Form 10-300 (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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STATE:	
Tennessee	
COUNTY	
Hancock	
FOR NPS USE ONL	Υ
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
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(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)  NAME  COMMON.  OLd Jail (Rep. James H. Quilland RECEIVE)  AN 8 1973  STREET AND NUMBER:  CODE  CODE (CODET)  ON ATIONAL (PREGISTER)  STATE  Tennessee  LITY OR TOWN:  CATEGORY (Check One or More as Appropriate)  PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)  Private Residence  Residence  Preservation work  Private Residence  Residence  Preservation work  Private Residence  Residence  Preservation work						<u> </u>	ENTRY NUMBER		DATE	
Old Jail (Rep. James H. Quilland RECEIVED JAN-8 1973)  JAN-8 1973  STREET AND NUMBER: JAIL Street CITY OR TOWN:  Sneedville  Tennessee		(Type all entries	s – complete app	olicabl	e sectio	ns)		APR	1 1 19	73
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PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)  Agricultural		Object		'			1-	No	<b>,</b>	]
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DESCRIPTION	Т			(Chec	k One)		
CONDITION	☐ Excellent	Good	🔀 Fair		eriorated	Ruins	Unexposed
		(Check Or	1e)			(Che	ck One)
	X Alter	red	Unaltered			☐ Moved	🔯 Original Site

ESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL ( $if\ known$ ) <code>PHYSICAL</code> <code>APPEARANCE</code>

The "Old Jail," built circa (1860), is on Jail Street, one block west of the main street in Sneedville. It is a two-story brick structure painted red, with a tin roof and a chimney on each side. Each of the seven openings on the front side is surmounted by a plain lintel painted white. The only attempt at any decoration is the brick corbeling across the front. The porch, which is a later addition and which covers the entrance floor, projects to the edge of the sidewalk.

At present, there are three exterior entrances on the first floor. The center door appears not to be used now, but it leads into the center hall. It is flanked by two doors, each leading into the side rooms. On either side of these doors is a window, while there are three windows on the second floor. Although there is now a small clapboard wing, the house was originally only one room deep with a center hall having a stairway and with a room on each side. The two mantels on the first floor include a simple wood one and a small simple Victorian marble mantel.

The "Old Jail" continues to be used for its original purpose. First floor rooms serve as the county sheriff's residence and the second floor is used for prisoners. Male prisoners are kept in a large steel cage in the open area. Female prisoners are placed in the smaller, enclosed room where the original sheathing can be detected.



SIGNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	16th Century	18th Century	20th Century
☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	X 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applical	ble and Known)	1860	
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Ch	eck One or More as Appropri	ate)	
Abor iginal	Education	□ Political	Urban Planning
Prehistoric	Engineering	Religion/Phi-	Other (Specify)
☐ Historic	Industry	losophy	Only building
☐ Agriculture	Invention	Science	<u>left relating</u> to
X Architecture	Landscape	Sculpture	the beginning of
☐ Art	Architecture	Social/Human-	the county.
Commerce	Literature	itarian	
Communications	☐ Military	Theater	
Conservation	Music	Transportation	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Located in the very rough and mountainous northeast section of Tennessee, Hancock County has always been one of the most sparsely populated and poorest counties in the state. The area, around which is now Sneedville, was settled in the first quarter of the nineteenth century and was originally called the Greasy Rock area. Hancock County was formed in 1844 from portions of Hawkins and Claiborne counties. Because of various constitutional disputes, however, Hancock County did not begin to conduct any business until 1848. In 1850, a small but substantial brick courthouse was erected as well as a log jail. The latter was replaced in 1860 by the present brick building which continues to serve as the county jail. The courthouse burned shortly before 1887 according to the Goodspeed History of Tennessee.

Some people claim the "Old Jail" to be the oldest building in Sneedville, which is quite possible. Certainly, it is the oldest public building, and the only one left having historical connections with the early years of the county. It is the major landmark in the area. Citizens have discussed the desirability of converting the "Old Jail" into a museum of local history after constructing a new jail, which they feel is desperately needed.

In an area where buildings of architectural or historical significance are lacking, the Old Jail does possess significance for Hancock County.



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	As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:									Nation	Regis	that this pater.  Archeolog	The	lly	
	National State Local Name									Date _	T: /	4/11/73	3	() ————————————————————————————————————	
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