

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form JUN - 5 2015

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin 48. Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. If any 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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name Old Grainger County Jail
Other names/site number Grainger County Jail
Name of related multiple property listing N/A

2. Location

Street & Number: SE jct Water Street and Hwy 92
City or town: Rutledge State: TN County: Grainger
Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: N/A Zip Code: 37861

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 at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria: A B C D

Claudia... 6/3/15
Signature of certifying official/Title: Date
D State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
Signature of Commenting Official: Date
Title: State of Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register

other (explain:)

James Walker
 Signature of the Keeper

7.21.2015
 Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

- Private
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	1	structures
0	0	objects
1	1	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

GOVERNMENT/correctional facility

Current Functions

SOCIAL/meeting hall

WORK IN PROGRESS

7. Description

Architectural Classification

NO STYLE

OTHER: Gable-front with parapet

Materials:

Principal exterior materials of the property:

BRICK; GLASS, WOOD/weatherboard; METAL/cast iron/aluminum; CONCRETE

Narrative Description

Old Grainger County Jail (c. 1845, contributing)

The town of Rutledge, Grainger County, Tennessee (as of 2010 population: 1,133) is a small rural community located about 33 miles northeast of Knoxville. Located on Highway 92 near Richland Creek in Rutledge, the Old Grainger County Jail is one of the oldest extant brick jails in the state of Tennessee. Grainger County's old jail sits at the southern edge of a historic commercial district, about one block south of the main highway (11W) that traverses the county in a general southwest to northeast fashion.

The earliest known settlements in Grainger County date to around 1796, and for about five years after that time the County used various locations, including local residences, to conduct meetings and official business. In 1801, the town of Rutledge was established as the county seat. The town is laid out in a compact linear grid that covers an area about four blocks square, centered along Highway 11W. The blocks surrounding the jail contain a mix of modern twentieth-century commercial buildings (c. 1950-1980) and older historic commercial buildings (c. 1920-1930), including the old Citizen's Bank Building (c. 1925) and the H. Gallion Store (c. 1925) which are both on the main highway about one block north of the jail. A few residential

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buildings are interspersed throughout the vicinity of the jail, including the Nance Building (c. 1840, NRHP listed 7/1/1998) and homes dating from roughly 1920-1940, some of which are currently being used as commercial business locations. The modern Grainger County Courthouse (c. 1949) sits about two blocks north of the Old Jail, and the original county courthouse (built 1801) was located nearby and dismantled to partially construct what is now known as the Henderson Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church (c. 1890, NRHP listed 6/22/2000). The AME Zion Church, one of very few nineteenth-century buildings left in Rutledge, is located about two blocks north and one block west of the jail.

Generally speaking, the concentration of twentieth-century commercial architecture is located west, northwest and north of the jail, with the Rutledge Recreational Park to the south and southeast of the jail. Aside from one circa 1966 dwelling on an adjacent parcel, there is mostly open land to the east of the Old Jail. The Old Jail is one of few historic commercial buildings in this area that retains its architectural and contextual integrity with respect to the surrounding district. Highway 92, which leads south to Jefferson City, is located immediately west of the jail parcel, while Water Street (the southernmost boundary of the Rutledge commercial district) runs west to east along the north edge of the jail parcel. The jail parcel is essentially rectangular in form, with the northern portion containing a small asphalt parking lot (installed about 1985). An in-ground cistern is located a few feet from the northeast corner of the jail building.

Exterior

The building's main entrance, which retains the original solid cast iron main door and corresponding outer barred door, fronts onto Highway 92, facing west. The jail retains most of its historic exterior appearance, aside from a few alterations that have occurred over time, but which do not detract from the building's overall historic integrity. The jail is a two-story, brick rectangular building with minimal stylistic detailing on a brick foundation. Solid masonry walls are constructed with brick laid in a common bond pattern of five stretcher courses for every header course. Windows are present on both floors on three elevations, the fourth (southern) elevation having no fenestration. There are single front and rear doors on the west and east elevations, respectively. All window and door openings contain a segmented brick arch, and retain their historic wood framing. A low-pitched, crimped metal roof is situated with the gable ends facing east and west, though a small parapet obscures the roof ridge when looking at the west wall. A small front overhang has been installed at the main door, and a full-length covered concrete patio exists at the rear of the building.

Approaching the building from Highway 92, the façade (west elevation) of the old jail, which contains the main entrance, is the most prominent. A small concrete patio is located at the northern end of this wall, with an overhang that provides minimal coverage. There are two thin, wrought iron posts with S-curve detailing that support a small, wood frame roof with crimped metal covering. A 1900 photo of historic Rutledge confirms the presence of an overhang of similar design at this spot, though it is unknown if the existing materials are original to the building. The photo indicates that a path or walkway extended from Highway 92 up to the building at this spot. The main door is solid cast iron and is in good condition, including the exterior iron barred door. Both doors retain the original locks, which require a skeleton key for entry. There is an arched brick header over the door and a small, segmented stained glass window is inset, a purple and yellow design with the name and date of the jail visible from the interior. The windows are evenly spaced, with two at the first floor and three on the second floor of this elevation, no window above the main door. Windows are two-over-two, single-hung wood frame, with arched brick headers and slightly projecting brick sills that have been covered with cement. In the center of the west wall above the second floor is a small parapet wall with two integrated chimneys and a squat, arched opening that may have once been a vent and is now bricked in. This opening displays the same header and sill elements as the windows below. Within the

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arch of this opening, a few bricks of varying sizes have been inserted in a spaced, "soldier-like" pattern. Overall, this elevation is in good condition, save a few places where the walls have been repointed with Portland cement and cracks have resulted. At present, signs for the Grainger County Women's Club and Grainger County Historical Society (who are leasing the building long-term from the County) flank the front entrance.

The south elevation of the building has the least amount of detail, as there are no openings on this wall. A power line and electrical meter are attached near the southwest corner and a drain pipe extends down at the southwest corner. There are a few spots near the center of the wall that have been repointed with Portland cement, and the condition of this wall is fair. About halfway up the wall and close to the southwest corner is a sizeable hole (about one square foot in size) that has left the interior layers of brick exposed. Two additional areas in line with this spot exist at the same height spaced towards the back wall, all at about the height where the second floor starts. Based on historical photos and an account from a local government official, this is where a pipe used to exist that was part of a trough used to carry waste from the upper floor men's cells out to Richland Creek. The trough and vertical pipe have since been removed, leaving behind holes that have since been filled in with modern bricks and mortar.

The east elevation of the old jail has seen the most alteration over the years. The asymmetrical fenestration at the first floor is a mirror image of that on the west wall, with two windows and a door, but the second floor contains three windows, one of which is located above the door, unlike the west wall. All openings again display the rounded brick headers and are the same materials and size of those found on the west elevation. At the top of the east wall are red-painted wood boards within the gable end of the low-pitched roof. Some of these boards are split and warped, possibly from water damage. Located close to the northeast corner of the building on this wall is a single wood door with a metal and glass exterior storm door. This entrance is located beneath a full-length covered concrete patio that is a later addition. Five wrought iron posts support a shed roof with crimped metal covering. There is also a low concrete wall extending the full depth of the patio from the northeast corner. The metal posts are of the same styling and S-curve detail as those located at the front entrance. Concrete has again been used to cover the brick window sills on this elevation, and there are visible portions that have been repointed with Portland cement, causing cracks especially near the windows. All windows on this wall retain their iron bars and wood frames, and are two-over-two.

Facing towards downtown Rutledge, the north elevation of the jail looks out onto the parking lot at the corner of Water Street and Highway 92. There are two windows on this elevation, one on each floor and both located nearest the northwest corner. The windows also contain rounded headers and iron bars. Both brick window sills have been covered with concrete, and cracking is evident. A few places show repointing with Portland cement, most noticeably extending diagonally up and out from the top two corners of the second story window. A small area above the center of the first floor window's header has also been repointed with modern mortar. Near the center of the wall is a vertical drain pipe which extends up through the roof. The edge of the crimped metal roof appears to be lifting somewhat, mostly near the northwest corner. A gutter downspout is located at the northeastern corner on this elevation, another small pipe beside it reaches up to a height roughly where there two floors intersect.

There is minimal landscaping around the jail, mostly confined to the areas along the west and north elevations. Low wood timbers are situated in a rectangular shape to form plant beds, starting at the southwest corner, and extending around to the north elevation (except for the opening at the front entryway). The timbers extend out about ten feet past the northwest corner of the building, then turn back parallel to the

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north wall and extend back to the full depth of the covered rear porch, once again turning back past a large tree and stopping a few feet short of intersecting the porch due to an in-ground cistern located next to the tree. A few small shrubs and mulch (concentrated closest to the parking lot) complete the existing landscaping.

Interior

The main point of interior access is through the front door on the west elevation of the old jail. The cast iron single door is about one inch thick with brass knob, original locking mechanism and barred exterior door, also with original lock. The door frame, aside from the concrete-covered tread, is also iron. Upon entering the jail from the front door, the entrance opens into one of two main rooms on the first floor. The northern half of the building contains a foyer, while a meeting room with small kitchenette is situated in the south end of the building. The foyer allows direct passage to the back door (converted from a window in the early 1980s) and access to the second floor via a narrow stairway located at the northeast corner of the jail. Just inside the foyer, to the left of the front door and under the stair, is a small wood door that opens into a half bathroom. The bath, added during 1984 renovations, contains a pedestal sink, toilet and tile floor.

The foyer has a thin, red acrylic fiber carpet with a small semi-circular imitation stone floor tile inset at the front door. The flooring under the carpet is smooth and hard, possibly concrete but is not visible for verification. A small stained glass window is inset above the main door, the design of which is a purple and yellow pattern with the text "Old Grainger County Jail 1848," though it is important to note that recent research supports an earlier date of construction. The walls are smooth plaster and show some cracks and peeling paint, and there is very little trim present. Wood trim is located around the bathroom door and the rear door; along the bottom edge of the walls is rubber trim. There is wood trim also around the window located at the northwest corner of this area. The ceiling displays a textured pattern and there is a ceiling fan in the middle of the room.

Between the foyer and meeting room is another iron door with iron frame, brass knob, and original locking mechanism. This door is about the same thickness as the main entry door and swings into the meeting room. The carpet carries into this room directly over the threshold of the doorway. Along the base of the walls is rubber trim like that in the foyer. All three windows (two on the west wall, one on the east) have wood window trim. The walls are again a smooth drywall and show some cracking, with a textured ceiling and somewhat dated fan located in the center of the ceiling. Along the east wall are upper and lower wood cabinets with laminate covering, a sink and a freestanding refrigerator. The cabinets wrap around to a counter that projects into the middle of the room. The remaining portion of the room contains several portable chairs and a table used for a meeting space.

The only second floor access in the old jail is via the narrow stairway located in the northeast corner of the building, at the back corner of the foyer. Three steps turn a 90-degree angle directly beside the back door, and the stair turns and runs up ten steps along the north wall. The stairs are also covered with the same acrylic fiber carpet found at the first floor. There is a metal handrail that runs along the east and north walls, and a metal balustrade that runs along the inner area of the stairwell, which is partially concealed by the second floor.

At the top of the stairs is a small landing that leads to the main space on this level. The landing area has minimal decoration, aside from rubber trim at the base of the walls and wood trim around the window at the northwest corner. There is another iron door here with iron frame and original key hole, though the locking

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mechanism is no longer attached. This single door swings out into the stairwell area to rest against the west wall. There are two small round holes in the door just above the lock that may have functioned as peepholes. One large room essentially takes up the entire second floor and functions as another meeting space. The carpet in this room is red, thick and plush and there is no trim at the base of the walls in this room. As there are three windows on each of the west and east walls, this room receives light from both sides of the building. The windows have wood trim and there are smooth drywall walls throughout. The ceiling is a textured pattern like that on the first floor and there are two evenly spaced ceiling fans. In the center of the room, a support beam is exposed that runs between the west and east walls.

Parking Lot (post-1970, noncontributing)

The northwest corner of the jail parcel contains a large, square asphalt parking lot, which extends across most of the northern border of the parcel. This lot is accessible from either Water Street at the north or Highway 92 at the west, and is bounded at its southern edge by wood timbers that are part of the landscaping around the jail. Based on photos from circa 1960s and 1900, this area appears to have always been open land and/or utilized as a parking area for the jail. A photo that dates to as late as the 1970s does not show this portion of the parcel as being paved.

Alterations and Construction Date

Some alterations have occurred over the years since the jail was built. A 1900 photograph of a “bird’s eye” view of Rutledge from a bluff just south of the jail shows the jail in this location though a few differences are noticeable. The path leading up to the front door of the jail extends all the way out to the highway in this photo. There is a front covered patio, but the roofline of the overhang appears slightly different, more of a shed roof than the existing front gable style. The photo also shows the presence of a large vertical pipe on the south wall near the west corner, now believed to be part of a waste management pipe that has since been removed and left some holes in this wall. One notable difference in this photo is the main roof on the jail, which shows as a moderately-pitched, side gable formation rather than the current front gable and parapet, though the photo resolution is not clear enough to confirm the presence of the parapet. This photo also shows a small side gable shed at the rear of the building near the northeast corner. Some believe that this was used to store equipment or vehicles.

Research indicates that the jail was in use as a correctional facility until December 1949 or January 1950, though the exact date is yet undetermined. The original cells which (according to Harry Moore with the Grainger County Historical Society) included cells for women, were cut up and sold for scrap metal sometime in the 1950s or 1960s.

A circa 1960 aerial photo of the jail show the current roof configuration, though no research to date has been able to pinpoint the timeframe during which the roof was re-structured. The parapet vent on the west wall had already been bricked in, as evidenced by yet another photo taken from north of the building in the 1960s or 1970s timeframe. In this same photo, the front overhang/porch cover has been removed. Also at this time, a rear concrete block, single bay, shed garage existed at the northeast corner (constructed in the 1950s).

A photo from around 1982, taken soon after a community restoration effort shows the rear of the building with no porch or addition, and only a narrow-depth patio along the ground beside the east wall. The restoration event included necessary cleaning and repointing, some of which may have included the use of mortar that was harder than the original. Harry Moore (GCHS) recalls that the rear door was installed at this time (replacing an original window), which required the removal of an attached rear shed used for fire truck

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storage. The half bath under the stair was also installed around the time of this restoration effort. Other work included a roof replacement, gutter installation, and replacement of windows.

Based on county court records, it is believed that the Old Grainger County Jail was constructed in 1845, with public knowledge by about 1848—a date which shows in some records, including the stained glass window over the jail’s main door and the County bicentennial history by W.E. Holt. However, there has been some disagreement as to the age of the brick based upon its physical characteristics. One local architectural historian inspected the brick in 1989 and believed it to be much later than the 1840s construction date, based on her knowledge of the extrusion process. She believes the bricks are machine made and extruded, a process that was not commonly utilized in the United States until after the Centennial Exhibition of 1876. According to her August 2, 1989 letter to the Tennessee Historical Commission, “[e]ven though rudimentary machinery had been invented and used in parts of Europe earlier in the century, it is extremely unlikely that any was imported for use in East Tennessee that early.”

A follow-up examination of the brick in late 2014 was conducted by a local architectural firm and a company that is known for its masonry expertise. Upon inspection of the bricks in several locations, and the presence of what appear to be thumbprints, the masonry experts are of the opinion that the brick on the jail is handmade. The architectural firm did additional research on local brick kilns, and could not locate any instance of local “manufactured” brick earlier than the 1860s. Therefore, given these differing professional opinions, the exact age of the brick is still being debated. Although local sources suggest the building was constructed circa 1845, one examination of the bricks shows them to have been made later. It is not known whether the building was re-bricked at a later date (after the 1870s) or if a later building was built on the same site as the 1840s jail, though no research thus far supports the latter conclusion.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

Areas of Significance

ARCHITECTURE

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

LAW

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

c.1845-1950

Significant Dates

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Bunch, Samuel; Cocke, William E.;

McBroom, Thomas; Clark, Joseph;

- 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 N/A

(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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

The Old Grainger County Jail, located on Highway 92 in Rutledge, Grainger County, Tennessee is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its local significance in the early government, law, and social history of Grainger County. The jail, a c. 1845 solid brick government building, is eligible for listing under Criterion C for its architectural significance as an excellent example of a mid-nineteenth-century correctional facility in rural East Tennessee. The period of significance begins circa 1845 and stretches to 1950, the year the jail had ceased to be used as a correction facility. The minimalistic ornamentation and stylistic detail are evocative of the era and functionality of the building, and its age distinguishes the jail as one of the oldest of its kind in the State.

Narrative Statement of Significance

Criterion A

The Old Grainger County Jail is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A: Local History for its role in local government, law and social history. The jail is significant because it reflects the county's early recognition of the need for order and legal justice. A symbol of the social contract between citizens and their government, the jail is a prominent early example of a local-level penal facility and is one of the county's oldest extant governmental buildings.

The Old Grainger County Jail was built in the rural East Tennessee town of Rutledge as the second of three jails that have served the county since its establishment in 1801. The first jail was built by Jonathan Williams and was located in Rutledge in the rear of the first county courthouse, both buildings constructed in 1801.¹ The present Old Jail was built c. 1845, just prior to the construction of the second county courthouse, built in Rutledge in 1846.² The Old Jail was used as the county detention facility until about 1949, when the third courthouse, still standing near the northeast corner of Hwy 92 and Hwy 11W, began to house inmates. Tax records indicate that the jail facilities were moved roughly one-third mile northeast of the courthouse in about 1992 to the present Grainger County Detention Center complex.

Criterion C

In addition, the Old Grainger County Jail is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C: Architecture as a uniquely simplistic, utilitarian form as compared with other local and statewide examples of this building type and age. The jail is a simple plan, built with basic and few materials, and generally devoid of architectural detailing, all of which is consistent with its age and use as a detention facility in a rural location.

Several county jails are listed in the National Register of Historic Places, but most are generally more fanciful and complex in style, materials or plan as compared to the Old Grainger County Jail. A few of these buildings retain individual elements similar to the Old Jail, such as the semi-circular brick window headers, as seen in the c. 1860 Hancock County Old Jail (NRHP listed 4/11/1973), the c. 1893 Lawrence County Jail (NRHP listed 3/16/1976), or the c. 1898 Franklin County Jail (NRHP listed 3/26/1979). The c. 1882 Olde Greene County Gaol [jail], which is not NRHP listed, also displays the same style of window openings. All

¹ *History of Grainger County: 1796-1976*, W.E. Holt, 1976, p. 6.

² Grainger County Court records, Vol. 8, p. 277.

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of these local jail examples are two-story brick buildings like the Old Grainger County Jail, but contain more stylistic decoration such as brick corbelling at the cornice, more diverse materials such as a limestone foundation and stucco lintels, and more complex building footprints (especially the Lawrence and Franklin County examples).

A distinctive feature of the Old Grainger County Jail is the stepped parapet in the gable on its west elevation. This element is not shown in other examples of county jails, aside from a similar detail on the c. 1851 Bledsoe County Jail (NRHP listed 11/12/2008) and a much less extrusive form seen on the southeast elevation of the aforementioned Franklin County Jail. The majority of these historic jails do not display complex roof forms or detailing, as most are covered by either a gable or hipped roof. The closest other local example of similar roof detail may be seen on the c. 1907 Old Scott County Jail (NRHP listed 4/18/1974), which is a three-level stone building with crenellations that is otherwise dissimilar to the subject building.

It appears that complex footprints for these historic county jails developed into prominence in the latter half of the nineteenth century. The c. 1819 Claiborne County Jail (NRHP listed 3/21/2007) is the most geographically proximate example of the simple rectangular footprint seen in the Old Grainger County Jail. Generally rectangular, aside from small extensions on the north and south gable ends, the Bedford County Jail (NRHP listed 4/1/1975) is otherwise not comparable stylistically to the subject building. Later jail examples such as the c. 1885 Moore County Courthouse and Jail (NRHP listed 9/26/1979) and the c. 1898 Old Fentress County Jail (NRHP listed 5/24/1984) show more complex footprints, the former also displaying considerably more stylistic detailing. As the size and complexity of such penal facilities developed, these government buildings became increasingly more prominent relative to their locale. This further illustrates the significance of the Old Grainger County Jail which retains a high level of simplistic architectural integrity and contextual relevance when compared with surrounding local historic buildings and extant historic county jails across the state.

Background History

The Grainger County Court first purchased land for the county seat of Rutledge in 1801, and allotted an area eight poles (132 feet) wide that extended from High Street behind the present courthouse to Richland Creek, located just beyond the Old Grainger County Jail building on Highway 92. On this plot, the County was to build a courthouse, stocks and a jail. Additionally, the County kept title for two lots containing springs to be used as the public water supply; one lot is located across from the Old Jail where the Grainger County Rescue Squad is housed, the other lot is located near the east end of Water Street, behind the Wolfe property. At this time and soon after the town was laid out, a small frame courthouse was erected with a jail at the rear. The first courthouse was built by Francis Mayberry and the first jail built by Jonathan Williams.^{3 4}

During the time the first courthouse and jail were built, Grainger County was undergoing early significant social and governmental development. The construction of these judicial and correctional facilities was a necessary investment in the growth and protection of the community that sprang up in the surrounding

³ "Grainger County," *Grainger County Bicentennial Edition*, July 3, 1996, p. 4.

⁴ *History of Grainger County*

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district. By 1822, a committee was appointed to superintend the building of a new county jail; this initiative involved Benjamin Craighead, Thomas McBroom and Jacob Kline who were to oversee its construction.⁵

On Tuesday, June 3, 1845 the Grainger County Court appointed a committee to study the prospect of building a new county jail. On July 7, 1845 the County Court formally proposes the new jail's construction and appoints Thomas McBroom, Joseph Clark, Samuel Bunch, and William E. Cocke as the construction superintendents; according to Grainger County Court records, this is the same jail that still stands along Highway 92 in Rutledge. County Court minutes show the old jail being completed during the summer of 1845. In October, 1845, the County Court approved the payment of \$6.68 to William Tate for articles used to furnish the jail. That same month, the County Court approved sale to the highest bidder for the left over iron, lumber, and nails from construction of the "new" jail, and also recommended hiring someone to conduct the removal of the old jail, presumably the 1822 structure.⁶

Completion of this building was a source of pride for Grainger County residents, and ensured their safety. This also attracted new, law-abiding residents to the area, willing to help pay for this great expense in exchange for the protection it afforded them and their families. The completion of this highly visible landmark of justice reflected the community's commitment to law and order, and acted as a deterrent to criminals passing through the rural lands during this time. The circa 1845 jail was built during an early development of correctional reform, and the architectural design of the building reflects a progressive attitude towards legal punishment. A distinctive feature of the jail which embodies this approach was the existence of separate cells for women and men, atypical for jails of this period and later that comingled prisoners regardless of gender or type and level of offense. The cells which previously existed in the old Grainger jail also allowed for higher level criminals to be detained separately from the general population, thereby offering a certain level of protection even to those who were criminals under the law. Like other early jails, this building was also utilized as a community center, safe haven and gathering place to residents and visitors alike. Travelers could obtain information and shelter at the jail from the High Sheriff or his deputy, one of which was always present and knowledgeable about the community and citizens of the area.⁷

In 1846, the Grainger County Court appointed commissioners to supervise the construction of a new County courthouse, using money left over from the building of the new jail; Commissioner McBroom was handling all monetary resources at this time. Later this year, four more distinct records appear in the County Court minutes. Three entries reflect where the County Court made payment for boarding of prisoners at the County jail at a rate of thirty-seven cents per day per person. The fourth entry shows a payment of \$1.50 for two buckets for the County jail. In 1847, the Grainger County Court decided to sell the old courthouse (Henderson Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, NRHP-listed 6/22/2000) and made payment of \$900.00 to Ben Parrott for the construction of a new courthouse. The Court also made payment of \$7.00 at this time to furnish the jail with new blankets and other articles. In July 1848, the County paid out \$2.50 for a blacksmith to work on the jail. A plank fence made of locust posts was built around the jail in July of 1858,

⁵ *Historical and Biographical Sketch of Grainger County*, Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1887, p. 855.

⁶ Grainger County Court records, Vol. 8, p. 233; *ibid*, 239; *ibid*, 261; *ibid*, 266

⁷ "The County Jail," National Register Information Form, Harry Moore, 1986.

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and the following October glass was put into the windows and two pairs of steps were installed at the [front] door of the jail.⁸

By April 1878, the jail inspection committee produced a report that states the jail is in good condition but not as clean as it should be. This committee reported again in April 1880 that the jail is in need of a new roof and wood shingles; at this time the committee noted repairs made to the jail locks and a new key was fashioned for \$3.50. July that same year, the County made payment in the amount of \$17.00 for brick and lime to repair the jail chimney, door header and other repairs, also payment of \$4.00 for iron needed in the jail. (It is possible that the brick purchased for repairs at this time were machine made and extruded, leading to late twentieth-century conclusions that the brick on the jail was of a later date.) By 1894, the jail committee reported satisfactory conditions in the jail, though it was noted that ventilation in the building was poor.⁹

In 1903, the County began exploring the idea of building a grand new courthouse, as inspection from a brick mason revealed that the old building was in poor condition and was a danger to the public. An architect from Charlotte, North Carolina was selected to design and oversee construction of this new courthouse, the contract being approved in January, 1904. In July, the jail was declared a “workhouse” for the purpose of using jail inmates for labor, and the courthouse was completed and furnished by January 1905. The jail received a fresh coat of paint on its roof in 1909, after which County Court records have no mention of the jail until over thirty-five years later. On July 27, 1946 prisoner Louis Lockhart of Indiana tried to commit suicide in the jail, with no success. The event drew a large crowd and Indiana State Police arrived to take Lockhart back home. By all accounts, the jail was last used as a correctional facility around 1949, when another County courthouse was completed (replacing the one lost to fire January 16, 1946). The new courthouse and jail were dedicated August 25, 1949.¹⁰

Since closing its doors in 1949, the Old Jail has been left in the caring hands of the Grainger County Historical Society (GCHS), which formed in September 1981 and has put forth great efforts to protect this significant building. Various initiatives to repair and make use of the old building have been supported by many local groups, including the Grainger County Home Demonstration Club, Rutledge Lions Club, Rutledge Lioness Club, Rutledge Women’s Club, and the Order of the Eastern Star. In 1981, a petition to the Grainger County Court was made by the historical society, which secured a thirty-year lease on the jail contingent upon making improvements to its condition within that time period.

In 1982, significant work began on the Old Grainger County Jail, much of it cleaning and repairing the masonry. A new metal roof was constructed in early August and was of the same design as when the GCHS obtained the lease. At this time, a back window (east wall, first floor near north corner) and iron bars were removed and replaced with a single exit door in order to meet safety regulations. Around this same time,

⁸ Grainger County Court records, Vol. 8, p. 276; *ibid*, 277; *ibid*, 335-362; *ibid*, 414; *ibid*, 421; *ibid*, 426; Grainger County Court records, Vol. 9, p. 6; *ibid*, Vol. 11, p. 142; *ibid*, 167.

⁹ Grainger County Court records, April 1, 1878, p. 344; *ibid*, April 5, 1880, p. 162; *Ibid*, July 5, 1880, p. 198; Grainger County Court records, 1894 jail report, file #1886.

¹⁰ Grainger County Court records, October 5, 1903, p. 311-313; *ibid*, November 16, 1903, p. 338; *ibid*, January 4, 1904, p. 344; *ibid*, July 4, 1904, p. 416; *ibid*, January 2, 1905, p. 461; Grainger County Court records, 1909 Jail Commission, file #2685; “Grainger County,” *Grainger County Bicentennial Edition*, July 3, 1996, p. 5.

Old Grainger County Jail

Grainger County, Tennessee
County and State

GCHS hired a local architect to conduct a structural evaluation of the building and determine a scope of work for restoration activities. Preliminary drawings and recommendations were completed, documenting various design and construction aspects of the building. Saturday, August 14, 1982 was an important date for the old jail. The day had been designated a community work day, in which Governor Lamar Alexander and his wife, Honey, were to participate in repair work on the jail. The hands-on event brought together many people from the community to perform various necessary repairs including repointing of the brick mortar, stripping the interior walls of old plaster, and replacement of windows. Over \$8,000.00 was raised on this work day to help pay for the restoration costs. Repairs to the jail continued, with GCHS hosting an Open House on December 2, 1984. In 2013, the Rutledge Women’s Club obtained a lease from the Grainger County Commission, and the club plans to make restoring the jail a major goal. A new property survey was completed in June 2014 and filed with the Grainger County tax assessor’s office.¹¹

GCHS and the Rutledge Women’s Club are currently working with a preservation architect in Knoxville to develop designs for a rear addition to the old jail that will allow the building to be utilized as a community center with minimal invasion to the primary structure and materials. Plans for the rear addition are in the process of being developed with input from the Tennessee Historical Commission in order to avoid diminishing the building’s historic integrity. A glass hyphen may be constructed around the rear door that would connect to a single story, open floor plan addition that will provide modern accommodations and additional square footage. The primary goal of Grainger County, GCHS, and the Rutledge Women’s Club is to honor and recognize the building with listing in the National Register of Historic Places due to its local and architectural significance.

¹¹ “Governor’s Work Day at the Jail,” *Grainger County News*, August 18, 1982.

Old Grainger County Jail
Name of Property

Grainger County, Tennessee
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9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

Aerial photo of old Grainger County Jail. Grainger County Archives. Photo date circa 1960.

“Governor’s Work Day at the Jail,” Grainger County News, August 18, 1982.

“Grainger County,” *Grainger County Bicentennial Edition*, July 3, 1996.

Grainger County Court records. Volume 8, p. 233.

---. Volume 8, p. 239.

---. Volume 8, p. 261.

---. Volume 8, p. 266.

---. Volume 8, p. 276.

---. Volume 8, p. 277.

---. Volume 8, p. 335.

---. Volume 8, p. 337.

---. Volume 8, p. 362.

---. Volume 8, p. 414.

---. Volume 8, p. 421.

---. Volume 8, p. 426.

---. Volume 9, p.6.

---. Volume 11, p. 142.

---. Volume 11, p. 167.

---. July 7, 1845 County Court minutes.

---. October 6, 1845 County Court minutes.

---. April 1, 1878 County Court minutes, p. 344.

---. April 5, 1880 County Court minutes, p. 162.

---. July 5, 1880, County Court minutes, p. 198.

---. 1894 jail report, file #1886.

---. October 5, 1903 County Court minutes, p. 311-313.

---. November 16, 1903 County Court minutes, p. 338.

---. January 4, 1904 County Court minutes, p. 344.

---. January 4, 1904 County Court minutes, p. 416.

---. January 2, 1905 County Court minutes, p. 461.

---. 1909 Jail Commission File #2685.

History of Grainger County: 1796-1976, W.E. Holt, 1976, p. 6.

Historical and Biographical Sketch of Grainger County, Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1887, p. 855.

Moore, Harry. Photo of old Grainger County jail, view of west and north elevations showing attached rear shed garage. Photo date circa 1960-1970.

---. Photo of old Grainger County jail, view of east elevation after restoration project. Photo date circa 1982.

Old Grainger County Jail

 Name of Property

Grainger County, Tennessee

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“Rutledge Photo taken 1900 from bluff behind Hyw. (sic) 92.” Grainger County Archives.

“Sheriff Sam Coffey in front of the Old Jail with a collection of stills that he captured during his time in office.” Our Past in Pictures, Grainger County, TN. John Beckwith and Mary Shirley, Windspinner Press, 1990. Photo date circa 1928.

“The County Jail.” National Register Information Form, Harry Moore, 1986.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):		Primary location of additional data:	
preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)	X	State Historic Preservation Office	
previously listed in the National Register		Other State agency	
previously determined eligible by the National Register		Federal agency	
designated a National Historic Landmark		Local government	
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #		University	
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #		Other	
recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #		Name of repository: East Tennessee Development District	
Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):			

Old Grainger County Jail
Name of Property

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.45 **USGS Quadrangle** Dutch Valley 154-SE

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

1. Latitude: 36.164803 Longitude: -83.305290

Verbal Boundary Description

The property boundary begins near the corner of Water Street and Highway 92 in Rutledge (LAT: 36°16'48.03" LON: -83°30'52.90"), extends slightly northeast 79.79 feet to the location of three water meters, extends slightly southeast 252.19 feet to a point, extends west 80.95 feet to a point near Richland Creek, and extend slightly northwest across the creek 239.43 feet. It is parcel number 0490 C 001.00.

Boundary Justification

This boundary represents the parcel boundary as mapped by a professional surveyor in June 2014. The boundary includes the Old Grainger County Jail building and associated parking lot, along with land that extends down to Richland Creek that was historically part of the jail parcel.

Old Grainger County Jail _____
Name of Property

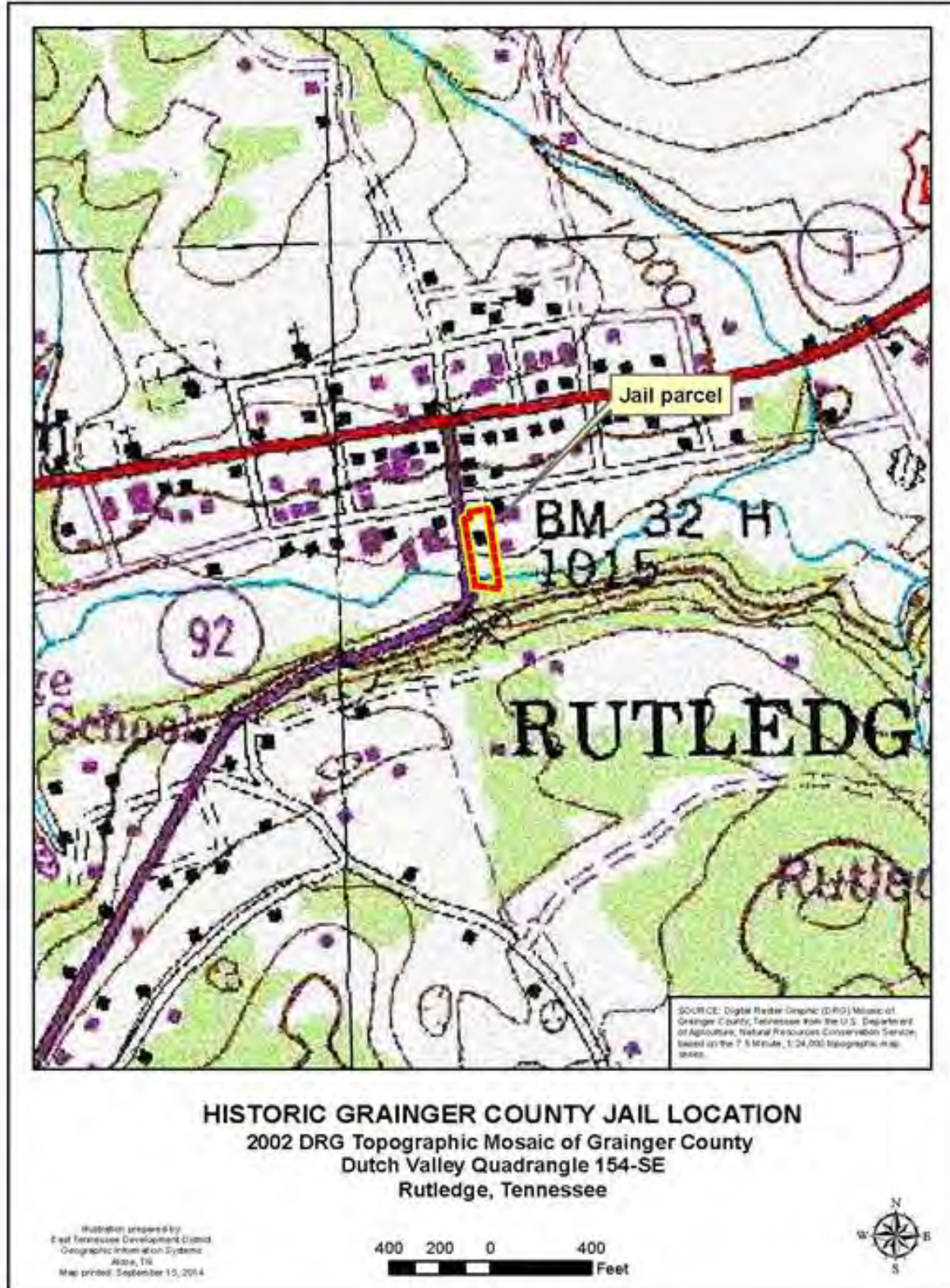
Grainger County, Tennessee
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Location Map and aerial view of the Old Grainger County Jail, 2014.



Old Grainger County Jail
Name of Property

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Old Grainger County Jail
Name of Property

Grainger County, Tennessee
County and State

Parcel Map



Old Grainger County Jail
Name of Property

Grainger County, Tennessee
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

Name Caroline Eller

Organization East Tennessee Development District

Street & Number 216 Corporate Place (P.O. Box 249)

Date 2/2/2015

City or Town Alcoa

Telephone (865) 273-6003

E-mail celler@etdd.org

State TN Zip Code 37701

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to map.
- **Photographs** (refer to Tennessee Historical Commission National Register *Photo Policy* for submittal of digital images and prints)
- **Additional items:** (additional supporting documentation including historic photographs, historic maps, etc. should be included on a Continuation Sheet following the photographic log and sketch maps)

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Old Grainger County Jail
Name of Property

Grainger County, Tennessee
County and State

Photo Log

Name of Property: Old Grainger County Jail
City or Vicinity: Rutledge
County: Grainger State: TN
Photographer: Caroline Eller, ETDD
Date Photographed: 03/21/2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 23. Front elevation. Photographer facing east.
- 2 of 23. Southwest oblique. Photographer facing northeast.
- 3 of 23. South elevation. Photographer facing north.
- 4 of 23. South elevation and Highway 92. Photographer facing northwest.
- 5 of 23. Southeast oblique. Photographer facing northwest.
- 6 of 23. East elevation. Photographer facing west.
- 7 of 23. East elevation and parking lot. Photographer facing northwest.
- 8 of 23. Northeast oblique. Photographer facing southwest.
- 9 of 23. North elevation. Photographer facing south.
- 10 of 23. North elevation, parking lot and Highway 92. Photographer facing south.
- 11 of 23. Northwest oblique. Photographer facing southeast.
- 12 of 23. Southwest oblique and Highway 92, with Rutledge in the background.
Photographer facing northeast.
- 13 of 23. Front door detail from foyer.
- 14 of 23. View of foyer looking west.
- 15 of 23. Location of half bath under stairway from foyer.
- 16 of 23. View of foyer looking east.
- 17 of 23. View of foyer and door detail into meeting room looking south.
- 18 of 23. View of first floor meeting room looking northeast.

Old Grainger County Jail
Name of Property

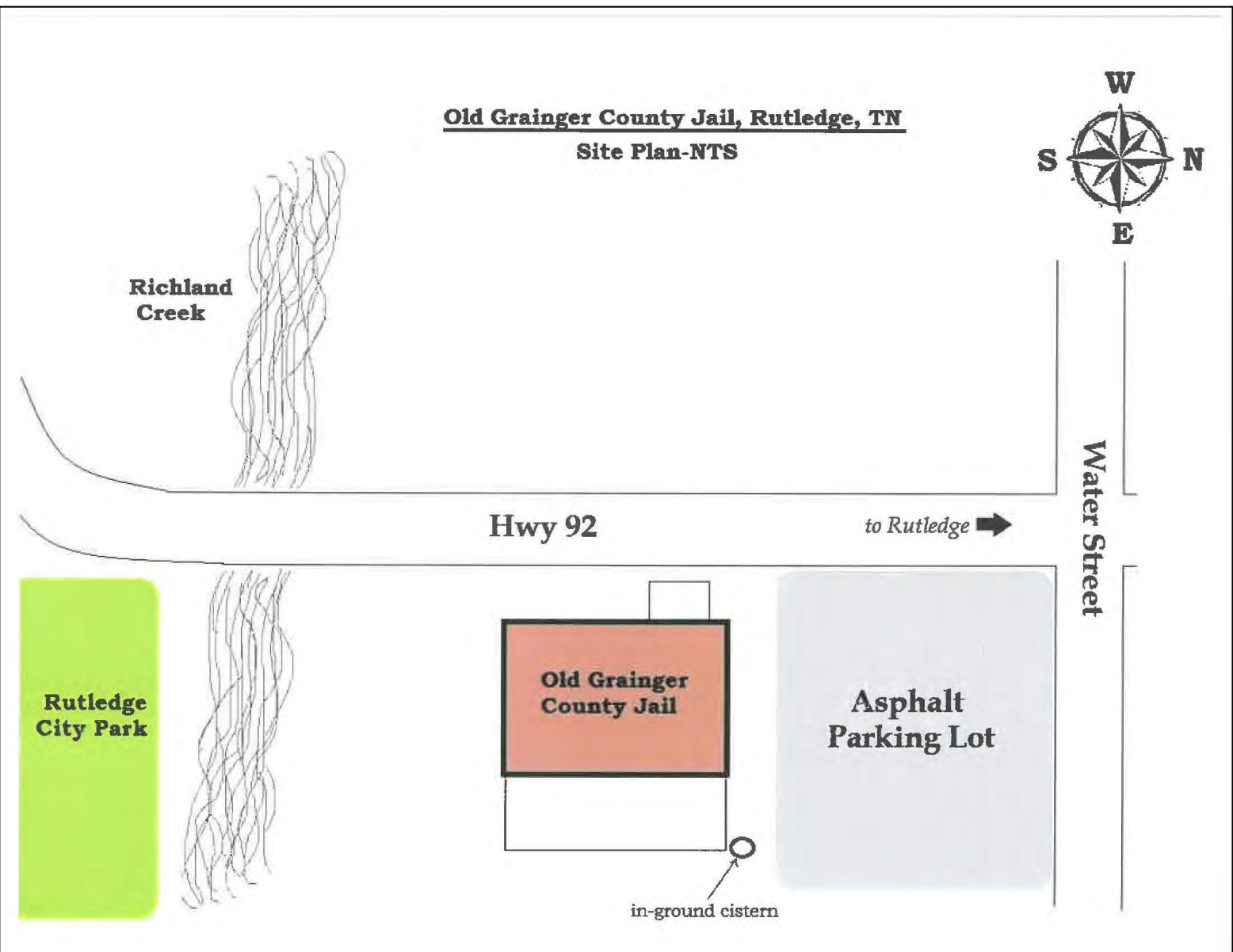
Grainger County, Tennessee
County and State

-
- 19 of 23. West wall and door detail of first floor meeting room.
 - 20 of 23. View of stairs leading to second floor.
 - 21 of 23. View of door to second floor meeting room from top of stairs.
 - 22 of 23. Second floor meeting room, looking south.
 - 23 of 23. Second floor meeting room, looking north.

Old Grainger County Jail
Name of Property _____

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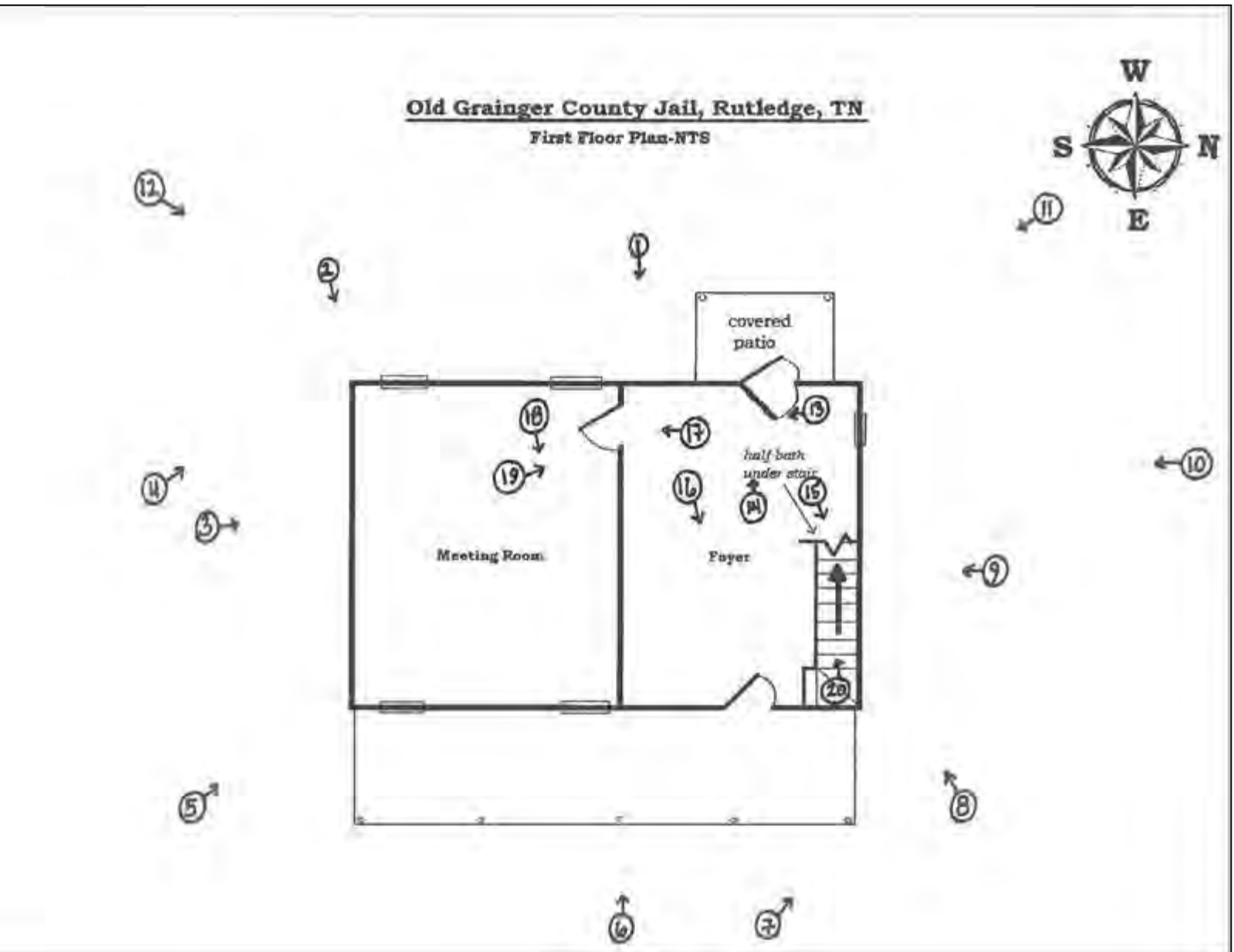
Site Plan of Old Grainger County Jail.



Old Grainger County Jail
Name of Property _____

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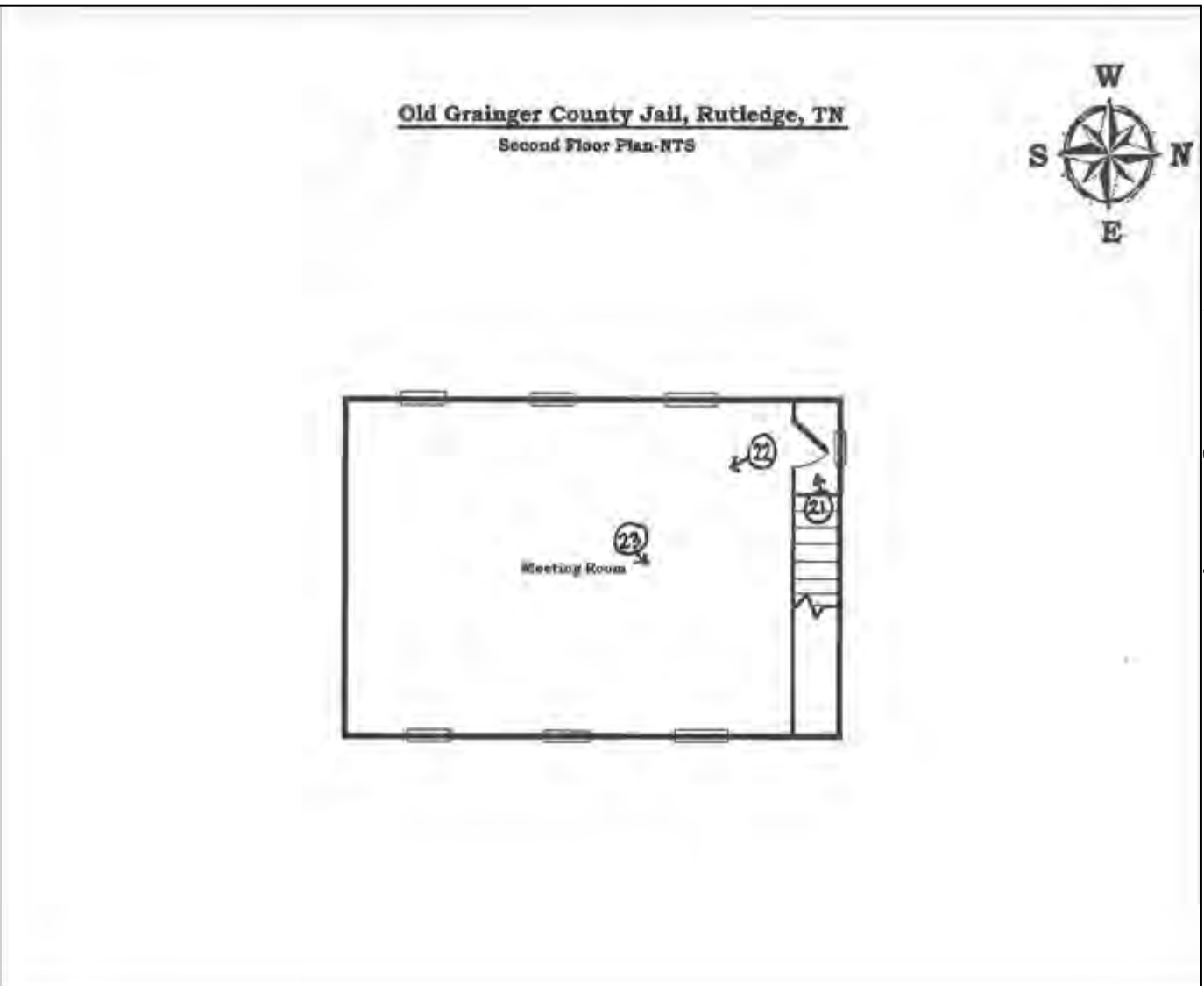
First Floor Plan, Old Grainger County Jail.



Old Grainger County Jail
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County and State _____

Second Floor Plan, Old Grainger County Jail.



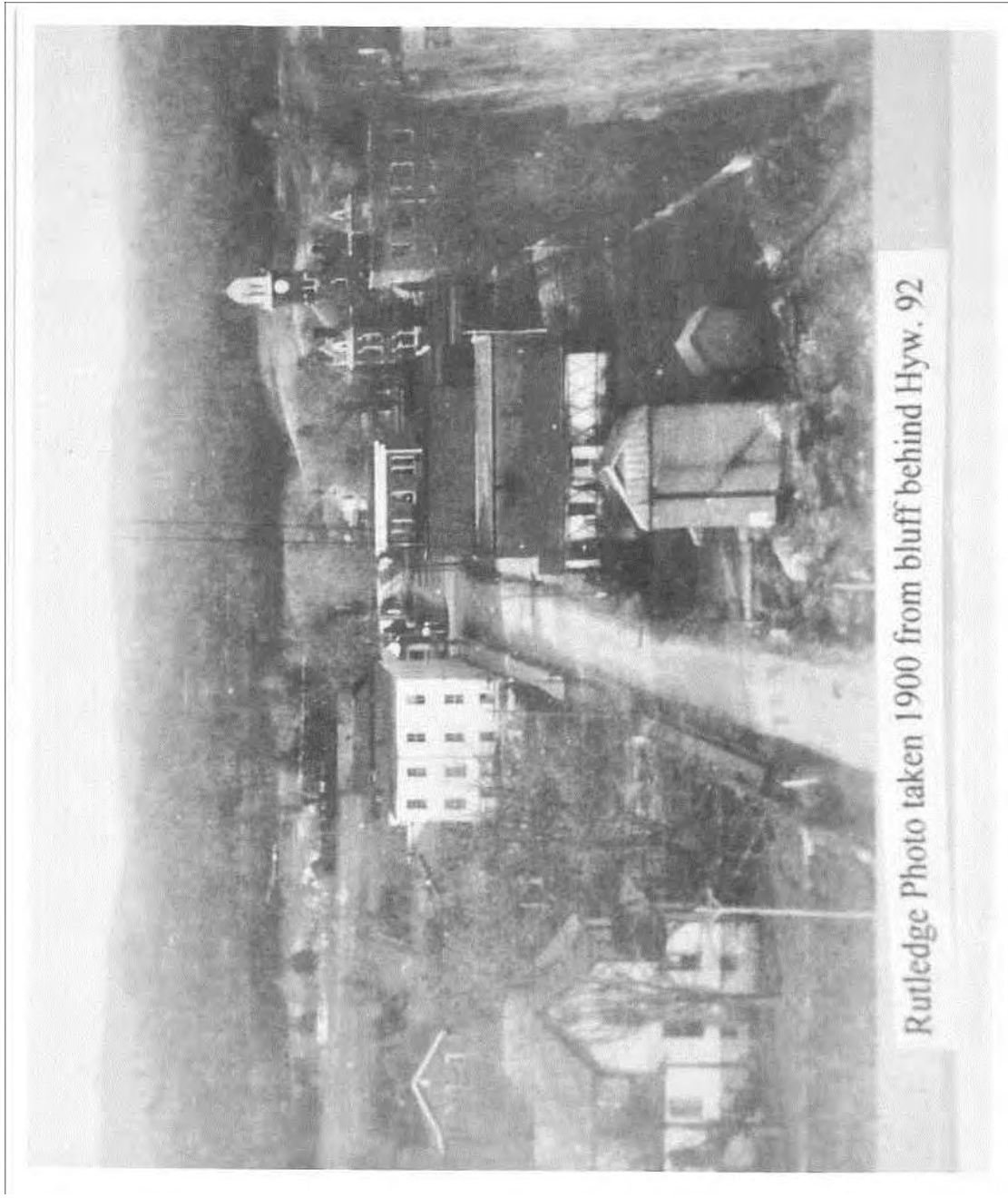
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Old Grainger County Jail
----- Name of Property
Grainger Co., TN
----- County and State
n/a
----- Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Figures Page 27

Photo of Rutledge from bluff behind Hwy. 92 (Old Grainger County Jail right foreground), circa 1900.



Rutledge Photo taken 1900 from bluff behind Hwy. 92

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Old Grainger County Jail

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n/a

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Figures Page 28

Photo of Grainger County Sheriff Sam Coffey at Old Grainger County Jail, circa 1928.



Sheriff Sam Coffey in front of the Old Jail with a collection of stills that he captured during his term of office.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Old Grainger County Jail

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n/a

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Section number Figures Page 29

Aerial view of Old Grainger County Jail (right foreground), circa 1960.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Old Grainger County Jail

Name of Property

Grainger Co., TN

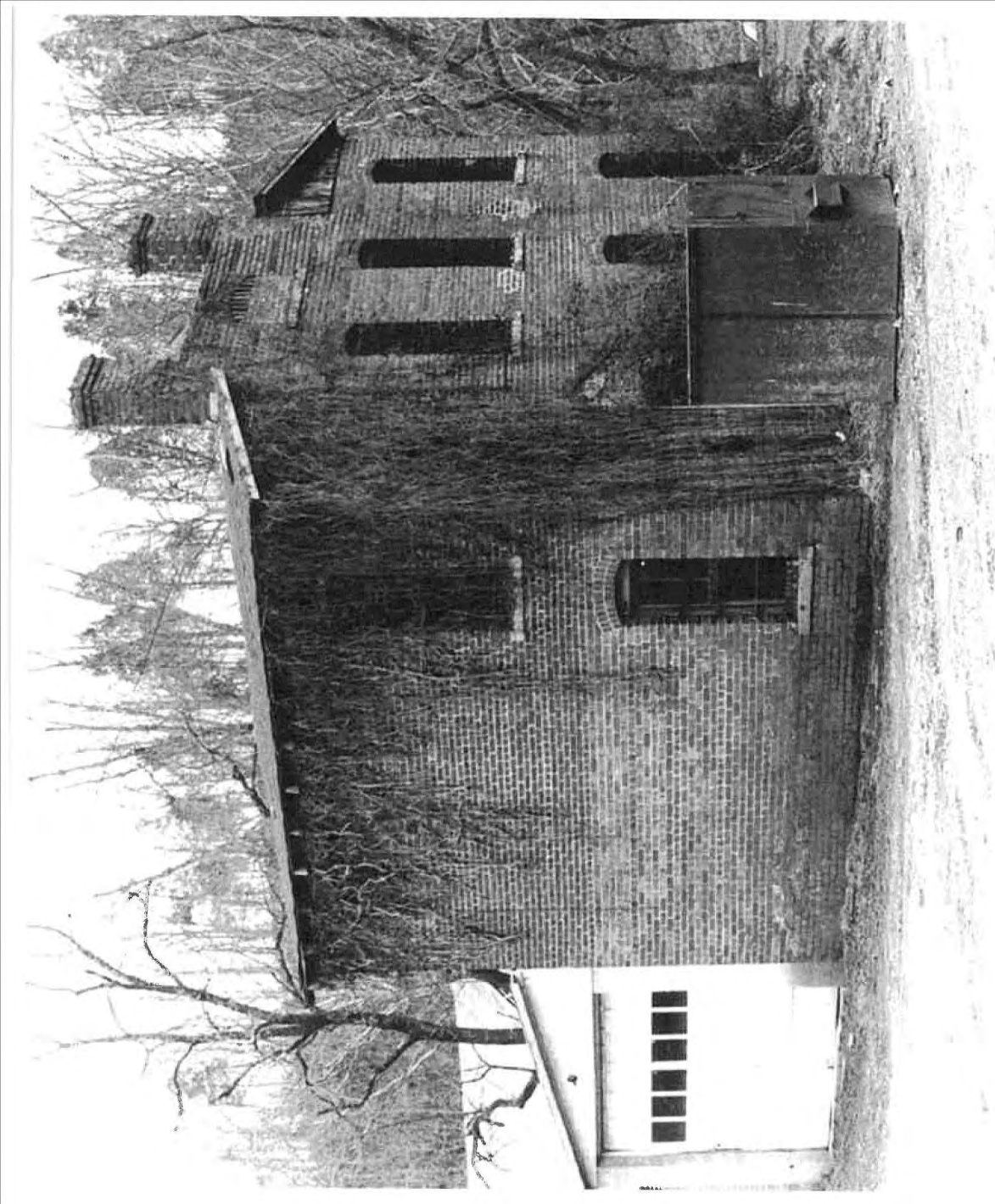
County and State

n/a

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Figures Page 30

Photo of Old Grainger County Jail showing rear attached shed garage (NW oblique), circa 1960-1970.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Old Grainger County Jail

Name of Property

Grainger Co., TN

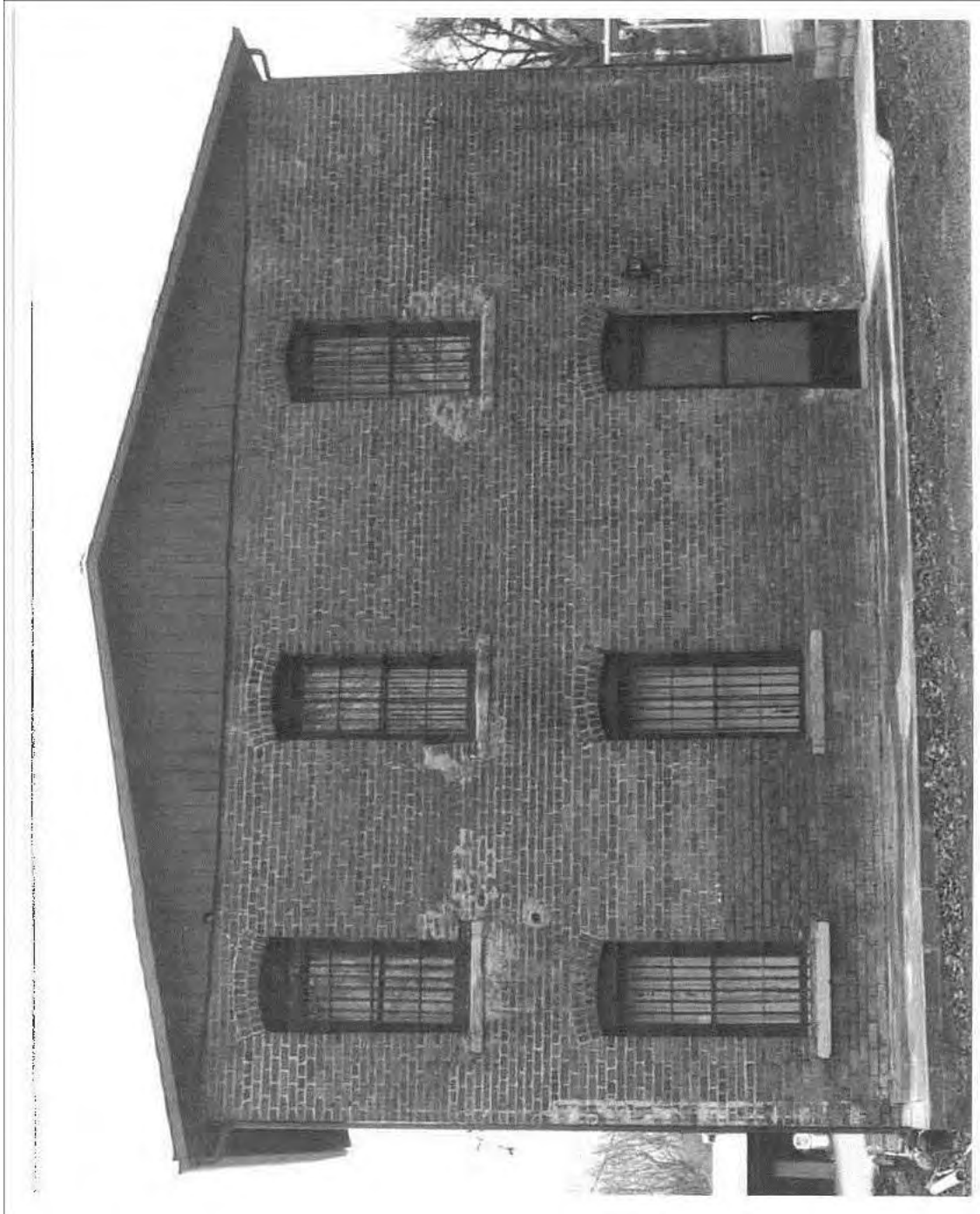
County and State

n/a

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Figures Page 31

Rear view (east wall) of Old Grainger County Jail after restoration, circa 1982.



Property Owner Information



THE GLEBE
SPRINGFIELD COUNTY
GA.
1850









JCT

11W













A two-story red brick building with a red metal roof and a chimney. It features two windows with black metal bars. A small sign above the lower window reads "SOUTH BRIDGE".

A white Chevrolet car with license plate 536-109 parked on a paved area.

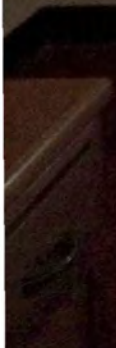
A road with a guardrail and a yellow diamond-shaped sign. A red car is visible on the road.

A smaller building with a dark, weathered roof and a green wall, partially obscured by trees.

Large, bare trees in the foreground and background, suggesting a winter or late autumn setting.

Utility poles and power lines running across the scene, and a concrete curb separating the paved area from the road.























UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Old Grainger County Jail
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: TENNESSEE, Grainger

DATE RECEIVED: 6/05/15 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 7/07/15
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 7/22/15 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/21/15
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 15000446

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 7-21-2015 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

interesting bldg

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept A+C

REVIEWER J. Gabb DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

RECEIVED 2280

JUN - 5 2015

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service



TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
2941 LEBANON ROAD
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37214
OFFICE: (615) 532-1550
www.tnhistoricalcommission.org
E-mail: Claudette.Stager@tn.gov
(615) 532-1550, ext. 105
<http://www.tn.gov/environment/history>

June 1, 2015

J. Paul Loether
Deputy Keeper and Chief
National Register and National Historic Landmark Programs
National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye St. NW, 8th Fl.
Washington D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed please find the documentation to nominate *Old Grainger County Jail* to the National Register of Historic Places. The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the *Old Grainger County Jail* to the National Register of Historic Places.

If you have any questions or if more information is needed, please contact Christine Mathieson at (615) 770-1086 or Christine.Mathieson@tn.gov.

Sincerely,

Claudette Stager
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

CS:cm

Enclosures(4)