

NRLSTBD 11/19/93

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Old Logan County Jail

other name/site number: N/A

2. Location

street & number: 204 North Vine Street

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Paris

vicinity: N/A

state: AR county: Logan code: AR 083 zip code: 72855

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Public-local

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

SP/PL 11 092190

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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.

Cathryn A. Slatu Signature of certifying official 10-6-93 Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program 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
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain):

 Signature of Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic: GOVERNMENT Sub: Correctional facility

Current: RECREATION AND CULTURE Sub: Museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Italianate

Other Description: N/A

Materials:	foundation	<u>Stone</u>	roof	<u>Asphalt</u>
	walls	<u>Brick</u>	other	<u>Wood porch posts</u>

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Locally.

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: ARCHITECTURE

Period(s) of Significance: 1903

Significant Dates: 1903

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Hall, Anthony

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above. X See continuation sheet.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- 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:

- State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property: Less than one

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	<u>15</u>	<u>433460</u>	<u>3905640</u>	B	<u>15</u>	_____
C	<u>15</u>	_____	_____	D	<u>15</u>	_____

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: See continuation sheet.

Beginning at a point formed by the intersection of a line running along the western edge of North Vine Street with a perpendicular line running parallel with the building's southern elevation and located 25 feet to the south thereof, proceed westerly along said line for a distance of approximately 100 feet to its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel with the building's western elevation; thence proceed northerly along said line for a distance of approximately 100 feet to its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel with the building's northern elevation; thence proceed easterly along said line for a distance of approximately 100 feet to its intersection with a perpendicular line running along the western edge of North Vine Street; thence proceed southerly along said line for a distance of approximately 100 feet to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification: See continuation sheet.

This boundary includes all the property historically associated with this resource that retains its integrity.

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11. Form Prepared By

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Name/Title: Kenneth Story, Architectural Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 10/05/93

Street & Number: 323 Center Street, Suite 1500 Telephone: (501) 324-9880

City or Town: Little Rock State: AR Zip: 72201

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National Park Service

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Summary

Located on the west side of North Vine Street near the center of downtown Paris, the Old Logan County Jail is a two-story, brick masonry jail building designed in a restrained interpretation of the Italianate style. Its hipped roof covers a fundamentally square plan augmented by an original single-story, shed roof porch extending across the front and a later single-story, shed roof addition on the rear of the building. The exterior is distinguished only by the segmental arch window openings and the heavy metal security strapping that covers all openings.

Elaboration

The Old Logan County Jail is a two-story, brick masonry jail building designed in a restrained interpretation of the Italianate style. Its hipped roof covers a fundamentally square plan augmented by an original single-story, shed roof porch extending across the front and a later single-story, shed roof bathroom addition on the rear of the building. Two brick chimneys vent the interior: one placed adjacent to the northern wall and the other placed almost directly opposite, adjacent to the southern wall. The hipped and shed roofs are covered with asphalt shingles, and the roof and brick walls are supported upon a continuous stone foundation.

The eastern or front elevation is composed of the single-story, shed roof porch that extends the full width of the facade and the two-story brick wall of the main structure behind. The shed roof porch is supported by a row of four turned wood posts with two half-posts abutting the brick wall at the rear of the porch. The first-story wall beneath the porch is fenestrated with two arched window openings at each end -- each of which is filled with strap metal security bars -- and accessed via two entrances at the center. The northern entrance is filled with a single-leaf wood door and was intended to provide access to the jailer's living quarters and office within; the entrance to the south leads directly into the jail and was designed to provide direct access to the secured area within for the jailer when depositing prisoners. The wall of the second-story above is symmetrically-fenestrated with three arched window openings, each of which is also barred. The western elevation opposite is almost a full three stories in height due to the drop in grade toward this elevation. The two basement windows to either side of the later shed roof addition are filled with large, heavy steel security grates, as are the two windows on the main story above and the three windows on the top story. The shed roof addition is constructed of vertical board-and-batten; it houses relatively new bathrooms.

The northern and southern elevations are quite similar, the only differences being that the southern elevation has neither an eastern window opening on the first floor nor a western

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basement entrance. The northern entrance features two symmetrically-placed window openings on each floor and the western basement entrance.

The significant exterior details are largely limited to the arched window and door openings, the turned posts that support the porch, and the strap security bars in the door and window openings.

The interior is remarkably intact. The jailer's office and quarters has been altered slightly in the course of the conversion of the building from a jail into a museum, but substantial original door and window trim remains. Far more significant, however, are the strap metal bar security cells that survive intact on the second floor. A total of four individual cells remain, with two adjoining cells placed on either side of a central hallway that connects to a perimeter hallway that runs around both cells. Even the original strap metal doors remain.

The addition of the shed roof bathroom addition on the western elevation constitutes the principal alteration to the Old Logan County Jail. It is in very good condition.

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Summary

Criterion C, local significance

The Old Logan County Jail, constructed in 1903, is eligible under Criterion C with local significance as the best example in Logan County and the entire Arkansas River valley of an historic jail building that was expressly designed and built for that purpose. Historic jail buildings formerly existed in county seats throughout this region, and even in some smaller communities as town or city jails; however, only a fraction of these buildings survive, and none in such a complete state of preservation. The Old Logan County Jail remains the best preserved jail building in this area.

Elaboration

Paris, Arkansas was the first Logan County seat, achieving that status in 1874 via the authority of a county-wide election held to determine the location of the center of county government (though there were probably settlers of European descent living in the area prior to that time, it is not clear how many there were and to what extent they formed a cohesive community of any kind). Paris grew gradually and prospered, largely due to its location on one of the major overland roads between the rich, cotton-growing land of surrounding rural Logan County and both the Arkansas River and the Little Rock-Ft. Smith Railroad that ran along its north bank. It became an important regional hub, therefore, not only for the conducting of official county business but also for trading, social activities, and obtaining other services.

Paris also grew as a result of the German-Swiss immigration that occurred during the last quarter of the nineteenth century. The explosive growth of the railroad industry in Arkansas after the Civil War tied many of the heretofore rural and relatively isolated parts of the state into a national and international network that would generate far-reaching social and economic implications. One of the earliest was the realization on the part of the railroads that their fortunes would only be enhanced through the encouragement of new settlement from outside the state, thereby increasing the demand for both passenger and freight traffic. European immigration in particular increased dramatically after the cessation of hostilities that had closed many Southern ports and rendered even some Northern ports unsafe. Many of those that arrived from such countries as Germany, Italy and parts of Eastern Europe were usually poorer people from rural areas that possessed few work skills, typically knowing only one of the building trades or farming.

One need shared by all immigrants to the United States, however, was land, and this was one commodity the railroads in particular possessed in abundance. The railroad industry had been

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rather successful in convincing the federal government that large land grants along their railroad lines were necessary to create the nationwide rail infrastructure that the government (and the railroad owners) desired. This was certainly true of the fledgling Little Rock-Fort Smith Railroad that completed its line between the two cities in 1876 and in the process gained an abundance of unclaimed land on both sides of the Arkansas River with which to lure immigrants to the valley. Even the new immigrants that did not purchase their property directly from the railroads frequently followed other countrymen who did in order to remain part of a familiar and culturally-cohesive community. Paris certainly received its share of German-Swiss immigration, due in part to its status as a governmental and commercial hub for the region, but due also to its relatively close proximity to the fledgling Benedictine abbey at Subiaco, located approximately five miles to the east, which would become a religious and cultural focus for these largely Roman Catholic immigrants.

One of the unfortunate but nonetheless necessary facilities required by such growth was a jail. The first recorded Logan County jail was a log structure built in the first county seat of Anderson, located about six miles southeast of Paris. When Paris became the official county seat in 1874, this was replaced by another log building, located just north of downtown Paris. By January of 1882, this structure had also been adjudged deteriorated and in no condition to house prisoners; though repairs were made to it for the short term, by 1886 the county decided that a larger, "modern" facility was needed for the growing county. Former county sheriff J. P. Grady was appointed commissioner and his principle tasks were to select a suitable tract of land on which to build a new jail and to draw up the plans and specifications for the construction. He was further ordered to make his report to the Logan County Court during their present term. On January 19th of that year, Grady submitted a plan for a stone jail, to be located just to the north of the courthouse, which was subsequently constructed. Though this served the county for the next seventeen years, by the turn of the century even this facility was no longer serviceable.

The fourth county jail was to be built of brick, concrete and steel for reinforcement and security (though it was ultimately built of brick and stone masonry). Furthermore, it was to be larger than the previous building, measuring fifty feet by fifty feet (as built, however, it measured 28 feet, 3 inches on the short side and 32 feet, 3 inches on the long side). The basement was to be constructed of stone salvaged from the previous jail building. The building was to include living quarters for the jailer and his family as well as cells for the inmates. And though the original plans restricted the cells to the second floor, later modifications provided half of the main story to serve as detention space for women. The bids were let in 1903 and one Anthony Hall received the contract; the winning bid was \$5,500.

The "new" Logan County Jail served the county for sixty-eight years. Without question, the

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most famous event to occur there was the last hanging in Arkansas. In 1913, a local young man, Arthur Tillman, was accused of murdering nineteen-year-old Amanda Stephens, his supposed sweetheart. Her body was found in the bottom of an old well, weighted down and covered with rocks. However, the autopsy revealed not only that the cause of death had been a .22 caliber bullet to the head, but that she was four months pregnant at the time. The ensuing trial took over a year to reach a verdict, but after several appeals the guilty verdict stood, and Arthur was sentenced to hang at the Logan County jail the following summer. He was hung from a wood gallows constructed to the southeast of the existing jail building on July 15th, 1914; it was the last sentenced hanging in the state of Arkansas.

In 1971 the old jail building was determined to be inadequate for current county use, and an alternative arrangement was made with the city of Paris to house county prisoners in the new city jail facility. The 1903 jail was subsequently closed and taken over by the Logan County Museum Association, which transformed the building into a county historical museum, a function it continues to serve until this day.

The Old Logan County Jail remains a remarkable structure for a variety of reasons. Firstly, it was an historic jail facility designed with living quarters for the jailer and his family. A floor plan of those facilities -- reconstructed by a descendent of one of the last jailers to live there -- reveals a back porch where the enclosed rear bathroom addition is now located, an interior bathroom and bedroom in the half-basement at the rear of the building, and a kitchen, bedroom and living room on the main floor. Though other known extant historic jail facilities in the state included both incarceration facilities and living quarters, this is the only one known to survive in the Arkansas River valley. Thus the Old Logan County Jail is significant at the local level for this reason alone. However, it is also in an extremely good state of preservation. Its conversion from a jail into a museum resulted in only minor changes to the building, and the interior of both the jail and the living quarters are much as they were during the time the jail was in use.

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Bibliography

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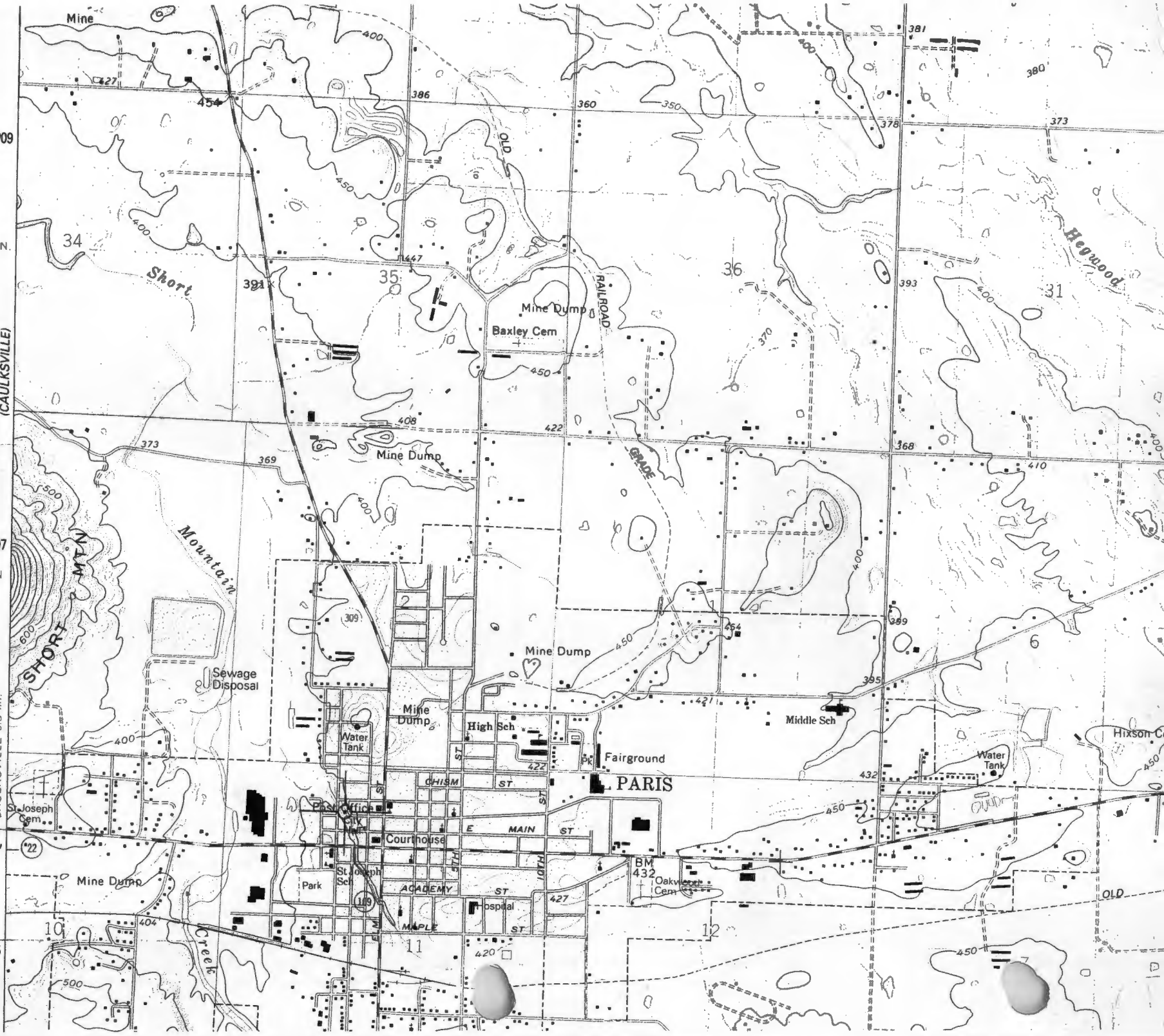
Titsworth, Elizabeth, *Interview*, July 28, 1993.

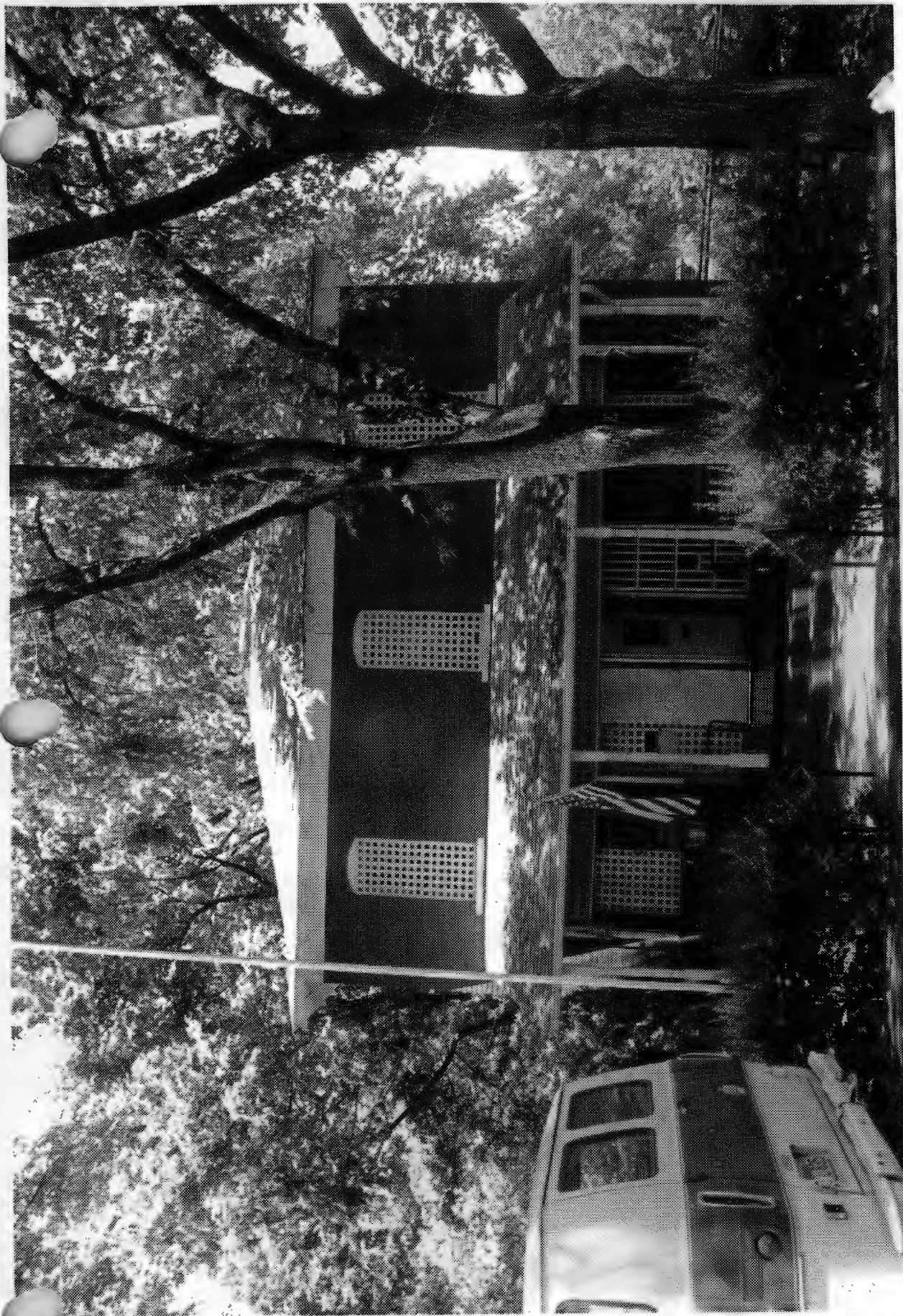
_____, "The Saga of the Logan County Jails," *Wagon Wheels*, Vol. 12, No. 1, Spring, 1992, pp. 39-42.

Workers of the Writers' Program. *The WPA Guide to 1930's Arkansas*, with a new introduction by Elliot West. Lawrence, Kansas: University Press of Kansas, 1987 (original copyright 1941).

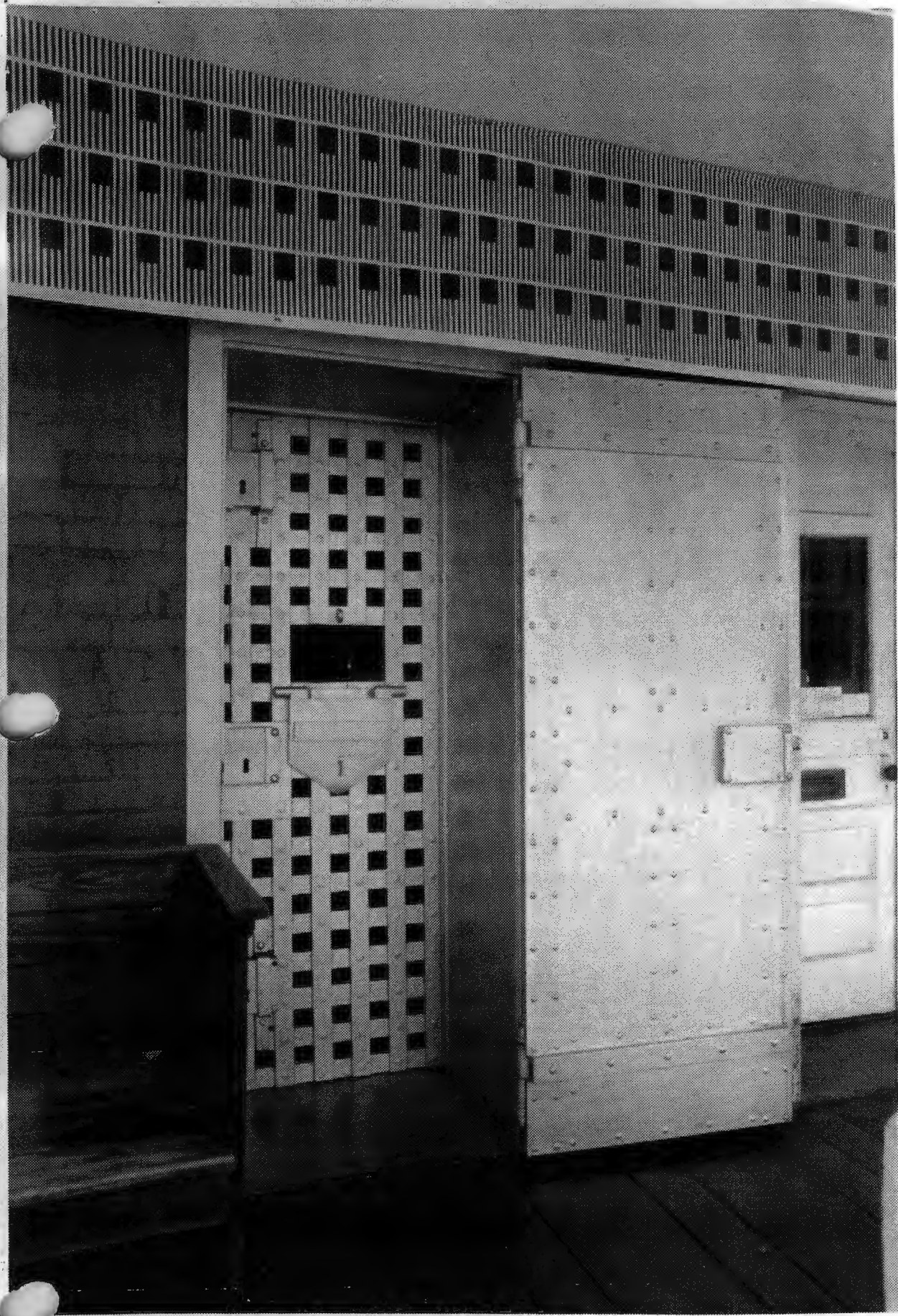
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from Vernon Co, Arkansas
Photographed by P. Zolner
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Message on file at ANPP
View from East



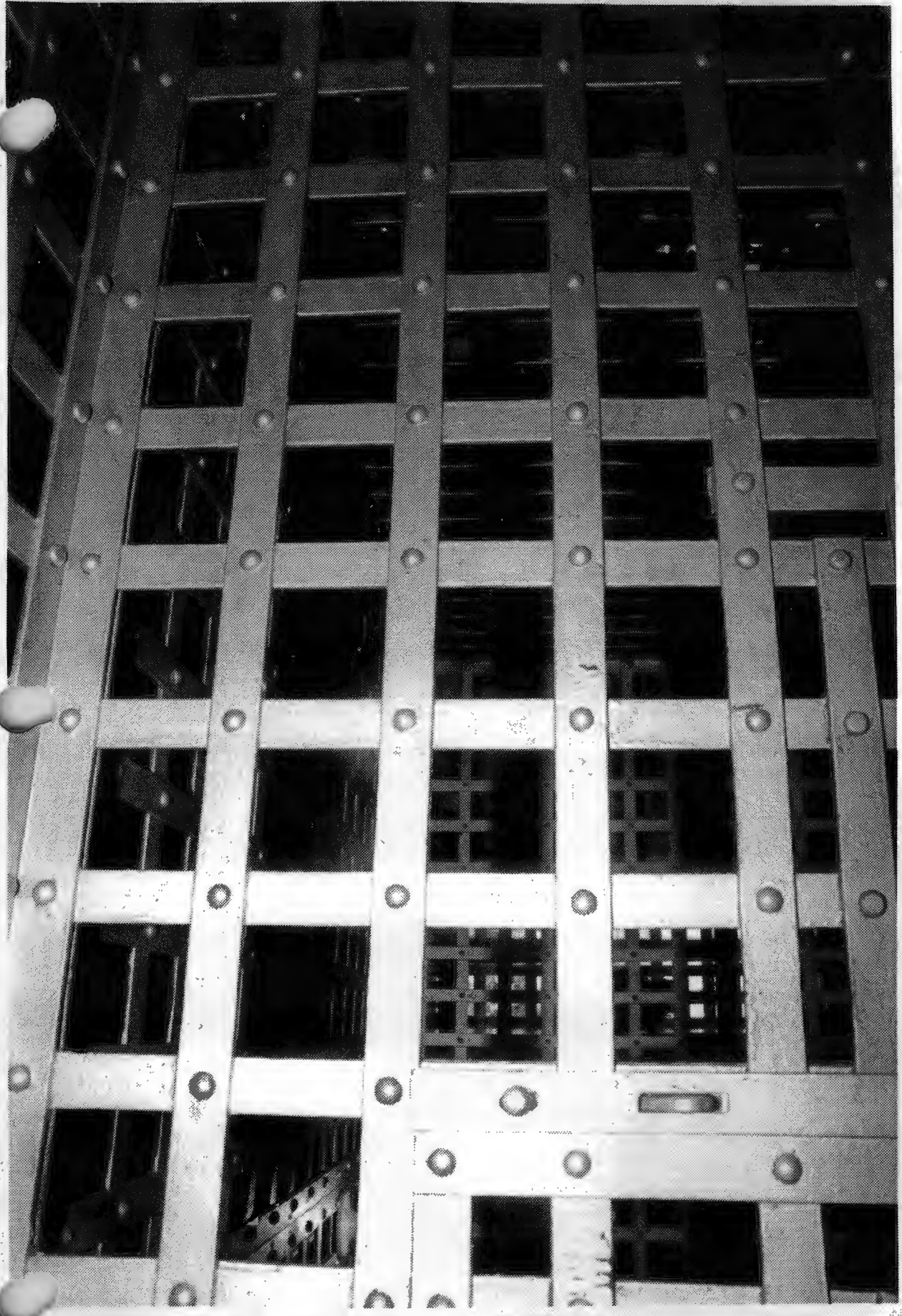
Old Logan Co. Jail
Linn, Logan Co, Missouri
Photographed By P. D. ZOLLNER
Vick, 1993
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT
JAIL DOOR DETAIL

W. S. JOHNSON & SONS
LUMBER CO., MOKAWASAS
MAY 1993
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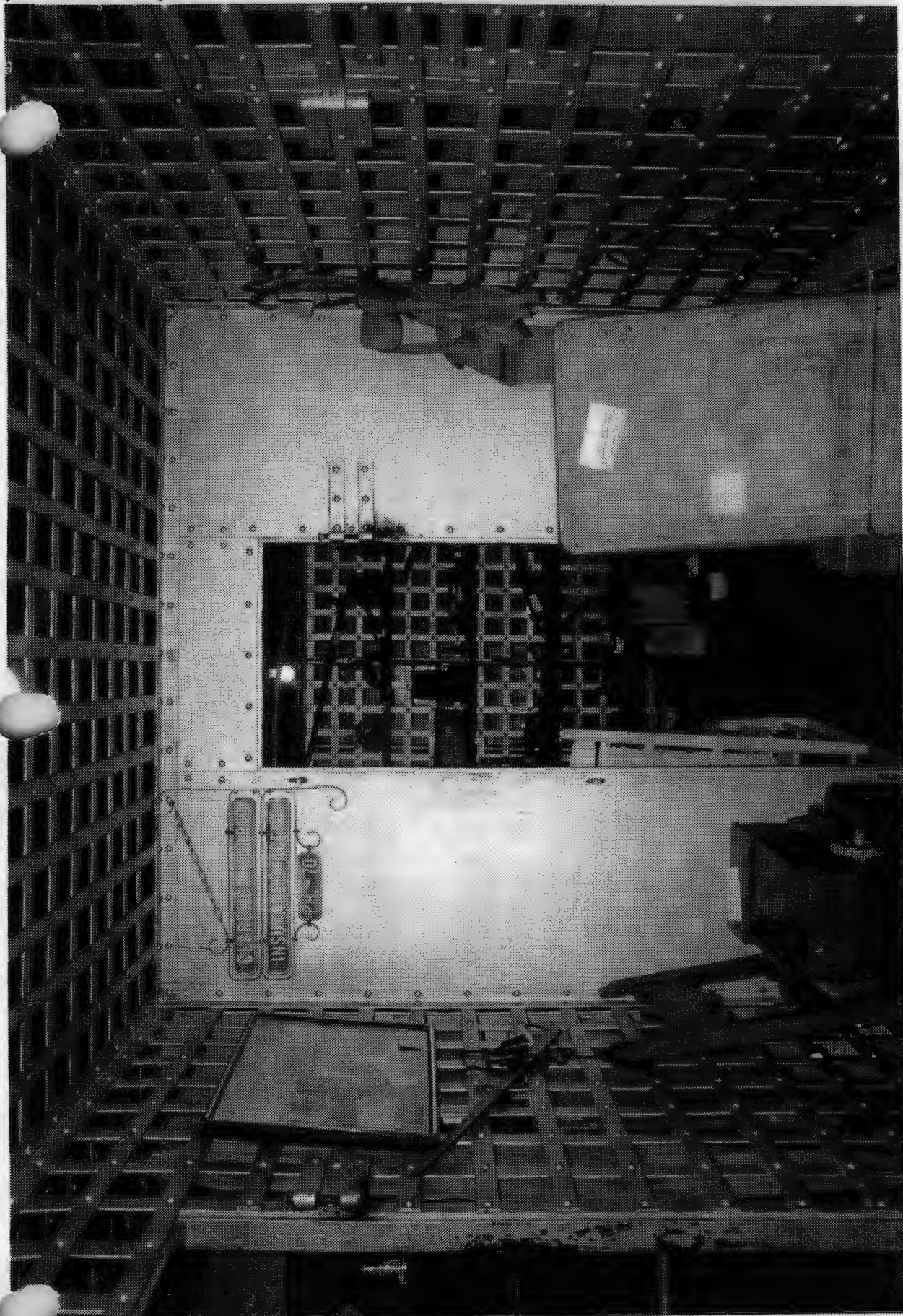


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John A. Volk
Davis, Logan Co. Arkansas
Photographed by P. Zollner
May 1983
Negatives on file at AHPP
New From North



Old Logan Co. Jail
Logan Co., Arkansas
Examined by P. ZOLLNER
May, 1993
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPD
SUPERIOR VAL BARS DETAIL



JOHN R. VAIL

DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE, ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHER BY P. ZOLLNER

MAY 1905

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT ARHP

INTERIOR C&L DETAIL