

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUL 25 1978

DATE ENTERED NOV 7 1978

**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 Tuolumne County Jail

AND/OR COMMON Tuolumne County Museum and Office of Tuolumne County Chamber of Commerce

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
156 West Bradford Street

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
18

CITY, TOWN
Sonora

— VICINITY OF

STATE
California

CODE
06

COUNTY
Tuolumne

CODE
109

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER offices

of Tuolumne County Historical Society and the
Tuolumne County Chamber of Commerce

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
County of Tuolumne

STREET & NUMBER
Tuolumne County Courthouse, 41 West Yaney

CITY, TOWN
Sonora

— VICINITY OF

STATE
California

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Tuolumne County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
41 West Yaney

CITY, TOWN
Sonora

STATE
California

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
None

DATE

— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR
 DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Tuolumne County Jail is a good example of the type of facility used for the incarceration of prisoners from the mid-nineteenth century to the mid-twentieth century throughout the Mother Lode. The recency of use for its original purposes and the limited number of alterations leave it as an example of law enforcement and corrections procedures in the not too distant past.

In 1855, the jail located south of Linoberg, west of Washington Street no longer served as a secure place for the county's reffians. According to the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors for May 13, 1857, the Board having purchased a piece of ground on which to build a county jail and the same having been appraised at \$800 by appraisers appointed by the County Judge (T.S. Jones) ordered that the said purchase be made.

This ground consisted of two lots originally sold for \$40 each to the first assessor of Tuolumne County, A.W. Richardson.

The Supervisors called for the bids for the new jail and a bid for \$ 13,300.00 by B. Stout was chosen.

In order to finance the construction, Supervisors ordered a Jail Tax of \$.25 per \$100 valuation be levied on taxable property. The final cost of the jail was entered in the Minutes of October 3, 1857 as follows:

Building as per contract	\$13,300.00
Wall as per contract	\$ 4,000.00
Extra work on wall	\$ 120.00
Cost of Lot, Superintending the work, and other contingencies	\$2,346.00
Total	<u>\$19,766.00</u>
Bringing up the rear was an elegant item.	
Tinware for the Jail	\$ 60.25

This building, demolished by fire on December 20, 1865, stood on the same site as the subsequent building; however, the entry opened to the east on Vigilance (Lower Sunset) Street instead of its current orientation toward Hospital Street (now Bradford).

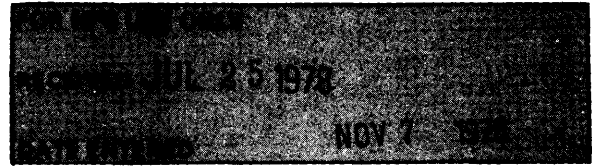
A second jail was constructed on the same site using building material salvaged from the burned building.

On September 19, 1866, prisoners were transferred from temporary quarters to the new jail.

The property was deeded from the City to the County in 1870 and rental payments to the City ceased.

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Description of the Jail Building¹

The jail walls were two thicknesses of red brick with crisscross iron strips between, set on a foundation of well-laid schist rock. The jailyard was enclosed by a high brick wall, jutting out from one side of the east wall just where the cell block begins inside, running along the back of the lot and out toward the street, then at right angles to the building, joining it outside of the solid iron doors which open from a corridor within the prison proper. From here a flight of steps led down to the yard where wood was kept for the jail and kitchen.

All doors and windows had iron shutters. The front door opened into the present entrance lobby where prisoners were booked. There was no porch then. Family quarters were on the left of this hall, but had two little rooms on the right. Except for preparing the prisoner's meals, the women and children kept well away from the business of the jail.

The first thing to meet the eye as one enters, is a pair of big iron-slatted doors, the real entrance to the jail. They lead into a corridor into which the cell blocks open. A similar pair of iron doors closed each cell block, each with a heavy lock and a wicket through which food and other things were apassed. Part of each cell

Present Arrangement

The jailyard remains untouched to th present time.

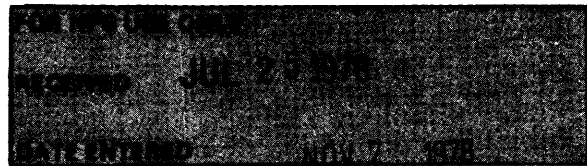
A concrete porch and steps have been added at this point.

Interior walls separating the bookin area and family quarters have been removed and a supporting beam added to open area to one big display room to provide space for Chamber of Commerce office and display cases of Tu lumne County Historical Society Museum. Metal ceiling plates from the St. James Parish Hall have been installed throughout this area. Gate from courthouse is affixed between Chamber office space and exhibit are This facility was turned over to the County Historian in 1961 for Museum purposes. Chamber of Commerce servi ces were added in Feb. of 1968.

This arrangement remains. Cell window slits were covered with glass in 1970 to protect exhibits and display A heating and air conditioning system was added prior to the closure c the jail as an institution of incarceration.

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block was open space with a sink at the end and the rest was devoted to five cells. In the left or county side the cells had barrel ceilings and narrow slits of windows opening above the jailyard, fifteen feet below.

Two of the cells on this side had iron rings in the floor to which unruly prisoners could be shackled. The cell block on the right was for city prisoners, usually drunks. Their cells had windows with five bars, and faced a section of the jailyard wall. In a narrow passageway in front of the cell blocks is a heavy iron crank which turns a rod inside above the cell doors. On the bar are mounted heavy iron claws which descend when the crank is turned, and clamp each door firmly shut.

Water for the jailyard was supplied by a well in the yard until 1858 when it was furnished by the Gold Mountain Water Company.

The front of the building was modified sometime between 1892 and 1911. Plumbing additions were made in 1925 after authorization of \$500 by the Board of Supervisors on December 2, 1924.

In preparation of the space for Museum purposes, electrical work and installation of lighting in the cells and exhibit area was undertaken from 1963 to 1967. To meet fire codes, an opening between the two cell block was made at the rear of the building and a fire exit on the north wall of the structure was made. Display case were added in 1967 and 1968.

The well was filled in and a sunken area exists in the jailyard where it once was.

A photograph in 1892 shows a small entry porch on the front of the structure. At this time, electric power was brought to the jail. An 1898 photograph shows a porch running two-thirds of the length of the face of the building.

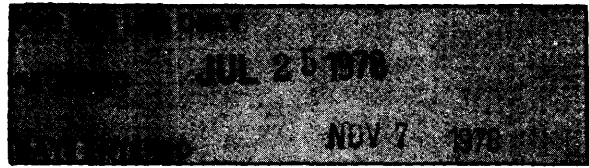
Photographic records show that prior to 1911, the jail had a shingled peaked roof and upper loft. This was destroyed by fire during that year and replaced by an 8-foot brick parapet which extends the front and east wall to their current heights.

The porch was retained.

Prisoners were transferred to the new Tuolumne County Jail in 1961 and the County Supervisors at the request of the Tuolumne County Historical Society designated the site as the future Tuolumne County Museum. This same building which faithfully protected the citizens from the acts of human misfits will now protect the relics and records of this mountain county from the ravages of neglect and insecurity.

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The Building as a Changing Structure

The earliest standing structure contained the existing cell blocks and the former family quarters now utilized as a large exhibit space and the Chamber of Commerce office. At some time, a lean-to was added on the west end of the structure in front of the jail wall. This was replaced by a kitchen and bathroom facilities and a back porch in 1908. At a later date, the front porch and office extension was added. The roof structure has changed from the original, mostly as a result of fire. The possibility of a slanted roof has been noted during the as-built drawing phase. Photographs show a gabled roof which burned in 1911. The existing facade was raised after the 1911 roof fire and the slanted roof was built. Outbuildings housing the Sheriff's team and storage space were removed from the lot on Jackson Street in the 1960's.

With the completion of the new jail in 1961, the old jail changed functions and was converted to the County Museum and Chamber of Commerce offices.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The history of law and order during the Gold Rush and the years that followed it serves as a mirror of the social, cultural, economic, and political turbulence of those exciting times. Lacking the institutions of government and covered by the cloak of a transient and anonymous population, preying upon lonely travelers and miners became an all too frequent way to get a share of the wealth. Added to this was an absence of social controls and "hometown morality" in which the predominantly male society entertained themselves in all manner of recreations, including widespread gambling and drinking which resulted in social problems of staggering scope.

In her analysis of the nature and amount of crime in the California gold fields in the 1850's, Roslyn Brereton¹ notes that Tuolumne County's record of 12 murders in one week during 1850 has never been surpassed. During the year of 1850, there were at least 30 murders in the County while the County census was reported to be 8,351 people. Miss Brereton concludes on the basis of her research that the major cause of murder in Tuolumne County in the early 1850's was the result of racial discrimination, with the worst outbreak of murders immediately following the imposition of the Foreign Miner's Tax in May-June of 1850.² The problems of enforcing this tax and the subsequent marshalling of forces on both sides of the issues were inevitably reflected in problems of law and order. Within two days of the arrival of the tax collector, rioting broke out and continual rumors of impending armed encounters rippled throughout the County. In the resulting chaos, lawlessness was rife in Tuolumne County. DeFerrari indicates that the state of lawlessness had become so extreme through the inability of officers and courts to cope with conditions that there was not a single conviction for murder in the local courts for one two-month period.³ The Foreign Miner's Tax split the American interests primarily based on economic and philosophic points of view. Ultimately, the tax was repealed but not without leaving its legacy of disorder, lawlessness, and distrust.

It was within this setting that the Sonora Vigilance Committee was organized in 1851. The first major activity of the Committee was the hanging of three men and the effect of this action was reported as follows:

....."For seven days I have not had to record a murder, or even a row in Sonora. Almost immediately after the event of the night of the twenty-ninth, the town was cleared of a large number of bad characters, among whom were many white men, gamblers and rowdies who had committed homicides, and who felt

¹Brereton, Roslyn, "Chronicles of Crime", Chispa, The Quarterly of the Tuolumne County Historical Society, Vol. 12, No. 1, July-September, 1972, p. 397.

²Ibid., p. 403.

³DeFerrari, Carlo, Annotations Thomas Stoddart's Annals of Tuolumne County, Critical Note Number XVI-2 p. 140, (The Tuolumne County Historical Society, 1963).

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See footnotes under Description and Significance.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .32

QUADRANGLE NAME Sonora quadrangle

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 10 729710 4207040

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Alvin J. Sylva, Chairman

ORGANIZATION

Tuolumne County Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER

Box 695

CITY OR TOWN

Sonora

DATE

May 23, 1977

TELEPHONE

(209) 532-4212

STATE

California

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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

Ann M. Ellison

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 7/19/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

ATTEST:

William Lebovich

DATE

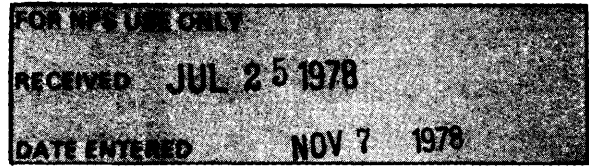
11/24/78

DATE

Nov 6, 1978

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in hot water here. The behavior of the balance is wondrously modulated. Many who strutted insolently about the streets with pistols and knives in their belts have quietly laid them aside, and walk about like decent people (for I think I have not stated that for some months, the custom of wearing a pistol continually, has been discarded by respectable people, who now arm themselves only when out at night or on the road). A dread, a salutary dread, has fallen upon the spirit of evil-doers, and I sincerely trust that the people may not again be called upon to take on themselves the gravest responsibility of the Law".....⁴

They then turned their attention to petty thieves and drunks who constantly disturbed the peace of the town.⁵ It is interesting to note that this group was in contact with the San Francisco Committee and made a reciprocity treaty with them. The Sonora Committee seemed to cease to exist by 1852.⁶

During its lifetime, the Sonora Vigilance Committee received the support of many including the editor of the Sonora Herald who expressed his approval of the citizens' efforts to clean up crime and bring order to the Mother Lode.⁷

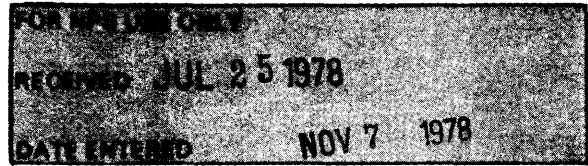
With housing at a premium in the boomtown, a temporary jail was improvised through the use of the large oak tree located somewhat to the rear and east of the site of the present day City Hotel. DeFerrari reports that "A substantial chain was placed around the trunk of the tree to which the prisoners in turn were attached like pendants hanging from a necklace."⁸ Admittedly this arrangement was not the best, so the tree jail was replaced when a small wooden building was rented. Describing the security procedures, DeFerrari notes that

....." A sturdy pine log was placed parallel to and about two feet from one wall of the cabin, resting on other smaller logs placed at each end so that it was conveniently raised above the floor.

⁴Perkins, William, Three Years in California: William Perkin's Journal of Life at Sonora, 1849-1852, p. 237 (University of California Press, 1964).
⁵Brereton, Roslyn, "The Sonora Vigilance Committee", Chispa, The Quarterly of the Tuolumne County Historical Society, Vol. 12, No. 1, July-September 1972, p. 398.
⁶Ibid..
⁷Lang, Margaret Hanna, "The Struggle for Law and Order", The Quarterly of the Tuolumne County Historical Society, Vol. 8, no. 3, January-March 1969, p. 269.
⁸DeFerrari, Carlo M., "Desperate Days and Ways", Chispa, The Quarterly of the Tuolumne County Historical Society, Vol. 12, No. 2, October-December 1972, p. 407.

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The prisoners were then forced to sit down with their backs against the log. Their manacled hands would be staple driven through one of the links in the chain between the cuffs. This, plus the presence of an armed jailer, discouraged idle wandering and effectively suppressed any inclination to take 'leg bail'".⁹

The next step was the construction of a 20 foot by 50 foot log building near the intersection of today's Church and Sheperd Streets. Despite this innovation, the record of escapes compiled during the first six months of 1851 indicates that the prison was anything but escape-proof. So in early 1853, the County purchased a jail constructed on the north bank of Sonora Creek. This structure served until 1857 when the jail still proved insecure.

....."In 1857, the friends of young William V. David, the wanton slayer of a Chinese on a lonely road, and of the ruffian, Edward McCauley, who had stabbed Wesley Bon, a young miner of Shaw's Flat, attempted to "coyote" under the feeble jail wall".¹⁰

Such high crimes pushed the Supervisors to the point of calling for bids for a new jail following mounting public agitation that something be done to both prevent escapes and provide more healthy quarters for the prisoners. An 1856 grand jury summarized the general public opinion of the prison when it reported:

....."The jail is a miserable, dilapidated building, and affords no guarantee for the safe-keeping of the prisoners; and nothing, but the greatest vigilance on the part of the officers in charge has prevented escape from it. The jury therefore do not hesitate to present the jail as a public nuisance, and urge that a new jail be built as soon as practicable".¹¹

No longer could the Sheriff be harassed by the knowledge that an angry mob could release his prisoners by simply pushing against the side of his jail.

In her assessment of the causes for Tuolumne County's incredible list of murders, Miss Brereton cites three principle reasons for the ineffectiveness of the law. The primary problem was to find a witness to the crime who remained in the area when the case came to trial. Secondly, it was not unusual for members of the jury to have been in court a month before or a month after facing charges as grave as murder. Finally, the law was rendered impotent by the frequency of escapes from jail. In submitting his records to state government in 1850-51 for reimbursement, Sheriff George Work reported that five out of eight prisoners escaped before they could be executed or transferred to the State Prison.¹²

⁹Ibid.

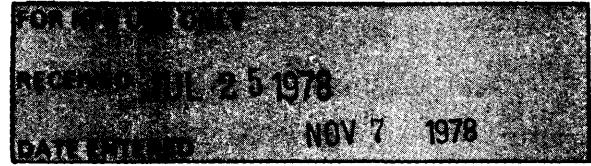
¹⁰Lang, Margaret Hanna, p. 269.

¹¹The Weekly Columbian, December 20, 1856, p. 2, Column 4.

¹²Brereton, Chronical, p. 407

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The 1866 jail was built in response to the quest for law and order in the Mother Lode. The Tuolumne County Jail was used continuously as a jail for 105 years. Thus, this building lends a special significance to the history of the struggle for law and order in the Mother Lode, Tuolumne County, and the development of the nation as a whole in its growth on the western frontier.

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Significance of the jail as an historical landmark

Built in response to the quest for law and order in the Mother Lode, the Tuolumne County Jail was used continuously as a jail since 1857. Thus, this building lends a special significance to the history of the struggle for law and order in the Mother Lode. The building is a good example of the type of facility used for the incarceration of prisoners from the mid-nineteenth century to the mid-twentieth century throughout the Mother Lode. The recency of use for its original purposes and the limited number of alterations leave it as an example of law enforcement and corrections procedures in the not-too-distant past.

In the early 1960's, the Board of Supervisors designated the old jail as the Tuolumne County Museum. All objects were transferred from the former museum space in Memorial Hall and the Tuolumne County Historical Society became the steward of the county history collection. In addition, the Tuolumne County Historical Society has been designated by the Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors as the organization to foster and promote the preservation of historical records in Tuolumne County. As a result of this designation, the Jail museum has been adapted to serve as the repository of these records and objects on behalf of the county.

The jail and the surrounding area have been marked as County Historical Site No. 3 in the Historical Site marking program.

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DOCUMENTATION RELATING TO THE
TUOLUMNE COUNTY JAIL

- February 6, 1854: The minutes of the Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors show that P.L. Solomon was paid \$25.50 for delivering water to the jail.
- May 14, 1855: Supervisors' minutes show that the Gold Mountain Water Company received \$110 for the same function.
- October 3, 1857: Supervisors' minutes listed the final cost of the recently completed jailhouse as follows: Building, \$13,300; wall, \$4,000; extra work on wall, \$120; cost of lot, superintending, etc., \$2,346. Total cost, \$19,766.
remarks: The records in the Surveyor's office -- those used for the Master Plan in 1878 -- suggest that the wall extended originally along the property line to Jackson Street. The present wall stops some 30 feet short of that line.
- December 20, 1865: The jail burns down during the night.
remarks: The loss is estimated variously at from \$20,000 to \$25,000 -- but the loss could hardly have exceeded the original cost of construction.
- December 23, 1865: The Sonora Herald describes the jail as "a large, well-constructed building [of which] nothing now remains...but the bare brick walls, weamed and cracked by the intense heat."
remarks: This implies that the wall around the courtyard and the foundations of the building itself were still intact.
- January 17, 1866: The Herald reports that the stone wall around the Courthouse has collapsed.
remarks: This may have led to the erroneous story that the wall around the jail had collapsed.
- May 12, 1866: The Union Democrat reports that the low bid for reconstruction of the jailhouse was \$8400. However, George McQuade is later reported to have undertaken the work, although his was not the lowest bid.
remarks: McQuade's bid may have been for \$8500, which was reported as the second lowest bid. This leads to speculation that either a large portion of the original building was salvaged -- at the

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very least the foundations and the wall -- or that the original structure was much larger, perhaps facing East and fronting on Vigilance Street.

September 8, 1866:

The Union Democrat reports that the jail is almost complete, describing it as "a substantial edifice...The cells are two feet thick, of stone, and encompassed by a network of iron bars of huge dimensions, and the floor, besides having a thick stone floor, is covered with narrow strips of scantling, fastened together by large pikes, as thick as can be driven."

remarks: A scantling is a piece of lumber less than eight inches in breadth and having a thickness of from two to eight inches.

1870:

The deed of property passed from the City to the County.

1892:

Electricity was installed at the jail.

1898:

Photographs taken at this time show a stoop, a child's swing, and the newly installed electrical wiring.

1898-1911:

The porch was added to the full length of the front.

c. 1908:

Mrs. Sweeney, wife of William Sweeney, the Sheriff who took office in 1904, related that the kitchen was installed for her at this time, as well as the big living room window and a china closet.

1908:

A 1908 insurance map of Sonora with a scale of 1 inch = 50 feet yielded the following information:

The building was constructed of brick with dimensions of 43 feet wide by 72 feet long. The top of the wall was 20 feet above ground level on the South, 16 feet on both the West and North. The roof itself was of wood frame construction, with one gable running North-South. The roof extended 2 feet below the eaves on the West, and two steel-shuttered windows are indicated on that side, with two more on the North.

The plan also shows two, smaller additions to the main, perfectly rectangular, brick jailhouse. These were both of wood frame construction, one being a roofed porch, 6'x10', running laterally along the South wall and situated equidistant from either

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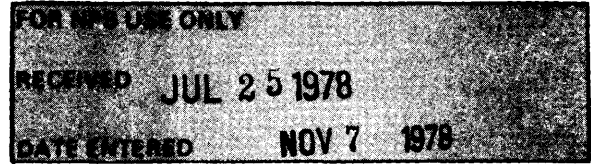
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corner of the brick structure. The other addition, also of wood frame construction, 16'x20', was constructed in the space between the West wall of the jailhouse and the South wall of the courtyard, and thus extended the front facade to 60 feet. A companion structure, also 16x20', stood in the angle of the western property line and the wall around the courtyard, which created a passageway between the front yard and the jailyard of about 10 feet in width. This latter structure, as well as the one previously mentioned and the main jailhouse, stood about 20 feet from the property line along Bradford Street. The wall around the jailyard stood 20 feet behind them, and enclosed a space of 60'x100' with the long sides in an East-West orientation.

- September 23, 1911: The Union Democrat reports that a fire, started by accumulated soot in the chimney, destroyed the roof of the jailhouse. Its progress was impeded by an old, flat tin roof. The loss from the blaze was estimated at between \$1,000 and \$1,800. The reconstruction work was undertaken by T.F. McGovern, then Supervisor for the First District. There were no bids taken. remarks: See the photo of the fire in progress in the Tuolumne Independent. (9/23/11)
- October 19, 1911: Walls raised four feet, according to the Tuolumne Independent, with metal and an elaborate cornice.
- November 2, 1911: The Independent reports the jail ready for business.
- December 4, 1918: The Grand Jury inspected the jail and found it in need of several minor repairs, as the concrete floors were loose and broken. They recommended that the fence, which had fallen down, be repaired and that an additional gate be constructed to facilitate deliveries.
- September 19, 1923: The Grand Jury recommended that the main entrance to the corridor be changed so as to provide more room between the entrance door and the door of the main jail.
- September 18, 1924: The Grand Jury found that the recommendations of the previous Grand Jury had not been complied with. Here began a long series of recommendations that the jail be replaced, along with the less radical suggestions that showers be substituted for the bath tub and that the electrical equipment be upgraded.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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



CONTINUATION SHEET

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- December 2, 1925: Minutes of the Board of Supervisors confirm that \$500 was spent on plumbing in March.
- 1923 to 1947: A room on the front porch was added to increase the family living quarters of the Sheriff. The uses of the front section are shown on the attached sketch.
remarks: From a recent interview with Milton Punny Dambacher.
- July 10, 1925: The Grand Jury discovered a bad crack in the West wall.
- June 23, 1927: The Grand Jury found the air space in each cell to be inadequate. They judged the ventilation poor and the sewage system faulty and detrimental to health. They suggested the wood flooring be removed and replaced with concrete, and that the part of the ceiling over the cells which was unsafe be repaired. They also recommended the sewage system be taken care of.