



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

**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 Banks County Jail

and/or common Old Banks County Jail

**2. Location**

street & number Silver Shoals Road

N/A not for publication

city, town Homer

N/A vicinity of

~~Congressional district~~ 9th- Ed Jenkins

state Georgia

code 013

county Banks

code 011

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>N/A</u> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Vacant
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation

**4. Owner of Property**

name E. K. Sullivan, Chairman Banks County Commissioners

street & number Banks County Courthouse

city, town Homer

N/A vicinity of

state Georgia 31547

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Banks County Courthouse

city, town Homer

state Georgia

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Historic Structures Field Survey:  
Banks County, Georgia has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1976  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Section  
Georgia Department of Natural Resources

city, town Atlanta

state Georgia

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Banks County Jail is located adjacent to the town center of Homer and is part of a complex of several public buildings. The Banks County Courthouse, an antebellum structure recently listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is located to the southeast of the jail at the intersection of Silver Shoals Road and U.S. Route 441. A two-story rectangular brick building constructed in the 1940's, housing a variety of county offices, stands behind the courthouse, directly across Silver Shoals Road from the jail. Additional county offices and the library are located at the west of the jail in a converted warehouse, covered in brick veneer. To the east of the jail are residential structures, and to the south a cultivated field.

The Banks County Jail is sited on a hillside facing Silver Shoals Road. The landscape around the structure is simple - an open lawn scattered with a few large oaks and a specimen crepe myrtle at one side of the front porch. A paved driveway runs along the eastern edge of the property and extends into a parking area at the rear of the structure. Two outbuildings adjoin this small parking lot at the southern boundary. Both of these frame structures have tin roofs and are in a deteriorated state. One appears to be a single car garage and the other a shed. The exact date of construction for the outbuildings is unknown. The only intrusion in the landscape is a radio antenna, used by the Emergency Medical Service, which has offices in the brick building across the street. The antenna, which is painted white, is located on the northwest side of the jail. The original kitchen location is known to have been in the middle of the present driveway.

The Banks County Jail is a Romanesque two-story, brick structure built in 1906 with a 1912 one-story frame addition. The original portion is almost symmetrical through chimney placements and fenestration of the front facade. All windows and doorways with the exception of the metal door to the rear have segmental arches. The pressed metal roof is hipped. There is a gothic touch in the roofline which forms a central pointed arch on the front elevation. One-story porches supported by chamfered posts extend across most of the front and rear. The roof material on the front porch is pressed metal. The rear porch is covered in tin, which appears to be a replacement. This porch forms an "L" shape as it adjoins the frame addition with the original brick jail.

The jailer and family resided in four rooms on the first floor of the original brick structure and kitchen and dining rooms in the frame addition. All of these rooms have plastered walls, wooden floors, and simple mouldings and mantels. Ceilings are also plastered with the exception of the front room on the northeastern corner. Here the ceiling is vaulted corrugated metal. In the original layout a central hall extended from the front door to a rear room. The addition of a bath in the 1930's has obstructed this hall.

The jail itself is located on the second floor of the building. As an expression of its prison function, all windows on the second floor have bars. Windows on the south corner of the first story also have bars, since this area functioned as the jail entrance. In the jail portion of the structure walls are smooth plaster, the ceilings are

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Description

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vaulted corrugated metal, and the floors are concrete. This area is divided into several distinct sections - the jail entrance on the first floor, and on the second floor a room housing the gallows directly above the jail entrance; a room on the north-eastern corner with two cells, and a maximum security room for felons on the north-western corner. Most of the jail hardware was manufactured by the "Stewart Jail Works Company" of Cincinnati, Ohio, with the exception of the maximum security cell. This cell was manufactured by P.J. Pauly and Bro., St. Louis, with the inscription on the label "patented June 6, 1878".

The jail hardware remains intact. The gallows with a ceiling hook and trap door (now welded closed) survive, as does a "line-up" viewer. Through a wide, cone-shaped metal apparatus with a small opening at the peak of the cone, a "line-up" of prisoners on the stairs in the jail entrance room could be viewed by persons remaining anonymous in the adjoining room.

There is a small cellar to the rear of the original building. Entrance is provided through steps leading under the back porch. The room is approximately ten feet square with an eight foot ceiling - the exposed structure of the first-story floor. Walls are whitewashed rock that rise six feet with the brick walls set on this foundation. The remnants of a now defunct heating system are located in the cellar. This system was a later addition that replaced the earlier method of fireplaces and wood stoves. On the dirt floor of the cellar, there appears to be the remains of a well, now filled with dirt.

Few changes have occurred to the structure since the kitchen wing was added in 1912. Additional changes include a heating system, electricity, a bath, and the paved driveway.

PHOTOGRAPHS

The Historic Preservation Section has determined that the photographs taken in February, 1981 still represent the character and appearance of the property. No significant changes have been made since that date.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) local history

**Specific dates** Built 1906      **Builder/Architect** J.W. Golucke & Company, Architect  
Atlanta Fire Proofing Company, Builder

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Banks County Jail is significant in the areas of architecture and local history. The building was designed by J.W. Golucke, a prominent Atlanta architect and the designer of a number of buildings throughout Georgia. The interior of the building contains a significant collection of jail works, designed and manufactured by companies with national recognition. In local history, the structure is significant as the third county jail, apparently the first of fireproof construction. These areas of significance support property eligibility under National Register criteria A and C.

Architecturally, the Banks County Jail is a modest interpretation of the Romanesque style, a design used frequently by the architect, J.W. Golucke. Golucke, (1865-1907) originally from Taliaferro County, Georgia, had offices in Atlanta at the time he designed the plans for the Banks County Jail. He was a popular architect in late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century Georgia. His commissions included many courthouses across the state, nineteen that are still standing today. He also designed the Twiggs County Jail, as well as hotels and churches.

The design of the jail is significant in that the jail's overall exterior appearance does not connote a jail, but rather a house or a school or some other civic building. Thus the building mingled with others in the community without standing out as an unusual building having a "jail" atmosphere as seen in other towns. It is significant for having been designed and built to be a jail and for incorporating the necessary features for the time, including a place for prisoners as well as for the jailer and his family. It also featured fireproof construction, with brick walls, concrete floors, and plastered finishes, which was also characteristic of jail architecture at this time.

The interior of the structure contains jail works designed and manufactured by "P.J. Pauly and Bro. Company of Saint Louis" and the "Stewart Jail Works Company of Cincinnati, Ohio". The Pauly Company was the designer and manufacturer of the maximum security cell. It is possible that this cell dates from the second jail, built in 1885, since an article documents the reuse of this cell for felons in this 1906 jail. The Pauly Company, based in Saint Louis, provided design and manufacturing services in the construction of jail cells and buildings to mid-western and southeastern states. After almost 100 years in jail construction, the company went out of business in 1964.

The remainder of the jail hardware was produced by Stewart Jail Works Company, Cincinnati, Ohio. This company was founded in 1886 and continues to operate. The company in its history has produced a wide variety of items in iron but today limits its operation to the design, manufacture, and installation of jail works across the United States. The company was called Stewart Iron Works Company Inc. until a merger with the Decatur Iron and Steel Company of Alabama ten years ago. Today the company is located in Covington, Kentucky and is known as Stewart Decatur Security Systems, Inc.

(CONTINUED)

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

(see attached sheet)

# 10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Homer, GA quadrangle

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 

1	7	2	7	1	0	2	0	3	8	0	1	9	2	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

E 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

F 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

G 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

H 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property is that part of a larger 6.4 acre tract that has been designated the Banks County Jail tract by the County Tax Assessor. The boundaries are marked on the enclosed sketch map. It is all the property currently associated with the former county jail and includes its outbuildings.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
N/A			

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title A) Dale Jaeger with assistance by Mrs. Nancy Chambers  
B) Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Historian

organization A) Georgia Mountains Area Planning & Development Commission  
B) Historic Preservation Section, DNR date May 18, 1982

street & number A) P.O. Box 1720  
B) 270 Washington Street, SW telephone A) (404) 536-3431  
B) (404) 656-2840

city or town A) Gainesville  
B) Atlanta state Georgia

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

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

*Elizabeth A. Lyon*  
Elizabeth A. Lyon

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 5/24/82

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

*William H. Abraham*

date 7.26.82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

*W. D. ...*

date 7/26/82

Chief of Registration

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In local history, this structure was the third jail for Banks County and the first to be constructed of brick. It was constructed on the site of the second jail, built in 1885, and some of the materials in the earlier structure were reused. Built in 1906, this building served the county for 66 years before it was vacated for new quarters in 1972. For almost 90 years, this property has been the site of the county jail. This structure expresses the tastes of the local community. It was built of brick to insure fire protection, and the jailer and his family were housed in a portion of the structure. A kitchen was later built as attached to the structure, replacing an earlier detached kitchen.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Banks County was established by the General Assembly of Georgia on December 11, 1858. One of the provisions of this act gave Justices of the Inferior Court the "power and authority to select and locate a site for public buildings of Banks County;... and to make arrangements or contracts concerning the county site and public buildings which may be needful". Homer became the county seat in 1859 and construction of a courthouse began the following year. Written plans for a jail were developed in 1860 along with the plans for the new courthouse.

The construction date and location for the first jail is unknown, but from the written plans of 1860, it appears to have been a frame, two-story building, 18' x 22' set on a rock foundation. The first mention of the jail appears in the Superior Court General Presentments dated April 1874. Few records survive prior to this time, so it is feasible to assume that the structure was constructed soon after the plans were developed. Superior Court notations between the years 1874 and 1884 call for the repair of a variety of items on the original jail - the replacement of locks, the construction of a new ladder to the dungeon floor ( which was probably the first floor since the plans do not call for excavation) , the repair of a trap door, and the location of a privy to the rear of the structure.

There was a recommendation for a new jail entered into the Minutes on September 1883, possibly prompted by an attempted escape in 1882. The recommendation called for a new jail with the jailer's house to be annexed. The new jail was to be built at a different location and paid for with a tax levy. These suggestions were followed and construction of the new jail was completed in March 1885. It is certain that the location of the new jail differed from the original jail, since the original jail was sold in September of 1885.

The style of the 1885 jail is uncertain since no plans or photographs survive to document its appearance. From Superior Court minutes, there are some clues. Back and front wooden verandas are mentioned frequently as in need of repair. Ceilings in the cells had originally been of plaster, but in 1891 the plastering was removed and replaced with planks 1½" thick. The jailer's dwelling was attached and interior walls in this portion were plastered and whitewashed. This jail appears to have been a one-story structure, since a recommendation at the turn-of-the-century called for the addition of a second floor. The material of the exterior is uncertain. A 1904 recommendation  
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in the Superior Court minutes called for the addition of two rooms to be built of rock. This same recommendation also suggested that the front porch be raised and pillared and a well furnished to the resident portion.

Apparently neither of these recommendations were followed. In the Superior Court Presentments of September 1905, another plan was disclosed. This approach called for the enlargement of the existing jail and stated "the southwest wall be torn down and moved back to the edge of the street and another story built on top with a hall through said story, so the women and men be separate, also the white and colored be kept separate, and a hall through the lower story and a door on the back side". These presentments appeared in the September 28, 1905 edition of the Banks County Journal and by October 19, 1905 the plan had once again changed.

The article in October stated that the county was to have a new jail, "one that is modern and in keeping with progress and civilization". The old jail was to be torn away with some material used in the construction of a new jail. The new jail was to cost \$9,000 and be a fireproof two-story structure built of brick. The first floor was to contain five rooms for the jailer and the second story for the housing of prisoners with adequate rooms to keep "sexes, races, youths, and the insane and sick separate."

By November 9, 1905 plans were ready and a notice to contractors was printed in the Banks County Journal. It appears that the structure was designed by J.W. Golucke, since the plans and specifications were on file at the "Ordinary's Office and also at the Office of Architects, J.W. Golucke and Company, 410 Temple Court Building, Atlanta, Georgia". Plans called for the second-story to contain cells with the old cells being used for felons. Swain and Company of Macon were reported as the lowest and successful bidder and construction was slated to begin November 23, 1905. Construction did not go as scheduled. From an article in the Banks County Journal on the proposed construction date it was noted that "on account of reasons known only to our fraternity the corner stone of the new jail will not be laid as heretofore stated". But, apparently, work did proceed. In that same issue, it was stated that the old jail was being torn down and Sheriff D.H. Griffin, who was in office at the time, and family were now occupying the Mrs. Stapler house.

Work did begin on the new jail by January 1906 and the Journal reported that work was "progressing nicely" in February 1906. There appears to have been some disagreement at the completion of the construction. The Journal again reported on the progress in May 10, 1906 and stated "that the contractors and jail committee met here yesterday and the committee would not receive the building as a first class job and refused to pay the full amount. The contractors pocketed the keys and carried them to Atlanta." It also appears that Swain and Company of Macon were not the builders, instead the Atlanta Fireproofing Company of Atlanta constructed the jail and in the settlement of the disputes were represented by Colonel Golucke (in all probability the same Golucke as the architect for the building). After several proposals from the Fireproofing Company to the committee a settlement was reached out of court. The Journal reported on May 31, 1906 "that the Fireproofing Company had accepted \$900 as a compromise on the \$1,485 balance. Keys were turned over to the authorities and prisoners in the calaboose were removed to the jail."

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As described in the plans, the jailer and family lived on the first floor of the jail structure. From completion of the new jail in 1906 to around 1912, the kitchen for the family was housed in a wooden structure located to the southeast of the jail. Around 1912, this building was vacated and a wing constructed of wood and containing two rooms was attached to the southwest of jail. This addition housed the kitchen and dining room for the jailer and family. Other changes to the structure have included the addition of a bath from a portion of an original central hallway and the addition of electricity and heating. This structure was used as the county jail until 1972 when a new jail was built and this structure vacated. It has remained vacant since that time and is once a year used as the "spook house" for Halloween activities for the Banks County Chamber of Commerce.

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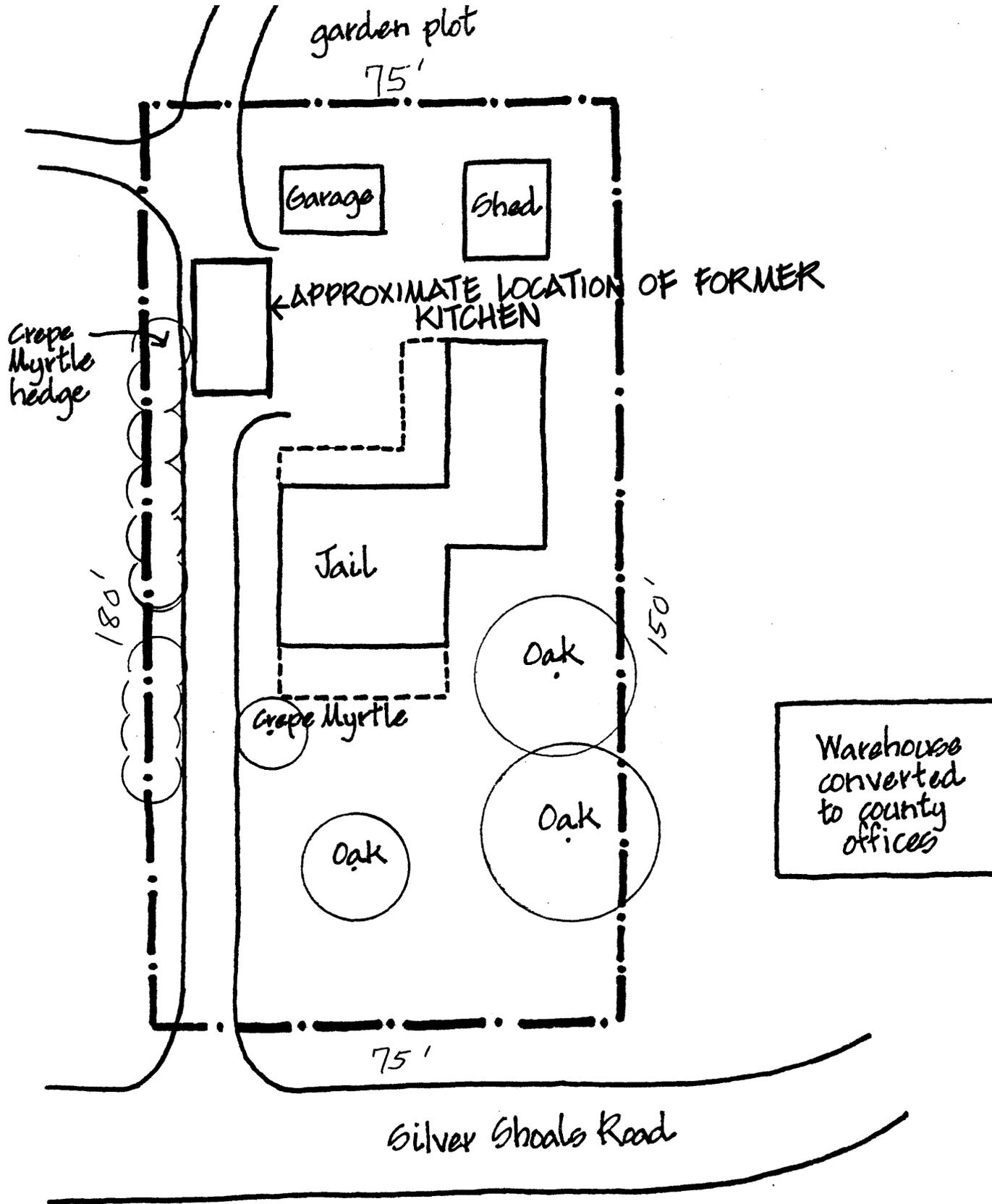
Page 2

Mize, Jessie Julia. The History of Banks County, Georgia, 1858-1976. Homer, Georgia:  
Banks County Chamber of Commerce. 1977.

Banks County, Georgia. Banks County Superior Court Minutes, Book A-D.

Banks County Journal, 1903-1907 issues.

Interviews and Research: Mrs. Nancy Chambers- Homer, Georgia; Mrs. C.L. Tucker-  
Panama City, Florida; Mrs. Henry Lewallen- Maysville, Georgia.



SKETCH MAP

BANKS COUNTY JAIL  
 Homer, Banks County, Georgia

Scale: not drawn to scale

Source: based on county tax map and site inspection and drawn by Dale Jaeger

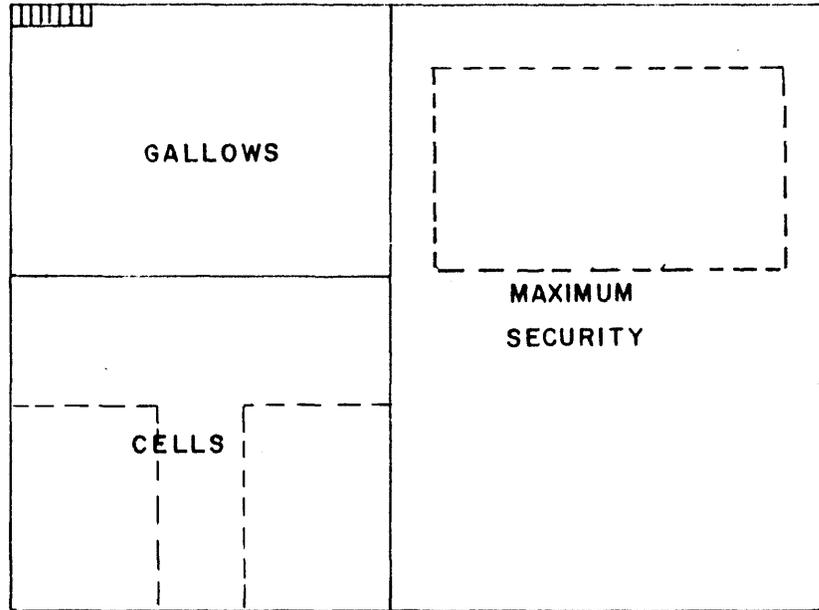
Date: 1981

Key: The nominated property is outlined with dots and dashes and all structures and sites are labelled.

OLD BANKS CO. JAIL  
 SKETCH MAP

no scale

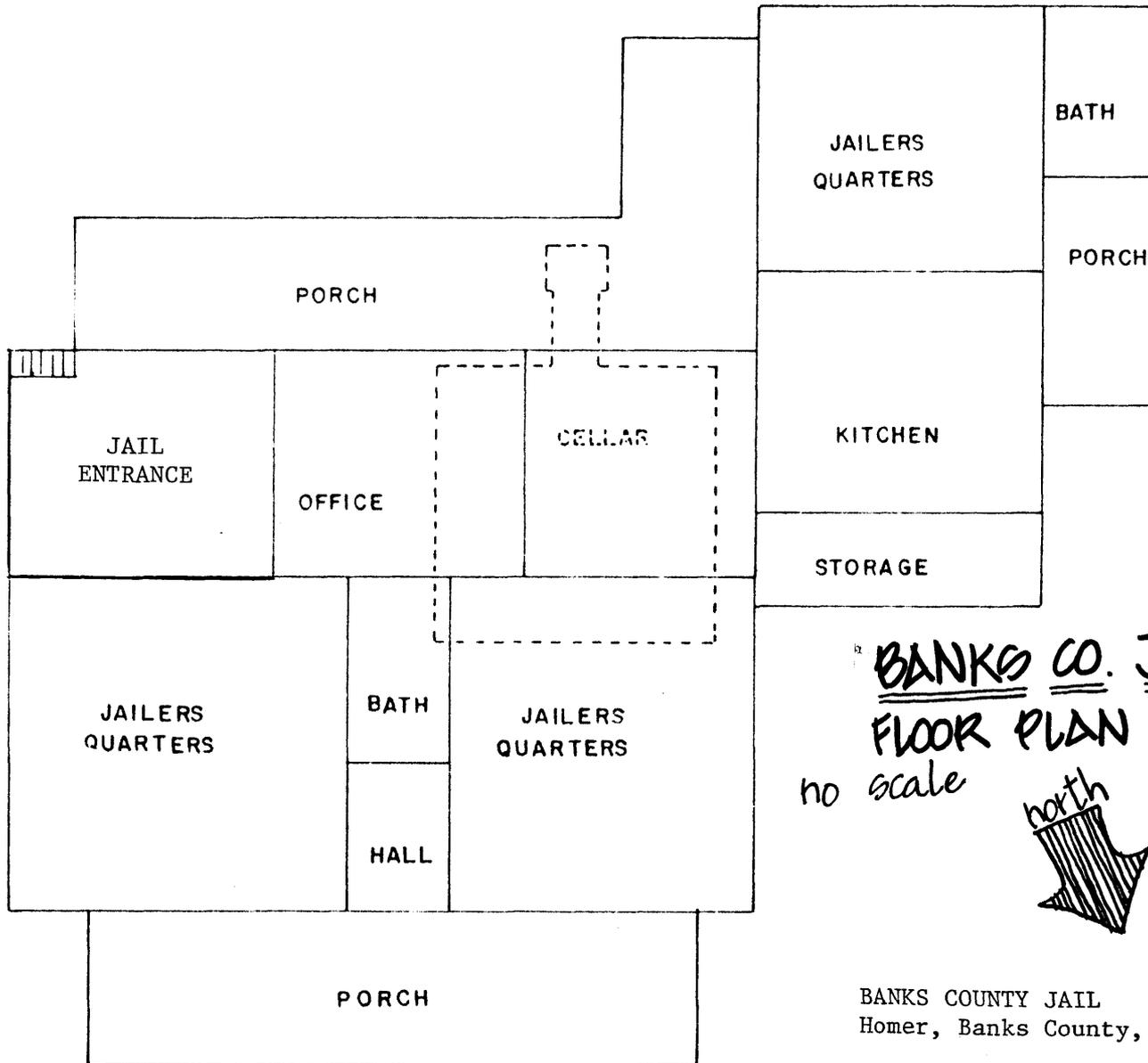




PLAN VIEW SECOND FLOOR

BANKS COUNTY JAIL  
Homer, Banks County, Georgia

Scale: not to scale  
Source: Drawn by Dale Jaeger  
Date: 1981  
Key: Second Floor



BANKS CO. JAIL  
FLOOR PLAN  
 no scale  
 north

PLAN VIEW FIRST FLOOR

BANKS COUNTY JAIL  
 Homer, Banks County, Georgia

Scale: not to scale  
 Source: Drawn by Dale Jaeger  
 Date: 1981  
 Key: First Floor