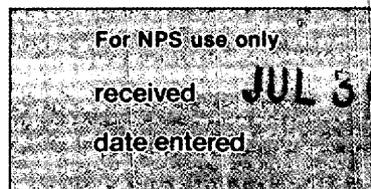


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



1982

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Rockdale County Jail

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number 967 Milstead Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Conyers N/A vicinity of ~~Congressional District~~

state Georgia code 013 county Rockdale code 247

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Rockdale County
Charles S. Smith, Jr., Chairman, Rockdale County Commission

street & number P.O. Box 289

city, town Conyers N/A vicinity of state Georgia 30207

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Rockdale County Courthouse

city, town Conyers state Georgia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Structures Field Survey:
Rockdale 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

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" 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
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Rockdale County Jail is a two-story, rectangular brick building with jail cells on the second floor and the sheriff's office and living quarters on the first floor. The exterior walls are three bricks thick, and corbelled brickwork is used to ornament the three chimneys, each of which culminates with a granite cap. A one story front porch is centered around the front entrance and is supported by thin columns. The front entrance has a single transom above. The rear includes a covered porch with x-brace railing and a steel jail door leading to the second floor jail space. Seven foot high windows on both the first and second floors feature segmented brick arches, resting on granite lintels. Iron bars cover the windows on both levels, those on the lower floor being more ornamented, those on the upper floors being more functional. The jail has a hipped roof.

The interior of the jail contains a basement and two floors. The first floor contains four rooms and the entrance to the cellblock while the second floor contains the cellblock (jail) itself. The first floor rooms are plastered. As one enters the front door there is a small entrance hall flanked by two equal-sized rooms. They contain wood and tile fireplaces. Behind these first two rooms are three more. The southeast room has only outside access and is the entrance to the upstairs cellblock. The remaining four rooms and the centrally located bathroom were all used by the jailer for his family quarters, and are now used as offices and museum space. The front rooms on the first floor have wood sill construction; whereas, the back rooms are built over steel and concrete with wood flooring on top of it.

The floor and ceiling of the second floor are constructed of corrugated, arched-steel with six inches of concrete above. There are three rooms. One was originally the jailer's room that doubled as the "hanging" room, when and if needed. Another room was used as the drunk tank. The third room contains an original four-cell cellblock. These smaller cells are constructed of lapped metal strips welded together.

The grounds contain a minimum of landscaping although there are no remaining outbuildings. An addition from the 1950's, the kitchen wing, was demolished in 1974. The jail was restored when turned over to the historical society; this work included roof repairs, repointing of bricks, the rebuilding of the rear porch, and the addition of new pipes and wiring. The jail sits on a major street leading toward the center of Conyers and adjacent to the modern courthouse complex.

PHOTOGRAPHS

The Historic Preservation Section has determined that the photographs taken in August, 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/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1897

Builder/Architect J.W. Golucke and G.W. Stewart

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Rockdale County Jail is significant in architectural history as a county jail and as the work of architect J.W. Golucke, and in politics/government as the county jail serving Rockdale County for 70 years. The Rockdale County Jail, built in 1897, is architecturally significant because it was designed and built to be a county jail and thus exemplified the latest ideas in penal design of the era, that is, fireproof construction. It was designed by J.W. Golucke, one of the state's foremost courthouse architects who often designed courthouses and jails in tandem. For this jail he used a jail works from the Pauly Jail Building and Manufacturing Co. of St. Louis, Missouri, a nationally-known company often used by Georgia architects. The jail is significant in politics/government because it was built to be and served as the county's only jail from 1897 to 1968. Rockdale County was created in 1870 and the first jail, built in 1872, served until deemed insufficient and was replaced by the present one which served until it too was deemed too small and inadequate. Prisoners were kept here awaiting trials and for short sentences. These areas of significant support property eligibility under National Register criteria A and C.

The architectural significance of the Rockdale County Jail rests partially on its design features as a fire-proof, brick building that was designed specifically to be a jail although it was not designed to be an imposing building as some jails were. The simple house-like lines of the building are very similar to the Banks County (Georgia) Jail also designed by J.W. Golucke. Features of special note include the corrugated steel, vaulted concrete construction, the intact jail cellblock, the three ornamented chimneys with granite caps, and the original tile and wood mantels of the first floor rooms. As with most jails of the era, the building included one floor for the jailer and his family to live and the upper floor for the actual jail.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The town of Conyers was incorporated in 1854. Because of the substantial growth during Reconstruction in Conyers and the surrounding area, Rockdale County was created on October 18, 1870, from parts of Newton and Henry Counties.

On January 20, 1872, the county commissioners commissioned Addison Riley to build a jail for the county at a cost of \$2,490. A stone structure, it was completed in March, 1872. Until this time, law breakers were jailed in Newton County or in a calaboose at Costley's Mill. The authorization for the construction of the nominated jail came when the county commissioners deemed the earlier stone jail insufficient for the needs of the county. In 1897, they commissioned the Atlanta firm of Golucke and Stewart to design the building and F.P. Heifner to build it.

The facility served as the county jail, and residence for the sheriff and his family, from 1897 until the completion of a new jail in 1968. From 1968 through 1975

(C)NTINUED)

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Attached Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 0.30 acre

Quadrangle name Conyers, Georgia

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	<u>1 6</u>	<u>7 7 6 5 6 0</u>	<u>3 7 2 9 1 8 0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C			
---	--	--	--

D			
---	--	--	--

E			
---	--	--	--

F			
---	--	--	--

G			
---	--	--	--

H			
---	--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification The nominated property is that portion of City Lot 31 leased from the county by the Rockdale County Historical Society whose boundaries run from the right of way line on Milstead Avenue around the jail along the curb. It includes only the jail and the grassed area around it. The boundaries do not include the large new parking lot to the rear of the jail.

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Historian

organization Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources

date June 9, 1982

street & number 270 Washington Street, SW

telephone 404/656-2840

city or town 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 7/26/82

For NPS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<i>Delores Byers</i>	Entered in the National Register
Keeper of the National Register	date <u>8/26/82</u>
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

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

**National Register of Historic Places
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For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet Significance Item number 8 Page 2

the jail stood vacant. In 1975, the Rockdale County Historical Society acquired the jail from the county and began restoration of the exterior and old living quarters on the first floor, at a cost of \$15,000. It has been in use as a museum and headquarters for the society since then.

The architectural firm of James W. Golucke and George Wilson Stewart (Golucke & Stewart, 24½ Whitehall Street, Atlanta, circa 1897.) was regionally well-known for its work in courthouse and jail design. Mr. Golucke (1865-1907), a native Georgian, was known not to have any formal education in the field of architecture, but he was listed in the Atlanta City Directory, as a "practical Architect & Superintendent" from 1891 until his death in 1907. He designed courthouses, jails, churches and hotels throughout Georgia. Mr. Stewart (1862-1937), a Scotsman, joined Golucke in 1894, and was with the firm during the design and construction of the Rockdale County Jail. Stewart left the firm in 1900, but stayed in Atlanta to practice until he moved to Jacksonville, Florida, in 1911. He was an associate architect on the Candler Building in Atlanta, c. 1904-1906.

The Pauly Jail Building and Manufacturing Company was a well-known firm that specialized in the construction of steel jail cells and jail buildings. Based in St. Louis, Missouri (2215 DeKalb Street, circa 1897.), the firm provided its services to mid-western and southeastern states, for the most part. The jail contains jail-works that read "Pauly's Key-Bar Grating Pat., June 22, 1886; August 9, 1892." It has both a combination lock and a key lock. After almost 100 years in jail construction, the company went out of business in 1964.

Today, in its present use as a museum, displays of late nineteenth and early twentieth century life attract visitors from surrounding regions. The Old Jail represents the first preservation effort in Conyers, and only the second in Rockdale County (the Dial Mill was the first). Saving the building from its planned demolition for use as a parking lot, and its subsequent restoration, gave the community a model of the value of preserving its architectural and social heritage, and several other projects in Conyers, such as the Railroad Depot, began as a result of the new awareness in preservation created by the old Jail.

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Continuation sheet Bibliography

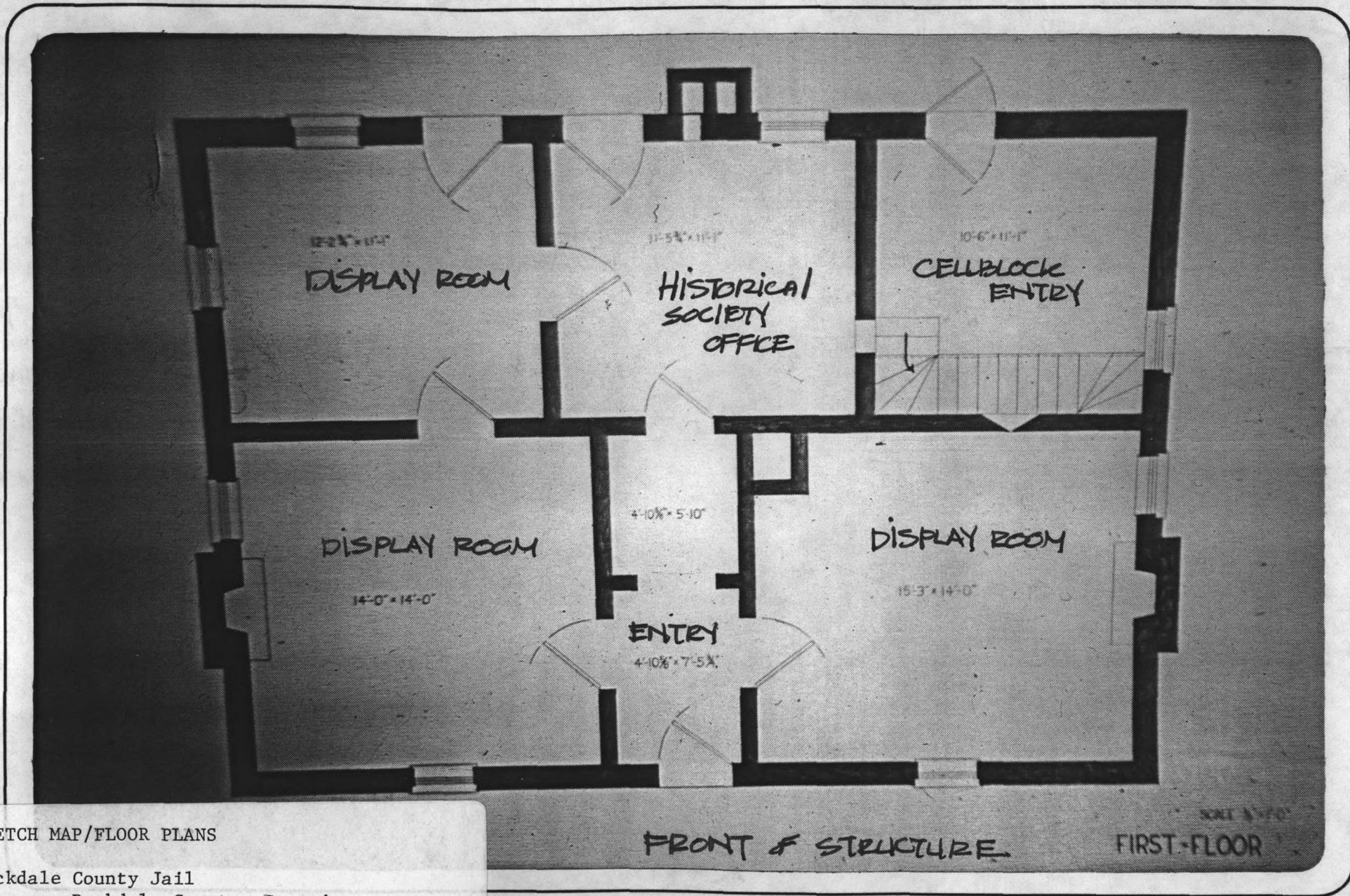
Item number 9

Page 2

Files and Records of the Rockdale County Historical Society -- 967 Milstead Avenue, Conyers.

History of Rockdale County. Barksdale, Cowan, and King; Tom Hay Printing, Conyers: 1978.

Draft National Register nominations prepared by Greg Winkler and John Gerondelis for the Rockdale County Historical Society and architectural classes at the Georgia Institute of Technology.



SKETCH MAP/FLOOR PLANS

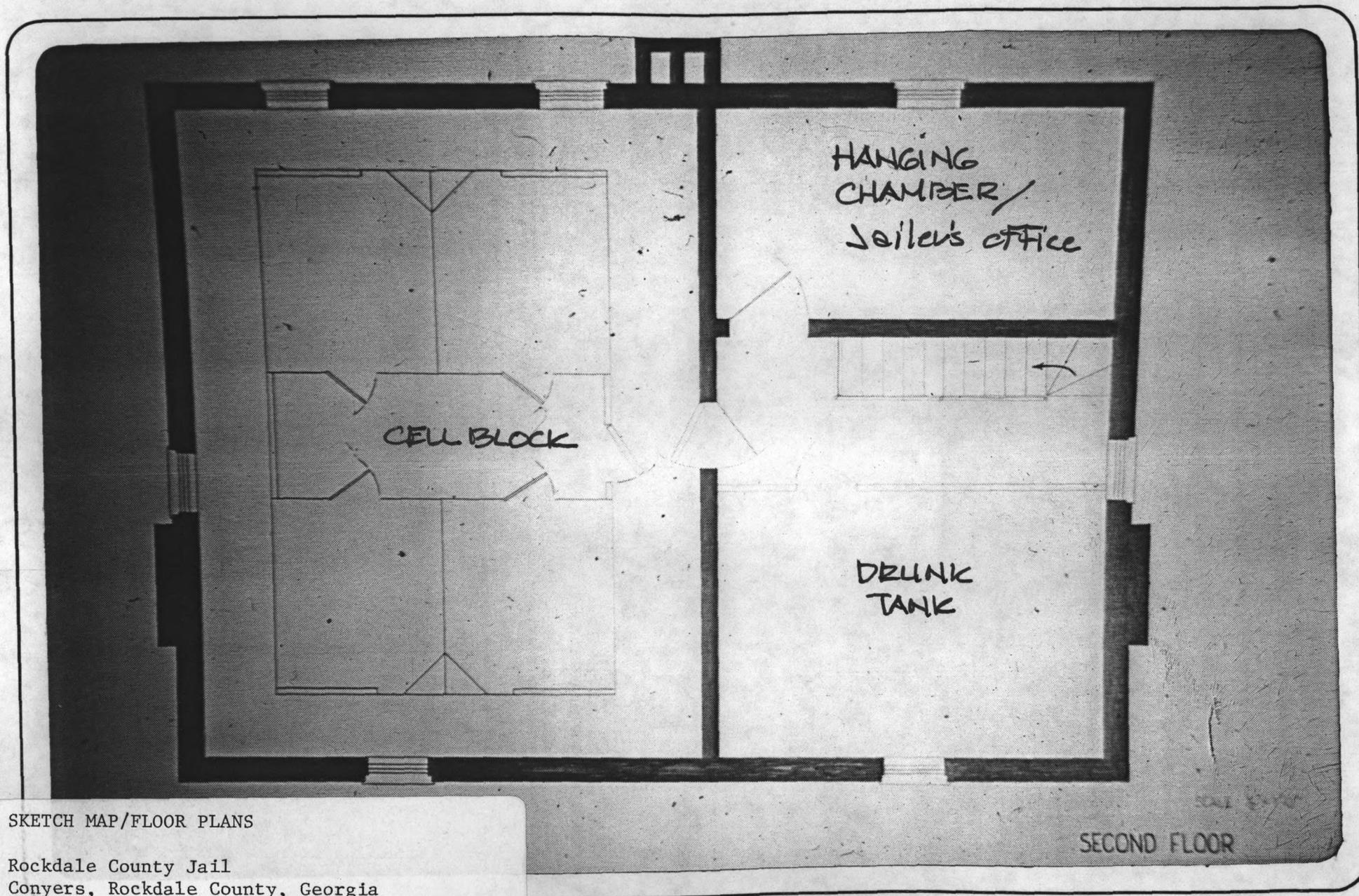
Rockdale County Jail
 Conyers, Rockdale County, Georgia

Scale

Scale: 1" = 5' (approximately)

Source: prepared by Georgia Tech students

Date: c. 1980-81



SKETCH MAP/FLOOR PLANS

Rockdale County Jail
Conyers, Rockdale County, Georgia

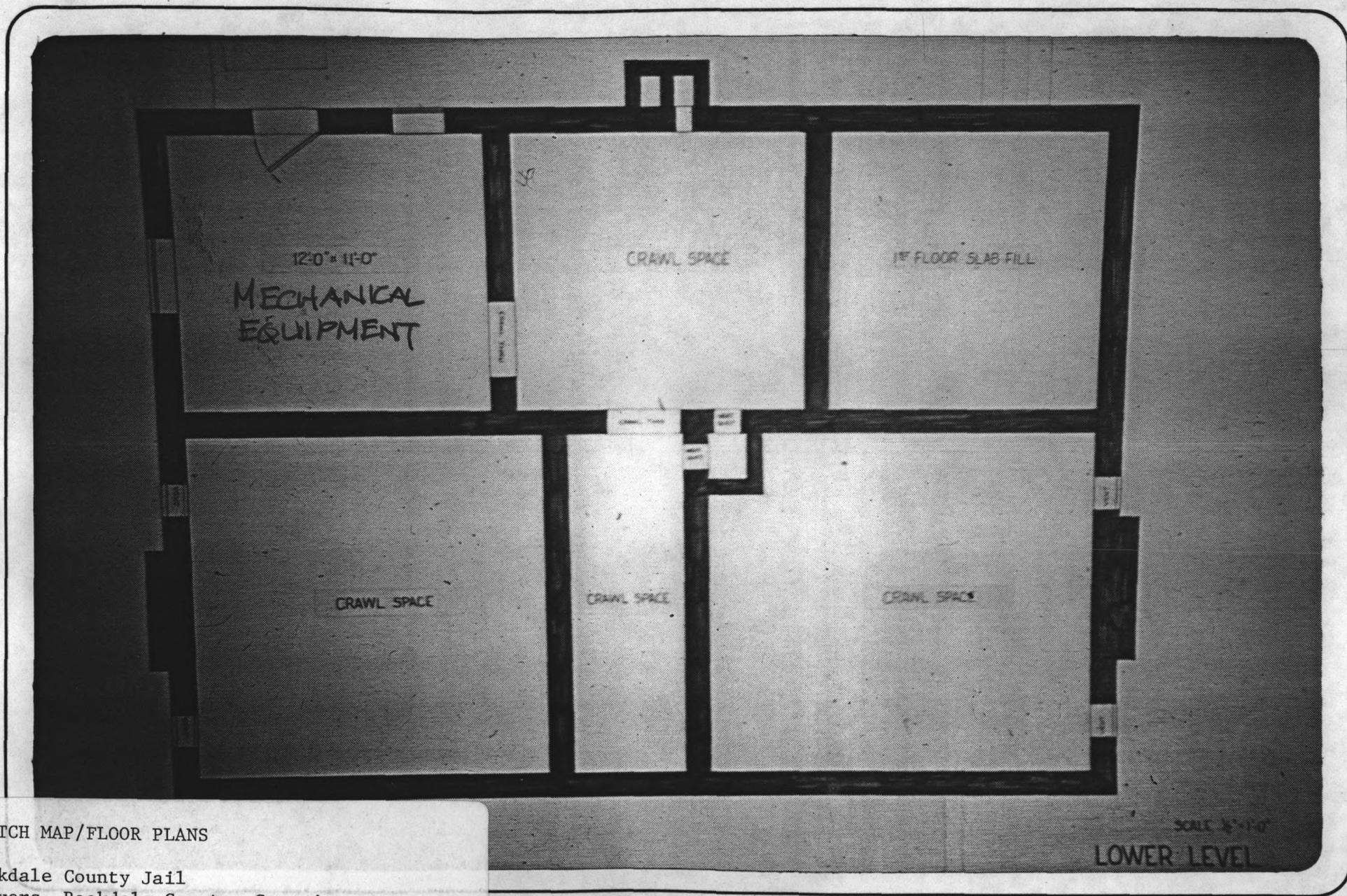
Scale: 1" = 5' (approximately)

Source: prepared by Georgia Tech students

Date: c. 1980-81

Key: Second Floor

SECOND FLOOR



SKETCH MAP/FLOOR PLANS

Rockdale County Jail
Conyers, Rockdale County, Georgia

Scale: 1" = 5' (approximately)

Source: prepared by Georgia Tech students

Date: c. 1980-81

Key: Lower Level (basement)