THEMATIC SURVEY OF CALABOOSES (EARLY JAILS) IN OKLAHOMA



Prepared by
Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office
2023

Acknowledgments

The Calaboose (Early Jails) of Oklahoma Thematic Survey has been funded with Federal funds from the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. However, the contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Department of the Interior.

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Abstract

This report represents the findings of the thematic survey of stand-alone Calabooses (Early Jails) in Oklahoma. The survey was conducted to develop an inventory and evaluate individual early jails for potential eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). This report discusses the common building types and architectural styles surveyed, provides a historical context of the calaboose, and assesses the survey resources' historic significance and integrity. The survey was conducted by Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) staff between 2022 and 2023.

A total of 105 resources were surveyed and evaluated for potential eligibility to the National Register based on their historical significance and integrity. Of these resources:

- Thirty-eight are recommended not eligible for National Register listing.
- Forty-three are recommended individually eligible for National Register listing under a proposed Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF).
- Eleven are currently listed in the National Register, either individually or as a contributing resource to a listed historic district.
- Four are recommended eligible for National Register listing as contributing resources to historic districts.
- Four were previously documented and recommended eligible for National Register listing as part of a survey of All-Black towns in Oklahoma.
- Two were previously determined individually eligible for National Register listing by consensus through the Section 106.
- Three warrant further study.

Introduction

The Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) conducted this thematic survey at the behest of citizens across the State of Oklahoma to address the need for documentation of the numerous calabooses that are often overlooked remnants of pre and early-statehood methods of incarceration.

No statewide survey documenting Oklahoma's calabooses has been previously conducted by the SHPO. Eight stand-alone jails are currently listed in the NRHP either individually or as contributing resources to historic districts. These include The jail associated with the 101 Ranch, Kay County (73001560); The jail that is part of the Canadian Jail & Livery Stable in Canadian, Pittsburg County (80003295); The Doaksville, Choctaw County jail that is part of the Doaksville archeological site (75001561) (The jail that is part of the Grandfield Downtown Historic District in Grandfield, Tillman County (2000656); The Manitou Jail in Manitou, Tillman County (16000851); The jail associated with the Saline Courthouse near Saline, Delaware County (76001561); The Skullyville County Jail west of Panama, LeFlore County (80004286); and the Tamaha Jail and Ferry Landing in Tamaha, Haskell County (80003266). Two non-stand-alone jails are listed as part of a larger City Hall: Taft City Hall in Taft, Muskogee County (84003330); and the Weleetka Town Hall and Jail in Weleetka, Okfuskee, County (93000156). One metal cell is part of the Logan County Courthouse (84003141).

At the conclusion of this survey in the Fall of 2023, 86 stand-alone calabooses, seven metal cells, and 12 non-stand alone have been identified and documented for a total of 105. Nine calabooses were identified but not documented due to time constraints: Billings (Noble County), Hinton (Caddo County), Hoffman, (Okmulgee County), Locust Grove (Mayes County), Okeene (Blaine County), Spavinaw (Mayes County)[1], Dawson (Tulsa County), and Watts (Adair County).

This survey project was created as a team effort by the Oklahoma SHPO staff: project guidance and oversight came from Lynda Ozan and Dr. Matthew Pearce; Michael Mayes and Dr. Pearce conducted all fieldwork, including photography and data entry; Marcus Young and Michael Mayes organized mapping of all resources; Michael Mayes provided research and drafted the survey report along with the historic

[1] Spavinaw is noted as having 2 (two) calabooses.

context. This report and survey data can help facilitate community historic preservation initiatives in the State of Oklahoma and will assist the Oklahoma SHPO in planning processes pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended.

Research Design

Development of Oklahoma's early jails occurred over several phases beginning in the mid-1800s through the early 1960s. The survey was conducted to identify historic-age resources (meaning resources over fifty years of age) and to assess their current integrity and significance. Approximately 99 percent of resources within the survey area are over fifty years of age (one hundred-four out of one hundred-five total resources). Regardless of age, all resources were evaluated for eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places. Research and evaluation methodology occurred in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards and Guidelines for Identification* and guidelines provided by Oklahoma SHPO's *Architectural/Historic Resources Survey: A Field Guide* (updated 2013). All properties were surveyed in 2023 through site visits and photographs. A historical context was developed by relying on primary and secondary sources provided by the Oklahoma Historical Society Research Center in Oklahoma City along with reviews of Sanborn and Clarkson Fire Insurance Maps, historic aerial photographs, Google Earth, and local newspapers to help establish dates of construction and provenance for each property. Documentation of each property was uploaded to the Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory (OLI) and includes the property's physical address, latitude/longitude coordinates, historic and current functions, date of construction, architectural style, exterior materials, a brief resource description, and photographs. Documentation in the OLI is publicly available through the Oklahoma SHPO website (www.okhistory.org/shpo) or by visiting the SHPO office during regular business hours.

Area Surveyed

The area surveyed includes the entire state of Oklahoma. No extant properties were identified in the Panhandle area of the state (Texas, Beaver, and Cimmaron counties).

Project Objectives

This survey had the following objectives:

- Identify and record each resource within the survey area on the Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory (OLI).
- Assess each resource's eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
- Prepare a historical context for the survey area.

Methodology

Survey methodology occurred in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards and Guidelines for Identification* and Oklahoma SHPO's *Architectural/Historic Resources Survey: A Field Guide*, as discussed in greater detail below.

Field Work and Data Entry

Initial preparation for the fieldwork included reviewing Sanborn and Clarkson fire insurance maps to help identify potential locations for extant one and two-room stand-alone calabooses. Newspaper articles, Google Earth, and the Gateway to Oklahoma History database were utilized to identify potential properties while also determining resources no longer extant. Texas author Bill Moore, who is also conducting research on Oklahoma's calabooses, was an invaluable resource. Public outreach was also employed to determine locations of properties not identifiable through other available resources.

Determining National Register Eligibility

In the "Description of Significance" field for all resources documented in the Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory (OLI), Oklahoma SHPO staff indicated whether a resource (1) is eligible for listing in the National Register, either individually or as a contributing resource to a historic district, along with appropriate criteria, or (2) is not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places due to a lack of significance, lack of integrity, or both. If there was insufficient information available to assess potential significance, staff indicated that a resource warrants further study to determine National Register eligibility.

Established under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) is the catalog of buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, or culture. National Park Service regulations (36 CFR Part 60, as amended) govern the NRHP evaluation and nomination process.

Each resource documented within the survey area was evaluated for National Register eligibility. A resource must have local, state, or national significance and retain sufficient integrity to convey the time period for which they are significant. All evaluations for National Register eligibility adhered to the methodology laid out in the National Register of Historic Places Bulletin 15: *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*.

A resource must retain *historic integrity* and have *historic significance* at the local, state, or national level in order to be determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. *Historic integrity* is defined by seven aspects: *location*, *design*, *setting*, *workmanship*, *materials*, *feeling*, and *association*. Resources typically retain some aspects of integrity to a higher degree than others. A combination of some or most aspects of integrity is often sufficient, and the aspects of integrity can be weighted differently depending upon the National Register criteria being applied. However, a resource should possess sufficient integrity to be recognizably associated with the period in which it attained significance.

In addition to maintaining historic integrity, a resource eligible for the National Register of Historic Places must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Criterion A: association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of history;
- Criterion B: association with the lives of persons significant in our past;
- Criterion C: 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 may lack individual distinction;

- Criterion D: has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

All four criteria were given consideration during the course of this study, with strongest consideration given to Criterion A and Criterion C.

Under Criterion A, a resource must reflect a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. Calabooses reflect the development of law enforcement in Oklahoma communities during the late territorial and early statehood periods. Thus, Law was considered the most applicable area of significance. A period of significance from 1904 to 1970 was identified, which corresponds to the most pronounced period in which calabooses were in use by law enforcement throughout Oklahoma.

To be eligible under Criterion B, a resource must be directly associated with the life and contributions of a significant person. Research was conducted in an attempt to uncover both individuals of notoriety who may have been incarcerated at some point in a calaboose and law enforcement officers who might have contributed to the development of a particular early jail. However, such research did not uncover any resources that met Criterion B.

Resources eligible under Criterion C represent an important example of a distinctive type, period, or method of construction, reflect the work of a master craftsman or architect, embody high artistic value, or represent a distinct entity whose components lack individual distinction. The survey team identified specific construction techniques, materials, and building types associated with early holding facilities. Calabooses typically were of a modest one- or two-room building type constructed by local builders with locally sourced materials, including stone, lumber, or concrete. As such, a calaboose was recommended individually eligible under Criterion C if it embodied distinctive characteristics of a particular jail type. In a handful of circumstances, a resource was recommended eligible as a contributing resource to a historic district if it lacked individual distinction but was associated with a larger, distinct entity such as a city hall complex or downtown business district.

Resources are eligible for the National Register under Criterion D if they have

yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important to prehistory or history. Although commonly applied to archeological sites, Criterion D can also apply to buildings, structures, and objects. For such resources to be eligible under Criterion D, they must be the principal source of important information. The survey team considered Criterion D in rare circumstances where 1) an extant calaboose was of a rare type; and 2) its design and materials could convey important information related to our understanding of early construction techniques applied to local holding facilities.

Certain kinds of resources are not usually considered for National Register listing, including religious properties, relocated properties, birthplaces and graves, cemeteries, reconstructed properties, commemorative properties, and properties that have achieved significance within the past fifty years. However, such properties can be eligible for listing if they meet certain requirements, or Criteria Considerations. Of the seven criteria considerations, only Criteria Consideration B was considered to have possible application in the survey. Criteria Consideration B allows an exemption for a resource moved from its original location but is significant for its architectural value or as a surviving resource most importantly associated with a significant event or person.

Survey Results

Resources Observed

In total, one hundred-five resources were documented in the survey area (see Table 1). The overwhelming majority were of a formed concrete construction (47 percent, or forty-nine resources). Formed concrete jails observed consist of one room (24 percent, or twenty-five resources) and two rooms (23 percent, or twenty-four resources), with some containing a small corridor or reception area that research indicates was used as an office for the arresting deputy. 18 percent or nineteen jails constructed of native stone were recorded during the survey, while 12 percent or thirteen jails constructed of either brick, concrete block, fire-proof clay tile, or a combination of these were observed. Four percent or 4 resources of a wood frame were documented. Of the 4 wood-frame jails documented, Skedee, Pawnee County is the only one that remains in its original location and maintains integrity.

Freestanding metal cells were initially documented as part of the calaboose survey, however as research developed it was determined that the majority of these resources were not in their original location or their original form. Metal cells that are still visible across the state were initially housed in either a wood frame building with an exterior skin of wood and corrugated metal or concrete. Metal cells that were originally part of a larger building such as a courthouse or city hall and had at some point been extracted from their original location were also observed.

Some early calabooses are identified through Sanborn and Clarkson maps as a wood frame structure that is noted as “iron clad”. The metal exterior was most typically corrugated metal, as observed at the calaboose in Vera, Washington County.

Jails as part of a town city hall or police department (referred to as non-stand-alone jails in the survey) were documented when accessible or convenient. Non-stand-alone jails and freestanding metal cells were not prioritized due to time constraints, however, SHPO attempted to document as many of these buildings and cages as possible because of their importance to the early development of our state system of incarceration.

Table 1: Build Style of Resources Observed

Type	# of Resources
One-Room Formed Concrete	25
Two-Room Formed Concrete	24
Native Stone	19
Wood Framed	4
Iron Clad	1
Metal Cell	7
Brick/Concrete Block/Clay Tile	13
Non-Stand-Alone	12
Total	105

Dates of construction within the survey area vary from pre-statehood to mid-20th century. The earliest dates of construction documented in the survey area include Doaksville, Choctaw County, ca. early 1800s; Anadarko, Caddo County, ca. 1871; and Skullyville, Le Flore County, ca. 1888. The latest date of construction is noted as ca. 1960 (Cache, Comanche County) and 2013 (Dewey, Washington County).[2] Before the 1960 build date of the Cache jail, the latest known dates of construction are 1939 Disney, Mayes County; 1939 Boswell, Choctaw County; and 1940 Grandfield, Tillman County.[3]

[2] It should be noted that the calaboose in Dewey is a replica of the former Tom Mix jail that had fallen into disrepair. The original metal works including doors and ventilation bars are original.

[3] Four (4) calabooses have been documented as being razed approximately within the last decade:
Okarche, Canadian/Kingfisher Counties. Between 2008 - 2013
Porter, Wagoner County. Between 2013 – 2023
Stilwell, Adair County. 2021
Lyman, Osage County. 2023 (This was the last standing structure of the former community of Lyman. It was reported to the SHPO survey coordinator that OERB had recently been to the area doing clean-up work).

Wood-Frame

The few remaining wood-frame calabooses show similar build styles of 2”x4” sawmill lumber layered on top of each other. Metal bars typically fabricated by the local blacksmith allowed ventilation and reinforced door locks. Numerous newspaper articles point out one glaring fault of the wood calaboose though, which was its inability to withstand fires that prisoners started in attempts to escape the law. Most incarcerated individuals died as a result of trying to burn their way to freedom. Arson and the building’s natural organic composition have resulted in there being few of these jails left.



Figure 1: *Skedee Jail, Pawnee County. Build date 1904. Two-room calaboose with separate entry doors for each cell. Stacked 2”x4” exterior with ventilation openings with iron bars at front and side elevations. Corrugated metal is used for the roof.*

Native Stone

Native stone calabooses made use of the readily available resources in the area that could be quickly and easily constructed by local builders. Native stone jails were primarily observed in the eastern half of the state and displayed a rectangular cut design. Local blacksmiths provided the iron for doors and bars to secure entrances and ventilation openings. Entry doors were typically either wood-planked with reinforced iron or metal bars. Plumbing was not observed in any of the native stone calabooses with the exception of the jail in Grandfield, Tillman County which is a later build date (1940).



***Figure 2**: Keota Jail, Haskell County. The build date is unknown. One-room native stone. Barrel roof with ventilation openings at side elevations.*

One-Room Formed Concrete

Formed concrete became the most popular building design beginning in the early 1900s through the 1940s. Formed concrete is a method of creating frameworks to give structure to concrete as it cures. Inexpensive and secure, these calabooses could be built within a few days by local carpenters. Earlier concrete jails typically did not contain comforts such as plumbing or climate control, however, some later builds were observed that contained simple concrete latrines and later additions of plumbing and electrical lines. Entry doors were typically either wood plank with iron reinforcement or metal bars.



***Figure 3**: Marble City Jail, Sequoyah County. Build date ca. 1911. One-room formed concrete. Barrel roof with ventilation openings at side elevations.*



Figure 4: *Interior view of Marble City Jail, Sequoyah County. Two bunks with a concrete latrine separated by a concrete wall.*

Two-Room Formed Concrete

Like the smaller one-room calabooses, two-room formed concrete calaboose designs typically showcase either a concrete low-pitch barrel or a flat roof. Two-room jails had the added space of either a second cell separated by a hallway or in some cases two rooms with one serving as a cell and the second as either a small office space for the deputy or an additional cell if needed as indicated through various newspaper articles. Entry doors were either wood plank with iron reinforcement or metal bars. Concrete interior walls with metal bar doors subdivide the interior space. The exterior of most formed concrete jails was left unfinished with few showing signs of being painted.



Figure 5: *Chouteau, Mayes County. Build date ca. 1920. Two-room formed concrete. Barrel concrete roof. Single entry door with a small interior corridor separating the two cells. Small ventilation openings at the sides and rear for both cells.*

Brick, Concrete Block, or Clay Tile

Brick, concrete block, and clay tile make up a small percentage of calabooses across the state. Brick was a readily available material through several localized brick companies. Non-stand-alone concrete block calabooses were observed in Cache, Longdale, Maud, and Muldrow. While Cache and Longdale have a strong resemblance in design, the concrete block calaboose in Maud appears to be the remnants of a much larger building that is no longer extant and of a much later build date (post-1954). The Laverne jail (b. 1930) has a fireproof clay tile exterior that has been painted.



Figure 6: *Canadian Jail, Pittsburg County. Build date pre-1907. Originally a two-room jail. One interior wall has since been removed. Listed on the NRHP in 1979 as part of the Canadian jail and livery stable.*



Figure 7: *Longdale Jail, Blaine County. Build date unknown. Two-room concrete block exterior, flat concrete roof, and additional front interior corridor area.*



Figure 8: *Laverne Jail, Harper County. Build date 1930. Two-room clay tile exterior, flat roof with a stepped parapet, and an additional front interior corridor area.*

Metal Cells

Numerous metal cells can be found across the state and typically contain one to three separate cells usually with foldable metal bunks. These cells were housed in a larger building of either concrete or wood frame with a metal exterior. Metal jail cells were big business with companies including the Pauly Jail Building Company out of St. Louis, Missouri, the Southern Structural Steel Company located in Smithfield, Virginia, and E.T. Barnum based in Detroit, Michigan providing these prefabricated cells to numerous communities across the country.



Figure 9: *Perry Jail, Noble County. Build date ca. 1918. Originally located in Kaw City, this two-cell metal cage was donated to the Cherokee Strip Museum in Perry after the town of Kaw City was flooded in 1976 as part of the Kaw Lake Reservoir in Kay and Osage counties. This metal cage was housed inside a wood-frame building slightly larger than the cage and was located behind the original Kaw City Town Hall on W. 5th Ave (1924 Sanborn Insurance Map).*

Iron-Clad

"Iron-Clad" is a term used frequently on Sanborn Insurance Maps to describe a building that is a wood frame with a metal exterior. This building type was popular from the early 1900s through the late 1920s as corrugated metal was quick and reliable and could be used for a multitude of purposes. Building a wood frame around metal cells that could be ordered and shipped in through the railroad and covering the exterior with metal was an efficient method that provided protection from the elements while keeping the incarcerated individuals secured.



Figure 10: *Vera Jail, Washington County. Build date ca. 1906. The Vera jail is the only known extant metal cell housed in a wood-frame iron-clad exterior. It was moved in 1991 roughly six blocks from its original location to protect it from further vandalism.*

Non-Stand-Alone

An integral part of the research for the thematic survey included documenting several jails that are part of larger city hall buildings in rural areas across the state. This research was important for understanding how different communities developed and planned certain aspects of their social and economic infrastructure that dealt with holding and securing incarcerated individuals through local government.



Figure 11: *Osage City Hall and Jail, Osage County. Build date unknown. The one-room jail is part of the former city hall.*

List of Specific Properties Surveyed

During the course of the Thematic Survey of Oklahoma's Calabooses (Early Jails), approximately one hundred-five resources were identified and recorded at the minimal level of documentation. Each resource is listed and illustrated below by city/county and date of construction/eligibility recommendation.

Table 2: STAND-ALONE CALABOOSES

CITY/COUNTY	DATE OF CONSTRUCTION. ELIGIBILITY RECOMMENDATION	PHOTO
Addington. Jefferson County	Build Date: ca. 1923. Not eligible	
Alex. Grady County	Build Date: Unknown. Not eligible	
Amber. Grady County	Build Date ca. 1915. Warrants further study	
Anadarko. Caddo County	Build Date: ca. 1871 Warrants further study	

Avant. Osage County	Build Date: ca. 1912 Not eligible	
Bennington. Bryan County	Build Date: ca. 1913. Not eligible	
Binger. Caddo County	Build Date: 1925. Eligible (A, C)	
Boswell. Choctaw County	Build Date: 1939. Eligible (A, C)	
Boynton. Muskogee County	Build Date: 1925. Not eligible	

Burbank. Osage County	Build Date: Unknown. Not eligible	
Butler. Custer County	Build Date: 1930. Eligible (A, C)	
Byars. McClain County	Build Date: 1930. Not eligible	
Cache. Comanche County	Build Date: 1960. Not eligible	
Camargo. Dewey County	Build Date: Unknown. Eligible (A, C)	

Canute. Washita County	Build Date: Unknown. Eligible (A, C)	
Carter. Beckham County	Build Date: ca. 1911. Eligible (A, C)	
Chickasha. Grady County	Build Date: 1895. Not eligible	
Chouteau. Mayes County	Build Date: 1920. Eligible (A, C)	
Covington. Garfield County	Build Date: 1920-1929. Eligible (A, C)	

Darlington. Canadian County	Build Date: Unknown. Not eligible	
Depew. Creek County	Build Date: Unknown Warrants Further Study	
Devol. Cotton County	Build Date: ca. 1930. Eligible (A, C)	
Dewey. Washington County	Build Date: 2013. Not eligible	
Dougherty. Murray County	Build Date: 1909. Eligible (A, C)	

Eakly. Caddo County	Build Date: Unknown. Eligible (A, C)	
Eufaula. McIntosh County	Build Date: ca. 1916. Recommended contributing to Eufaula Business District	
Fairland. Ottawa County	Build Date: ca. 1930. Eligible (A, C)	
Freedom. Woods County	Build Date: 1935. Not eligible	
Gans. Sequoyah County	Build Date: Unknown. Eligible (A, C)	

Geary. Blaine County	Build Date: ca. 1893. Not eligible	
Gore. Sequoyah County	Build Date: Unknown. Eligible (A, C)	
Gracemont. Caddo County	Build Date: ca. 1930. Eligible (A, C)	
Grandfield. Tillman County	Build Date: 1940. Recommended eligible as a contributing resource to potential Grandfield City Hall Historic District	
Granite. Greer County	Build Date: ca. 1920. Eligible (A, C)	

Hallett. Pawnee County	Build Date: ca. 1913. Not eligible	
Headrick. Jackson County	Build Date: Unknown. Eligible (A, C)	
Inola. Rogers County	Build Date: Unknown. Eligible (A, C)	
Jones. Oklahoma County	Build Date: Unknown. Not eligible	
Keota. Haskell County	Build Date: Unknown. Not eligible	

Laverne. Harper County	Build Date: 1930. Not eligible	
Leedey. Dewey County	Build Date: ca. 1930 Eligible (A, C)	
Longdale. Blaine County	Build Date: Unknown Eligible (A)	
Marble City. Sequoyah County	Build Date: ca. 1911 Eligible (A, C)	
Maud. Pottawatomie County	Build Date: Unknown Not eligible	

Milburn. Johnston County	Build Date: ca. 1922 Eligible (A, C)	
Muldrow. Sequoyah County	Build Date: ca. 1919 Eligible (A, C)	
Nelagoney. Osage County	Build Date: ca. 1921 Eligible (A, C)	
Pine Valley. Le Flore County	Build Date: ca. 1927 Eligible (A, C)	
Ripley. Payne County	Build Date: ca. 1911 Eligible (A, C)	

Roff. Pontotoc County	Build Date: 1911-1928 Eligible (A, C)	
Ryan. Jefferson County	Build Date: 1919 Recommended eligible along w/ Ryan segregated jail (A, C)	
Ryan (segregated). Jefferson County	Build Date: Unknown Recommended eligible along w/ Ryan jail (A, C)	
Sentinel. Washita County	Build Date: Unknown Eligible (A, C)	
Shamrock. Creek County	Build Date: ca. 1920 Eligible (A, C)	

Shidler. Osage County	Build Date: 1922 Eligible (A, C)	
Skedee. Pawnee County	Build Date: 1904 Eligible (A, D)	
Smithville. McCurtain County	Build Date: ca. 1920 Eligible (A, C)	
Sparks. Lincoln County	Build Date: Unknown Not eligible	
Strang. Mayes County	Build Date: Unknown Eligible (A, C)	

Stratford. Garvin County	Build Date: 1918-1928 Eligible (A, C)	
Stuart. Hughes County	Build Date: 1918 Eligible (A, C)	
Terlton. Pawnee County.	Build Date: 1916 Eligible (A, C)	
Terral. Jefferson County	Build Date: Unknown Not eligible	
Texola. Beckham County	Build Date: ca. 1920 Eligible (A, C)	

Vera. Washington County	Build Date: ca. 1900 Eligible (A, C)	
Verden. Grady County	Build Date: 1932 Eligible (A, C)	
Vici. Dewey County	Build Date: ca. 1931 Eligible (A, C)	
Wanette. Pottawatomie County	Build Date: 1904-1908 Not eligible	
Wapanucka. Johnston County	Build Date: 1920 Not eligible	

Washington. McClain County	Build date; Unknown Not eligible	
Wayne. McClain County	Build Date: ca. 1915 Eligible (A, C)	
Webbers Falls. Muskogee County	Build Date: ca. 1912 Not eligible	

Non-Stand-Alone

Some non-stand-alone resources were identified and documented as part of the thematic survey to help gain a broader aspect of construction methods. The resources observed are typically a combination of city hall/jail or a resource that contained a jail section and a front reception area or possible office space and are larger than the typical one or two-room calaboose.

Table 3: Non-Stand-Alone

CITY/COUNTY	DATE OF CONSTRUCTION. ELIGIBILITY RECOMMENDATION	PHOTO
Bromide. Johnston County	Build Date: 1939 Not eligible	
Cement. Caddo County	Build Date: 1920-1930 Not eligible	
Coyle. Logan County	Build Date: 1913 Eligible (A, C)	
Durant. Bryan County	Build Date: 1937 Not eligible	

Elgin. Comanche County	Build Date: 1957-1975 Not eligible	
McAlester. Pittsburg County	Build Date: ca. 1895 Not eligible	
Mountain Park. Kiowa County	Build Date: 1911 Eligible (A, C)	
Osage. Osage County	Build Date: Unknown Eligible (A)	
Talihina. Le Flore County	Build Date: 1915 Not eligible	

Tupelo. Coal County	Build Date: ca. 1912 Not eligible	

Metal Cells

Numerous metal cells that once served as holding pens are located throughout the states. Research has concluded that stand-alone metal cells observed were enclosed at some point with an exterior shell of either metal, concrete, or a wood frame. As these cells no longer maintain their original integrity they are recommended as not eligible resources to the survey. Metal cells were observed at various points to develop further research and data on the number of cells still extant and their origins. The following are recommended not individually eligible for NRHP listing.

Table 4: Metal Cells

CITY/COUNTY	DATE OF CONSTRUCTION. MANUFACTURER	PHOTO
Chandler. Lincoln County	Build Date: ca. 1929. Unknown	
Foss. Washita County	Build Date: Unknown. Pauly Jail Co.	
Guthrie. Logan County	Build date: Unknown. Liberty Jail Co.	
Macomb. Pottawatomie County	Build Date: Unknown. Unknown	

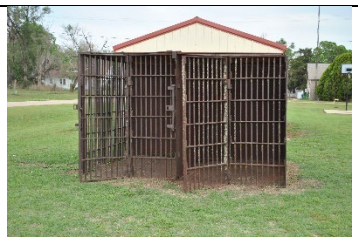
Manchester. Grant County	Build Date: Unknown. Unknown	
Perry. Noble County	Build Date: Ca. 1918. Unknown	
Vici. Dewey County	Build Date: Unknown. Pauly Jail Co.	

Table 5: NRHP Listed and Section 106 Eligible Calabooses

CITY/COUNTY	SECTION 106 and NRHP LISTING	PHOTO
Canadian. Pittsburg County	NRHP #80003295 Listed as the Canadian Jail and Livery Stables. Build Date: Pre-1907	
Disney. Mayes County	Eligible (Consensus, A, 08/18/1993) Build Date: ca. 1939	
Doaksville. Choctaw County	NRHP #75001561 Contributing Resource of Doaksville Site. Build Date: Early 1800s	
Grandfield (segregated). Tillman County	NRHP #2000656 Contributing Resource of Grandfield Downtown District. Build Date: ca. 1917	
Manitou. Tillman County	NRHP #16000851 Individually Listed. Build Date: 1922	

Saline. Delaware County	NRHP #76001561 Contributing Resource of the Saline Courthouse. Build Date: ca. 1900	
Skullyville. Le Flore County	NRHP #80004286 Individually Listed. Build Date: 1888	
Tamaha. Haskell County	NRHP #80003266 Listed as the Tamaha Jail and Ferry Landing. Build Date: 1895	
Taft. Muskogee County	NRHP #84003330 Listed as Taft City Hall. Build Date: ca. 1910	
Valliant. McCurtain County	Eligible (Consensus, A, C, 5/25/2011) Build Date: 1926	

Weleetka. Okfuskee County	NRHP #93000156 Listed as Weleetka Town Hall and Jail Build Date: 1940	
101 Ranch. Kay County	NRHP #73001560 Contributing Resource of the 101 Ranch. Build Date: 1918	

Table 6: Calabooses Recommended Eligible Through Other Surveys

CITY/COUNTY	SURVEY	PHOTO
Grayson. Okmulgee County	All Black Towns Survey Build Date: ca. 1924	
Langston. Logan County	All Black Towns Survey Build Date: 1935	
Lima. Seminole County	All Black Towns Survey Build Date: ca. 1907	
Redbird. Wagoner County	All Black Towns Survey Build Date: ca. 1930	

Historic Context

The opening of the Unassigned Lands on April 22, 1889, ushered in an era of prosperity and change. A land and a promise of sovereignty for the more than 46,000 displaced Native Americans during the 1830 Indian Removal Act for, "as long as the grass grows or the waters run"[4] as noted by President Andrew Jackson in a personal letter to Creek Indians would end, and the onslaught of those in search of a new start during the land grab would begin.[5] But, as should always be noted, the story of the Twin Territories goes back much further than the famous Land Run and the need and desire for law enforcement and holding facilities for the criminal elements in society can be traced back much earlier than the official opening of the territories.

Pre-contact tribal justice was predicated on a system of honor that committed criminals to show and face the consequences of their actions which they almost always did. In contrast to European settlers who followed the 16th and 17th-century models of criminal justice placing sole responsibility for one's actions upon the individual themselves, Indigenous tribes followed a more efficient system for themselves in which the individual's family was also responsible for the perpetrator's actions, along with a communal agreement of reparations. This communal system of responsibility combined with a system of honor in which the individual, aware of his or her tribal infractions, rendered the use of any criminal holding facilities unnecessary.[6] While relatives and families were responsible for any forms of compensation due to aggrieved individuals, more serious crimes such as intraband murder used a relatively more widespread and mutually accepted form of justice that resulted in the criminal dying at the hands of the victim's family.[7] A 1937 Works Progress Administration (WPA) interview with Jack Campbell, a half-Black half-Choctaw person from Wilburton, explains that "There were no prisons nor jails nor any such things" in Indian Territory prior to White settlement. If a member of the tribe was accused of a serious crime, they would be called to an

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[4] The American Presidency Project, *Andrew Jackson Letter to the Creek Indians*, March 23, 1829, Retrieved from https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/documents/letter-the-creek-indians#:~:text=There%20your%20white%20brothers%20will,runs%2C%20in%20peace%20and%20plenty.

[5] National Geographic, Education: *May 28, 1830, CE: Indian Removal Act*, Retrieved from https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/indian-removal-act/

[6] David Graeber, David Wengrow, *The Dawn of Everything. A New History of Humanity*,

[7] Bobby (Bob) L. Blackburn, *Oklahoma Law Enforcement Since 1803*, Thesis, Oklahoma State University, 1979, 32.

"Indian court" that consisted of elected sheriffs and judges. If that tribal member was found guilty and sentenced to death, they would be released to go back home and take care of personal business before returning on a required date for their execution. Campbell stated that not once did he remember a Choctaw failing to report back at the proper time.[8]

As early as 1817 the Cherokee Nation began a judicial assimilation by organizing the nation into districts, each with a judge and a marshal to hold court, while light-horsemen served as deputies who carried out arrests and execution.[9] By 1840 some Plains tribes including the Osage, Pawnees, and Kiowas would begin developing a system of law enforcement by appointing officers called "braves" to maintain law and order, their badges being clubs or swords, and whose primary duty was policing communal hunts with the enforcement of laws based on individual revenge. White settlers living in Indian Territory were subject to the tribe's adaption of European forms of incarceration during this time, including banishment as noted in a letter by the Reverend Patterson to the Secretary of War J.C. Spencer while living in the Quapaw Nation's lands. Mr. Patterson complained of the Quapaw's demands that he "leave the territory in three days, or he should be put out by force, and taken by the dragoon to the calaboose - February 4, 1843".[10] The encroachment of tribal lands, however, would soon mean that Native Americans were no longer solely responsible for their own systems of justice and law enforcement. The mixing of social justice beliefs and the new age of materialism and land ownership would result in the development of indigenous police forces, incorporated municipal governments, and reinforced federal law enforcement.[11]

The first Court of Indian Offenses was established in Indian Territory in 1886 to provide law enforcement for the Kiowa, Comanche, and Apache reservations, and included several prominent tribal leaders including Quanah Parker and Lone Wolf, with an Indian police force providing the law enforcement.[12] By 1891 the federal government opened more lands previously held for the Iowa, Sac & Fox, Pottawatomie, and Shawnee tribes, with the Cheyenne & Arapaho lands following the next year, the Cherokee Outlet in 1893, and the Kickapoo lands in 1895. The need for law and order among the new settlers was a necessity as the territory was

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[8] Bradley Bolinger, *Works Progress Administration, Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma*, Interview of Jack Campbell, June 24, 1937.
[9] Blackburn, 33.
[10] Frank H. Harris, The Chronicles of Oklahoma, *Neosho Agency*, Vol. 43, Number 1, Spring 1965, 38 – 39.
[11] Blackburn, 4 – 21.
[12] U.S. Department of the Interior Indian Affairs, *Court of Indian Offenses*, Retrieved from https://www.bia.gov/regional-offices/southern-plains/court-indian-offenses.

a known hiding place and destination for many of the country's outlaws seeking escape or a place to set up camp for more nefarious reasons. U.S. Marshals had established their presence in the area known as Camp Guthrie and Fort Reno in the western half of the region known as Oklahoma Territory. Still, most of the towns that popped up overnight would be left to their own discretion on how and where to hold the disorderly of society.[13] For those in Indian Territory, an effective institution of maintaining law and order and holding prisoners was now needed to replace the honor system that was stripped of them when the idealisms of property ownership came into existence. Holding prisoners in the Ross Hotel, as noted by Captain John Brown of the Cherokee light-horsemen in the early 1890s detaining of three mixed-blood outlaws, would no longer be an adequate stop when transferring prisoners to the Cherokee National Prison in Tahlequah and would not help in calming fears of the general public at a time when the frontier was exploding with a lawless disorder.[14] Federal Indian policy eventually sought to weaken these tribal governments and the Indian courts would eventually lose their funding and cease to function.[15]

Sheriff James Darneal of Scullyville (Skullyville) County (now Le Flore County) is noted in 1888 as building one of the first local jails in Indian Territory, which was a simple log house design that sat behind his cabin and would hold up to 12 prisoners. By March of 1889, Congress had established in Muskogee the first white man's federal court in Indian Territory that put into force the laws of the state of Arkansas for the eastern parts of the territory.[16] Outgoing Attorney General, Joseph McKenna, requested Congress provide $100,000 for the construction of jails in Indian Territory in 1897. Congress would eventually appropriate $60,000 and designate Muskogee, South McAlester, and Ardmore as locations for the holding facilities.[17] Sheriffs, who normally had to rely on tying the prisoner to a tree or hitching post, or who would have to house them in their own homes overnight, would suddenly find themselves among smaller municipalities joined in building temporary holding facilities that would eventually come to be known by the name of a "calaboose".[18]

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[13] Shirley, 22.
[14] Thomas Fox Young, Interview, January 23, 1938, Foreman ed., Indian-Pioneer Papers, Vol. XCIV, 502.
[15] U.S. Department of the Interior Indian Affairs.
[16] Glenn Shirley, *West of Hell's Fringe. Crime, Criminals, and the Federal Peace Officer in Oklahoma Territory, 1889-1907*.University of Oklahoma Press, Norman and London. 1978, 16.
[17] Jeffrey Burton, *Indian Territory, and the United States, 1866-1906, Courts, Government, and the Movement for Oklahoma Statehood*, University of Oklahoma Press: Norman and London, 242.
[18] Blackburn, 64.

The term calaboose is both a Louisiana French Creole (*calabouse*) and Spanish (*calabozo*) mixture of western and southwestern American English, simply meaning "jail" or "prison".[19] The term is believed to have been used most prevalently in the southwestern United States where outlaws and drunken cowboys would be locked away to sober up or to await transfer to the nearest federal holding cells in Texas and the New Mexico Territory. Use of the word calaboose is used liberally throughout early Western movies and newspaper articles and can be construed as having a broad meaning for any sized holding facility.[20] Most early Sanborn maps reference small, single or double-room concrete jails as either "calaboose" "jail", "holdover", or "lock up". The terms calaboose, jail, holdover, and lock up are used to reference free-standing territorial and early statehood single and double-room holding facilities still extant for this survey project.

The material of choice for the first calabooses across the settled territories was typically milled boards or sod. The necessity of needing a quickly erected holding cell as opposed to the only other option of tying the individual up to or chaining to a tree or hitching post, and the use of the only available material at the time being available organic materials resulted in easily escapable facilities for those facing incarceration. The use of fire to attempt to escape from the wood-milled holding cells almost always led to the certain death of the inmate. This appears to not be just a local predicament as noted by one of America's most famous authors. In 1863, a young, syndicated columnist out of Nevada, Samuel Langhorne Clemens, known more famously by his pseudonym Mark Twain, described in one of his columns a scene in which a man, "…wanted some matches to light his pipe. A boy got him some. The man set fire to the calaboose with those very matches and burned himself up". [21]

Oklahoma Territorial newspapers make mention of several wood-frame calabooses across the territory as early as the 1880s including one located in Vinita, Indian Territory on May 28, 1885, that was used to hold Ed Anderson who had previously escaped the Weatherford, Texas calaboose he was being held in by "burning out".[22] Sanborn and Clarkson maps indicate numerous wood frame calabooses across the territories including Adair (1889), Blackwell, Kay (1895), Lexington (1898), Renfrow

[19] Online Etymology Dictionary, calaboose (n.), Retrieved from https://www.etymonline.com/word/calaboose.
[20] Movie, *Calaboose*, 1943, Retrieved from https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0236048/plotsummary/?ref_=tt_ov_pl.

[21] Mark Twain, *The Burdon of Guilt*, Arkansas City Weekly Traveler, Sep 19, 1883, 4.
[22] Indian Chieftain, (Vinita, Indian Terr.), Vol. 3, No. 37, Ed. 1, Thursday, May 28, 1885, 3.

(1898), and Webbers Falls (1894). [23] Two examples of still extant frame calabooses are still visible in Geary (c. 1893) and Skedee (1904) and display the simple box frame with either side-gabled or pyramid roofs with wood shingles. At the time of this writing, Geary, Skedee, Chickasha, and the relocated Darlington jail in El Reno are the state's only known extant wood-frame calabooses, with Skedee being the only one of the four still in its original location.

By the time Oklahoma had become a state in 1907 prefabricated steel cells had become available to townsites through catalogs by companies like the Pauly Jail Building Company out of St. Louis, Missouri, the Southern Structural Steel Company located in Smithfield, Virginia, and E.T. Barnum based in Detroit, Michigan. Research indicates that the Pauly Jail Building Company alone distributed steel or iron cells to over seventy-five (75) Oklahoma towns and cities between 1888 (Caddo, Bryan County) and as late as 1962 (Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County Police Station).[24] Sanborn and Clarkson insurance maps do not make note of any metal cell calabooses. Stand-alone metal cell lockups are understood to be designed with the intent of being housed inside a frame or concrete building to protect the prisoners from the elements. Early Sanborn and Clarkson maps indicate the likelihood that metal cells in rural areas were housed inside wood-framed buildings with “iron-clad” i.e., corrugated metal exteriors.

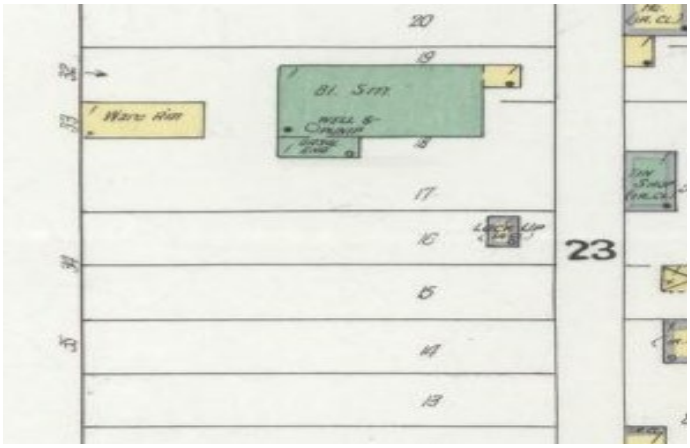
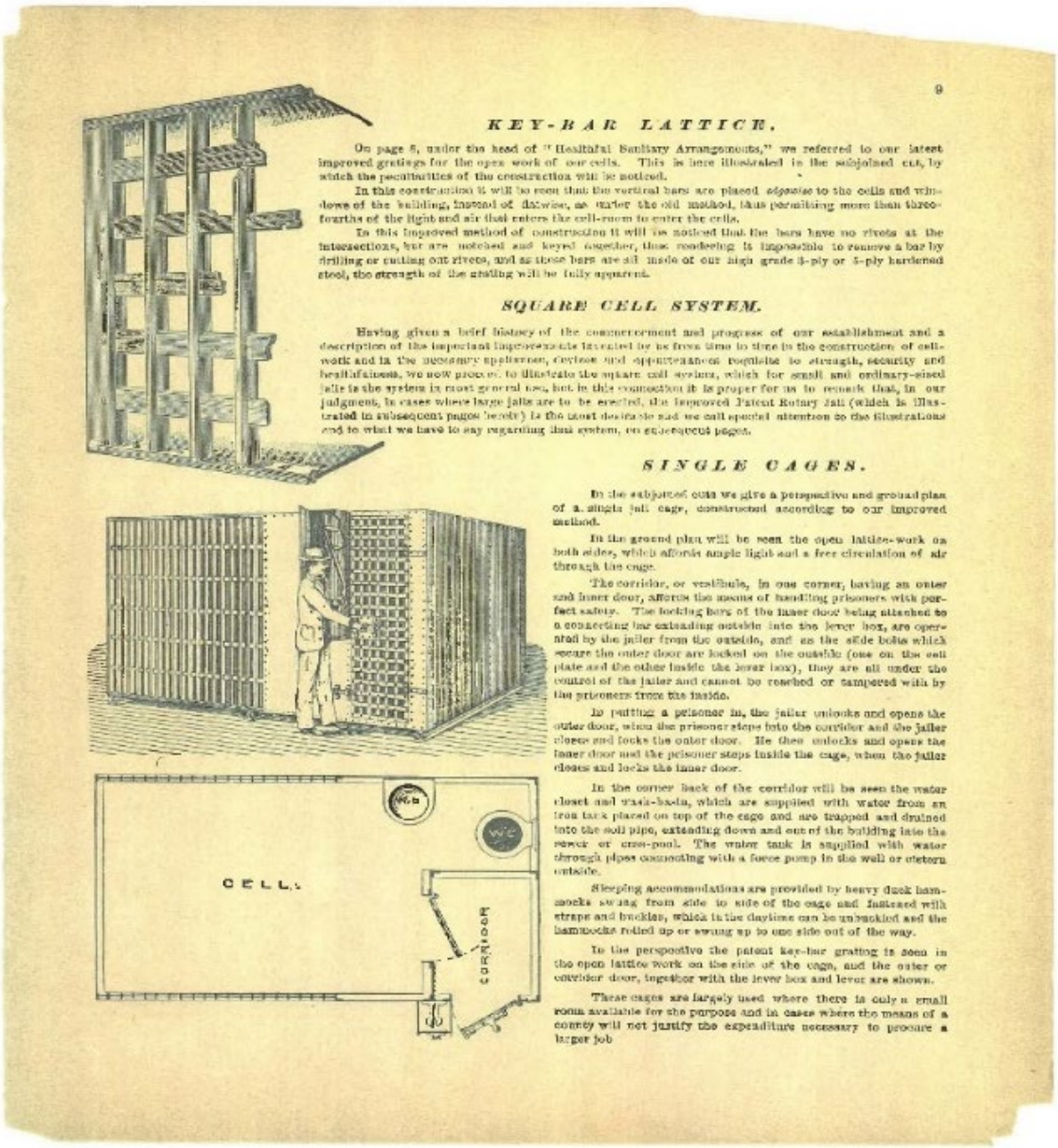


Figure 12: Foss “Lock Up” 1910 Sanborn

[23] Sanborn and Clarkson insurance maps detailed U.S. cities and townsites in the 19th and 20th centuries to help fire insurance companies’ asses potential risks involved with underwriting policies.
[24] The Pauly Jail Building and Manufacturing Co., *Illustrated, Descriptive Catalogue of Steel Jail Cells and Other Steel and Iron Work for County Jails and Other Prisons*, 2215 Dekalb Street, St. Louis, MO. Out-of-Print catalog.



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KEY-BAR LATTICE.

On page 8, under the head of "Healthful Sanitary Arrangements," we referred to our latest improved gratings for the open work of our cells. This is here illustrated in the subjoined cut, by which the peculiarities of the construction will be noticed.

In this construction it will be seen that the vertical bars are placed *edgewise* to the cells and windows of the building, instead of flatwise, as under the old method, thus permitting more than three-fourths of the light and air that enters the cell-room to enter the cells.

In this improved method of construction it will be noticed that the bars have no rivets at the intersections, but are notched and keyed together, thus rendering it impossible to remove a bar by drilling or cutting out rivets, and as these bars are all made of our high grade 4-ply or 5-ply hardened steel, the strength of the grating will be fully apparent.

SQUARE CELL SYSTEM.

Having given a brief history of the commencement and progress of our establishment and a description of the important improvements invented by us from time to time in the construction of cell-work and in the necessary appliances, devices and appurtenances requisite to strength, security and healthfulness, we now proceed to illustrate the square cell system, which for small and ordinary-sized jails is the system in most general use, but in this connection it is proper for us to remark that, in our judgment, in cases where large jails are to be erected, the Improved Patent Rotary Jail (which is illustrated in subsequent pages hereof) is the most desirable and we call special attention to the illustrations and to what we have to say regarding that system, on subsequent pages.

SINGLE CAGES.

In the subjoined cuts we give a perspective and ground plan of a single jail cage, constructed according to our improved method.

In the ground plan will be seen the open lattice-work on both sides, which affords ample light and a free circulation of air through the cage.

The corridor, or vestibule, in one corner, having an outer and inner door, affords the means of handling prisoners with perfect safety. The locking bars of the inner door being attached to a connecting bar extending outside into the lever box, are operated by the jailer from the outside, and as the slide bolts which secure the outer door are locked on the outside (one on the cell plate and the other inside the lever box), they are all under the control of the jailer and cannot be reached or tampered with by the prisoners from the inside.

In putting a prisoner in, the jailer unlocks and opens the outer door, when the prisoner steps into the corridor and the jailer closes and locks the outer door. He then unlocks and opens the inner door and the prisoner steps inside the cage, when the jailer closes and locks the inner door.

In the corner back of the corridor will be seen the water closet and wash-basin, which are supplied with water from an iron tank placed on top of the cage and are trapped and drained into the soil pipe, extending down and out of the building into the sewer or cess-pool. The water tank is supplied with water through pipes connecting with a force pump in the well or cistern outside.

Sleeping accommodations are provided by heavy duck hammocks swung from side to side of the cage and fastened with straps and buckles, which in the daytime can be unbuckled and the hammocks rolled up or swung up to one side out of the way.

In the perspective the patent key-bar grating is seen in the open lattice work on the side of the cage, and the outer or corridor door, together with the lever box and lever are shown.

These cages are largely used where there is only a small room available for the purpose and in cases where the means of a county will not justify the expenditure necessary to procure a larger jail

Figure 13: Pauly Jail Catalog provided by the Pauly Jail Co.

As townsites became more populated the need for holding cells increased. Lack of preparedness and the unorganized formation of new local governments during statehood in 1907 resulted in both a lack of proper county holding facilities and timely processing of the incarcerated. As noted in the First Annual Report of the Commissioner of Charities and Corrections of the State of Oklahoma in 1908,

commissioner Kate Barnard reported, regarding the state's county jails, "In many of the jails I found men and women waiting from six to twelve months without trial", and that the "criminal docket is two years behind".[25] Town and city jails described as "holdovers" in the report, did not fare much better with Barnard reporting that while county jails proved that about 33 percent were being kept in fair sanitary conditions, that number was considerably lower with city jails. Most city jails lacked any provisions for water, night buckets, or beds, and in most cases, they, "being full of filth and cobwebs, with the only available bedding consisting of a few old rags or straw thrown on the floor." Barnard details one wood-framed city holdover she inspected as being located in a "dirty alley" with one 10"x10" square window for ventilation so near the railroad that a spark from the engine could set fire to it or the surrounding wood structures at any time.[26]

Research indicates that almost every townsite had at one point established a single or two-room calaboose to contain the local disorderly or the occasional prisoner transfer to the larger federal or county prisons. Prohibition seems to be the unspoken driving force behind the majority of townsites' need for these small calabooses. Alcohol sales before statehood were prohibited in Indian Territory and as part of the state's new constitution, Prohibition was extended to the entire state on September 17, 1907.[27] Alcohol sales would remain illegal in Oklahoma until citizens voted to end the practice through the passage of the Liquor Control Act in 1959. The combination of a failure to squander local moonshine sales along with the discovery of oil and the overnight raucous boomtowns fueled the need for townsites to create holding cells. It was during this period beginning in the early 1900s through the late 1940s that the use of locally quarried stone and formed concrete would come into fashion for the building of most calabooses through the use of local labor. The majority of local calabooses were erected on city property, typically next to the town water tower, city hall, or public works buildings. It was, however, not unusual for the town to build its small holding facility outside of town and next to railroad tracks, assumably for a quick ride out of town and to keep the incarcerated a safe distance from its citizens.

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[25] Kate Barnard, *First annual report of the Commissioner of Charities and Corrections of the State of Oklahoma for the year ending December 31, 1908*, 47. Retrieved from https://digitalprairie.ok.gov/digital/collection/okresources/id/2801.

[26] Barnard, 50 - 51.

[27] Jimmie L. Franklin, The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture, *Prohibition*, Oklahoma Historical Society, Retrieved from https://www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry?entry=PR018

To help alleviate financial constraints on local governments for jail construction, the state passed Senate Bill 263 in the spring of 1919 as an emergency clause of Oklahoma State Statute 442.[28] This emergency clause granted power to county commissioners to "use sinking funds of the county derived from penalties, interest, or forfeitures and penalties for delinquent taxes to erect or repair a county courthouse or jail or for purchasing sites therefore". Senate Bill 263 would also open funding for the building of holding cells for individual townsites.[29]

The beginning of the 1920s would usher in another oil boom and with it a huge influx of rowdy roustabouts and roughnecks who looked to blow off a little steam after long and hot working days on the rigs. Over-night boom towns such as Roxana, Lyman, Burbank, and Slick saw a rebirth of the frontier days and lawlessness that came with the resurgence of gambling and prostitution houses. Oil field hands with fresh paychecks to spend on entertainment and illegal spirits were now a common sight on the streets of numerous rural communities, along with the occasional "jake leg" that came from poisoning due to lead contaminants from improperly soldered stills. The previously quiet countryside's reversion back fifty years to little governance and no law enforcement in Slick, Oklahoma would lead the Tulsa Tribune to note within a year of the establishment of the town that, "The Old West lives again in Slick".[30] The uptick in population across the numerous boom towns would bring with it the immediate need for lawmen and appropriate holding cells. Hastily erected one and two-room formed concrete cells had become the standard across the state during this period as they were made of readily available sand and gravel and could be easily assembled with the aid of prefabricated steel doors shipped in via the railroads or constructed by the local blacksmith.

Small-town jail reform would further develop between 1923 to 1947 when the Oklahoma Commissioner of Charities and Corrections, Mrs. Mabel Basset drew attention to the unsanitary conditions of city jails as well as such practices as tying incarcerated individuals up such as she witnessed of an intoxicated woman handcuffed to a tree in the town of Disney. After receiving Basset's letter of disapproval in October of 1938, Disney founder D.C. Armstrong explained that the town had its hands full financially due to the need for sidewalks, streets, and

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[28] Thompson Reuters Westlaw, Official Oklahoma Statutes, 442. Courthouse – Use of sinking funds for construction – Tax levy – Special Courthouse fund, Retrieved from https://govt.westlaw.com/okjc/Document/N72FC76C0C81811DB8F04FB3E68C8F4C5?originationContext=document&transitionType=StatuteNavigator&needToInjectTerms=False&viewType=FullText&ppcid=d228ba2bdfa946669ccc45a2bc851097&contextData=%28sc.Default%29.

[29] Harlow's Weekly, April 2, 1919.

[30] Joe Urschel, *The Year of Fear. Machine Gun Kelly and the Manhunt that Changed the Nation*, Minotaur Books, New York, 70-71.

schools and that the jail would come next. Armstrong would go on to say that they were not technically using the tree as a jail, but rather as a "penal hitching post" until the prisoner could be transferred to the jail in Pryor.[31] Disney would have a stone jail built by 1939 with local businessmen sharing the cost. Original plans for four cells, an exercise room, administrative offices, and a vault were apparently scrapped for the two-room holding facility of locally quarried stone.[32] The town of Seminole was yet another town that lacked a proper holding cell which resulted in Chief of Police Jake Sims making use of an abandoned railroad boxcar as Seminole's designated city jail in 1927. The boxcar was modified by drilling ventilation holes into the side that also served as braces for chains and shackles to help keep the men separated from the women.[33]

Stone and concrete calabooses used simple square or rectangular designs with either a wood or steel entry door and small openings with vertical iron bars along the sides or back to allow ventilation. Flat or barrel roofs are typical of stone and concrete calabooses. Some formed concrete calabooses show signs of later additions of water and electrical lines to the sides. Formed concrete calabooses range from single rooms to two rooms that typically have a single entry door with a hall or reception area separating the two cells. The concrete calaboose in Covington was observed to have a barreled heat stove along with working toilets indicating that sewage and water had at one point been connected to the two-room jail located at the far west end of town.

[31] The Parson Son, October 24, 1938.
[32] Coweta Times Star, "Disney Builds Jail", June 15, 1939.
[33] Jane Bryant, "*The Birth of a Boom Town*", American Heritage, Vol. VIII, No. 3 (April 1957) Jake Sims Interview, "*This is a Good Place to Live*", Oil in Oklahoma Collection, Western History Collections, University of Oklahoma, Norman, 98.



Figure 14: Interior of Covington, Garfield County. Note the wood-burning stove and the toilet. Photo Credit Mike Mayes, 2022.

In 1939 during the midst of the Great Depression and President Roosevelt's New Deal, the city of Boswell is shown to have used WPA funds to secure a two-room formed concrete jail. As indicated in the December 21st, 1939, article in the Hugo Daily News,[34] Boswell appropriated $693.00 in funding, and by 1940 the population of 962 was sporting one of the nicer calabooses in the state.[35] The two-room formed concrete jail with a flat roof and menacing-looking steel-bar strapped doors is well-kept and still visible today tucked away at its original location in the alley south of Hunter Rd. between 6th and 7th streets. The Boswell calaboose and the cannonball stone jail in Grandfield (build date ca. 1940) are the only known WPA-funded stand-alone calabooses in the state that research has uncovered. The jail located in Freedom, Woods County, is a Public Works Administration (PWA) project built in 1935 that originally served as the town's pump house supplying water to the community. The town of Durant in Bryan County sports a beautiful Art Deco-designed WPA city hall and jail, and several county courthouses built through WPA funds still house metal cells no longer in use, including the National Register-listed Harper County Courthouse in Buffalo constructed in 1927 (NRHP 84003041).

[34] Hugo Daily News, December 21, 1939.
[35] Larry O'Dell, The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma, *Boswell*, Retrieved from https://www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry?entry=BO023#:~:text=In%201940%20the%20population%20was%20962.



Figure 15: Boswell, Choctaw County. C. 1939. Photo Credit Dr. Matt Pearce 2023



EXPENDITURES ON CHOCTAW COUNTY WPA PROJECTS

Description	Sponsors	WPA
D—Community Sanitation	$16,973.28	$33,245.31
C—Improve Rural Schools	6,931.42	23,663.92
C—Book Repair Project	71.65	5,163.54
C—Build Boswell Jail		693.00
A—Clothing Renovation	1,007.50	16,719.21
S—Improve Soper School		2,460.91
A—County-wide Sewing Rooms	560.67	6,442.64

Figure 16: The Hugo Daily News Dec 21, 1939. Note the WPA association.

The construction of the calaboose began to be phased out shortly after the start of the 1940s in Oklahoma, and their use to house prisoners looks to be finished by the mid-1960s. The abandonment of these facilities can be attributed to a handful of factors, most notably improvements in transportation and consolidation between county and city law enforcement that provided quicker and easier travel to more secure and better-equipped facilities, and the end of Prohibition in 1959 with the passing of the Liquor Control Act.

Annotated Bibliography

Barnard, Kate, *First annual report of the Commissioner of Charities and Corrections of the State of Oklahoma for the year ending December 31, 1908*, 47. https://digitalprairie.ok.gov/digital/collection/okresources/id/2801

Kate Barnard's leadership during the early years of Oklahoma's statehood was pivotal in establishing compulsory education laws, bans on child labor, and prison reform legislation. Barnard was Oklahoma's first elected state official and served as the first Oklahoma Commissioner of Charities and Corrections. Barnard's work in uncovering abusive treatment of Oklahoma prisoners being held in Kansas prisons under a contract of forced labor in coal mines helped establish the precedent of prison reform and how those prisoners were to be treated. Barnard's political career came to an end after drawing the ire of Governor William H. Murray when she began to advocate on behalf of Native Americans who were cheated out of their lands during her investigative work reporting the murder of Osage tribal members. Murray would convince the state legislature to defund her office thus ending Barnard's short but stellar career.

Blackburn, Bobby L, *Oklahoma Law Enforcement Since 1803.*, Thesis, Oklahoma State University, 1979.

Dr. Bob Blackburn's 1979 thesis provided the foundation for understanding the early developments and workings of Oklahoma and Indian Territory's methods of law enforcement while providing insight into how the territories employed incarceration methods that dealt with minimal options for securing its prisoners. Dr. Blackburn published 26 books prior-to completion of his thesis and graduation from Oklahoma State University and is the foundation in the field of historic preservation for the State of Oklahoma.

Bolinger, Bradley, *Works Progress Administration, Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma*, Interview of Jack Campbell, June 24, 1937.

Between 1936 and 1938 the Works Progress Administration employed several hundred workers across the country to interview former slaves as part of the Federal Writers Project. These interviews are considered to be at times white-washed as the interviewers and project director John Lomax were collectively almost all white southerners operating under Lomax's "the truth to idiom be paramount, and exact truth to pronunciation secondary", but they are however a very valuable primary source that provides a wealth of information on the Country's post-Civil War progressions.

Bryant, Jane, "*The Birth of a Boom Town*", American Heritage, Vol. VIII, No. 3 (April 1957) Jake Sims Interview, "*This is a Good Place to Live*", Oil in Oklahoma Collection, Western History Collections, University of Oklahoma, Norman.

Documented interviews are an excellent primary source that can provide windows into hard-to-research topics such as calabooses that were often considered taboo subjects and received little to no coverage or documentation. The Western History Collections are an excellent source for early statehood information and in this case, provided a look at how one early town provided a temporary holding facility when resources were not available.

Burton, Jeffrey, *Indian Territory, and the United States, 1866-1906, Courts, Government, and the Movement for Oklahoma Statehood*, University of Oklahoma Press: Norman and London.

Politics and appropriations in the Twin Territories were key aspects in designating funding for federal courthouses and holding facilities. While local governments were left to decide on and designate money allocated for the building of their community calaboose, federal funding would be used for designated holdover facilities prior to statehood.

Coweta Times Star, "*Disney Builds Jail*", June 15, 1939.

This article in the Coweta Times Star gives us a glimpse into the local community's need for jails while juggling funding issues that were common across the state. This article also provides further insight into the continuing work of the Commissioner of Charities and Corrections and one of it's earliest leaders Mrs. Mabel Bassett.

Franklin, Jimmie L, The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture, *Prohibition*, Oklahoma Historical Society. https://www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry?entry=PR018

Prohibition and its effects on law enforcement who were required to enforce the law in Oklahoma which in turn required local communities planning and development of holding facilities is the key contributing factor in the building of early jails across the state. The Oklahoma Historical Society's online encyclopedias provide researchers with easily accessible information on numerous topics, people, and places in Oklahoma.

Graeber, David and David Wengrow, *The Dawn of Everything. A New History of Humanity*, First American ed. New York: Farrar Straus and Giroux, 2021.

American anthropologist David Graeber and British archeologist David Wengrow look at the diversity of early human societies and the traditional narratives that have contributed to misunderstandings of how native and aboriginal societies functioned before colonization. The author's works are the subject of much interpretation and have faced criticism from others in their fields, however, their work in *The Dawn of Everything, A New History of Humanity* well explains the misconception of Native American tribes as being lawless or without structure and offers theories on why tribal justice systems were far more superior to European systems.

Harlow's Weekly, April 2, 1919.

Harlow's Weekly was often referred to as "the literary digest of Oklahoma" that covered current events of the State of Oklahoma's progress from its inception in August of 1912 through its final print in January of 1940.

Harris, Frank H, *Neosho Agency 1838-1871*, The Chronicles of Oklahoma, Vol. 43, Number 1, Spring 1965.

The Neosho Agency was established in 1837 to serve Native American tribes located in the northeast corner of Oklahoma. The Neosho Agency article detailed in the Chronicles of Oklahoma provides a wonderful example of tribal leaders and their dealings with intrusions upon their lands by non-Natives.

Hugo Daily News, December 21, 1939.

This article in the Hugo Daily News helped provide not only a date of construction for Hugo's calaboose but also providing detailed description of the community's use of WPA funding. To date, research indicates a very small percentage of WPA funding was used in the construction of local jails.

Indian Chieftain, (Vinita, Indian Terr.), Vol. 3, No. 37, Ed. 1, Thursday, May 28, 1885.

Incarcerated individuals setting fire to wood calabooses was a common problem across the country. The article in the Indian Chieftain from 1885 gives very good detail to one incident that resulted in the death of one individual who tried to burn his way to freedom.

Movie, *Calaboose*, 1943,
https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0236048/plotsummary/?ref_=tt_ov_pl

Media tends to play a large part in society's vernacular. Much like social media's influences today, the invention of moving pictures and the accompanying audio paved the way for non-English terms such as "calaboose" to become a more common term across the country.

National Geographic, Education: *May 28, 1830, CE: Indian Removal Act*,
https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/indian-removal-act/

The results of Andrew Jackson's Indian Removal Act are what shaped the current state of Oklahoma.

O'Dell, Larry., The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma, *Boswell*,
https://www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry?entry=BO023#:~:text=In%201940%20the%20population%20was%20962

The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma was used to gather census information on the town of Boswell during the time of the construction of its calaboose.

Online Etymology Dictionary, calaboose (n.),
https://www.etymonline.com/word/calaboose

The online dictionary provides the origins of the term "calaboose".

Sanborn and Clarkson Fire Insurance Company. Maps of Oklahoma.
https://www.loc.gov/collections/sanborn-maps/?fa=location:oklahoma

Sanborn and Clarkson insurance maps help make comparisons between maps of different years that depict changes in demographics and the evolving structural development of the survey area. Sanborn and Clarkson maps for this survey project were instrumental in locating possible extant calabooses and determining if those resources are still in their original locations.

Shirley, Glenn., *West of Hell's Fringe. Crime, Criminals, and the Federal Peace Officer in Oklahoma Territory*, 1889-1907. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman and London. 1978.

Indian and Oklahoma Territory fell under the jurisdiction of federal laws with Fort Smith, Arkansas serving as the judicial epicenter. Glenn Shirley's book is a

fascinating read that describes one of the Indian Territory's first federally established courts in Muskogee, Oklahoma.

The American Presidency Project, *Andrew Jackson Letter to the Creek Indians, March 23, 1829*, https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/documents/letter-the-creek-indians#:~:text=There%20your%20white%20brothers%20will,runs%2C%20in%20peace%20and%20plenty.

Andrew Jackson's letter to the Creek Nation serves as a further reference to the treatment of the Tribal nations and the American government's double-talk and betrayal that followed the signing of all treaties after the Indian Removal Act.

The Parson Son, October 24, 1938.

Newspaper articles from the period were often syndicated, as was this article from the Parson Son that gained regional attention to the town of Disney after a visit from Mabel Bassett who decried the use of a tree to tie a female prisoner to due to the town's lack of a proper holding facility.

The Pauly Jail Building and Manufacturing Co., *Illustrated, Descriptive Catalogue of Steel Jail Cells and Other Steel and Iron Work for County Jails and Other Prisons*, 2215 Dekalb Street, St. Louis, MO. Out-of-Print catalog.

The Pauly Jail Building and Manufacturing Co. were one of the numerous companies during the early 20th century that advertised and sent a salesman to distribute their catalogs to local community leaders. The Pauly Jail company is still in business today and provided the SHPO with a copy of the first catalog they distributed along with records of purchases from each town in Oklahoma with some predating statehood.

Thompson Reuters Westlaw, Official Oklahoma Statutes, 442. Courthouse – Use of sinking funds for construction – Tax levy – Special Courthouse fund, https://govt.westlaw.com/okjc/Document/N72FC76C0C81811DB8F04FB3E68C8F4C5?originationContext=document&transitionType=StatuteNavigator&needToInjectTerms=False&viewType=FullText&ppcid=d228ba2bdfa946669ccc45a2bc851097&contextData=%28sc.Default%29.

Senate Bill 263 was passed in 1919 as an emergency clause to help allocate funding for both county courthouse repair and construction, and the building of smaller, local jails.

Twain, Mark., *The Burden of Guilt*, Arkansas City Weekly Traveler, Sep 19, 1883.

Mark Twain was one of the most influential writers of his time. Part humorist and part humanitarian, his syndicated column from 1883 shone a light on the growing problem of incarcerated individuals burning to death by trying to light their way to freedom. Numerous newspaper articles uncovered during research for this survey reference prisoners oftentimes pushing their bedding or other flammable articles next to the wood door of their calaboose and setting it on fire to attempt escape. Most often the local calaboose was left unguarded and items such as matches could easily be obtained by the incarcerated requesting them from passersby.

Urschel, Joe., *The Year of Fear. Machine Gun Kelly and the Manhunt that Changed the Nation*, Minotaur Books, New York, 2015.

Joe Urschel's, *The Year of Fear* covers the rise of the FBI and the hunt for mobster Machine Gun Kelly after he abducts wealthy Oklahoma City oilman Charles Urschel off his back porch at the corner of 18th and Hudson Ave. one warm summer evening. While no known famous mobsters are known to have frequented one of the numerous calabooses across the state, Urschel's book does give very good reference to the smaller rural communities such as Slick, Oklahoma as breeding grounds for lawlessness that accompanied the oil booms across the state.

U.S. Department of the Interior Indian Affairs, *Court of Indian Offenses*, https://www.bia.gov/regional-offices/southern-plains/court-indian-offenses.

Federal policy toward Native tribes was always to weaken the jurisdiction and power of the tribes. As noted by the U.S., Department of Indian Affairs, the implementation of federal laws and the pulling of funding would eventually cause the dismantling of all tribal courts.

Young, Thomas Fox., Interview, January 23, 1938, Foreman ed., Indian-Pioneer Papers, Vol. XCIV.

Thomas Fox Young's interview is an excellent primary source that describes the early use of a hotel room as the only available facility for use as a stop-over point for a prisoner being escorted to larger holding facilities and emphasizes the need for a quick fix to the public dangers of prisoner escort by means of a secured holding facility in smaller rural communities.