

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

National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form

This form is used for documenting property groups relating to one or several historic contexts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin *How to Complete the Multiple Property Documentation Form* (formerly 16B). Complete each item by entering the requested information.

 X New Submission _____ Amended Submission

A. Name of Multiple Property Listing

Calabooses (Tiny Jails) in Oklahoma 1904 - 1940

B. Associated Historic Contexts

(Name each associated historic context, identifying theme, geographical area, and chronological period for each.)

Thematic Survey of Calabooses (Tiny Jails) in Oklahoma 1904 - 1940

C. Form Prepared by:

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D. Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this documentation form meets the National Register documentation standards and sets forth requirements for the listing of related properties consistent with the National Register criteria. This submission meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR 60 and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation.

Signature of certifying official

Title

Date

State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

I hereby certify that this multiple property documentation form has been approved by the National Register as a basis for evaluating related properties for listing in the National Register.

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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Table of Contents for Written Narrative

Create a Table of Contents and list the page numbers for each of these sections in the space below.

Provide narrative explanations for each of these sections on continuation sheets. In the header of each section, cite the letter, page number, and name of the multiple property listing. Refer to *How to Complete the Multiple Property Documentation Form* for additional guidance.

Page Numbers

E. Statement of Historic Contexts

(If more than one historic context is documented, present them in sequential order.)

Thematic Survey of Calabooses (Tiny Jails) in Oklahoma

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F. Associated Property Types

(Provide description, significance, and registration requirements.)

F 1-3

G. Geographical Data

G 1

H. Summary of Identification and Evaluation Methods

(Discuss the methods used in developing the multiple property listing.)

H 1

I. Major Bibliographical References

(List major written works and primary location of additional documentation: State Historic Preservation Office, other State agency, Federal agency, local government, university, or other, specifying repository.)

I 1-2

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

Tier 1: 60-100 hours (generally existing multiple property submissions by paid consultants and by Maine State Historic Preservation staff for in-house, individual nomination preparation)

Tier 2: 120 hours (generally individual nominations by paid consultants)

Tier 3: 230 hours (generally new district nominations by paid consultants)

Tier 4: 280 hours (generally newly proposed MPS cover documents by paid consultants).

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting reports. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.

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E. Statement of Historical 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”¹ 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.² 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.³

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.⁴ 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 “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.⁵

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.⁶ 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

¹ 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.>

² National Geographic, Education: May 28, 1830, CE: *Indian Removal Act*, Retrieved from <https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/indian-removal-act/>

³ David Graeber, David Wengrow, *The Dawn of Everything. A New History of Humanity*,

⁴ Bobby (Bob) L. Blackburn, *Oklahoma Law Enforcement Since 1803*, Thesis, Oklahoma State University, 1979, 32.

⁵ Bradley Bolinger, *Works Progress Administration, Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma*, Interview of Jack Campbell, June 24, 1937.

⁶ Blackburn, 33.

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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 Section E Page 2

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".⁷ 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.⁸

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 Quannah Parker and Lone Wolf, with an Indian police force providing the law enforcement.⁹ 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 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.¹⁰ 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.¹¹ Federal Indian policy eventually sought to weaken these tribal governments and the Indian courts would eventually lose their funding and cease to function.¹²

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

⁷ Frank H. Harris, *The Chronicles of Oklahoma, Neosho Agency*, Vol. 43, Number 1, Spring 1965, 38 – 39.

⁸ Blackburn, 4 – 21.

⁹ 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>.

¹⁰ Shirley, 22.

¹¹ Thomas Fox Young, Interview, January 23, 1938, Foreman ed., *Indian-Pioneer Papers*, Vol. XCIV, 502.

¹² U.S. Department of the Interior Indian Affairs.

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territory.¹³ 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 Section E Page 3

Muskogee, South McAlester, and Ardmore as locations for the holding facilities.¹⁴ 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”.¹⁵

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”.¹⁶ 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.¹⁷ Most early Sanborn maps reference small, tiny 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 calaboooses 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”.¹⁸

Oklahoma Territorial newspapers make mention of several wood-frame calaboooses 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”.¹⁹ Sanborn and Clarkson maps indicate numerous wood frame calaboooses across the territories including

¹³ 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.

¹⁴ 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.

¹⁵ Blackburn, 64.

¹⁶ Online Etymology Dictionary, calaboose (n.), Retrieved from <https://www.etymonline.com/word/calaboose>.

¹⁷ Movie, *Calaboose*, 1943, Retrieved from https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0236048/plotsummary/?ref=tt_ov_pl.

¹⁸ Mark Twain, *The Burdon of Guilt*, Arkansas City Weekly Traveler, Sep 19, 1883, 4.

¹⁹ Indian Chieftain, (Vinita, Indian Terr.), Vol. 3, No. 37, Ed. 1, Thursday, May 28, 1885, 3.

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Adair (1889), Blackwell, Kay (1895), Lexington (1898), Renfrow (1898), and Webbers Falls (1894).²⁰ 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, Section E Page 4

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).²¹ 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.

²⁰ 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.

²¹ 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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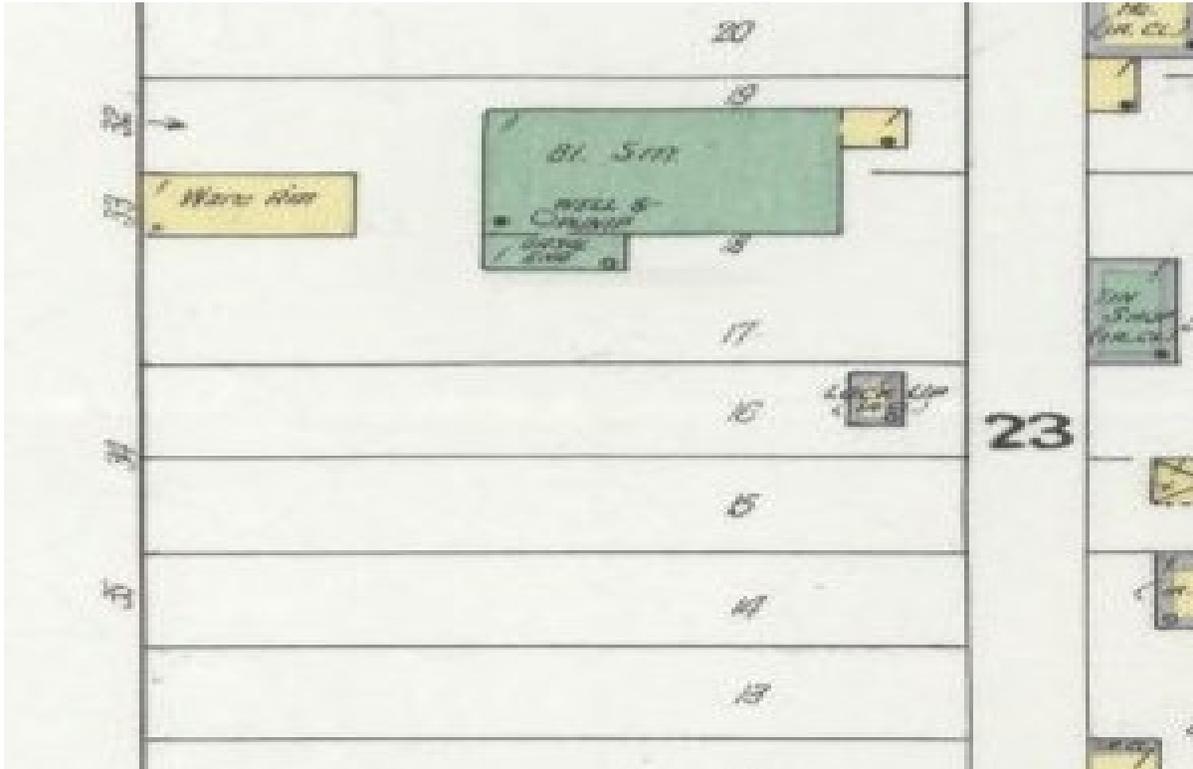


Figure 12: Foss "Lock Up" 1910 Sanborn

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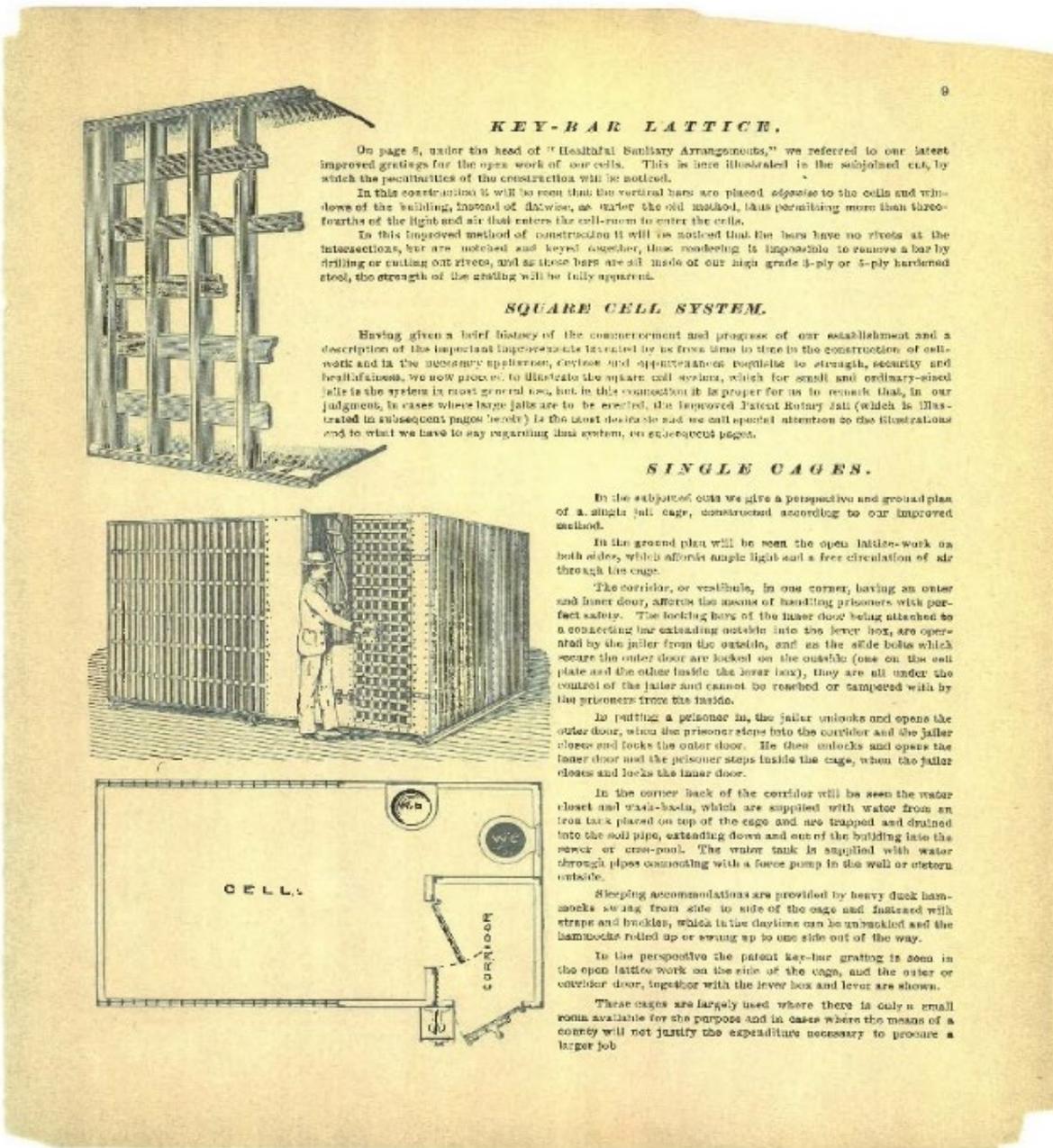


Figure 13: Pauly Jail Catalog provided by the Pauly Jail Co.

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 Section E Page 6

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twelve months without trial”, and that the “criminal docket is two years behind”.²² 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.²³

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 calaboooses. 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, 1907.²⁴ 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 calaboooses through the use of local labor. The majority of local calaboooses 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.

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 442.²⁵ 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.²⁶ 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

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²² 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>.

²³ Barnard, 50 - 51.

²⁴ 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>

²⁵ 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>.

²⁶ Harlow’s Weekly, April 2, 1919.

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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”.²⁷ 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 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.²⁸ 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.²⁹ 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.³⁰

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.

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²⁷ Joe Urschel, *The Year of Fear. Machine Gun Kelly and the Manhunt that Changed the Nation*, Minotaur Books, New York, 70-71.

²⁸ The Parson Son, October 24, 1938.

²⁹ Coweta Times Star, “Disney Builds Jail”, June 15, 1939.

³⁰ 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.

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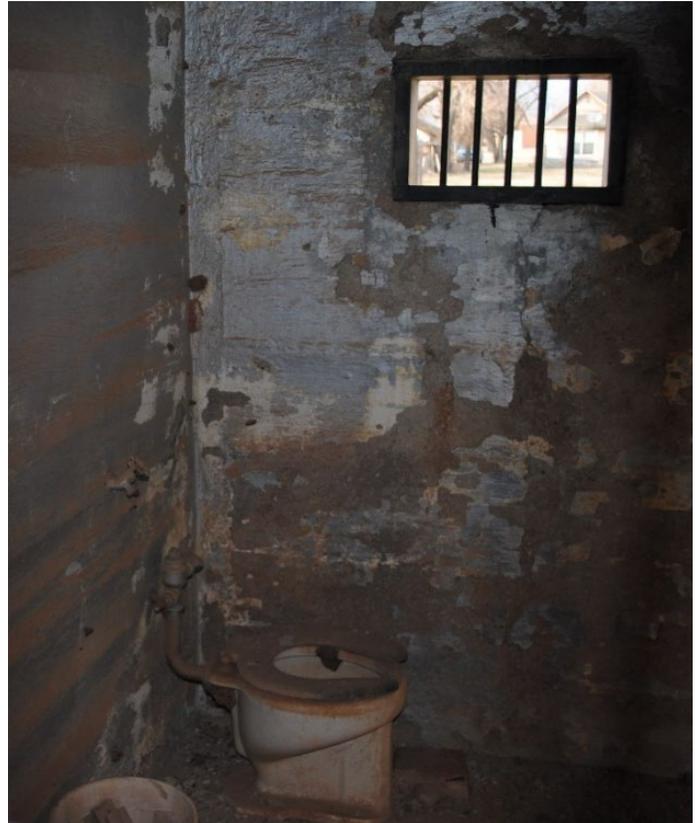


Figure 14: Interior of Covington, Garfield County. Note the wood-burning stove and the toilet. Photo Credit Mike Mayes, 2022.

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,³¹ Boswell appropriated \$693.00 in funding, and by 1940 the population of 962 was sporting one of the nicer calabooses in the state.³² 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).

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³¹ Hugo Daily News, December 21, 1939.

³² 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.>

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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	\$16,977.28	\$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.

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F. Associated Property Types

- I. Name of Property Type: **Calabooses (Tiny Jails) in Oklahoma**
- II. Description

In total, one hundred-five resources were documented across Oklahoma (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.

Freestanding metal cells were initially documented, 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. All metal cells were determined to be not eligible for listing in the NRHP.

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

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III. Significance

Development of Oklahoma's tiny jails occurred over several phases beginning in the mid-1800s through the early 1940s. Oklahoma's calabooses were identified to determine their eligibility as historic-age resources (meaning resources over fifty years of age) and to assess their current integrity and significance. Approximately 99 percent of resources documented are over fifty years of age (one hundred-four out of one hundred-five total resources). Oklahoma's tiny jails are a reflection of the need and growth of secure holding facilities during a time of early statehood that coincided with a staunch approach to prohibition and cycles of economic and population expansion that were a result of numerous oil booms during this period.

IV. Registration Requirements

All four National Register criteria were considered, with the strongest consideration given to Criterion A and Criterion C.

Under Criterion A, a resource must reflect an important trend in the development of a community or represent an important event. Calabooses reflected the social and political development of Oklahoma communities during the late territorial and early statehood periods. Thus, Community Planning and Development and Law were considered the most applicable areas of significance given the association of calabooses with townsite development and law enforcement. A period of significance from 1904 to 1940 was identified, which corresponds to the most pronounced period in which calabooses were constructed and in use 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 tiny 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 as 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

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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.

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G. Geographical Data

This Multiple Property Documentation Form encompasses the entire State of Oklahoma. No extant resources were identified in the Panhandle areas of the state (Cimmaron, Texas, and Beaver Counties).

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H. Summary of Identification and Evaluation Methods

This multiple property documentation for Calabooses (Tiny Jails) in Oklahoma is based on the thematic survey of the same name conducted by the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office in 2023. 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.

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.

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.

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