

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NR 9/24/08

### National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

#### 1. Name of Property

historic name Old Huntington Jail

other names/site number Site # SB0941

#### 2. Location

street & number 223 East Broadway St.

not for publication

city or town Huntington

vicinity

state Arkansas code AR county Sebastian code 131 zip code 72940

#### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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 for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant

nationally  statewide  locally (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

*Archie Maceo*  
Signature of certifying official/Title

7/28/08  
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 for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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 the Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

Old Huntington Jail

Name of Property

Sebastian County, Arkansas

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property  
(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of Contributing resources previously listed  
in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/Correctional Facility

Current Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER/Plain Traditional

Materials  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE  
walls STONE  
roof METAL  
other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Old Huntington Jail

Name of Property

Sebastian County, Arkansas

County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- Criteria A, B, C, D with checkboxes and descriptions.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- Criteria A through G with checkboxes and descriptions.

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

LOCAL

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE, LAW, POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance

1888-1957

Significant Dates

1888-1957

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- Checkboxes for documentation status: preliminary determination, previously listed, etc.

Primary location of additional data:

- Checkboxes for data locations: State Historic Preservation Office, Other State Agency, etc.

Name of repository:

Huntington Arkansas Jail and Miner Museum

Old Huntington Jail  
Name of Property

Sebastian County, Arkansas  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acres of Property Less than one.

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>15</u>	<u>385032</u>	<u>3882839</u>	3	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	4	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Betty Wilson, Huntington Planning Committee; Edited by, Van Zbinden, National Register Historian  
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date May 29, 2008  
street & number 323 Center Street, 1600 Tower Building telephone (501) 324-9880  
city or town Little Rock state AR zip code 72201

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name City of Huntington  
street & number 223 East Broadway telephone 479-409-1183  
city or town Huntington state AR zip code 72940

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

### Summary

The Old Huntington Jail located at 223 East Broadway Street, in Huntington, Arkansas, was built in 1888 for the newly established mining town. Huntington is located in southern Sebastian County and was built by the Kansas & Texas Coal Company. A one-story, square, cut stone masonry jail is built on a solid stone foundation with poured concrete floors. The simple building lacks architectural ornamentation. There were no windows installed in the jail and the original wood doors remain. The jail served as the only jail for Huntington and the nearby mining camps until the 1950s when prisoners were transported to Ft. Smith.

### Elaboration

Huntington was a mining town platted by the Kansas & Texas Coal Company in 1887. By 1888, the St. Louis & San Francisco Railroad had completed its Mansfield branch through Huntington to Mansfield. The Kansas & Texas Coal Company bought 120 acres from L.P. Barrett. The company surveyed and laid out the town in August 1887 and it was incorporated on February 4, 1888. Bids for the construction of the jail were announced in the Huntington *Hummer* on May 31, 1888.

It is unknown who won the contract for the construction of the jail. The vernacular stone jail was constructed using local stone. Simple and lacking any decorative architectural details, the jail sits on a cut stone foundation with poured concrete floors. There were no window sashes placed in the structure though there are barred openings on all elevations. The three room structure is square with a built in toilet. The walls are one course, eighteen inch thick, cut stone set in a regular pattern. A new roof was placed on the structure in 2005. This new roof is standing seam metal but it retains the same slope as the built-up tar roof that it replaced.

### Front/North Façade

Made of eighteen inch cut stone blocks, the front elevation, is fenestrated by two window openings that are symmetrically placed. The openings are twenty-four inches wide and thirteen inches high and each has seven steel bars set firmly in the openings. There are two doors on this elevation, an interior and exterior door for additional security. Both doors are made of oak with hand crafted iron hinges. The exterior door is made of oak planks with interior, diagonal and exterior, vertical, laminations. The interior door is also made of oak but both laminations for the four inch thick door are set diagonally.

### Side/East Façade

The east facade has two windows, twenty-four inches wide and thirteen inches high with seven steel bars, just as on the front elevation. This elevation also has two smaller air vents just under the flat-stone capped, stepped parapet. These air vents are above the ceiling of the cells and do not have bars.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

### Rear/South Façade

The rear façade has two asymmetrically placed windows to provide light for the central hallway and the toilet area of the jail. These two windows are twenty-four inches by thirteen inches and have seven bars.

### Side/West Façade

The west façade is an exact match of the east façade. On the southern end of the façade the waste pipe from the toilet extends through the wall.

### Interior

The interior of the jail is divided into three rooms. One enters the building into a central hall. On the east side of the jail there are two identical cells and on the west side one large cell. All of the interior walls are oak planks approximately 3 inches thick; as they are wood they are covered in extensive graffiti. The floors are concrete and the ceilings are corrugated steel. The jail cells have both solid and open slat wood doors. The two cells on the east side of the jail have large, hand crafted iron rings embedded in the concrete. On the southern end of the building the central hall turns west and there is a wooden platform with toilet seat approximately fifty inches off the floor. From this primitive toilet facility a four inch pipe carried waste through the exterior wall.

### Integrity

Overall, the Old Huntington Jail has good integrity. A new roof was placed on the building in 2005. The original built-up tar was removed and a flat-seam metal roof was placed on the structure. This new roof retains the same slope, and dimension of the original roof. Because of the decline of the coal mine industry in the area many of the vernacular stone buildings in the town have been lost. The jail is the best remaining example of cut stone, architecture in Huntington. The setting around the jail still reflects the small-town setting that would have been present when the building was built. The building is well maintained and is in use as the city's Huntington Old Calaboose Jail and Miner Museum.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

### SUMMARY

The Old Huntington Jail, which is located at 223 East Broadway Street, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion C** as an excellent intact example of a vernacular, stone construction jail. Built in 1888, the Old Huntington Jail is a good example of a turn of the century small-town jail. The jail served the Huntington community from 1888 until 1957 and is also being nominated to the National Register with **local significance** under **Criterion A** for its associations with governmental activities and law enforcement in Huntington.

### ELABORATION

In 1889, Sycamore Dan of the *Scott County Citizen* wrote, "Although Huntington is a business thriving, pushing city of the metropolitan character, there has never been one man in her 'calaboose'. We term this a good record for a mining town two years old." Marshall James Murphy watched over a quiet town, or so the boosters of Huntington would like us to believe. Only two years old, the relatively new town was a quickly growing metropolis on the southern and western end of Arkansas's sixty-mile-long coal field.

In 1887, the Kansas & Texas Coal Company bought 120 acres from L. P. Barrett. By August they had the site of their new town surveyed and construction on nearby mines was underway. The Kansas & Texas Coal Company was incorporated in Missouri, headquartered in St. Louis, and was one of the largest mining companies in the United States. They constructed a warehouse and company store in the town. Many newspapers claimed that this company store was the largest store in the state; at 7,680 square feet and made of cut stone it was certainly one of the bigger, finer stores. It should be noted that, Huntington was incorporated in February of 1888 as an independent town, not a company town.

New mines in the area opened by the Kansas & Texas Coal Company, the Arkansas Coal & Mining Company, and the Western Coal & Mining Company brought over 1,000 mining jobs to the area in 1888. Kansas & Texas Coal Company mines provided work for 500 to 600 men in their mines alone. Three of their mines, Slope No. 19, Slope No. 21, and Mine No. 24 had an average production of thirty car loads per day. By 1889, the company employed 800 to 900 men with production of 125 to 150 car loads per day. This tremendous growth in the coal business brought tremendous growth to the city. Very shortly the town had dance halls and saloons, two barber shops five or six boarding houses, two churches, two hotels and restaurants.

This growth was not without its trouble. As was common to boom towns of all types, there was a certain amount of lawlessness. The Huntington newspaper, the *Hummer*, related on May 31, 1888, "A street fight relieved the quiet monotony of Huntington last week in which two miners participated. Creek water did it. Nobody hurt."

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

In the same paper they noted a second fight, "A bloody mill took place upon the depot platform at this place last Friday between the fireman and the brakeman on the coal train running between the city and Jenson. The man's weapon of warfare was a coupling pin, which was vigorously applied to the brakeman's head. The ugly wound of which flowed a stream of clear as copious as a flotilla stream of water from the sea that Moses smote. The brakeman was beefed and carried away while his adversary escaped unhurt."

Of course with incidents like these, a seeming regular occurrence, it became apparent that there was a need for a jail. In that same May 31, 1888 paper the city announced,

"Sealed bids for the building of a calaboose in the town of Huntington will be received from the 1st to the 20th of June. Parties who do the work will have to wait for their money twelve months, to draw interest at 10 per cent. The size of the jail will be 14 X 18 feet on the outside, with one partition twelve inches thick. Outside walls to be two feet thick and ten feet high; front to be 11 feet high, rear nine feet and 6 inches; one solid iron door in front, with inside iron bars with three braces: three windows, three feet six inches by two feet six inches, of one inch iron bars three inches apart, with one cross bar; bars to be well set in solid stone from top to bottom; roof to form ceiling, which is to be 2 X 4, spiked every four inches, and to be laid across building, with 1 X 12 feet on top to form roof surface; roof to be papered, well tarred and graveled; floor to be well ragged: the wall to be twelve inches; iron door in partition wall. The right to reject any and all bids is reserved.

Address, J.W. Young Mayor of Huntington"

The first Marshall to serve in the new jail was John T. "Black Jack" Davis who served from 1889 to 1892. The majority of criminals arrested and housed in the jail at Huntington were small time criminals. Many a fighter, gambler, drinker, or other minor criminal was locked away in the jail's stone and wooden walled cells. With a rowdy population, the jail was often busy with its misdemeanor visitors. After completion of construction it was not uncommon for criminals from nearby towns and coal camps to be brought to await trial by the Mayor.

Those arrested for more serious or violent crimes, like murder, were taken to the Greenwood District Jail at Greenwood or to the jail in Fort Smith. That does not mean that the city was without violent crime or that the police department itself was not immune. In 1936, the Night Watchman, a man by the name of Varner, was making his nightly rounds and was shot and killed by Mellis Olds. Olds was tried and convicted for the murder and sent to the state penitentiary for life. About 1939, the Night Watchman, D.L. Robison was making his rounds at the rear of a local café when he found a robbery in progress. Robison attempted to arrest the burglars and was shot at but not wounded. The would-be robbers ran out the front door.



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City Marshalls, James Murphy and John T. "Black Jack" Davis were the first of twenty-five Marshalls elected to serve the city. In addition to Marshalls, the city hired a night watchman. Both of these positions were responsible for the jail and maintaining peace within the city of Huntington. Through the 1920s the mines started closing and the population began to decrease. This alleviated some of the pressure on local Marshalls and night watchmen. By the 1950s population decline, economics, and societal pressures forced the closure of the now, dramatically outdated, jail. Misdemeanor criminals were sent to Fort Smith or Greenwood for trial before the county municipal courts and the jail was no longer used.

When constructed, the jail was built in a vernacular cut stone construction. The use of cut stone from foundation to roof was not uncommon, especially in mining areas where masons and excess stone were common. The second commercial building constructed in Huntington, the Kansas & Texas Coal Company store, was a 120 foot by 48 foot cut stone structure (the first was a hotel; it is unknown how this building was constructed). This store is no longer extant. In fact many of Huntington's historic structures are no longer extant. This jail is the best remaining example of the cut stone form of construction in Huntington.

### Statement of Significance

As the best example of the vernacular cut stone form of construction in Huntington the Old Huntington Jail is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion C** as an excellent intact example of a vernacular, stone construction jail. Built in 1888, the Old Huntington Jail is a good example of a turn of the century small-town jail. The jail served the Huntington community from 1888 until 1957 and is also being nominated to the National Register with **local significance** under **Criterion A** for its associations with governmental activities and law enforcement in Huntington.

Old Huntington Jail  
Name of Property

Sebastian County, Arkansas  
County and State

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

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### Bibliography

Huntington City Records in City Hall

Huntington *Hummer*

Sebastian County Court House Records.

Oral interview with J. D. Robison.

Old Huntington Jail

Name of Property

Sebastian County, Arkansas

County and State

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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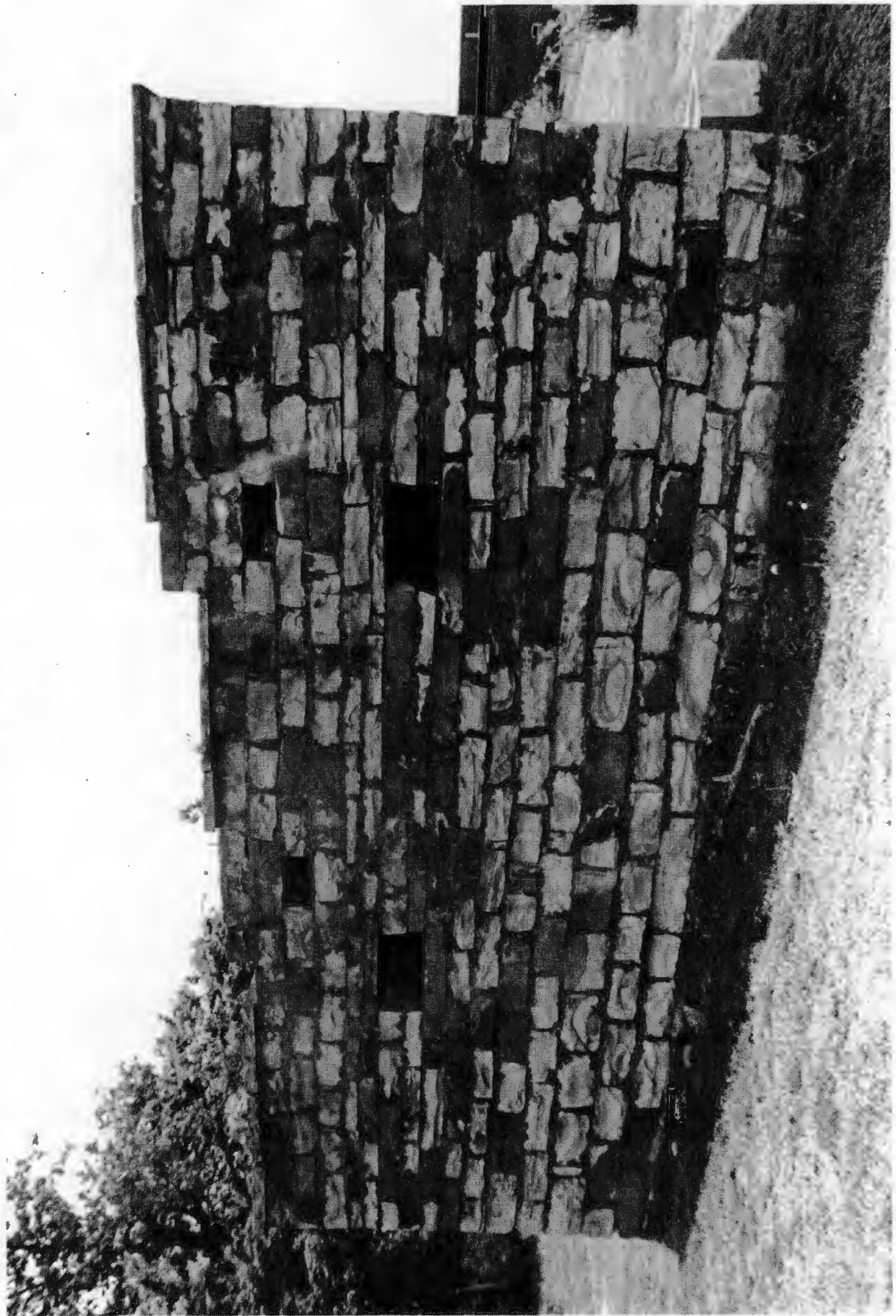
### Verbal Boundary Description

South half of lots one and two of Block fourteen in the Original City of Huntington

### Boundary Justification

The boundary contains all the land that is historically associated with the Old Huntington Jail.







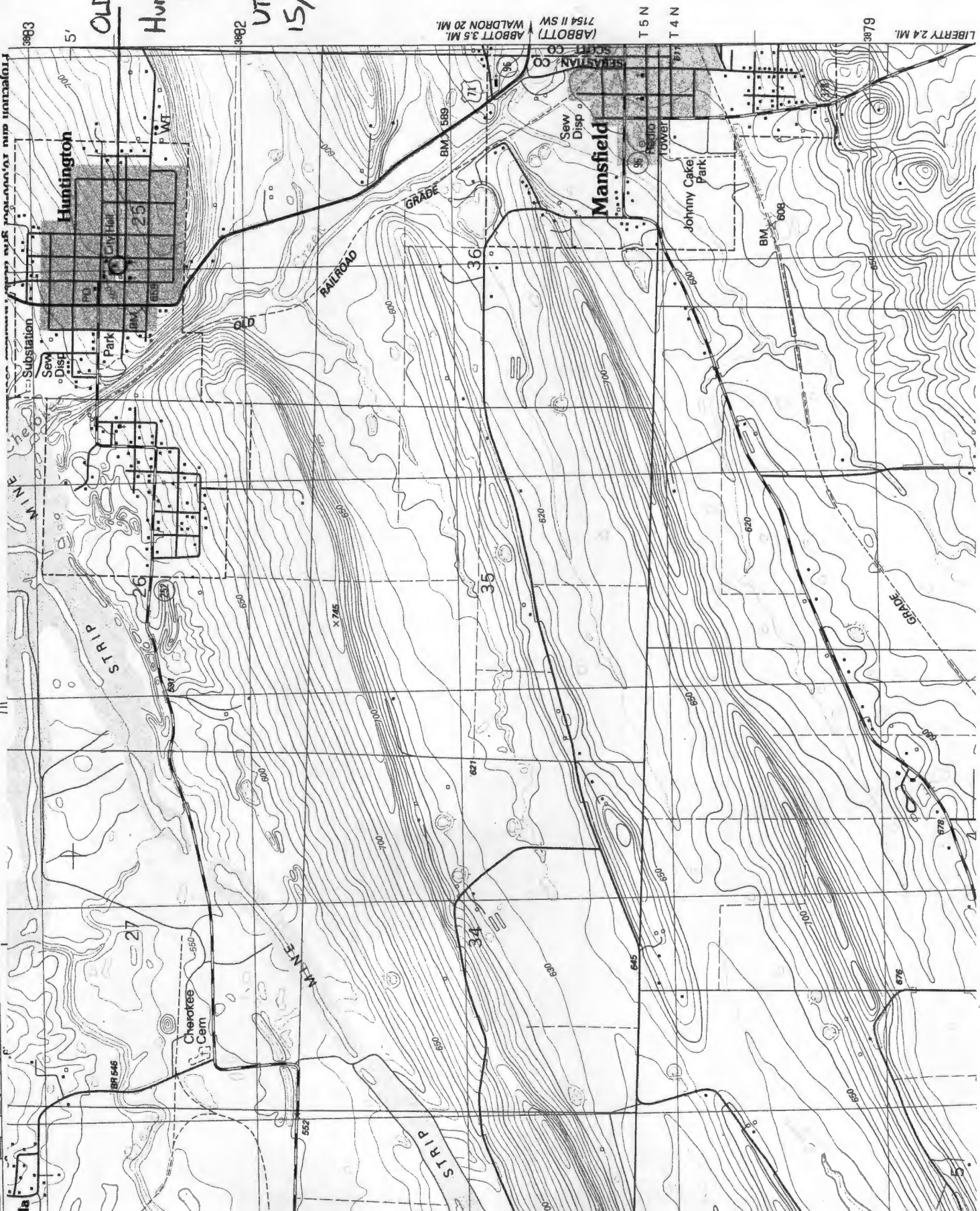








OLD HUNTINGTON JAIL  
 HUNTINGTON,  
 SEBASTIAN CO.,  
 AR  
 UTM REFERENCE:  
 15/385032/  
 3882839



Projection and datum (Lambert conformal conic)  
 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 15  
 1927 North American Datum  
 To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983,  
 move the projection lines 6 meters south and

UTM GRID AND 1987 MAGNETIC NORTH  
 DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY