



VIRGINIA
HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION

File no. 155-23
Negative no(s). 4366, 4898

SURVEY FORM

Historic name Old Prince William County Jail Common name
County/Town/City Manassas
Street address or route number Courthouse Square, Manassas, Va. 22110
USGS Quad Manassas Date or period 1892-1893, later additions
Original owner Prince William County Architect/builder/craftsmen
Original use Jail and possibly Clerk's Office
Present owner Prince William County Source of name
Present owner address c/o Genl. Services, PWC Source of date Public record
Bldg. 136, Manassas, Va. 22110 Stories 2 stories
Present use Sheriff's Office, storage Foundation and wall const'n Brick foundation, brick &
Acreage -1 acre stone walls
Roof type Metal-covered hip roof

State condition of structure and environs Building is in fair condition, but is surrounded by parking lots and roadways.

State potential threats to structure Obsolescence, lack of maintenance.
Note any archaeological interest

Should be investigated for possible register potential? yes no with courthouse

Architectural description (Note significant features of plan, structural system and interior and exterior decoration, taking care to point out aspects not visible or clear from photographs. Explain nature and period of all alterations and additions. List any outbuildings and their approximate ages, cemeteries, etc.)

Beneath the stucco and minus the two-story addition there is probably a structure stylistically similar to the red brick and sandstone courthouse, behind and beside which the jail was constructed in 1892-93. The jail was originally surrounded by an iron fence, as can be seen in old photographs.

According to Sheriff Rawlins, the front part of the jail building, 1st and 2nd floors, served as the jailer's residence, and the lock-up was located on the 1st and 2nd floors of the rear of the building, in perhaps 6 or 7 cells on each floor.

The old jail now serves as the sheriff's office, with the remainder being used as custodial and storage areas.

There were probably bars on the windows which have been removed. The steel doors between the old jail and the jailer's living quarters have also been removed. Windows 1st floor replaced. Main doorway altered, and front door replaced. It appears as though there was a one-story porch running across the front of the building.

Interior inspected?

Historical significance (Chain of title; individuals, families, events, etc., associated with the property.)

This jail was built in 1892-93, at the time of the construction of the present Prince William County Courthouse. It is not known whether the clerk's office was located in a third building, or was in either the courthouse or jail. As an inducement to have the county seat moved from Brentsville, where it was located from 1822 to 1892, the Town of Manassas offered to pay the costs of moving and construct the new courthouse, clerk's office and jail.

The county ceased using this building as a jail in the early 1950's, when the new jail was constructed close by. The second jail was built to house about 30 inmates, and because at times it holds as many as 80, a new jail in Manassas is about to be constructed.

This building, though it could use some restoration, is an important element in the P.W. Courthouse complex. Since this building and the courthouse were built at the same time, and are both historically and architecturally linked, efforts to preserve its original appearance should commence immediately. The courthouse is already a locally-recognized landmark, and is in good condition. If a decision is made to list the courthouse on the National and State registers, then it would be natural to include the old jail, despite its present appearance, in the nomination.

Sources and bibliography

Published sources (Books, articles, etc., with bibliographic data.)

Writers Project, WPA, Prince William, The Story of its People and its Places

Primary sources (Manuscript documentary or graphic materials; give location.)

Catherine Simmons, "Manassas, Va., 1873-1973," Master's thesis in P.W. Library.

Names and addresses of persons interviewed Sheriff C.A. Rawlings, Jr., Sheriff, P.W. County.

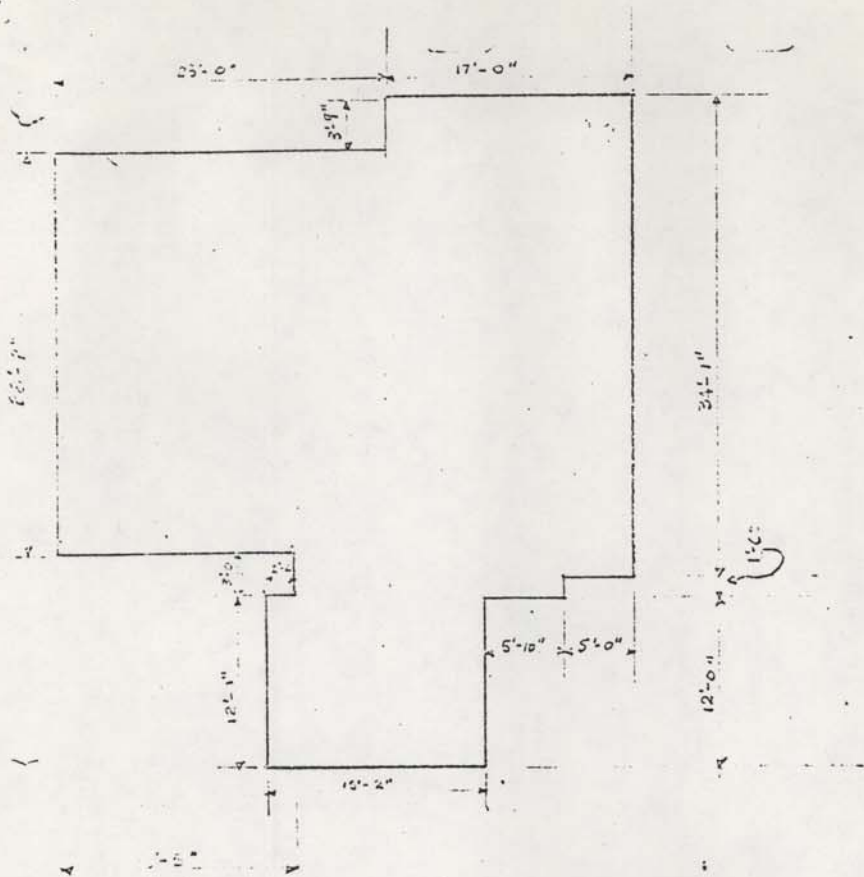
Randy Fones, Genl. Services, Prince William County.

Plan (Indicate locations of rooms, doorways, windows, alterations, etc.)

Site plan (Locate and identify outbuildings, dependencies and significant topographical features.)

Name, address and title of recorder

Date



OLD P.W.C. JAIL
 BLD #.104

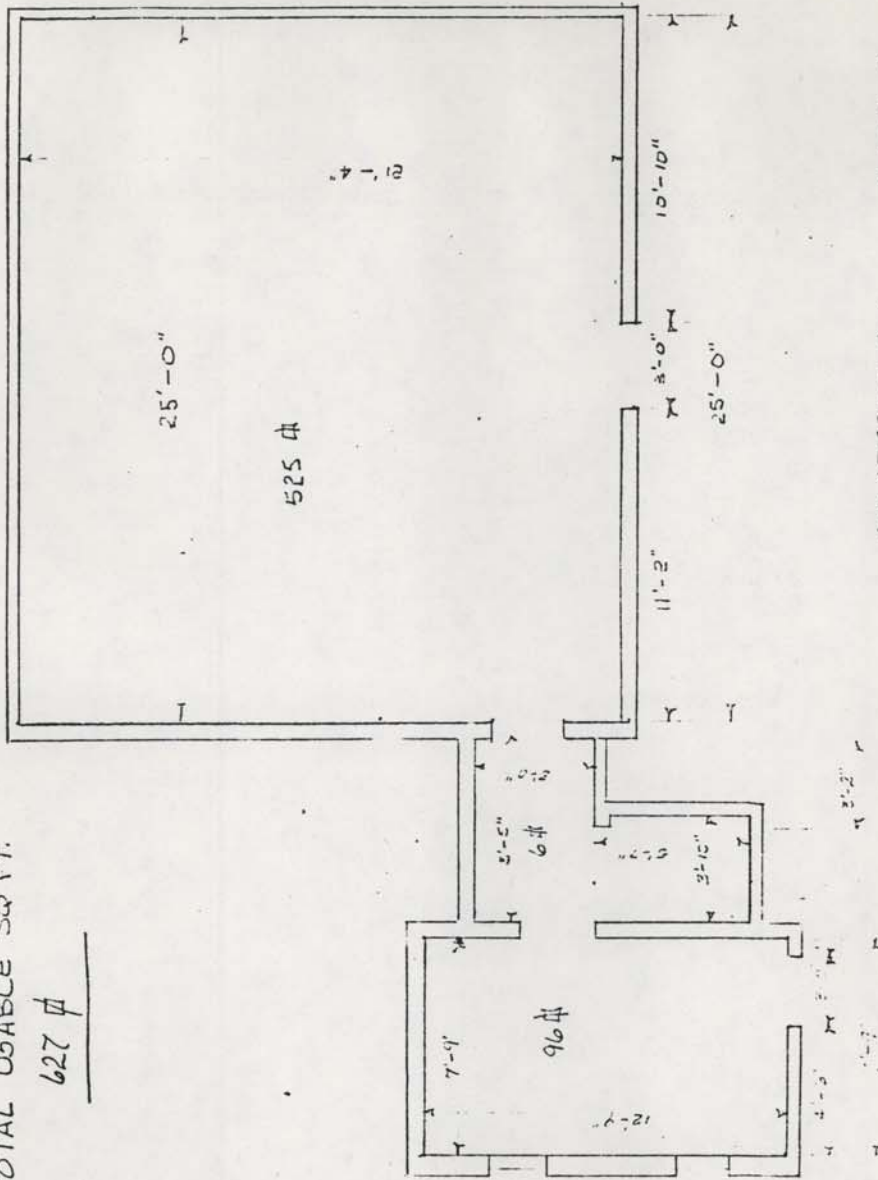
EXT. DIM. SAME FIRST &
 SECOND FLOOR

SCALE - 3/32" = 1'-0"

8-11
 2-11
 1-11
 5

TOTAL USABLE SQ FT.

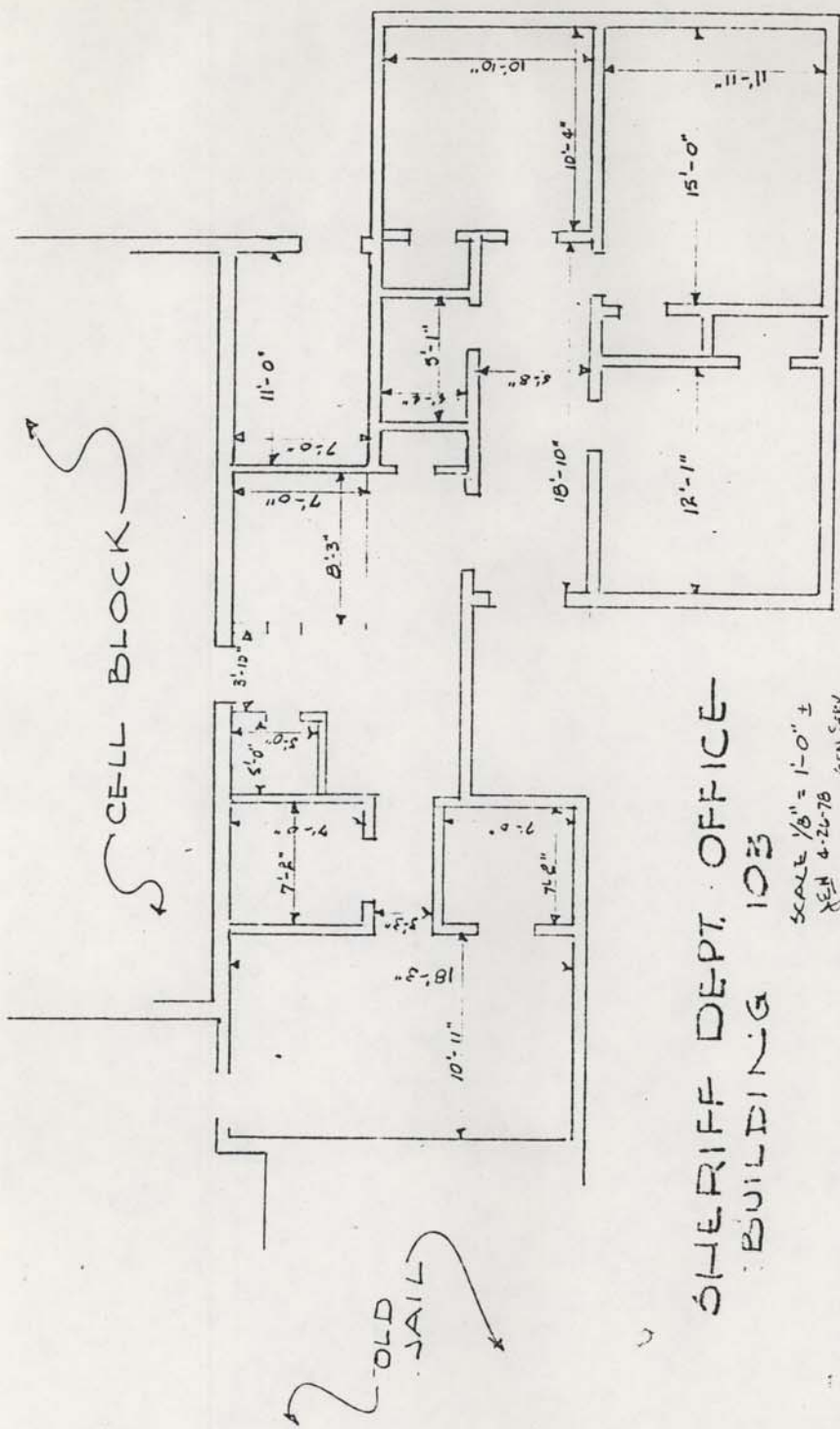
627 sq ft



CUSTODIAL AREA

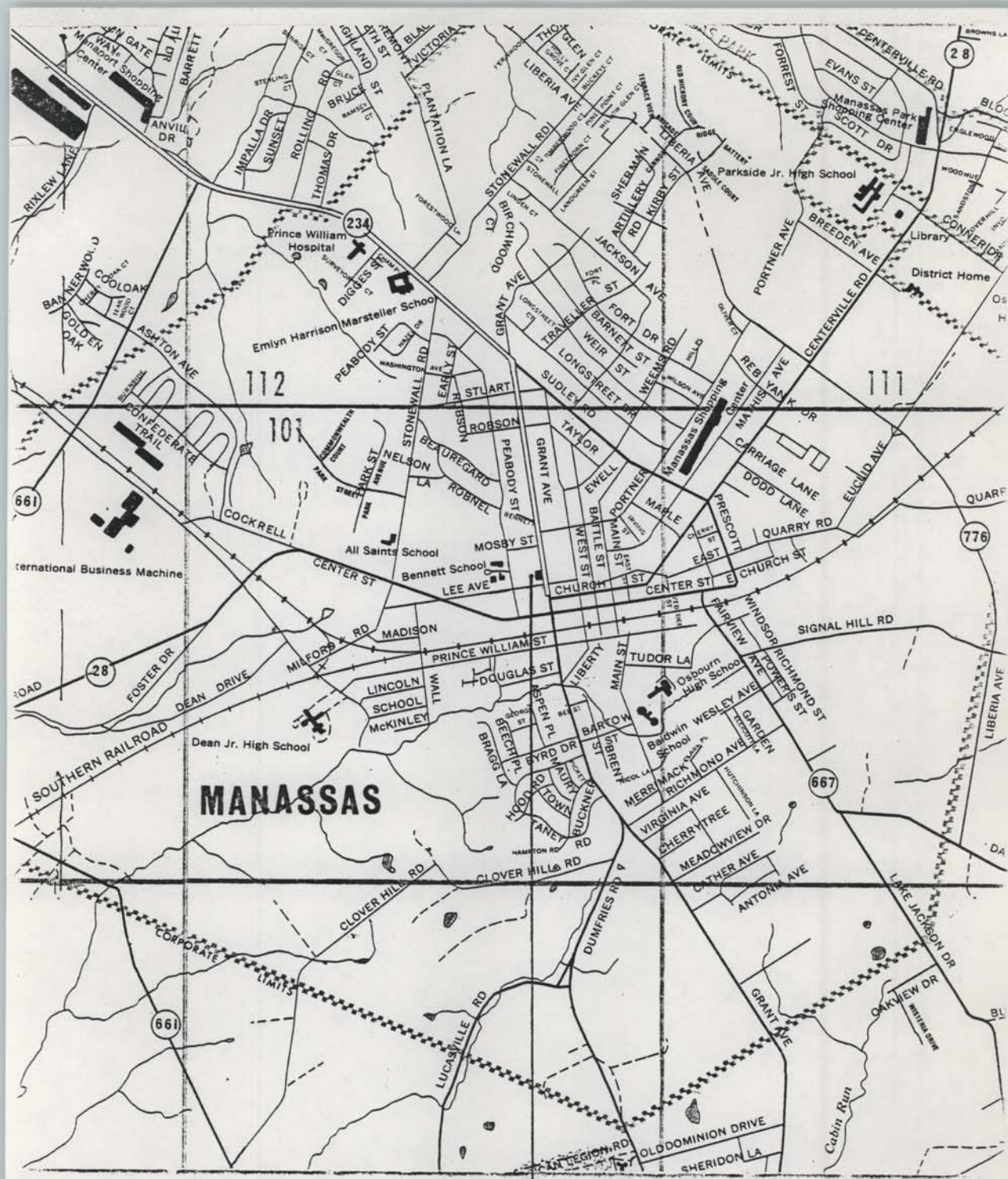
BLD. NO. 104

SCALE 5/16" = 1'-0"



SHERIFF DEPT. OFFICE
 BUILDING 103

SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0" ±
 JEN 4-26-78
 GEN. SERV.



MANASSAS