

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination FormSee instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NPS use only

received

APR 19 1983

date entered

1. Namehistoric Clatsop County Jail (Old)and/or common N/A**2. Location**street & number 732 Duane StreetN/A not for publicationcity, town Astoria☒ vicinity ofFirst Congressional Districtstate Oregoncode 41

county

Clatsopcode 007**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
☐ district	☒ public	☐ occupied	☐ agriculture
☒ building(s)	☐ private	☒ unoccupied	☐ commercial
☐ structure	☐ both	☐ work in progress	☐ educational
☐ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	☐ entertainment
☐ object	<u>N/A</u> in process	☒ yes: restricted	☒ government
	<u>N/A</u> being considered	☐ yes: unrestricted	☐ industrial
		☐ no	☐ military
			☐ museum
			☐ park
			☐ private residence
			☐ religious
			☐ scientific
			☐ transportation
			☐ other:

4. Owner of Propertyname Clatsop Countystreet & number 749 Commercial Streetcity, town Astoria☒ vicinity ofstate Oregon 97103**5. Location of Legal Description**courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Clatsop County Courthousestreet & number 749 Commercial Streetcity, town Astoriastate Oregon 97103**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**title Statewide Inventory of
Historic Propertieshas this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ nodate 1976☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ localdepository for survey records State Historic Preservation Officecity, town Salemstate Oregon 97310

7. Description

Condition

☐ excellent

☒ good

☒ fair

☐ deteriorated

☐ ruins

☐ unexposed

Check one

☒ unaltered

☐ altered

Check one

☒ original site

☐ moved

date

N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Old Clatsop County Jail housed prisoners in Clatsop County from the time of its completion in 1914 to 1976. Designed in the Classical style, it was constructed by local contractors Palmberg and Mattson. The source of the design is undocumented. Steel fittings were supplied by the Stewart Jail Works Company of Cincinnati. Since it was vacated as a detention facility, the jail has been used as storage space by the Clatsop County Sheriff's Department and the Clatsop County Grounds Department. While maintenance has suffered as a result, the building is structurally sound. It is situated on the southwest corner of the block occupied by the Clatsop County Courthouse and is surrounded by historic public buildings and residences as well as newer commercial properties and the Clatsop County Justice Center which superseded the old jail in 1979. The immediate neighborhood is zoned C-4 Commercial, which offers the the potential for adaptive commercial use of the jail if necessary.

A two-story building on masonry foundation and partial basement, the Old Clatsop County Jail is constructed of reinforced concrete with exterior finish of stucco. Rectangular in plan, and measuring 35x51 feet, the building is oriented with its main axis east to west. Its flat, built-up roof is in poor condition. The building has a total of 29 double-hung windows in which wood sash have six over six lights. Each is protected by steel bars, and a little over half of them are additionally covered with metal mesh screens. The east, or front elevation is formally organized into three bays, the center bay being the entrance bay. The central entrance is raised slightly above grade and is reached by concrete steps. Fenestration is regular, and there are five bays in either side elevation, two in the rear. Door and window openings have unarticulated framements except that the windows have lugsills.

With its facade and corner pilasters, which have block-like capitals with tapered pendants, and with its full Roman Doric entablature, which includes a false pediment over the entrance bay, the jail is like a diminutive classical temple. The entablature is correctly proportioned, but its frieze is undecorated. Above the cornice embellished with a dentil course is a parapet which is stepped on the front elevation to provide a backing for the false pediment.

The interior is organized on a double side hall plan on the ground story. Administrative areas in the front are separated from cell blocks in the rear two thirds of the building. Opening onto corridors at north and south outside walls, the cell blocks contain three cells each measuring 6x7 feet and 7 feet in height. Each of the cells is equipped with wall-mounted, fold-down metal bunks, four to a cell. At the west end of the cell blocks is an open shower and toilet. The gate to the north cell block is missing.

The second story contains four detention areas, each with original steel doors. One of these areas is equipped with sink and tub, and in the center of the layout is a lavatory with sink and toilet. Stud walls erected as storage partitions in one of the second story office spaces are not original and can be removed readily.

The jail was heated by a oil-fueled boiler which supplied steam heat to radiators. The boiler room, which also houses the main electrical service panel, is located below grade in a partial basement story at the northeast corner of the building. It is entered by a stairwell and door at the north end of the front elevation.

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Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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The Clatsop County Jail was built shortly after Astoria's centennial was celebrated in 1911. It was a period during which the city's fisheries, sawmills, canneries, flouring mills and varied business enterprises flourished. Astoria's brisk growth was cut short by a disastrous fire which broke out along the waterfront in 1922. While the Courthouse and Jail were spared, the fire spread to destroy acres of industrial buildings and wipe out 8 blocks of the business district lying to the east of the nominated property. Following reconstruction of its businesses and manufactories, Astoria regained its rank in Oregon commerce, with fishing, lumbering, dairying and general agriculture continuing as the stable industries.

The old Clatsop County Jail is locally significant as the County's historic prison facility from 1914 to 1976. An implement of law and order, it has witnessed every social, political and economic change in Astoria and Clatsop County since the period of the Astoria centennial. In both function and architectural style, it complements the civic group created by the Renaissance-inspired Clatsop County Courthouse (1908) and the modern Classical United States Post Office (1933). Buildings in Astoria's downtown core generally postdate the fire of 1922, and non-residential buildings in the traditional styles, such as the old Clatsop County Jail are therefore rare.

It is believed that the old Clatsop County Jail is the longest operating free-standing jail-house in Oregon. Upon consultation with county museums, historical societies and law enforcement agencies throughout the state, including those in Douglas, Jackson, Linn, Marion, Union, and Washington Counties, the old Clatsop County Jail surpassed other jails in years of service. During its 62 years of operation, the Clatsop County Jail was used exclusively for detention purposes, a factor which accounts for the general lack of structural alteration.

The precise date of completion of the Clatsop County Jail is undocumented. However, the construction contract for \$8,825 was let on May 17, 1913 to the local firm of Palmberg & Mattson. Also on that date, the Stewart Jail Works Company of Cincinnati, Ohio, was awarded the steel contract for \$5,200. Specifications show that the date of completion was to be sixty days after the arrival of the steel for the bars and cells and would indicate a completion date early in 1914. Nevertheless, a thorough, day-by-day search of the micro-film record of the city's leading newspaper at that time, the Astoria Daily Budget, through mid-1915, failed to pinpoint a completion date or dedication ceremony for the new building. The old Clatsop County Jail was used continuously from the date of its completion to 1976. In the latter year, the facilities were declared inadequate for housing prisoners by the State of Oregon. For the past six years, sections of the old jail have been used for storage of courtroom evidence by the Clatsop County Sheriff's Department, and as office space by Clatsop County grounds maintenance crews.

Charles G. Palmberg, principal of the contracting firm of Palmberg and Mattson, was a prominent figure in Astoria and Clatsop County in the early years of the century. He constructed a wide range of buildings, justifying his motto, "I will build anything from a wood box to a house." His documented work prior to the jailhouse project included several residences in central Astoria; two local schoolhouses, one in Svensen and the other in Skamokawa, 1902; an engine house on the Clatsop County Courthouse square, 1899; Fisher's Opera House, 1906; Astoria High School, 1908; Scow Bay Creamery, 1899; the Flavel Hotel, 1896;

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and the Weinhard-Astoria Hotel, 1909. Many of these landmarks were destroyed in the Astoria fire of 1922.

Palmborg emigrated from Sweden in 1886 after serving four years apprenticeship as a cabinet maker. He arrived in Astoria in 1890, and went to work as a journeyman carpenter. In 1893, he went into business for himself. An astute businessman, Palmborg incorporated several local companies, including Seaside Door & Lumber Co., Copperhead Mining Co., and the Astoria Clay Product brick plant, thus broadening his construction activities through the varied interests of his later career. He was elected president of the Scandanavian-American Savings Bank, and, in 1920, when that bank merged with the Astoria National Bank, he became vice president of the latter. He also was president of the Columbia Trust and Savings Bank, an affiliate of the Astoria National Bank.

In 1914, following completion of the Clatsop County Jail, Palmborg and Mattson were awarded the contract for construction of the United States Post Office in Pocatello, Idaho. The firm's Idaho project was completed in 1916, and the partnership was dissolved shortly thereafter.

Responsibility for the design of the old Clatsop County Jail is as yet unattributed.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
☐ prehistoric	☐ archeology-prehistoric	☐ community planning	☐ landscape architecture	☐ religion
☐ 1400–1499	☐ archeology-historic	☐ conservation	☐ law	☐ science
☐ 1500–1599	☐ agriculture	☐ economics	☐ literature	☐ sculpture
☐ 1600–1699	☒ architecture	☐ education	☐ military	☐ social/
☐ 1700–1799	☐ art	☐ engineering	☐ music	☐ humanitarian
☐ 1800–1899	☐ commerce	☐ exploration/settlement	☐ philosophy	☐ theater
☒ 1900–	☐ communications	☐ industry	☒ politics/government	☐ transportation
		☐ invention		☐ other (specify)

Specific dates 1913–1914

Builder/Architect Palmberg and Mattson, contractors

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Clatsop County Jail at 7th and Duane Streets in Astoria, Oregon was constructed by local contractors Palmberg and Mattson and opened for use in 1914. Steel fittings were supplied by the Stewart Jail Works Company of Cincinnati. Constructed of reinforced concrete with a stucco exterior, the old jail is detailed in the Classical style with a Roman Doric entablature with undecorated frieze, a false pediment and pilasters marking the divisions of the three-bay principal facade. A rectangular volume of comparatively small scale, the two-story building has a ground plan measuring 35x51 feet. It occupies the southwest corner of the County Courthouse block and is overshadowed by Astoria's second Clatsop County Courthouse, immediately to the north. The latter is a brick masonry building of 1908 designed by Edgar Lazarus in the tradition of the American Renaissance. Though its surface is stuccoed and less elaborately detailed, the jail was clearly intended to be in harmony with the County's main administrative building. The two buildings are related by function and general stylistic characteristics, but the County Board of Commissioners has authorized nomination of the jail exclusively to date. The jail has been unused except for storage since 1976. A new detention facility was constructed by the County with Economic Development Administration assistance in 1979. The new Clatsop County Justice Center, as it is called, is located on the block to the west of the Courthouse.

The old Clatsop County Jail meets National Register criterion "a" as one of the longest operating county jails now standing in Oregon. It is significant also under criterion "c" as a rare, intact example of a freestanding jailhouse in western Oregon and as an example of the early use of reinforced concrete in local building construction. The jail is a minor, but nonetheless contributing component of what might be called Astoria's historic civic group, including the County Historical Society headquarters in the Captain George Flavel House of 1884, a National Register property which occupies the full block to the south; the County Courthouse of 1908, and the United States Courthouse and Post Office of 1933, which occupies the full block to the north.

Astoria is a coastal city which legitimately lays claim to many firsts. Situated on the south bank of the Columbia River, 12 miles inland from the mouth, Astoria was the site of first permanent settlement by Euro-Americans in the Oregon Country. It was established as a fur post in 1811 by men of John Jacob Astor's New York-based Pacific Fur Company. The post subsequently was sold to British-Canadian fur companies, but continued to be operated as a fur collecting station to 1839. The first overland immigrants arrived in 1844 and 1845, and trading vessels arrived at the mouth of the Columbia in increasing numbers, bound for inland settlements. On March 9, 1847, John W. Shively opened the first post office in the Pacific Northwest at Astoria. The region's first customs collector, General John Adair, arrived in 1849. In 1864 the first successful salmon cannery on the Columbia was opened in Astoria, and the community grew and prospered with the development of the West Coast fishing industry. Astoria enjoyed a period of brisk growth beginning in the 1880s and became a prime settlement area for Scandinavian immigrants attracted by the fishing and logging industries.

(continued)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Clatsop County Board of Commissioners, Proceedings.

Palmborg, Herbert and Walter, "Charles G. Palmborg, Sunset Empire Builder,"

Cumtax, Fall 1982, pages 2-9. Cumtax is the quarterly publication of the Clatsop County

Historical Society.
The Daily Astorian, November 5, 1982, editorial concerning the Palmborg family.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one _____

Quadrangle name Astoria, Oregon-Washington

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	0
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4	3	5	6	2	0
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5	7	7	5	7	5	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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Verbal boundary description and justification The Old Clatsop County Jail is located in Section 8, Township 9N, Range 9W, W.M., and occupies a 50x100-foot parcel (portions of Lots 7 and 8) at the southwest corner of Block 28, McClure's Addition to Astoria, Clatsop County, Oregon. Thus, the nominated area is limited to the jail and the 50x100-foot parcel it occupies. (contd)

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county N/A code

state N/A code county N/A code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan M. Scully, Chairman

organization City of Astoria Historic Buildings & Sites Commission

date May 11, 1982

street & number City Hall, 1095 Duane Street

telephone (503) 325-5821

city or town Astoria

state Oregon 97103

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

date April 12, 1983

For NPS use only

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

Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date

5/19/83

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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In due time, the Clatsop County Courthouse, which occupies the remainder of Block 28, may be nominated separately. The area herein proposed for nomination contains 5,000 square feet, or approximately 0.11 acres.



OLD CLATSOP COUNTY JAIL

1 OF 19

732 Duane Street, Astoria,
Clatsop County, Oregon

SOUTH ELEVATION

Susan Scully,
Astoria Historic Sites and
Building Commission

April, 1982 (County Courthouse
1908, in background)



OLD CLATSOP COUNTY JAIL 2 OF 19

732 Duane Street, Astoria,
Clatsop County, Oregon

SOUTH ELEVATION

Susan Scully,

Astoria Historic Sites and
Building Commission,

April, 1982



OLD CLATSOP COUNTY JAIL 3 OF 19

732 Duane Street, Astoria

Clatsop County, Oregon

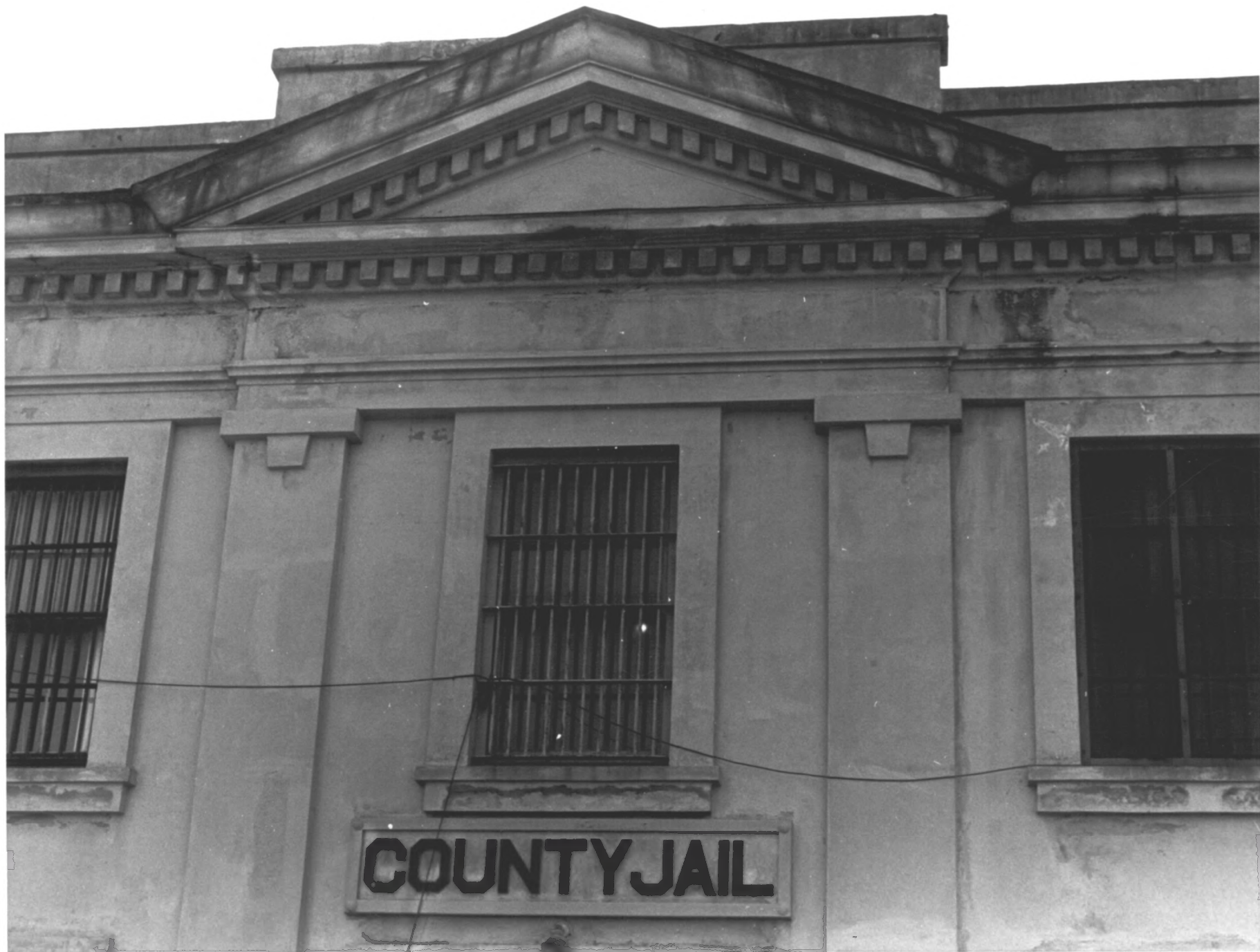
EAST ELEVATION

Susan Scully

Astoria Historic Sites and

Building Commission

April, 1982



COUNTY JAIL

OLD CLATSOP COUNTY JAIL 4 OF 19

732 Duane Street, Astoria,

Clatsop County, Oregon

FRONT (EAST) ELEVATION

Susan Scully,

Astoria Historic Sites and

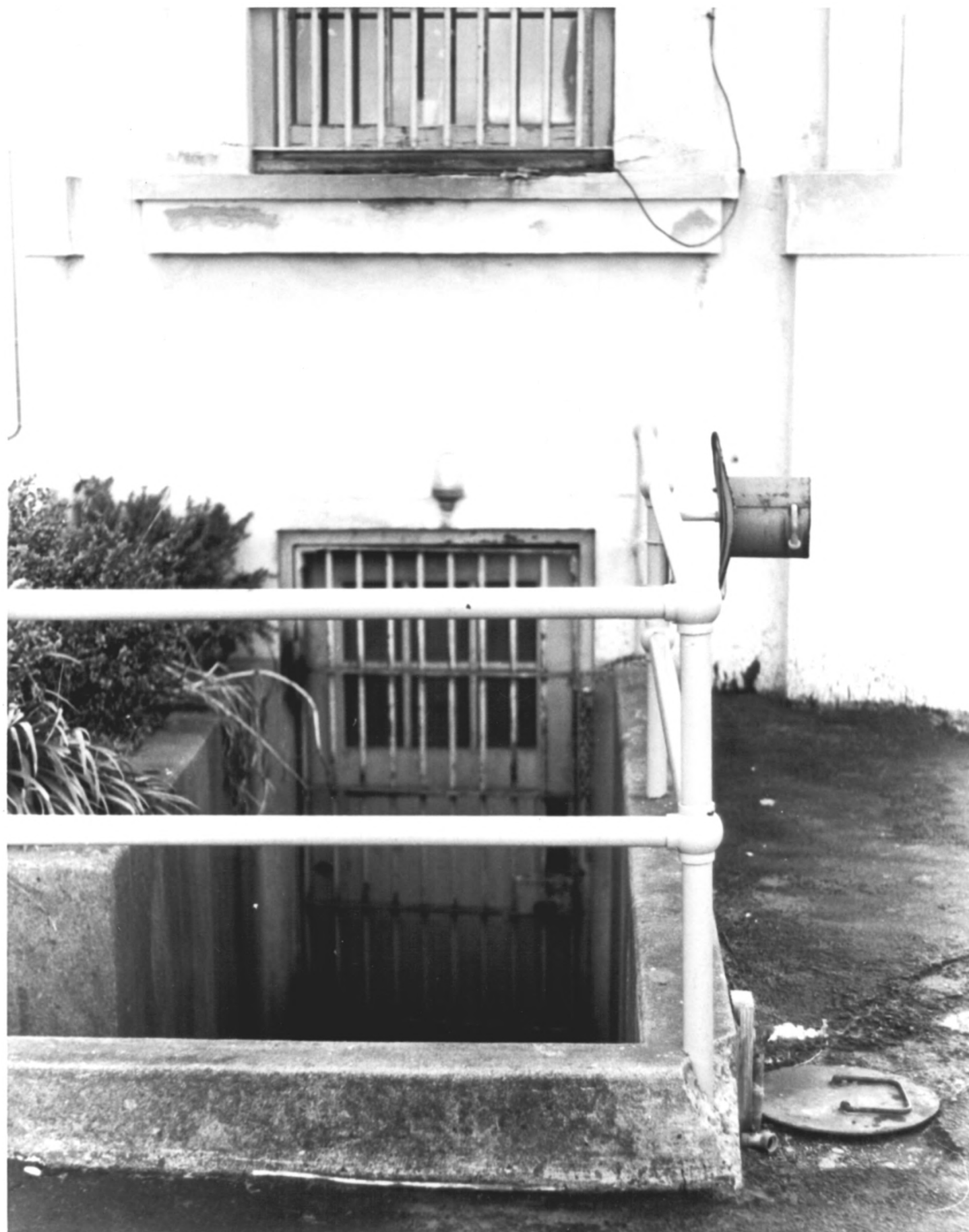
Building Commission

April, 1982

COUNTY JAIL



OLD CLATSOP COUNTY JAIL 5 OF 19
732 Duane Street, Astoria,
Clatsop County, Oregon
MAIN ENTRANCE (EAST ELEVATION)
Susan Scully,
Astoria Historic Sites and
Building Commission
April, 1982



OLD CLATSOP COUNTY JAIL 6 OF 19
732 Duane Street, Astoria,
Clatsop County, Oregon
EAST ELEV., ENTRANCE TO BOILER ROOM
Susan Scully,
Astoria Historic Sites and
Building Commission
April, 1982



OLD CLATSOP COUNTY JAIL 7 OF 19

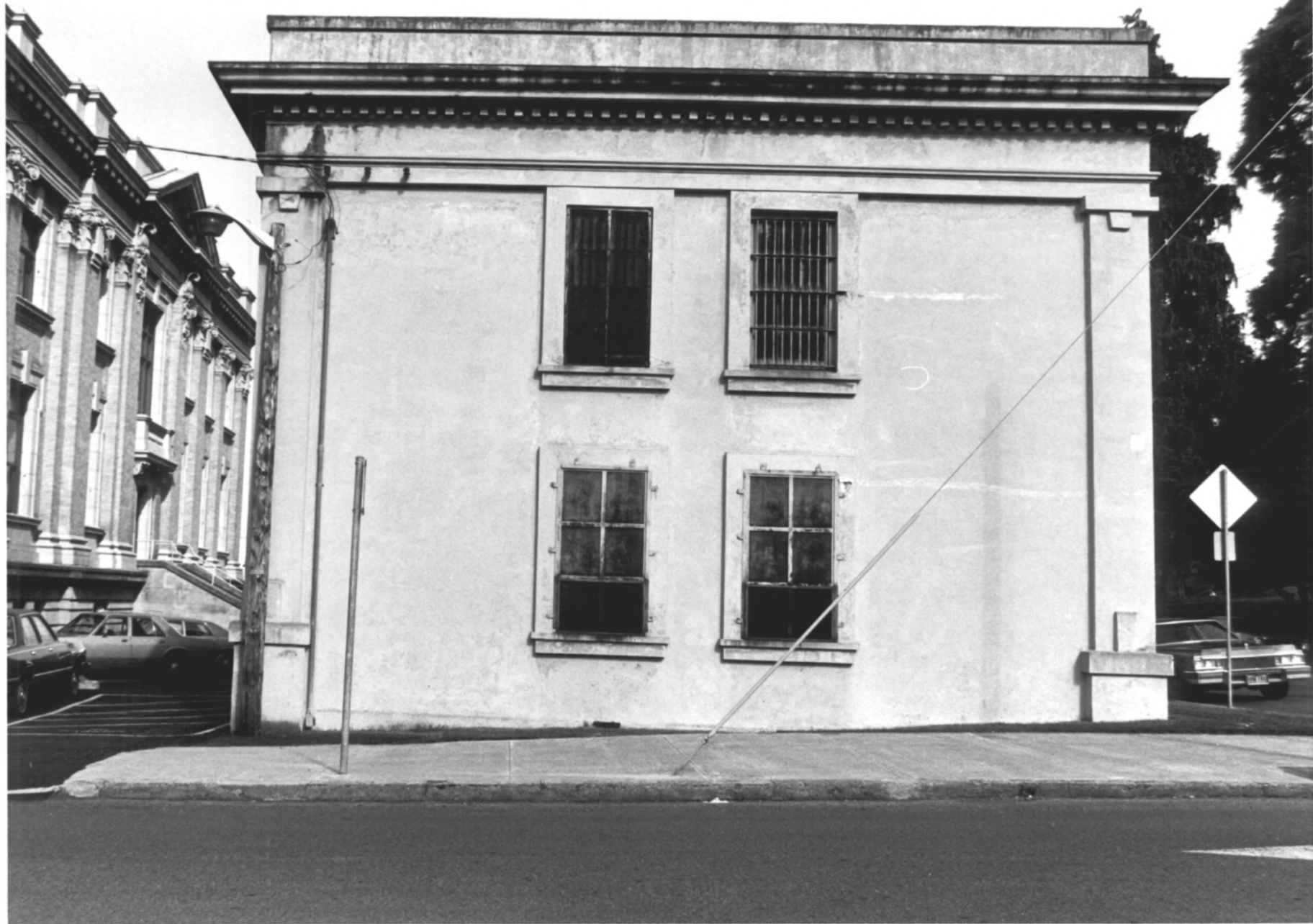
732 Duane Street, Astoria,
Clatsop County, Oregon

NORTH ELEVATION

Susan Scully,

Astoria Historic Sites and
Building Commission

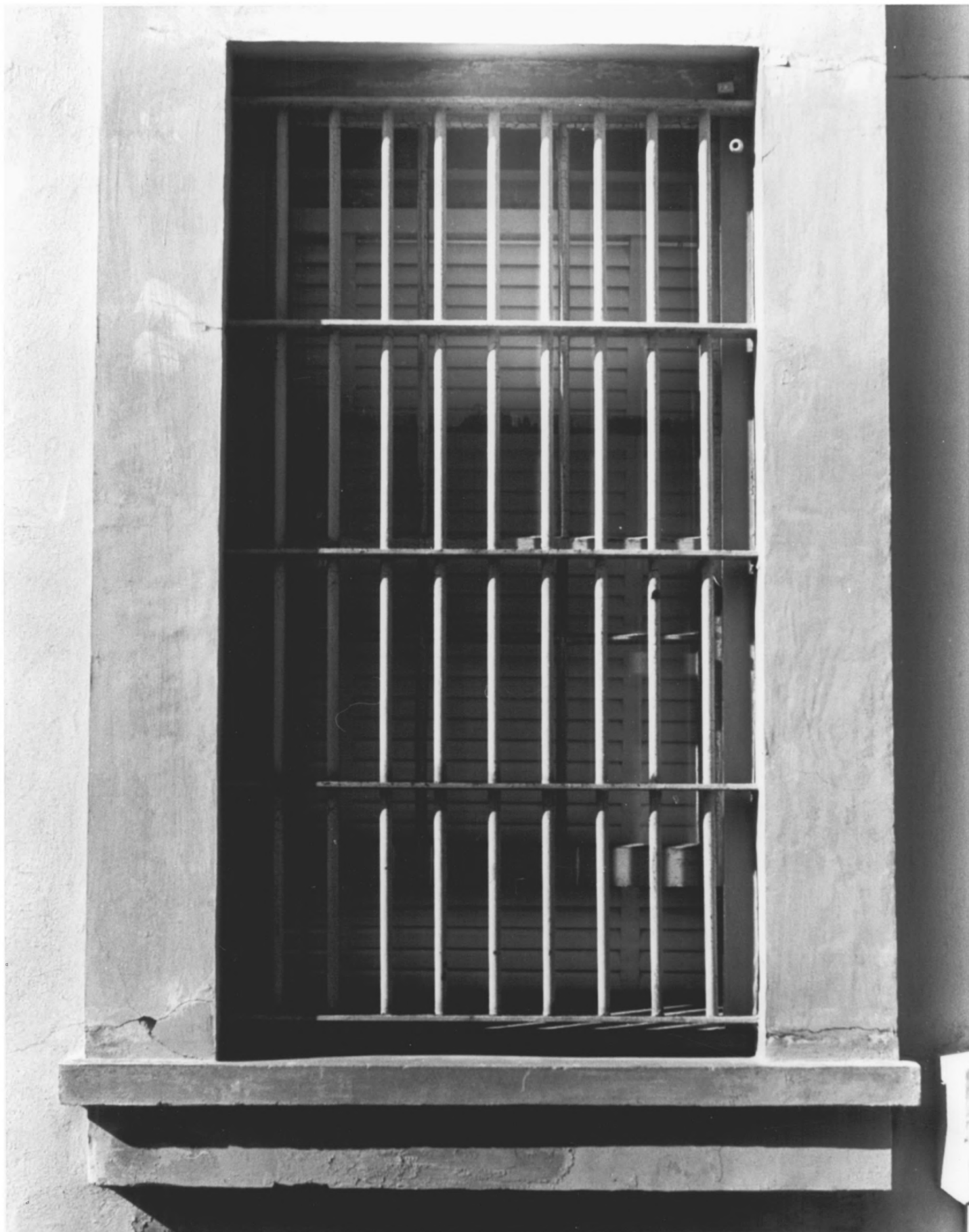
April, 1982



OLD CLATSOP COUNTY JAIL 8 OF 19
732 Duane Street, Astoria,
Clatsop County, Oregon

WEST ELEVATION

Susan Scully,
Astoria Historic Sites and
Building Commission
April, 1982



OLD CLATSOP COUNTY JAIL 9 OF 19

732 Duane Street, Astoria

Clatsop County, Oregon

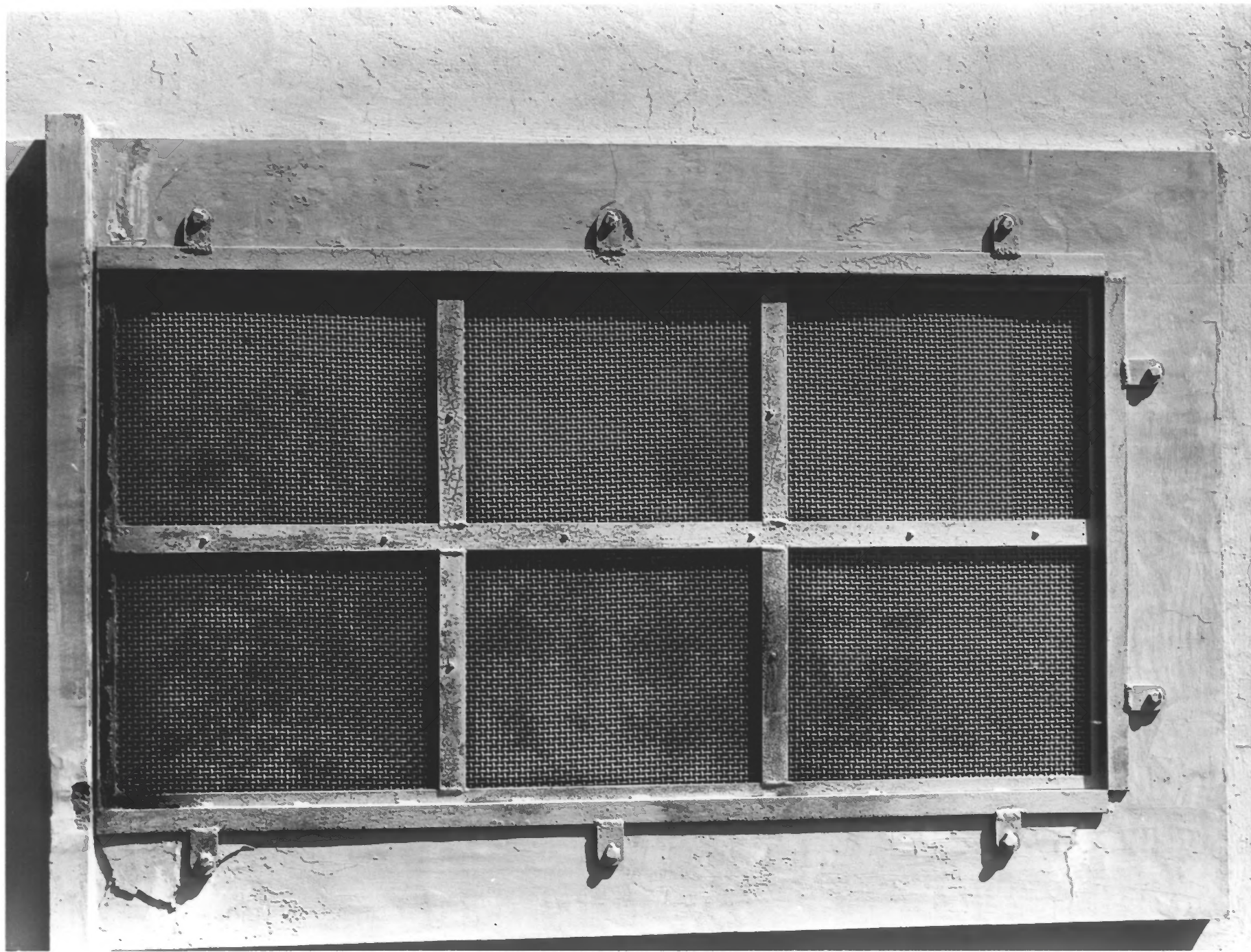
BARRED WINDOW , SOUTH ELEVATION

Susan Scully,

Astoria Historic Sites and

Building Commission

April, 1982



OLD CLATSOP COUNTY JAIL 100F19

732 Duane Street, Astoria

Clatsop County, Oregon

METAL GUARD MESH ON WINDOW,
SOUTH ELEVATION

Susan Scully,

Astoria Historic Sites and
Building Commission

April, 1982



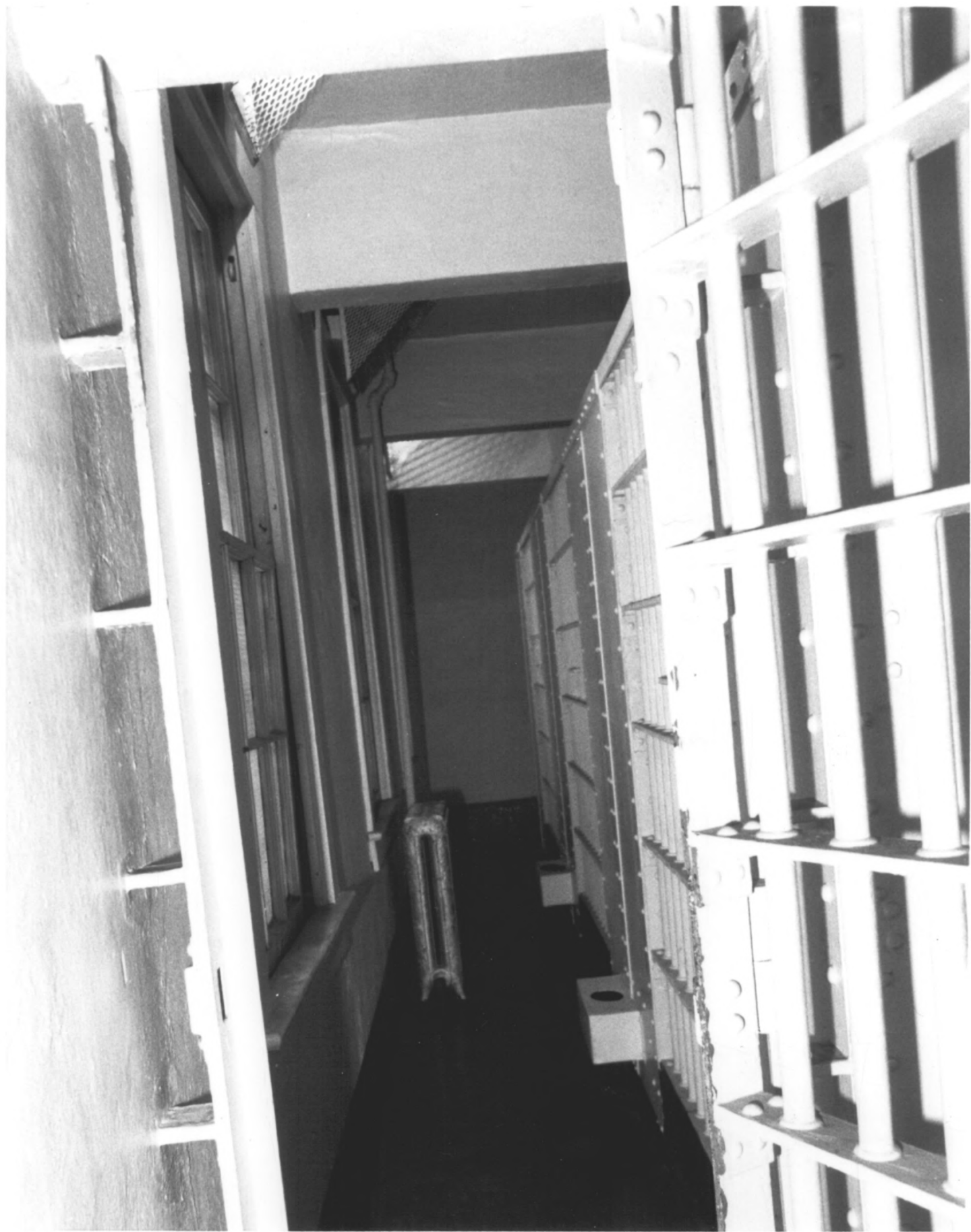
Old Clatsop County Jail 11 OF 19

732 Duane Street, Astoria,

Clatsop County Oregon

Main control gears for cells

Susan Scully, Astoria Historic
Sites and Building Commission ,
April 1982



Old Clatsop County Jail 12 OF 19

732 Duane Street, Astoria

Clatsop County Oregon

South section of cell area

Susan Scully, Astoria Historic

Sites & Building Commission,

April 1982



OLD CLATSOP COUNTY JAIL 13 OF 19

732 Duane Street, Astoria

Clatsop County, Oregon

CELL INTERIOR

Susan Scully,

Astoria Historic Sites and

Building Commission,

April, 1982



OLD CLATSOP COUNTY JAIL 14 OF 19
732 Duane Street, Astoria
Clatsop County, Oregon
CELL INTERIOR
Susan Scully
Astoria Historic Sites and
Building Commission,
April, 1982



Old Clatsop County Jail 15 OF 19

732 Duane Street, Astoria,
Clatsop County Oregon

Main foyer of second floor

Susan Scully, Astoria Historic
Sites and Building Commission,
April 1982



Old Clatsop County Jail 16 OF 19

732 Duane Street, Astoria,

Clatsop County Oregon

MANUFACTURER'S MARK, 2ND STORY
DOOR

Susan Scully, Astoria Historic
Sites and Building Commission,
April 1982



OLD CLATSOP COUNTY JAIL 17 OF 19
732 Duane Street, Astoria,
Clatsop County, Oregon
WOOD LOCKERS IN 2ND FLOOR OFFICE
Susan Scully,
Astoria Historic Sites and
Building Commission
April, 1982



OLD CLATSOP COUNTY JAIL 18 OF 19
732 Duane Street, Astoria,
Clatsop County, Oregon
BATHROOM ON SECOND FLOOR
Susan Scully,
Astoria Historic Sites and
Building Commission
April, 1982



OLD CLATSOP COUNTY JAIL 19 OF 19
732 Duane Street, Astoria,
Clatsop County, Oregon
SINK & BATHTUB IN 2ND FLOOR OFFICE
Susan Scully,
Astoria Historic Sites and
Building Commission
April, 1982