient. Numerous operations throughout the county grew to meet the demand, including several early quarries and kilns in the davenport area. Until the turn of the century, however, the processing technology remained somewhat primitive, and the resulting lime was used primarily for plaster or soft mortar. With major advancements in Portland Cement processing around the turn of the century, new applications opened up vast additional markets.

In 1903, cement king William J. Dingee attempted to establish a plant within the City of Santa Cruz. Community leaders were appalled at the prospect of their thriving seaside town becoming covered with cement dust, and an active organized campaign killed the plan. Thwarted in his first attempt, Dingee looked for an

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number   8   Page   2  

---

*Davenport Jail, Santa Cruz, Section 8 continued*

alternative site nearby that would be away from major population centers, thus minimizing opposition. In 1905, he purchased a 6,000 acre portion of the old San Vicente Rancho on the county's north coast, where several old quarries and kilns were already in operation. The area was sparsely settled, with only a few remnants of the small whaling and shipping center that had developed at Davenport Landing in the 1860s-80s. The other major landowner in the area was Coast Dairies and Land Company which had purchased the balance of the San Vicente Rancho. Plans for a major, state-of-the-art cement plant were drawn up.

Dingee, however, was an entrepreneur with widespread interests and erratic fortunes. In 1905, he sold his interests to John Q. Packard and F.W. Billings, who promptly sold out to a new company formed as the Santa Cruz Portland Cement Company. Construction was begun immediately on the new plant, and its first phase opened that same year. Plans were already underway for establishment of rail connections to Davenport to serve the anticipated industry, as well as to provide transportation up the coast. By 1906, the narrow gauge Ocean Pacific Railway had opened its line from Santa Cruz to Swanton, and the following year the Southern Pacific Railway completed a parallel broad gauge line.

In spite of the completion of rail connections within the next year, Davenport retained its sense of isolation. This was due partly to geography: Davenport was twelve miles away from Santa Cruz, linked only by a poor winding dirt road that turned to mud in winter. Isolation was also due in part to the ethnic profile of the industry and town. Plant workers were drawn heavily from Italian, Greek and Portuguese immigrants. These newly arrived workers, actively recruited at immigration centers in San Francisco, or joining relatives already working at the quarry, created a closeknit community built on family and ethnic ties.

In 1906, in a "sweetheart" deal between Coast Dairies and Land Company and the cement plant owners, construction began on housing and commercial services for the workers. Modest houses were built in town for families, but were not sold to residents until 1921. Coast Dairies and Land also built a 28-room hotel for incoming workers, and operated the general store. The cement company provided additional housing at quarry camps nearby, including dormitories for single men, and duplexes (built of local cement) for families. Most of these early structures have disappeared over the years due to fire, landslide or demolition.

The plant itself was enormously successful. Within its first year of operation, 750 million barrels of cement had been shipped to Panama to create locks for the new canal. By 1907, the original plan for the facility had been completed, and work was already underway for expansion. By 1910, the Santa Cruz Portland Cement Company was turning out 12,000 barrels per day. Just prior to World War II the cement plant was the second largest in the nation, and over the years its product was used in major projects such as the Golden Gate Bridge, San Francisco Bay Bridge, California State Highway System, and San Francisco International Airport.

*See Continuation Sheet 8-3*

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

## **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Section number   8   Page   3  

---

*Davenport Jail, Santa Cruz, Section 8 continued*

Optimism ran high in the early days about the future of the community. A school was built in 1907 to serve families in the area. This was followed in 1912 by the cement company's construction of a hospital to serve workers injured on the job -- a frequent occurrence in the quarries and plant. At the time, Davenport was a recognized township with its own constable and justice of the peace. Law officials were concerned about the time-consuming process of transporting convicted lawbreakers to jail facilities in Santa Cruz, so the sheriff and citizens convinced the Board of Supervisors to authorize a separate jail for Davenport. This was constructed in 1914 with cement contributed by the plant.

In 1918, the township of Davenport was abolished, and this coincided with a period of movement away from the town. The heavy grey cement dust that covered the town was an unpleasant and ubiquitous fact of life that motivated many residents to live elsewhere as soon as they could. This trend was arrested somewhat during the Depression, because housing costs in the town were extremely low. By 1930, the jail had been abandoned for its original purpose due to generally low demand and improved road connections to Santa Cruz. Instead, the jail was used to store equipment for the Works Progress Administration while a drainage system was installed for the town. In 1950, the County Supervisors gave permission for the Davenport Improvement Association to use the jail for storage of its equipment and tools. The jail passed into private hands in the early 1960s and in 1979 it was donated to the Santa Cruz County Society for Historic Preservation. Following a period of renovation through a combination of community efforts, the small jail was opened as a museum of north coast history in December 1987.

The town of Davenport has undergone a renaissance as well. Numerous lawsuits were filed in 1955 against the cement plant because of continuing damage to property and crops. In 1956 the plant was purchased by Pacific Cement and Aggregates, and in 1965 it was purchased by Lone Star Industries. The 1970s saw a major overhaul of the plant both for efficiency in processing and to meet new air quality regulations. As a result, the grey pall that had hung over Davenport since 1905 disappeared, and new residents were attracted to the town. Although still dominated visually and economically by the cement plant, Davenport now includes whale watching, tourism and artisans among its attractions. The small jail, converted to an historical museum, helps to create a link between the community's past and present.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Calciano, Elizabeth Spedding, Selected Papers on the History of Santa Cruz, unpublished ms., 1971, UCSC McHenry Library  
Franks, James A, Restoration of the Old Davenport Jail, unpublished ms., 1980 Santa Cruz County Historical Trust Archives  
McHugh, Tom, Scrapbook, Davenport Landing, pp 46,49,138, UCSC Library  
Orlando, Alverda, A Brief History of Daveport ms., UCSC McHenry Library  
Rowland, Leon, Scrapbook, pp 228,244,288, UCSC McHenry Library  
Santa Cruz County Historical Trust, clipping file  
Santa Cruz Express, Davenport, the Company Town Grows Up, July 25, 1985  
Santa Cruz Historical Society, News and Notes, selected papers  
Santa Cruz Sentinel, May 21, 1950

See continuation sheet

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of property Less than one acre

**UTM References**

A 

1	0	5	7	1	8	8	0
Zone	Easting	Northing					

C 

Zone	Easting	Northing					

B 

Zone	Easting	Northing					

D 

Zone	Easting	Northing					

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The nominated property occupies county parcel 058-082-07 in the community of Davenport. The parcel is 25' x 10.24', located on an unimproved portion of Center Street off State Highway 1.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary includes the entire parcel which has historically been associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title	Peggy Coats, Micki Ryan, Pam Dunn, Cynthia Mathews		
organization	Santa Cruz County Historical Trust		
street & number	1543 Pacific Avenue, #220	date	12 Dec 1991/30 Sept 1989
city or town	Santa Cruz	telephone	408) 425-3499
		state	CA
		zip code	95060

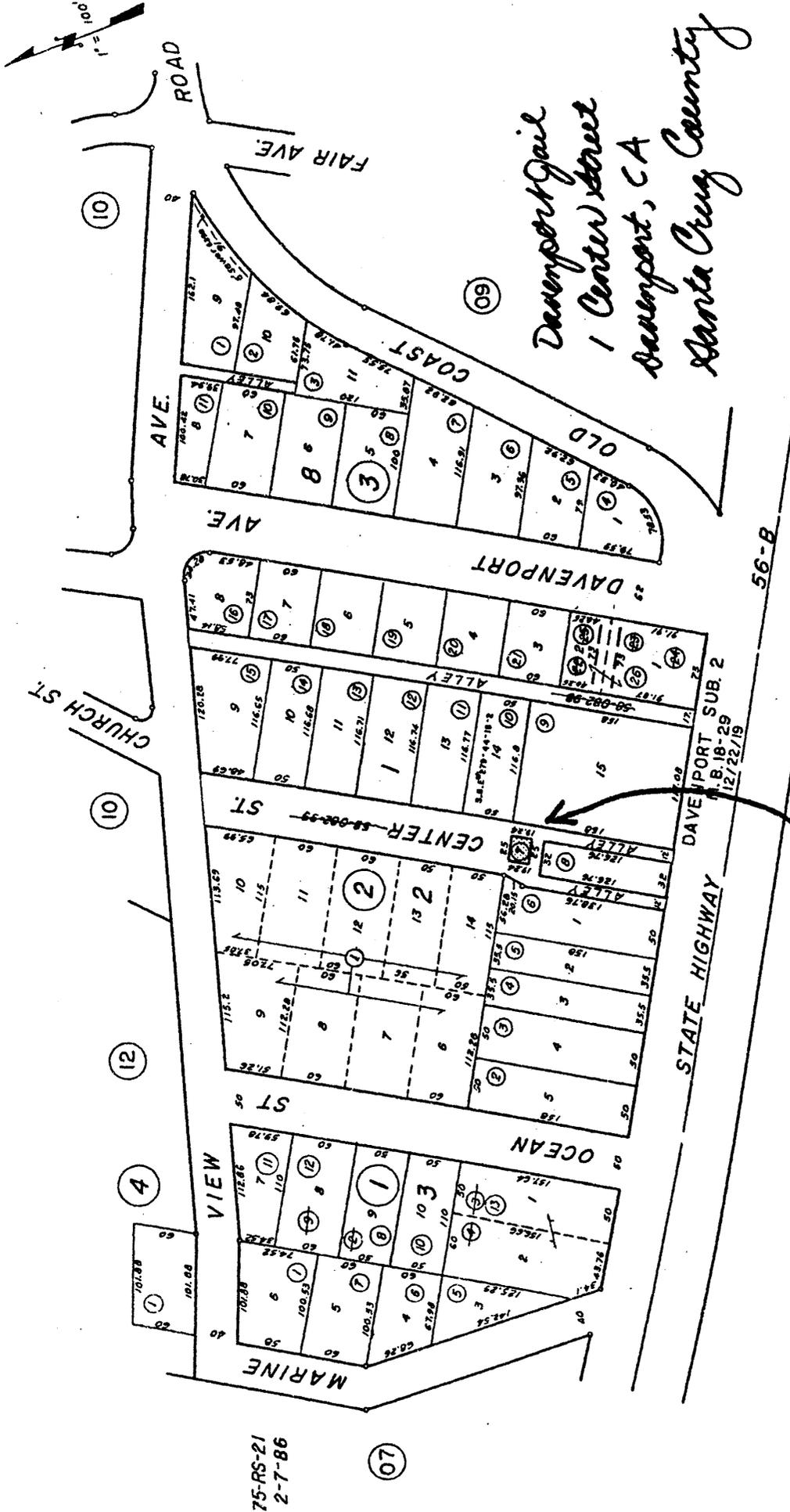
A PURPOSES ONLY

SAN VICENTE RANCHO

POR. SEC. 33, T. 10S., R. 3W., 8 SEC. 4, T. 11S., R. 3W., M. B. D. & M. PROJECTED

Tax Area Code  
86-003

58-08



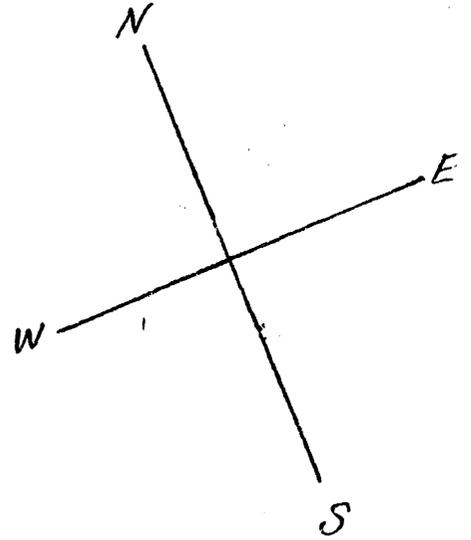
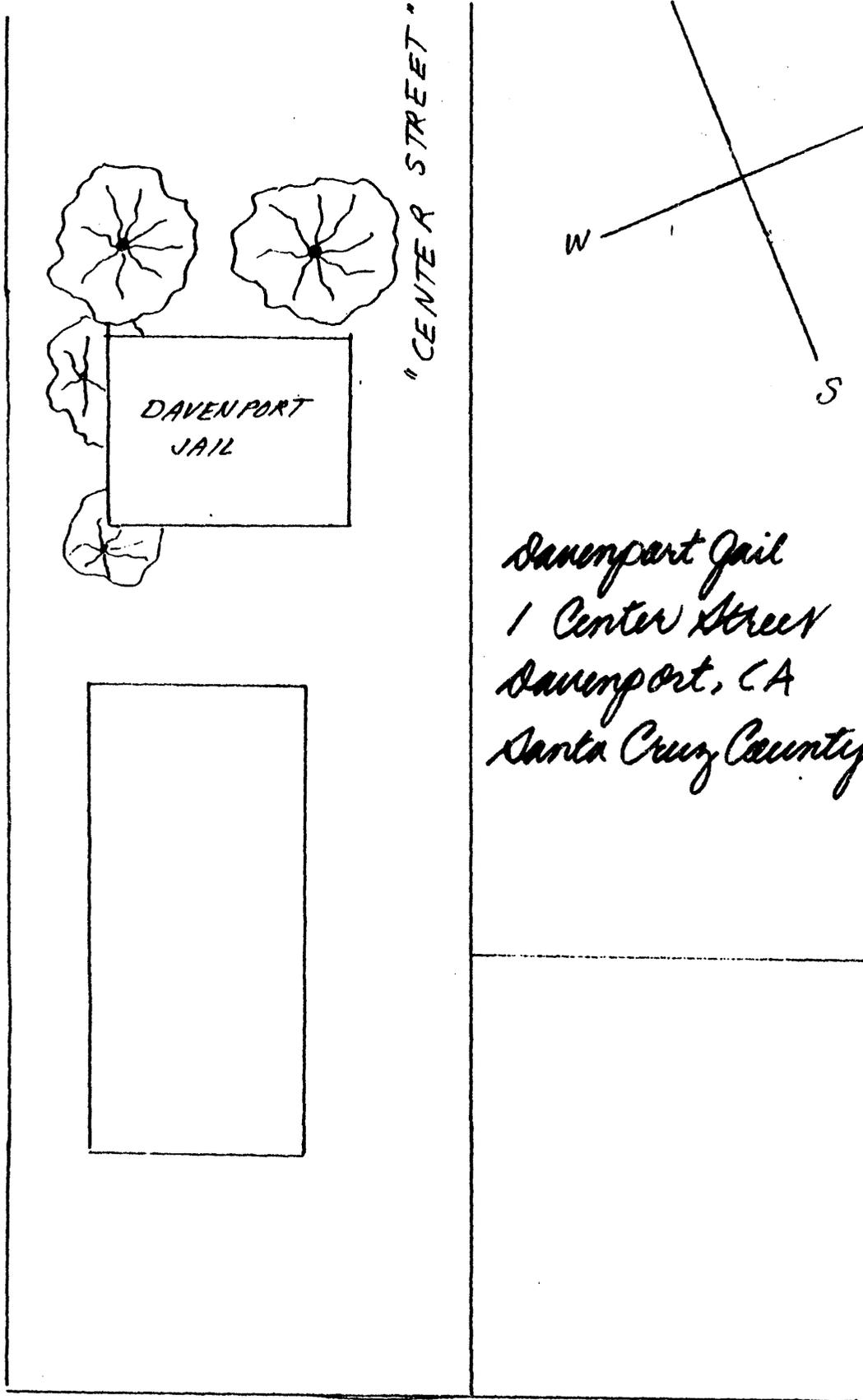
**DAVENPORT JAIL  
#58-082-07**

Note - Assessor's Parcel Block 8  
Lot Numbers Shown in Circles.

Assessor's Map No. 58-08  
County of Santa Cruz, Calif.  
May 1954

DAVENPORT JAIL

# 058-082-07



Davenport Jail  
1 Center Street  
Davenport, CA  
Santa Cruz County

STATE HIGHWAY 1