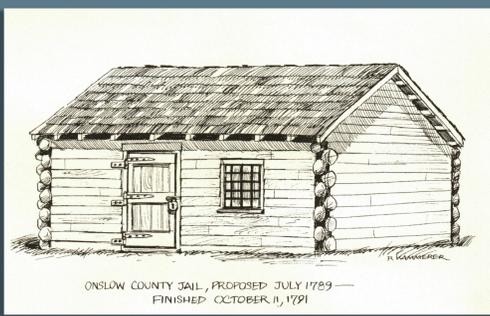


JAIL

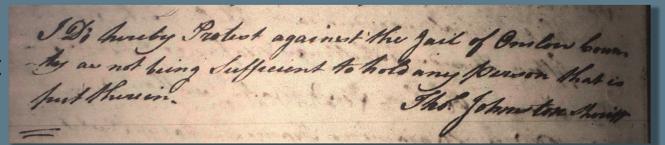
A central component to the judicial system, a jail or prison is used to hold those awaiting trial as well as those who have been convicted and sentenced to a period of time removed from society. In Onslow County it has been the purview of the Sheriff since the beginning of that office to oversee the jail and all inmates residing there. This has sometimes been much more difficult than others. At certain periods the court has required the Sheriff to confine inmates to his own home. At other times the state of the jail has been unfit to hold prisoners or too small for the number of prisoners sentenced. During the twentieth century Onslow County has been home to both the county jail as well as a state prison located on Highway 17, which is now the site of a restaurant.

The earliest prison, ordered constructed in October 1735, was to be "16 ft. long and 12 ft. wide the sills of the prison



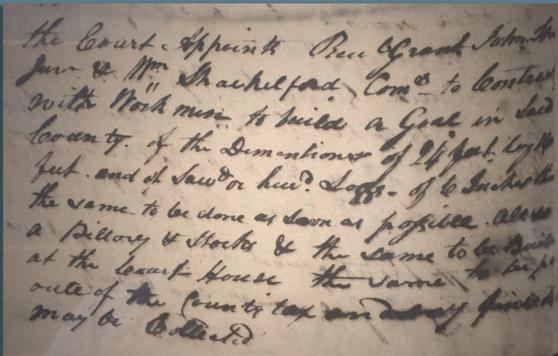
to be 10 by 8 the sleepers to be laid 4 inches apart and the floor laid with white oak plank 2 inches thick the sides to be studded with studs 4 inches square and placed 4 inches apart..."

However, it was found the next October, that "it is the courts opinion that the courthouse & prison now building by Joseph Howard for the use of the sd. Precinct is not built according to the order of the court made in Oct. 1735..."



At other times sheriffs complained about the poor condition of the county jail. In 1775 Sheriff Thomas Johnston stated that the jail was not "sufficient to hold any person that is put therein."

Throughout the 1780s protests were filed with the county court complaining that there was no jail at all. By 1787 the Justices of the Peace decided to construct a new jail, or gaol and goal, as it was sometimes spelled. This coincided with the building of a jail courthouse.



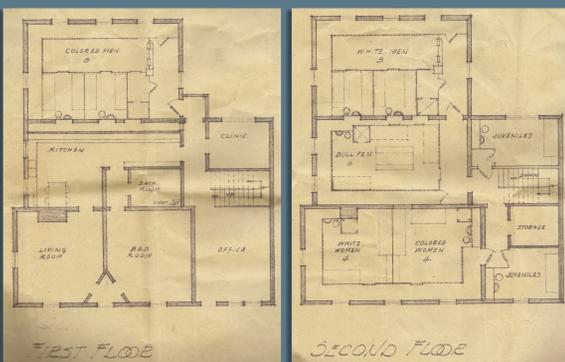
At Jacksonville, Onslow county, Friday when the jailor went to feed the prisoners, one prisoner, Isaiah Simmons, ran by the jailor, jumped over the wall and made his escape.

The Daily Free Press, January, 1902.

Individuals, Peter	Residence	Age	Sex	Color	Height	Weight	Build	Hair	Eyes	Complexion	Occupation	Place of Birth	Year of Arrival	Year of Departure	Year of Release	Year of Death	Year of Burial	Year of Interment	Year of Cremation	Year of Disposition
Andrews, Peter	Wife	21	W	W	5 7	125	Slender	Black	Blue	Dark	County Jail	North Carolina	1870	1875	1875	1875	1875	1875	1875	1875
...

U.S. Census, 1940.

According to the 1940 Census, Pete Andrews was keeper at the county jail, and at the time of the census had only one prisoner in his home, Walter Harrison a truck driver from New Bern.



Blueprints for the jail constructed in 1947 show segregated holding cells for white and African American inmates. The jailer, Mr. Lanier, and his wife who also cooked for the inmates, lived on the first floor. This building still stands in downtown Jacksonville and was recently vacated by the volunteer fire department for the Boys and Girls Club.



Using road crews and chain gangs made up of prisoners has been a common practice since the latter half of the nineteenth century. The inmates pictured here, ca. 1940s, were housed in the state prison on Highway 17. The prisoners were loaded into the paddy wagon that took them to and from the roadways they worked on.



According to the 1978 Jail Census the 1972 jail, torn down in 2014, was originally constructed to house sixty two inmates. However, with a growing population this space, even with renovations, became too small. Inmates were housed in Sampson County at considerable cost to Onslow County, nearly \$1,000,000 each year.



Onslow County's newest jail, completed in 2011, is capable of holding 528 inmates in its 4 cell blocks. It is estimated to cost around \$40 a day to house inmates at the county jail, adding up to nearly \$5 million. It costs roughly \$40,000 to feed inmates each month with meal costs averaging less than \$4.00 a day.

