

SURVEY-INVENTORY FORM
COMMUNITY CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY

1. NAME

Historic Irondale Jail

and/or Common

2. LOCATION

Street & Number

~~Foot of Moore Street~~

City, Town

Irondale

State

Washington

UTM References:

Zone 10 Easting 517315

Northing 5321100

- not for publication

- vicinity of

County

Jefferson

3. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership: public private both

Status: occupied unoccupied work in progress

Present Use: agriculture commercial educational entertainment government
industrial military museum park private residence
religious scientific transportation other: abandoned

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

Name

Cotton Engineering and Shipbuilding Corporation

Street & Number

P.O. Box 111

City, Town

Hadlock

State

Washington 98339

- vicinity of

5. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Forwood, Margaret R. "Old Port Hadlock--Roistering, Prosperous and Tragic," series in Port Townsend Leader. Port Townsend, June 13--August 1, 1968.

Jefferson County Records. Minutes of Board of County Commissioners. March 7 and April 4, 1911.

6. FORM PREPARED BY

Name/Title

David B. Stalheim

Organization

Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

Date

February 1983

Street & Number

111 West 21st Avenue, KL-11

Telephone

(206) 753-7442

City or Town

Olympia

State

Washington 98504

7. DESCRIPTION

Condition: excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed
Circle one: unaltered altered
Circle one: original site moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance
attach photo

The Irondale Jail is located in the bluff at the foot of Moore Street, the street that once was the hub of Irondale's "downtown," and along the waterfront of Port Townsend Bay. The jail measures ten by twenty feet and is made of two by fours, one laid on top of the other, to form the walls. Two small, high, barred windows and a barred window in the door let in the morning sun. Inside the structure are two cells and a "solitary" with a bit of room next to the door for a jailer. Two by fours, also laid one on top of the other, make up the partitions. The roof is made of split shakes, although many are now missing. The jail looks much as it always did, but the building is sinking in the earth and the back that rests against the damp bank is beginning to rot.

Verbal boundary description: Sec. 35, Township 30 North,
Range 1 West, W.M. (Parcel #001353004, TL Tax I,F,H)

Acreage: less than one

8. SIGNIFICANCE

Specific dates	1911	Builder/Architect	Wm. H. Merrick
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a. History

The community of Irondale significantly grew in size when the Western Steel Corporation was incorporated and the open hearths and rolling mills were constructed. By 1910, Irondale had a census count of 1,000 people. A jail seemed to be a needed addition to the growing and sometimes boisterous community.

An invitation for bids for the construction of the jail at Irondale was advertised in 1911. On March 7, 1911, bids were opened. There was only one bidder, Wm. F. Sehms. His bid of \$2500 was rejected. The county auditor was instructed to advertise for bids once again. Two bids were received, and on April 4, 1911, both were opened. One bid was for \$210; the second bid was for \$144.50. The bid of \$144.50 by Wm. H. Merrick, was considered the lowest and best, and the contract was awarded. Sharkey, a well-known local

b. Evaluation of Significance

The Irondale Jail is significant because it is the only local government structure to have been built outside of the county seat--Port Townsend. Port Townsend had always commanded the majority of the population, but the growth of the iron and steel works at Irondale attributed to the community's rapid growth. Serious consideration was given to incorporating Irondale as Jefferson County's second city. At the time, the county courthouse and jail were at Port Townsend and the road to that city was only partially completed. Primary transportation between the two places was by water. The Irondale Jail is the physical manifestation of an attempt to bring law and order to a growing and boisterous community.

History (continued)

character, had the distinction of being the only prisoner to escape from the Irondale Jail. Sharkey found himself in the jail after an unusually exuberant night. He escaped, however, by kicking the roof off.