1. Name of Property

historic name Linn County Jail and Sheriff's Residence

other names/site number n/a

2. Location

street & number 102 North Main Street [n/a] not for publication
city or town Linneus [n/a] vicinity
state Missouri code MO county Linn code 115 zip code 64653

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 [X] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant [ ] nationally [ ] statewide [X] locally.

Signature of certifying official/Title Claire F. Blackwell/Deputy SHPO Date 12/01/00
Missouri Department of Natural Resources 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

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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
See continuation sheet [ ].
5. Classification

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<td>Contributing 2 Noncontributing 0</td>
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Name of related multiple property listing. n/a

6. Function or Use

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<td>Recreation and Culture/museum</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Domestic/secondary structure</td>
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7. Description

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

Applicable National Register Criteria

[X] 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.

[X] 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

Law
Politics/Government
Architecture

Criteria Considerations

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.

Areas of Significance

Law
Politics/Government
Architecture

Periods of Significance

1871-1950

Significant Dates

1871
1936-1937

Significant Person(s)
n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

unknown/

Fore. Charles A.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

[X] 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:

[X] State Historic Preservation Office

[ ] Other State Agency

[ ] Federal Agency

[ ] Local Government

[ ] University

[ ] Other:

Name of repository:__________________________
10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre.

UTM References

A. Zone  Easting  Northing  
15  483890  4414050
C. Zone  Easting  Northing  

[ ] 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  see continuation sheet

organization  ____________________________ date  ____________________________

street & number  ____________________________ telephone  ____________________________

city or town  ____________________________ state  ____________________________ zip code  ____________________________

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  Linn County Commission

street & number  Linn County Courthouse, 108 North High Street  telephone 660/946-4132

city or town  Linneus  state  MO  zip code  64653
Summary: The Linn County Jail and Sheriff's Residence, 102 North Main Street, Linneus, Linn County, was constructed in 1871. The jail and sheriff's residence faces the east side of the Linn County courthouse, which is located directly in the center of Publick Square in Linneus. The two-story building is constructed of concrete, brick and wood, and has a one-story brick addition with basement, built as a WPA project in 1937, on the north elevation. For one hundred years, it served as a home and center of justice until it was converted to a museum in the 1970’s.

Description: The historic sheriff’s residence and jail in Linneus is a two-story I house measuring, without the 1937 addition, 42'8" x 17'6" with the main entrance facing west. The 1937 addition measures 41'3" x 19'5" and is attached to the northeast side of the 1871 house. The jail is a one-story rectangular structure attached to the east side of the sheriff's house, measuring 31'8" x 17'3". The floor of the jail is four feet below the main floor of the house, requiring a set of stairs to enter. The house and jail were built of orange brick, and the 1937 addition is red brick. Both were laid in a stretcher pattern.

The west (front) façade of the 1871 house is five bays wide. The north and south facades are each two bays wide. The windows are one-over-one double hung, with a shallow arch over each window. On the second story, the two northernmost windows are covered with steel lattice-type bars, as are the two top windows on the north façade. These bars cover the windows of the women’s cell in the north bedroom of the second floor. The north and south façade have four windows each, two on each floor. The east façade is without windows. A wooden half-width porch with hipped roof covers most of the west first story. The west entrance is a 6’7” x 2’7” doorway with painted wooden sidelong and a lintel above the door. The house has a side-gabled roof of low pitch with returned eaves, wide cornice bands and asphalt shingles.

The jail is a rectangular building built of orange brick, the same as the 1871 house. The jail can be entered only through a barred doorway on the east side of the central hallway of the 1871 house. Most of the jail is open room which prisoners were allowed to roam. The south side of the jail are three cells. Two are constructed of iron bars, and the third, in the southwest corner of the jail, is made of sheets of iron. This is the solitary confinement cell, and there is only a six-inch slit in the door to let light in and presumably pass food through. There is a toilet, sink, and shower in the solitary cell. The cells appear to be prefabricated, as they are similar to the pre-made cells in the St. Francois County Jail in Farmington, Missouri, which was built at approximately the same time as the Linn County Jail. According to Debbie Sheals, author of the St. Francois Jail nomination, cells of this type were what was then state of the art technology. The cells were ordered from a manufacturer and assembled in the jail.

There is another toilet, sink and shower in the southeast corner of the jail. The only windows in the jail are three 1’6” x 1’6” openings on the east façade. The floor of the jail is cement, but before the 1920s it was dirt. The ceiling of the jail is pressed tin. It has been reinforced and repainted over the years, but it is the original ceiling. The sheriff's house and jail have separate roofs, however each building has the same roof design. The jail is front-gabled with low pitch, returned eaves, wide cornice bands, and asphalt shingles.

1 Debbie Sheals, St. Francois County Sheriff's Residence and Jail. Listed 1996.
The 1937 addition is a rectangular shaped one-story red brick structure with a full basement. It was a Works Progress Administration project. A wooden porch measuring 16'5" x 8'3" is attached to the east side of the kitchen (the east façade). The addition was built on the east side of the 1871 parlor (north room) and there is a doorway from there. The east façade of the addition has two windows and there is an entrance from the porch. The north façade has four windows of various sizes, two double hung and two paired double hung. There is an entrance on the north façade into the dining room with three steps up to it. The original house covers all the west façade of the addition but four feet. Most of the south façade is covered by the jail, but there is one small double hung window high on the exposed wall.

The addition has a front-gabled roof of medium pitch and a hipped roof with coursed asphalt shingles and a chimney projecting from the east side of the roof. The basement can only be accessed from an outside bulkhead on the south side. The basement houses the steam heat system and was also the location for the pressurized water system added as part of the WPA project. There is a concrete water cistern located under the back porch, which was the primary source of water after 1937. The roof of the jail captured enough water for the jail's requirements except during extremely dry summers.

To the northeast of the 1937 addition is the garage, which was also part of the WPA improvements. The garage is one-story cubic red tile structure built to house one car. It measures 20'5" x 12'. The entrance, a wooden accordion door, is on the west side of the building. There is one small square window on each of the south, east, and north facades. It has a gabled roof with coursed asphalt shingles.

The 1871 sheriff's house is a typical I house: one room deep, and two rooms wide on two stories. These four rooms have identical measurements: 14'3" x 15'5". Upon entering the west doorway of the 1871 residence, in the foyer was a foreman's desk at which prisoners were processed when they were brought in. Before 1937, it is likely that the north first floor room and the south first and second floor rooms were bedrooms for the sheriff and his family, or the women hired to help the sheriff's wife in her daily duties. After 1937, the north first floor room was converted to a parlor. The south room on the first remained a bedroom. The north room on the second floor serves as the women's jail, complete with a steel-barred door, toilet and sink. There used to be a steel holding-cell in the women's jail, but this has been removed. The sheriff had an office in the courthouse across the street.

The 1937 addition can be accessed by a doorway through the parlor. This doorway leads to a 29-foot hallway that runs the length of the jail (on the south side of the hallway), between the jail and the rooms of the addition. On the north side of the hallway are three entryways. The first leads to the master bedroom. There is an entrance the bathroom in the east corner of the bedroom. The second doorway in the hall leads to a walk-through closet and the second entrance to the bathroom. The final doorway is a large arched entryway into the formal dining room. From the dining room is an outside exit on the north side of the addition. The kitchen is at the end of the hall, perpendicular to the dining room. There is an entrance to the kitchen from the east side of the dining room. There is a pass-through chute between the hall and the jail. One of the sheriff's wife's duties was to cook meals for the prisoners, and this is where she passed the food to them three times a day. Toilets, sinks and showers were added to the men and women's jails in 1937.

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The sheriff's house and jail is a fine representative example of late nineteenth century Greek Revival. Although the dominant Greek Revival period ended in 1860, it was still popular in rural areas of Missouri such as Linn County on into the 1870s and 1880s. All the components of Greek Revival are present in the 1871 house, especially in the west façade. According to Virginia and Lee McAlester, authors of *A Field Guide to American Houses*, a typical Greek Revival house is characterized by gabled low-pitch roofs, cornice bands, a porch supported by columns, and a front door surrounded by decorative sidelights and transom lights. The Linn County Sheriff's House and Jail accomplishes all of these criteria easily. It is exemplary of Greek Revival style.

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1925 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map showing Publick Square in Linneus.
Site plan of Linn County Jail and Sheriff's Residence (not to scale).

- House (1871)
- House (1937)
- Jail
- Garage
- North Main Street
- State Street
Linn County Jail and Sheriff's Residence
Linn County, MO

Floorplan of Linn County Jail and Sheriff's Residence (not to scale).
Summary: The Linn County Jail and Sheriff's Residence, located at the intersection of State Highway 5 (North Main Street) and County Route P (State Street), in Linneus, Linn County, is locally significant under Criterion A in the areas of law and politics/government, and under Criterion C of architecture. The period of significance extends from 1871, the date of construction, to 1950, the arbitrary fifty-year limit for National Register eligibility. The original building, a Greek Revival residence with a jail attached to the southeast side, was completed September 18, 1871. In 1936-1937, a major renovation to increase the living quarters and modernize the facility was undertaken as a WPA project from, with the addition extending off the northeast side of the building. The practice of combining a sheriff's or jailer's residence with jail was prevalent in the late nineteenth century in Missouri. By combining the county jail with living quarters for a sheriff or jailer, one man was able to provide law enforcement for the largely rural population of many Missouri counties. This facility served as the only major detention center in Linn County from 1871 to 1968. Currently, eleven combination jails and residences are listed in the National Register in Missouri. 4

Narrative: The area of Missouri that is now Linn County was originally part of Chariton County, established after Missouri became a state in 1821. 5 The land was untouched by white settlers at the time; the Sac & Fox, Pottawattamie, and Musquakie Native American tribes were the primary inhabitants. The first white settlers were hunters from the Fayette area. They were lured back permanently the following year, in 1831, by the memory of the abundant wild game and the rich black soil they witnessed on their first trip. 6 By 1837 a thriving community had developed, and a petition to make the Locust Creek community (as it was nicknamed) a real county was submitted and approved. 7

The county was named for Missouri U.S. Senator Lewis F. Linn who served a congressional term from 1833 until his death in 1843. 8 In 1839, a county seat was approved. It was located on the donated fifty acres of John and Elizabeth Holland, who were among the ten original families of Linn County. The county seat was originally named Linnville, but was changed to Linneus at the request of Senator Linn himself. 9

Linneus constructed two courthouses before the first jail in 1854. The order for Linneus's first jail came in March 1851. It was a square building, with log walls double-sheeted with brick and iron. 10 This first jail sat on the lot southeast of the present jail. 11 Within 15 years of the construction, however, it became apparent that the supposedly impenetrable jail was actually quite easily escaped from. After many successful jailbreaks, the old jail fell into disrepair.

4 See Appendix.
6 History of Linn County, Missouri (Kansas City, MO: Birdsall and Dean, 1882), p. 149.
8 History of Linn County, Missouri, p. 169.
9 Ibid. p. 19.
11 Sanborn Maps, 1894.
In 1869, an appropriation of $10,000 was made and a tax levied so the town of Linneus could build an appropriate jail and sheriff’s residence. According to former Ripley County Sheriff Jim Featherston, the practice of combining the county jail with living quarters for a sheriff or jailer began in the South just after the Civil War and gradually spread north. By combining the county jail with living quarters for a sheriff or jailer, one man was able to provide law enforcement for the largely rural population of many Missouri counties. The Linneus Commissioner, Charles A. Fore, was appointed superintendent of the jail. He drew the plans for the jail, finalized the location (moving it from Lot 6 to Lot 5, Block 22), and took responsibility for the bond issued to pay for the construction. "The total cost of the jail, when itemized, is appended:

- Contract for brick and woodwork ............................................. $4800.90
- Contract for iron work ................................................................. 2800.00
- Extra work on main building ......................................................... 536.04
- Painting, fence, lumber, etc. ............................................................. 294.22
- Cost of ground .............................................................................. 250.00
TOTAL $8680.26

Along with the salary of Commissioner Fore and unexpected expenses, the cost of the jail and residence came to approximately $9000 and was finished September 18, 1871. This new jail was on the east side of the sheriff’s residence, in a half basement. It was a large open room with three iron cells, two made of bars and one solitary confinement cell for more dangerous or clever inmates.

It should be noted that the building of the new jail in Linneus was not without opposition. During the spring of 1869 there were several articles in the Brookfield Gazette attacking the proposals for the new jail. For example, in an April 24, 1869 article, The plan of those managing this affair is to build a new jail at a trifling cost of say, ten thousand dollars of the people’s money, and judging from the past, we have no doubt but that such an edifice will be a valuable addition to the rare collection of architectural curiosities now on exhibition at our county seat...it is not absolutely beyond conjecture that some of the aforesaid individuals have a strong hankering after a fat contract with considerable pay, and very little jail in it.

The most likely reason for the success of the “new jail movement” was that the old jail had become unfit for use and the county was forced to hire on prison labor from other counties rather than using their own. Brookfield’s opposition came from a deep-seated resentment born of the fact that Brookfield had been passed up in the decision of the county seat in favor of Linneus. Brookfield hoped to one day steal the honor of county seat from Linneus, and saw the jail as a very serious stumbling block to their goal. “The
new jail is in fact to be built solely for the benefit of Linneus, to delay and if possible prevent the removal of
the county seat from that town to Brookfield.18

Some of Brookfield's dire predictions of the quality of the jail unfortunately proved true: as early as 1876,
when the jail was only five years old, two inmates, one under indictment for forgery, the other for murder,
escaped through the barred windows of the jail.19 Brick soon after covered these windows, and inmates
had to resort to digging out through the floor and ceiling until those vulnerable parts were reinforced with
concrete.20

The jail and sheriff's residence has sustained a few adjustments and improvements over the years.
Sometime between 1894 and 1902, a new and larger porch was built on the main (west) entrance of the
house, although it kept Greek Revival style.21 In the 1930s, the sheriff's residence was a part of the
Works Progress Administration project (WPA). The 1937 addition was built on the north side of the house
and jail. Construction time ran from 1936 to 1937. The WPA was organized by President Franklin
Roosevelt in 1935 to combat widespread unemployment in the United States during the Great Depression.
During its lifetime, the WPA employed 8.5 million people on 1.4 million projects, including 116,000
buildings, 78,000 bridges, and 651,000 miles of road. The program officially ended in 1943 with the
wartime economic boom.22

In the project, a modern addition with a basement was added to the house, a one-car tile garage built on
the north side of the house, and up-to-date water and heating systems installed. These renovations were
done between 1936 and 1937. The house has been painted a few times, the most recent a white coat in
the 1960s.

Today the building is a symbol of pride and history in Linneus. When the jail ceased its official duties of
home and detention center in the early 1970s, it was given a thorough cleaning and furnished with
nineteenth and early twentieth century period furniture, including the original sheriff's desk and chair from
the 1870's. It serves as a museum and is open on special occasions and upon request. The jail is used
as storage for disaster supplies.

Appendix:
Combination Jails, Sheriff's Offices and Residences Listed in the National Register

Carroll County Sheriff's Quarters and Jail. Constructed 1878; NRHP 1979.

Chariton County Jail and Sheriff's Residence. Constructed 1906-1907; NRHP 1996.


18 Brookfield Gazette May 8, 1869.
19 History of Linn County, Missouri (Kansas City, MO: Birdsall and Dean, 1882).
20 Ronald Finney recollections 1946-1956.
21 Sanborn maps 1894 and 1902.


Laclede County Jail. Jail constructed 1876; residence added 1913; NRHP 1980.

Ralls County Courthouse and Jail-Sheriff's House. Constructed 1869; NRHP 1972.


St. Francois County Jail and Sheriff's Residence. Constructed 1870-1871; enlarged 1909; NRHP 1996.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Brookfield Gazette, 1869


History of Linn County, Missouri. Kansas City, MO: Birdsall and Dean, 1882.


10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description: Lot 5, Block 22 of the Original Town Plat, Linneus, Linn County, bounded on the north by Lot 4 Block 22, on the east by Lot 6 Block 22, on the south by State Street, and on the west by North Main Street.

Boundary Justification: The boundary includes the 1/8 city block historically associated with the property.
Photographs

The following information is the same for all photographs:

Linn County Sheriff’s Residence and Jail
Linn County, MO
Roger Maserang
July 2000
Missouri Cultural Resource Inventory, Jefferson City, MO

1. Front of house; camera facing northeast
2. Southeast side of jail and house; camera facing northwest
3. Northwest angle of house; camera facing southeast
4. East side of 1937 addition; camera facing southeast
5. Garage; camera facing east
6. Front porch and main entrance; camera facing east
7. Foyer/central hall; camera facing east
8. Main area of jail; camera facing east
9. Solitary confinement; camera facing northeast
10. Barred cell; camera facing west
11. Women’s jail; camera facing west
12. Formal dining room; camera facing north
13. Kitchen; camera facing south
EXTRA PHOTOS