

A Proposal
for
The Preservation and Use of the
Old Albemarle County Jail

August 1977

Fahy G. Mullaney
Executive Director
Offender Aid and Restoration
414 4th St., N.E.
Charlottesville, VA 22901

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The old, stone and brick jail standing along High Street across from the County Courthouse is a unique element in our community's historic Court Square area. Mr. Richard P. Thornsen, Jr. wrote as a part of his Architectural History studies at the University of Virginia in 1975:

... as part of the overall historic scene that included the Courthouse and Courthouse Square, the jail is an important part and a reminder of the rural small town heritage that belongs to the County and City...

If the integrity of this historical heartland is to be retained, this jail compound must be preserved and responsibly used. Begun in 1875 and completed in 1877 it now stands in its centennial year closed to the public and used only minimally for storage. Inattention and disuse will take its dreadful toll unless a way can be found to open its doors to the interested public and its space occupied by a caring tenant.

In the pages which follow a way is mapped out for Albemarle County, the Charlottesville/Albemarle Historical Society and Offender Aid and Restoration of the United States (OAR/USA) to join efforts and common interests for the preservation and use of this historic structure to the community's benefit. These uses will include office space for OAR/USA, museum space for the Historical Society and an area for display of prisoners' arts and crafts.

A Description of the Building and Grounds

The old jail was designed by G.W. Spooner, a Charlottesville architect and building contractor. (See attachment A for a brief history). As it stands today it consists of a two-story, stone and brick structure. The Eastern half of the building is built of brick while the Western half is constructed of stone. Overall the building measures approximately 20' X 68'.

The stone portion contains seven cells, four of these on the first floor. Cellings, walls and floors are all of concrete. On the ground floor of the brick section is a subdivided, iron cage area (15' X 22') centered so as to allow a walkway around its perimeter. On the second floor there is a wash room, reading room and two other rooms formerly used to house women prisoners.

Surrounding this stone and brick structure is a high brick wall, creating a court yard around the jail. Entrance to the jail court yard is through an archway centered in the wall on the High Street side.

The jailor's house is located to the right of the entrance described above. It is a two story structure of simple Italianate style, and forms a part of the wall structure.

With cleaning, minor repairs and mild renovation (primarily electrical) the jail building will meet city codes and be suitable for use as described. (See attachment B, letter from City Department of Inspections).

Background on Offender Aid and Restoration

Offender Aid and Restoration (OAR) was founded in Virginia in 1970, to help jailed people to help themselves. This is accomplished by recruiting and training citizen volunteers to work with jailed persons. The volunteers stay in the lives of the ex-offenders after they leave jail, until they are on their feet and on the way to self-supporting life styles.

OAR works exclusively in county and city jails, rather than state or federal prisons. The appropriateness of OAR's national office being in a jail is obvious.

There are now OAR organizations in 18 communities, in Maryland, New York, North Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia. More than 1,000 volunteers and board and staff members are active, and more than 14,000 offenders have been aided directly. The results have been excellent as documented in a 1975 evaluation of OAR paid for by the U.S. Department of Justice. The national office of OAR is responsible for extending the OAR program into the jails of additional states and for providing technical assistance to existing OAR programs.

Preservation and Use of the Old Jail

We are proposing the the jail be used in three ways, each of which preserves the historical integrity of the building:

- First, that one half of the old jail become offices for Offender Aid and Restoration of the U.S. (OAR/USA), an organization which has the jails of America as its focus. The West half (stone section) of the jail be mildly renovated to accomodate the OAR staff.
- Second, that the ground floor of the East (brick) section be restored as a museum. The "cage" section is in tact representing a classic jail design for the period. Historical documents and artifacts pertaining to jails will be on display.

- Third, that the second story of the East section become a place for display and sale of prisoner's craft: painting, leather crafts, and the like.

The Benefit

There are at least four benefits which will result from the use of the building as described above:

1. The historical integrity of the Court Square area is maintained by preserving a building which was functionally part of the family of buildings in the area.
2. A unique structure of significant historic value is restored saving it from deterioration and ruin.
3. The building is used in ways which are in keeping with its own history.
4. Four groups in the community benefit from use of the space, namely:
 - a) The Historical Society is provided with space in which to display books, papers, records, and artifacts related to the past century of law enforcement and incarceration.
 - b) Offender Aid and Restoration has its national offices in a building which is representative of its work.
 - c) The touring and local public have access to an historic structure and related artifacts and records.
 - c) Prisoners at the Charlottesville/Albemarle Joint Security Complex are encouraged to be creative and productive by the existence of a place in which to display their art and crafts.

The Plan of Action

In order for the benefits to be realized certain steps need to be taken and specific responsibilities assumed. These are listed below with a suggestion for which groups could be responsible for each. If these steps and responsibilities are agreeable to the parties involved, they will be written up as an agreement among the three bodies before restoration or occupancy will begin.

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Group</u>	<u>Estimated Cost or Value</u>	
		<u>Cash</u>	<u>In-kind</u>
a) Recovery of the history, records and artifacts related to the old jail.	Historical Society		1,000
b) Mild renovation and restoration of the building to accomodate the uses indicated previously:			
1. Removal of 12 plumbing fixtures; window repair.	Albemarle County	100	200
2. Installation of surface electrical conduit and overhead lights.	Albemarle County	400	350
3. Interior paint and labor.	OAR/USA	100	250
4. General cleanup and restoration of court yard.	OAR/USA		200
c) Install window air conditioners, carpet and provide interior furniture.	OAR/USA	2,200	200
d) Provide tour guides for the interested public.	OAR/USA provides the guides, which are trained by the Historical Society		4,000 annually
e) Utilities, except for telephone and maintenance.	Albemarle County		
f) Custodial services for entire building.	OAR/USA	600 annually	
g) Publicity regarding the availability of tours.	Historical Society		200 annually
	TOTALS	<u>3,400</u>	<u>17,200</u>

This century old, one of a kind structure presents a rare opportunity to the County of Albemarle, Offender Aid and Restoration, prisoners and the Historical Society...to preserve a piece of our heritage, put it to productive use and all at an astoundingly low cost.

LANDMARK



SURVEY

IDENTIFICATION

Street Address: 409 East High Street
Map and Parcel: 53-33
Census Tract & Block: 3-501
Present Owner: Albemarle County
Address:
Present Use: Jail and Jailor's Residence
Original Owner: Albemarle County
Original Use: Jail and Jailor's Residence

BASE DATA

Historic Name: Albemarle County Jail
Date/Period: 1875
Style: Vernacular
Height to Cornice: 25
Height in Stories: 2
Present Zoning: B-1
Land Area (sq. ft.): 15 x 114
Assessed Value (land + imp.): 23,490 + 35,700 = 59,190

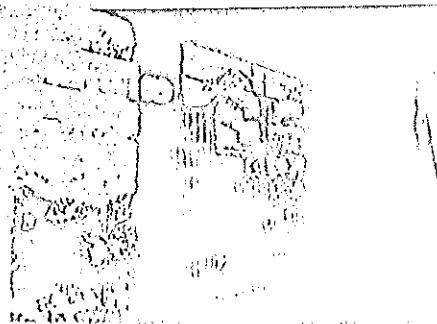
ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Jailor's house (c. 1870) is a simple three bay, two story structure built on the traditional single pile plan. The cornice is decorated with brackets supporting a low tin roof. As with other houses of the period, the front entrance is sheltered by a single story veranda. The jail itself is reached through a wide arch connected to the west end of the residence. The arch has been partially filled to provide room for the jailor's office. The jail structure, naturally enough, is solidly built with walls three feet thick pierced with tiny splayed windows covered with thick iron bars. The interior houses seven cells originally floored in stone, now covered with cement. Fireproofing is assured with the vaulting of the roof to make the entire structure free of any wood members.

HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

The construction of the county jail was begun on September 15, 1875. At that time the City of Charlottesville transferred the title of the Crusman and Simpsin lots to Albemarle County. The city had purchased the Crusman lot on September 3, paying \$1,000 for the house and lot. The jail was the scene of the last legal hanging in the state.

GRAPHICS



CONDITIONS

Average

SOURCES

City/County Records

CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE

Public Works Department
City Hall • Charlottesville, Virginia • 22902
Telephone 804-296-7151



July 25, 1977

Mr. Fahy G. Mullaney
Executive Director
Offender Aid and Restoration
414 - 4th Street, N. E.
Charlottesville, Virginia. 22901

Re: Old Albemarle County Jail

Dear Mr. Mullaney:

Thank you for your inquiry about the use of the above mentioned building for use by your Office and the Albemarle Historical Society.

I stated to you in our previous conversation that I would be happy to answer any specific questions, so in reply to these the following is given:

(a) The above building is in the ADC District and any outside changes or alterations would have to be approved by the Architectural Review Board.

(b) Since the building is within the ADC District and is listed within Historic Landmark Study Publication and is classified Historic, Section 317 of the Virginia Uniform Building Code would apply. This means that the building could be repaired, altered if judged by the Building Official to be safe and the Public's interest of Health, Safety and Welfare maintained. All such approval must be based on the applicants complete submission of Architectural and Engineering Plans and Specifications.

(c) The provisions of the code that would have to be met would be Electrical, light and ventilation, and egress requirements.

(d) This building is, also, located within the Off-Street Parking Exempt Area, so no Off-Street Parking is required.

Trust these will be a help in your planning and if I can be of further help, please let me know.

Yours very truly,

Carl F. Muse
Chief of Inspections

CFM:jpd
cc: Building Inspector
Zoning Inspector
B. N. Maupin, Fire Inspector

RENOVATING THE OLD ALBEMARLE COUNTY JAIL

Here are eight possible sources of funds for renovating the old Albemarle County jail:

1. Director, Economic Development Administration, Department of Commerce - who may grant funds for public works and development facilities under certain circumstances. Authority: Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 USC paragraph 3121)
2. Director, Virginia Department of Vocational Education - who may grant funds for repair and renovation of the jail by students of the two local schools, under supervision of their instructors. Authority: Vocational Education Act of 1963 as amended (20 USC paragraph 470)
3. Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development, HUD - as part of a community development block grant or discretionary grant.
4. Virginia's historic preservation agency - under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended (16 USC paragraph 470)
5. Director, Office of Manpower Training and Youth Activities, Department of Interior - who can make grants to certain non-profit organizations to help with restoration of buildings on county land. Authority: Youth Conservation Corps Act of 1972 (42 prce, paragraph 2711 note - supp II 1972)
6. Chairman, Virginia Governor's Manpower Services Council - under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act of 1973, administered by the Department of Labor.
7. Director, Museum Program, National Endowment for the Humanities - who may make grants to historical agencies for exhibits that employ a variety of interpretive or audio-visual methods.
8. The following corporate or private sources may be interested in helping to renovate the jail:
 - Mr. and Mrs. Sydney Lewis - who have previously helped OAR financially
(Best Products)
 - Mr. and Mrs. Fred W. Scott - who have previously helped OAR financially
(Bundoran Foundation)
 - ITT - Morton
 - Sperry
 - State Farm Mutual
 - Uniroyal
 - Quincey Cole Trust
 - Flagler Foundation
 - Perry Foundation
 - Ohrstrom Foundation
 - Lynch Foundation
 - Kresge Foundation
 - Howard Johnson Foundation
 - L.A.W. Fund