

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**



1. NAME OF PROPERTY

HISTORIC NAME: Smith County Jail (1881)
OTHER NAME/SITE NUMBER: Lewis Hotel

2. LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 309 East Erwin Street
CITY OR TOWN: Tyler
STATE: Texas **CODE:** TX **COUNTY:** Smith **CODE:** 423
NOT FOR PUBLICATION: N/A
VICINITY: N/A
ZIP CODE: 75702

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 forth 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.)

Curtis J. J. [Signature]
Signature of certifying official

7-12-96
Date

State Historic Preservation Officer, Texas Historical Commission

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 commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. 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]
Signature of the Keeper
Edson H. Beall

Date of Action
8.22.96

Entered in the
National Register

5. CLASSIFICATION

OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY: Private

CATEGORY OF PROPERTY: Building

NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY:	CONTRIBUTING	NONCONTRIBUTING
	1	0 BUILDINGS
	0	0 SITES
	0	0 STRUCTURES
	0	0 OBJECTS
	1	0 TOTAL

NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES PREVIOUSLY LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER: 0

NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING: N/A

6. FUNCTION OR USE

HISTORIC FUNCTIONS: GOVERNMENT: Correctional facility
DOMESTIC: Hotel

CURRENT FUNCTIONS: COMMERCE/TRADE: Professional

7. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION: LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate

MATERIALS: FOUNDATION BRICK
WALLS BRICK
ROOF STONE: slate
OTHER STUCCO; METAL; GLASS

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (see continuation sheets 7-5 through 7-9).

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 5

Smith County Jail (1881)
Tyler, Smith County, Texas

DESCRIPTION

The Smith County Jail (1881) in East Texas exhibits features typical of governmental buildings constructed during the pinnacle of Victorian architectural design in the late 19th century. Constructed between September 1880 and April 1881, it served as the county's third jail until 1916. The 2-story building follows a T-shape and has a steeply pitched, hipped roof covered with slate. The jail, of Italianate stylistic influence, is constructed of hand made bricks coated with a layer of stucco that is scored to emulate cut stone. The interior detailing modestly reflects late Victorian influences. Facing north on East Erwin Street in Tyler, the building occupies a narrow, deep lot just east of the public square and courthouse. The site's elevation drops suddenly near the rear (south) of the building to accommodate the Missouri Pacific railroad tracks. Vegetation is sparse with only a tiny cultivated lawn and several young shrubs planted around the building. In excellent condition, the jail retains its historical and architectural integrity to a high degree.

Smith County is in East Texas, straddling both the pine and post oak belts. The county's terrain is undulating to hilly with many springs and streams. Tyler (1990 population 75,450) is the county's seat and economic hub, based largely on agribusiness and petroleum production. The community's historic development followed a strict rectilinear street plan laid out on the cardinal directions. On its slender lot, the jail has a small parking lot and tracks of the former International and Great Northern Railroad (now Missouri Pacific) to the immediate west and a driveway to its east (see Map-18). The building is set back just 16 feet from the sidewalk. Displayed on each of two small concrete piers near the front of the building are a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (1993) medallion and plate and a Historic Tyler, Inc. preservation award (1993).

While the jail now has a 2-story T-shape, it was originally a 2-story rectangular main block (the "top" of the "T") with a 1-story cell block as a rear appendage. In 1894, the county added a second floor to the cell block. The property changed into private hands in 1916 and the new owner made several changes to facilitate the building's use as a hotel. He removed all cells and added wood sleeping porches to the building's rear block by 1918 (see Figure 7-8) and, in 1933, he added a new facade to the main block (see Figure 7-9); footings from this addition are still evident. In 1986, Historic Tyler, Inc., purchased the building, removed additions to convey its pre-1916 historic appearance, and stabilized the property.

The symmetrical 3-bay main (north) block once provided administrative space for the jail (see Photograph 1). A pair of stucco-coated brick string courses encircle the foundation of the building. Deeply raked quoins articulate each 90 degree angle of the building including the centered, projecting, pedimented bay; the quoins are of brick coated with stucco. The focal point of the main facade, this bay has a single, four-panel wood door with a fixed arched transom. The door is surrounded by a thick, stilted arch hood molding, of brick coated with stucco, decorated with a keystone. Another similarly articulated door is on the south-facing

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Smith County Jail (1881)
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elevation of the main block's east side. Wood windows on the main block are 4/4, surmounted with the same heavy stilted arch hood molding. Below each window is a denticulated console, also of brick coated with stucco. Another pair of string courses encircles the building between the first and second levels. A string course above the second level windows provides footing for the bracketed cornice, which serves as a gutter and is made of sheet metal. At each corner of the building these ornamental brackets are paired. Between each bracket is a decorative recessed panel. Two chimneys, one on each side of the rear addition, protrude from the roof where the main and secondary blocks convene.

The secondary (rear) block served as cell space for the jail (see Photographs 2 and 3). Its exposed east and west facades are similar to the main block but slightly less embellished. Not visible, but of great import, are the narrow gauge railroad irons spaced every eight inches within the exterior walls that once surrounded the jail cells. All string courses extend from the main building to encompass this block. Each level has four symmetrically placed wood windows. Heavy square arch hood molding with a decorative keystone surrounds each 4/4 first level window. Below each of these is the same decorative console found on the main block. A series of decorative, elongated, recessed panels visually divides the first and second levels. Thin square arch molding frames each 2/2 second level window, none of which have the console embellishment. Again, the string course above the second level windows provides footing for the bracketed cornice. Between each bracket is a decorative recessed panel. The brackets on this block are spaced farther apart than those on the main block. Pilasters mark the "bottom" of the "T." The rear (south) elevation of this block is austere with only two 2/2 windows on the second level and two down spouts from the cornice gutter that channel water to the ground (see Photograph 4).

The interior of the jail exhibits modest Victorian era detailing. Both levels of the main block have a central hall with rooms flanking either side (see Map-20, 21). Entry to each room is through a single wood door with transom. The pine staircase rises from the east side of the central hall's first level and curves 180 degrees to the west side of the second level. A walnut newel post, railing, and baluster enhance the staircase. Both levels of the rear block have large open areas where the rear cell blocks were converted to office space. Floors are tongue and groove pine, with the exception of the first level of the rear block, which is concrete covered with carpet. The walls are lime plaster with pine baseboard. Window and door surrounds are also pine with a modest ogee pattern. Ceilings are beaded pine.

Randy Gilbert purchased the building in 1992 and, in 1993, he rehabilitated the Smith County Jail in accordance with the Economic Recovery Tax Act of 1981. All work was based on the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and historic photographs. This preservation project involved removing post-1916 additions, stabilizing structural elements, re-pointing brick, applying and painting stucco, restoring and reconstructing the staircase and the window systems, installing a slate roof and adequate mechanical systems, and duplicating missing details. The building now functions as a law office.

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Smith County Jail (1881)
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The Smith County Jail retains its integrity to a remarkable degree. The building's architectural character, especially defined by its location, setting, design, materials, and workmanship, remains virtually unchanged. With these physical features intact, the jail clearly maintains its historic associations and feelings.

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Smith County Jail (1881)
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Figure 7-8

1881 Smith County Jail (Lewis Hotel) ca. 1918, showing rear porch additions



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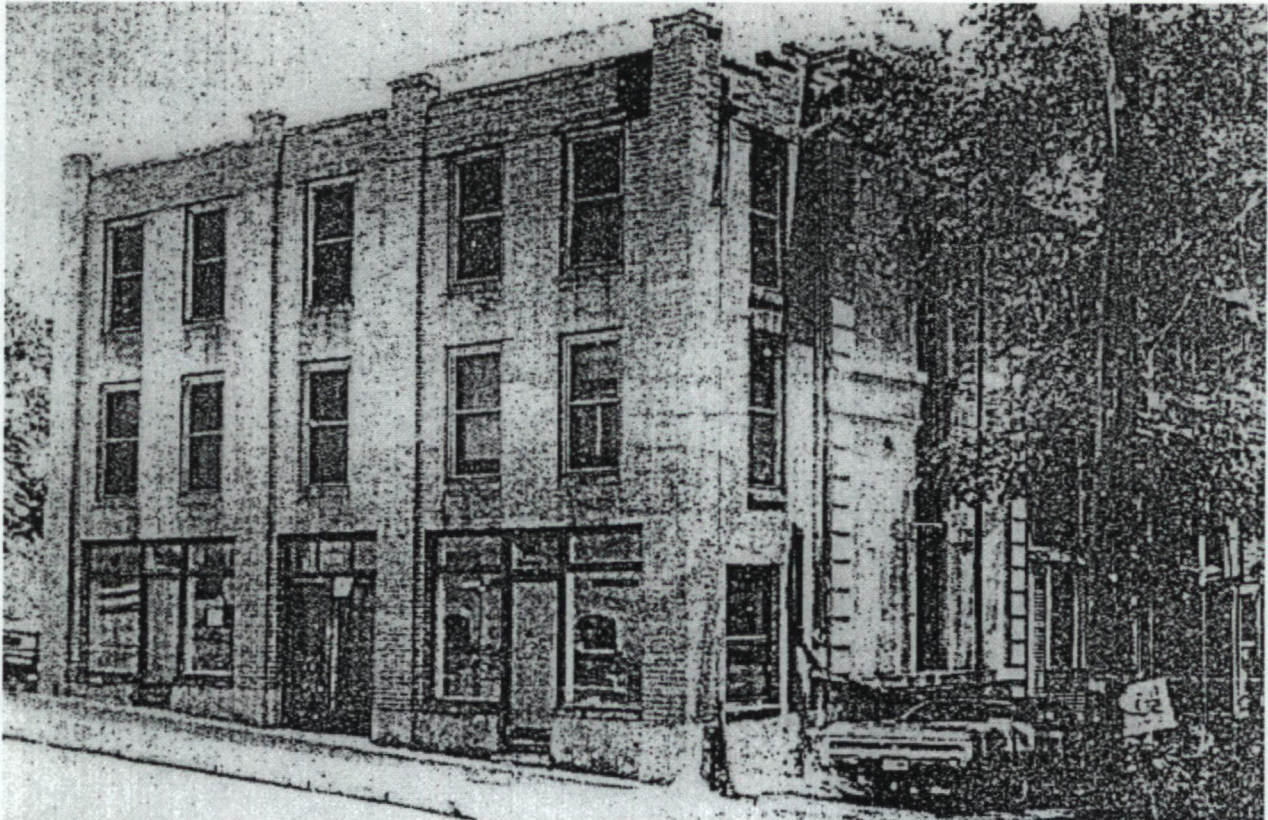
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Smith County Jail (1881)
Tyler, Smith County, Texas

Figure 7-9

1881 Smith County Jail (Lewis Hotel) before restoration, showing 1933 addition



8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

APPLICABLE NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA

- A** PROPERTY IS ASSOCIATED WITH EVENTS THAT HAVE MADE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE BROAD PATTERNS OF OUR HISTORY.
- B** PROPERTY IS ASSOCIATED WITH THE LIVES OF PERSONS SIGNIFICANT IN OUR PAST.
- C** PROPERTY EMBODIES THE DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF A TYPE, PERIOD, OR METHOD OF CONSTRUCTION OR REPRESENTS THE WORK OF A MASTER, OR POSSESSES HIGH ARTISTIC VALUE, OR REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT AND DISTINGUISHABLE ENTITY WHOSE COMPONENTS LACK INDIVIDUAL DISTINCTION.
- D** PROPERTY HAS YIELDED, OR IS LIKELY TO YIELD, INFORMATION IMPORTANT IN PREHISTORY OR HISTORY.

CRITERIA CONSIDERATIONS: N/A

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Politics/Government; Architecture

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE: 1881-1916

SIGNIFICANT DATES: 1881 1894

SIGNIFICANT PERSON: N/A

CULTURAL AFFILIATION: N/A

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Heiner, Eugene (architect); Kane, Henry (builder)

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (see continuation sheets 8-10 through 8-15).

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

BIBLIOGRAPHY (see continuation sheet 9-16).

PREVIOUS DOCUMENTATION ON FILE (NPS): N/A

- 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 (*Texas Historical Commission*)
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository:

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Smith County Jail (1881)
Tyler, Smith County, Texas

SIGNIFICANCE

County Jails, as an eminent building type associated with local government in Texas, symbolize the general prosperity, aspirations, and sophistication of the counties in which they stand. The fourth county facility constructed specifically to house prisoners, the Smith County Jail (1881) played a pivotal role in county government and meets Criterion A in the area of Politics/Government. A fine local example of late Victorian era architecture, the jail features Italianate stylistic influences. Architect Eugene T. Heiner designed the building, which meets Criterion C in the area of Architecture. Despite severe alterations that have since been removed, the building retains a high level of integrity for its period of significance, 1881-1916.

The First Texas Legislature officially carved Smith County in 1846 from an area (including present day Smith and Cherokee counties) that the 1839 Republic of Texas Congress preempted from settlement under the Cherokee Land Act. The county's appellation honored General James Smith: a colonel in the Texas Revolution, a brigadier general in the Regulator-Moderator War in Shelby County, and an elected representative in the Texas House during early statehood. The southwest corner of the county had permanent Anglo American settlement since the days of the Republic. However, Tyler, the county seat named for recent President John Tyler (served from 1841-1845), remained unsettled until its 1846 incorporation.

While the first Texas penal code (1836) was draconian, only six of 41 possible offenses carried imprisonment as punishment; the balance called for corporal or capital punishment. In March 1848, the Texas Legislature enacted a new penal code and established a state penitentiary. The new code abolished most capital offenses and all whipping and branding. Felony offenses required time in the state penitentiary and misdemeanors directed incarceration in county jails. However, the emphasis of punishment for misdemeanors was pecuniary. Jailing individuals for misdemeanors was costly and decreased the labor force of a frontier, agrarian state with a chronic labor shortage. County jails were primarily holding facilities for persons who could not make bail or persons convicted of more serious misdemeanors.

Information pertinent to the construction of the county's earliest jails is scarce and what survives is vague. During its earliest years, the county apparently had no jail. The October 1848 district court term convicted four persons of misdemeanor offenses, but the court released these individuals from custody because no jail in which to detain them existed. By early 1849, the county had constructed its second log courthouse and the original log courthouse probably served as the first jail (see Map-19). Woodson D. Henry was convicted of resisting an officer, fined 10 cents, and ordered incarcerated in the county jail for one hour on 17 April 1849. Later that year, the county established a second log jail on Block 17 (surrounded by East Ferguson on the north, Center on the east, Fast Erwin on the south, and Fannin and the railroad tracks on the west). The building that

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Smith County Jail (1881)
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served as the second jail may have been new construction, but it may also have been the dismantled first jail building reassembled at the Block 17 location.

By 1855 the Smith County Grand Jury acknowledged the need for a stronger and safer jail, but this third building was not complete until 1857. Constructed for \$8,000 on the site of the building it replaced, the third county jail was a 2-story brick building. On 21 July 1861, this jail was the scene of the first legal execution in the county. A slave belonging to W.C. Gober, Dave, was hung for stabbing Gober's son. An iron cage in this jail held George W. Whitmore and George Rosenbaum when Confederate military authorities arrested the Unionists on 17 November 1863 for conspiring to release Yankee prisoners of war. Whitmore and Rosenbaum were ". . . locked up in an iron cage, and kept there seven days and nights. . ." before they were removed and incarcerated at nearby Camp Ford.

While the county remained largely agrarian, some industrial development in Tyler corresponded with the Civil War. The city was an important Confederate supply point with a commissary, an iron foundry, and an ammunition plant. Following the Civil War the jail fell into disrepair. The sheriff repaired the broken windows, leaking roof, and rotted entry steps. He also surrounded the building with a board fence, which the Commissioners' Court ordered jailor W.H. French to repair on 10 February 1880. As the community grew, the court also ordered the jailor to refuse city prisoners because of overcrowded conditions.

Major railroads crossing both the north and south edges of the county brought consequential industrial and entrepreneurial development to the community. The International and Great Northern Railroad, built across Smith County's southeast corner in 1872, linked Shreveport, Louisiana, with the Texas interior. A later spur connected Tyler to the line. By 1877, the Tyler Tap Railroad, a narrow gauge road (initiated in 1871), united at Big Sandy, Texas, with the Texas and Pacific, constructed just north of Smith County. The Tyler Tap sold out to the Texas and St. Louis Railway Company, familiarly known as the Cotton Belt system, with headquarters in Tyler. By the mid 1870s, the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad went through Tyler, joining Mineola, to the north, with Troup, to the south.

The railroad brought prosperity and growth. Tyler was becoming an important governmental center: the Texas Supreme Court held one of its three terms each year in Tyler since 1853, the new court of Criminal Appeals sat in Tyler since 1877, and the United States District Court also assembled in Tyler. While the 1851 county courthouse had been renovated with the addition of a tin-covered mansard roof with balloon framing and a clock tower in 1876, the last public building the county had constructed was the 1857 jail. A local architect supervised the 1876 courthouse project, but the Commissioners' Court desired an architect of note to design the fourth jail. They approved Eugene L. Heiner's plans, which called for a T-shaped brick or stone building. He would receive five percent of the construction costs for his fee.

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Smith County Jail (1881)
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From Terre Haute, Indiana, Heiner immigrated to Houston in 1876 and opened a practice. He was the first known established practitioner in the vicinity of the city. Unfortunately, little is known about his preparation for the profession. He designed numerous private and public buildings throughout the state and was known particularly for his "scientific" jail designs. According to the 20 September 1889 *Houston Daily Post*, he made a specialty of "jail and courthouse building throughout the state." Along with other prominent Texas architects, like F.E. Ruffini, W.C. Dodson, and J. Riely Gordon, and contractors, such as Martin, Byrnes, & Johnston, Heiner competed to obtain courthouse design projects, often traveling great distances. He also designed banks, schools, opera houses, and drug stores in Texas. A list including some of Heiner's public buildings demonstrates his copious influence on this property type during the late 19th century:

- 1878 Galveston County Jail
- 1875, 1881-1882 Galveston County Courthouse (with Nicholas J. Clayton)
- 1883-1889 Tarrant County Jail
- 1885-1887 Gonzales County Jail
- 1886-1888 Falls County Courthouse
- 1888 Austin County Courthouse
- 1888 Walker County Courthouse
- 1888-1889 Wharton County Courthouse
- 1888-1889 Runnels County Courthouse
- 1889 Jasper County Courthouse
- 1891 Colorado County Courthouse
- 1892 Jefferson County Courthouse
- 1892 Brazos County Courthouse
- 1894-1896 DeWitt County Courthouse (with A.O. Watson)
- 1897 Lavaca County Courthouse
- 1897 Brazoria County Courthouse

Congruous with national sympathies, Texas county jails evolved in response to public concern for prison construction during the late 19th century. Reformers, architects like Heiner included, intended to securely incarcerate prisoners, to protect jailors, and to provide sanitary conditions. While some county jails occupied the top floor of their respective courthouses, most were housed in a separate building. Separate jail and courthouse buildings provided greater security and socially isolated county officials from prisoners. A typical late 19th century Texas county Jail was free standing, either on a corner of the public square or a nearby block. Jails were 2- or 3-story masonry cubes containing sheriff's quarters, detention blocks, and, occasionally, installations for other forms of punishment, such as gallows. A law officer and his family often lived in the building and inmates were retained in cell zones segregating prisoners by crime and sex. Free standing steel and iron cells incorporated sanitary facilities.

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Smith County Jail (1881)
Tyler, Smith County, Texas

Late 19th century county seats esteemed jails for the sense of permanence they added to the community. Jails symbolized determination to maintain law and order and architectural stylistic influences often revealed local pride in the democratic system of justice. Most often jails had strong, massive forms that indicated security. Detailing frequently relieved otherwise austere walls. The Smith County Jail employs Italianate detailing. Especially noteworthy on this building is the appearance of cut stone, formed with stucco-coated brick that was scored to resemble ashlar. Other Italianate embellishments include the sheet metal cornice, the quoins, and the stilted arches with keystones. Several contemporaneous jails are similarly detailed with Italianate influences, including the circa 1882 Collin County Jail in McKinney by F.E. Ruffini, the 1887-1888 Mills County Jail in Goldthwaite by builders Green & Nichols, the 1893 Leon County Jail in Centerville by builders Robb & Wilson, the 1887 Red River County Jail in Clarksville by W.H. Wilson, and the 1880 Palo Pinto County Jail in Palo Pinto by Martin, Byrnes & Johnson.

In June 1880, the Smith County Commissioners' Court ordered the county to advertise bids and specifications for the new Jail. Several firms bid on the building contract, which was awarded to Henry Kane. The court required Kane to produce a performance bond, but reduced it to \$2,000 on 24 August 1880 (instead of the bid amount, \$11,239). The following day the court authorized purchase of a lot on Block 18, just one block south of the jail's second and third sites, from H.H. Rowland for \$340. On 21 September 1880, the county signed a contract for \$11,239 with Kane ". . . according to the plans and specifications and to the satisfactions of the architect, Eugene T. Heiner. . ." The county and Kane agreed that payment would be in the form of eight percent treasury warrants or cash, less five percent. On 13 January 1881 and, again in February, the county paid Kane \$1,185.60 cash and Heiner, accordingly, received \$59.28.

On 25 February a change order in Kane's contract required that the exterior walls be covered with stucco, scored to give the appearance of cut stone, and painted. Kane received an additional \$550 for this work. In April, the county authorized J.B. Douglas to erect a 10-foot board fence around the new jail. The building was in use by summer of 1881.

However, the new jail was not without flaws. Commissioners' Court minutes from 9 July 1881 contain the following entries:

It is ordered by the court that the -sheriff have the hole in the wall of the new jail made by the escaping prisoners repaired and present the bill to the court for payment.

It appearing that the prisoners confined in the jail have three several [sic] times escaped therefrom since it has been occupied, and that the people demand to know where the fault lies and that the building should be made secure if the fault lies with the building, and further that the contractor Henry Kane proposes to remedy any fault of construction that may be found,

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Smith County Jail (1881)
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It is therefore ordered that George Adams, J.J. Hamilton, and A.W. Murphy who are expert mechanics, be and they are hereby appointed and ordered to make a thorough examination of the jail in all its parts and report to this court wherein they find it deficient, and to recommend the necessary alterations or additions to make it secure.

These problems were apparently solved without further ado since neither later references nor additional expenditures appear in the minute books.

The jail experienced some alterations during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Some windows were repaired in 1889 and, in August 1891, the county contracted with the Daghish Hardware Company to install iron shutters on cell windows and to repair the floors, ceilings, and water closet. Overcrowding required expansion and on 17 May 1894, the county contracted with Diebold Safe and Lock Company of Canton, Ohio, to add a second floor to the rear block of the building. The slate roof of the cell block was removed, new second level walls were reinforced with light gauge railroad irons, and the roof was re-installed. Five new cells, each with four hammocks, and a bath tub were complete and accepted on 13 September 1894 for \$8,055. In 1905, the county deemed the first level cells inadequate and they contracted with the Southern Steel Company of San Antonio to provide new cells, completed by 20 September of that year, for \$3,320.

The history of the Smith County Jail is not without incident. A mob lynched an African American man in 1897 and, in 1898, another mob shot an Anglo American man to death in his cell. On 1 May 1909, a mob used sledge hammers to break the jail's fence, windows, and doors, seized Jim Hodge (arrested for rape) from incarceration and lynched him. District Judge R.W. Simpson ordered many perpetrators arrested and set bond at \$5,000 each, an exorbitant sum at the time. The accused received much public sympathy and county health officer Dr. D.H. Connally reported that the jail's sanitary condition was inadequate. As a result the Commissioners' Court inspected the facility and ordered it be thoroughly cleaned. Tyler women sent a ". . . wagon load of flowers. . ." to the men and, on 17 May, the local newspaper reported that ". . . the boys are supplied with every imaginable good thing to eat, including cake, cream, lemonade, grape juice, and . . . fruit. . ." Allen McClung of Southwestern Telephone provided a telephone for the inmates. Others contributed a typewriter, books, a punching bag, a phonograph, dominoes, and window shades. Although the supposed victim recanted her story, the defendants were released and the next election saw Simpson's defeat.

The demands of development in early 20th century Smith County intensified the growth of county government and its magnified the need for more administrative and court space. From 1908 through 1910, Smith County's efforts went toward the construction of a new classically influenced courthouse. In 1915 the county retained the architectural firm of Bothwell and Shaw to study the 1881 jail, which they found ". . . unsafe, unsanitary and dangerous." That February, the Smith County Grand Jury issued a report calling for a new jail and,

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Smith County Jail (1881)
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that June, the county retained the Fort Worth architectural firm Sanguinet & Staats to design the building, which was complete 9 March 1916. That same day, the county sold the 1881 jail to Jefferson Y. Lewis for \$1,800.

Lewis, born in 1866, remodeled the building to be the Lewis Hotel. He removed all jail cells from the rear block, dividing the first level into a kitchen, dining room, bathroom, and storage room. He divided the rear block's second level into five bedrooms and two bathrooms. He also added sleeping porches to the rear block's east and west elevations (see Figure 7-8).

Discovery of the East Texas Oil Field in 1933 created a housing shortage in Tyler. Lewis responded to the shortage and augmented available square footage in the building (see Figure 7-9). The very high ceilings allowed Lewis to wedge another floor between the existing first and second levels of the former jail. He also constructed a 3-story brick extension to the front of the building that protruded 12 feet from the original main elevation. Much of this work destroyed some of the original brick detailing and the pediment at the centered bay's peak. As well, additional fenestration was cut into existing walls and the original slate roof was replaced with composition material. Members of his family state that the City of Tyler fined Lewis \$100 for completing this work without a building permit.

Lewis died in 1949 and his wife inherited the property. She died in 1979 and the property passed to her brother, who continued to operate the hotel until 1985. The city declared the building to be in violation of numerous building codes and Historic Tyler, Inc., purchased the property in 1986. In an effort to stabilize the jail they removed many of the post-1916 alterations. Randal Gilbert purchased the building in 1992 and, in 1993, he rehabilitated the Smith County Jail in accordance with the Economic Recovery Tax Act of 1981. All work was based on the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and pre-1933 photographs. The building now functions as a law office.

The Smith County Jail (1881) retains its historic integrity to its period of significance, 1881 to 1916, with some interior modifications. An important building in this small community, the jail is worthy of preservation because of its contributions to the county's historical and architectural legacy.

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Smith County Jail (1881)
Tyler, Smith County, Texas

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Gilbert, Randal B. "The Jails of Smith County." *Chronicles of Smith County, Texas* 28:1.

Robinson, Willard B. *The People's Architecture, - Texas Courthouses, Jails, and Municipal Buildings*. Austin: Texas State Historical Association, 1983.

Smith County. Commissioners' Court Minute Books, Commissioners' Court Monthly Record Files, District Court Case Records, and District Court Minute Books.

Tyler Daily Courier Times. 1 May and 26 June 1909.

Woldert, Will A. Manuscript Papers at the Smith County Historical Society Archives Collection, Tyler.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF PROPERTY: less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES Zone Easting Northing
 1 15 283820 3582380

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION (see continuation sheet 10-17)

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION (see continuation sheet 10-17)

11. FORM PREPARED BY (with assistance from Amy E. Dase, THC Historian)

NAME/TITLE: Randal Gilbert

ORGANIZATION: Lee & Gilbert

DATE: 14 December 1995

STREET & NUMBER: 309 East Erwin Street

TELEPHONE: (903) 593-2403

CITY OR TOWN: Tyler

STATE: TX

ZIP CODE: 75702

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

CONTINUATION SHEETS

MAPS (see continuation sheet Map-18 through Map-21)

PHOTOGRAPHS (see continuation sheet Photo-22)

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

PROPERTY OWNER

NAME: Randal Gilbert

STREET & NUMBER: 309 East Erwin Street

TELEPHONE: (903) 593-2403

CITY OR TOWN: Tyler

STATE: TX

ZIP CODE: 75702

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Tyler, Smith County, Texas

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property includes a part of City Block 18 beginning at an iron pin for the corner on the north line of City Block 18 and 30 feet at right angles measured in an easterly direction from the center line of the main line of the Missouri Pacific Railroad tract; thence north 89 degrees 54 minutes east 100 feet to corner on north line of City Block 18 and on the east edge of a concrete slab from which the west wall of the old jail building brs. west 16.3 feet; said point on the east edge of concrete slab being at the northwest corner of the Greenberg lot; thence south 175 feet to the southwest corner of the Greenberg lot from which a large bois d'arc tree brs. south 69 degrees west 52.7 feet; an iron pin brs. south 5.7 feet; thence north 89 degrees 54 minutes east 50.6 feet to the corner on the base of the east prong of a double elm tree and on the south line of the above mentioned Greenberg lot; an iron pin brs. south one degree six minutes west six inches. Return to the corner on the south line of said Greenberg lot; thence south one degree six minutes east 47.7 feet to the corner on the north line of a lot deeded by Lewis to J. A. Bryant as shown in Volume 522, Page 549, Deed Record of Smith County, Texas; a catalpa tree brs. south 44 degrees 45 minutes east 55.7 feet; the east prong of a double elm tree brs. north 47.4 feet; an iron pin brs. south one degree six minutes east 7.8 feet; return to the corner on north line of lot deeded to Bryant and mentioned above; thence south 84 degrees 56 minutes west 71.9 feet to an iron pin for corner at an angle corner of the tract deeded to Bryant and mentioned above; a large bois d'arc brs. north 40 degrees west 45.1 feet; thence south 19 degrees seven minutes east 83.8 feet to the corner at another angle corner of said Bryant lot; thence south 13 degrees 59 minutes east 43 feet to an iron pin for the corner on the north line of East Elm Street at the southwest corner of the lot deeded by Pete Korkmas to J. A. Bryant as shown in Volume 463, page 602, Deed Records of Smith County, Texas; the northeast corner of east wing to a bridge over Elm Street brs. northwest 14 feet; thence west 16.7 feet to a point 30 feet at right angles from the central line of the Missouri Pacific Railroad tract; thence in a northwesterly direction with the east right of way line of said railroad 30 feet at right angles from center line of main line tract, along a curve, the chord of which brs. north 16 degrees seven minutes west, 364 feet to the point of origin.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary includes the area that has been historically associated with the property and that retains its historic and architectural integrity.

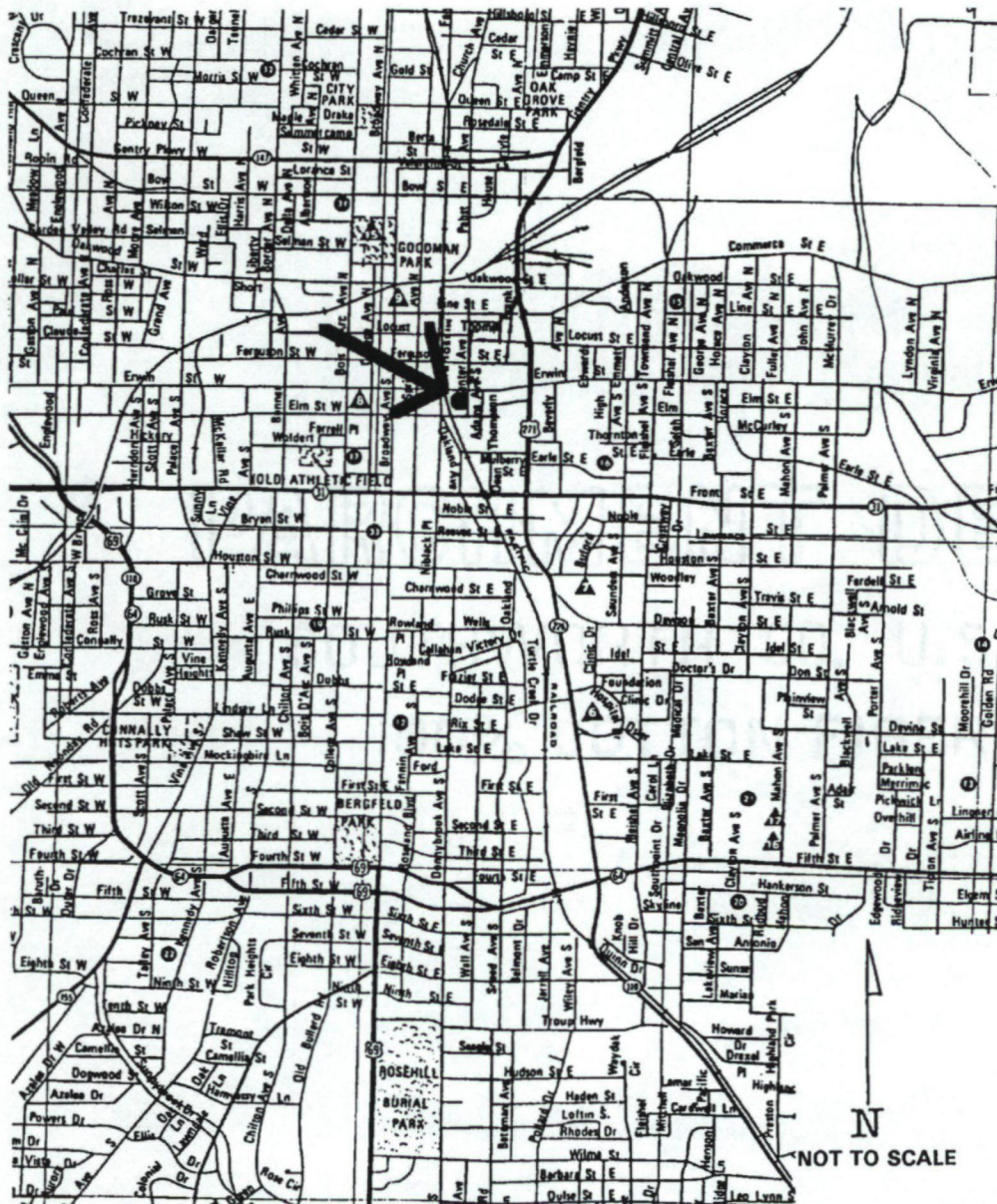
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section MAP Page 18

Smith County Jail (1881)
Tyler, Smith County, Texas

Tyler, Texas
street map showing location of Smith County Jail (1881)



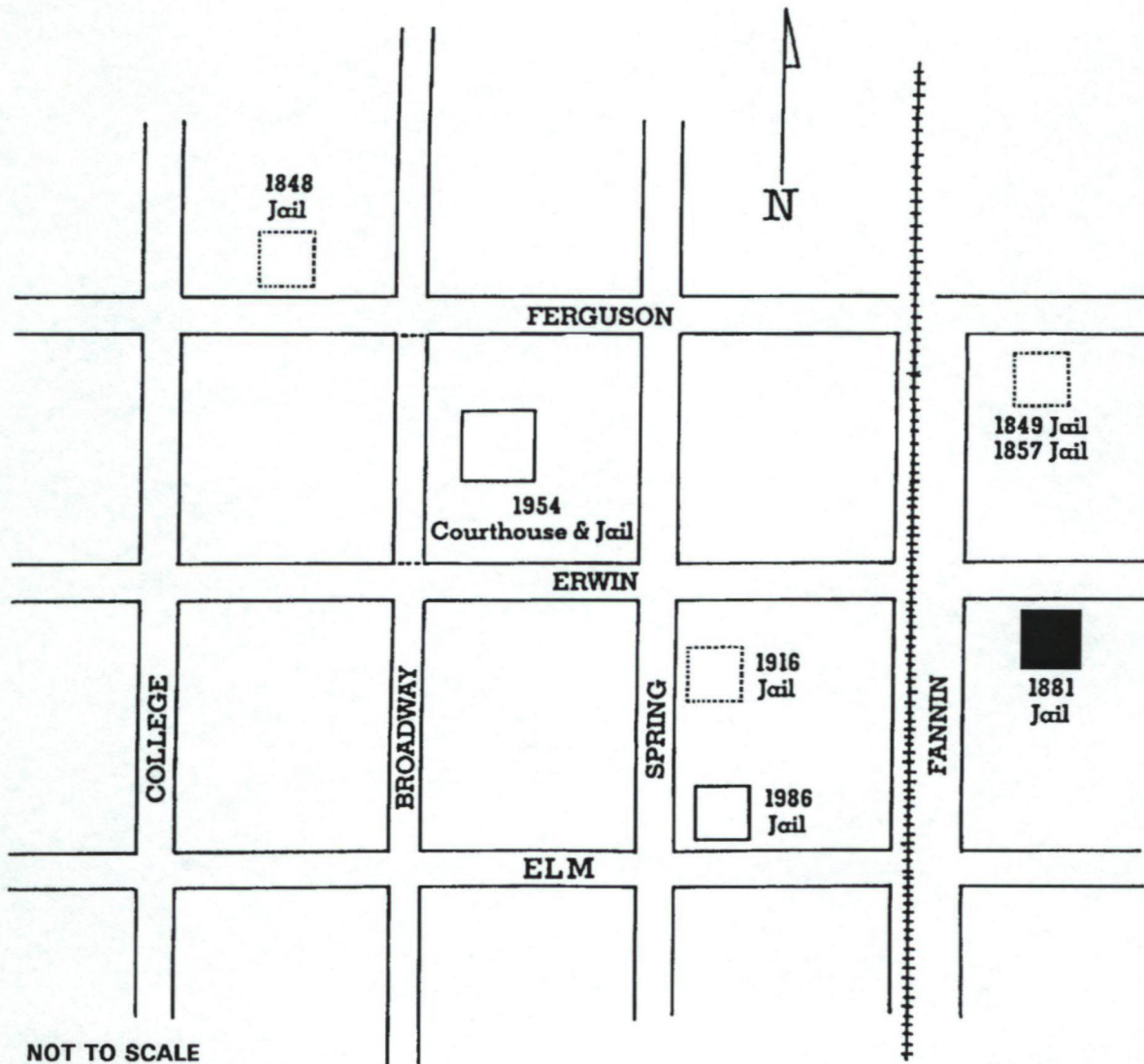
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section MAP Page 19

Smith County Jail (1881)
Tyler, Smith County, Texas

Map of downtown Tyler area
showing location of Smith County's former jails



NOT TO SCALE

----- Denotes site of jail no longer standing

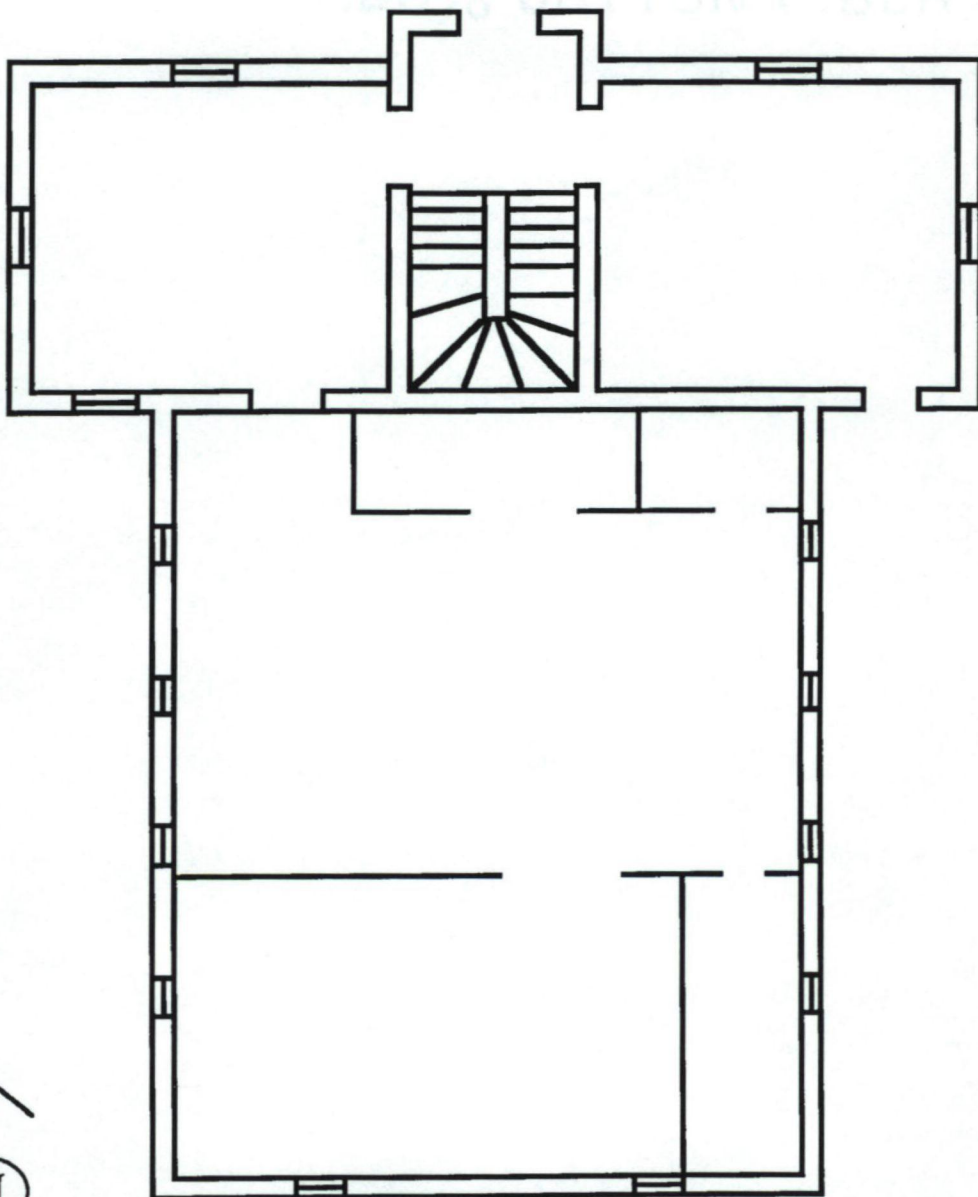
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service


National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section MAP Page 20

Smith County Jail (1881)
Tyler, Smith County, Texas

1881 Smith County Jail
First Floor




NOT TO SCALE

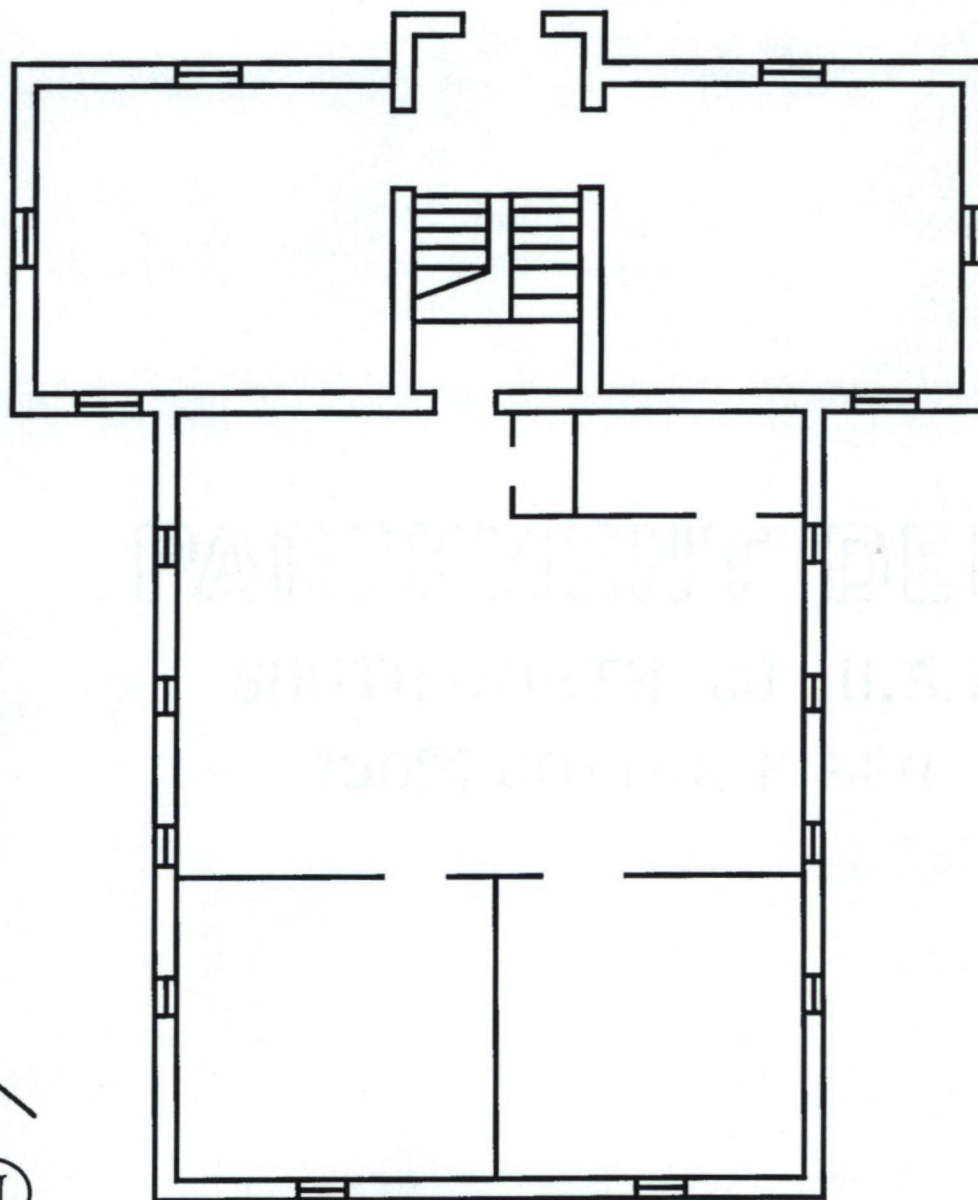
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section MAP Page 21

Smith County Jail (1881)
Tyler, Smith County, Texas

1881 Smith County Jail
Second Floor



NOT TO SCALE

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section PHOTO Page 22

Smith County Jail (1881)
Tyler, Smith County, Texas

PHOTOGRAPH LOG

Smith County Jail (1881)
309 East Erwin Street
Tyler, Smith County, Texas
Photographed by Randal Gilbert
January 1996
Negatives with Randal Gilbert

North facade, camera facing southeast
Photograph 1 of 4

West facade, camera facing east
Photograph 2 of 4

East facade, camera facing west
Photograph 3 of 4

South and west facades, camera facing northeast
Photograph 4 of 4

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Smith County Jail, 1881

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Smith

DATE RECEIVED: 7/22/96 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/06/96
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 8/22/96 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/05/96
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 96000937

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 9-22-96 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N



1881

309



SMITH COUNTY JAIL (1881)
309 EAST ERWIN STREET
TYLER, SMITH CO., TEXAS
PHOTOGRAPH 1 of 4



"Saving a Part of Tyler's Past"
THE 1881 SH...

SMITH COUNTY JAIL (1881)
309 EAST ERWIN STREET
TYLER, SMITH CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 2 of 4

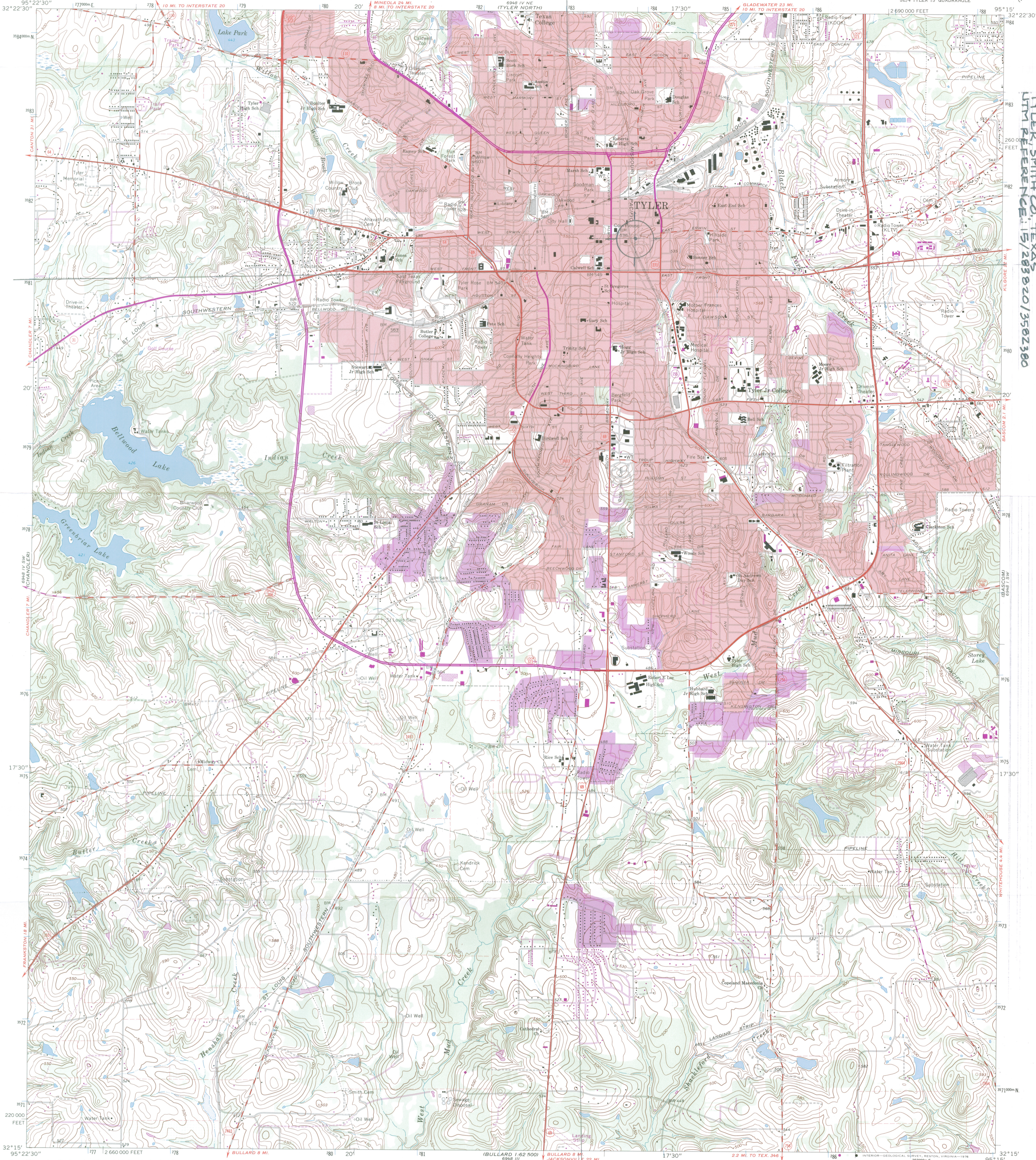


SMITH COUNTY JAIL (1881)
309 EAST ERWIN STREET
TYLER, SMITH CO., TEXAS
PHOTOGRAPH 3 of 4



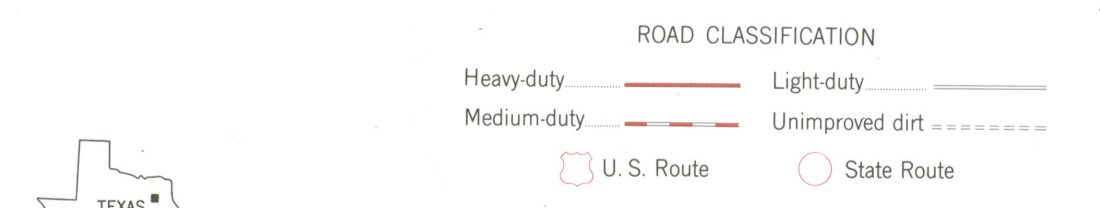
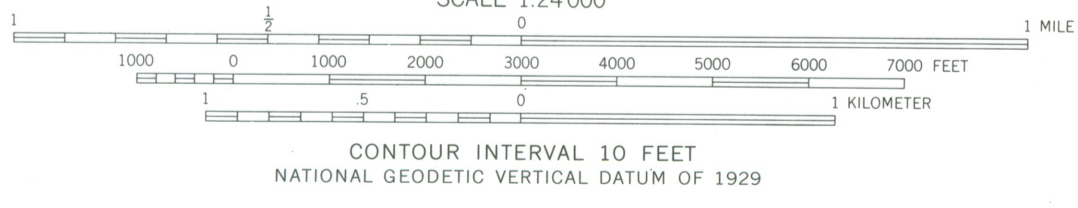
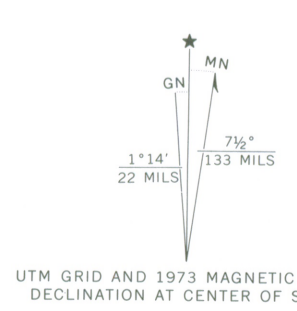
SMITH COUNTY JAIL (1881)
309 EAST ERWIN STREET
TYLER, SMITH CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 4 of 4



SMITH COUNTY JAIL (1881)
304 EAST ERWIN STREET
TYLER, SMITH CO., TEXAS
UTM REFERENCE: 15/283820/3582380

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1965. Field checked 1966
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Texas coordinate system, north central zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 15, shown in blue
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence lines
Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken 1973. This information not field checked
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

TYLER SOUTH, TEX.
SE/4 TYLER 15' QUADRANGLE
N3215—W9515/7.5
1966
PHOTOREVISED 1973
AMS 6948 IV SE—SERIES V882

3295-131



TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

Memorandum

TO: Carol Shull, Keeper of the National Register
FROM: Mary Dillman *Mary Dillman*
DATE: July 9, 1996
RE: Smith County Jail (1881)



Property owner Randy Gilbert submitted this nomination which was approved by the State Board of Review at their last meeting in June. The building, now offices, was restored in 1993 to its pre-1916 appearance in accordance with the Economic Recovery Tax Act of 1981. The nomination supports listing under Criterion A and C in the areas of Politics/Government and Architecture at the local level of significance.