

BETHINKING OF OLDE ORLEANS

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

History of the county jail

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This photo taken in 1903 shows the demolition of the County Jail. The building pictured here was erected in 1838 with a residence facing East State Street. This picture shows the west side of the prisoners quarters with heavy steel bars covering the window openings like lattice.

It was obviously a very sound structure built of Medina sandstone. No heavy equipment appears to be employed here but rather manpower with crowbars, sledge hammers, shovels and wheelbarrows.

In May 1903 the Orleans County Board of Supervisors voted to build a new jail and sheriff's residence on the site

of the old one next to the Court House. Once the jail in our photo was removed, construction for a new one was commenced immediately.

By May 1904 the new jail was ready for occupancy. This was used until 1971, when it was torn down and replaced with our present Orleans County Jail.