

I. IDENTIFICATION

PROPERTY NAME: Old Lumpkin County Jail ✓ HISTORIC NAME: Lumpkin County Jail
 STREET ADDRESS: Clarkesville Street CITY: Dahlonega
 PRESENT OWNER: J.B. Jones, Lumpkin County MAILING ADDRESS: 280 Courthouse Hill
 Commissioner STATE: Georgia ZIP CODE: 30533
 CITY: Dahlonega ACREAGE: Less than one acre
 CURRENT USE: a variety of state and county U.T.M. REFERENCE: Zone 17 E226320 N3825250
 governmental offices
 U.S.G.S. QUADRANGLE Dahlonega
 V.B.D. OR TAX MAP NUMBER: The nominated property is all that property remaining associated
 with the jail and considered the jail lot. It is marked on Tax Map
 D5B as Parcel 20.

II. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND PRESENT CONDITION:

Attachment 1

III. HISTORY

ORIGINAL OWNER: Lumpkin County ORIGINAL USE: County Jail
 ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Alonzo C. Johnson and Henry HISTORIC ACREAGE: .917 acre
 Ramsaur, builders.
 DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1884 DATE(S) OF ALTERATIONS: 1936, 1942, & 1980
 HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (FROM ORIGINS TO PRESENT):

Attachment 2

IV. SIGNIFICANCE

N.R. AREA(S) OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture, Politics/Government LEVEL: Local
 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL):

Attachment 3

V. SOURCES

FORM PREPARED BY: Dale Jaeger, Preservation ORGANIZATION: Georgia Mountains APDC
 Planner
 ADDRESS: P. O. Box 1720 TELEPHONE NUMBER: 404/536/3431
 Gainesville, GA 30503
 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS: "Historic Structures Field Survey"
 Georgia Department of Natural Resources
 SOURCES OF INFORMATION:
 Attachment 4

Attachment One

DESCRIPTION

The Lumpkin County Jail is a two-story brick, Italianate-style structure built on a rectangular plan, 36' x 40'. The front facade contains three recessed panels separated by four simple brick pilasters. Dentil trim encircles the structure at the cornice. The roof is hipped and is topped with a louvered cupola. Windows are segmental-arched with hood moldings and iron grating on upper story windows. Exterior additions include a one-story frame porch with concrete floor at the entrance and an enclosed shed porch at the rear. This rear addition contains the bath.

The interior plan includes former jailer's quarters on the first floor and the jail works on the second floor. The living quarters are designed on a central hall plan with two rooms to either side and a stairway to the second floor at the southwest corner of the building. The original 10 foot high ceiling has been lowered in the hall and in the rooms on the west side of the structure. The second floor contains four metal cells divided by a central hallway which is entered from the front corridor through a heavy iron door bearing the inscription, "Cook and Heaths, Patent 1874." Surrounding the four cells is a corridor eight feet wide at the stairway and four feet wide on the other three sides. Each cell has one window to the side corridor and a metal door to the central hall.

The building is situated on a .917 acre, rectangular-shaped lot approximately three blocks east of the public square. A non-historic rock building is located within the property boundaries. The old jail is situated adjacent to the new Lumpkin County Courthouse, which is a rock and concrete building sited on the crest of a small hill to the east of the jail. Additional public buildings, including a newly built brick library, are located in the vicinity of the old jail. The site is surrounded by four streets. Clarkesville Street to the south was originally a major thoroughfare but became a side street with the construction of Highway 52. The street to the east of the old jail is now an entrance drive to the courthouse complex. The Old Lumpkin County Jail is in good condition.

Attachment Two

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Lumpkin County was created in 1832 with Dahlonega named its county seat. In the first session of the Grand Jury in August 1833, the presentments include a recommendation to "build a new jail as soon as possible" to save the "expense of guarding and conducting prisoners to other counties." By the next meeting of the court (February 1834), a temporary jail had been built which is documented in a \$127.00 receipt from the Treasurer's books. A temporary courthouse had also been constructed. The jail, which was apparently unsuitable, was described in the presentments as being of "no use to the county, insecure, and impossible to detain prisoners without constant guard." Andrew Cain in The History of Lumpkin County notes that this first jail was built of poles and located on the northeast corner of the public square and he further supports its inadequacies by stating that it "seems to have restrained only such prisoners as desired free board therein."

The February, 1834 presentments show that a more suitable jail was already being planned. The Inferior Court had "contracted for the building of a new jail at \$1,800 and paid \$900 in advance." This jail was "to be built after the plan of the jail in the county of Hall, which cost \$957. only." In the following term of court (August 1834), the new jail was examined and described as "being in good order (altho - not as yet finished) and believed to be a safe building when finished." In The History of Lumpkin County, (written in 1932), this jail was noted as being located on the east side of Chestatee Street, one block south of the present Baptist Church which would situate it approximately two blocks south of the public square. The jail was described as a "two-story structure, the main cell of which was entered from the upper story, by letting prisoners down through a trap door, by means of a ladder." This description appears to be confirmed through a presentment notation in March, 1842 which recommends that the "Inferior Court order a good and difficult lock to put on the top trap door of the dungeon." This second jail served the needs of Lumpkin County for 21 years with only minor problems. Security appears to have been the major concern since inadequate security resulted in additional expenditures for guard supervision. This concern for money also might explain why a permanent jail was constructed two years before the county built its permanent courthouse.

By 1852, there were other concerns for the condition of the second jail. It was described as being in a "very dilapidated condition and very insecure" but existing laws deemed it improbable that funds could be raised. In the July 1853 session of court the condition of the jail was "greatly dilapidated with several parts nearly rotten down." The Inferior Court was instructed to levy a tax for a new jail. By October, 1853, the financing strategy had changed and a recommendation was made for the Senator and Representatives "to exert influence to the approaching Legislature to allow the Inferior Court to retain the State Tax for 1854 for the purpose of building a safe and comfortable jail." This technique succeeded. In April, 1854, the presentments confirm that the last Legislature had approved an act which authorized the giving of a collection of an extra tax ("100 percent upon the State of our county") for the purpose of building a county jail. Appreciation was expressed to Colonel Riley and the Representatives. A year later the April 1855 presentments note that the jail had

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been completed and General Riley, in all likelihood Colonel Riley noted earlier, was given credit as the contractor for his "fruitful fulfillment of his contract in building the jail." This third jail was located near the residence of John H. Moore. No description of this jail survives. By 1869, the jail had been lost to fire, according to The History of Lumpkin County. A new jail was discussed for several years but due to financial constraints was not constructed until 1872.

The History of Lumpkin County calls this fourth jail a calaboose and notes that it was constructed on an adjacent lot to the former jail by B. R. Meaders and Gilbert Parker. Ten years later in the presentments from the October 1882 term of court, this jail was noted as "being entirely unsafe as well as uncomfortable and unhealthy for the prisoners" which resulted in the recommendation of a new jail.

On May 10, 1884, the county contracted with local builders, Alonzo C. Johnson and Henry Ramsaur to build a new jail, the fifth jail in the history of Lumpkin County. On May 29, 1884, the county purchased lot number 984, located several blocks east of the courthouse on the north side of Clarkesville Street, from W. P. Price for \$200. This lot, which comprised .917 acre, extended from Spencer Street to Perkins Street and back to Amelia Street. In addition, Mr. Price dedicated "for the use of the public generally" 25 feet of land on Spencer Street, 40 feet on Amelia Street, and 40 feet on Perkins Street, so that each might be 40 feet wide, also 40 feet on Clarkesville Street to make it 70 feet wide. The completed building, which the Grand Jury in October had predicted would be "an honor" to the community, was examined and accepted on December 1, 1884, according to the Building Committee's report.

The jail was "built of brick, 36' x 40', and was two stories high." The first floor, which served as the jailor's residence, had a central hall with two rooms on either side and a stairway leading to the second floor. The second story contained four cells divided by a narrow hallway and situated in the middle of the room with an outside corridor surrounding the cells. The walls of the cells were "built of plank any length 12 x 1 inch nailed together flat wise with ten penny nails." The planks were laid "in and out from a straight line five-eighths of an inch which rough surface so made, will hold mortar for plastering." The roof was of tin and the entire interior was plastered. Plans for "extra work at the new jail" in January required that a fence be built. On the front, specifications called for a 5-foot picket fence having both a wagon gate and a "yard gate". On the other three sides (about 600 lineal feet) the fence was to be built "like fence around Capt. Imboden's lot near Col. Price's." Parts of the best black locust with the bark removed were to be set 8 feet apart, not less than 3 feet in the ground; all other fence material was to be heart pine, planed on both sides. Three bids were submitted on the fence, ranging from \$184.50 to \$224.44. An article in The Signal, February 27, 1885, reported that the yard work and a cupola had cost \$279.32.

The 1882 presentments which contained the plans for the new jail recommended that a cheap cook room unconnected to the jail proper be built. These presentments also give the Building Committee authority to dispose of the former jail. Andrew Cain in The History of Lumpkin County notes that this jail, the calaboose, was leased to the City of Dahlonega and at the time of his writing, 1932, it was still being used by the city for that purpose.

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An article in The Signal on February 27, 1885, which was a letter from the newly elected Ordinary, F. M. Williams, to citizens of the county, states that all work was completed and that the sheriff was expected to move in about the first of March. On March 6, 1885, The Signal states that "Sheriff W. H. Satterfield moved into the new jail building on Monday of this week."

This jail served the county for 80 years. During its service a few changes were made which have been documented by interviews with several family members of former sheriffs. In 1936, a front porch was added and in 1942 a back porch with an enclosed bath was built. After 1942, the entire back porch was enclosed to create the existing rooms and the former wood cells, which were described by Mr. Jack Davis, son and grandson of former sheriffs, as "plastered crossties stacked on top of each other," were replaced with the existing metal cells.

With the construction of a new jail in 1964, the former jail was reused for a variety of purposes. Since 1964 it has been occupied by the Georgia Forestry Commission, the county agent, the Department of Transportation, and for use as a county thrift shop. In the late 1940's, a rock building was constructed on the site west of the jail for use as a cannery. At the present time, a Community Development Block Grant application has been approved to rehabilitate the "old jail" for use as a community services center.

Attachment Three

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Lumpkin County Jail is significant in the areas of architecture and politics and government. Architecturally, the structure is of Italianate design and one of the most elaborately-detailed structures proposed within this thematic nomination. The original plans for this structure were carried out in their entirety and it appears additional embellishments, such as the cupola and a fence, were added immediately after construction. The use of brick also expresses a desire for fire proof construction, which is understandable for this county since a previous jail was lost to fire. In politics and government, this jail is important as the fifth jail for Lumpkin County. The use of brick, the inclusion of jailer's quarters, and the conversion from wood to steel cells around 1942, which are characteristics of this jail, are representative of changes that occurred in the criminal justice system.

ATTACHMENT FOUR

BIBLIOGRAPHY - LUMPKIN COUNTY

- Cain, Andrew W. The History of Lumpkin County, ... 1832 - 1932.
Spartanburg, S.C.: The Reprint Company Publishers, 1978. [Reprint of 1932 ed.]
- Dahlonega Advertiser. Dahlonega, Georgia (various issues).
- Dahlonega Nuggett. Dahlonega, Georgia (various issues).
- Interviews: Mrs. Clinton Adams, Dahlonega, Georgia, September, 1983.
Mr. Jack Davis, Dahlonega, Georgia, September, 1983.
Madeline Anthony, Dahlonega, Georgia.
- Lumpkin County, Georgia. Superior Court. Minutes, 1832 - 1884.
- Research Assistance: Elma Beynon RSVP Worker, Georgia Mountains APDC.
- The Signal. Dahlonega, Georgia (various issues).

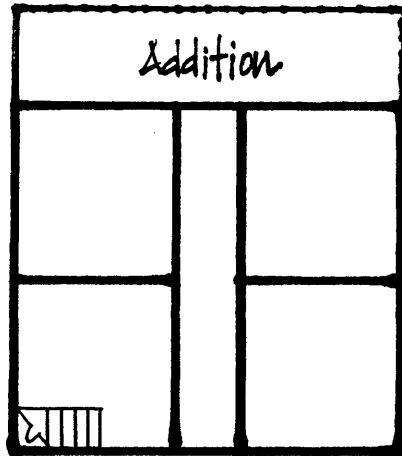
LUMPKIN COUNTY JAIL
DAHLONEGA, GEORGIA



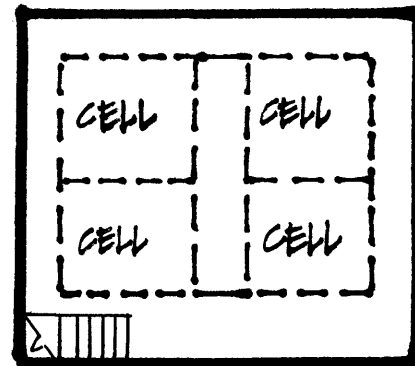
SCALE 1" = 20'

— ORIGINAL WALLS

— ADDITIONS



FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR



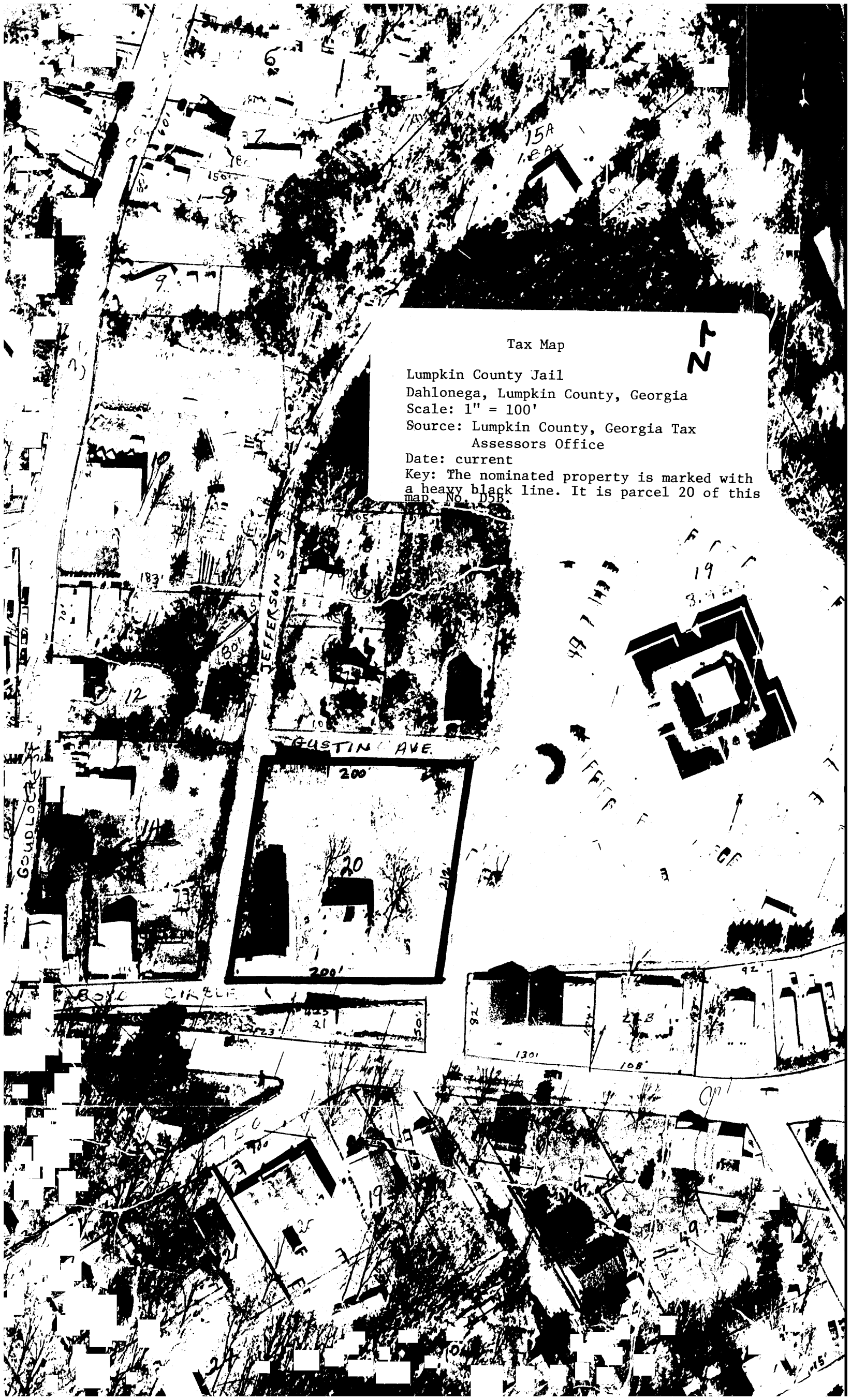
SKETCH MAP
SCALE 1" = 100'

Floor Plans/Sketch Map

Lumpkin County Jail
Dahlonega, Lumpkin County, Georgia

Source: Drawn by Dale Jaeger
Date: 1985

Key: As marked on the plans.



Tax Map

Lumpkin County Jail
Dahlonega, Lumpkin County, Georgia
Scale: 1" = 100'
Source: Lumpkin County, Georgia Tax Assessors Office
Date: current
Key: The nominated property is marked with a heavy black line. It is parcel 20 of this map. No. D5B.

