

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# 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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

## 1. Name of Property

historic name Hampton County Jail

other names/site number Old Hampton County Jail, Hampton County Museum

## 2. Location

street & number 702 First Street West  not for publication

city or town Hampton  Vicinity

state South Carolina code SC county Hampton code 049

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

\_\_\_ national \_\_\_ statewide x local

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official Date

Elizabeth M. Johnson, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

\_\_\_ entered in the National Register

\_\_\_ determined eligible for the National Register

\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the National Register

\_\_\_ removed from the National Register

\_\_\_ other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only **one** box)

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

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		district
		site
		structure
		object
1	0	<b>Total</b>

**OWNER:** Hampton County (Administration)

**ADDRESS:** 201 Jackson Avenue West, Hampton, SC 29924

**PHONE:** 803-914-2100

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

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**  
**0**

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT—Correctional Facility

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE—Museum

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Revivals: Classical

Revival

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### Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: Brick

walls: Brick

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roof: Asphalt

other: Wood

Iron

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### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

#### Summary Paragraph

The Hampton County Jail, located at 702 First Street West in the lowcountry town of Hampton, South Carolina, was completed in the newly formed Hampton County ca. 1880. Built on donated land, the new county jail is a late nineteenth and early twentieth century example of the Classical Revival residential form, two stories in height and three bays wide by two bays deep, with a central, one-story entry portico on the facade (southeast elevation) and a service porch at the rear or northwest elevation. The jailkeeper's living quarters occupied the first floor, while the second floor was dedicated to the cellblocks for both white and black prisoners, including both men and women. The jail was dramatically altered in 1920, circa 1925, and a third time in the 1960s, with the first renovation adding an extension to the first floor rear for additional living space for the jailer, the second renovation modifying the jail cells on the second floor, and the third renovation dividing the first floor rooms on the northeast side of the house into additional jail cells. The building nevertheless retains many of its original features, including a six-celled iron cage system that occupies the northeast side of the second story, but it also reflects a number of significant architectural alterations that document the building's ongoing modification to meet the changing correctional needs of the community.

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### Narrative Description

The Hampton County Jail was first built ca. 1880, following completion of the nearby courthouse for the newly established Hampton County, which was created following the 1878 act of the General Assembly of South Carolina that mandated the formation of a new county from land in Beaufort District that would be named in honor of the then-sitting Governor Wade Hampton III. Because no images of the jail prior to the twentieth century survive, it is difficult to know with certainty how the jail originally appeared.<sup>1</sup> The present building, however, consists of a painted brick, two-story late nineteenth and early twentieth century Classical Revival residential form, three bays wide by two bays deep, backed by a one-story brick gabled ell addition on the northwest or rear exposure, added circa 1920 to provide the jailer with additional living space. The front or original portion of the jail is surmounted by a low-pitched hip roof, now sheathed in asphalt shingles with modern aluminum gutters and downspouts. Brick exterior walls are of common bond in a six-to-one stretcher-to-header orientation, with small vent openings on the perimeter of the foundation. The tan paint on these bricks appears quite old and is badly degraded in many places as a result of rising damp. The corbelled brick entablature, which encircles the two-story building, consists of an unadorned frieze, a single-course corbel, and a sawtooth brick course beneath a triple-layered corbelled cornice, the upper-most layer of which is partially obscured by the gutters. The brick entablature adds some ornamentation to an otherwise relatively spare façade. Window openings are capped with simple jack or flat-arched brick lintels and supported by limestone sills; these openings include three evenly spaced windows on the second floor

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<sup>1</sup> Harris Architects PLLC completed conjectural drawings of the original building in 2009 as part of a preservation plan for the facility. Conclusions here about the original appearance of the building are based on the speculation of Harris Architects PLLC, additional documentary evidence, and visual inspection of the building as it presently exists. For the Harris Architects report, see Harris Architects PLLC, *Preservation Plan, Hampton County Museum, Old Hampton County Jail, Hampton, South Carolina*, 5 June 2009.

and two identical windows flanking the first floor entrance. Windows themselves are aluminum frame and sheet glass and appear to have replaced six-over-six double-hung windows that were still present on the jail in 1975 and likely replaced during a renovation in 1977. Wooden shutters, which once flanked all of the front windows as late as 2009, are now missing, thus leaving behind ghost images of their earlier presence on the remaining brick façade. Iron bars in a three-column grid cover all of the façade's windows and date to sometime prior to 1973, although the bars on the window to the right of the entrance were later cut to accommodate a window air conditioning unit.<sup>2</sup> Other significant alterations include the removal of at least two and probably as many as three interior chimney stacks that once towered over the roof of the jail, as well as a decorative brick wall that appears to have extended from both sides of the façade, perhaps to discourage townsfolk from approaching the windows of the jail.<sup>3</sup>

The front entrance, meanwhile, is reached via two brick steps leading to a central porch with brick foundation, a tile inlay, and a pedimented portico of the Tuscan order but supported by two fluted Doric order columns that feature capitals consisting of torus moldings in place of a classical echinus and abacus. The tympanum and its raking cornices are unadorned. The ceiling of this porch is simple painted tongue and V-groove planks, with the unadorned features of the Tuscan order continuing on the interior of the portico. The main entrance, meanwhile, has a heavily fluted surround with smooth corner blocks and a prominently recessed four-light transom. The door itself is a traditional single-leaf, six-paneled wooden door with the uppermost two panels glazed and what appears to be some original hardware and a newer brass kickplate, although the door itself may not be original to the building.<sup>4</sup> This temple front porch, which is covered with an asphalt shingle roof, likely dates to the 1920s, although it is clearly not the original front porch for this building, as evinced by the ghost pattern of the original porch against the original brick. This earlier porch appears to have extended laterally just beyond the outer edge of the two lower story windows and may have contained a porch swing, although no images of this earlier porch have been found.<sup>5</sup> A wooden handicap accessibility ramp, added sometime after 1975, slopes away to the right of the main entrance.

The northeast (or right side) elevation of the original part of the jail features two sets of two centered windows, one set on each story, with each of these windows featuring window surrounds identical to what is found on the facade (southeast elevation), although the upper windows each have bars outside the aluminum/sheet glass replacement windows, while the lower windows have their bars on the inside. A small exterior chimney flue, composed of stretcher bond brick, rises along the front edge of this wall and terminates at the protruding stretcher course just below the frieze of the building's entablature. The purpose of the flue, however, is unclear since it appears to terminate in a finished fashion well below the roof's edge. While this stack does not appear to be original to the building, it is clearly visible in a 1973 image in possession of the Hampton County Museum. A small wooden sign, indicating the hours of the museum, is affixed at the rear of this elevation near the ground-level egress of an iron fire escape that wraps around the building from the rear elevation. The southwest (or left side) elevation of the original part of the jail features the same window details as the northeast elevation, with one notable exception—a high square window addition on the first floor of the building and near the northwest corner of the main block of the building. This window corresponds to an early bathroom in the jailer's quarters that was probably added ca. 1925 and removed in the 1960s, and it has a similar brick lintel and lime or cast stone sill to what is found on the jail's other exterior windows. This window, which still has bars over the exterior opening, was boarded up from inside and is no longer accessible.<sup>6</sup> This elevation also includes a small one-by-one-bay stretcher-bond, brick-veneered, entrance (with a front-gabled, asphalt shingle roof, a five-paneled wooden door, and a wooden fixed window on both the southeast and the northwest elevations comprised of four side-by-side vertical lights with a

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<sup>2</sup> Photographs dated 1973 and in the possession of the Hampton County Museum clearly show the bars on the upper story windows, and a newspaper image from 1975 (see *Hampton County Guardian*, Oct. 22, 1975) indicates that the lower story window left of the center entrance did not have bars. Likewise, Harris Architects reports that two former occupants—Elizabeth Woods (daughter of the jailers from 1937 to 1972) and Frankie Thomas Caldwell (daughter of Frank Thomas, jailer from 1934 to 1937)—do not remember bars on the lower level windows. Caldwell adds that there were no bars on the upper-level windows either during her time of residence. The six-over-six, double-hung windows are visible in the 1975 *Hampton County Guardian* image. Another image from 1973, in the possession of the Hampton County Museum, shows no bars on the lower-story windows on the northeast side.

<sup>3</sup> Two of these chimney stacks, as well as the decorative brick wall, are visible in a February 1973 image, now in the possession of the Hampton County Museum, that was taken from the eastern oblique position.

<sup>4</sup> A news clipping and image, now in the possession of the Hampton County Museum, from an unknown 1958 newspaper shows Mrs. W.L. Woods, the jail's custodian, standing in this doorway with a thin wooden door opening outward. This may have been a wooden screen door (no longer extant). The interior door—if it was the same as the current one—is not visible in this photograph.

<sup>5</sup> The Harris Architects report speculates that the front porch survived through at least the 1920s, and perhaps later, and says authoritatively that it "was deep enough for a porch swing," although the basis for this conclusion is not given. This may be a detail recalled by one of the two former residents interviewed by Harris Architects. A 1926 report on the jail indicated only that the 1925 improvements "include a convenient and attractive front porch for the building." See "Near Perfect Score for Hampton's Jail," *Hampton County Guardian*, July 28, 1926. This suggests that the current porch may have been added in 1925 to replace the earlier, wider porch that may have contained the swing.

<sup>6</sup> Harris Architects, 4.

header brick sill) that leads to the basement mechanical/boiler room, as well as a cast iron pipe vent from the mechanical area that extends upward to just below the roof line. A small exterior chimney flue on this elevation mirrors the one found on the northeast elevation (described above).

The northwest (or rear) elevation of the original building probably mirrored the façade (southeast or front elevation), with three evenly spaced windows on the second floor and two windows flanking a rear entrance, but the addition of the rear portion of the building in about 1920, as well as some additional modifications, have altered this configuration. This rear elevation retains the two outer second story windows (although they have been replaced with aluminum frame and sheet glass, as elsewhere, and are covered with bars—inside the window near the northeast corner, outside the window near the northwest rear corner), as well as the northeast first story window (aluminum and sheet glass with bars inside). The original center window on the second story, however, was dramatically altered in 1925 into a second floor exit featuring a prominent iron door with a small barred window at its upper center, a transom light with bars over it (the light since covered either with paint or a painted board—curiously, this light is not, and has never been, visible from inside this entrance), and a small asphalt shingle roof covering over the egress and the top landing of the cast iron fire escape that descends toward the northeast side of the building, then makes a ninety degree turn toward the front of the jail before reaching ground level.<sup>7</sup> This elevation otherwise retains all of the architectural details—brickwork, entablature details, and gutter/downspout configuration—found on the façade of the original jail building.

The rear addition, meanwhile, is comprised of two components.<sup>8</sup> The first is a one-story, six-to-one common bond brick ell, three bays deep by one bay wide, with an end-gabled asphalt shingle roof with exposed rafters and decking, and a weatherboard-clad gabled end. Along the northeastern exposure of the rear ell is a shed-roofed brick veneer addition, which may have originally been a porch that later was partly enclosed and partly screened. A shallow setback or reveal and stretcher bond brick veneering on this addition evidence its later vintage. The pitch of the addition's roofline is flatter and engages the main roof of the rear ell as a double-pitched form. This addition includes a small metal screened porch with an aluminum screened door and screened frames, which can be reached by four brick steps, all of which lies directly beneath the descending iron fire escape on the northeast elevation of the rear ell and addition. Windows on the addition include a small six-over-six, double-hung sash bathroom window to the right (north) of the screened porch, followed by a large aluminum and sheet glass replacement window further to the right (north) of this, as well as a six-over-six, double-hung sash window on the northwest elevation, all with iron bars on the exterior of the windows (including a cut-out area to accommodate an air conditioning unit that obviously occupied the large sheet glass window area prior to its replacement of the old wooden windows with sashes). Windows on the rear ell include two side-by-side aluminum and sheet glass replacement windows with iron bars on the southwest elevation (the one nearest the two-story main block of which has a cut out in the iron bars to accommodate an air conditioning unit that precedes the replacement windows), and a six-over-six double-hung sash window with exterior bars on the northwest elevation. All windows on both rear addition components have brick rowlock sills, although the windows on the rear ell have jack arch brick lintels similar to those found on the original jail building. A door near the northwest corner of the rear ell leads to four concrete block steps with matching simple, unfinished post and beam railings and a concrete pad base at the bottom of the steps. Two iron-grated crawlspace vents occupy the lower portion of the secondary rear addition's northeast wall, and a covered crawlspace access is visible on the secondary rear addition's northwest face. Harris Architects reports that the rear ell was probably added in 1925, and the secondary rear addition component was originally a porch for the rear ell prior to being partially enclosed with brick, probably during the 1960s.<sup>9</sup>

The interior of the original jail building, meanwhile, includes a small square entry and an impressive center stair hall with a narrow staircase along the northwest wall of the hall that rises to the original jail cell area. This staircase includes a decoratively beveled, flat-topped newel post with wooden balustrade, as well as wide pine risers and treads, the latter of which remain exposed. A doorway at the northwestern (or rear) end of this hallway—believed to be the original rear door

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<sup>7</sup> This fire escape was too unstable to allow close visual inspection from the exterior of the transom light over the second story iron door.

<sup>8</sup> Archival sources suggest that there may once have been a detached kitchen and dining room on this site, which was replaced in 1920 by this addition. In its May 22, 1919, report on conditions at the Hampton County Jail, the State Board of Charities and Corrections noted, "The jailer's dining room is too small, and so is the kitchen, and, therefore, we recommend that provision be made to extend the wing back to the main building, and to move the present partition between the dining room and the kitchen, thus enlarging both rooms. These rooms should also be ceiled inside, and painted instead of being whitewashed." See State of South Carolina, "Fifth Annual Report of the State Board of Charities and Corrections of South Carolina, 1919, to the Governor" (Columbia: Gonzales and Bryan, 1919-1920), 74, bound in *Reports of State Officers, Boards and Committees, South Carolina, 1920*, Vol. II (Columbia: Gonzales and Bryan, 1920). The rear addition—which appears to have been all new construction—was completed in 1920. See State of South Carolina, "First Annual Report of the State Board of Public Welfare of South Carolina, 1920" (Columbia: Gonzales and Bryan, 1920), 88, bound in *Reports of State Officers, Boards and Committees, South Carolina, 1921*, Vol. II (Columbia: Gonzales and Bryan, 1921).

<sup>9</sup> Harris Architects, 4-5.

for the original building—opens onto the screened porch in the rear addition, although this door now remains locked and obscured to museum visitors. Museum staff believe that the oak tongue-and-groove floors in this central hall were added in 1925, and they bear evidence of fire damage—perhaps from spilled coals—near at least two of the four entrances to the 1960s-era jail cells along the northeast side of the first floor. These rooms—numbered 106 to 109 (front to rear) by Harris Architects (whose numbering scheme for the building is followed here)—each possess the iron jail doors (with the exception of Room 106) installed in the 1960s when these rooms, which had originally been the jailer's living room at the front of the jail and the white women's cell at the rear, were divided and converted to the four jail cells found at present. These jail doors still retain the small viewing and food door at the upper center, a decorative series of vent holes on the right and left upper sides of the doors, and the impressive double-bolt locking hardware on the exterior of these doors. A simplistic crown molding follows the outer long walls of the stair hall. Walls and the ceiling in the stair hall appear to be plaster, with the exception of a weatherboard wall that encloses the area under the staircase as a storage closet. Floors in Rooms 106 to 109 are different forms of vinyl tile, three of them subsequently painted. Outer walls and the wall between Rooms 107 and 108 appear to be plaster over brick, while the partition walls between Rooms 106 and 107 and Rooms 108 and 109—which were added in the 1960s—are of either sheetrock or plywood decking covered by sheetrock. All of these rooms have a simplistic crown molding surround and simple molded window surrounds. Ceilings appear to be of drywall. The original fireplaces between the two larger rooms that originally occupied the southeastern side of the first floor are no longer visible and are believed to be partially obscured by the addition of these partitions.<sup>10</sup> All four rooms are currently used as display or office space.

Room 103—the first floor room occupying the southernmost corner of the original building—has served most prominently as a test room for the museum as it engages in a lengthy preservation and restoration plan for the jail. Here, the original tongue-and-groove wood ceiling has been exposed (although a track lighting system is now attached to it for museum purposes) and the oak floors (which are not original) have been exposed from beneath the vinyl tile that was once in this room and refinished. Explorations along the northwest wall of this room (shared with Room 104, to the rear of Room 103) have also uncovered the original fireplace hearth for this room, although in subsequent renovations, this hearth was recovered with drywall, even though its prominent, columnar intrusion into the room from the northwest wall is still visible. This room also includes the same simplistic molding along the perimeter that is found elsewhere on the first floor. Room 104, meanwhile, which served as the jailer's children's room in 1920, also has its oak floors restored, although there is absolutely no evidence of damage or scarring to these floors in the western corner of this room—where the 1920 bathroom is presumed to have been located—suggesting that repair or replacement of the 1925 oak floors in this room was completed to coincide with the removal of this bathroom in the 1960s. The molding for the old high bathroom window—which has been boarded—is however still visible on the southwestern wall. Walls in this room, which were covered with a dark oak plywood paneling as late as 2009, have been painted, with the upper wall above the paneling stuccoed and painted; the picture rail evident in pictures from 2009 remains.<sup>11</sup> The ceiling here, which has not been uncovered, appears to be stuccoed drywall.

From Room 104, a deep doorway (with no affixed door), located where a window was once located on the original, pre-1920 addition jail building, opens into Room 110, which once served as the 1920 and 1960s dining room. Walls in this space, which were once dark plywood paneling (as in Room 104) have been painted, apparently directly over the paneling. As in Room 104, the prominent picture rail above the paneling remains. The oak floors from Rooms 103 and 104 continue uninterrupted into this room as well. A built-in closet with pine louvered folding doors occupies the eastern corner of this room. Track lighting runs along the center of this room's ceiling, which is believed to be of drywall.<sup>12</sup> A doorway (also without a door, although hardware scarring is evident) at the northeast corner of the room opens into a narrow hallway (apparently added in the 1960s) with oak tongue-and-groove flooring that leads southeast to a second exit to the screened porch and northwest to the former kitchen, labeled by Harris Architects as Room 113. Kitchen cabinetry, a sink, and other indications of this use dating to at least the 1960s are clearly visible, although doors have been removed from the upper cabinets, thus leaving exposed shelving. The floor consists of a vinyl covering that appears to date to the 1980s. Another doorway (with no door) on the northeast wall of the kitchen opens into a small square room in the second component of the rear addition, an area that was originally part of a screened porch in 1920, then bricked in during the 1960s to create a breakfast room. Walls and ceiling are painted drywall, and this area is presently used for storage. Immediately southeast of this room (and accessible only from the previously mentioned kitchen hallway) is a small full bathroom with large square tiles along the bottom half of the wall and a repeating mosaic tile floor. Like the breakfast room (Room 114), this bathroom was originally part of the screened porch and was enclosed in the 1960s.

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<sup>10</sup> See Harris Architects, 3 and 6, which consist of conjectural plans of the original and 1925 versions of the building,

<sup>11</sup> See Harris Architects, 18.

<sup>12</sup> Harris Architects, 6, suggests that this room also once had a fireplace along the northwest wall of this room, as well as a doorway opening to the left of this fireplace into the kitchen area, both in 1925. No visible evidence of this arrangement could be found.

By far, the interior portion of the Hampton County Jail with the most impressive surviving integrity is the second floor of the original jail building. Upon ascending the staircase in the original building, one is confronted with an impressive iron cage that is remarkably large in its gauge (each slat is nearly an inch wide and perhaps one quarter inch thick, thus rendering cage openings perhaps only two inches square). This cage is floor to ceiling and fully encloses the opening of the staircase. A heavy iron cage door that locks from the stairwell side and swings open into the second floor space controls access to the stairwell. Outside this cage, the original hallway space is defined by load-bearing brick walls that correspond to the first floor footprint. At the southeastern (front) end of the building, the original hallway space is now divided by a drywall wall with a wooden door, which leads into a small room that now houses the HVAC system and water heater (labeled on attached plan as "Mech 202" for Mechanical Room 202). Narrow slat tongue-and-groove flooring, similar to that found on the first floor, covers the hallway floor and the floor in this room, although it is now badly water damaged in the HVAC room and buckling here and in the hallway as a result. Heavy iron doors, which open outward into the hallway from the two cell areas on the southwestern side of the building and the large caged cell area on the northeastern side of the building, remain in place, although they differ slightly in design from those found on the first floor, with three ventilation patterns on the upper part of the three paneled door, slide bolts at the top and bottom panels, and a food doorway with flip-down door in the center panel. An interior wooden screen door separates the interior second floor space from the deep threshold leading to the heavy iron door at the top of the exterior fire escape at the rear of the building.

The large, single room on the northeastern side of the second story originally served as the six-cell cellblock for black male prisoners from at least as early as 1916, when the State Board of Charities completed an inspection. Their report confirms the existence of what is now described as a "triple-lockdown" system: an outer cell door to the room (described previously); an elaborate cage system, identical in material to the cage used to enclose the stairwell, with a single outer locking gate controlling access to the cage corridor and cells; and a corridor and line of five individually-locking cells, at the end of which is an irregular-shaped latrine area where there was once a sink, toilet, and shower.<sup>13</sup> This entire cage complex is ceiled with the cage material at approximately seven feet in height, leaving an additional three feet of vertical space between the top of the cage complex and the plywood ceiling for the room itself. Walls between the individual cells are solid iron with no cage grating. Some cells still contain a simplistic portable iron cot.<sup>14</sup> The entirety of this cage complex, meanwhile, is surrounded on the southwestern, southeastern, and northeastern sides by a narrow corridor within the room. Floors are painted tile—perhaps asbestos in composition—and outer walls of the room are painted brick.

On the opposite side of the second floor is an area that was originally comprised of two large cells with the same footprint as the rooms directly below this area, minus the fireplaces. The second floor room in the westernmost corner of the building was originally used as the black women's cell, with its door opening just outside the stairwell cage at the rear of the building. This space was later divided—presumably in the 1960s, at the same time the first floor cells were divided—into two rooms. The first of these is accessible through the original doorway at the top of the stairwell and contains partition walls of the same material found in the first floor cells, with the exception of the wall on which the door is affixed, which is brick. This room appears to have contained a toilet and sink at one time, as outlets for this plumbing and an old mirrored surface attached to the wall are still present.<sup>15</sup> Meanwhile, the original southern corner room at the front of the building—which was once used as the white men's cell when it had the same footprint as the jailkeeper's living quarters directly beneath it—is now divided into three separate cell areas, all accessed from a tiny vestibule just inside the main doorway to the room. The first of these cells (Room 205) lies to the northwest of this vestibule and occupies the other half of the previous western corner room (described above). The wall between this cell and Room 204 (to the southeast and directly ahead as one enters the vestibule in this area) is of brick, reflecting the original dividing wall in this area, as is the inner wall on the northeast side of the room, but the two other walls and the ceiling are of the same partitioning material described previously in the other cells. Again, in this cell, an old mirror and sealed plumbing outlets for a sink and a toilet are still extant, although the fixtures themselves have been removed. Room 204 is somewhat smaller (because of the vestibule area), but like Room 205 it has a combination of partition wall material (southeastern and northeastern walls) and brick wall (northwestern wall), and a partition material ceiling. The mirror and plumbing outlets are also visible here.

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<sup>13</sup> For a published report of the State Board of Charities inspection, see "Hampton County Jail Inspected, State Board of Charities Report Condition of the Hampton County Jail and Almshouse," *Hampton County Guardian*, May 10, 1916, which is also extensively quoted in Harris Architects. This early article describes six cells and the corridor with "a flush toilet and a lavatory." It appears that the sixth cell was removed at some unknown date to allow for the installation of the shower that now occupies the old sixth cell space. The toilet and sink fixtures are no longer in place.

<sup>14</sup> The State Board of Charities reported that no such cots were made available. Black male inmates were provided only with double blankets. These cells were neither heated nor lit at night.

<sup>15</sup> Inexplicably, Harris Architects does not reflect this division of the western corner room on its "existing floor plan" diagram, nor do they include any photographs of this space, but their photograph of what they describe as "Room 205" in this location clearly shows the partition wall between this space and the room on the other side of the partition wall (which represents the other half of this original western corner room).

Finally, Room 203, to the southeast of Room 204, has nearly the same features as Room 205, with the exception that its plumbing fixtures (toilet and sink) have been retained and cordoned off with a studded, wood paneling-covered three-quarter partition with a coat rack attached (and not built of the same material as the full partition walls found elsewhere) in order to preserve a functional second-story bathroom for the museum when it was located upstairs exclusively in the 1980s. All four of these cells on the southwest side of the second floor are used for storage at present and still have painted tile floor coverings (perhaps asbestos).

Taken as a whole, the Hampton County Jail retains many of its original features and plan, but it also reflects the changing needs of its administrators over the years as they carried out the day-to-day operations of a penal facility within its walls. With the exception of the windows, the Hampton County Jail retains a high degree of integrity.

**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)

- 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 values, 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**

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

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

LAW

**Period of Significance**

1879-1961

**Significant Dates**

1879-1880

1920

1925

ca. 1960

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

**Cultural Affiliation**

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

**Period of Significance (justification)**

The Hampton County Jail was built in 1879-80 to provide a penal facility for the newly established Hampton County. From its completion in 1880 until it closed in 1976 and a new facility was built, the jail was the only holding facility for newly-arrested persons in Hampton County. Significant renovations reflecting the changing institutional needs of the facility occurred in 1920, 1925, and in the early 1960s.

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)**

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria)

The Hampton County Jail is significant under Criterion A as a public facility designed and used to enforce the law as well as the racial segregation policies of the American South in its administration of local justice for the ensuing century following Reconstruction. It is also significant under Criterion C for its contributions to local history as a unique surviving example of a small, late nineteenth century county penal facility with an architecture reflecting various alterations during its one hundred-plus year history.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance)

The Hampton County Jail is situated in the lowcountry town of Hampton, in a portion of South Carolina that was, up until 1878, the northern district of Beaufort County. Beginning in 1877, however, “moderate” black residents of this area along with white Democrats—calling themselves “memorialists” and hoping for autonomy from the Republican-controlled lower section of the county—petitioned the South Carolina General Assembly with a declaration of independence and requested the establishment of a new county that would be distinct and separately governed from Beaufort County. In February 1878, the South Carolina General Assembly and Governor Wade Hampton III passed and signed into law Act #353, creating South Carolina’s newest county and naming it after the sitting governor. This act included language authorizing the creation of a Hampton County Courthouse Commission that would be responsible for establishing the county seat and its public buildings. After rejecting the idea of setting up this new government at nearby Varnville, county officials accepted the donation of nine acres of land known as the “DeLoach Tract,” upon which the new county’s public buildings would be constructed.<sup>16</sup> On October 12, 1878, Governor Hampton laid the cornerstone for the new courthouse nearby.<sup>17</sup> Shortly thereafter, on December 23, 1879, the town of Hampton Court House, South Carolina, was officially incorporated by Act #109 of the South Carolina Legislature. This legislation empowered the elected officials of the town to “erect and maintain a guard house” and to “commit” any persons arrested under local ordinances “to said guard house for a space of time not exceeding forty-eight hours.”<sup>18</sup>

The exact date of construction is not known, but the jail is presumed to have been completed sometime in early 1880, as existing records suggest that the jail construction was finished after the Town of Hampton Court House’s incorporation but no later than 1880.<sup>19</sup> Likewise, the exact layout of the original jail building (which consisted only of the two-story brick building three bays wide and two bays deep, described above) has not been fully determined, although surviving architectural elements and other historical data strongly suggest that the first floor was used almost entirely as a residence by the jailkeeper’s family, while the second story contained the large single jail “cage” room on the northeastern side of the building (which was used to hold black male prisoners and is sometimes called the “cell block”) and two jail cell rooms on the southwestern side of the building that roughly mirrored the footprint of the rooms below (with black female prisoners in the rear room and white male prisoners in the front room).<sup>20</sup> In any case, by July 1888, deteriorating conditions at the jail required repairs to the roof and the purchase of “300 feet cement pipe for Jail sewer,” as well as a half dozen “agate bricks,” a dozen “iron pairs,” and “buckets and tin pans.”<sup>21</sup> Three years later, the county commissioners authorized the purchase of “blankets and other necessaries” but tabled discussion of bids for a medical practitioner at the

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<sup>16</sup> Martha Bee Anderson, “Chronological Profile of Hampton County Courthouse,” July 1995, Hampton County Museum archives. See also Original Deed, Josephine A. Hoover to Commissioners, Hampton County, Book D-8, Pages 492 and 493, Hampton County Records, a transcription of which is in the possession of the Hampton County Museum. The boundary description for these nine acres was apparently sufficiently unsatisfactory to cause difficulty for the county commissioners in future years. County Commission minutes from 1892, however, confirm that the jail and the courthouse lay on the donated acreage. See Office of County Commissioners Minute Book, 1888-1904, entry for 13 June 1892, 57, a transcript of which is in the possession of the Hampton County Museum. Harris Architects, meanwhile, reports—probably incorrectly—that the jail building was completed in 1878.

<sup>17</sup> Hampton County Historical Society, *Both Sides of the Swamp: Hampton County*, Rev. ed. (Hampton, SC: Hampton County Historical Society, 1997).

<sup>18</sup> See “An Act to Incorporate the Town of Hampton Court House,” 23 Dec. 1879, photocopy provided by the Hampton County Museum.

<sup>19</sup> The State Board of Charities report from 1916 indicated a construction date of 1880. See “Hampton County Jail Inspected, State Board of Charities Report Condition of the Hampton County Jail and Almshouse,” *Hampton County Guardian*, May 10, 1916.

<sup>20</sup> No clear provisions were made for white female prisoners, although the 1916 report of the State Board of Charities indicates that white women were kept either in the white male cell or the black female cell, “depending upon which of these rooms is vacant.” See “Hampton County Jail Inspected, State Board of Charities Report Condition of the Hampton County Jail and Almshouse,” *Hampton County Guardian*, May 10, 1916.

<sup>21</sup> Office of County Commissioners Minute Book, 1888-1904, entries for 2 July 1888 and 6 August 1888, copies in the possession of the Hampton County Museum.

jail for one month, after which they finally awarded the contract.<sup>22</sup> Commission minutes throughout the 1890s and early years of the twentieth century attest to the regular bid process for a jail physician.

By 1916, when the State Board of Charities completed an inspection of the Hampton County Jail, the building's mission had expanded somewhat, given that the facility was now referred to as the "jail and almshouse." In spite of the continued hiring of an off-site physician for the facility, few prisoners were given treatment—and certainly no preliminary screening for tuberculosis, typhoid, or smallpox—unless called by the jailer for emergency circumstances. Sick prisoners were left to recuperate in their jail cells. The State Board of Charities also indicated that the local population was not particularly moved or concerned about conditions in the jail: "Local interest in the management of the jail is practically absent." This same report described the extensive cage system in the northeastern room for black males (see narrative description section of this nomination) and indicated that a flush toilet and lavatory were in this area, but the same report verified that no sewerage was available in either the white male or black female cell. Each of these other rooms, however, had a pallet with a mattress and blanket, unlike the cells in the cage area. The State Board of Charities also expressed concern that the floors were cleaned only three times per year, the cage room was poorly ventilated, the jail provided no bathing facilities for prisoners, and prisoners typically were not provided with clothing other than what they were wearing when arrested or what family members brought to them. The jailer's cook typically prepared meals for the prisoners at a cost of thirty cents per day; meals consisted of "fried bacon, hominy and cornbread for breakfast" and "vegetables, boiled bacon and cornbread for dinner." Bread was provided once per week but fresh meat was not made available.<sup>23</sup>

In spite of these concerns, conditions at the jail remained poor, although there were some marginal improvements. In its July 1917 visit, for example, the State Board of Charities and Corrections noted that metal wall bunks had been added to the sides of the cells but expressed concern at the "regrettable lack of attention paid by the jailer to matters of personal hygiene among the prisoners." Bed coverings were washed only once or twice per year. Juveniles were confined with adults. Syphilitic inmates shared bedding and eating utensils with uninfected inmates. And there was one notable dietary difference among the prisoners: white prisoners received three meals a day, while black inmates received only two.<sup>24</sup> A year later, Jailer J.P. Bowers still paid little regard to sanitation procedures, prompting state authorities to describe them as "bad." Reciting the litany of complaints from the previous two annual reports, plus some new concerns, the State Board made clear that "if the jail is to be a fit place for human habitation, the jailer must be constantly alert."<sup>25</sup> Two years later, the Hampton County Jail was the lowest rated jail in the state (532 out of a possible 1000 points), and a prisoner had frozen to death in one of the unheated jail cells the preceding winter, but there were nevertheless some minor signs of improvement. G.E. Pulaski was the new jailer and appeared open to recommendations from the State Board, which included the installation of stoves in the cell block and additional cell rooms, as well as the provision of sufficient clean blankets for the prisoners. The State Board also recommended the extension of "the wing back to the main building" from what appears to have been a detached kitchen and dining room area (no longer extant), in order to create a larger kitchen and dining space.<sup>26</sup>

The following year, 1920, Hampton County officials completed substantial renovations and improvements to address many concerns expressed by state authorities in the preceding years. The addition of the new wing with "a good brick dining room and kitchen" was hailed by the State as "greatly increas[ing] the comfort of the jailer's family." Hampton officials also added two new flush toilets and installed three oil stoves in the jail cells, and they provided more blankets and mattresses for prisoners.<sup>27</sup> A year later, the removal of the shutters from jail cell windows and the installation of

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<sup>22</sup> Office of County Commissioners Minute Book, 1888-1904, 2 Feb. 1891 and 2 March 1891, copies in the possession of the Hampton County Museum

<sup>23</sup> Quoted material is from "Hampton County Jail Inspected, State Board of Charities Report Condition of the Hampton County Jail and Almshouse," *Hampton County Guardian*, May 10, 1916.

<sup>24</sup> State of South Carolina, "Third Annual Report of the State Board of Charities and Corrections of South Carolina, 1917, to the Governor" (Columbia: Gonzales and Bryan, 1917), 100, bound in *Reports, State Officers, Boards and Committees, South Carolina, 1918*, Vol. II (Columbia: Gonzales and Bryan, 1918).

<sup>25</sup> State of South Carolina, "Fourth Annual Report of the State Board of Charities and Corrections of South Carolina, 1918, to the Governor" (Columbia: Gonzales and Bryan, 1919), 81-82, bound in *Reports of State Officers, Boards and Committees, South Carolina, 1919*, Vol. II (Columbia: Gonzales and Bryan, 1919).

<sup>26</sup> State of South Carolina, "Fifth Annual Report of the State Board of Charities and Corrections of South Carolina, 1919, to the Governor" (Columbia: Gonzales and Bryan, 1919-1920), 51 and 73-74, bound in *Reports of State Officers, Boards and Committees, South Carolina, 1920*, Vol. II (Columbia: Gonzales and Bryan, 1920).

<sup>27</sup> State of South Carolina, "First Annual Report of the State Board of Public Welfare of South Carolina, 1920" (Columbia: Gonzales and Bryan, 1920), 88-89, bound in *Reports of State Officers, Boards and Committees, South Carolina, 1921*, Vol. II (Columbia: Gonzales and Bryan, 1921).

kitchen screens prompted state authorities to suggest that “with a few more improvements this jail will be among the best old small jails in the State.” Screens were still needed in the cells, however, as was electric light in the prisoner areas.<sup>28</sup>

By 1925, however, there were new challenges at the Hampton County Jail. State authorities noted ongoing problems with the roof between the jail and the kitchen addition, and the front porch needed considerable repair.<sup>29</sup> Concerns over these issues as well as rotting timbers and a desperate need for updating at the jail building led to substantial renovations in 1925 that were designed to make the jail a “much more substantial and respectable” facility, “of which the county need not be ashamed.”<sup>30</sup> Plans for long needed repairs to and remodeling of the court house and jail were announced in the *Hampton County Guardian*, the local newspaper, on August 5, 1925.<sup>31</sup> Despite these improvements, however, the 1926 report from the State Board of Public Welfare apparently described the jail, as reported in the local press, as still requiring improvement. Updates in 1925 included painting, installation of a modern furnace, steam heat, and running water for both the jailer’s quarters and the cell areas, as well as installation of the cage around the central stairway, the creation of the second floor egress onto the fire escape, and the addition of a “convenient and attractive front porch.” The State Board praised these changes, raising the jail’s evaluative score to 855 from 756 in 1925, but the Board also recommended the erection of a “modern and secure high wire fence to enclose the back yard of the jail,” electric lighting (which still was not installed), and a dramatic increase in the jailer’s salary and the addition of matron’s pay for his wife, given that the existing salary was only twenty dollars per month.<sup>32</sup> It is believed that the county converted the north corner room on the first floor from domestic use to a cell for white women at this time. Fireplaces on the first floor were likely removed and the bathroom added in Room 104 at this same time.<sup>33</sup> Although undocumented, the noted Columbia architectural firm of Lafaye & Lafaye may have completed these renovations on the jail, as they are said to have been involved in the design of the renovations taking place simultaneously at the Hampton County Courthouse.<sup>34</sup>

By 1958, jail overcrowding appears to have become a minor concern, which may be what prompted the renovations during the early 1960s that subdivided the existing cell areas other than the northeastern cage room. The jailer in 1958, Mrs. W. Lee Woods, told a local paper that year that the jail typically had between five and fifteen prisoners in house at any given time, most of them awaiting trial on fairly minor crimes like drunk and disorderly charges or larceny or assault cases. Such numbers easily would have strained the facilities as they existed at that time. In dramatic contrast to the original act authorizing the construction of the jail, which stipulated that prisoners could be held no longer than forty eight hours, many of the inmates also stayed for substantially longer periods of time as they awaited trial in the nearby courthouse. Once convicted and sentenced, prisoners were usually transferred to the state penitentiary. The jail served an important secondary function to the community as well during this period. Woods explained that the jail was in fact Hampton County’s “trouble hub,” in that it housed the short-wave radio hook-up used for communication between the sheriff and other officers in Hampton and Estill, and Woods also served as the pre-modern equivalent of a 911 operator, fielding emergency telephone calls and then relaying the messages via radio to police officers.<sup>35</sup>

Beginning in 1977, following the official transfer of jail operations to the new county jail building, the Hampton County Council leased the Hampton County Jail for several years (until 1989) to the South Carolina Department of Wildlife and

<sup>28</sup> State of South Carolina, “Second Annual Report of the State Board of Public Welfare of South Carolina, 1921,” Vol. II, No. IV (Columbia: Gonzales and Bryan, 1921-22), 75, bound in *Reports of State Officers, Boards and Committees, South Carolina, 1922*, Vol. II (Columbia: Gonzales and Bryan, 1922).

<sup>29</sup> State of South Carolina, “Fifth Annual Report of the State Board of Public Welfare of South Carolina, 1924,” Vol. V, No. IV (Joint Committee on Printing, General Assembly of South Carolina), 82, bound in *Reports of State Officers, Boards and Committees, South Carolina, 1925*, Vol. II (Joint Committee on Printing, General Assembly of South Carolina, 1925).

<sup>30</sup> “Work on Courthouse Progressing Fast,” *Hampton County Guardian*, Oct. 14, 1925.

<sup>31</sup> “Court House and Jail Will be Remodelled Says Delegation,” *Hampton County Guardian*, August 5, 1925.

<sup>32</sup> “Near Perfect Score for Hampton’s Jail,” *Hampton County Guardian*, July 27, 1926.

<sup>33</sup> See Harris Architects, 4-6.

<sup>34</sup> “Hampton County Courthouse, Save Our Courthouse!, 200<sup>th</sup> Birthday Gift to Bicentennial County,” *Hampton County Guardian*, June 23, 1976; National Register nomination for Hampton County Courthouse, August 18, 1978, State Historic Preservation Office, South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia, South Carolina; “Lafaye Associates Papers, 1902-1981,” South Caroliniana Library, Columbia, South Carolina. Any involvement by Lafaye & Lafaye in the renovations of either the Hampton County Courthouse or the Hampton County Jail is absent from the Lafaye & Lafaye commission lists, as well as from sketches on George E. Lafaye and Robert S. Lafaye in John E. Wells’ and Robert E. Dalton’s *The South Carolina Architects, 1885-1935: A Biographical Dictionary* (Richmond, Virginia: New South Architectural Press, 1992), pp. 94-99.

<sup>35</sup> “Hampton County’s Lady Jailer,” October 1, 1958, *Hampton County Guardian* article reprinted in commemorative issue, in the possession of the Hampton County Museum. Woods was, for many years, South Carolina’s only woman jailer (though not its first one), serving in this capacity from 1952 to 1972 after serving for fifteen years as jail matron during her husband’s tenure as jailer. See “Mrs. Ferguson, New Jailer,” news clipping about Ida Belger Ferguson (Mrs. Robert Lee Ferguson) from unknown paper, but probably *Hampton County Guardian*, Dec. 11, 1972, a copy of which is in the possession of the Hampton County Museum; and “Hampton Has Only Lady-Jailer for a County in South Carolina,” an article that appeared in *The State*, Columbia, South Carolina, 1964.

Marine Resources. Two years later, the county council leased the upstairs portion of the old jail building to the Hampton County Historical Society for the purpose of establishing a museum.<sup>36</sup> At present, the building continues to house the Hampton County Historical Society.

As this brief history demonstrates, the Hampton County Jail is significant under Criterion A as a noteworthy example of a government facility designed and used to enforce the racial segregation policies of the American South in its administration of local justice during the period following Reconstruction and for much of the twentieth century. Not only were black prisoners historically housed separately from white prisoners in interior facilities constructed exclusively to enforce this separation, but these facilities—as well as such procedures as the provision of meals and bedding—reflected the differences in treatment provided to black inmates in contrast to their white counterparts. The jail is also significant under Criterion C for its contributions to local history as a unique surviving example of the architecture of a small, late nineteenth-century, county penal facility reflecting various alterations during its one hundred-year history.

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<sup>36</sup> See Minutes of Meeting of Hampton County Council, 7 Feb. 1977 and 15 Jan. 1979, copies of which are in the possession of the Hampton County Museum.

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**Developmental history/additional historic context information** (if appropriate)

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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

Name of repository: **Hampton County Historical Soc. & Museum**

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**Photographs:**

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Submit clear and descriptive black and white photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

**Name of Property:** Hampton County Jail  
**City or Vicinity:** Hampton  
**County:** Hampton **State:** South Carolina  
**Photographer:** Eric Plaag  
**Date Photographed:** October 13, 2010

1. Main Oblique View (SE elevation)
2. Southeast Elevation, Cornice Detail
3. South Oblique (note stack on SW wall)
4. Southwest Elevation, Rear Portion
5. Southwest Elevation, Front Portion
6. West Oblique
7. Northwest Elevation Oblique (note fire escape)
8. Northeast Elevation, Rear Addition
9. Northeast Elevation, Front Portion (note stack on NE wall)
10. East Oblique
11. Northeast Elevation, with Surroundings (note Hampton County Emergency Services Bldg at right)
12. Southeast Portico and Entrance Detail
13. Center Staircase and Hallway, Looking Northwest
14. First Floor Jail Cell Door, Inside Detail
15. First Floor Hallway, Looking Southeast
16. First Floor Jail Cell Door, Outside Detail
17. Cage Around Stairwell, Looking Up and Northwest
18. Inside of Jail Cell Door, West Corner Cell (second floor)
19. Outside of Second Floor Jail Cell Door, West Corner Cell
20. Room 206, Southwest Side of Cell Block, Looking Northwest
21. Room 206, Inside Cell Block Hallway, Looking Northwest
22. Room 206, Inside Cell Block Hallway, Looking Northwest (with flash)
23. Room 206, Cell Block Door
24. Room 206, Cell Block Locking Mechanism Detail
25. Room 206, Northeast Side of Cell Block, Looking Northwest
26. Room 206, Top of Cell Block, Looking Northeast
27. Second Floor Hallway, Looking Northwest
28. Room 203, Latrine Area
29. Southeast Entrance, Interior Detail, Looking Southeast
30. Hampton County Jail, Looking North

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