NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018
(Rev. 8/86)
Wisconsin Word Processor Format (NRF.txt)
(Approved 3/87)

United States Department of Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space, use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries. Use letter quality printer in 12 pitch, using an 85 space line and a 10 space left margin. Use only archival paper (20 pound, acid free paper with a 2% alkaline reserve).

1. Name of Property

historic name Wisconsin State Prison Historic District

other names/site number Waupun Correctional Institution

2. Location

street & number 200 S. Madison St. N/A Not for Publication

city, town Waupun N/A vicinity

state Wisconsin code WI county Dodge code 027 zip code 53963

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resources within Property	
		contributing	noncontributing
___ private	___ building(s)	7	10 buildings
___ public-local	X district	___	___ sites
X public-State	___ site	1	___ structures
___ public-Federal	___ structure	___	___ objects
	___ object	8	10 Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

No. of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets___ does not meet the National Register criteria. ___ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official — Date: 11/20/91

State Historic Preservation Officer-WI

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. ___ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

Entered in the National Register

✓ entered in the National Register. ___ See continuation sheet. — 1/22/92

___ determined eligible for the National Register. ___ See continuation sheet

___ determined not eligible for the National Register.

___ removed from the National Register.

___ other, (explain:) _____

for Signature of the Keeper — Date

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Government - Correctional Facility	Government - Correctional Facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)	Materials (enter categories from instructions)
	foundation stone
Mid-19th Century	walls stone
Gothic Revival	brick
	roof asphalt
	other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Setting

The Wisconsin State Prison Historic District is located in the middle of a residential neighborhood on the south side of the City of Waupun and within its corporate limits. The institution faces east on Madison Street, and is bounded on the north by Brown Street, on the west by Drummand Street, and on the south by an alley.

South Cell House (SCH) (Map #17) C

The SCH was the first permanent building constructed at the WSP and it constitutes one wing of the three-part Main Building group, a group that also includes the Main Building and the North Cell House. It was built between 1854-1855 to house prisoners and it continues to serve that function. The SCH is a one-story rectilinear wing which is attached to the south elevation of the Main building and it measures 200-feet-long by 50-feet-wide. The raised foundation and outer walls are of smooth-faced coursed ashlar limestone. The wing is ten-bays-long and two-bays-wide and each bay contains a single very large flat-arched window. The simple stone sills of these windows rest on the top of the raised foundation and the windows are capped with stone label moldings. The windows themselves have three large panes, each surrounded by several smaller panes. Vertical and horizontal iron bars cover the window openings on the exterior. The building has an asphalt shingle-covered combination gable and hip roof which was originally edged with a crenelated stone cornice. This cornice is still intact but it was extended vertically sometime in the Twentieth century by having a tall concrete parapet wall placed on top of it. At both the southeast and the southwest corners of the wing are octagonal towers with crenelated battlements that rise one story above the roofline. These have porthole window openings below the roofline and blind lancet window openings above. Many of these window openings have now been infilled.

X see continuation sheet

Main Building (Map #16) C

The Main building was constructed between 1855 and 1858 to house the administrative offices. The building measures 70-feet-wide by 85-feet-deep; it has a raised basement, three stories, and an attic. Like the NCH and the SCH, this building is constructed of smooth-faced coursed ashlar limestone and it too has octagonal towers at each corner, but it also has more decorative features as well, many of which have now been obscured by later wings and additions. To the north and south are the two early cell wings; at the west, or rear of the building, a kitchen addition was made in the late 19th Century; and a modern annex was built in front of the main (east) elevation in the early 1970s. All of these additions partially obscure the first two stories of the building and part of the width of each elevation, leaving only the third story, attic, roofline and octagonal towers at each corner visible. The main facade is five-bays-wide with symmetrically placed windows. A stone beltcourse encircles the building below the second story windows, acting as a continuous sill, and stone brackets are placed under this beltcourse. The window openings are flat-arched and are topped with stone label moldings. These openings are then filled with 6-over-6 double hung sash covered with vertical and horizontal iron bars. The central window on the main facade is wider than the others and opens onto a stone balconette which is supported by larger brackets. The label molding above this window is also more prominent than the ones above the other windows. Most of the window openings on the other three elevations have been infilled, as have all of the smaller square windows that originally served the attic story and that are placed between the large brackets that support the broad, overhanging eaves of the main roof. The bracketed roofline is surmounted by a crenelated parapet. Asphalt shingles have replaced the old metal roof and the large cupola that originally crowned the roof was removed in 1947 because of leakage problems. The octagonal tower at each of the four corners of the building are similar to those on the cell wings, but they have more decorative features, including a blind arcaded cornice, recessed panels and brackets under the eaves.

North Cell House (NCH) (Map #15) C

The NCH was built between 1865 and 1868 and it is identical to the SCH except that it projects to the north of the main building and its windows extend down further and cut into the raised foundation. The

windows were originally the same length as those in the SCH, but when the NCH was remodelled in the 1920s, the windows were lengthened to better facilitate light and air. The hipped roof was originally covered with standing seam metal and had a large crenelated cupola in the center.

Kitchen Addition (Map #6A) C

An addition was made to the west elevation of the main building in 1894. This 2-story rectilinear plan wing originally housed a kitchen and dining room but it has been remodelled several times and currently serves as a employee lounge and visiting area. The exterior is of rock-faced coursed ashlar limestone and all of the windows have been infilled. The original roof was gabled but during one of the later remodellings, this roof was removed, the walls were raised, and the roof is now flat and hidden behind tall parapets. This building now functions more as a passageway between buildings than as an independent building.

Northwest Cell House (NWCH) (Map #11) C

The NWCH was constructed between 1906 and 1909 and is the only cell house constructed of brick. This cell wing does not abut the main building directly, but rather there is an enclosed one-story passageway that joins the northwest corner of the main building with the southeast end of the cell house. The wing is essentially rectilinear in plan but both its northwest and southeast ends have canted corners, creating a polygonal design. The one-story building has a raised concrete foundation and watertable and its main wall surfaces are clad in brown brick. The building is 12-bays-long (the southwest and northeast elevations), and three-bays-wide. There is a continuous brick lintel course that arches over the windows and these windows are covered with vertical and horizontal steel bars. The hipped roof was once covered with standing seam metal, but is now covered in asphalt shingles, and the eaves of the roof are now boxed in with metal siding. There are also two small square-plan cupolas placed on the roof.

Southwest Cell House (SWCH) (Map #12) C

The SWCH was built between 1913 and 1914. It is constructed of the rock-faced ashlar limestone that was taken from the old prison yard wall when it was torn down. The limestone has been laid in courses and has raised mortar joints. This wing also does not abut the main building directly but has a connecting enclosed passageway at its northeast end. The plan of the SWCH is essentially the same as the NWCH; being rectilinear with polygonal ends. This wing has a raised concrete foundation and watertable. The SWCH is the same length as the NWCH but it has only nine bays on its long elevations rather than eleven; its window openings being wider than the corresponding ones on the NWCH. The windows themselves are 7-lights-wide by 15-lights-tall steel sash and are covered with steel bars. Between each bay on the wall's exterior surface are broad, cut stone battered buttresses. These buttresses have distinctive stone caps. The building has a simple concrete cornice that hides its flat asphalt-covered roof.

Dining Room/Kitchen (Map #6) C

The dining room/kitchen building was constructed between 1913 and 1914, and was attached to the west elevation of the much smaller old kitchen annex. It is rectilinear in plan and two-stories tall. The rock-faced ashlar walls have raised mortar joints and sit on a reinforced concrete foundation. The stone that clads this building also came from the old prison yard wall that was used to clad the SWCH. The north and south elevations are 4-bays-wide, with massive battered rock-faced stone buttresses. All of the original window openings have now been infilled with rock-faced cut stone having raised mortar joints. On the first floor of the north and south elevations new, smaller windows have been added. These windows have one-over-one light double hung sash and concrete sills and are covered with steel bars. The second story and attic window openings have arched segmental concrete lintels. The dining room/kitchen building is an unusually large and quite rare example of an American Craftsman style institutional building. It has distinctive wide overhanging eaves, projecting beam ends, and false half-timbering, but all of these are done in concrete rather than the more usual wood. The building is capped with an asphalt shingle covered gable roof. Most of the west elevation of this building has now been obscured by a large later, non-contributing two-story flat-roofed brick-clad addition.

Auto Tags Plant (Map #1) C

The Auto Tag building was constructed in 1931 to replace a smaller building that served the same function and that has since been razed. The present building is three-stories in height, rectilinear in plan, was constructed of reinforced concrete, and is located next to the southwest corner of the playing field. The building has a concrete plinth foundation and the walls above are capped with a narrow concrete cornice that hides the flat asphalt-covered roof. The building is 12-bays-long and 5-bays-wide and its reinforced concrete framing system is expressed on the exterior as pilasters that divide the elevations into bays. All of the original window openings have now been infilled and the original windows have been replaced with smaller, 1-light, casement windows (two per bay) having concrete sills. Elevator shafts placed in the northwest and northeast corners rise above the roofline and the principal entrance is placed in the center of the west facade. This building continues to serve as an auto tag plant.

General Industries Building (Map #2) NC

The General Industries Building was constructed between 1954 and 1956. It is located just south of the auto tag building and is very similar in size, massing and scale. It is a three-story, rectilinear-plan building constructed of reinforced concrete, and it has a concrete plinth foundation and pilasters that divide the elevations into bays. It is approximately the same length and width as the auto tag building but it is only 9-bays-long and 4- bays-wide. The building is accessed by a single door on the south facade. All of the original windows on this building have been infilled and replaced with modern, 1-light, top-hinged windows, grouped in pairs. There is a large, metal vent on the south elevation, that rises up past the roofline. Like the auto tags plant, the General Industries building has a simple, narrow concrete cornice and a flat, asphalt-covered roof. The building is currently used as a metal furniture shop.

Binder Twine Factory (Map #4) NC

The binder twine factory was constructed in 1909 to provide work for prisoners. This two-story, reinforced concrete building was originally 16-bays-long (north and south elevations) and 4-bays-wide (east and west elevations) and has a flat roof. In the 1980s, all of the window openings were infilled and the entire original exterior of the building

was covered with pre-cast stucco panels, causing a severe loss of integrity. Consequently, this building is non-contributing. This building is now used as a dormitory.

Warehouse (Map #5) NC

The exterior of this two-story building has been altered in the same way as the binder twine factory building and is also therefore considered to be non-contributing. This building is now the "New Ways Learning Center" and its interior has been totally remodeled in order to accommodate this new usage.

Bath Houses (Map #10) NC

There are two bath houses, constructed in the 1950s, which serve the entire prisoner population at Waupun. One bath house is located between the SCH and the SWCH--with access from each building--and the other is located between the NCH and the NWCH--with access from each cell house. These bath houses are one-story, concrete buildings with flat asphalt-covered roofs and they were built as enclosed passageways between the cell houses. The bath houses are noncontributing.

Chapel (Map #9) NC

The Chapel is a modern building, constructed during the 1960s on a site that was originally occupied by a stone barn and later by a hospital. This one-story, rectilinear plan brick building has a flat, asphalt-covered roof.

Segregation Building (Map #7) NC

The Segregation Building is used for solitary confinement. Problem prisoners are transferred to this building, which is located just north of the chapel. Constructed in the 1960s, this building is also very modern looking. It is rectilinear in plan; eight-bays-long (the east and west elevations) and three-bays-wide (the north and south elevations). The exterior walls are sided with stucco panels and the flat roof is asphalt. The building is now referred to as the 'Adjustment building."

Hospital (Map #14) NC

The hospital was completed and opened in 1945 after having been located in several different buildings during the previous 90 years. It is an Art Deco building, though it is a stripped down, classically derived variant. The main facade of the hospital faces west into the prison yard. The two-story building has a symmetrical five-part plan with a center block, end pavilions and connecting hyphens. The building sits on a rusticated concrete basement story and the upper stories are clad in random ashlar limestone. All the windows have flat-arched openings, concrete lintels and sills, and the spandrels below each of the windows are each comprised of a single sheet of smooth-faced limestone. The window openings themselves have been infilled with two window lights in each opening and metal bars cover their exteriors. The main block of the building is five-bays-wide and the main entrance is centrally placed. The door has a large, simple concrete surround and concrete balustrades flank the entry stairs. The twin north and south hyphens are six-bays-wide and the two end pavilions are each three-bays-wide. The end pavilions also have centered entrances and these are sheltered by full-width one-story flat-roofed porches. The rear elevation (the east side) of this building is almost identical to the main facade. There are, however, no door openings or porches on this elevation and the first floor of the center block is covered by a full-width, one-story flat-roofed ell. This ell is original to the building and it is identical in design and uses the same materials. This building is currently used as a "self care unit" for elderly men, and as the infirmary; serious medical cases are transported out of the prison for care.

Social and Psychiatric Services Building (Map #13) NC

The noncontributing Social and Psychiatric Services building was constructed in the 1960s, and it connects the NCH with the hospital. It is a two-story, rectilinear-plan, flat-roofed building. The main facade faces west into the prison yard and it is clad in brick, while the rear elevation faces east and is clad in the same random ashlar rock-faced limestone as the hospital. The main elevations are each 13-bays-wide and they were designed to harmonize with the design of the older hospital building. Thus, both elevations utilize identical window openings that have flat-arched windows, concrete sills and lintels, and both have smooth limestone-faced spandrels placed below each window. This building continues to be used for similar purposes.

Wall and Guard towers (Map #18 and #18A) C

The original prison wall was built between 1858 and 1861. This wall extended from Guard Tower-1, west to Guard Tower-2A, north to a tower that was near where the northeast corner of the Auto Tag Plant is now, and then east to a tower that was approximately where the northwest corner of the NCH is now. This was constructed of limestone; its foundation reached 6 feet under the ground, and it rose approximately 24 feet high. The wall was capped with a three feet wide slab of stone (4 inches thick), which had iron hand rails attached on each side for guards while they were walking the perimeter. The original guard towers were octagonal and crenelated, like those on the buildings. Some time in the first two decades of the 20th Century, the crenelated tops were replaced with covered, wooden guard houses, but all but one of these (Tower-2A) have more recently been replaced with more modern tops. Of the original four towers only #1 and #2A are still extant, and iron hand rails remain only between towers 2 and 2A.

In 1860, the wall around the front of the institution was begun. This wall stretches from the southeast corner of the SCH east to the corner of Madison St. and the alley, then north along Madison St. Originally it ended at the Women's prison, though later, when the women's prison was torn down, the wall was continued down to the corner of Madison St. and Brown St. (although this portion of the wall is identical to the earlier portion, it is not from the historic period and so it is non-contributing). The front wall is 18 feet high and consists of a series of segmental stone arches and pillars, infilled with decorative iron net-work, and surmounted by a decorative iron hand rail.

In 1909, the prison yard was expanded. The new wall was constructed of reinforced concrete and stretched from Tower-2A west to Tower-3, then north to Tower-5, then east to Tower-6, then south to Tower-7. All of these towers originally had wooden guard houses on a concrete base, but these houses have also all been replaced with more modern structures. When the prison yard was expanded, a new double gate was built at the western corner of the south wall to more easily facilitate the unloading of trains; this gate is still extant (Truck Gate W). The concrete originally used to build the wall was of very poor quality. Consequently, this 1909 portion of the prison wall has been repaired and patched many times, and in some areas, whole sections have had to be replaced.

Inventory of The Wisconsin State Prison Historic District

Map No.		Historic Use	Date	Class
1)	1	Auto Tag Plant	1931	C
2)	2	General Industries	1954	N/C
3)	3	Greenhouse	c.1960	N/C
4)	4	Binder Twine Factory	1909	N/C
5)	5	Warehouse	1914	N/C
6)	6	Dining Room/Kitchen	1913-1914	C
7)	6A	Kitchen Addition	1894	C
8)	7	Segregation Building	1958	N/C
9)	9	Chapel	c.1960	N/C
10)	10	Bath Houses	c.1950	N/C
11)	11	Northwest Cell House	1906-1909	C
12)	12	Southwest Cell House	1913-1914	C
13)	13	Social and Psychiatric Services Building	c.1960	N/C
14)	14	Hospital	1942-1945	N/C
15)	15	North Cell House	1865-1868	C
16)	16	Main Building	1855-1858	C
17)	16A	Main Building Addition	c.1970	N/C
18)	17	South Cell House	1854-1855	C
19)	18	Wall & Guard Towers	1858-1909	C
20)	18A	Wall Addition	c.1945-1955	N/C

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: ___ nationally _X_ statewide ___ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria _X_ A ___ B _X_ C ___ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
Politics-Government	1854-1941	N/A
Architecture	1854-1941	N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Introduction

The Wisconsin State Prison Historic District is being nominated under Criterion A for its statewide historic significance as Wisconsin's first state prison. The prison, which is still in use, is also being nominated under Criterion C as an excellent early example of the Auburn-Style of prison design that proliferated in the United States during the 19th Century.

The 7 buildings and 1 structures identified in the district represent the institution's historic period 1854-1941, chosen to include the date of earliest construction on the site, and continuing to 50 years prior to the present date.

_X_ see continuation sheet

HISTORY OF PRISONS

The idea of the prison as we know it today--a place where those convicted serve terms as a punishment for their crimes--is a relatively new phenomenon. It was not until about 200 years ago that the idea for the 'penitentiary' was conceived and the first one built. Prior to that time, the treatment of criminals, vagrants and debtors was often harsh and cruel, and the idea of sympathy or rehabilitation for them was virtually unknown.

There have been "prisons", or places of confinement, for centuries, going back at least as far as the Roman times, but these were usually places originally built for other purposes and later used to hold prisoners, i.e., dungeons, towers, cellars, and even the tunnels under the main sewer of Rome[1]. Imprisonment as a punishment itself, however, was unheard of, and the prisons were used only to hold suspects until they could be tried and until those convicted could have their sentence carried out. This almost always meant some sort of corporal or capital punishment. Wrongdoers were maimed, tortured, mutilated, branded, drowned, stoned, burned, hung, etc. Often the punishment was made to fit the crime, i.e., a thief's hands were cut off, or a rapist was castrated. This kind of punishment was administered in keeping with God's words to Moses on Mount Sinai: "eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burning for burning..." etc., and at times (12th Century England, for example), this was applied literally[2]. These punishments were intended to be deterrents to others, and sometimes to simply make it impossible for offenders to repeat their crimes[3].

The first buildings constructed specifically for confinement were authorized in 1166 A.D. by the Constitutions of Clarendon, which had been called by Henry II. These "gaols" (jails) were generally congregate rooms where those awaiting trial of sentence were not segregated by age, sex or crime. Inmates were expected to pay for their keep, as these gaols were operated as money-making businesses by the local sheriffs. These sheriffs often extorted money for favors or even a prisoner's rightful release, so the wealthy could live in the gaols comfortably, while the poor, unable to pay, often starved and died there[4].

With the end of Feudalism in Europe, crime increased significantly, as did the number of vagrants and beggars. In the 1550s, King Edward VI

gave an old royal palace in London--Bridewell--to be used for the housing and employment of the vagabond, idle and misdemeanants. This was felt to be such a success that Parliament ordered each county to build one. These "Bridewells"--as they all came to be called--were penal institutions for offenses not severe enough for corporal or capital punishment, and those sent there were made to work in order to: earn their keep; reform them by compulsory work and discipline; and to deter others from vagrancy and idleness[5]. These institutions were the model for "Houses of Correction" which were subsequently established all over the European continent. These also held vagrants, beggars, the disorderly, thieves, and neglected children, and here too, work was compulsory. During the same period, "workhouses" proliferated in Europe, largely as a result of the spiritual movement of the Age of Reformation. These were not penal in nature, but rather were meant to be used for the training and care of the poor, as both the Catholic and Protestant countries distinguished between the "decent poor"--who should be helped--and the vagrant and idle who had to be coerced into work and should be sent to a house of correction[6]. Although both kinds of institution were intended as humanitarian gestures to help cope with new social conditions and rapidly growing cities[7], it did not take long before the workhouses degenerated into penal facilities and both types of institution deteriorated in condition and practice. By the late 1700s they had become indistinguishable from the corrupt, inhumane gaols[8].

Colonial America adopted the same practices as Europe; corporal and capital punishment were the norm, with jails and houses of correction for minor offenders, debtors and those awaiting trial or sentence.

William Penn became the first responsible leader in the colonies or Europe to advocate imprisonment for all crimes rather than corporal or capital punishment (except for those convicted of murder). A Quaker, his "Great Law" established in the Province of Pennsylvania in 1682, called for offenders to be held in houses of correction that were to be "free as to fees, food and lodging"[9], and made to work in compensation for, and in proportion to their crimes[10]. The work was done in public where they were chained to iron balls and made to wear harlequin suits so that they could be easily identified by the public and guards[11]. Pennsylvania was the only colony to make such changes, and they were short lived. The day after Penn's death in 1718, England--which never approved of Penn's reforms--reimposed her "Sanguinary Laws"; corporal

punishment became the standard and the number of capital crimes was increased to 10.[12]

During the late 18th Century in Europe, the idea of prison reform began to take hold. The Englishman, John Howard, became one of its earliest and most vocal proponents after having visited jails and houses of correction all over the European Continent and finding their conditions universally appalling. He was impressed only by the Maison de Force, established in 1775 at Ghent, Belgium, and the Hospice of San Michele, established in 1704, in Rome. These two institutions had some elements of a system of classification of prisoners, individual cells, and work and training programs. Howard called for these reforms in England, as well as more sanitary and healthful surroundings, better diets, more air and light, religious exercises, and an end to corruption and cruel punishments.[13] In his many writings on the subject, Howard introduced the term "penitentiary" and the philosophy of penitence for one's crimes,[14] both of which--along with many other of his ideas--would be adopted by reformers in the U.S.

Howard's efforts resulted in 4 major reforms passed by the British Parliament in 1779: 1) prisons were to be secure and sanitary; 2) systematic inspection of prisons were to be carried out; 3) fees for basic services were abolished; 4)reformatory regimes were to be instituted.[15] Few English institutions even attempted to comply with these changes, however, and with Howard's death in 1790, the reform movement in England and Europe lost much of its momentum.

The origins of the penal system as we know it today in the U.S. can be traced to the 1786 revised criminal code of Pennsylvania, which provided for hard labor rather than corporal or capital punishment for all crimes except for murder or treason. While this was, in a very great sense, a movement toward reform, popular reaction was negative. This was largely because the result of the law was that local sheriffs sent gangs of convicts out to work in public, chained together or to heavy iron balls, and wearing bright clothes to identify them.[16] Although this was very similar to William Penn's "Great Law", the scene now disturbed many of the citizens of Pennsylvania. A significant consequence of all of this was the formation of "The Philadelphia Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons," in 1787, by Dr. Benjamin Rush and several

other prominent citizens, a number of whom were Quakers. The Society believed that it was not this public degradation, but "solitary confinement to hard labor and total abstinence from spiritous liquors [that] will provide the means of reforming these unhappy creatures."[17] By 1790, they were successful in persuading the Pennsylvania Legislature to temporarily designate the Walnut Street Jail in Philadelphia--until then, a city jail--as a state prison until more permanent accommodations could be built. The original jail had two wings: one for serious offenders awaiting trial or sentence; and one for misdemeanants and debtors. That year, a workhouse in the rear was converted to house the latter and the freed wing began to be used for newly sentenced convicts. A new 3 story building was also constructed on the site, the top two stories of which held 16 individual cells. This building which has been called the "cradle of the penitentiary" and which was known as the Penitentiary House, was the first in the United States built with the intention of holding prisoners in solitary confinement. Here, hardened criminals were encouraged to reflect upon their sins and repent, and here they were unable to corrupt others or be corrupted as was possible in the larger, congregate cells.[18]

This new system drew a lot of attention in the United States and abroad, and many states established or converted to similar facilities, where most prisoners were held in congregate rooms at night and let out to work in shops or an enclosed yard during the day, while the worst criminals were held in solitary confinement at all times.

It was this wide attention, however, which soon rendered these institutions unable to continue the experiment, as they all received a rush of commitments making isolation and smooth administration virtually impossible.

One of the many who visited the Walnut Street Jail was New Yorker Thomas Eddy in 1796. Upon returning from his visit he drafted and pushed through the New York Legislature, a bill which called for a change in the penal codes and the establishment of an institution based on the Walnut Street Jail system. Consequently, Newgate prison in Greenwich Village was built. By 1802, however, a bloody riot and mass escape attempts had convinces Eddy that the Walnut Street Jail design and system were inadequate. He began to lobby the legislature for a new prison which he insisted should follow the Howard plan: single cells for

separate confinement of all inmates at night; and shops for congregate labor in strict silence during the day. Although a site for a new prison was designated at Auburn, the New York Legislature rejected Eddy's proposals and designed the facility after the Walnut Street Jail. The new prison, built in 1817, had 61 single cells and 28 congregate rooms.

The Auburn facility never ran smoothly; it was chronically over-crowded and there was mounting disorder in the congregate rooms. Fearing an occurrence of events similar to those at Newgate, and pressed by "The Society for Prevention of Pauperism in New York" which had been established by Thomas Eddy, the 1819 New York Legislature authorized the Auburn prison to be changed "so as to render the same more suitable for confining each prisoner in a separate cell."[19]

Warden William Brittin was instructed to build the new wing. Finding the plans for Walnut Street Jail and Newgate inadequate he developed his own design. It is unknown whether he consulted with anyone or studied plans of St. Michele or the Ghent facility, but some believe that his cell block design seems to combine the two institutions in an ingenious way.[20] Perhaps the most important factor influencing Brittin's design, however, was budget. Since the cost of a plan that called for each cell to have its own window was prohibitive, Brittin built tiers of cells back to back within a hollow building. The cells opened onto galleries, or catwalks, which were 6-10 feet from the outer wall. This wall had huge windows running nearly floor to ceiling to facilitate light and air. The cells were approximately seven feet long, three and a half feet wide and seven feet high. The original building had floors, ceilings and doors of wood, but before it could be completed, inmates started a fire which gutted it. When it was rebuilt, Brittin modified the wing so that floors and ceilings were made of brick, making the spread of fire difficult, though not impossible because the plan still called for each cell to be lined with wood and have a heavy wooden door. William Brittin died before the wing could be completed, however, and his successor, Gershom Powers, abandoned the wood lining and substituted iron gates for solid wooden doors. This gave added security from fire and mischief, and was significantly less expensive.[21] This design of individual cells in the tiered blocks (which has become one of the unique characteristics of American prisons), along with silent, congregate labor by day, became known as the "Auburn system". During the 1820s a competing system, known as the "Pennsylvania system", also

emerged. This system, implemented at Western State Penitentiary in Pittsburgh and at the Eastern State Penitentiary in Philadelphia, called for segregation in individual cells at all times. Inmates were to eat, sleep, bath, and work in these cells; they were let out only for one hour each day, into a small, individual walled exercise yard which was built adjacent to each cell. These cells were larger than the cells at Auburn--approximately 18 feet long, eight feet wide, and sixteen feet high--to accommodate the greater number of activities that were performed there.

Bitter debate raged for decades about which system was superior. The advocates of the Pennsylvania system argued that their system resulted in less contact, and hence corruption through contamination between prisoners, and prevented the often harsh and cruel punishment which were often required under the other system to maintain order. The Auburn advocates argued, on the other hand, that their system was cheaper to build and maintain, and made better use of prison labor[22], occasionally to the point of actually showing a profit. In the end, it was the economic factors that influenced most states; the Auburn system was instituted in most new prisons in the next 50 years, including Sing Sing in New York, Joliet in Illinois, and Waupun in Wisconsin.

Penitentiaries based on the Auburn system usually had designs, programs, rules, regulations and punishments that were substantially the same. The facilities were often huge, Gothic-style structures that made individuals seem small and insignificant. Often resembling medieval fortresses, these designs were awe-inspiring as well as functional; thick stone or brick walls provided security, and turrets were frequently used as guard posts. The interiors were multi-tiered, back to back cells which were usually (in the 19th Century) dimly lit, poorly ventilated and without plumbing.[23] Programs too, were often similar in these institutions. The inmates generally worked in congregate factory shops that were built on the premises and usually contributed most of the labor for any new construction at the facility. Sunday religious services, sabbath schools, and job training programs were instituted, aimed at preparing the inmates for life after prison. Rules and regulations were usually quite strict. Most followed the harsh system devised under Warden Elam Lynds at Auburn in the 1820s. Prisoners were to keep their eyes downcast, march in a lockstep, and communication between prisoners or fraternization between prisoners and guards was forbidden at all times.[24] The traditional striped uniform was also

introduced at Auburn in the early 1800s. Different colors were worn by different classifications of prisoners (i.e., first time offenders versus repeat offenders) making segregation and identification possible at a glance.[25] Punishment for rule infractions usually meant flogging, though occasionally other forms of corporal punishment or isolation was used. All of these things were the norm for many decades at most penitentiaries that were based on the Auburn facility.

WISCONSIN'S PRISON

Several years before Wisconsin became a state in 1848, the territorial government had identified a need for a penitentiary of some kind. All prisoners were housed in county jails, which were generally considered to be inadequate for long term confinement because they were expensive and because they did not provide the proper atmosphere for reformation. The reputation of the penitentiaries on the east coast had spread throughout the continent and most state and territorial governments had been converted. Territorial Governor Henry Dodge stated, in an address to the Legislative Assembly of Wisconsin Territory, "the greatest purpose of criminal law is reformation. This purpose is the foundation of the Penitentiary system which combines with imprisonment hard labor and a course of moral discipline suited to reclaim offenders to the paths of rectitude and virtue. This effect cannot be produced in county jails where the convict has [no employment, but] the continuance of his confinement is calculated to prepare his mind for the commission of higher offenses."[26] Governor Dodge argued that with the territory's increased population, the amount of money it cost to house the prisoners' in the county jails was more than enough to build a new penitentiary, where they could help pay for their expenses. A memorial was sent to congress requesting federal aid to build such an institution, but the request was denied. Indeed, between 1841 and 1850 there were several attempts to establish a state prison, but each was foiled, either by the Wisconsin Legislature, by a governor or by the federal government. In 1850, Governor Nelson Dewey declared that "the present manner of punishing criminal offenders is unjust, onerous, oppressive, and not warranted by any principle of humanity or sound economy. It is a discredit to our state, and unworthy of the character of humane and enlightened people."[27] Chapter 287 of the Laws of Wisconsin for 1851 directed the Governor to appoint three commissioners to provide for the location and erection of a state prison. By July 4th

of that year, after looking at sites at Madison, Portland, Genesee, Horicon and Waupun, the committee selected a 21 acre tract of land donated by the Seymour Wilcox estate in the Village of Waupun.

The location was regarded as very good and possessing all the facilities necessary for a prison as it was "situated on the margin of prairie and forest, promising timber, fuel and food, at a low price; is on a good public highway, where the road from Fort Winnebago to Fond du Lac crosses the road from Green Bay to Chicago, and within one and a half miles of the proposed route of the Rock River Valley Union Rail Road [and] is a healthful place not subject to miasmal disease, which is the prevailing type of disease in this state."[28]

On July 21, 1851, a contract was let for the construction of a temporary, 3 story, wooden prison. This building originally had 40 cells (with room for 20 more if needed) and offices on the first floor. On the second floor were rooms for guards and on the third floor was a chapel and hospital. A 12 foot plank fence with a walk on top was constructed around 5 acres of the prison property. This temporary facility opened on April 1, 1852, when 15 prisoners were transferred from county jails. In 1853, a joint resolution of the State Legislature ordered the Prison Commissioner (at that time an elected official with a two year term) to proceed with the erection of a permanent prison to be constructed on the plan and design of the Auburn facility.

The original plan was indeed very similar to the Auburn prison; it was--like Auburn--Gothic in appearance with octagonal turrets and crenelation, and called for a 3 story main building--50'X 75'--which would face east and be flanked by two wings--one to the south and one to the north--each 100 feet by 50 feet. Within each wing would be a cell block, 4 tiers high, containing 120 cells. In addition, there were to be 10 larger cells located within the octagonal towers at the far end of each cell house; the ultimate capacity of the prison would then be 250.

The following year, Chapter 32 of the Laws of 1854 was enacted, providing for the construction of the South Cell House (SCH) and the use of convict labor to do so was authorized[29] (convict labor was used for the construction of ALL future buildings at the WSP). The buildings

were to be constructed of limestone, as there was an abundance of it in the Waupun area. Local citizen stonecutters were hired to teach their trade to the inmates. One stonecutter was employed for every 4 prisoners and they were paid $1.25 per day.[30] The prisoners were inexperienced in the trade, however, so work was slow and always behind schedule. The completion of the South Cell House was delayed even further when, upon the Prison Commissioner's recommendation, the plans for both cell houses were enlarged from 100 feet long to 200 feet long, which would double the capacity of the prison. The SCH was finally completed in December, 1854. Its foundation (10 feet below the surface) sat on solid rock and in the center of the building were 4 tiers of cells, 240 in all, each measuring 7x4x7.[31] Since there was, at that time, no dining room, tables were placed in the space between the cell block and the outer wall of the cell house, and the prisoners ate there in strict silence. This cell house also had no electricity or plumbing at that time; kerosene lamps, wooden buckets serving as chamber pots and wood stoves for heat, were used.

As soon as the SCH was finished the male prisoners were moved into it; the old building was maintained and it continued to serve many purposes. The Warden then recommended that construction of the main building be started immediately. The original design called for a four story building 50 feet wide by 75 feet deep. The basement was to house the kitchen and storage areas; the first story was to house guard and matron rooms in the rear and offices in the front; the second story was to house an hospital and dispensary in the rear and rooms for the wardens' residence in the front; the third story was to house the chapel and more of the wardens' residence; and the forth story/attic was for personnel housing. Before this building was constructed, all offices, guards rooms, the chapel, hospital and kitchen were still located in the temporary building and there were no accommodations for the warden and his family.

In May, 1855, excavation for the foundation of the main building was begun. The basic plan remained unchanged but the dimensions were increased to 70 feet wide by 85 feet deep, enlarging the rooms rather than adding more of them. The four story building had four octagonal turrets, one at each corner, and a cupola in the center of the roof; there was a winding stone staircase in the southeast octagonal tower leading from the first story warden's office to the roof. The main

building was completed and occupied in 1857.

The permanent prison wall was begun in 1858 and by 1859 it was half completed. This wall was constructed of limestone; it reached 6 feet below the surface to a solid rock foundation and rose approximately 24 feet above the surface. The top was capped with stone--three feet wide and four inches thick--and had iron handrails on each side to prevent guards from falling while walking the perimeter. In addition, crenelated octagonal towers were built at each corner. These were 10 feet in diameter and rose 11 feet above the wall. The original wall enclosed only about 9 acres, as apposed to the approximately 18 acres enclosed today. This entire wall was completed by 1861.

In 1860, the Prison Commissioner visited the prison in Joliet, Illinois to examine the industries/workshop building there. Upon returning, the commissioner halted construction on the North Cell House (NCH) which had been started, and put the prisoners to work on a shop building, adopted from the plan at Joliet. Since the SCH was not yet filled, there was not an immediate need for another, and because work was viewed as an essential part of reform and punishment, the shops building was given priority. This building, which was demolished in 1984, was 375 feet long, 40 feet wide, and divided into four distinct shops; over the years it held several different industries, including: a cooper shop; a broom shop; a carpenter shop; a paint shop; a shoe shop; and a knitting shop among others.

Also in 1860, the wall around the front of the building was begun. This wall was designed more for aesthetic than security purposes. It was only 18 feet high and consisted of a series of semi-circular stone arches and pillars infilled with decorative wrought iron grills, which allowed the public to view the impressive structure.

In 1861, the permanent women's prison was begun. This building, which would also house the Deputy Wardens' residence, was a smaller version of the main building and was located just northeast of the future location of the North Cell House. Its main elevation faced east into the landscaped front courtyard. This building was demolished in the 1930s after the women's prison at Taycheedah was finished and all the female prisoners moved there.

During the years of the Civil War, the prison population steadily decreased. In 1865, the warden wisely estimated that this trend would

reverse itself after the war ended and suggested that construction begin immediately on the North Cell House (NCH). In fact the number of prisoners did increase significantly (by nearly 75%) and the NCH was begun. This cell house was also to be 200 feet long, but 53 feet wide. There were to be only 208 cells (rather than the 240 in the SCH) in four tiers, each cell being 7x4x8, because at the north end of the cell house on the second floor, a new hospital, 53 feet x 55 feet, was constructed. Under the hospital on the first floor, larger cells for insane convicts were built. Like the SCH there were 22 windows to let in light and air, but those in the NCH were longer by 1 or 2 feet. The NCH was also heated by wood stoves and had no plumbing or electricity. The building was completed and occupied early in 1868.

In May, 1870, the shops building was completely destroyed by fire. A new building was begun immediately, but this was constructed entirely of stone and iron to minimize future threat of fire. The new building was completed in November of that year and measured 217′ long by 54′ wide. This building was enlarged in 1890 by extending the building at each end.

In 1874, an agreement was reached with the Milwaukee and St. Paul RR, and a spur track was run into the prison yard at the southwest corner. This helped to facilitate the unloading of coal and other supplies.

By 1876, faulty construction of the early buildings necessitated replacement of the roofs on both cell houses and the main building. Up to that point, the SCH roof had been repaired so many times that little of the original remained. That same year, the windows in the SCH were replaced because they also leaked very badly.

Modern conveniences at the facility were slowly added. In 1878, water closets were added to the main building, though the prisoners in the cell blocks continued to use buckets for chamber pots. In 1890, however, steam heat was added to the main building and the cell houses. This was much safer than the old wood stoves as it greatly decreased the threat of fire. It was also much more economical since wood for fire was becoming more scarce in the Waupun area.

In 1893-4 the main building was remodelled. A new residence for the warden was constructed on the northeast corner of the prison property, just outside the wall to free up space within the main building. The hospital which had become inadequate for its needs was then moved from

the NCH, to the second story of the main building, where it had more easily accessible space. When the hospital was removed from the NCH, the insane inmates housed in larger cells below were transferred to one of the two state mental hospitals, and the entire area was converted into approximately 60 more cells.

At the same time that the main building was being remodelled, a new kitchen/dining facility was constructed abutting its west side. This addition was a one story stone structure with a basement. The upper floor housed the kitchen (which was moved from the basement of the main building) and the officers' dining room, and the basement held a prisoners' dining room. Up until that point the prisoners ate in their cells or at tables placed in the corridors of the cell houses. Either way, the time it took to deliver the food often made it unpalatable, so with the construction of the new kitchen/dining room, prisoners consistently received warm food for the first time in 40 years.

The improvement and modernization of the cell houses continued. In 1895-6, air ducts were added to each cell to improve air circulation and ventilation. This was a necessary addition after so many years without plumbing and with the use of kerosene lamps. In 1898, electricity was added to the entire prison, including each cell, though there was still no plumbing anywhere except the main building. Also in 1898, the roofs on the cell houses were replaced again, as was the roof on the women's prison. The flat roofs of the buildings had continued to leak even after they were replaced the first time. The flagstone floors in the corridors of the cell houses were replaced with cement in 1899. This was done because the flagstone was chipping and breaking, and the crevices between the stones could not be cleaned thoroughly so the floors were very unsanitary. The new cement corridors were built on a slight slope down to a sloping gutter next to the outer wall of the cell house, so that when the floors were scrubbed, the water would move easily to the sewers.

During this time the kitchen/dining room was also remodelled and enlarged. The plan for the new dining room called for the building to be expanded 56 feet to the west and for a second story to be added to accommodate a school and chapel which could hold approximately 100. The prisoners' dining room was moved to the first floor and had a capacity of 575, and the kitchen was moved to the basement.

In 1902 the hospital moved again. This time out of the main building

and into an old stone barn (non-extant) in the prison yard which was completely reconstructed. This was necessary because the hospital had again outgrown its accommodations. Between 1905 and 1907, after the hospital had moved out, the main building was again remodelled. This time, almost the entire building was gutted and overhauled. The west half of the first floor, which formerly held the guards room, the locker room and the officers' dining room, was combined into one large room, 40 feet by 70 feet, for guards and visitors. The east half of the building was the only area that remained unchanged and it continued to house the wardens' and clerks' offices. The second floor, where the hospital had been, was remodelled to provide sleeping and recreation rooms for the employees. Ten bedrooms, a reading room, a recreation room, toilet and bathroom, and a large lounge were added. On the third floor, all inside walls were removed and steel trusses were placed to support the roof. The entire story was then remodelled to house a new chapel. The floor of the room was on an incline and there was a stage in front, 30 feet by 22 feet, so that everyone could see. In addition there was a gallery in the rear, 80 feet by 15 feet, for the female prisoners and outside visitors.

At the same time, beginning in 1906 and completed in 1909, a new 'northwest' cell house was constructed. The prison population had increased significantly in the last decade of the 19th century and prisoners were doubled-up in some cells, or sleeping on cots in corridors. The Northwest Cell House (NWCH) varied from the earlier cell houses in its construction, cell size and conveniences. The outside walls were pressed brick rather than limestone, and the floors and cell walls were constructed of concrete. The cells in the NWCH were larger than in the other cell blocks, so there were fewer of them; there were 200 cells in 4 tiers-50 in each tier-each measuring 10 feet by 5 feet by 7 feet six inches high, and each cell had a closet and lavatory. As soon as the new wing was finished in 1909, 200 prisoners were transferred into it. The prison administration immediately then asked the state legislature for funds to construct another cell house. The prison capacity was 764 and it was nearly full. If another wing were built right away, the facility would be large enough to remodel the old out-dated cell houses (SCH and NCH) without causing severe overcrowding problem. The legislature did appropriate funds but construction of the building was delayed so that the prison could use the money to purchase a machine to crush stone for building materials. It was felt that the new machine would more than compensate for the delay because its greater speed made it more productive than prisoners crushing stone by hand.

The same year that the NWCH was completed, a new expanded wall and binder twine factory were also finished. The wall was extended 2100 feet and 4 new towers were added to enclose the balance of the prison property. Before it was expanded, almost all of the area enclosed within the wall was filled. There was no room to add more industry buildings which were badly needed as a result of the increased prisoner population. Once the wall enclosed the area west of the existing industries building, a new, 2 story binder twine factory building was constructed which provided work for many more prisoners.

As a result of the expansion of the wall, a new railroad car entrance had to be built at the new southwest corner. At the same time, a new underground coal shed and turntable for turning the cars in the prison yard were added west of the SCH.

With the prospect of construction of another cell house, it became clear that a new kitchen/dining room would again be necessary. The old dining room could hold only 528 prisoners, so 150 were already being fed elsewhere. If a new cell house were constructed and the prison population increased, the problem could become severe. In 1911 the state legislature appropriated money for a new dining room which would be west of and occupying a portion of the area of the existing dining room. The new building was 85 feet by 153 feet, and was constructed of the limestone taken from the parts of the old wall that was demolished after the new wall was completed. The building was one story, though the basement was almost completely above ground, and there was a sub-basement. The sub-basement was largely for storage; the basement housed the kitchen, bakery, and storerooms; and the first floor held the new dining room, which would seat 1000 and which had a platform for the prison orchestra to perform on during the noon meal each day. This new building opened for use in 1913.

Meanwhile, the SWCH and a warehouse were under construction too. The SWCH was also constructed of limestone. Like the NWCH it had 4 tiers of cells-50 cells in each tier-and each cell was fitted with plumbing, steam heat and electricity. The cells in the SWCH were, however, smaller than those in the NWCH, measuring just 5 feet by 8 feet. The SWCH was completed and occupied in 1914.

The warehouse, also completed in 1914, was constructed of reinforced concrete, and used to store supplies and products of the binder twine

factory. The two story building was built between the factory and the railroad entrance.

During 1915 and 1916, concrete streets, curbs and gutters were added to the prison yard to improve the appearance and sanitary conditions of the institution.

There was very little construction during the next 15 years, but 2 buildings were remodelled. In the early 1920s (the exact year is unclear), the NCH was completely gutted in order to be rebuilt. Although the SWCH was completed and occupied, the prison population had increased enough so that while the cell block was unusable, 240 prisoners were doubled-up in cells or slept on cots in the corridors of the SCH. The remodelling was completed in Dec. 1928, and on Jan. 1, 1929, 240 men were moved into the new NCH. The wing, though still in 4 tiers with 60 cells in each tier, now had steam heat, electricity and plumbing in each cell.

The old kitchen was also remodelled and up-dated between 1924 and 1926, and was used to help increase the food output of the newer kitchen.

The 1930s saw very little construction activity at WSP. A new auto tag building was built in 1931 north of the Binder Twine Factory. This was a three story building constructed of solid reinforced concrete, and built entirely with convict labor.

In 1941, the South Cell House, the oldest of the four, was finally remodelled. The interior was gutted and completely rebuilt. For the first time in nearly 90 years, the SCH now had indoor plumbing and prisoners no longer needed to use chamber pots. The cell house reopened in Feb., 1942.

Also during the 1940s, the wardens' residence the women's prison building were torn down. A new house for the warden was built near the prison farm #1, and a new prison for women built at Taycheedah to replace the razed buildings. The removal of the buildings facilitated the construction of a new hospital building which was north of the NCH--though not adjacent--and which was completed and occupied in 1945.

During the 1950s, two bath houses were built; one between the SCH and the SWCH, to facilitate those wings, and one between the NCH and the NWCH. A General Industries building was completed just south of the Auto Tag Plant in 1954, a Segregation Building was completed north of the old hospital building in 1958, and the old binder twine factory was converted into a dormitory.

During the 1960s, the old shops building was converted into a school, a social and psychiatric services building was constructed between the NCH and the hospital, the old stone barn-hospital was torn down and a new chapel was built on that spot, a new greenhouse was built between the old binder twine factory and the newer industries building, a new food service building was built attached to the old building on the west side, the old dining room was renovated into a recreation hall, and the administration building was gutted and remodelled again, removing all but a few traces of the original interior.

In the 1970s, a new administration annex was added to the east side of the old building.

After a major riot took place in the old shops building in 1983, the building was torn down because it was unsafe and inadequate for its use as a school. The old binder twine warehouse was then completely overhauled to serve as a new school. The last change to date, occurred in 1985 when an old gate house entrance at the front of the institution was removed and a new high security entrance area was built.

PRISON LIFE

EARLY YEARS

When the Wisconsin State Prison opened in 1854 it adopted completely the philosophical and actual methods of operation that were in effect at the Auburn prison. In the 1820s, Warden Elam Lynds had devised at Auburn a system of discipline and punishment based on the assumption that criminals could not be reformed until they were broken. The result was a harsh system that advocated the following: hard labor, which ranged from "making little rock out of big ones" to productive prison industry; deprivation of everything except a few life necessities and of course, religious instruction; a very monotonous life with no variation in diet or routine; rigidly uniform treatment of prisoners; squashing of individuality through mass living, eating, bathing, etc.; degradation of prisoners through loss of identity, shabby, striped clothes, and denial of courteous contact with guards; strict subservience to guards and rules; corporal punishment, i.e., the paddle, the whip, and the sweat box; non-communication with fellow prisoners, guards, and friends and relatives except for a very occasional letter or visit; no recreation; denial of responsibility of any kind; and isolation for up to 16 hours a day.[32] There was a clear ambivalence at these new penitentiaries about what their true role was; there never seemed to be a clear idea whether they were to punish or reform and rehabilitate the prisoners. This uncertainty was often reflected in philosophies such as Warden Elams--that prisoners had to be 'broken' before they could be saved. The American Correctional Association states that harsh systems such as these were still recognized by most Auburn-style prisons one hundred years later.

The Wisconsin State Prison system varied little from this example, and it maintained these rigid rule for almost 75 years; the "Rules for the Government of Prisoners" for 1926 shows little variation from the rules of the mid-18th Century. These rules still rigidly directed the prisoners' every move, to the point where they were told, among other things: not to stare at guards or visitors; to make desires or needs known through hand signals rather than verbally; not to talk to other prisoners or sing, whistle, or make any other unnecessary noises; not to look into another prisoner's cell; and to sleep with their feet toward the door.[33] The daily schedule for prisoners at the WSP in the first few decades it was open had them rising at 5:00 a.m. They were then to wash, dress and make their bed. At 6:00, they were served breakfast in

their cells, and at 6:45 they were lined up and marched to work in the shops. They were marched back to their cells for lunch at noon, and then back to work from 1:00 to 6:00. They were then again marched back to their cells where they ate supper and they were locked in the cells for the rest of the night. They were given light until 8:00 p.m. and were not allowed to go to bed until then. The only variation came on Sundays when they had mandatory church services from 10:00 until noon, and then they were returned to their cells for the rest of the day.

How rigidly all of these rules were enforced is unknown. Periodically in the prison's history corporal punishment was apparently used quite liberally to maintain order and punish transgressors, but some wardens (as early as 1862) proudly reported that they did not use any kind of corporal punishment at all.[34]

WORK

Work was always the center of a prisoner's life in the penitentiary. Indeed, some scholars believe that the penitentiary system would not have proliferated as it did had it not been for the Industrial Revolution.[35] Increased mechanization and mass production allowed factories to be established at prison sites where there was a ready source of cheap labor. On the other hand, the money brought in from the sales of prison-made goods also enabled the prison to request less public funding, and to occasionally even show a profit. Different prisons used different systems. The least profitable system had the prison choosing an industry, producing goods and then trying to sell them itself on the open market. More profitable was the 'contract system' where a prison would contract out prison labor to the highest bidder. The contractor would supply all raw materials and equipment to the prison, but the prisoners would remain under the care and supervision of the prison. The contractor was responsible for sales of the product and the prison received money only for the prisoners' wages. This system was the most common at the penitentiaries. The most profitable system, but also the most degrading to prisoners was the 'lease system.' This was a system whereby a contractor leased the men themselves, often taking them off of prison ground. The leaser was responsible for all aspects of the prisoners' care, and this often led to abuses. Prisoners were under fed and over worked, and there were very few rules governing their treatment. The WSP used only the first two systems of prison labor, refusing to use the lease system for the

reasons stated. The contract system was the most desirable in Wisconsin and it sometimes resulted it significant profits. Prison industries were established in shoe making, broom making, coopering, tailoring, printing and binding, canning, painting, furniture making (both wood and metal), sign making, twine making, license plate making, and others throughout the years. Any able bodied prisoner was required to work. At first they received none of the money that their labors brought in, but later they began to receive a very little bit; in 1901 prisoners received $.01 per day which was available to him only after his discharge.[36]

Prisoners were also frequently employed to build new prison facilities. In Wisconsin, the first prisoners at the WSP built their own jail. First they constructed a temporary wooded building and wall, and then they were put to work building the permanent stone prison. The convicts quarried and cut the stone and did the masonry work. Prisoners built every building ever constructed on what is now the WSP site, though at times they had some outside help or training. In later years, they were trained and even did the plumbing and electrical work. Trustworthy prisoners from the WSP were sent all over the state to construct other state facilities, including: the Wisconsin State Reformatory at Green Bay; The Southern Wisconsin Home for the Feeble Minded and Epileptic at Union Grove; the Wisconsin Industrial Home for Women at Taycheedah; and the Wisconsin Industrial School for Girls at Oregon.

REFORMATORY YEARS

The period of 1870 to 1900 for prisons was characterized by the rise of the reformatory system and a more sympathetic view of the criminal. During that period, a new philosophy began to emerge where prisons began to develop reformative, rather than purely punitive programs for the treatment of criminals. It also recognized for the first time that there were differences between prisoners and that not all of them should necessarily be treated the same. This new system emphasized incentives for good behavior rather than threat of punishment for bad behavior. Incentives included "good time", whereby a prisoner had time taken off of his sentence for good behavior, and parole, which first emerged during the late 19th Century. Another common system that characterized this period was grading. Under this system, a prisoner entered the prison at one of (typically) three grades, often the second, which had different levels of privileges. If he proved he could behave and follow

the rules, he was moved up to the first grade, where he had the most privileges; if he was a trouble maker, he was moved down to grade three where he had few privileges. This system was introduced at the WSP in 1898; in 1901, a prisoners entered the prison at grade one and received: one ration of tobacco per week; an electric light in his cell; a visit from a family member or friend once a month; permission to write a letter every other Sunday; permission to receive weekly newspapers or periodicals; permission to draw books from the library; and permission to receive packages from family or friends on holidays. For violating any rules, laziness, filthiness, or disorderly conduct, the warden could reduce him to the second or third grade. In the second grade, prisoners received only permission to write a letter once a month, an electric light in their cell and permission to draw one book from the library per month. In the third grade, a prisoner received none of the privileges received in the first two grades.[37] The reformatory period was also characterized by increased educational and training opportunities for prisoners. In Wisconsin this was reflected in the establishment of the Wisconsin State Reformatory in 1898, an institution for younger offenders (age 16-25) located at Green Bay. The facility provided for a daily routine of work, training, school and drill sessions. At the WSP a regular school was organized in 1867 and put under the auspices of the Chaplain, as was the case at many other prisons. A law passed the previous year provided for only 8 hours of school per week and only for those prisoners who wished to attend.[38] Job training at the WSP was also minimal. There was no formal training program that was aimed at preparing prisoners for their release, though it was mandatory for prisoners to work. Generally, the penitentiaries continued to be a place of punishment for the worse criminals, and the new reformatories were where the new programs were instituted on a broader scale.

THE INDUSTRIAL PERIOD

The first quarter of the 20th Century is known as the "industrial period" in American penal history. During these years, prisons virtually became factories, mass-producing a broad range of finished products. Because of the emphasis on group labor, it was during this time that the first noticeable changes in practice began to take place. Because of the larger scale of the production, it became necessary for prisoners to communicate with each other at work. This gradually led to the end of the "silent system", where prisoners had previously been severely punished for talking to each other.[39] This led to a general

relaxing of the atmosphere at most penitentiaries, however this period was characterized by a decrease in concern about education and training and an increase in emphasis on profit.

During this period at the WSP new, large scale industries such as the Binder Twine Factory and the Auto Tags Plant were established. Previously, the prison had one large "shops" building where all the industries were located. These tended to change from year depending on what sort of contracts could be arranged. The binder twine and auto tag industries, on the other hand, were on a much larger scale and were more permanent; new buildings were constructed specifically for these industries. The "silent system" was slowly phased-out at the WSP as well. Although it was not officially removed from the prison rules until 1939, it was, in fact, obsolete many years before that.

Between 1900 and 1930 the prison population in the United States more than doubled; in 1900 the population was 57,000, and by the 1930 it had ballooned to 148,000, with a huge prison construction boom (most were still based on the Auburn facility). This was due largely to unemployment problems (especially after WWI), increased mobility (with the increase and proliferation of automobiles), new laws (i.e., prohibition, auto theft laws), and improved law enforcement (resulting from the establishment of the FBI in 1924, which had offices in every state).[40] The WSP was typical during those years; two new cell house wings were built and the prison population increased from 496 inmates to 1305 inmates.[41] During these years, most prisons (including Waupun) were severely overcrowded. Separate confinement of each criminal, which was the intention of every penitentiary, was impossible, and the situation was exacerbated by the fact that the capacity of all dining, work, education and recreation facilities at the prisons were based on the number of cells.

THE WAR YEARS

The post-WWI through post-WWII era saw the most profound and fundamental changes in American prisons. Advances in the social and psychological sciences fields during this period led to a shift in the conception of the criminal from that of sinner, to that of a sick person that needed help and treatment. Classification of prisoners was refined during this period so that upon entering a penitentiary, a convict was usually interviewed in detail so that an individualized treatment could be designed for him. Housing, work and treatment assignments were made by

committees and periodically reevaluated. It was also during this period that the rigid rules established in the 19th Century were dismissed at most penitentiaries. Gradually the prison stripes, lockstep marching, silence rules, personable behavior regulations, etc., disappeared and the atmosphere relaxed considerably. Recreation time and facilities increased, as did educational opportunities and treatment programs for convicts. It was also during this period that the number of prison farms and camps grew significantly. Many prisons had previously established at least one large prison farm, usually located near the prison, where much of the food needed for the prison was grown and raised. Now, however, many new farms and camps were established, partly to help alleviate overcrowding in the main prison facility, and partly to give more convicts work and job training opportunities. This increase was caused in part by the Hawes-Cooper Act, which was passed in the early 1930s. The act prohibited the transport of prison made products across state lines because it was felt that the low labor costs involved made it difficult for non-prison made goods to compete. This led to a significant decrease in the number of contract labor contracts, resulting in fewer of the convicts having meaningful work to do. The farms and camps could employ prisoners without violating Hawes-Cooper, and so they became very attractive alternatives for many prison administrations.

The WSP had several farms and camps all over the state. It had forestry camps, building and road construction camps, dairy farms, agricultural farms and a warehouse camp. The several camps held nearly 500 men at times. This significantly helped the crowding problem at the main facility and at the same time allowed the less dangerous prisoners to be separated from those who required higher security. There were no locks on the doors at the camps and farms; nor did the guards have weapons. These were honor camps and there were very few escapes or attempted escapes from them. These camps and farms gradually closed during the 1960s and 1970s because it became more economically sound to buy food for the prison rather than to grow it, and because farming was no longer seen as a practical skill that would help prisoners once they were released. The WSP still maintains one farm--the first and largest--about one mile from the prison.

World War Two was a significant turning point in prison programming. During the War, United States' prison mobilized along with the rest of the nation. Prison shops made uniforms, blankets, shoes and boots for soldiers, and mattresses and furniture for bases. They assembled

civilian war ration books, and at WSP they made twine for the war effort. But the manpower and industrial demands of the war led to a new correctional philosophy in vocational training. Programs were primarily aimed at supporting war production once a prisoner was released. These programs trained future parolees in things like aircraft engine maintenance, welding, auto mechanics, etc. More importantly though, this brought more qualified program staff, including psychologists, teachers, counselors, recreation specialists and more volunteers.[42] At the WSP, the war years were characterized by an increase in vocational training, especially welding, and there was more emphasis placed on the 'guidance' program. In addition, the Wisconsin prison got its first full-time staff psychologist in 1945.[43]

POST-WWII - PRESENT

In the decades that have followed WWII, prison life has changed dramatically from what it was like during the early years of the penitentiary. The correctional field has expanded into a legitimate field of study and social service. Although there is still ambivalence about what the true role of the penitentiary is--to punish or to rehabilitate--the method has changed significantly. The authoritarian warden and harsh convict rules are long gone, and prison architecture has begun to reflect these changes in philosophy and program. Newer prisons are much less menacing looking; they no long look like medieval fortresses. Were it not for fences or walls, the new prisons would be unidentifiable as such. Many of these old Auburn-style prisons remain, however, to remind us how far we have come.

POLITICS-GOVERNMENT SIGNIFICANCE

The Wisconsin State Prison at Waupun is the first state penitentiary (or prison) constructed in Wisconsin. Before Wisconsin even received statehood, territorial leaders were expressing the need for an alternative to the local/county jail system. These jails were overcrowded, expensive to operate and felt to be an inappropriate atmosphere for reforming prisoners. The penitentiary, on the other hand, was at the time felt to be the ideal way to deal with prisoners. Housed in individual cells, they were to meditate in isolation on their crimes which would lead to penitence and reformation. Although several attempts were made before statehood to establish such an institution in Wisconsin, it was not until 1851 (three years after Wisconsin became a state) that the Wisconsin State Prison was started. The site has continued to functioned as a prison during the 140 years since then and has maintained a significant level of integrity for an institution of that age. The district is significant as the earliest Wisconsin example of this increasingly important aspect of government. The earliest resources in the district are significant for being excellent early representatives of the "Auburn Plan," one of the most important types of prison planning. Later contributing resources are also significant for their ability to convey important information about the changes that occurred in attitudes toward penal institutions since the original buildings were constructed.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Main Building and the North and South cell houses are, combined, architecturally significant as an excellent example of an Auburn-style prison. In the early 19th Century, the prison reform movement in the Eastern States led to the evolution of the penitentiary as the preferred system. Two competing systems arose: the Auburn system and the Pennsylvania system. The Auburn system had prisoners living in individual cells but working congregately in shops during the day, while the Pennsylvania system had men living and working alone in their cells at all times. While a bitter debate raged during the early 19th Century by proponents of each system about which was better, eventually the Auburn-style prisons predominated. Between 1825 and 1870, 23 new state prisons were constructed along the lines of the Auburn prison, including the Wisconsin State Prison at Waupun. These new prisons generally adopted the physical as well as philosophical elements of the Auburn

facility. The Gothic Revival buildings at Auburn looked very much like medieval fortresses and were designed to ensure a feeling of security for the public. The buildings had turrets and crenelated battlements which doubled as guard towers. There was invariably a main building which housed administration offices, which was abutted by cell houses. These cell houses had interior cell blocks: tiers--usually four--of cells placed back to back, opening onto galleries which were several feet from the outside walls. These walls had very large windows that ran nearly floor to ceiling to facilitate light and air. This design was original to Auburn but it was adopted over and over by prisons throughout the country including the Wisconsin State Prison. Wisconsin adopted completely Auburn's fortress-like appearance, turrets, crenelations, and cell block plan, making it nearly indistinguishable from the Auburn prison and others of this type. The Wisconsin State Prison also adopted the system of operation that originated at Auburn and which went hand in hand with the physical structures of the New York institution. Prisoners at Waupun were kept in individual cells at night, but worked together--in silence--in congregate shops during the day. The rules and regulations, as well as philosophy of the Auburn prison were also used in Wisconsin. This philosophy held that a prisoner could not be reformed until he was 'broken.' This led to very harsh treatment and an almost unbearably monotonous existence for convicts. The Wisconsin State Prison was an excellent early example of the Auburn-style penitentiary, both physically and philosophically, when it was first built and the architectural significance it possesses as a result is still clearly visible, despite the presence of later contributing and non-contributing elements.

ARCHEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

There are no known archeological sites or remains associated with this district. In addition, the extent to which this district was disturbed by the construction of the district's resources is not known, but the potential for such disturbance is believed to be considerable.

ENDNOTES

1 American Correctional Association, The American Prison: From the Beginning..., (American Correctional Association, 1983), p.3.

2 John Bartlow Martin, Break Down the Walls, (London: Victor Gollancz, Ltd., 1855), p.107.

3 Miriam Allen DeFord, Stone Walls: Prisons from Fetters to Furloughs, (Philadelphia: Chilton Co., 1962), p.3.

4 American Correctional Association, p.4.

5 Max Grunhut, Penal Reform: A Comprehensive Study, (New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 1948), p.15.

6 Ibid., p.19.

7 American Correctional Association. p.5.

8 Ibid., p.6.

9 DeFord, p.19.

10 Blake McKelvey, American Prisons: A History of Good Intentions, (Montclaire, N.J.: Patterson Smith, 1977), p.8.

11 Martin, p.108.

12 American Correctional Association, p.25.

13 DeFord, p.51.

14 American Correctional Association, p.16.

15 Ibid., p.17.

16 McKelvey, p.7.

17 Ibid., p.8.

18 Martin, p.108.

19 McKelvey, p.9-12.

20 Ibid., p.13.

21 Ibid., p.14.

22 David J. Rothman, The Discovery of the Asylum: Social Order and Disorder in the New Republic, (Boston: Little, Brown and Co., 1971), p.80.

23 Ibid., p.107.

24 McKelvey, p.14.

25 American Correctional Association, p.53.

26 John Porter Bloom, ed., The Territorial Papers of the United States: Volume XXVIII--The Territory of Wisconsin 1839-1848, (Washington D.C.: The National Archives, 1975), p.443.

27 Bennett O. Odegard and George M. Keith, A History of the State Board of Control of Wisconsin and the State Institutions, (Madison, Wi.: State Board of Control, 1939), p.201.

28 State Prison Commissioners, Annual Report of the State Prison Commissioners, (Madison, Wi.: Beriah Brown, 1851), p.3.

29 Odegard, p.203.

30 Marcy Haase-Schnell, ed., "Waupun Correctional Institution--History", (Waupun, Wi.: Marcy Haase-Schnell, 1989), p.1.

31 Wisconsin, Report of the Commissioner of the State Prison, (Madison, Wi.: Brown and Carpenter, 1854), p.14.

32 American Correctional Association, p.9.

33 Stare Prison Commissioners, Rules for Government of Prisoners, (Madison, Wi.: Democrat Printing Co., 1926), p. 3-7.

34 Wisconsin, Annual Report of the State Prison Commissioner, (Madison, WI,: Brown and Carpenter, 1862), p.8.

35 American Correctional Association, p.87.

36 State Prison Commissioners, Rules for the Government of Prisoners in the wisconsin State Prison, (Madison, Wi.: Democrat Printing Co., 1901), p.8.

37 Ibid., p.16.

38 Wisconsin, Annual Report of the State Prison Commissioner, (Madison, Wi.: Atwood and Culver, 1868), p.6.

39 American Correctional Association, p.98.

40 Ibid., p.127.

41 Wisconsin, State Board of Control Biennial Reports, (Madison, Wi.: Democrat Printing Co., 1900-1939).

42 American Correctional Association, p.181.

43 Wisconsin, Wisconsin State Prison Annual Reports, (Madison, Wi.: Democrat Printing Co., 1943-1945).

*

9. Major Bibliographical Reference

Previous documentation on file (NPS): __X__ see continuation sheet

__ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
__ previously listed in the National Register
__ previously determined eligible by the National Register
__ designated a National Historic Landmark
__ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #_____
__ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #_____

Primary location of additional data:
__X__ State Historic preservation office
__ Other State agency
__ Federal agency
__ Local government
__ University
__ Other
Specify repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 19 acres

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A	1/6	3/6/0/1/1/0	4/8/3/2/1/1/0	B	1/6	3/6/0/4/0/0	4/8/3/2/1/1/0
C	1/6	3/6/0/1/1/0	4/8/3/1/8/5/0	D	1/6	3/6/0/4/0/0	4/8/3/1/8/5/0

____ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

__X__ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

__X__ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Tricia Canaday-State Facility Survey/Nominations Assistant
organization State Historical Society of WI date 6-24-91
street & number 816 State Street telephone (608)262-1339
city or town Madison state WI zip code 53706

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

American Correctional Association. The American Prison: From the Beginning.... American Correctional Association, 1983.

Bloom, John Porter, ed. The Territorial Papers of the United States: Volume XXVIII--The Territory of Wisconsin 1839-1848. Washington, D.C.: The National Archives, 1975.

De Ford, Miriam Allen. Stone Walls: Prisons from Fetters to Furloughs. Philadelphia: Chilton Co.: Book Division, 1962.

Grunhut, Max. Penal Reform: A Comprehensive Study. New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 1948.

Hawkins, Gordon. The Prison: Policy and Practice. Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press, 1976

McKelvey, Blake. American Prisons: A History of Good Intentions. Montclair, N.J.: Patterson Smith, 1977.

Martin, John Bartlow. Break Down the Walls. London: Victor Gollancz, Ltd., 1955.

Odegard, Bennett O., and Keith, George M. A History of the State Board of Control of Wisconsin and the State Institutions. Madison, Wi.: State Board of Control, 1939.

Rothman, David J. The discovery of the Asylum: Social Order and Disorder in the New Republic. Boston: Little, Brown and Co., 1971.

Schnell, Marcy Haase, ed. "Waupun Correctional Institution--History". Waupun, Wi.: Marcy Haase-Schnell, 1989.

Wisconsin. Annual Report of the State Prison Commissioner. Madison, Wi.: Atwood and Culver, 1868.

Wisconsin. Rules for the Government of Prisoners in the Wisconsin State Prison. Madison, Wi.: Democrat Printing Co., 1901.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES--CONTINUED

Wisconsin. State Board of Control Biennial Reports. Madison, Wi.: Democrat Printing Co., 1900-1939.

Wisconsin. Wisconsin State Prison Annual Reports. Madison, Wi.: Democrat Printing Co., 1943-1945.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Starting at Benchmark 914, thence north approximately 600 feet, thence east approximately 400 feet to the point of beginning at the southwest corner of the prison wall, thence east along the exterior perimeter of that wall approximately 950 feet to the southeast corner of the prison wall, thence north along the exterior perimeter of the wall approximately 950 feet to the northeast corner of the prison wall, thence west along the exterior perimeter of the prison wall approximately 950 feet to the northwest corner of the prison wall, thence south along the exterior perimeter of the prison wall approximately 950 feet to the point of beginning.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries of the Wisconsin State Prison Historic District includes all those resources which date from the institution's historic period of significance. The district is located within the perimeter of the present Waupun Correctional Institution.

PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION

Wisconsin State Prison Historic District
City of Waupun, Dodge County, Wisconsin
Photographs taken by James Draeger on April 23, 1991
Original Negatives on file at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin

#1 of 14: South Cell House looking northeast

#2 of 14: South Cell House and Front Wall looking west

#3 of 14: North Cell House and Main Building looking southwest

#4 of 14: Octagonal turret at southwest corner of Main Building 1 looking east

#5 of 14: Cochlea inside southeast turret of Main Building

#6 of 14: Northwest Cell House looking east

#7 of 14: Southwest Cell House looking north

#8 of 14: Cell Block inside Southwest Cell House

#9 of 14: Dining Room/Kitchen looking north

#10 of 14: Tower-1 looking northeast

#11 of 14: Tower-2A looking southeast

#12 of 14: Prison Wall looking northwest

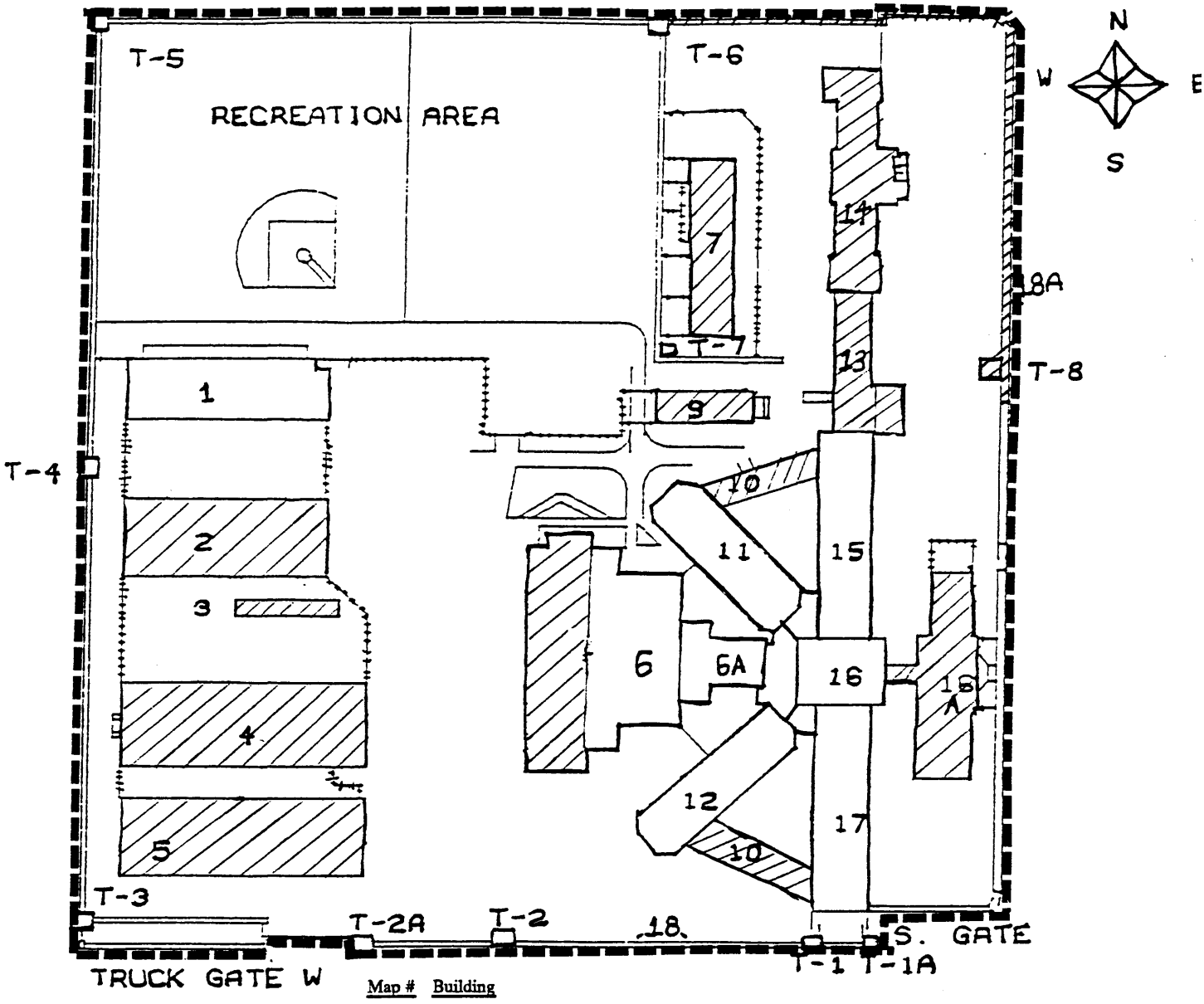
#13 of 14: Hospital looking northeast

#14 of 14: Front View of Prison looking northwest

OWNER:

State of Wisconsin
Department of Corrections
1 West Wilson Street
Madison, Wisconsin
53703

Wisconsin State Prison Historic District
City of Waupun, Dodge County
Wisconsin



Map #	Building
1	Auto Tag Plant
2	General Industries
3	Greenhouse
4	Binder Twine Factory
5	Warehouse
6	Dining Room/Kitchen
6A	Kitchen Addition
7	Segregation Building
9	Chapel
10	Bath Houses
11	Northwest Cell House
12	Southwest Cell House
13	Social & Psychiatric Services Building
14	Hospital
15	North Cell House
16	Main Building
16A	Main Building Addition
17	South Cell House
18	Wall & Guard Towers
18A	Wall Addition

(T-1 through T-8 = Guard Towers)

District Boundary

Not to Scale

Contributing

Noncontributing