

I. IDENTIFICATION

PROPERTY NAME: Old Hall County Jail **HISTORIC NAME:** Hall County Jail
STREET ADDRESS: Bradford Street **CITY:** Gainesville
PRESENT OWNER: Mr. Jerry Nix, Chairman **MAILING ADDRESS:** P.O. Drawer 1435
 Hall County Commission
CITY: Gainesville **STATE:** Georgia **ZIP CODE:** 30503
CURRENT USE: Vacant **ACREAGE:** Less than one acre
U.S.G.S. QUADRANGLE: Gainesville **U.T.M. REFERENCE:** Zone 17 E239920 N3798600
V.B.D. OR TAX MAP NUMBER: The nominated property is the small lot that remains associated with the jail. It is marked on enclosed site plan.

II. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND PRESENT CONDITION:

Attachment 1

III. HISTORY

ORIGINAL OWNER: Hall County **ORIGINAL USE:** County Jail
ARCHITECT/BUILDER: William J.J. Chase, architect **HISTORIC ACREAGE:** same
 A.K. Adams, builder
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1935 **DATE(S) OF ALTERATIONS:** 1950s, 1960s
HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (FROM ORIGINS TO PRESENT):

Attachment 2

IV. SIGNIFICANCE

N.R. AREA(S) OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture, Politics/Government **LEVEL:** Local
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL):

Attachment 3

V. SOURCES

FORM PREPARED BY: Dale Jaeger, Preservation **ORGANIZATION:** Georgia Mountains APDC
 P. O. Box 1720 Planner
ADDRESS: Gainesville, GA 30503 **TELEPHONE NUMBER:** 404/536/3431
REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS:
 N/A
SOURCES OF INFORMATION:
 Attachment 4

Attachment One

DESCRIPTION

The Hall County Jail is a steel-reinforced concrete structure in an art deco style. Vertical bands of windows line both sides of the building, giving it an almost "Sullivan-esque" appearance. Windows are 20-paned, metal frame with each pane opening outward separately. Only the front windows above the doorway are 30-paned, of the same style as the others. Steel grills and bars can be seen behind some of the windows. The front door to the building is framed by two curving concrete benches. Tile covers the entrance area and steps.

The first floor of the building, originally used for public receiving, the sheriff's office, and dayrooms for deputies, contains several rows of cells ranging in size from 8' x 12' (two-man) to 16' x 10' (eight-man). The two women's cells and radio room shown on the floor plan were added in the 1950's and 1960's, respectively. A detective's office and a locker room, next to the women's cells, were also added in the 1960's. Except for the foyer which is covered with tile, the floors are concrete. All cells have manual locks. (The company that built the original locks is still in business) Grillwork for the cells was cast in place into the concrete. Walls are painted concrete. Ceiling height is 9'-6", with beams set at 8'-6". An elevator, now inoperable, is located across from the stairs. The flat roof is also of concrete. When first built, the roof was probably used for a recreation area.

Fan holes for better ventilation and air conditioning ducts were run outside the building. The fan holes can be seen to the rear of the structure on all three floors. Fire exits were also added, probably around the same time other additions and renovations were made to the building (1950's and 1960's).

The second floor, currently used only for storage, also contains several jail cells, which were bolted rather than cast in place. Ceiling height here is slightly lower, only 7'-6". (Due in part to the fact that the builders forgot to allow for beam sizes when constructing the ceilings. Floor to ceiling height was meant to be 8'-0".) Walls, as they are throughout the building, are also of concrete.

The third floor is very similar to the second except that it contains an elevator equipment room, a kitchen, a dining room, and a day room.

The basement area contains a steam boiler, coal bin, laundry, and storage facilities.

The Hall County Jail appears to be in good structural condition.

Attachment Two

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The Hall County Jail was constructed in 1934-1935 through the use of funds from the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works (P.W.A.). A.K. Adams and Company were the builders and William J.J. Chase the architect. This jail replaced an earlier jail structure built in 1879 by M.B. McGinty, the builder of the Old Dawson County Jail.

The 1934-1935 structure was described in the Gainesville Eagle on August 16, 1934 as "three stories high with a basement and costing \$59,470." Thirty percent of the funds were obtained through the P.W.A. with the remaining funds secured by the sale of state highway certificates. This jail was used by the county until its replacement in 1981. The structure is now vacant.

Attachment Three

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Hall County Jail is significant in the area of politics and government. The structure served as the county jail for approximately 45 years. Public works programs of the 1930's were utilized in the funding of its construction. Its simple Art Deco style design represents a style found in many public buildings from this period. The Gainesville City Hall and Hall County Courthouse built several years later by the W.P.A. are two other local examples of this public design mode.

The jail is also significant in architecture as a good example of the "public works style" of the 1930s Federally-funded building programs begun during Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal, starting in 1933. It is also significant as a work of William J.J. Chase (1884-1967), Atlanta-based architect who was noted for his educational and governmental works. He designed a number of county courthouses throughout Georgia and some jails including the Oconee County Jail.

Attachment Four

BIBLIOGRAPHY - HALL COUNTY

The Gainesville Eagle. Gainesville, Georgia (various issues).

Hall County, Georgia. Superior Court. Minute Book. "General Presentments of the Grand Jury," 1933-1935.

Research by Elma Beynon, RSVP Worker.

Description by William Huff, Hall County Planner, GMAPDC.

Site Plan

Hall County Jail
Gainesville, Hall County, Georgia
Scale: 1" = 30'

Source: Sheriff's Office Hall County, Georgia
Date: unknown

Key: The site plan covers the entire nominated property. The original 1935 jail structure is outlined within the boundary. The boundary is the same as that found on Gainesville Tax Map No. 11, Block 1, Parcel 8.



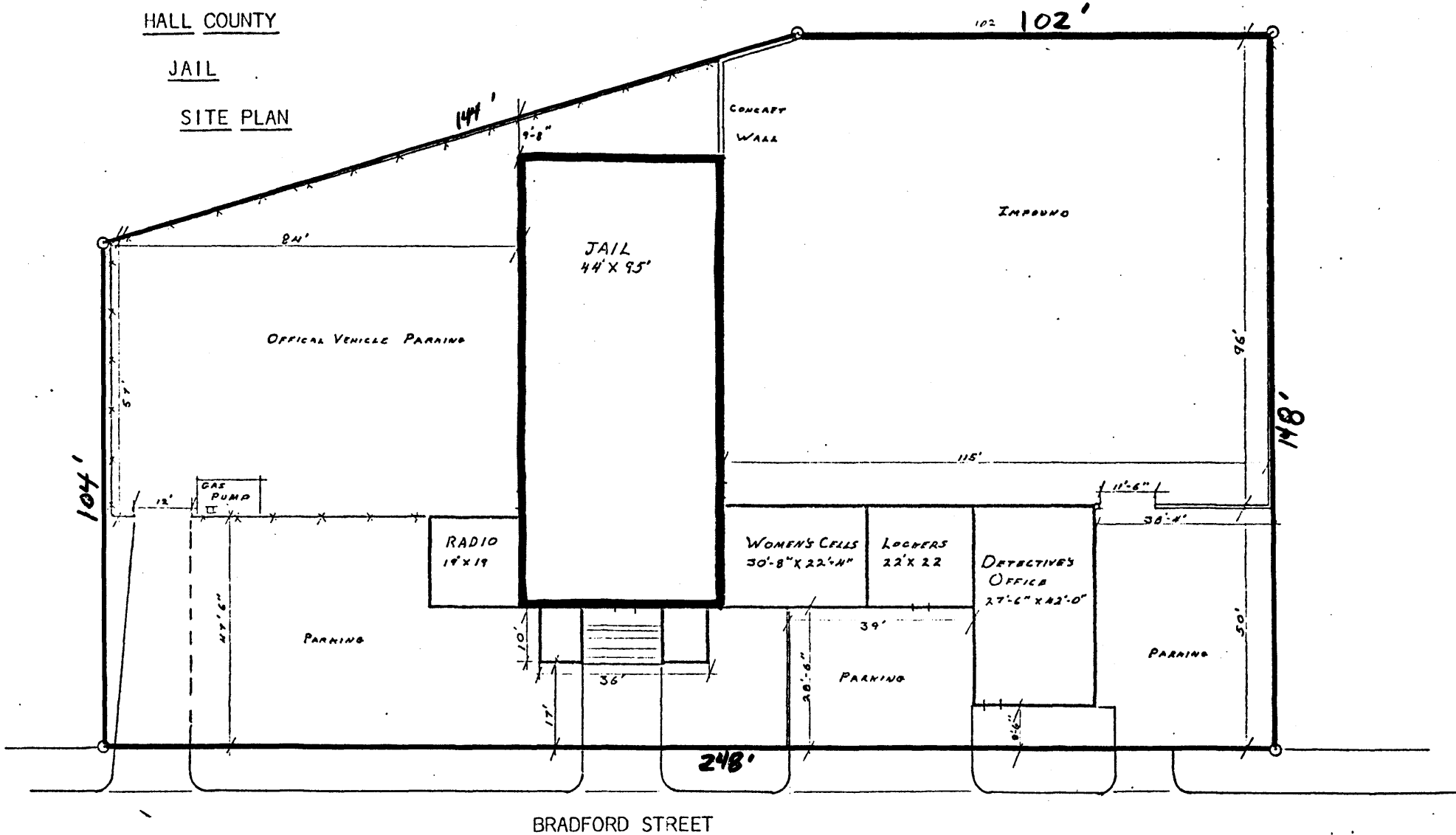
EXISTING

HALL COUNTY

JAIL

SITE PLAN

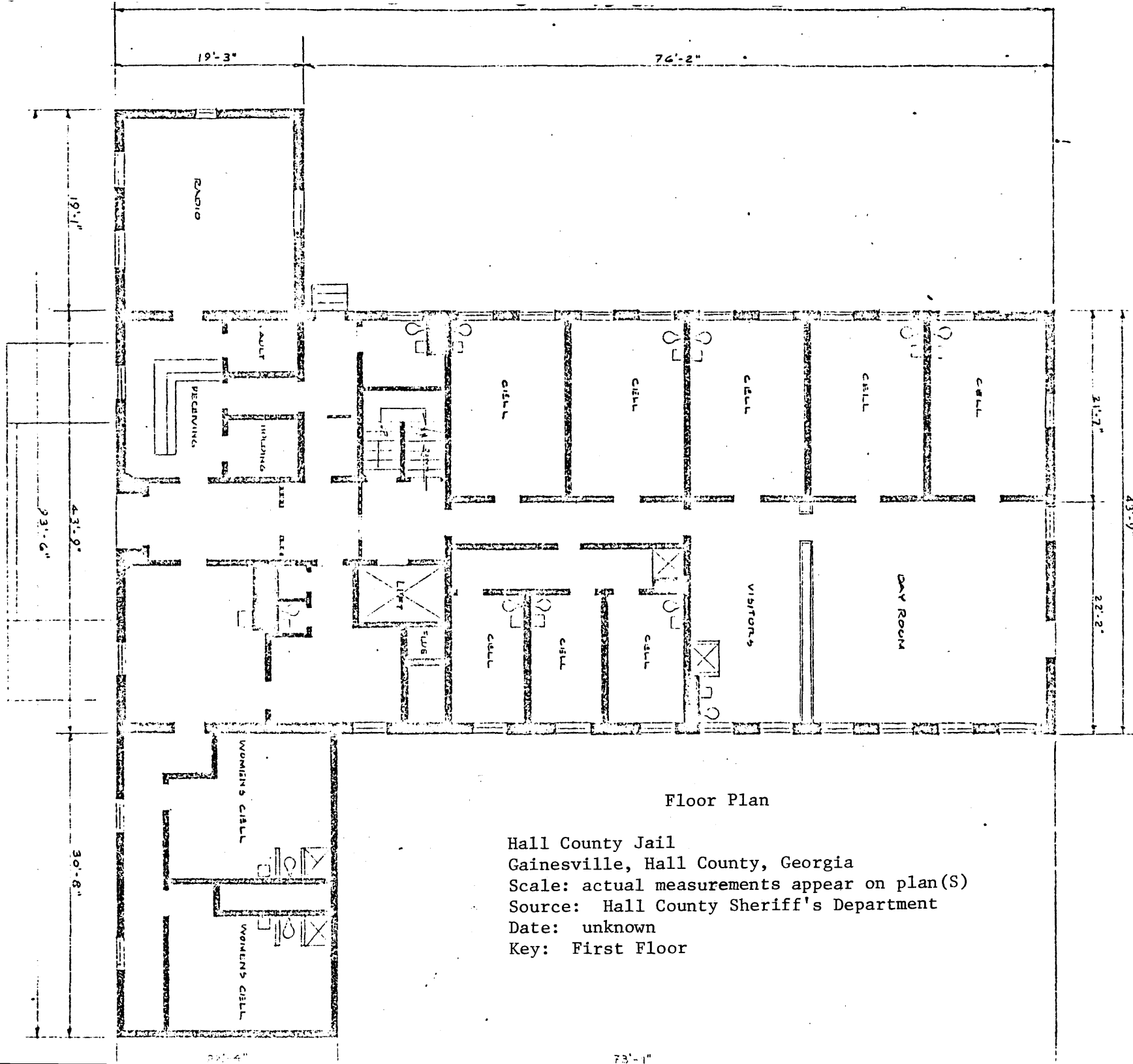
N-50



BRADFORD STREET

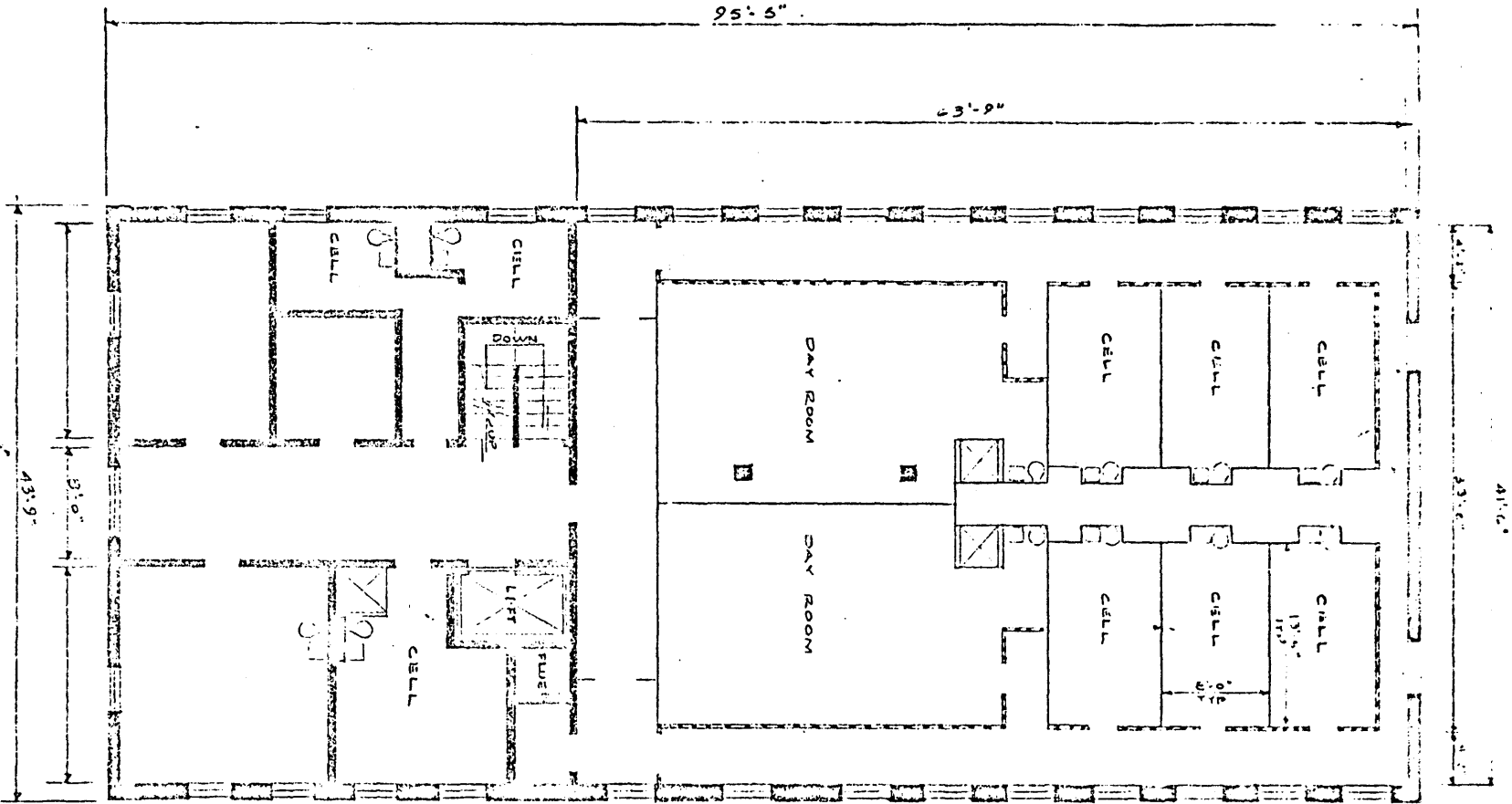
HALL COUNTY JAIL
EXISTING FACILITY N-51

FIRST FLOOR
SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"



Floor Plan

Hall County Jail
Gainesville, Hall County, Georgia
Scale: actual measurements appear on plan(S)
Source: Hall County Sheriff's Department
Date: unknown
Key: First Floor



Floor Plan

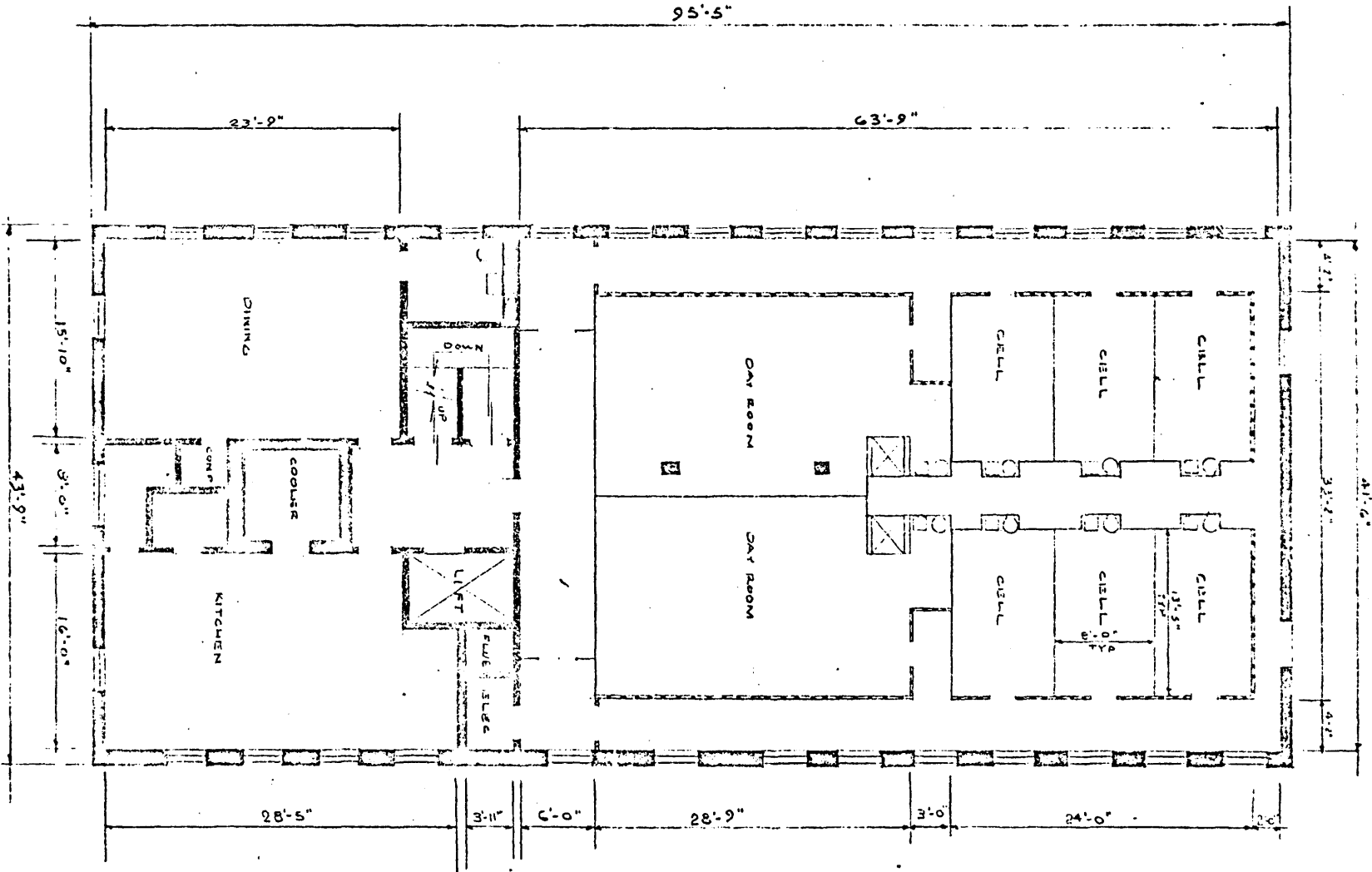
Hall County Jail
 Gainesville, Hall County, Georgia
 Scale: actual measurements appear on plan(s)
 Source: Hall County Sheriff's Department
 Date: unknown
 Key: Second Floor

EXISTING FACILITY

SECOND FLOOR
 SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"

N-52

THIRD FLOOR
 SCALE — 1/8" = 1'-0"
 EXISTING FACILITY

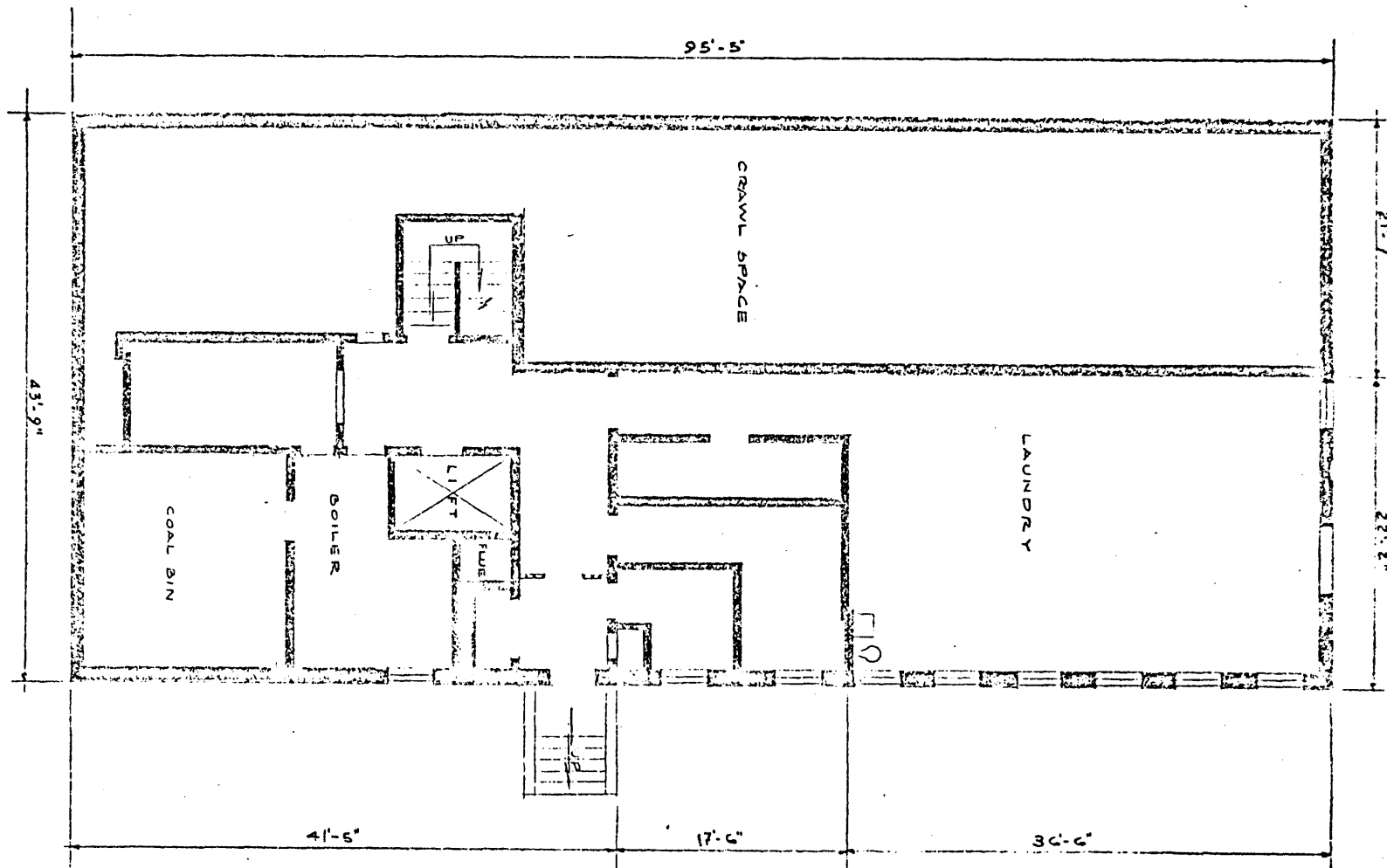


Floor Plan

Hall County Jail
 Gainesville, Hall County, Georgia
 Scale: actual measurements appear of plan(S)
 Source: Hall County Sheriff's Department
 Date: unknown
 Key: Third Floor

Floor Plan

Hall County Jail
Gainesville, Hall County, Georgia
Scale: actual measurements appear of plan(s)
Source: Hall County Sheriff's Department
Date: unknown
Key: Basement



EXISTING FACILITY

BASEMENT

HALL COUNTY JAIL