

PH0004412

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>Maine</b>	
COUNTY: <b>Lincoln</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER <b>70-1-18-0002</b>	DATE <b>1/26/70</b>

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**Wiscasset Jail and Museum**

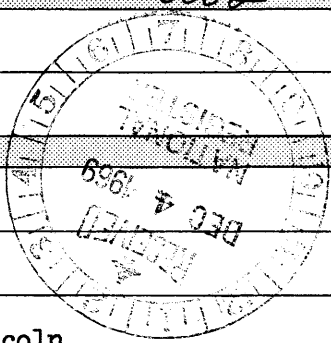
AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Route 218**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Wiscasset**

STATE: **Maine** CODE: **18** COUNTY: **Lincoln** CODE: **015**



**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**Lincoln County Cultural and Historical Association, Inc.**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Federal Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Wiscasset** STATE: **Maine** CODE: **18**

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Lincoln County Courthouse**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Wiscasset** STATE: **Maine** CODE: **18**

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**Historic American Buildings Survey**

DATE OF SURVEY: **1933-1965**  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**Library of Congress**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington** STATE: **D.C.** CODE: **08**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **Maine**  
COUNTY: **Lincoln**  
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DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent     Good     Fair     Deteriorated     Ruins     Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered     Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved     Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

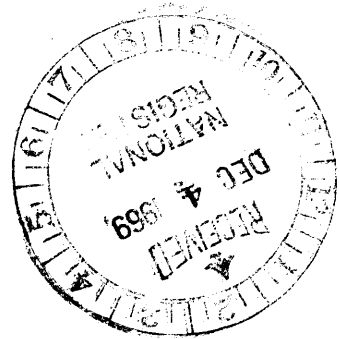
There are two main sections of the Wiscasset Jail complex; the granite jail itself and the attached brick jailer's house.

The Jail, completed in 1871, is constructed of large granite bricks. The walls of the three story building are 41 inches thick at the foundation and 30 inches thick at the eaves. The three floors are also constructed of heavy granite slabs. The 40' x 36' jail is gabled roofed and has a central hall architectural plan.

There are two floors of cells with a corridor running through the center of the cell block on each floor. Eleven of the twelve cells have windows, the only exception being the solitary confinement cell. The cell windows are heavily barred. Heavy wrought doors three fourths of an inch thick kept the prisoners well in check. The cells can best be described as damp and stark. The only fixture found within the 12' x 10' cubicles were large granite blocks which served as a seat. Many of the cell doors had huge locks and keys. A large number of these have been lost through the years.

There were four third floor apartments in the jail, the debtors room, the sick and insane room, the women's room and the work shop. There once was a cistern on the third floor, but it was dismantled some time ago.

The integrity of the jail has changed little through the year. It is still the same cold, damp, dingy place it has always been with the exception of a few areas the Lincoln County Cultural and Historical Association has converted to use as office space for their activities.



S E E I N S T R U C T I O N S

**SIGNIFICANCE**

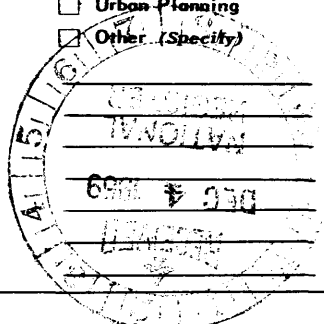
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **Built in 1809**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Lincoln County has built two jails since its formation in 1760, but neither was designed to hold prisoners for long terms of confinement. In 1807 Lincoln County appropriated \$6,000 for a new jail. The population had increased, the port towns were crowded with shipping and a great lumber industry had developed. The influx of seamen and woodsmen from other parts introduced an element of disorder which was new to the community. A small wooden jail was no longer adequate.

The cornerstone of the new jail was laid in 1809 and the building completed in 1811. The walls were constructed of granite brought from the Edgcomb quarries. Forty prisoners could be held in the twelve cells. Fire destroyed the first jailer's house and it was replaced in 1837 by the present brick house. In it the jailer's wife prepared meals for the prisoners and other inmates who at times numbered as many as fifty. Poor debtors, women prisoners, the sick and insane were quartered on the third floor of the jail and in the attic rooms of the jailer's house.

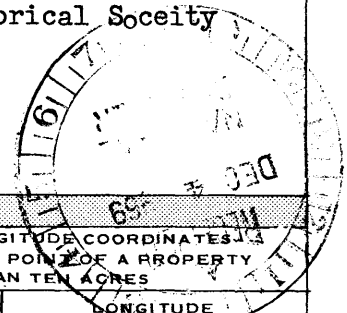
From 1811 until the State Prison was built in 1824, the Lincoln County Jail was the principal penitentiary in Maine for the safekeeping of felons. It was in continuous use until closed by High Sheriff Stanley G. Waltz in 1953. At that time prisoners were placed in temporary custody in the new wing of the Lincoln County Court House in Wiscasset before being transferred elsewhere. Conditions in the jail were poor at best. For many years there was no heat available at all; the prisoners had only a bundle of straw and two blankets to keep them from freezing. In later years stoves were installed at the entrances to the two main cell blocks, but these were extremely inadequate. Sanitary facilities in the jail were also very crude. Overall the jail was a virtual "living Hell" by today's standards.

In 1954 the jail was deeded by Lincoln County to the Lincoln County Cultural and Historical Association with the stipulation that it must be open to the public for at least two months each year.

The attached jailer's house has been converted into a museum displaying a large collection of Maine arts and crafts.

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Newspaper article, Lewiston, Maine Journal, November 13, 1954  
 Newspaper article, Lincoln County News, Damariscotta, Maine November 6, 1958  
 Wilson, Everett, America East, 1965 p. 33  
 Pamphlet published by the Lincoln County Cultural & Historical Society  
 Allen, Charles, Edwin, History of Dresden, Maine, 1931



**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 . "	0 . "		44 0 39	66 0 39 49	
NE	0 . "	0 . "				
SE	0 . "	0 . "				
SW	0 . "	0 . "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 5 ACRES

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
John W. Briggs, Historian

ORGANIZATION: State Park & Recreation Commission      DATE: Nov. 24, 1969

STREET AND NUMBER:  
State House

CITY OR TOWN: Augusta      STATE: Maine      CODE: 18

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National     State     Local

Name Lawrence Stuart  
Lawrence Stuart  
 Title Director

Date 12-1-69

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

Ernest Allen Connolly  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date JAN 26 1970

ATTEST:  
William J. Huntley  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date JAN 14 1970

SEE INSTRUCTIONS  
 19/446925/4873950  
 76-611  
 100-157-1077

Wiscasset Jail 5 Acres

	Latitude			Longitude		
NW	44°	0'	40"	69°	39'	52"
NE	44°	0'	40"	69°	39'	50"
SE	44°	0'	39"	69°	39'	50"
SW	44°	0'	39"	69°	39'	52"

WISCASSET, MAINE  
N4400—W6930/15

1957

