

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Pennsylvania	
COUNTY: Franklin	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Franklin County Jail

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Same

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Corner of King and Second Streets (Northwest)

CITY OR TOWN:
Chambersburg

STATE Pennsylvania	CODE 37	COUNTY: Franklin	CODE 55
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure and Yard	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered County owned	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Penal Institution
<input type="checkbox"/> Comments In renewal project, to be razed.			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Franklin County Commissioners

STREET AND NUMBER:
Franklin County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:
Chambersburg

STATE: Pennsylvania	CODE 37
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Register & Recorder, Courthouse of Franklin County

STREET AND NUMBER:
Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:
Chambersburg

STATE Pennsylvania	CODE 37
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
None

DATE OF SURVEY:
 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
None

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:	CODE:
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Original Appearance:

The Franklin County Jail, as originally built by the County in 1818 was two stories high with a hipped roof having in its center a cupola. The walls, which are over three feet thick have outside measurements of 82' by 48'. The building faces what is presently known as King Street in the town of Chambersburg. There are 9 windows, each with a marble wedged shaped lintel and keystone on the second floor front wall with eight windows below (four each flanking the centrally located doorway). The doorway is flanked with cut marble quoins. The present (Victorian period) porch covers the upper row of quoins. All seventeen windows in the front had small paned sash. Those to the right of the central entrance (as you face the building) have heavy iron horizontal bars. The left hand sector was originally built as the jailor's residence. The following sketch, which is based upon close observation of the building will give a general idea of the original appearance. Solitary confinement cells in the basement (long out of service) were lighted by small windows opening below ground into wells. Although covered up at present, there were eight of these original windows along the front wall into cells in the basement.

The front entranceway leads into a large central hall, from which access may be gained to the jailor's office on the right and the jailor's residence on the left. The large open stairway goes to the second floor starting just behind the door to the jailor's office. It has a square, reeded newell post and reeded bannisters. The outside end of the risers have applied cut out decoration, a feature quite often found on late 18th century and early 19th century Central Pennsylvania Houses of the better sort. From the center hall access may be gained to the cell blocks through a large arched doorway having extremely heavy wooden iron bounded doors. All doorways between sections of the original jail had huge, 4" thick iron bound wooden doors swung on heavy pintel hinges. The first floor jailor's quarters was divided into three rooms. The front parlor has an elaborate fireplace mantel of a country NeoClassic nature. The doors for the domestic side of the jail were flat paneled facing the hallway and raised paneled inside. The trim around the doors is more typical of late eighteenth century Central Pennsylvania than Greek Revival work. (see Sketch B)

From the roof trussing the cupola flanked with two large brick chimneys seems to be original. There are up-down saw marks and adz marks on all of the roof and cupola framing. The roof trusses are spaced peculiarly so as to help brace the upright members of the cupola framing. The original cornice has been remodelled in the Victorian Period. The windows on the residence side have been lengthened and a side porch was built over the private entrance for the jailor on the left side.

The original solitary confinement cells were in the basement but about 1860 they were moved upstairs. The present ones have iron thresholds bearing the name of "Wood & Housum, Chambersburg", a partnership dating from 1857 to 1865. At the time that the outside windows were lengthened in the residence some of the older door framing was Victorianized and one fireplace plugged up. A more modern cell block was constructed in 1880 within the original 153' by 160' jail yard that is surrounded yet by its original 20' high limestone wall.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Pennsylvania	
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(Number all entries)

From the evidence on the iron plates before mentioned and the woodwork added to the residence it would seem that the jail was modernized somewhat around the Civil War and during the 1880's when the new cell block was built. Very little of the original was scrapped, however, and the building on a whole remains remarkably intact considering its public nature, its age and its use. The present roof is slate, and is quite old, but must have replaced an earlier (slate?) roof. The framing of the roof is quite heavy and is believed to be original.

The original yard, which had only one double gate to the outside world, still has its original walls and dividing wall, separating the yard into two divisions.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1817 to present

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This is one of the oldest Penal Institutions to be used continually in the country. It has had but few modernizations, so would make a remarkably well suited museum of our penal history. Within the confines of its yard wall are both an early 19th century jail and jailor's residence, probably quite typical of what was erected all over this area at that time and an 1880 period cell block with three floors of cells still being occupied. The building represents the great stylistic lag in Central Pennsylvania at this time, showing the preference for the older Georgian plans to the newer Greek Revival, more popular in the Northern Tier of Pennsylvania and New York State. Much of the basement is vaulted, the construction of which could be studied by students of architecture.

The closing up of the small windows to the ^{basement vaulted} basement cells, which have their old iron rings embedded yet in the floor, has created a much darker and dismal appearance than originally. For its time, the Franklin County Jail probably was a model penal institution.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

McCauley's Historical Sketch of Franklin County and Coopers, Recollections of Chambersburg 1830-1850.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		°	'	"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		39	56	20
SE	° ' "	° ' "		77	39	.35
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
None		None	
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Murray E. Kauffman, President

ORGANIZATION: Franklin County Heritage, Inc. DATE: September 10, 69

STREET AND NUMBER:
P.O. Box 78

CITY OR TOWN: Chambersburg STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 37

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS