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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

RECEIVED

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NOV 03 1992

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in 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 Iowa State Penitentiary Cellhouses Historic District

other names/site number Cellhouse 18; Cellhouse 19; Cellhouse 20

2. Location

street & number Avenue G and STH 61 not for publication n/a

city or town Fort Madison vicinity n/a

state Iowa code IA county Lee code 111 zip code 52627

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.)

David [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:)

Patrick Andrews Signature of the Keeper
12/18/92 Date of Action

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	
3	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
3	0	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

Current Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/correctional facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
 (Enter categories from instructions)

Romanesque

Materials
 (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE
 walls Limestone

 roof Ceramic Tile
 other Limestone

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

1913-1942

Significant Dates

1913

1925

1931

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

Liebe, Henry Franz

Liebe, Henry Jackson

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Iowa State Penitentiary, Fort Madison

Iowa State Penitentiary Cellhouses Historic District Lee Co., IA
Name of Property County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 5	6 4 4 1 2 0	4 4 9 9 3 1 0	3							
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing				
2				4							

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 Iowa Department of Corrections
street & number 523 East Twelfth Street telephone 515-281-4811
city or town Des Moines state Iowa zip code 50319

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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7. Description

The Iowa State Penitentiary¹ lies at the northwest intersection of Avenue G and STH 61 on the east edge of the City of Fort Madison in Lee County, Iowa. A bluff rises to the north of the prison, a narrow forested area and the Mississippi River lie to the east, and warehouses and industrial buildings line Avenue G to the south and the prison access road to the west. The three contributing buildings of the Iowa State Penitentiary Cellhouses Historic District, cellhouses 18, 19, and 20, are aligned end to end along the east prison wall of the prison. The wall forms the east elevation of the cellhouses. The north and west extension of the walls are counted as part of the cellhouse since they were erected at the same time. Although they abut each other, the state constructed the three cellhouses at different periods. Concrete walks and a lawn lies immediately adjacent to the west facade of the cellhouses. Chain link fences are placed at the north and south ends of this yard. The remainder of the prison within the prison wall lies to the west of the cellhouses. Most of these limestone and concrete buildings have undergone considerable modification or were constructed after 1942. The cellhouses themselves maintain high architectural integrity. Although unitization has divided the original cellblocks horizontally and vertically, the original cellblocks remain. An arbitrary line twenty feet from the west facade and fifteen feet from the north elevation forms the west and north boundaries. The south and east boundaries follow the inside access road around the cellhouse.

Part of the Municipal, County, and State Corrections Properties in Iowa multiple property listing, the Iowa State Penitentiary cellhouses belong to The Auburn Penitentiary Complex Subtype of the Auburn Penitentiary Property Type. A prevalent cellhouse type constructed from the 1820s to 1930s, the Auburn cellhouse was first developed at Auburn, New York between 1819 and 1821. The Auburn cellhouse composes the central defining element of the property type. The walls of the Auburn cellhouses serve as a shell which surround the multiple tiers of interior cells. The two rows of three to five cell tiers stand back to back away from the wall in the center of the building. The 1839 act creating the Iowa State Penitentiary directed the superintendent of construction to follow the Wethersfield plan which arranges the Auburn cellhouses and other prison buildings in a specific pattern. However, although the state eventually erected the Auburn cellhouses at the Iowa State Penitentiary, the Wethersfield plan never emerged (Iowa, Territory of [Laws] 1838-1846 [1839: 365]; Barnes 1972: 113-14; Johnson 1973: 38-41; DeFord 1962: 67; Rothman 1971: 79, 82; Wines 1910: 135, 149, 160; American Correctional Association 1983: 44-51; Eriksson 1976: 48-51).

¹ References to the development of the Auburn penitentiary and the specific history of the Iowa State Penitentiary in sections E and F may be found on pages: 5-13, 34-64, 104-16.

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In his position as state architect, Henry Franz Liebbe designed cellhouses 18 and 19 while his son, Henry Jackson Liebbe who replaced him as the state architect in 1927, designed cellhouse 20. Also designing the cellhouses and other buildings at the Iowa Men's Reformatory at Anamosa in the Romanesque Revival style, Liebbe and his son employed this style at the State Penitentiary. William Foster had initially introduced this style at the Men's Reformatory. The Gothic Revival elements at the reformatory are absent (Iowa, State of [IA Docs.] 1857-1931 [1872: 12]; Liebbe, H.F. 1898-1927; Liebbe, H.J. 1927-1941; Foster 1867-1882). Thus, although erected between 1908 and 1938, the three cellhouses at the State Penitentiary maintain considerable unity of style and material. The limestone used in cellhouse 19 came from the quarries operated by the Iowa Men's Reformatory in 1907 (Iowa, State of [IA. Docs.] 1857-1931 [1907]). Stone veneer construction using smooth-faced, coursed, monochrome ashlar limestone with concrete detailing compose the buildings. The wall of each building are symmetrically composed around a center pavilion and through the repetition of a pattern of buttresses and long, narrow windows embellished with dentils along their sides. A concrete continuous sill, cornice, and dentils horizontally define the building. The center pavilion and towers provide a vertical dimension to the otherwise low buildings. The pavilion was also a focal point for embellishment. The low, heavily massed Romanesque Revival was frequently used in prison architecture (McKelvey 1977; Johnson 1973).

Building Description:

15) Cellhouse 18²

Erected between 1922 and 1925, cellhouse 18 stands at the southeast corner of the prison enclosure (Sanborn-Perris Map Company 1926; Cosson 1912; Iowa, State of [IA Docs.] 1857-1931 [1923: 25; 1925: 22-24; 1927: 17-18]; Osborne Association, Inc. 1938: 14-20). Rectangular in shape, the building encloses 45 feet east-west by 190 feet north-south above a basement. Its rough-faced, coursed ashlar limestone walls rest on a poured concrete foundation. Red clay tile covers the hip roof, and four steel ventilators are placed on the ridge. The building has reinforced concrete interior walls veneered with limestone. Steel roof supports, perforated sheet steel, and concrete support the tile roofing (Iowa State Penitentiary n.d.). Decorative details are concrete. Windows are the steel frame, hopper type; they are barred; and window lintels and sills are concrete.

The west facade of the building is symmetrically composed by two window

² The Iowa State Penitentiary has names the three cellhouses cellhouses 18, cellhouse 19, and cellhouse 20. These are not map numbers. The numbers presented on the map indicate functional units of space smaller than the individual buildings. For example, cellhouse 18 is map no. 15; cellhouse 19 is map numbers 16, 17, and 18, and cellhouse 20 is map no. 19.

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arrangements on either side of a central pavilion. Each arrangement has two long, narrow center windows composed of three segments and two vertically centered, shorter flanking windows. Basement windows are aligned below. Buttresses are placed between each window grouping. The scored concrete, six-sided guard towers mark the ends of the building. Many of the towers are covered with conical roofs and embellished with battlements. The first level of the smooth-faced, ashlar pavilion projects beyond the second. Battlements define the edge of its flat roof, and quoins mark its front corners. A stone voussoir with keystone form the round arch entry lintel which encloses a fanlight. Recessed from the first level, the second level of the pavilion is finished with a stepped, pedimented parapet. It contains a name/date block which is not legible. Placed under a single lintel, a band of four windows break the facade of this portion of the pavilion. A series of concrete steps with side walls reach the front entrance. Horizontal details include the roof cornice with dentils and the watertabling. The south wall, also part of the prison wall, is enclosed by two guard towers. Its detailing includes a concrete cornice with dentils, continuous sill, and a single window grouping paralleling those of the west facade. The decorative arrangement of the east elevation including the window pattern, buttresses, continuous sill, and cornice with dentils matches the west facade. The unembellished poured concrete wall which connects cellhouse 18 to the rear administration building (10) was erected during the construction of this cellhouse (Sanborn-Perris Map Company 1919; 1926).

The cellhouse contains two ranges of five tiers with 222 cells in its interior cellblock. The cells of each tier are placed back to back against a utility corridor partition. The cellblock is divided along its center into a north and south range by a concrete wall. The first three levels of both sections are divided horizontally from the upper two levels by a concrete floor with steel supports. Steel walkways access the other floors. A guard's station sits at the center of each floor. Each cell measures 5.6 by 8.15 feet. Cell walls are reinforced concrete, and a tool proof grillwork of steel bars close their fronts. The barred door is locked with a dead bolt lock, and a master lock controls the doors within each range. Concrete with rerod form the interior walls and the ceiling of the building. Floors are concrete except for the first which is covered with flags.

The cellhouse has undergone limited alteration. Occurring in 1981 to 1983 (Iowa Department of Social Services ca. 1981) unitization of the interior of the cellhouse has added one east-west, concrete vertical wall in its center and a horizontal concrete floor between levels three and four. Despite this addition, the cellblock itself remains intact. Since the cellhouse originally contained two ranges, the state simply added a dividing wall. Some cells are converted to other functions, and the guard's stations appear to be rebuilt. Concrete block closes several windows along the west facade. The concrete steps to the front were added, and the conical roofs were removed from the several guard's towers.

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16-18. Cellhouse 19

Designed in 1907, cellhouse 19 was constructed between 1908 and 1913 (Sanborn-Perris Map Company 1907; 1913; Liebbe 1898-1927; Iowa, State of [IA Docs. 1857-1931] 1909: 13; 1911: 14; 1913: 12; 1915: 19]; Osborne Association, Inc. 1938: 14-20). Cellhouse 19 stands immediately north of and abuts the north wall of cellhouse 18. Although longer, the exterior of the cellhouse closely resembles cellhouse 18. It measures 45 by 337 feet, and contains two floors with two cell tiers in each. Cellhouse 19 displays eight window patterns along its west facade rather than the four along cellhouse 18. The name/date block on the pavilion reads: "FT. MADISON/STATE PRISON/A.D. 1911." Rather than a single flat lintel, a shaped lintel encompasses the four windows on the second level of the pavilion. The concrete steps to the main entry appear to be original. A second entrance is located at the south end of the east facade.

Cellhouse 19 also underwent unitization between 1981 and 1983 (Iowa Department of Social Service ca. 1981). It is divided vertically by concrete block walls into three ranges. Each unit contains four tiers divided by a concrete floor above the second tier. A steel walkway accesses the top tier on each level. The ceiling, walls, and all but the bottom floors are composed of reinforced concrete. Flagging covers the first floor. There is a guard station in the center of each level. The interior cells are divided by a utility corridor. The 5.9 by 8.5 foot cells are composed of reinforced concrete on three sides and, closed with steel grating across the front. Each cell door is secured with a dead bolt lock, and there are also range locks.

Cellhouse 19 also remains relatively intact. The unitization project of 1983 divided the two original cell ranges into three units by adding two concrete walls, and the project added a concrete floor between the second and third tiers. The guard stations have also been changed. A window along the front entry was altered to a door; concrete steps and a door were added at the south end; a double door was placed at the north end; and a door and a steel guard tower was placed at the north end of the west facade.

19. Cellhouse 20

The state constructed half of cellhouse 20 between 1929 and 1931 and the remaining portion between 1937 and 1938. Because the state built the cellhouse north of the existing north east-west wall, the cellhouse housed honor prisoners until the wall's completion by 1945 and probably somewhat earlier (Sanborn-Perris Map Company 1926; 1939; Iowa Board of Control 1934-42 [1938: 150; 1940: 147]; 1945-46: 18; Iowa, State Historical Society of 1942; Iowa, State of [IA Docs.] 1857-1931 [1929: 5; 1931: 14; Osborne Association, Inc. 1938: 14-20).

Gaining access through cellhouse 19, cellhouse 20 originally lacked a direct entrance and visually resembles an addition to cellhouse 19. It is composed of the same materials and repeats the design motifs of cellhouses 18 and 19.

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Cellhouse 20 measures 45 feet by 100 feet long. A series of three window patterns separated by buttresses and placed between two guard towers open the west facade. The cornice, dentils, and continuous sill are also present. This pattern is also repeated along the east and north elevations. The prison wall extending north from the east wall of the cellhouse is composed of concrete.

Containing a single range, the interior is composed of four tiers separated by a floor between levels two and three. These levels hold a total of 46 maximum security cells. Ceilings and walls and all floors but the first are reinforced concrete. Flagging covers the first floor. Placed back to back and separated by a utility corridor, the interior, double cells measure 12 by 8.5 feet. The concrete cells walls contain steel and steel wire mesh. Doors are solid steel with small vision panels. Control booths occur at both ends of levels 1 and 3.

The exterior of the cellhouse has undergone relatively little change. An entrance ramp and double metal door were added at the south end of the cellhouse. Although the cellblock itself remains, the interior has undergone considerable alteration to accommodate maximum security prisoners. The 1983 unitization separated levels two and three with a concrete floor. Control booths were added to the ends of levels one and three. The state removed the dividing walls between every other cell to accommodate residents who remain in their cells for long periods. The electrically controlled, solid steel doors and wall replace the steel grating across the front of the cells.

The state did not extend the east wall of the prison to include the area in the district until 1905 to 1910. After that date, construction occurred to the west of the district boundary in association with the industrial buildings. Thus, the district itself probably contains few archaeological remains. Current documentation indicates that only temporary, frame buildings stood immediately east of these cellhouses (Sanborn-Perris Map Company 1900; 1907; 1913; 1919; 1926; 1939; Iowa, State of [IA Docs.] 1851-1931 [1906: 35; 1907: 11, 32; 1909: 13; 1911: 14; Iowa State Penitentiary n.d. [photographs]).

The exterior of the cellhouses thus maintains a high level of exterior integrity. Alterations include the closing of several windows, the opening of three doors, the addition of two sets of concrete steps, and the removal of the conical roofs from several towers. The interior, Auburn cellblock remains in all three cellhouses. However, unitization has resulted in the addition of several concrete walls and floors and the alteration or addition of guard stations. The alteration of the barred cell doors and the removal of cell walls within cellhouse 20 represents the most significant modification within the three buildings. And, although the basic structure of the cellblocks remains, the visual impression produced by the multiple tiers of cells and the long vistas between the cellblock and the cellhouse wall no longer remain.

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A lawn and concrete walkways separate the three cellhouses from the remainder of the prison to the west. The rear administration building (10) to the southwest has undergone considerable interior alteration and the new 1963 administration building (10) covers its original facade. The state began construction of the east, first two levels of cellhouse 17 (7, 9) in 1839 as the territorial prison. The state completed the first building phase in 1860. Later building phases occurred between 1862 and 1866, 1870 and 1872, 1877 and 1879, and 1896 and 1898. During these periods, the east cellhouse wall was extended east, a north wing was added and later removed, widows were lengthened, the adjacent warden's or deputy warden's residence became quarters for female prisoners and later became part of the cellhouse, another level was added, and a flat roof replaced the gable roof. In 1917 and 1925 and 1927, the state replaced the cells and added sanitary facilities (see pp. 46-50). The cellhouse no longer represents the original territorial prison. Although the numerous changes may be viewed as a gradual evolution of the building, the 1982 to 1984 hospital addition (8) covers most of the its south facade. It is also currently vacant. Located to the north of cellhouse 17, the U-shaped 1922 to 1938 industries building (12) has undergone modification particularly around windows and doors, in the interior in the dining hall area, and along the rear with the addition of large industrial equipment and low concrete sheds. These changes in addition to the adjacent post-1942 hospital building to the north (14), the deputy's building to the south (11), and a group of post-1942 buildings to the west introduce sufficient alteration to exclude the entire area from the district.

Table 1: Resources within the District

Map No.	Historic Name/Use	Construction Dates	Class ³	Category
15	Cellhouse 18	1908-1913	C	building
16-18	Cellhouse 19	1922-1925	C	building
19	Cellhouse 20	1929-1931, 1937-1938	C	building

Total contributing resources: 3

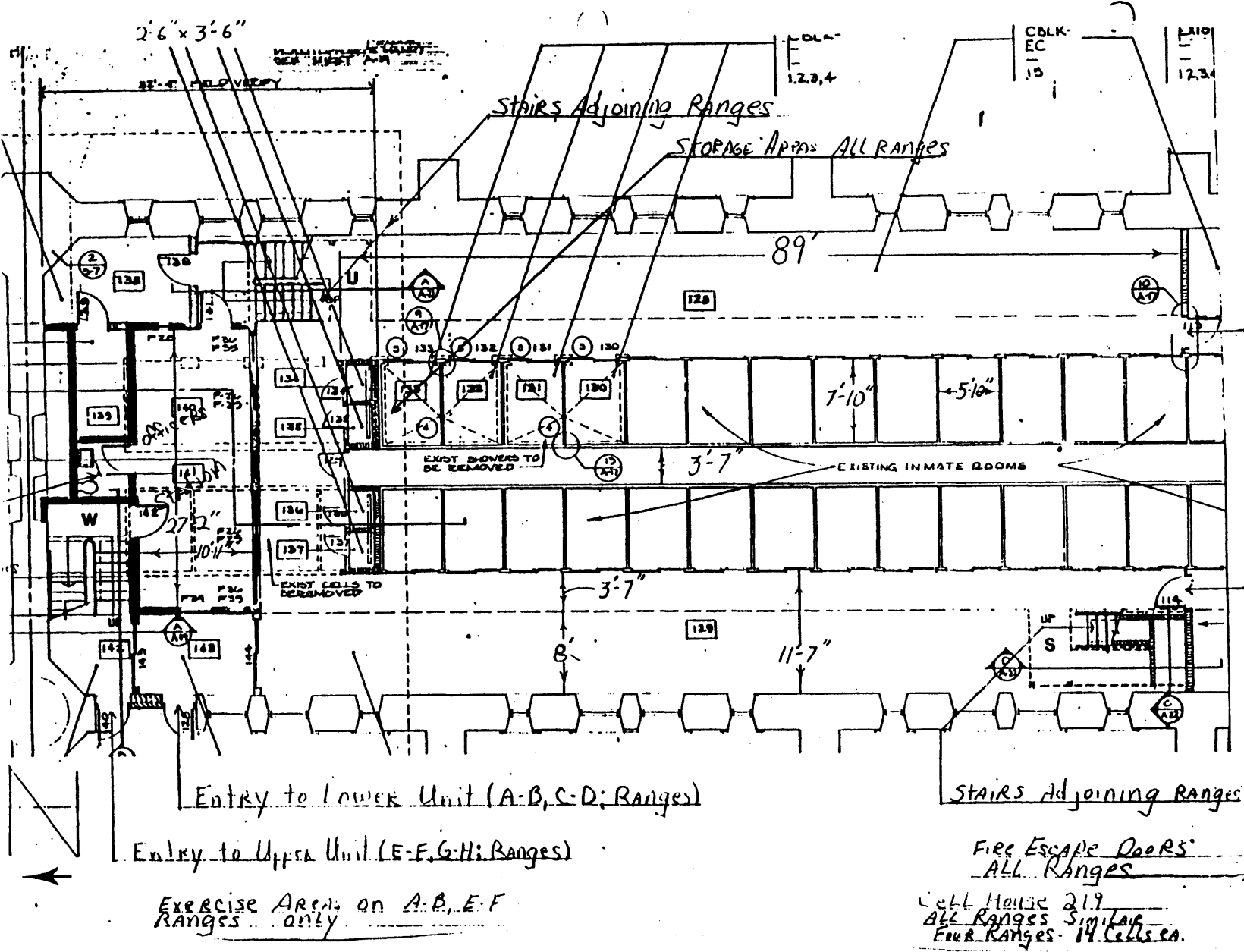
³ Class refers to the designation of contributing and noncontributing properties.

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Cellhouse 19, south third
CRN-259-1116

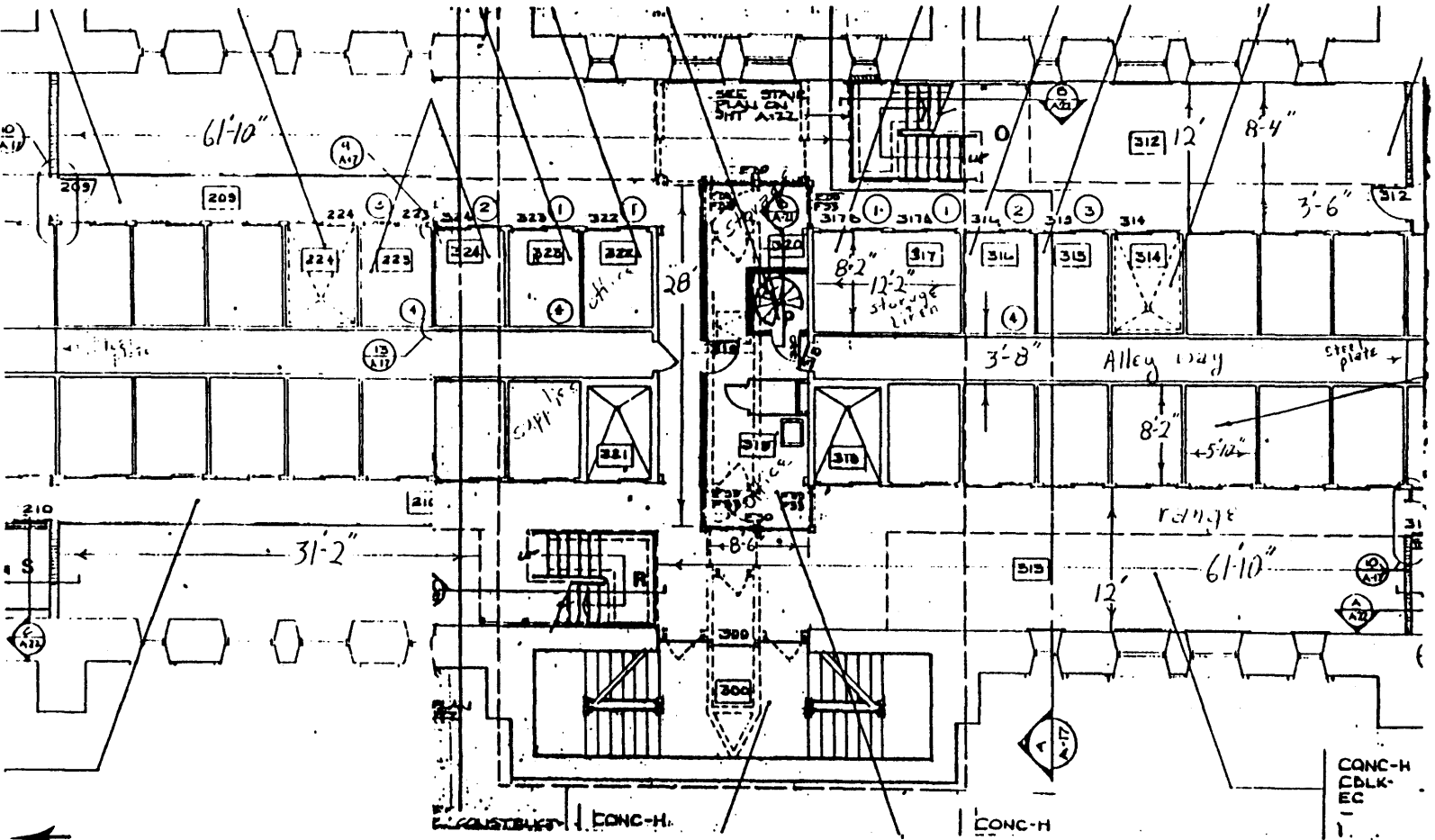


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Cellhouse 19, center section

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Exercise Areas are located outside four pens that are 12 feet by 12 feet

Cellhouse 319 All floors are very similar. There is also 144 sq. ft. of office space on first floor. Fire escapes are located at ends of ranges. There are four floors in 319.

CFN-259-1116

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Cellhouse 19, north section

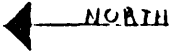
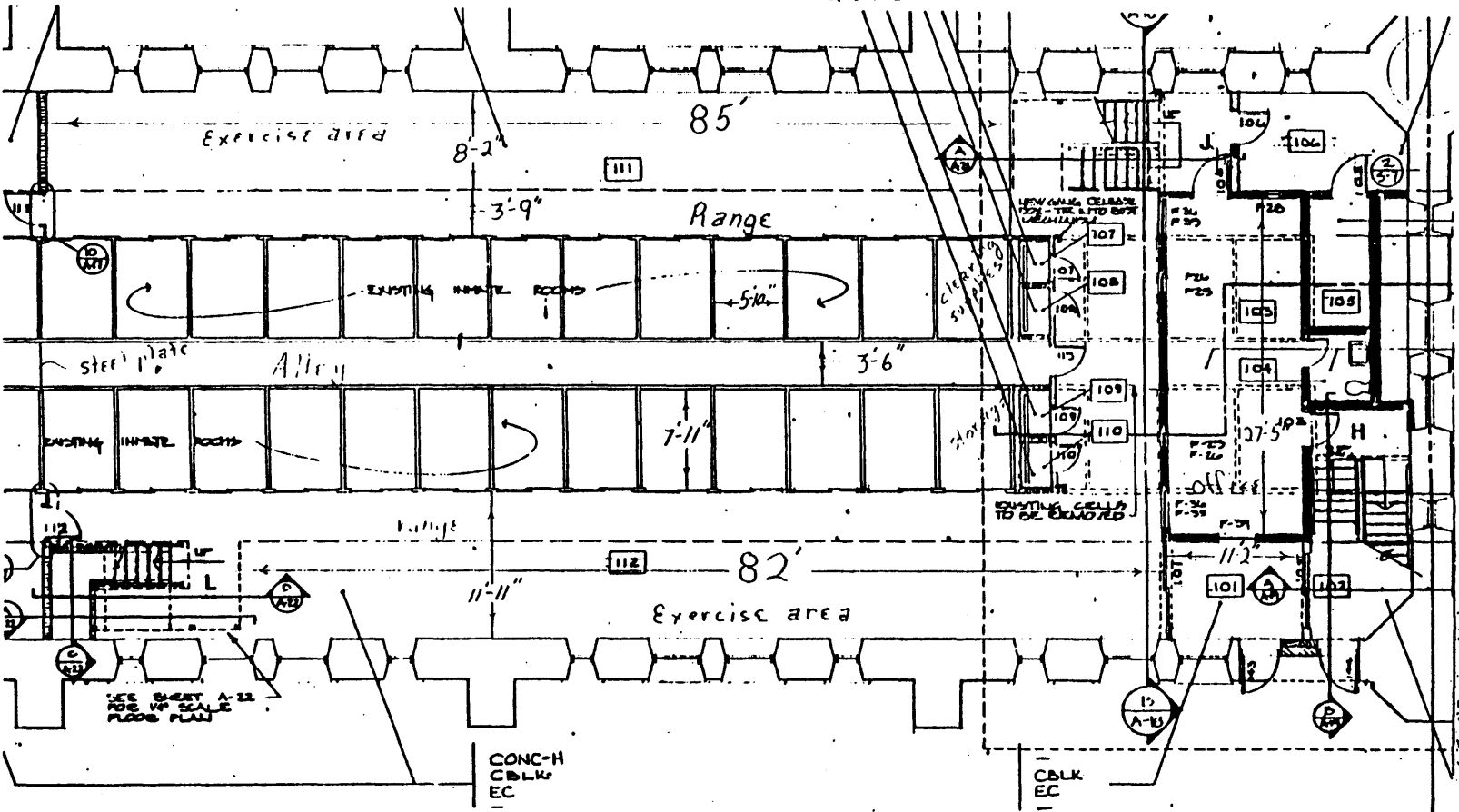
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Cellhouse 419 All four floors are very similar. There is a 5x8 office on each floor. There 4x8 storage areas on two floors. Ranges are 14 cells long.

Exercise areas are on first & third floors only.

Fire exits are on the end of each range.

4 SHOWERS
2'-6" x 3'-6"



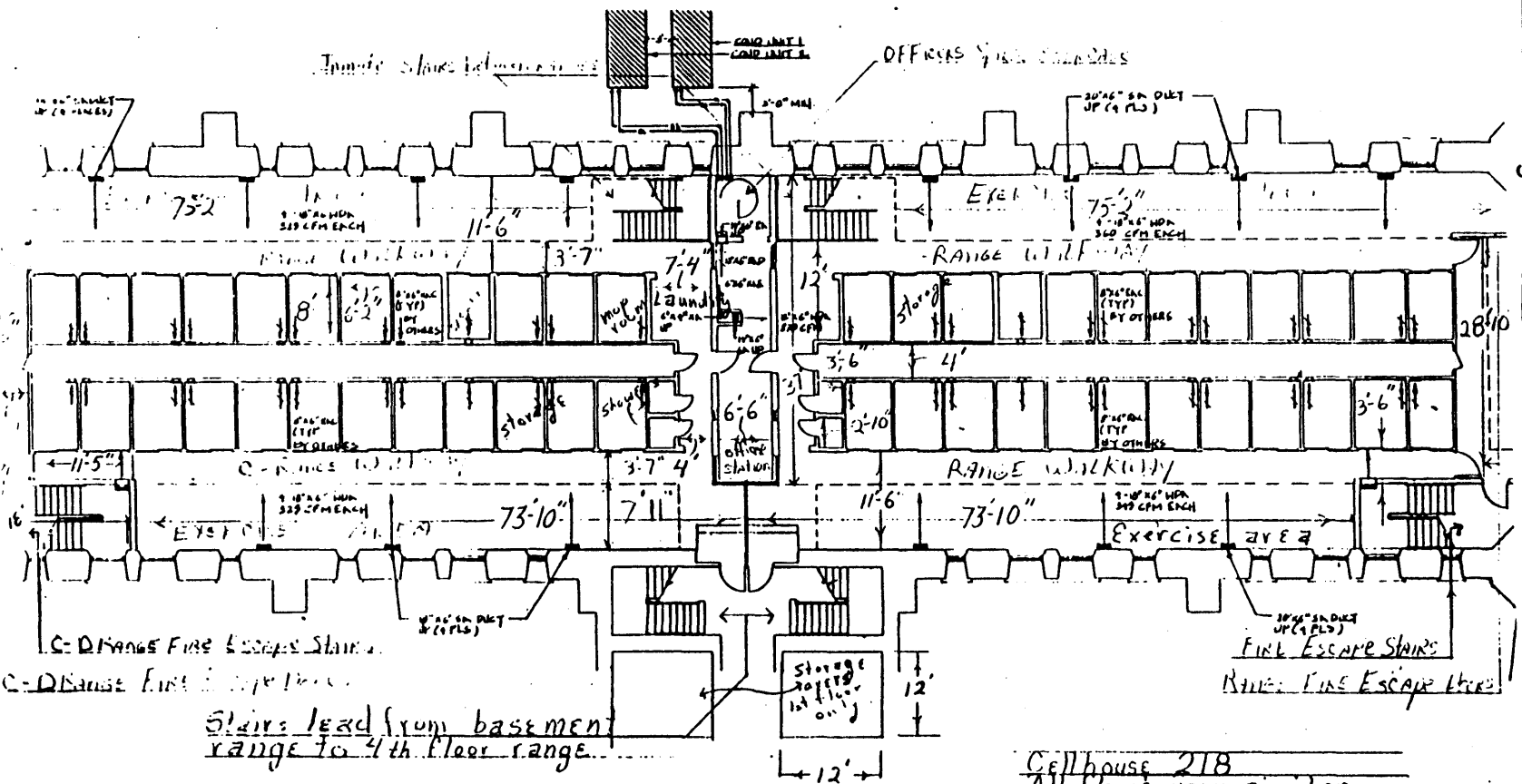
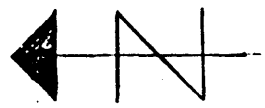
CFN-259-1116

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Cellhouse 18

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Stairs lead from basement range to 4th floor range.

Exercise areas on first and third floors only.

Cellhouse 218
All floors very similar
five floors total

There are two outside exercise pens with 1360 sq. ft. each.

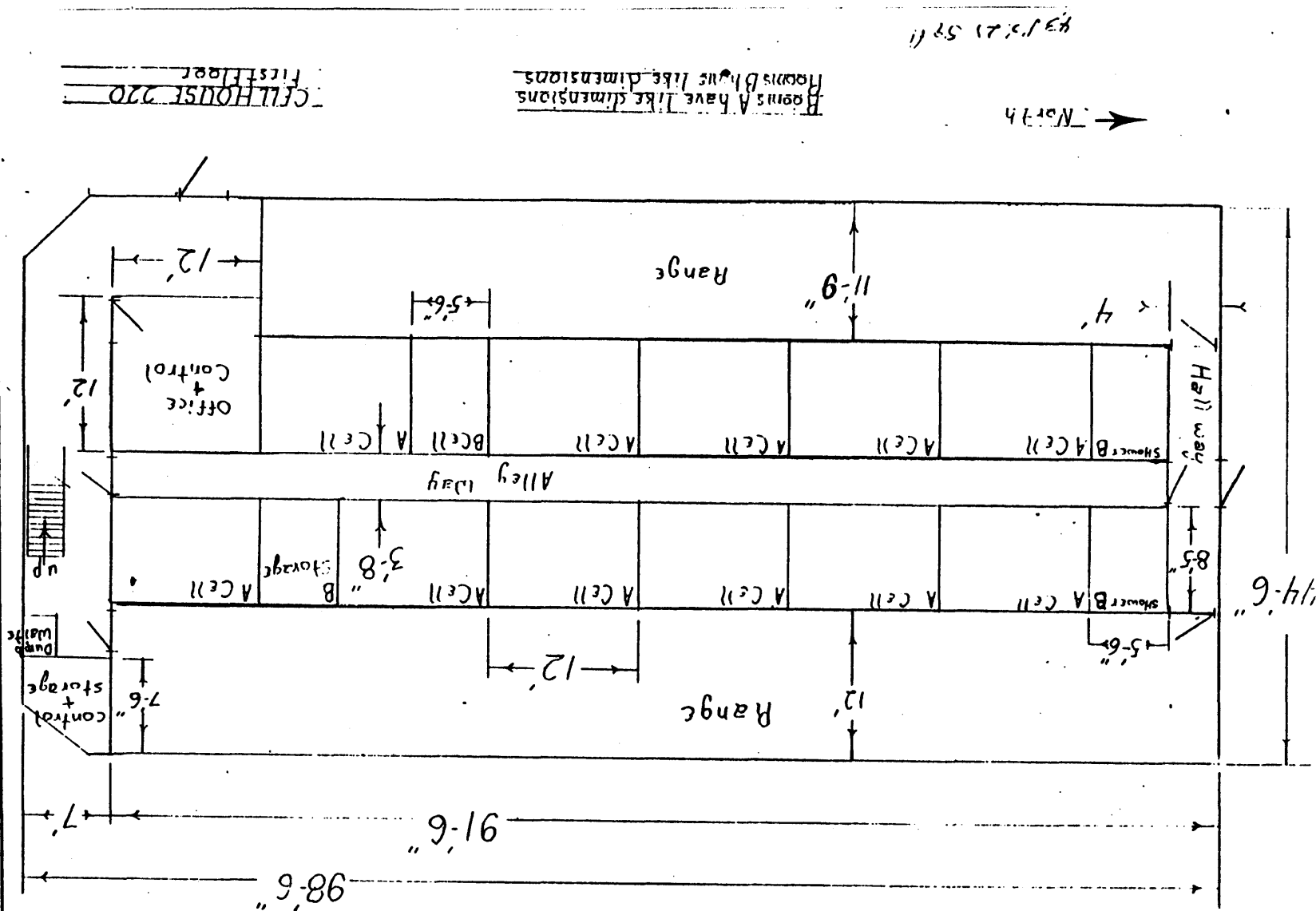
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Cellhouse 20, first floor

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8. Significant Dates (continued from form)

1938

Significance

The Iowa State Penitentiary Cellhouses Historic District relates to the Iowa Corrections Institutions context through the Auburn Penitentiary Complex Subtype. The Auburn cellhouses and the penitentiary program at the Iowa State Penitentiary which the cellhouses represent reflect a common mix of Auburn and reformatory prison programs operating at American penitentiaries from the turn of the century to the 1930s. Thus, the district gains significance under criterion A in the area of law as a reflection of these prison systems. It possesses significance under criterion C in the area of architecture because the form of the cellhouses closely parallels the cellhouses of the Auburn Penitentiary Complex Subtype. Additionally, the cellhouses were designed by two state architects Henry Franz Liebe and Henry Jackson Liebe who significantly impacted the design of Iowa's institutional buildings through the 1930s. The buildings also gain significance as late interpretations of a Romanesque Revival style which is commonly applied to prison architecture. The period of significance, 1913 to 1942, spans the period between the construction of cellhouse 19 completed in 1913 to the beginning of the modern era in 1942. The Iowa State Penitentiary operated primarily under the guidelines of the prison reformatory movement until 1942. The specific dates of 1913, 1925, 1931, and 1938 represent the construction dates of cellhouses 18, 19, and 20. The district gains significance at the state level because it represents the operation of a state institution.

Historical Background

The Territory of Iowa established the Iowa State Penitentiary in 1839 and began the construction of the Territorial Prison in the same year. The act providing for the penitentiary specified a prison of sufficient size to receive, secure, and employ at hard labor 136 inmates convicted of any infamous crime in separate cells. The territory intended to both punish and reform its prisoners through hard labor. The same act directed the superintendent of the prison to create a plan "...conforming as nearly as convenient and may appear advisable to the Connecticut State Prison at Wethersfield..." (Iowa, Territory of [Revised Statutes 1843 [1839: 342]]). The territory and the State of Iowa never developed the Wethersfield plan with its center building and flanking Auburn type cellhouses along the front prison wall and industrial buildings lined along the side and/or rear walls. Cellhouse 17, an Auburn type cellhouse with interior cellblocks, resulted from this legislative directive (Iowa, Territory of [Laws] 1838-1846 [1839: 365]). The remainder of the prison, such as the prison walls,

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expansion of cellhouse 17 and additional Auburn type cellhouses, dining hall, chapel, educational unit, industrial buildings, administration building, hospital, and warden's residence, were constructed and replaced in a rather haphazard fashion as need required and state funding permitted through the 1930s (Sanborn-Perris Map Company 1884; 1889; 1894; 1900; 1907; 1913; 1919; 1926; 1939; Iowa, State of [IA Docs.] 1857-1931 [1874: 3]).

In 1839, the Iowa Territorial Penitentiary established and the Iowa State Penitentiary continued the Auburn system of discipline and the associated Auburn penitentiary program then operative in most of the state penitentiaries in the country. With modifications introduced from the reformatory prison movement in 1900 and 1907, this program remained the guiding prison philosophy until the progressive prison administration of Glen Haynes between 1933 and 1942 (Iowa State Penitentiary n.d.; Haynes 1956).

The Auburn system of discipline which sought prisoner reform through penitence became the core of the Auburn prison program. Each prisoner achieved penitence in solitary confinement through his own efforts. Hard labor and religious consultation at the penitentiary attempted to direct the prisoner toward this goal. The housing of prisoners in separate cells, the strict disciplinary program operating through a system of detailed rules and relatively harsh punishment, congregate prison labor to support the prison as much as to punish and reform the prisoner, mandatory attendance at religious programs, congregate dining, and limited educational programs focusing on literacy became the hallmarks of the Auburn penitentiary system by the 1830s and 1840s (Rothman 1971; Wines 1910; McKelvey 1977; Barnes 1972; Brookman 1934). The Iowa State Penitentiary followed the Auburn prison program fairly closely with its single occupancy cells, its strict enforcement of silence rules and other detailed regulations, its contract labor in its prison factories which partially supported the prison, individual and group religious instruction in the chapel, literacy program taught by the prison chaplain, and congregate dining at the dining hall (Watts 1965; Iowa, Territory of [Laws] 1838-46 [1839: 365-67]; Wines and Dwight 1880: 128; Iowa Board of Inspection 1858; Haynes 1956: 12; Iowa, State of [IA Docs.] 1857-1931; Iowa, Territory of [Council Journal] 1838-46; Walker 1939).

Following the gradual recognition by penitentiaries that the Auburn system failed to produce prisoner reform by the 1850s and 1860s, the 1870 National Conference on Penitentiary and Reformatory Discipline created a list of recommended prison reforms (McKelvey 1977: 67-68, 88-93; Empey 1982: 50-64; Wines 1910: 193; 198-99). This movement strove to reform the young, first offenders and placed far less emphasis on offenders over thirty and recidivists. Yet, states frequently began to institute reformatory legislation at their penitentiary when it established its men's reformatory. But, neither penitentiary nor reformatory restructured their programs along the guidelines established by the 1870 conference or the arch-type program instituted at the Elmira Reformatory. And,

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changes were not immediate. States often failed to enact reformatory legislation until the 1880s or more often the 1890s and the early twentieth century. The reformatory program often became an add-on to the existing Auburn penitentiary program. Both men's reformatories and penitentiaries frequently adopted the grading system of discipline, indeterminate sentencing, and parole; began limited improvement of their education programs at the elementary level; converted their prison work programs to the state-use or state-account system to permit greater state control over labor and eliminate competition with private enterprise and factory workers; slowly loosened strict rules; and improved medical treatment programs. However, significant elements of the earlier Auburn system persisted. Prisoners remained in their individual cells or, under crowded conditions, were doubled into single cells and placed along corridors. The emphasis upon reform through religious penitence remained. Many of the detailed rules continued to regulate behavior despite the introduction of the grading system. Particularly at the penitentiaries, prison labor aimed at prison support and occupying the time of the prisoner. Expanded work programs rarely taught the prisoner competency in a suitable vocation. Remaining unorganized, recreation was often limited to Saturdays and holidays (Rothman 1981; McKelvey 1977; Empey 1982; American Correctional Association 1983; Martin 1955; DeFord 1962).

The Iowa State Penitentiary followed the course of many penitentiaries after the turn of the century. It retained its Auburn type cellblocks and erected additional ones when substantial overcrowding plagued the penitentiary in the 1920s and 1930s. By their very arrangement, the interior cells of the Auburn cellblock resulted in confinement of each prisoner in his cell when not engaged in prison labor or other prison programs. The state established its grading system of discipline at the penitentiary in 1900. The 1907 reformatory laws which created the Iowa Men's Reformatory also instituted indeterminate sentencing and parole at the State Penitentiary and placed the older, multiple offenders at the State Penitentiary. Discipline remained governed by the detailed rules established under the Auburn system although some were gradually eliminated after the first decade of the century. Iowa's 1913 legislation provided a fund to establish state-use industries. The State Penitentiary ended its contract labor program by 1915 and created state-use, state-account, and the piece-price system. Following the directives of the Cosson report of 1912, the penitentiary sought greater control over the discipline of its men in work situations. However, it continued to provide little training in work skills. The penitentiary gradually improved its elementary education program and introduced a small number of more advanced courses. Until the 1930s, its religious program continued to stress reform through penitence. Its medical facilities had experienced considerable improvement by the standards of the era with the construction of its new hospital between 1904 and 1906 (Sanborn-Perris Map Company 1907). The recreational activities included only freedom of the yard during holidays and later on Saturdays until the 1930s (Osborne Association, Inc. 1938; Haynes 1956; Briggs 1942a; 1942b; Iowa, State of [IA Docs.] 1857-1931; Iowa, State Historical Society

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of 1942; Cosson 1912; Iowa Board of Control 1934-1942).

The progressive prison movement emerged shortly after the turn of the century and produced very limited influence on prison programs by the third decade. Unlike the earlier reformatory movement, this approach did not single out one segment of the prison population for treatment. However, because adoption of a significant part of its program required the integration of its philosophy into the existing program, most reformatories, penitentiaries, and other corrections institutions incorporated few of its programs until the end of the 1930s. Because it examined and treated the individual, the progressive program emphasized the approach to the study of the criminal as much as a program to deal with the criminal. It advocated the careful examination of each prisoner by social workers, psychologists, psychiatrists, physicians, educators, and vocational specialists to find the cause of individual criminal behavior and to prescribe individualized treatment plan. The progressive program also favored the integration of prisoners back into social situations and wished to simulate as closely as possible a community within the correction facility. Thus, prisoners were not necessarily to experience the same kinds of programs. Corrections institutions attempting to adopt the program began a psychology unit in the prison, taught a broad range of vocations to make prisoners employable, engaged more minimum risk prisoners in employment outside the prison walls, stressed a practical kind of education which dovetailed with the prisoner's vocational interests, de-emphasized an evangelical approach to religion and focused on group discussions of these issues, began preventative medical programs, established recreation programs, and gave their prisoners limited responsibilities in the operation of the prison, usually in the recreation program and commissary (Rothman 1981; McKelvey 1977; American Correctional Association 1983; Barnes 1972; Hawkins 1976).

The Iowa State Penitentiary began to modify its Auburn/reformatory program by the mid-1930s to the early 1940s under the guidance of Warden Glen Haynes. He first extended the recreation program, expanded the educational program through cell study, and added limited vocational training opportunities by the 1940s to better meet the needs of the prisoners after release. The chaplain allowed prisoners to express their views on religion and morality. Inmates contributed to the decision-making process at the prison through the operation of the recreation program. By the early 1940s, the prison began to institute individual classification and treatment programs similar to those promoted by the progressive movement several decades before. As the State Penitentiary slowly adopted the progressive program, the Auburn type cellblocks remained as vestiges of the earlier prison system. This maximum security housing system failed to facilitate prisoner classification and inhibited the social interaction of minimum and medium security prisoners promoted by the progressive program (Hopkins 1930; Haynes 1939: 1956; Iowa, State Historical Society of 1942; Iowa Board of Control 1934-42; Briggs 1942a; 1942b; Osborne Association, Inc. 1938;

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~~Brookman 1934). Instead, the Iowa State Penitentiary turned toward the development of three nearby prison farms to relieved overcrowding and place honor prisoners outside the prison walls. The state constructed dormitories at two farms in the 1950s (Iowa State Penitentiary n.d.). In the early 1960s, the prison also constructed the John E. Bennett Correctional Center which provided dormitory space adjacent to the prison for minimum and later medium security prisoners (Presidio 11-12/1969: 18).~~

Statement of Significance

Law

The Iowa State Penitentiary gains significance under criterion A in the area of law. The Auburn type cellhouses at the Iowa State Penitentiary represent the persistence of the Auburn prison system in Iowa corrections until fourth decade of the twentieth century.

When developed at Auburn, New York in the 1820s, the cellhouses originally functioned as the core of the Auburn prison program (Rothman 1971; Barnes 1972; Johnson 1973; Wines 1910; Eriksson 1976). They permitted solitary confinement and strict discipline of the prisoner. Isolation inhibited prisoner interaction and the resulting inappropriate behaviors. During this period of confinement, the prisoner contemplated his transgressions which was to motivate penitence under the guidance of a religious leader. The program intended that hard labor would promote this feeling of penitence as well as support the operation of the prison. While isolation and strict discipline enabled by the Auburn type cellblock and hard labor remained well into the twentieth century, the 1870s reformatory movement realized that prisoners did not accomplish the original goal of the Auburn system of discipline: the attainment of penitence through self-contemplation in isolation. This reformatory movement stressed the retraining of young, first offenders in work habits and discipline, work skills, and education, and the grading of prisoners according to their accomplishments in the prison program. Their promotion through the grades also originally meant changes to less secure living accommodations. The reformatory program sought to prepare its prisoners for their return to society. Both young men's reformatories as well as penitentiaries for the multiple, older offenders slowly adopted parts of the program in the late nineteenth and earlier twentieth century. Although both generally remained unsuccessful because of lack of funding, trained personnel, and commitment, reformatories tended to place more emphasis on retraining than the penitentiaries.

The environment for these prison program changes, the Auburn cellblock and the walls of a maximum security prison, symbolized a mix of the old and the new in

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the turn of the century prison programs. The old included the retention of the Auburn prison discipline and prisoner isolation from society and other prisoners well into the twentieth century. Security came before reform. Limited budgets favored modification of the old prison to accommodate the limited program changes primarily in the type of labor performed. Thus, reformatories and penitentiaries erected industrial buildings to replace contract work and expand the kinds of state-use industries. They occasionally added classrooms for additional educational programs. At the same time, the prisons continued to build the Auburn cellblock for all grades of prisoners. The state-use industries failed to train, the classrooms did not correlate education with prisoners' vocational needs, and cells continued to isolate all classes of prisoners. Prisoners reaching the top grade also lived in maximum security cells. Under the influence of the progressive prison movement by the 1920 and 1930s, penitentiaries and reformatories began to remove the prisoners from their cells and promoted interaction for longer periods in recreation programs or removed them from the prison completely to the dormitories or camps of prison farms and work camps. The Auburn cellhouse remained as housing for the medium to maximum security programs in the beginning in the 1930s and 1940s. Thus, the Auburn cellhouses came to represent the tension between the Auburn and reformatory prison programs in the twentieth century which the progressive prison program strove to resolve by partially or completely removing certain classes of prisoners from the penitentiary (Rothman 1971; 1981; Hopkins 1930; McKelvey 1977).

Similarly, the Iowa State Penitentiary built its three Auburn cellhouses from 1908 to 1937 while it converted contract chair industry factory to state-account work and initiated additional state-use, state-account, and piece-price industries after 1915. Although eventually less rigid, it maintained its discipline program and continued to focus primarily on the education of illiterate prisoners. As Warden Haynes began to introduce significant changes in the prison programs in the mid-1930s, the state completed cellhouse 20, the last Auburn type cellhouse (Haynes 1939; 1956; Osborne Association, Inc. 1938).

Architecture

The three cellhouses gain significance in the area of architecture as a representation of the Auburn Penitentiary Complex Subtype, the Romanesque Revival architectural style common to prisons, and the work of the state architects Henry Franz Liebke and Henry Jackson Liebke.

Cellhouses 18, 19, and 20 portray the prevalent type of cellhouse erected in the United States. The Auburn type cellhouse remained a common prison design from the 1820s to 1930s (Martin 1955: 149; Barnes 1973: 113-14, 131-35). It contained a free-standing cellblock in the center of a long, narrow shell. The cellblock included two long rows of cells placed back-to-back and faced outward to the

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outer cellhouse wall. It contained from three to five tiers of cells with those above the first accessed by galleries. An approximately ten foot corridor remained between the wall of the cellhouse and the first tier. By the twentieth century, the single occupancy cells measured 5 by 8 feet. They were finished with reinforced concrete, and steel grating closed the front (American Correctional Association 1982: 44-51; Johnson 1973: 38-41; McKelvey 180-82). The three cellhouses at the Iowa State Penitentiary follow this pattern. They contain four to five tiers of interior, concrete cells. Those of cellhouses 18 and 19 measure 5.6 by 8.15 feet and 5.9 by 8.5 feet respectively. Steel grating closes the cells of these two cellhouses.

The property also gains significance as a stylistic example of penal architecture (Johnson 1973: 26-28; American Correctional Association 1983: 56). Penitentiaries generally display heavy massing and used architectural detailing common to the period, particularly Gothic and Romanesque Revival. The initial architect, Henry Franz Liebbe, chose the Romanesque Revival. Its heavy, low massing is well-suited to prison architecture. Frequently rendered in monochrome stone, the buildings' large, coursed, rough-faced blocks producing a rough texture contribute to its monolithic appearance. The cellhouses' symmetrically positioned entrance pavilion and rhythm of its window patterns including narrow windows embellished with dentils and the horizontal lines of its cornices, corbel tables, and continuous sills compose the buildings. Voussoirs around its main entrances add to the heavy massing. The towers and buttresses provide a vertical dimension to the generally regular form. This later, lower, more square, less elaborate interpretation of the Romanesque Revival style contrasts with William Foster's interpretation of the same style at the Iowa Men's Reformatory. Liebbe later maintained this interpretation at the reformatory. This heavy massing and overall regularity of form communicate the strength of the state, security to the general society from those within, and commitment to the purpose of reform of its inmates to the rules of society.

Henry Franz Liebbe began work as an architect at the Iowa prisons while producing detailed designs for the north cellhouse at the Iowa Men's Reformatory in 1895. Liebbe became the first state architect in 1898. In that position, he designed the buildings at the Iowa State Penitentiary including cellhouses 18 and 19. During his term as state architect which lasted until his death in 1927, he also headed the architectural firm of Liebbe, Nourse and Rasmussen. Current evidence does not indicate that this firm designed state institutions under Liebbe's direction. As state architect, Liebbe designed, let bids for, and supervised the construction of most of the buildings erected at Iowa's state institutions including the penitentiary. At the State Penitentiary, he designed the two cellhouses and the rear administration building in the Romanesque Revival style and the first two wings of the industrial building in a rather utilitarian Classical Revival style. Liebbe also employed these styles at other state institutions. After his death in 1927, his son, Henry Jackson Liebbe who had

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worked for Liebbe in the capacity of draftsman and assistant state architect between 1914 and 1927, became the state architect. He continued the Romanesque Revival style both at the Men's Reformatory and cellhouse 20 at the penitentiary. Thus, the Iowa State Penitentiary documents the work of leading architects in the state (Liebbe, H.F. 1898-1927; Liebbe, H.J. 1927-41; Liebbe, Nourse, and Rasmussen 1899-1930).

Period and Level of Significance

The period of significance for the area of architecture spans the period between 1913 and 1942. The first date indicates the completion of construction for cellhouse 19. The later date reflects the continued use of the cellhouses through 1942. In the area of architecture, the date incorporates the completion dates of construction: 1913, 1925, 1931, and 1938. In the area of law, the 1913 to 1942 period occurs during the era when the state operated the prison according to the theories of the prison reform movement initiated as early as the 1870s. Beginning in the mid-1930s, Warden Haynes began to introduce approaches developed by the Progressive Prison Movement in the first decades of the twentieth century. However, the progressive prison program did not substantially affect the program of the Iowa State Penitentiary until the early 1940s. Hence, the end date for the period of significance is set at the beginning of the modern era in 1942. The three cellhouses were operated according to the earlier prison reformatory movement during this period. The penitentiary possesses significance at the state level. As a state institution, it contributes to the understanding of the development of social and architectural trends in the history of the State of Iowa.

Architectural Integrity

Cellhouses 18, 19, and 20 retain a high level of exterior architectural integrity in their material, design, and workmanship. The addition of two low entrance ramps, chain link fences, and several doors; the closing of several windows with concrete; and the removal of the roofs from several guard towers detracts little from the overall appearance. Necessary for prison classification, unitization in all three cellhouses placed one horizontal and none to two vertical dividing walls within the cellhouses while leaving the cellblock intact. Other interior alterations include the addition and modification of guard stations and the enlargement of cells and replacement of cell doors and fronts in cellhouse 20. Although unitization considerably restricts the vistas within the cellhouses 18 and 19, the interiors remain intact by comparison to changes in the north cellhouse and Female Department at the Iowa Men's Reformatory.

While integrity of location remains, the setting inside the penitentiary walls

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has altered. To the west of the cellhouses, post-1942 buildings have been added and many of the buildings pre-dating the modern era have been replaced or undergone considerable change. However, these buildings are separated from the cellhouses by about a 100 foot wide area of lawn and walkways which never contained permanent buildings. The setting outside the east wall, a lawn enclosed by a drive replaces the low timber and brush which probably occupied this area east of the penitentiary until the late 1930s or early 1940s (Iowa Men's Penitentiary n.d. [photographs]; Iowa, State Historical Society of n.d.a; n.d.b [photographs]). Despite these alterations in setting, their continuing function as cellhouses, their separated position from the remainder of the penitentiary, and their physical integrity allow the buildings to retain much of their integrity of association and feeling.

Then, the Iowa State Penitentiary Cellhouses Historic District meet the registration requirements. They were built and have functioned continuously as cellhouses in a corrections institution since their date of construction. The building concentration along the east wall is clearly delineated. The district includes a group of buildings functionally significant to the prison. The cellhouses were an integral part of the prison program. Integrity of design, materials, and workmanship remains comparatively intact and representative of the original Romanesque Revival style and The Auburn Penitentiary Complex Subtype. Although the general setting has undergone significant alteration to the west, the area remains a state penitentiary property, and integrity of association and feeling remain relatively intact.

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10. Boundary Description

The boundary of the district begins along the south prison wall twenty feet west of the southwest corner of cellhouse 18. From this point, it runs due north to an east-west line fifteen feet north of cellhouse 20. From here, it runs due east to intersect with the east edge of the prison wall. The boundary turns due south along the outside of the prison wall until it meets the access road. Here, the boundary turns southeast to run along the west edge of the access road until it reaches a point due south of the center of the south wall of cellhouse 18. It then angles northwest to join the point of beginning along the south wall (see USGS map and sketch map).

Boundary Justification

Except for the east and a portion of the south line, the boundary is an arbitrary one. The row of three cellhouses stands apart from the rest of the prison along the east wall. The district excludes the remainder of the prison to the west because of substantial building alterations and additions. The east and south boundaries primarily follow man-made lines of demarcation which include a neutral setting.

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Photographic Description

Name: Iowa State Penitentiary Cellhouses

Location: Ft. Madison, Lee County, Iowa

Photographer's name: Joyce McKay

Date of photographs: 6/17/91

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

1. View of the south prison wall showing the front of the prison, cellhouse 17, (7, 9) and the hospital (8) facing north (2/7).
2. View of the east wall of cellhouses 18 and 19 (15-18) facing southwest (2/13).
3. View of the west facade of cellhouse 18 (15) facing southeast (1/9).
4. View of the west facade of cellhouse 19 (16-18) and cellhouse 20 (19) to the left facing northeast (1/12).
5. View of the west facade of cellhouse 20 (19) facing northeast (1/17).
6. View of the east elevation of cellhouse 20 (19) facing northwest (2/12).

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Photographic Description

Name: Iowa State Penitentiary Cellhouses

Location: Ft. Madison, Lee County, Iowa

Photographer's name: Joyce McKay

Date of photographs: 6/17/91

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

1. View of the south prison wall showing the front of the prison, cellhouse 17, (7, 9) and the hospital (8) facing north (2/7).
2. View of the east wall of cellhouses 18 and 19 (15-18) facing southwest (2/13).
3. View of the west facade of cellhouse 18 (15) facing southeast (1/9).
4. View of the west facade of cellhouse 19 (16-18) and cellhouse 20 (19) to the left facing northeast (1/12).
5. View of the west facade of cellhouse 20 (19) facing northeast (1/17).
6. View of the east elevation of cellhouse 20 (19) facing northwest (2/12).

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