



11-8-07

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

History of the Orleans County jail

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The first jail erected in Orleans County was made of hewn logs. This was located on the Court House Square at the corner of Platt and East State Streets. In 1838, this was replaced with a more suitable jail made of limestone. Our photo shows that building as it looked from East State Street around 1885.

In December 1902, the State Prison Commission pronounced this jail unsanitary and not complying with the law. In May 1903, the Board of Supervisors voted to build a new 26 cell jail and Sheriff's residence at a cost of \$50,000.

The old jail was demolished for one made of Medina Sandstone. With over runs in cost this new jail cost a total of

\$54,891.11. In May 1904, it was ready for public inspection and prisoners.

But by 1970, the state again pushed the county to build a new jail as the old one did not meet with mandates. Hence, this was torn down and the present county jail was erected in two parts at the same site making it the fourth jail on this

location next to the Court House.

Prisoners were moved into it on Dec. 1, 1971, along with the Sheriff's office.

Now, in less than 40 years, the cycle has repeated itself with the state again mandating a better jail facility which the county legislature is in the process of addressing.