HO-54 THE EMORY JAIL OR WILLOW GROVE

1878

Ellicott City

Public

The Emory or Howard County Jail, known as Willow Grove is a five bay wide, four bay deep two and a half story granite block structure with intersecting gable roofs, projecting central south bay holding a central rectangular entrance door surmounted by a tall Roman arched second floor window and fenestration set into rectangular recesses which run from first to second floors on the south, east and west walls which are surmounted by flat stone lintels.

Built in 1878, executions took place between the jail and the court house with local men as witnesses until 1916.

Presently still in use, it is hoped that when new correctional facilities are constructed by Howard County and/or the State, that the building will be utilized as an annex or recycled for further use and preservation.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM

for the NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

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•	COMMON:			·············			
L	The Howard County	Jail					
	AND/OR HISTORIC:						
	The Emory Jail or	"Willow Grov	e"				
2. L	OCATION						
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[6	CITY OR TOWN:						
L	Ellicott City,						
[*	STATE		co	UNTY:			
	Maryland		1	Ho	ward		
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F	District (X) Building	■ Public	Public Acquisition:		X Occupied	Yes:	
17	∑ Site ☐ Structure	Private	In Process	i	☐ Unoccupied	X Restricted	
	Object	☐ Both	Being Con	sidered	Preservation work	Unrestrict	
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	PRESENT USE (Check One or M			···			
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- 13	Commercial Ind						
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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AID ORIGINAL (II MOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Howard County Jail is a five bay wide four bay deep, two and a half story granite block structure with intersecting gabled roofs, projecting central south bay holding a central rectangular entrance door surmounted by a tall Roman arched second floor window. The entrance is decorated with a projecting corbeled stone lintel held by two brackets. Fenestration is set into rectangular recesses which run from first to second floors on the south, east and west walls and are surmounted by flat stone lintels. Bars and/or protective screens are located at each door and window. A central octagonal copula with molded curvilinear roof is placed in the center of the gable roof which runs east-west. Originally the east and west walls were identical, holding two deeply set rectangular recesses which run from the ground floor to the second floor, each holding first and second floor rectangular doublehung windows with 15-over-15 lites. In 1959 a central third floor rectangular window was added to the east wall. The 1959 alteration created space on the third floor for the Central Alarm Headquarters.

A double glass and aluminum door in the north central bay and a 9 lite rectangular window in the south central bay were added while the west window of the extreme north bay was elongated, utilizing the original lintel. An iron walkway and railing leads from this west door to the Courthouse parking lot.

From the north wall springs a three bay wide, two bay deep three story high granite (for two stories) and frame (top story) addition whose gable roof runs north-south and intersects with that of the main south wing. A shed roofed semi-enclosed porch rests on the west wall of this addition.

The north wall holds two barred first floor windows and two second and third floor rectangular double-hung windows with six-over-six lites. Two shed roofed porches are placed along the east wall of this addition, one on the ground floor, another on the second floor. A first and second floor rectangular east central entrance is flanked on the second floor by rectangular double-hung six-over-six lite windows and on the ground floor by a flight of stairs on the north and a similar window on the south.

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PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
Pre-Celumbian	☐ 16th Century	☐ 18th Century	20th Century
15th Century	☐ 17th Century	19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applica	ble and Known)		
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (C	reck One or More as Appropr	lete)	
Aber iginal	Education	Political	Urben Planning
Prehistoric	Engineering	Religion/Phi-	Other (Specify)
☐ Historic	☐ Industry	lesophy	
Agriculture	☐ Invention	Science	
☐ Architecture	☐ Lendscepe	Sculpture	
☐ Art	Architecture	Societ/Human-	
☐ Commerce	Literature	iterian	
☐ Communications	☐ Militory	☐ Theater	
Conservation	Music	☐ Transportation	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Emory Jail, known as Willow Grove was constructed in 1878 and is a unique architectural landmark with its element of the Romanesque revival style seen in the central bay tall roman window above the main entrance on the south elevation. The stone work is particularly fine with the rectangular recesses which run from ground level to second floor providing window insets on the south, east and west elevations, decorated with fine stone lintels.

Executions by hanging took place between the Courthouse and Jail with local men acting as witnesses. No hangings took place after 1916.

The need for a new jail is extreme at this time. It is hoped that this building will be preserved and recycled for another use or as an annex to additional correctional facilities.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

American Association of University Women, Howard County Chapter, Mimeographed paper on the history of Ellicott City, Ellicott City, 1972.

Interview with Mrs. Evelyn Cranwill, member of AAUW and participant in the research, February 4, 1977.

Map of Historic Ellicott City, 1867 - Mrs. Jean Hannon, Ellicott City, 1972.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

Please see Tax Map 25A p.243 .229 acres 1/257

1	١. '	FORM	PRE	PAR	ED.	BY

Cleora Barnes Thompson, Archivist

ORGANIZATION

Howard County Office of Planning and Zoning

STREET AND NUMBER:

3450 Court House Drive

CITY OR TOWN:

Ellicott City

STATE

Maryland

21043

DATE

State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National [

State | Local |

EMORY JAIL HO-54 U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY MAP - ELLICOTT CITY, MD. QUAD

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EMORY JAIL HO-54 FEB. 1977 (SOUTH) CLEORA THOMPSON