

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

| | |
|--------------------------|------|
| STATE: North Carolina | |
| COUNTY: Wilkes | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |

1. NAME

COMMON:
Old Wilkes County Jail

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
North Bridge Street

CITY OR TOWN:
(Wilkesboro)¹²

| | | | |
|-------------------------|------------|-------------------|-------------|
| STATE North Carolina | CODE 37 | COUNTY: Wilkes | CODE 193 |
|-------------------------|------------|-------------------|-------------|

3. CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY (Check One) | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC |
|---|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both | Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress | Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate) | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum | <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Not in use |

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Town of Wilkesboro

STREET AND NUMBER:
North Bridge Street

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|
| CITY OR TOWN: Wilkesboro | STATE: North Carolina | CODE: 37 |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Wilkes County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
East Main Street

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|
| CITY OR TOWN: Wilkesboro | STATE: North Carolina | CODE: 37 |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

| | | |
|---------------|--------|-------|
| CITY OR TOWN: | STATE: | CODE: |
|---------------|--------|-------|

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: 1
COUNTY: Wilkes
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

| | | | | | | |
|--|---|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|---|------------------------------------|
| CONDITION | (Check One) | | | | | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Fair | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed |
| | (Check One) | | | (Check One) | | |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered | <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered | | <input type="checkbox"/> Moved | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site | |
| DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE | | | | | | |
| <p>The old Wilkes County jail is a rectangular two-story brick structure with interior end chimneys and a low hipped roof with a wide overhang. The north elevation and the west half of the east elevation are laid in Flemish bond. The remainder of the building is in one-third American bond, indicating possible alteration. The jail is situated on the side of a hill which provides space for a walk-in cellar under the rear.</p> <p>The east (front) side is three bays wide with entrances through the central and left bays. The left entrance contains a door with two vertical panels framed by a simple wooden casing and a four-light transom. Above the door at the second floor level is a window with nine-over-six sash and a rough stone sill. This side of the jail contains the jailer's quarters. The right portion of the building contains the cells. The central door is constructed of diagonal boards studded with cut nails on the front and vertical boards on the back. It is set in a thick rived wood frame and transom. The existing windows on the right bays have heavy wooden casings and sills with six-over-six sash. They are fitted with four vertical and two horizontal iron bars. The south side is two bays wide with windows similar to those on the second story of the jailer's quarters on the main facade. The north side is also two bays wide with windows resembling those on the right side of the main facade. All are barred except the upper left bay which is protected by an iron grid. The rear of the jail is three bays wide and has barred windows in the two left bays. The right bay contains a transomed door on the first floor and a window on the second with stone sill and nine-over-six sash. This door was apparently sheltered at one time by a small porch which was destroyed. Beneath the jailer's quarters is a one-room cellar entered by a small opening on the rear of the building.</p> <p>The interior has essentially a center-passage plan. On the south side of the hall is a flight of stairs with a primitive hand rail supported by square balusters. On the north side of the hall is one large cell. It was originally partitioned into two cells, each with a corner fireplace, but the barrier wall has been removed. The cell is now entered through an unusual iron door with a rectangular opening fixed with an iron grate, semi-circular in plan. The walls in this section of the building are of whitewashed brick laid in American bond. On the south side of the hall are two rooms which served as the jailer's quarters. The walls are of plastered brick with no refinements other than a simple baseboard. A secondary stair to the upper floor is located in the front room. The second story is similar in plan to the first, except that the wall dividing the north side is still in place. The two doors on the north side are identical to the one at the main entrance described above. The two rooms on the south side of the hall contain interesting primitive toilet facilities consisting of a wooden box with an inserted funnel-shaped toilet bowl. The jail retains much of its original hardware including strap hinges and several early locks.</p> | | | | | | |

S E E I N S T R U C T I O N S

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The old Wilkes County jail was authorized for construction during the February, 1856, court term, and a commission was appointed to select a suitable site. In May of the same year, the commissioners reported that they had agreed upon the "north public spring lot now dry" which was lot 9, East, in the original Wilkesboro town plan. Actual construction was underway by late 1858 and was completed by February, 1859. The finished structure had several cells and included a residence for the jailer.

During the War Between the States the jail was used to house Confederate provisions as well as prisoners. After the war, Tom Dula (of the famous ballad "Hang Down Your Head Tom Dooley") was incarcerated here until a change of venue was obtained by his defense attorney, former Governor Zebulon Vance.

The old Wilkes County jail is one of the best preserved examples of nineteenth century penal architecture in North Carolina. Of particular note is the survival of its primitive security and sanitary devices.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Hayes, Johnson J., The Land of Wilkes. Wilkesboro, North Carolina: Wilkes County Historical Society, 1962.

Wilkes County Records, Wilkes County Courthouse, Wilkesboro, North Carolina, Office of the Register of Deeds. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills, Estate Papers, Census Reports.)

Wilkes County Records, State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills, Estate Papers, Census Reports.)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY | | | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES | | |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|---|-----------|-----------------|
| CORNER | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | |
| | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees | Minutes Seconds |
| NW | 0 ' " | 0 ' " | 36 ° | 08 ' 56 " | 81 ° 09 ' 09 " |
| NE | 0 ' " | 0 ' " | | | |
| SE | 0 ' " | 0 ' " | | | |
| SW | 0 ' " | 0 ' " | | | |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: One-half acre.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|--------|------|--------|------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
John B. Wells, Survey Specialist; Sherry I. Penney, Survey Assistant

ORGANIZATION: State Department of Archives and History DATE: October 14, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER:
109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: Dr. H. G. Jones

Title: Director, State Department of Archives and History

Date: October 14, 1970

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: _____

ATTEST:

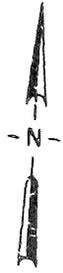
Keeper of The National Register

Date: _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Old Wilkes County Jail
North Bridge Street
Wilkesboro

Map of the Town of Wilkesboro
Town of Wilkesboro
Scale: 1 3/4"/1,000'
September 21, 1966



| Latitude | | | Longitude | | |
|----------|---------|---------|-----------|---------|---------|
| degrees | minutes | seconds | degrees | minutes | seconds |
| 36° | 08' | 56" | 81° | 09' | 09" |

