NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Baltimore County Jail

other names BA-205

2. Location

street & number 222 Courthouse Court ☐ not for publication

city or town Towson ☐ vicinity

state Maryland code MD county Baltimore code 005 zip code 21204

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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 ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying official/Title — Date 7-10-09

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying official/Title — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby, certify that this property is:
- ☐ entered in the National Register.
  - ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined eligible for the National Register.
  - ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ Determined not eligible for the National Register.
- ☐ removed from the National Register.
- ☐ other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

Baltimore County Jail (BA-205)
Name of Property

Baltimore County, MD
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☐ private
- ☒ public-local
- ☐ public-State
- ☐ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
- ☐ district
- ☐ site
- ☐ structure
- ☐ object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

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)

Vacant/not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Mid – 19th Century / Italianate

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone
walls stone
roof wood frame w/ built up membrane
other

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

See Continuation Sheet 7-1

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 pattern of our history.

☐ **B** Property 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.

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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

Area of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Politics/ Government
Architecture

Period of Significance

1855 - 1940

Significant Dates

1855 original construction
1905 renovations to cellblock interior
1940 garage addition

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder
Dixon, Balbirnie, & Dixon, architects (1855);
James S. Nussear, Jr., architect (1905)
William H. Allen, Builder (1855)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)

Previous documentation on files (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 #

Primary location of additional data:

☐ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☒ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other

Name of repository:

Baltimore County Jail BA-205
Name of Property

Baltimore County, MD
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre Towson, MD quad

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	361506	4361916
2			
3			
4			

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Charles Belfoure
Organization date 10/1/08
street & number 4596 Wilders Run Lane telephone 410-840-4494
city or town Westminster state MD zip code 21158

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

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.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO)

name Martin P. Azola / Towson Jail Associates LLC
street & number 1414 Key Highway telephone 410-528-1546
city or town Baltimore state MD zip code 21230

Paperwork Reduction 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. 470 et. seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

Description Summary:

The Baltimore County Jail, constructed in 1855, is a 2-story Italianate style stone building that was used as a correctional facility until 2006. It is located on the northwest corner of Bosley Ave. and Towsontown Blvd. in Towson, MD. The building consists of a 5-bay wide warden's quarters with a central 3-story entry tower and a rear cellblock that houses 3 levels of jail cells. Connected to the south side of the warden's house is a 1-story garage of stone construction, built in 1940, to transfer prisoners to and from police and department of correction vehicles. Over its history, the Baltimore County Jail has remained largely unaltered except for the replacement of the original cells in 1905. The building is structurally sound and the exterior is in excellent condition. The interior of the warden's quarters, which retains most of its historic fabric, is in deteriorating condition. The interior of the cellblock is in excellent condition.

General Description:

Exterior:

The Baltimore County Jail is a symmetrically designed two-story with basement structure with overall measurements of 52' wide and 62' deep. A low pyramidal hipped roof covers the warden's quarters, and its 3-story entry tower. A low gable roof covers the rear cellblock. The entire building is constructed of stone load bearing exterior walls approximately 30" thick, laid in a coursed fieldstone pattern. The windows are divided light double hung units with stone lintels and sills.

East Elevation (Principal Façade)

A 3-story entrance tower with a low hipped roof and chimney is at the center of the 5-bay, 2-story east elevation and contains a wood double-door entry with an arched transom containing iron bars in a fanlight design. At the second story in the tower is a 1 over 1 double hung window with a stone lintel and sill and at the third story are three narrow 2 over 2 double hung windows. The tower has a wooden cornice with a 16" overhang and a chimney that extends approx. 5 feet above the roof. Flanking the tower are 2 bays of original 6 over 6 double hung windows with stone lintels and sills approx 4'-6" tall at the raised basement, 5'-6" at the first story and 4'-6" at the second story. Some of the windows have wooden frame screens which are not original.

North Elevation

The north elevation is composed of 2 sections: a 2-bay warden's quarters and a connecting 3-bay cell block section which is set back 2 feet from the face of the warden's quarters. The fenestration of the warden's quarters matches the east elevation except for an original wooden door at the basement level at the northeast corner and a new door that has been cut into an original first story window which is accessed from grade by a wooden stairway leading to a concrete slab platform supported by stone piers. The platform connects to a large stone chimney that was built at a later date. The cellblock fenestration is 6 over 6 wood double hung windows with stone lintels and sills. Every window in the cellblock is fitted with steel bars. Both the warden's quarters and cellblock have a simple wood box cornice with a 12" overhang.

West Elevation

The west elevation, which is the rear exterior wall of the cellblock, is a 3-story, 2-bay composition with 6 over 6 wood double hung windows with stone lintels and sills. Every window in the cellblock is fitted with steel bars. A walk-out basement wood door is located at the northwest corner.

South Elevation

The south elevation is similar to the north elevation, composed of 2 sections: a 2-bay and a connecting 3-bay cell block section which is set back 2 feet from the face of the warden's quarters. The fenestration of the cellblock is identical to the north elevation. Connected to the warden's quarters is a 25' by 28' 1-story, garage which has a low slope gable roof with a built-up membrane. It is constructed of matching stone and has an overhead door with large steel windows with 6" x 9" divided lights of obscured glass on its south and west elevations. The fenestration of the warden's quarters is similar to the north elevation at the first and second stories except for a door infilled in an original window opening at the second story which opens onto a steel fire stair that exits behind the garage. There is a walk-out basement door located at northeast corner.

Architectural Integrity of Exterior

The exterior of the Baltimore County Jail is largely intact with its original stone walls, entry tower, doors, and roofs unaltered. Most of the original windows are intact except in two locations where new exit doors were cut into existing window openings. Two windows were removed on the south elevation where a garage was attached in 1940. The rear cellblock building, which was reconstructed in 1905 using the same basement walls to provide new cells and concrete floors, has remained unaltered.

Interior:

First Floor – Warden's Quarters

Through the double doors of the main entry is an entrance hall with steps leading up to double doors with rectangular transom into the first floor central lobby in the warden's quarters. The central lobby is a 2-story symmetrical space containing a grand curving staircase and is lit by a pyramidal sky light. The lobby is surrounded by 4 rooms located at the corners of the building. The floor is constructed of timber framing and wood strip flooring which has been covered with vinyl tile. The original baseboards and door trim in the lobby remain but the doors into the rooms have been replaced. The original interior walls are wood framed with plaster but most of the original wood trim work inside the rooms is gone. The original 10' high plaster ceilings in the 4 rooms are covered by dropped ceilings. The rooms in the northeast and southeast corners retain their brick fireplaces. The staircase retains its original treads and risers and its walnut newel post, railing, and balusters as well as its its trim work on the the stringer and balcony which runs along the perimeter of the second story. A door under the main stair leads to another stair to the basement which has the same railing and newel post detail.

First Floor – Cellblock

A door in the west wall of the lobby under the balcony leads to the first floor cell block which contains 10 cells approx. 5'-6" wide and 7'-6' deep with a corridor running along three sides. The cells are divided by 6" plastered masonry walls with sliding steel doors. The inside of the exterior walls throughout the cellblock are plaster on stone and the floors are concrete. A steel stair on the north elevation runs down to the basement cell block and another runs up to the second floor cell block.

Second Floor – Warden's Quarters

The main stair leads to a balcony with a wood railing that looks over the first floor lobby. Off the balcony are 4 rooms that match the dimensions of the ones on the first floor below. The original baseboards and door trim along the balcony remain but the doors into the rooms have been replaced. The original interior walls are wood framed with plaster but most of the original wood trim work inside the rooms is gone. The original 10' high plaster ceilings in the 4 rooms are covered by dropped ceilings. In the tower section which is above the entry stair is a bathroom with a ceiling hatch to the third level of the tower.

Second Floor – Cellblock

The second floor cellblock which is only accessed by the stair from the first floor cell block is identical to the one below except that a corridor runs along all four sides and has 12 cells, 3 of which have been converted into storage closets.

Basement – Warden's Quarters
The stair from the lobby runs down to the basement which is roughly divided into the same arrangement as the first floor rooms, one of which is a furnace room. Doors at the northeast and southeast corners lead directly outside.

Basement Cellblock & Garage
The basement cell block which is only accessed by the stair from the first floor is identical to the second floor cell block with 12 cells and a corridor running along all four sides with 3 cells having been converted into storage closets. An original wood door at the northwest corner leads directly outside and a door in the south wall leads to a 1-story garage which is constructed of brick and stone with a concrete floor.

Architectural Integrity of Interior
Given its use and age, the interior of the warden's quarters of the Baltimore County Jail is remarkably intact with its original staircase, interior partitions, and some of its trim work remaining unaltered and in place, although in poor overall condition. It still conveys its original architectural identity and function as when it was built in 1855. The cellblock also retains its architectural identity with all the cells and stairs in place since its renovation in 1905.

Summary Statement of Significance:

The Baltimore County Jail, built in 1855, is locally significant under National Register Criterion A in the area of Politics/Government for its association with the establishment of Baltimore County as an independent jurisdiction. The jail, and the nearby Baltimore County Courthouse (listed in the National Register), which was built at the same time and designed by the same architect, survive to reflect the creation of Baltimore County in 1851.

The Baltimore County Jail derives additional significance under National Register Criterion C, as a rare and largely intact example of prison architecture from the pre-Civil War period in Maryland. The building still shows the layout and operation of a county jail, retaining its original rooms for administration and warden's quarters, and three levels of cells. Its construction of massive load bearing stone walls and timber framing characterize prison architecture of the era. It is also an outstanding example of governmental architecture designed in the Italianate style in the region. Its massing, proportion, fenestration, detailing, and tower are all important architectural features that exemplify this style which was popular before and after the Civil War. The design of the building is a restrained handling of the Italianate without the usual ornate detailing, giving the jail an imposing fortress-like presence. The interior features a pyramidal skylight in the central two-story hall, and a curving stair and balcony with all of its detailing intact. The building exhibits the local craftsmanship of fieldstone masonry of the period. The jail is the work of the well-known mid-19th-century Baltimore architectural firm Dixon & Dixon, whose other projects include the Baltimore County Courthouse, Lutherville Seminary, St. Agnes Church in Baltimore County, and the Baltimore City Jail.

The period of significance, 1855-1940, begins with the original construction of the jail and ends with the construction of the garage addition, by which date the building substantially achieved its present form and appearance.

Resource History and Historic Context:

The design and construction of the Baltimore County Jail became necessary when Baltimore County and Baltimore City separated into two distinct self-governing jurisdictions in 1851. Baltimore City had become the county seat of Baltimore County in 1768, and although it later incorporated and operated under a different form of government, it remained part of the county. But over the years, differences grew between the demands of an increasingly urbanized city and an agrarian county. The first attempt at separation came in a referendum in October 1838, where it was defeated 2,270 to 388. Separation was finally agreed upon in 1851, and the new county government had to decide on the location of the new county seat. In February 1854, Towson was

chosen by the voters. The city and county had always shared a courthouse and jail and the Maryland legislature authorized the county to continue this arrangement until new buildings were provided. In 1854, the General Assembly authorized the county to select sites and build a courthouse and jail for $50,000 and $12,000 respectively. In August 1854, for the sum of $5, Dr. Grafton M. Bosley deeded a tract on the west side of the York Turnpike for the buildings – four acres for the courthouse and two acres for the jail.

When Baltimore replaced Joppa as the county seat in 1768, it was ordered by the legislature to build a jail. The design of this early jail is unknown. It was replaced in 1799 with a new building on a six-acre parcel where the present Baltimore City Jail now stands. Designed by the gentleman-architect Nicholas Rodgers and builder-architect Robert Cary Long, Sr., it was a quadrilateral plan enclosing a square court. Instead of using a congregate room, which was the usual means of housing prisoners in that period, the jail had 20-square-foot cells. Rogers is said to have added Gothic parapets to the design to give it an air of authority. In 1851, the legislature appropriated $50,000 for the construction of a new city jail.

After acquiring Dr. Bosley's site, the Baltimore County government hired the firm of Dixon, Balbirnie, & Dixon in June 1854 to design both the new courthouse and jail. The builder William H. Allen of Cambridge, Maryland was hired to construct both buildings simultaneously. Dixon & Dixon was one of the most important mid-nineteenth century firms in Baltimore. Thomas Dixon (1819-1886) was a native of Wilmington, Delaware who came to Baltimore in the late 1840s and began his architectural practice in 1849 designing the Aged Women's Home on West Lexington Street in Baltimore in a Gothic Revival style. In late 1851, he formed a partnership with his brother, James W. Dixon (1817-1863) and a Scotsman named Thomas Balbirnie. The firm designed Waverly Terrace, a group of eleven rowhouses on Franklin Square, St. Agnes Catholic Church, Lutherville Seminary, and Union Square Methodist Church. In 1856, the same year Balbirnie left the firm to open his own office, Dixon & Dixon designed an octagonal building for the Mount Washington Female College. In 1858, Dixon & Dixon revised the designs of Boston architect, Gridley J.F. Bryant, for the Baltimore City Jail. Using the Gothic Revival style, the firm created a stone fortress housing 600 cells. In 1859, they won the competition for the Sheppard Asylum in Baltimore County but the designs was ultimately done in 1861-1862 by Calvert Vaux, the co-designer of Central Park in New York City. From 1871 to 1879, Dixon practiced with Charles L. Carson, designing the Mount Vernon Place United Methodist Church, the parsonage of Brown Memorial Church, and the Mount Washington Presbyterian Church. Dixon formed a partnership with Thomas C. Kennedy from 1880 to 1885.

By the time Dixon got his first jail commission, prison architecture had been slowly evolving in America over 150 years. In colonial America before the 1700s, imprisonment of criminals was

rare. Instead, harsh penalties such as flogging, branding, and death by hanging were imposed. For lesser crimes, offenders were fined, banished, or shamed by being put in the stocks or the public cage. The object of the punishment was deterrence, to prevent the offender from repeating his crime. After America won its independence, it repudiated much of British justice, which included the death penalty for crimes such as robbery, and most states restricted execution to first-degree murder. The nation then confronted the question of what punishment should substitute for execution. Long-term incarceration was thought to be the answer and prisons were needed. With very few exceptions like Newgate Prison in Connecticut, which was just two wood frame houses surrounded by a wooden fence, there were no prisons in America. Local jails were just secured rooms that only held men awaiting trial or the convicted awaiting punishment. Beginning in the eighteenth century in England and France, there was a movement that spoke out against the death penalty and physical cruelty, and the idea of imprisonment took hold. Prisons, workhouses, and penal colonies were created to punish criminals. Early prisons in England were overcrowded filthy environments where women, debtors and children were all imprisoned with dangerous felons and the insane in one single space. In 1777, a British reformer named John Howard exposed these conditions in his book *The State of Prisons in England and Wales*. The book was influential in the passage of the Penitentiary Act of 1779 which reformed the British prison system. Howard and an architect named William Blackburn became important pioneers in the development of prison architecture, believing that good design could promote order and cleanliness. America followed the British example of prison reform and each state built a state penitentiary. Maryland's was constructed in 1804, using a congregate room instead of individual cells.

In England, the Quakers had also been very influential in prison reform. In 1787 in Philadelphia, they organized what is now called the Pennsylvania Prison Society which believed that prisons should reform as well as punish, and called for improved conditions with a prison routine based on hard work and solitary confinement. New York and Pennsylvania based their prisons on these principles where each prisoner worked alone all day in his cell, believing the isolation would cause prisoners to think about their crimes and feel sorry, hence the word penitentiary originating from the word penitence which means sorrow for wrongdoing. In 1790, the Walnut Street Prison in Philadelphia, where all the inmates were housed in one big space, adopted the idea.

A rival prison reform method to the Pennsylvania Plan evolved in New York in 1820s. Called the Auburn Plan, it was first employed in 1825 at Auburn State Prison in Auburn, New York. There, prisoners ate and worked together in silence, and returned at night to their solitary cells which measured 7 feet by 3½ feet by 7 feet high. Each plan had its passionate supporters. Auburn proponents said the Pennsylvania Plan was unnatural, driving inmates to madness, and that working together increased productivity for prison industry, an important source of revenue

to operate prisons. Around this time, Blackburn's idea of architecture as an important element of reform came back to life with the Boston Prison Discipline Society stating that "the prospect of improvement in morals depends, in some degree, upon the construction of buildings." More thought was given to the design of American prisons and jails. It was at this time that the English émigré architect, John Haviland, revolutionized prison design with his Eastern State Penitentiary in Philadelphia in 1823-1829 and the New Jersey State Prison in Trenton in 1833-1836. Haviland's scheme emphasized solitary confinement, day and night, with inmates' work carried out in their cells. Based on a massive radial plan housing scores of cells, each with light and air, it became the model for prisons all over the world.

By the late 1820s, more states including Maryland built new prisons and almost all adopted the less expensive Auburn Plan. American prisons followed a philosophy of silence and rigid discipline based on a military model requiring both guards and inmates to wear uniforms and march in line. Harsh punishments were meted out for any infraction of the rules. The design of prisons also had a military feel, reflected in Gothic Revival designs resembling medieval fortresses with turrets and thick high walls that signified security and permanence, such as Haviland's Eastern State Penitentiary. An architectural feature of the Auburn Plan was the back-to-back placement of the cellblocks with a corridor between the cells and the outer walls. It was adapted to a radial design by Bryant and Dwight for the Charles Street Jail in Boston in 1848-1851, which became quite influential.

By the 1850s, county jails were still largely used for imprisoning convicted felons for terms less than a year and holding prisoners awaiting trial and sentencing, but they adopted many of the concepts of prison design that had evolved in the first half of the nineteenth century. Well-ventilated cells grouped back-to back with one prisoner to a cell were basically the norm. On February 10, 1855, the first detailed description of the interior of the Baltimore County Jail was given in the *Baltimore Sun*:

"The New Jail is to be constructed on the separate confinement principle, each cell to be 7 feet by 12 feet nine inches, and 9 feet high, the walls are built of stone, and the ceilings arched with bricks, a board floor will laid on the brick arches. The jail will be three stories in height and 36 feet 6 inches by 48 feet over the walls with eight cells in each story, a corridor of 15 feet wide, running through the jail, is open from the lower floor to arched ceiling of the roof, a height of about 33 feet, and well lighted by eight skylights."

Dixon's designs for the Baltimore County buildings demonstrated the variety of architectural styles used in the 1850s. The courthouse was in the Greek Revival style while the jail was done in the Italianate using a square two-story and basement form with a central 3-story entry tower

topped by a low hipped roof. These were key features of Italian villa architecture that was then being popularized by the books of Andrew Jackson Downing, especially *The Architecture of Country Houses*. Many residences in the region were built using the style with a 3-story tower such as Anneslie in Towson by J.R. Niernsee and Trevanion in Uniontown. Given its purpose, the jail used the massing and proportion of the Italianate but eschewed the usual embellishments found on residences.

In 1855, the jail was complete and occupied by Sheriff Samuel P. Storm, who was also the warden and who lived in the front section of the jail in the rooms surrounding the two-story lobby, using some of the rooms on the first story for the administration of the jail. The Grand Jury of the Baltimore County Court made an annual inspection visit in March, 1857, and declared the jail was properly kept, but found fault with the design and construction of the jail. They complained that the jail was already overcrowded with three people to a cell and of the 24 cells, 12 were not secure because they lacked iron doors, and the door in the rear wall of the jail was wooden, not iron. Haviland's influential design for Eastern State Penitentiary had included a toilet in each cell that was flushed once a day, and Dixon similarly provided each cell with a toilet. The Grand Jury found the water supply inadequate for flushing the jail's toilets which made the building smell terrible. "The jury regards the jail as badly adapted to the purpose for which it was erected, and in their opinion it can only be rendered safe by enclosing the same with a substantial stone wall." In the following decades, the grand jury would continually call attention to the inadequacies of the jail. By 1871, a board fence was erected around the building. Many citizens complained to the *Baltimore County Advocate* that $14,000 was a "paltry sum" for a jail. In the nineteenth century the concept of reform instead of punishment had become quite popular, and jails and prisons provided religious and educational opportunities for inmates. By January 1858, it was mentioned in the *Baltimore County Advocate* that there was a jail library and that church services were held.

A report of the first escape came in October 1859 when John O. Little, who serving time for manslaughter, cut a hole through the wall of his cell. In the evening, he got out and with a false key, and opened the cell doors of three other inmates. Using a rope made of bedclothes, they were lowering Charles Loveday, to the ground when they were caught. Only Loveday, who had been serving time for vagrancy, got away. Very few people were held for violent crimes. One of the first assault-with-intent-to-kill cases came in 1857. John Hamah and his wife had sold their house to William Marshall but believed their shrubbery was not part of the sale. When they came to dig it up, Marshall stopped them, and they tried to assault him with the spade and hatchet they had brought. When a police officer came to arrest the Hamahs at their house, Mr. Hamah shot at the officer and his wife tried to scald him.

Most of the prisoners were confined for months awaiting trial for petty offenses or vagrancy, including some inmates who managed to get themselves arrested for a petty crime when the weather got cold in order to "winter" at the jail. In 1884, the Prisoners' Aid Association of Maryland complained that there was only one mattress to a cell that held four or five inmates and that the cost of keeping a prisoner was very expensive: $40 to $60 a day. The Association blamed the overcrowding on the practice of paying County magistrates for each incarceration, and asserted that the number of prisoners would decrease and the County could save money if the magistrates were paid a fixed salary. In 1868, the Sheriff provided a new iron bedstand with a mattress and blanket for each cell, the first of other comforts he proposed to introduce. Subsequent wardens would try to entertain the prisoners as the new warden, Robert Nelson, did in 1894, when he gave a Punch and Judy Show and allowed the inmates to walk the corridors for a few hours.

Very infrequently, prisoners were held in the jail to await execution, which was carried out in the rear prison yard. A door at the northwest corner of the building led to a gallows. Perry Kennard was executed in 1861 for rape, as was William Pritchard in 1871. In 1873, Levin Palmer, Pritchard's accomplice, was hanged for rape but his execution was botched; his neck did not break and after twenty minutes he strangled to death. Executions at the jail were not public; the time of execution was a closely-kept secret. Twenty-one men, mostly law enforcement and members of the press, plus eleven people watching from a hill witnessed Palmer's hanging at seven in the morning. The newspaper reported that no women were present. In 1877, James R. Hawkins was hanged. All the executed prisoners had been black. Only Kennard had murdered his victim. There was only one incident of lynching in the jail's history, on July 12, 1885, when a black prisoner named Howard Cooper was taken from the jail by a mob and lynched from a tree on the jail property. In 1906, Isaac Winder, a black man awaiting execution for murder of a tollgate keeper, escaped from the jail and was hunted by the police as well as a lynch mob, but was rescued before the mob caught him. A large percentage of the inmates over the history of the jail seem to have been black men including Simon J. Bondsley who died in jail in 1876. He had claimed to be one hundred years old and a former slave of Charles Carroll of Carrollton. All black prisoners were housed in the basement cells.

The jail had to be continually repaired and upgraded. The minutes of the County Commissioners are filled with entries for the jail, such as a new windmill for the jail yard, a new furnace and well, and the repair of a sink in the jail yard. In November 1895 the original iron doors of the cells were replaced by ones made of steel. The most extensive improvement came in 1905 when the entire cellblock was renovated to the design of architect James S. Nussear, Jr. Twelve inmates had escaped since the jail's original construction; to prevent further escapes, the interior walls were taken down to the basement and rebuilt to support a new concrete slab floor with a

new layout of thirty-four cells with corridors running along four sides of the cells on the basement and second level and on three sides on the first level. New stairs on the north side of the cellblock were also installed. It is basically this configuration that exists today. The original roof was probably replicated but without the skylights. The warden's quarters was untouched. Since 1905, the cell doors have been replaced.

To facilitate the transfer of prisoners, a garage was built in 1940 at the south wall of the building with a doorway into basement cellblock. In 1956, a new jail was built behind the old jail. It was originally intended to be an office building for the county but was converted into a jail during construction. In 1956, a new jail with a 7,200 SF footprint was constructed ten feet behind the rear of the original jail. In 1975, an annex with a 2,800 SF footprint housing 175 inmates was constructed, connecting to the north side of the 1956 jail. In 1982, a second freestanding annex with a 3,000 SF footprint housing inmates was built to the northeast of the original jail.

In 1982, a new County jail was constructed on Kenilworth Drive, and the original jail was used for a work release program, but in the same year, because of concerns about fire safety, the work release program moved out. The cellblocks were used to store county records. In 1986, because of an increased inmate population, the original jail again was used for 40 work release inmates. The warden's quarters in the original jail was renovated and used for work release for female prisoners until 2006, when a new $77 million jail for 1,500 inmates was opened on the Kenilworth Drive site. The 1956, 1975, and 1982 buildings surrounding the original jail were demolished and an adaptive reuse was sought for the historic building.

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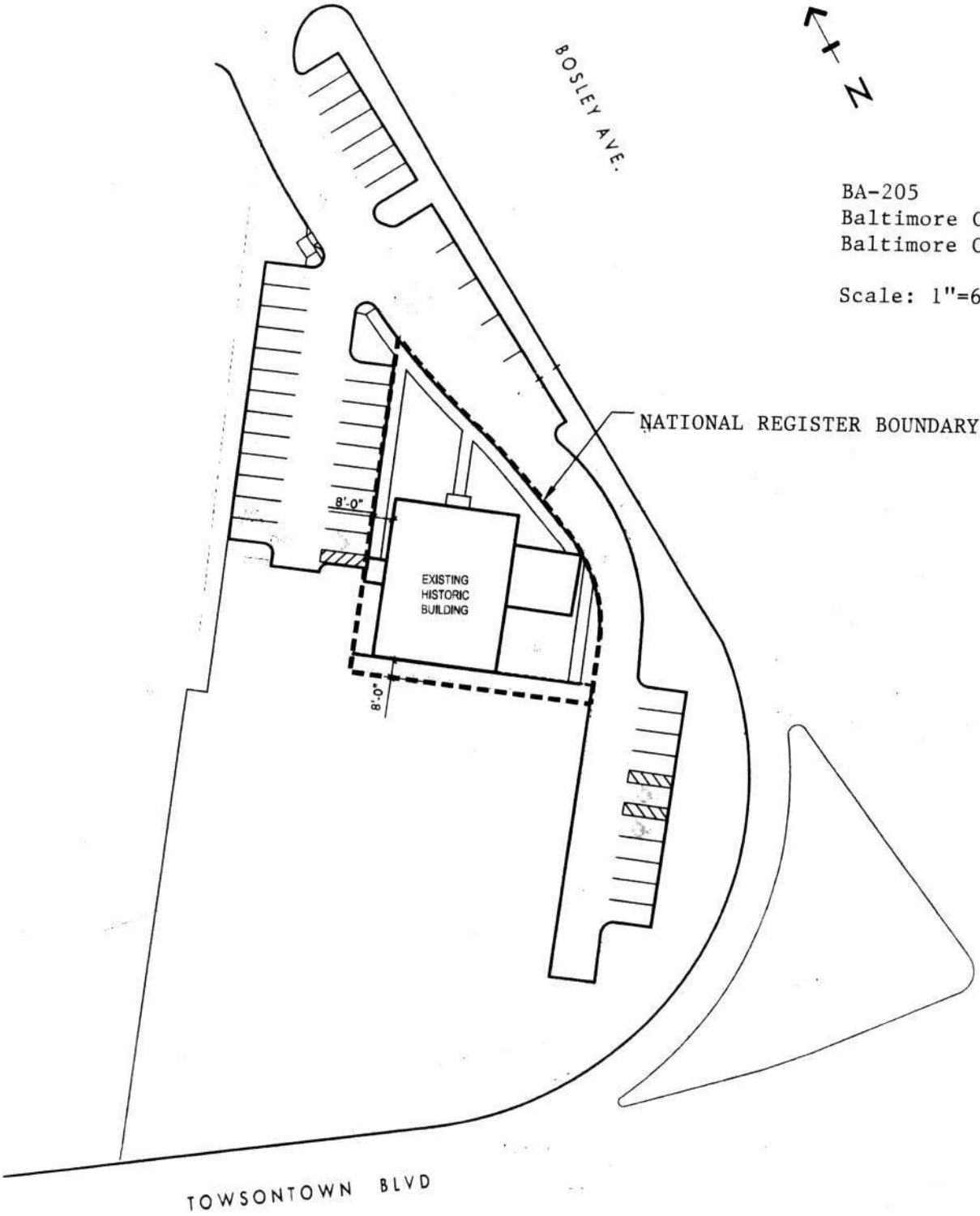
Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description:

The nominated property is shown by the broken line on the attached map, entitled "National Register Boundary," drawn to the scale 1"=64'. This is a portion of the parcel described in Liber HMF 9, folio 63, among the Land Records of Baltimore County.

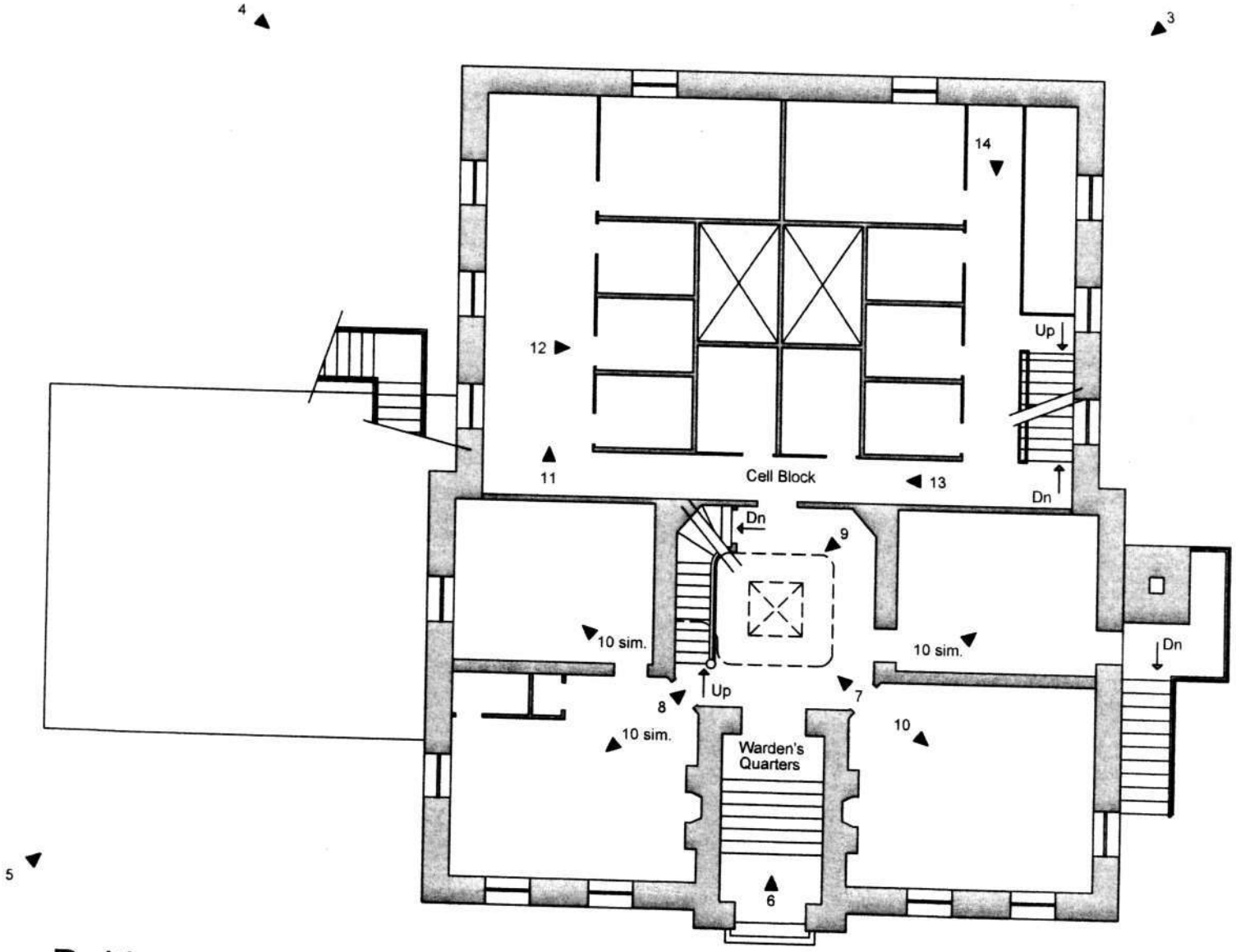
Boundary Justification:

The nominated property encompasses the remnant of the parcel historically associated with the jail which retains integrity. The remainder of the parcel was, until recently, occupied by large mid- to late-twentieth century structures and associated grading, access, and parking areas. All but the area immediately surrounding the building has been radically altered by construction and demolition activities postdating the period of significance.



BA-205
Baltimore County Jail
Baltimore County, MD

Scale: 1"=64'



Baltimore County Jail

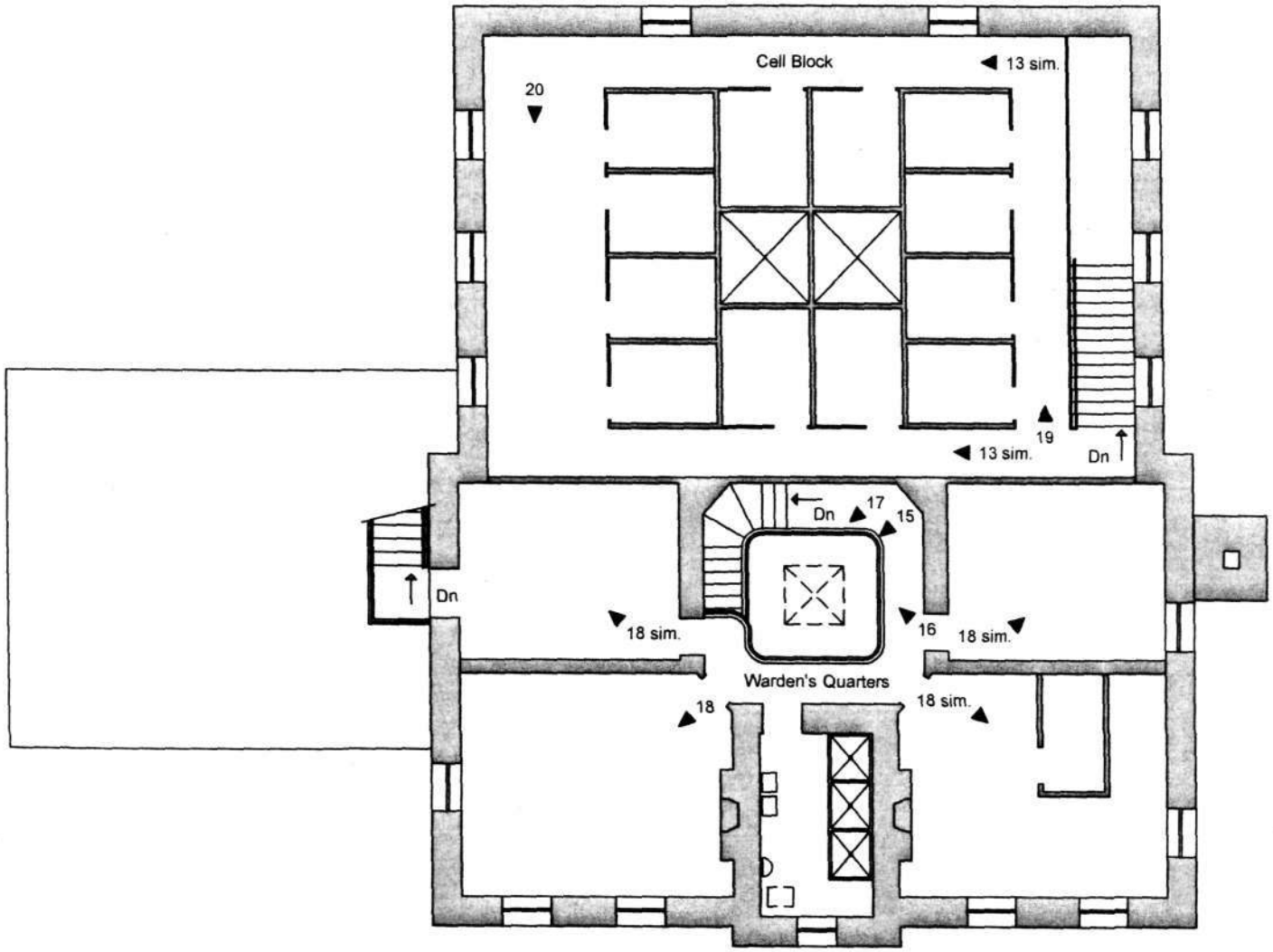
Baltimore County, MD

Photo Key

Existing First Floor

No Scale

BA- 205



Baltimore County Jail

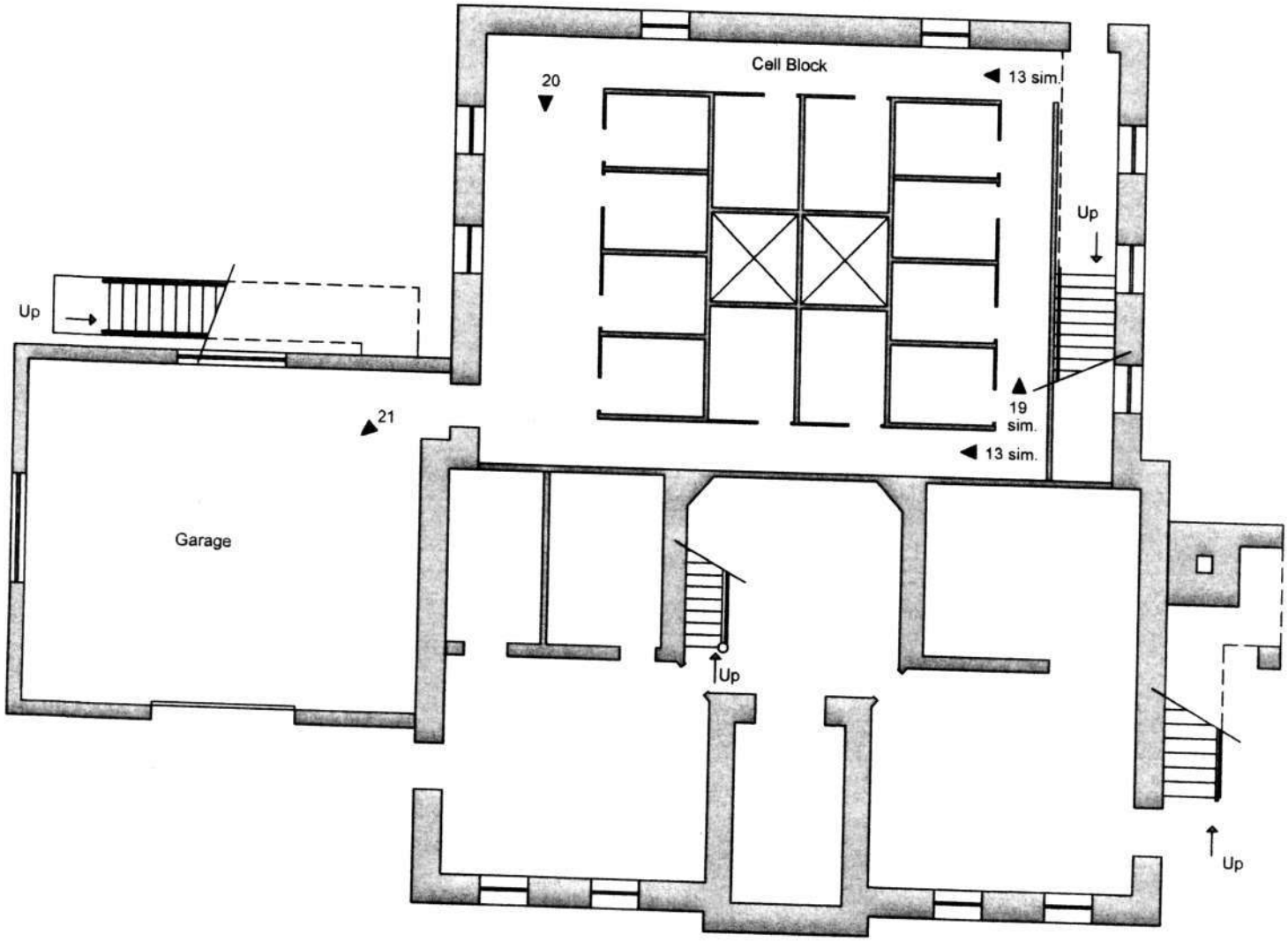
BA- 205

Baltimore County, MD

Photo Key

Existing Second Floor

No Scale



Baltimore County Jail

BA- 205

Baltimore County, MD

Photo Key

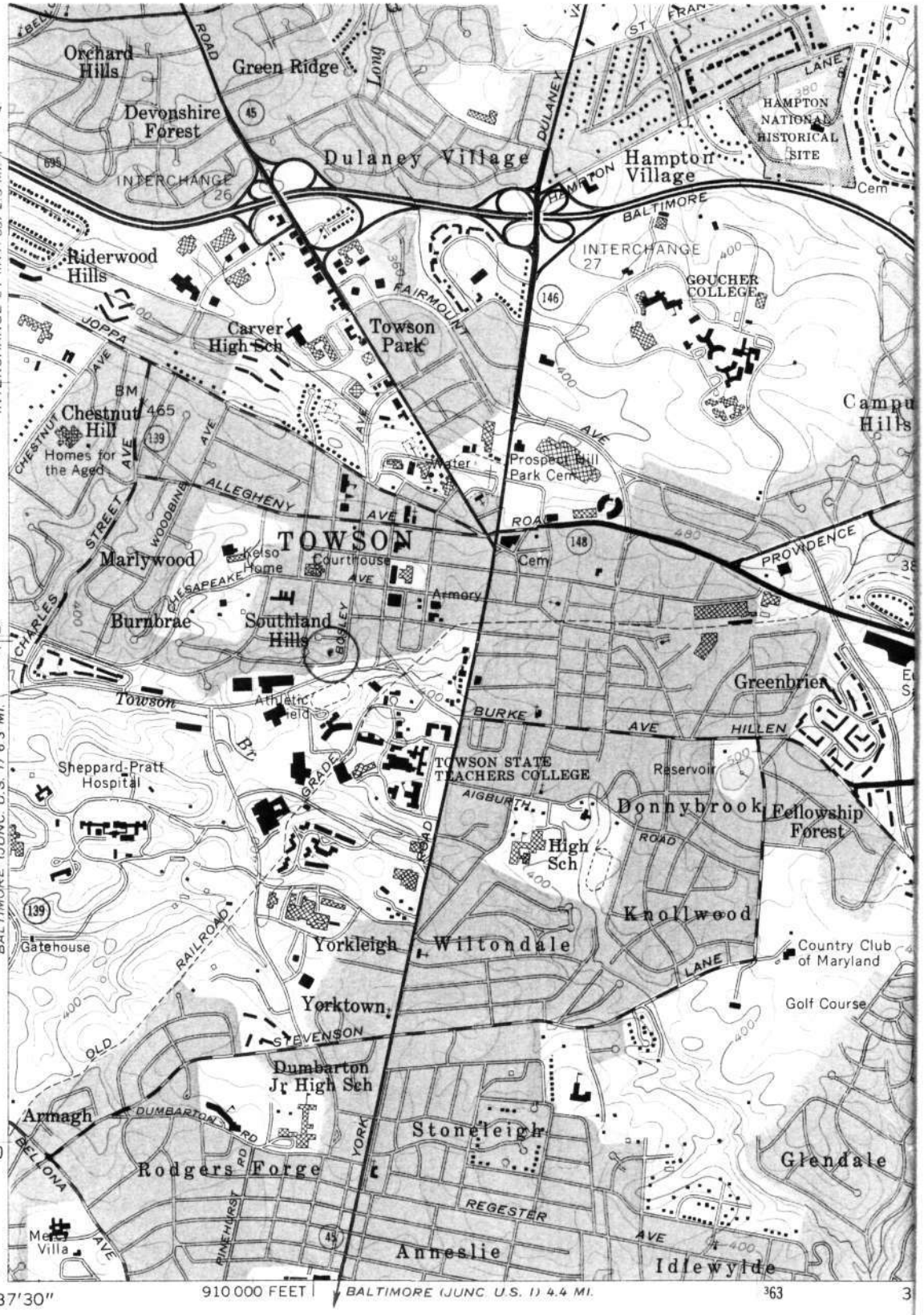
Existing Basement

No Scale

BA-205
BALTIMORE
COUNTY
JAIL

BALTIMORE
COUNTY, MD

18-361506-
4361916



(BALTIMORE WEST)
5662 I SW

Mapped by the Army Map Service
Edited and published by the Geological Survey

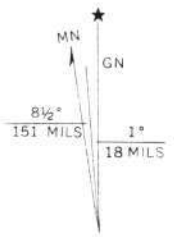
Control by USGS, USC&GS, USCE, and Maryland Bureau of Control Surveys and Maps

Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs taken 1943. Topography by planetable surveys 1944
Culture revised by the Geological Survey 1957

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Maryland coordinate system
1000-metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 18, shown in blue

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geological Survey from



UTM GRID AND 1974 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET