

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

## 1. Name of Property

Historic name Cuba City Jail

Other names/site number N/A

Name of related Multiple Property Listing Historical and Architectural Resources of the City of Cuba, Missouri, 1821-1963

## 2. Location

Street & number Southwest Intersection of Prairie Street and 300 block of South Main Street N/A not for publication

City or town Cuba N/A vicinity

State Missouri Code MO County Crawford Code 055 Zip code 65453

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national  statewide  local

Applicable National Register Criteria:  A  B  C  D

  
Signature of certifying official/Title Mark A. Miles, Deputy SHPO

Sept. 5, 2014  
Date

Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

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

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

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register  determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register  removed from the National Register

other (explain: \_\_\_\_\_)

Signature of the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

Cuba City Jail  
Name of Property

Crawford County, Missouri  
County and State

**5. Classification**

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

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

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

<input type="checkbox"/>	private
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		<b>Total</b>

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

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT/Correctional Facility/Jail

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/Museum

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Concrete

walls: Concrete Block

roof: Concrete

other: Metal/Cast Iron

**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION ON CONTINUATION PAGES**

Cuba City Jail  
Name of Property

Crawford County, Missouri  
County and State

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Areas of Significance**

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

**Period of Significance**

1908-1954

**Significant Dates**

1908 - construction

**Criteria Considerations**

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

Property is:

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

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Harrison, William (or Harmon)/Builder

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE ON CONTINUATION PAGES**

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Cuba Historical Society

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Cuba City Jail  
Name of Property

Crawford County, Missouri  
County and State

**Acreage of Property** Under 1 acre

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_  
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1 38.060965 -91.404455 3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Latitude: Longitude: Latitude: Longitude:

2 \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_  
Latitude: Longitude: Latitude: Longitude:

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

\_\_\_\_\_ NAD 1927 or \_\_\_\_\_ NAD 1983

1 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

2 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

4 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description** (On continuation sheet)

**Boundary Justification** (On continuation sheet)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Matt Bivens/Historic Preservation Director

organization Lafser & Associates, Inc. date 1.30.2014; R 3.21.2014; F 8.15.2014

street & number 1215 Fern Ridge Pkwy., Suite 110 telephone 314-560-9903

city or town St. Louis state MO zip code 63141

e-mail msbivens@lafser.com

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:**
  - A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
  - A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Photographs**
- **Owner Name and Contact Information**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

**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.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Cuba City Jail

Name of Property

Crawford County, Missouri

County and State

## Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

## Photo Log:

Name of Property: Cuba City Jail

City or Vicinity: Cuba

County: Crawford State: Missouri

Photographer: David Monda; Susan Luksza & Heather Bullar

Date

Photographed: 1-25-2014; 3-19-2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 11: Primary elevation (right) and south wall (left); camera facing northwest
- 2 of 11: Primary elevation detail of door and date; camera facing west
- 3 of 11: South wall (right) and rear, west wall (left); camera facing northeast
- 4 of 11: Rear elevation (right) and north wall (left); camera facing southeast
- 5 of 11: Primary elevation (left) and north wall (right); camera facing southwest
- 6 of 11: Side elevation detail of vent
- 7 of 11: Side elevation detail of wall
- 8 of 11: Historic photo showing primary elevation (right) and south wall (left); prior to rehab
- 9 of 11: Interior guard room; camera northwest
- 10 of 11: Interior guard room looking into rear cell; camera west
- 11 of 11: Interior guard room looking into rear cell; camera west

## Figure Log:

Include figures on continuation pages at the end of the nomination.

**Figure 1** (page 3): Cuba City Jail floor plan. Source: Lafser & Associates field visit.

**Figure 2** (page 6): Cuba Original City Plat. Site of 1908 Jail on city block 20 is circled in red. Source: Cuba Historical Society Archives.

**Figure 3** (page 7): Cuba Jail, 1908. Circa 1910. Source: Cuba Historical Society Archives.

**Figure 4** (page 9): Site represented on the *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map*, October 1924, plate 1. Building outlined in red.

**Figure 5** (page 10): Site represented on the *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map*, June 1933, plate 1. Building outlined in red.

**Figure 6** (page 11): Historical Society photograph of building, circa 1970s. Note the condition and the exterior-most metal door (not original).

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Continuation Sheet

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Cuba City Jail
Name of Property
Crawford County, Missouri
County and State
Historical and Architectural Resources of the City of Cuba, Missouri, 1821-1963
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION**

**Summary**

The Cuba City Jail located near the southwest corner of the intersection of Prairie Street and the 300 block of South Main Street in the City of Cuba, Crawford County, Missouri is a one-story, rectangular-shaped, concrete block jail structure completed in 1908. The interior features a primary guard space complete with desk and wood burning stove and a rear cell room with pair of hanging iron bunks separated from the guard room by a concrete block wall and iron door. Facing eastward towards Prairie Street, the primary elevation has an iron door and is crowned with a shaped parapet with projecting lip and inscribed blocks bearing the name "CUBA-JAIL" and "1908." This spare design is accented by visible mortar joints, the iron door, small vent windows, and a projecting chimney. The structure was in use until 1954 and today serves as a museum with limited access. The building has integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. The setting of the jail has changed over time in that a one-story structure on the same lot, once situated exactly at the southwest corner of the city block (of unknown design and purpose), has since been demolished; the building was not functionally-related to the jail and its absence does not detract from the significance of the building.

**Site**

The Cuba City Jail is located on original city block number 20 and occupies a site that is generally flat and planted with grass. A concrete sidewalk from the entry extends to the street at the east. A partial foundation of a formerly demolished structure is to the north while residences are to the west and south. It appears that the bulk of the city block had been used for residential purposes historically with the jail included as the only non-residential structure.

**Exterior**

The Cuba City Jail is a one-story, concrete block structure which sits on a concrete slab. The primary, entrance-bearing, east-facing elevation contains a centralized iron door composed of vertical and horizontal metal strips riveted to a frame with a small window opening located in the upper half (photos 1-2). At the base of the structure are larger blocks upon which smaller-sized concrete blocks are stacked in eight layers. In the eighth layer is the construction date "1908." Above is a raised parapet with projecting lip and is inscribed "CUBA-JAIL" The entire structure is painted white and shows some signs of deterioration and paint chipping (photos 1-2).

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Cuba City Jail
Name of Property
Crawford County, Missouri
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The north and south side elevations are defined only by the large block base, the corresponding eight layers of smaller-sized concrete block and an even smaller block at the flat roof. Between the sixth and seventh layer from the ground is a pair of thin, horizontal air/light vents recessed within the walls (photos 3-7; photo 8 shows the condition of the building prior to restoration).

The west-facing rear elevation is composed by the large block base, the corresponding eight layers of smaller-sized concrete block and the smaller block at the slightly gabled roof. A chimney stack projects from the structure and corresponds to a hearth within the structure (photos 3-4).

**Interior**

The interior of the structure is defined by the concrete floor, the corner hearth, bare walls and ceiling, and the light which comes in from the side vents and primary door. The interior features a primary guard space complete with desk and wood burning stove and a rear cell room with pair of hanging iron bunks separated from the guard room by a concrete block wall and iron door (photos 9-11). Figure 1 illustrates the floor plan of the structure.

**Integrity**

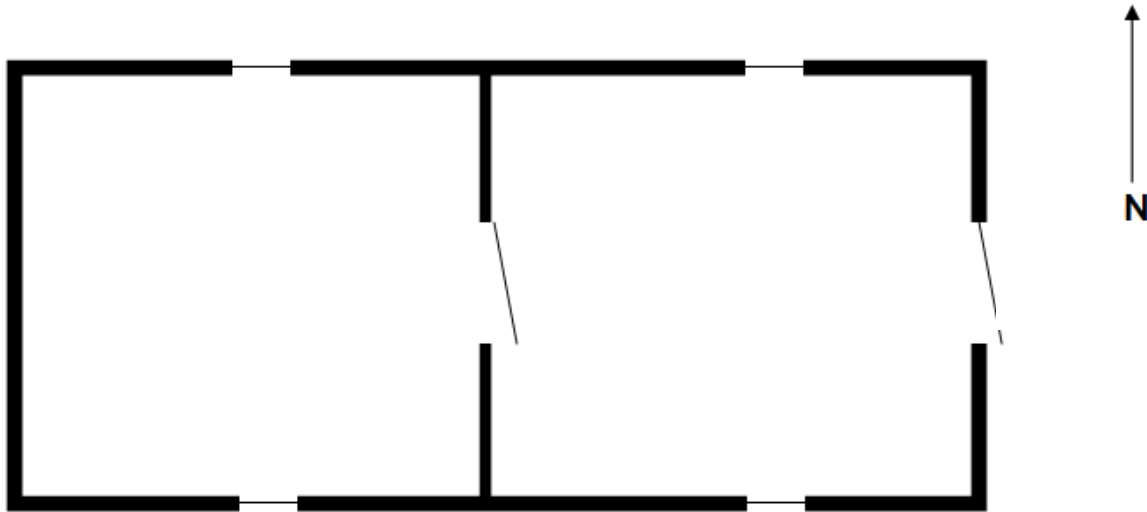
This structure represents the oldest government-related structure as well as the oldest jail extant in Cuba. The building had fallen into disrepair until being restored in respect of its original conditions between 2004 and 2006. Although again showing some signs of age and general deterioration (i.e. paint chipping and concrete spalling) it is still clearly recognizable as Cuba's 1908 jail. It retains integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. Although another older, unrelated structure once on site has since been demolished its loss does not adversely impact the setting.

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Cuba City Jail
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Name of Property
Crawford County, Missouri
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Historical and Architectural Resources of the City of Cuba, Missouri, 1821-1963
-----
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**Figure 1:** Cuba City Jail floor plan. Source: Laseer & Associates field visit.



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Cuba City Jail
Name of Property
Crawford County, Missouri
County and State
Historical and Architectural Resources of the City of Cuba, Missouri, 1821-1963
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

**Summary**

The Cuba City Jail located near the southwest corner of the intersection of Prairie Street and the 300 block of South Main Street in the City of Cuba, Crawford County, Missouri, is eligible for local listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criterion A with significance in POLIICS/GOVERNMENT. The jail is the oldest remaining city government building in Cuba and it remains essentially unchanged since construction. Replacing an earlier wooden structure which was burned by its inmates, this concrete block "calaboose"<sup>1</sup> was in active use between 1908 and 1954 and is clearly identifiable as a jail today. Built in 1908, this heavy, permanent, concrete block structure is of a spare, utilitarian design defined by a centralized iron door and inscriptions of its purpose "CUBA-JAIL" and its construction date "1908." The interior has "prison furniture" including a wood cot, a wooden desk, and a wood-burning stove which were installed during a 2004-2006 restoration; the original iron and wood jail cell sleeping platforms are intact. The period of significance begins with the construction completion date of 1908, continues through the period of its active use for 46-years, and ends in 1954 when the structure was abandoned. In 1954 a new jail was constructed behind the current City Hall and Fire Station on North Smith Street and the old jail sat vacant. The building retains high integrity and meets the registration requirements set forth in the multiple property documentation form entitled "Historic and Architectural Resources of the City of Cuba, Missouri, 1821-1963" and the associated property type "II-A Public Sector Institutional Architecture."

**Background - Cuba, Missouri**

Crawford County, Missouri was organized in 1829 and by 1837, the area that later became Cuba was first settled. Two decades later when the town was being surveyed for a proposed railroad line two local families consisting of Robert P. and Mary E. Jamison and C. Wesley and Mary Smith filed an official plat for "Cuba City."<sup>2</sup> As plated, Cuba was comprised of thirty-two blocks divided in half by the proposed railroad line; North Main and South Main fronted the tracks. Street names were different running north and south and changed identity once crossing the tracks. As designed, the new town was a typical railroad town with business facing the tracks and residential was separated. This would change again with the advent of the automobile.

<sup>1</sup> Coming from the Spanish word for dungeon "Calabozo."

<sup>2</sup> Steven E. and Mary Aue Mitchell. "Cuba, Crawford County, Architectural/Historical Survey." February 2007, HPF grant# 29-06-21528-612, page 4. The plat was not recorded until June 3, 1892.

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Cuba City Jail
Name of Property
Crawford County, Missouri
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By 1859, the Southwest Branch of the Pacific Railroad was completed through Cuba and by 1861 it had extended to Rolla; the railroad also divided Cuba into two unofficial communities, North Cuba and South Cuba.<sup>3</sup> The majority of businesses located to the north of the tracks but development of the town was slow. On May 12, 1877, Cuba was incorporated as a village and within four years its population numbered almost 400; lawyer and postmaster U. A. Farrow became the first mayor.<sup>4</sup>

### Background – Cuba Government & Police

Incorporated as a fourth-class city in 1884, Farrow continued in office until being replaced in 1888 by James A. Green. The city limits were extended during Green's third term in office between 1902 and 1906 and included annexation of sixty acres to the south.<sup>5</sup> Very little is known about the early history and subsequent development of Cuba's police department but local researchers have found that during the mayoral term of James T. Wightman between 1912 and 1914, that he had made great strides to create a full-time position with compensation for a marshal—a position that was paid on a monthly basis.<sup>6</sup> Wightman was cited as stating that “the marshal was to devote all of his time to the job and was to receive fifteen dollars per month as compensation.”<sup>7</sup> With the position came overseeing the local jail; when the marshal was not on watch one of his volunteer police men provided monitoring of inmates.

### Elaboration – The First and Second Jails

The first Cuba jail was constructed of wood and was subsequently burned by its inmates.<sup>8</sup> Seeing the obvious faults of the restrictive use of wood to hold prisoners, consideration of a new building to be built of more permanent materials came under discussion at the city level. James A. Munro, Cuba Marshal between 1906 and 1908, and W. A. Davis, who served in 1908, were engaged in the government effort to build this new city jail. According to minutes of the City Council and Board of Alderman of the City of Cuba, first mention of the construction occurred on November 26, 1907.<sup>9</sup> Mayor William F. Mitchell, City Clerk James A. Green, and the Board of Alderman comprised of A. H. Tie man, J. C. McClay, John Dowley, A. J. Bame tt, John M. Munro,

<sup>3</sup> Ibid, page 6.

<sup>4</sup> “Cuba.” *Gazetteer and Business Directory of the New Southwest*. (St. Louis: United States Directory Publishing Company, 1881).

<sup>5</sup> Cuba Sesquicentennial Book Committee. “Celebrating 150 Years: A History of Cuba, Missouri- 1857-2007.” (Cuba, MO: 2008). Page 127.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid, page 129.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> Steven E and Mary Aue Mitchell. *Architectural/Historic Inventory Form*. Number CRAS002-024. 2006.

<sup>9</sup> Breuer, James Ira. Unpublished history, 1973, page 3. Collection of the City of Cuba Historical Society; Breuer Archives.

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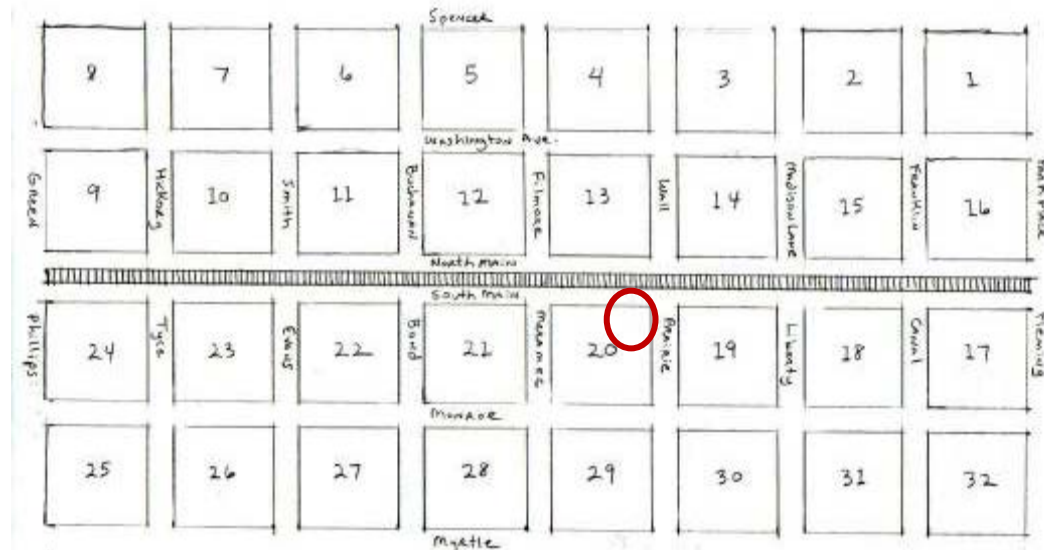
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Cuba City Jail
Name of Property
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and C. R. Hitch spoke at length about the need for as well as the design of the structure and sent two men to Sullivan, Missouri to measure the dimensions of its masonry jail. Accordingly, Marshal W. A. Davis was forced to deal with local lawbreakers without a place to put them; “how he accomplished his work under these circumstances is not recorded.”<sup>10</sup>

A series of city meetings commenced over the following months with a key vote on January 6<sup>th</sup> to procure a site south of the town; this parcel on lot one of city block twenty was owned by George and Jane Ives and was to be leased by Cuba for a period of 99 years (Figure 2).<sup>11</sup> Then on January 20, 1908 a special meeting was held in which to request that a public meeting be held later in April in order to give the citizens an opportunity to comment on the project. Meanwhile, the Board met again on February 3<sup>rd</sup> where it was agreed that Cuba would lease the chosen lot for \$40 per annum with the sole purpose of constructing a jail on the site.<sup>12</sup> At this same meeting, the Marshall’s son (and earlier Mayor between 1898 and 1902) John Manson Munro was appointed to make plans and specifications for the structure. The official contract for the structure was let to William Harrison (William Harmon is named in a second source) in the amount of \$322.50 at the March 31, 1908 Council meeting.<sup>13</sup>

**Figure 2:** Cuba Original City Plat. Site of 1908 Jail on city block 20 is circled in red. Source: Cuba Historical Society Archives.



<sup>10</sup> Ibid, page 4.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

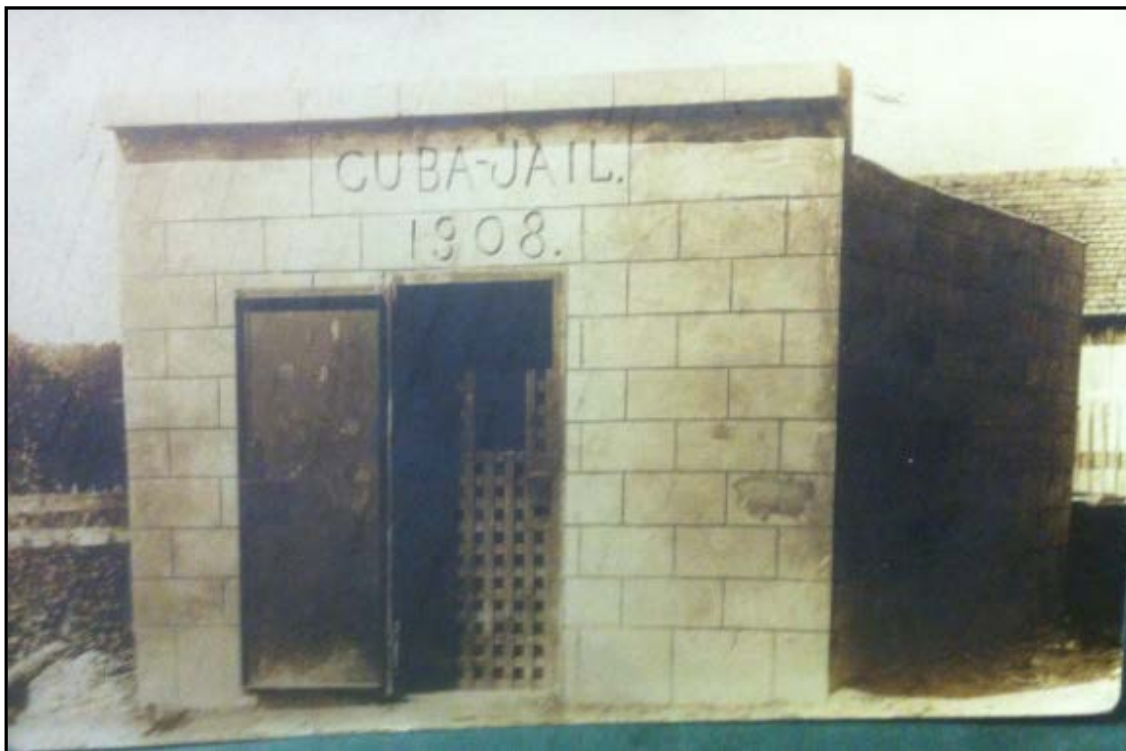
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Cuba City Jail
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The public meeting followed in April of 1908 where a majority vote (114-36) in favor of building the new jail was approved.<sup>14</sup> The Ives property at the intersection of Prairie and South Main Streets would house the new jail. To be constructed of concrete as the weather permitted, the jail was completed before the summer of 1908 (Figure 3). This structure was the second jail constructed in Cuba and was in use until 1954 when the third city jail was constructed behind the 1934 City Hall and Fire Department building. There are no available records indicating who had been imprisoned in the structure, how many had slept within its walls, or what crimes were committed to get free room and board within the jail; many of the city records were in fact destroyed by fire according to local historians and city officials.

**Figure 3:** Cuba Jail, 1908. Circa 1910. Source: Cuba Historical Society Archives.



**The Cuba City Jail and the Growing Town**

The role of the Cuba Jail was of great importance in the community and in the correction of criminals committing crimes within the city limits. However, its small size had restrictions of how many individuals could be “safely” stored in the structure. In theory and based on its design the rear cell could technically hold two individuals; an

<sup>14</sup> Cuba Sesquicentennial Book Committee. Page 129.

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internal door separating the rear cell from the front reception could also serve as a second cell room towards the front of the structure but without the presence of a guard inside it would be difficult to monitor the inmate's activities. The jail, similar to other small city jails in Missouri counties of the same vintage, more commonly served as a holding cell for lesser crimes punishable by a short sentence—for instance to provide a safe place to sleep off the effects of public intoxication. Whereas more serious crimes such as murder were often settled on the spot or by subsequent revenge. The so-called “frontier justice” and public hangings more common in the western states did not find their way into Crawford County to a large degree and with a smaller population the “troublemakers” were often already known and a short sentence would likely set them straight.

During the Mayoral term of Dr. Walter S. Cox between 1914 and 1918, Cuba annexed two large land parcels and thus increased its size.<sup>15</sup> Also during his term the playing of pool on Sundays was prohibited and slot machines were banned. Two stimulating activities that were earlier commonplace, but now illegal, no doubt continued in private circles. One can only assume that the careless citizens would get caught in the act and end up in the local jail with a fine to match. The City continued to develop and in the early 1920s installed its first municipal light system.<sup>16</sup> The early 1930s were marked by some major new construction projects in Cuba including new underpasses beneath Route 66 and for the Frisco railroad, a new public school, and improved sanitation. Ultimately by 1934, and through the assistance of the New Deal projects, a combination City Hall and Fire Department building was constructed (NR listed in Uptown Cuba Historic District, 3-13-2013); previously the city government relied on rented spaces for its administrative offices.<sup>17</sup>

### Site Study

Serving as the only city jail for over four decades, a review of Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps is quite misleading. The map for 1924 indicated that the jail fronted Liberty street on city block 19 to the east of block 20; an accompanying structure was adjacent the jail at the corner lot. Addressed as 202 Main Street (AKA 118 Liberty Street – Figure 4), the other structure was a one-story building, eighteen feet high and appears to have been an electric power house using both oil and gasoline fuel. A small one-story dwelling to the south was set back from the street. By 1933, the Sanborn map shows the jail behind a vacant one-story building addressed number 17 Main Street and the

<sup>15</sup> Ibid, page 127.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

<sup>17</sup> Steven E. and Mary Aue Mitchell, page 39.

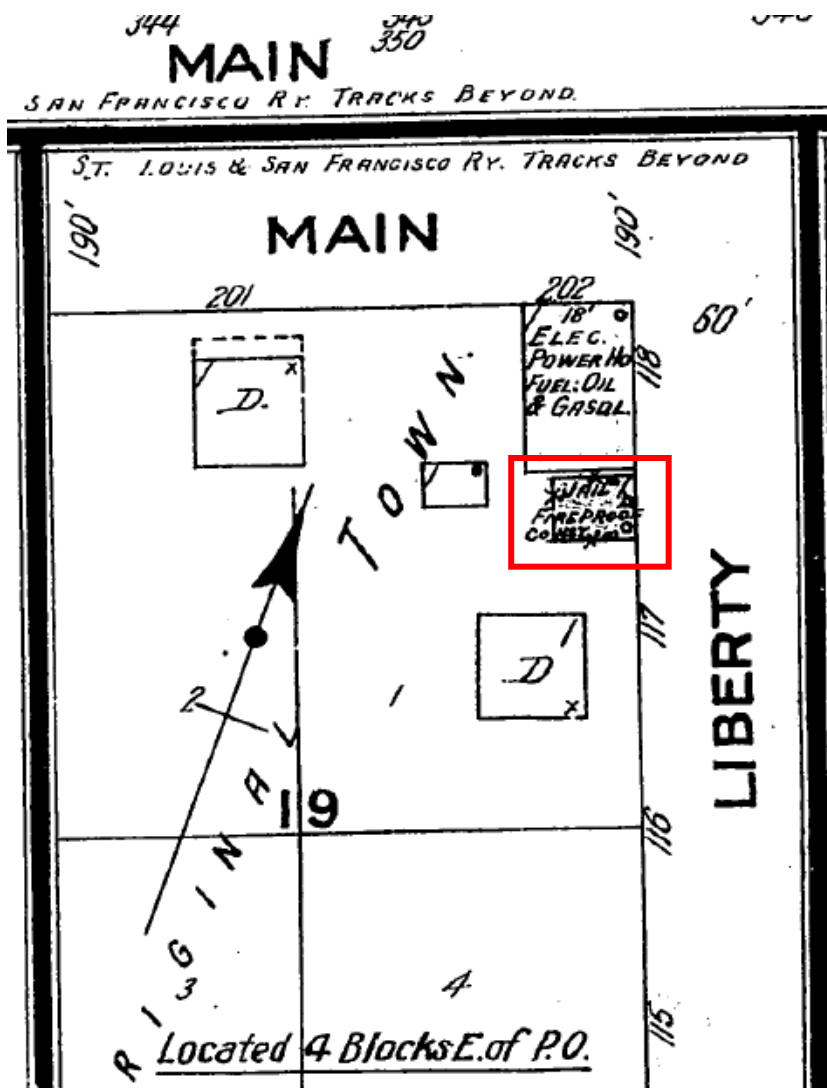
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dwelling is missing. The jail is on block 20 and facing Prairie Street (Figure 5). The streets were not renamed nor were the city blocks renumbered; and there is no evidence of the building having been moved. In summary, there is no logical explanation for the discrepancy of the jail on two different city blocks and could have simply been the mistake of the map draftsman. Regardless it is located on its original location were built on city block 20, lot 1.

**Figure 4:** Site represented on the *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map*, October 1924, plate 1. Building outlined in red.

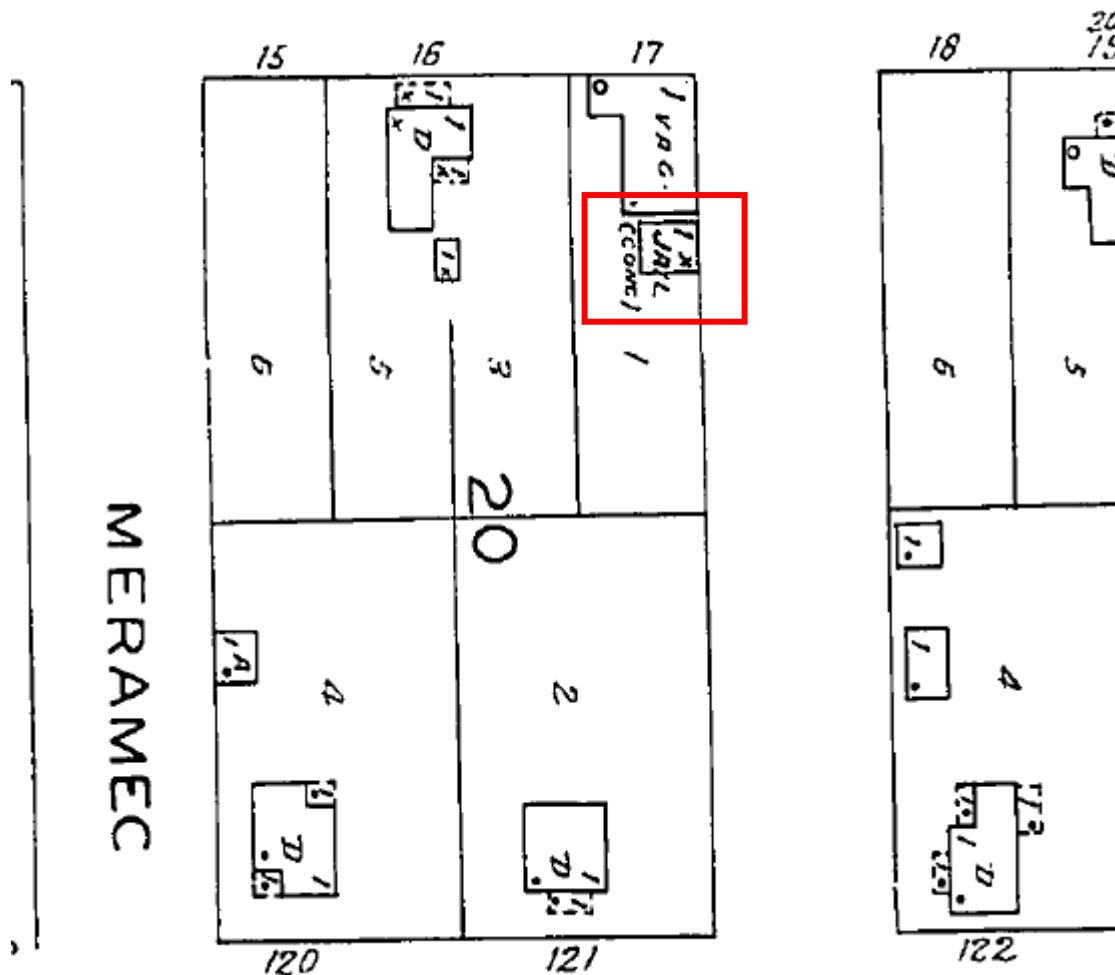


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**Figure 5:** Site represented on the *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map*, June 1933, plate 1. Building outlined in red.



**The 1908 Jail's New Life**

By the early 1950s, the 1908 concrete jail was considered too isolated from the City Hall which was five city blocks to the northwest in addition to having inadequate space to hold prisoners. It was ultimately decided to construct a new, third jail adjoining the rear of the City Hall in 1954. The old jail was in turn immediately abandoned and sat vacant for five decades with its future in question (Figure 6). Then on October 4, 2004 the Cuba Board of Aldermen and Mayor John Koch granted permission to Boy Scout Verlin Boda to “renovate” the structure.<sup>18</sup> Between 2004 and 2006 Boda restored this structure for

<sup>18</sup> Cuba Sesquicentennial Book Committee. Page 129.

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his Eagle Scout Project. It was reported that “doors” from the 1954 third city jail were brought to the site and Boda installed a wood stove, beds, and a desk within.<sup>19</sup> A look at the historic photograph in Figure 3 compared to the current condition however shows that the iron door at the exterior is the original door; it may have been relocated to the 1954 jail prior to returning to its original place. The building is the oldest city building extant in Cuba and stands today as a recognizable symbol of early city government.

**Figure 6:** Historical Society photograph of building, circa 1970s. Note the condition and the exterior-most metal door (not original).



**Cuba Architectural and Historical Survey**

The “Cuba, Crawford County, Architectural/Historical Survey” conducted by Steven E. and Mary Aue Mitchell in February of 2007 explains that the Cuba Jail is the oldest building extant that is associated with the local government of Cuba. Completed in

<sup>19</sup> Architectural/Historical Inventory Form. Number CRAS002-024.

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1908 and constructed entirely of concrete block, this structure retains high integrity. Significance of this structure is under Criterion A in association with political/government. Relative to political/government and “institutional” buildings in Cuba, eligible buildings in this category also include religious buildings, fraternal buildings, other government buildings, and school buildings. These buildings are considered “among the most significant buildings in the community, serving as the social, political, and educational foci of the town.”<sup>20</sup> The nominated building stands as the oldest government building in Cuba eligible for listing in the National Register.

**The MPDF and Associated Historic Context**

The Cuba City Jail was constructed during the period “Railroads and Industry, 1866-1926” and is a representative example of the “Property Type II: Institutional Architecture” as identified in the Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF) under which it is being listed.<sup>21</sup> Specifically built as a jail within the context of “Public-Sector Institutional Architecture” as noted in the MPDF, this structure has a flat roof with parapet and a central entrance on its primary façade indicative of these building types. This structure was also erected for the use of the local government. The larger context period was marked with a 60-acre expansion of the city in addition to the first telephone lines being installed.<sup>22</sup> Growth of commerce and residential areas also saw public improvements including the installation of sidewalks—especially those at Bond, Buchanan, Smith, Monroe, Evans, Washington, East Main, Vance and Orchard Streets.<sup>23</sup>

Demonstrative of the property type II-A: Public Sector Institutional Architecture as noted in the MPDF, this building was erected for the use of the local government as a correctional facility in association with Criterion A under politics and government.<sup>24</sup> It also represents the earliest extant government building in Cuba.<sup>25</sup> The Cuba City Jail’s role within the growth of Cuba and its direct connection to the institutional history of the town are clearly representative in the building which stands today; the building is highly intact as well as original. The jail is intrinsically connected to the community’s history and has a clear association with the above-mentioned historic context.<sup>26</sup>

<sup>20</sup> Steven E. and Mary Aue Mitchell. page 39.

<sup>21</sup> David Taylor. “Historical and Architectural Resources of the City of Cuba, Missouri, 1821-1963.” Multiple Property Documentation Form. 2012.

<sup>22</sup> Cuba Sesquicentennial Book Committee. Page 127.

<sup>23</sup> Ibid.

<sup>24</sup> David Taylor. “Historical and Architectural Resources of the City of Cuba, Missouri, 1821-1963.” Section F, page 4.

<sup>25</sup> Steven E. and Mary Aue Mitchell. page 40.

<sup>26</sup> David Taylor. Section F, page 4.

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In meeting the registration requirements of the MPDF, the nominated building is an excellent example of the property type and it retains a very high integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. As an individually-nominated property, the structure retains an unaltered exterior, the presence of original materials and design, roof form, retained however minimal fenestration, and a name/date stone in the parapet.<sup>27</sup> Principal interior features including the floor plan, the original jail bunks, and the interior iron cell door are extant. Minimal additions including the presence of “non-historic” interior furniture does not impact the integrity of the structure and instead helps to tell its story. The jail door evokes a sense of containment and strength and although removed from the building after abandoned in the 1950s, it was returned over five decades later to its original home.

To be listed individually in the National Register in accordance with the MPDF, the Cuba City Jail retains its original footprint and materials, its iron door and wall air vent openings, and lastly has an obvious physical character representative of its time: the building clearly reflects its period of significance from 1908 to 1954.

**Endnote**

It is the hope that this National Register listing will give the building the much-needed and well-deserved recognition it deserves relative to its role in understanding the history and development of Cuba government.

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<sup>27</sup> Ibid, section F, pages 5-6.

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

The Cuba City Jail located on the southwest lot at the intersection of Prairie and South Main Streets in the City of Cuba, Crawford County, Missouri, is located on lot 1 of block 20 of the northwest ¼ of section 31, township 39 north, range 4 west of the City of Cuba. The nominated property is legally known by the Crawford County Assessor's Office as parcel 06-9.0-31-2-38-001.000. A dashed line on the accompanying map entitled "Cuba City Jail Boundary Map" indicates the boundary of the nominated property.

**Boundary Justification**

The nominated property includes the building in addition to the adjacent site historically associated with the Cuba City Jail.

"Cuba City Jail Boundary Map"

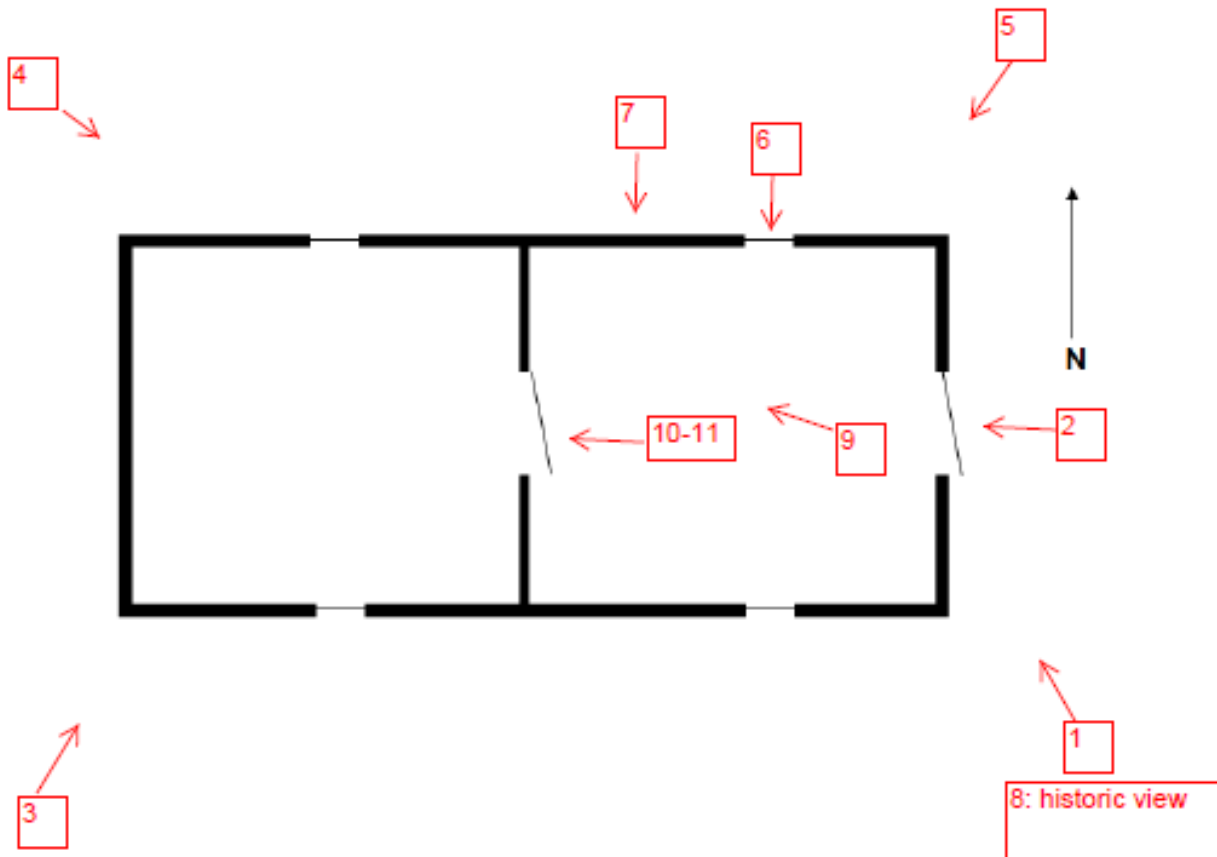


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**Floorplan and Photo Key**





CUBA JAIL  
1908

1908.









CUBELAN  
1908











Handwritten blue graffiti on the wall, possibly including the numbers '10' and '11'.



