



TARCOG HISTORICAL SURVEY  
Final Report Form

Make your answers as concise as possible.

Number as appears on your county map 23 GAVI.

- Name of site or structure Old County Jail
- Location of site or structure (including township, range and section number, and which quadrant of section, if known) 673 Blount Avenue  
Guntersville, Tenn. #3 in Block 1.  
Township 8-South, Range 3-East
- Description Two story brick building with large  
portico. Inside there are two large  
rooms. One is a large hall, a small room  
which was used as a kitchen. The building  
was converted to present use.
- Historical significance of site, or structure if known Built in 1890  
and used until 1940. It was used as a jail  
for many years. It is one of the  
best & largest buildings erected in  
this 1890's and still in very good condition.  
This structure has been nominated  
for the National Register of Historic Places.

**Names:**

County Jail

National Register of  
Historical Places

TARCOG Historical  
Survey

**Places:**

Guntersville, AL

Marshall County, AL

**Types:**

inventory

photo

**Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 7, Box 4, Item 74**

**Old County Jail, built in 1890** - Marshall Co. - Site #23, 673 Blount Ave., Guntersville

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OLD COUNTY JAIL  
Muhl. Co. Gvl. 23  
673 Blount Ave., Guntersville  
7 BOX 4, ITEM 74

TARCOG  
HISTORICAL NOTES  
HISTORICAL RESEARCH COORDINATOR  
VERIFIED DOCUMENTATION FORM

County: Marshall  
Coordinator's Name: Elizabeth Lee Lusk  
Historical Notes Number: 23 (Red Ink)  
Photograph Record Number: 20-16 (Blue Ink) (3/24/74)

1. Name: Old County Jail 1890-1910

2. Location: 673 Blount Avenue, Guntersville, Alabama, 35976-  
Lot No. 3 in Block I in City Plat.

3. Classification: Public building- erected as a jail and residence for  
jailer - Converted to private residence in 1910.

4. Owner of Property: Mrs. Dessa M. Cole, 673 Blount Avenue, Guntersville,  
Alabama 35976

5. Location of Legal Description: Probate Office, Marshall County Court  
House, Guntersville.

Form HS-3  
p. 1

**Names:**

Cole, Dessa M., Mrs.  
Old County Jail

TARCOG Historical  
Notes

**Places:**

Marshall County, AL

**Types:**

inventory

**Dates:**

Mar 24, 1974

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 7, Box 4, Item 74

Old County Jail, built in 1890 - Marshall Co. - Site #23, 673 Blount Ave., Guntersville

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OLD COUNTY JAIL  
Marl. Co. Cvl. 23  
673 Blount Ave., Guntersville  
7 BOX 4, ITEM 74

6. Representation in Existing Surveys: Plat Book 1, page 1 - Marshall County Court House, Guntersville.

7. Description: A two-story structure of red brick and rusticated limestone, built on a slightly sloping lot - The lower floor has four rooms on south and east sides with original entry door on south side deeply recessed in thick walls of limestone - The upper floor is entered from a front porch on the front or west side. There are six large rooms upstairs, four of which were originally cells (with steel floors and ceilings, which are still in place) - The cells were separated from the two front rooms and square entrance hall, by a transverse hall - The lower floor and upper front rooms were used as office and living quarters of jailer. All woodwork, elaborate mantels and fireplaces, doors and window frames are well preserved - The original porch has been replaced with one slightly larger and has been recently screened. A car-port and one room have been added on north side but basic structure and appearance of building is unchanged - An early photo is available -  
The lot is 110 x 390 feet, with most of acreage in rear, with large barn in excellent condition.

8. Historical Significance

A. Period: Late 19th Century-

B. Specific Dates: Contract let to W. B. Cosby and Co. of Chattanooga, Tennessee, by Marshall County Commissioners, February 10, 1890, for jail with four steel cells; for \$7,600.00. The Lot was purchased for \$350.00, and deed recorded March 11, 1890- Jail property sold November 22, 1910- to JOHN LEWIS & by him sold 3/9/1923 to Allen Seibold. SOLD to DESSA COLE, 5/26/1967.

Form HS-3  
p. 2

Names:

Cole, Dessa  
Cosby, W. B.

Lewis, John  
Seibold, Allen

W. B. Cosby & Co.

Places:

Guntersville, AL

Types:

inventory

**Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 7, Box 4, Item 74**

**Old County Jail, built in 1890 - Marshall Co. - Site #23, 673 Blount Ave., Guntersville**



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OLD COUNTY JAIL  
Marl. Co. Cvl.  
673 Blount Ave., Guntersville  
7 BOX 4, ITEM 74

8. Historical Significance (continued)

C. Areas of Significance: Now in residential area, but in business zone - Located on a main street.

D. Statement of Significance: This building led a short but colorful existence as a jail - It is of interest as an early place of detention, and attracts many visitors. It is one of three brick structures with original Architectural features, and still occupied, which were erected at the close of the 19th Century in Guntersville.



Form HS-3  
p. 3

**Places:**

Marshall County, AL

**Types:**

photo



**Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 7, Box 4, Item 74**

**Old County Jail, built in 1890 - Marshall Co. - Site #23, 673 Blount Ave., Guntersville**

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OLD COUNTY JAIL  
Marl. Co. Cvl.  
673 Blount Ave., Guntersville  
7 BOX 4, ITEM 74

9. Specific Bibliographical Reference: \_\_\_\_\_  
County Minutes, Book B p. 69  
Deed Book "R", p. 491  
Deed Book 28, p. 11  
Deed Book 75, p. 375 + DEED Book 121, p. 181  
Deed Book 470, p. 230  
All in Probate Office, Marshall County Court House  
Guntersville, Alabama  
Picture made in 1907 - (Mrs. Dessa Cole)  
"Guntersville Advertiser-Glean" - issue of January 3, 1957 - p.1  
"Guntersville Advertiser" - issue of December 22, 1971 - p.1

10. Verified Geographical Data: \_\_\_\_\_  
LATITUDE N 34°-21'-29"  
LONGITUDE W 86°-17'-42"

Date of Completion: 4/16/1974

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p. 4

**Names:**

Cole, Dessa, Mrs.

**Places:**

Marshall County, AL

**Types:**

inventory

**Dates:**

Apr 16, 1974

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photo

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 7, Box 4, Item 74

Old County Jail, built in 1890 - Marshall Co. - Site #23, 673 Blount Ave., Guntersville

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OLD COUNTY JAIL  
Marl. Co. Gvl. 23  
673 Blount Ave., Guntersville  
7 BOX 4, ITEM 74

TRACED  
ARCHITECTURAL--HISTORICAL NOTES  
FIELD SURVEYOR  
RECORDING FORM

County: Marshall

Field Surveyors' Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Historical Notes Number: 23  
(Red Ink)

Photograph Record Number: 7m-10m  
(Blue Ink)

1. Name: County Jail 1890-1910

2. Location: Guntersville - 673 Blount Avenue

3. Owner of Property: Mrs. Dessa M. Cole,  
673 Blount Ave., Guntersville, Ala. 35976

4. Geographical Data: Situated on one of main streets  
on a well kept lot.

5. Acreage: 110 x 390 ft.

6. Classification: Public building; used as  
County jail - and converted to residence in  
1910

7. Integrity: well documented - construction records  
and local newspapers - modified from  
jail to private residence by taking off  
bars and modifying front porch.

Form HS-1  
p. 1

**Names:**

Cole, Dessa M., Mrs.

County Jail

**Places:**

Marshall County, AL

**Types:**

inventory

OLD COUNTY JAIL  
Marl. Co. Gvl.  
673 Blount Ave., Guntersville  
7 BOX 4, 17F/M 74

8. Condition: Good. (Some additions have been made).

9. Present Use: Leveeling - Since 1910 - Owner welcomes visitors & contemplates selling antiques, as much interest has been displayed in the renovation.

10. Areas of Significance:

11. Architectural Description: Typical late 1890 type of building - 1st large basement floor of heavy limestone masonry with red brick (walls) - The original doors and windows (less iron bars) are still in place. The living quarters for the officer in charge were comfortable and well arranged. The four large cells, with stone floors and ceilings, have been since converted into living quarters and are intact - Original woodwork, mantels and main rooms unchanged, but renovated. Some additional porches have been added at the north side. - An early photo is available.

12. Sketches of structure or site when applicable:

Date of Completion: \_\_\_\_\_

Form HS-1  
p. 2

**Places:**

Marshall County, AL

**Types:**

inventory



OLD COUNTY JAIL  
Marl. Co. Gvl.  
673 Blount Ave., Guntersville  
7 BOX 4, ITEM 74

TARCOG  
HISTORICAL SURVEY PHOTOGRAPH RECORD

County: MARSHALL

Field Surveyors' Names: SORRELLS

I. Information on Photograph

Photographer: BOOTH

Date of Photograph: 3-24-74

Roll Number: 9

Exposure Number: —

View Description: FRONT, SIDE  
& BACK

II. Information on Site

Place Number on Map (Blue Ink): 23  
(Copied from number used in recording it on appropriate County Highway Map)

Historical Notes Number (Red Ink): 23  
(If there is a historical notes form filled in for this place, write it in the photograph number in the upper right-hand corner of this form in space provided).

Location (Word Description): ON 673 BLOUNT AVENUE, GUNTERSVILLE

Owner or Occupant: MRS. DESSA M. COLE  
(Name, if known)

Address: SAME ADDRESS

TYPE of Structure:  
(where appropriate, check one or more)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> House	<input type="checkbox"/> Outbuilding	<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Barn	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Other, describe

Apparent period of construction:

<input type="checkbox"/> Federal
<input type="checkbox"/> Greek Revival
<input type="checkbox"/> Mid-19th Century
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Latter 19th Century
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Early 20th Century

Apparent period of Additions:  
(if appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Federal
<input type="checkbox"/> Greek Revival
<input type="checkbox"/> Mid-19th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> Latter 19th Century
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Early 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> Later 20th Century (modern)

III. Remarks and Sketches if appropriate: HOUSE WAS CONVERTED FROM  
A TAIL TO PRIVATE RESIDENCE 1910-1920 PERIOD.  
ADDITIONS OTHERWISE SEEM CHANCE.

Date of completion: 3-24-74

Form HS-2

**Names:**

Booth,

Cole, Dessa M., Mrs.

Sorrells,

**Places:**

Marshall County, AL

**Types:**

inventory

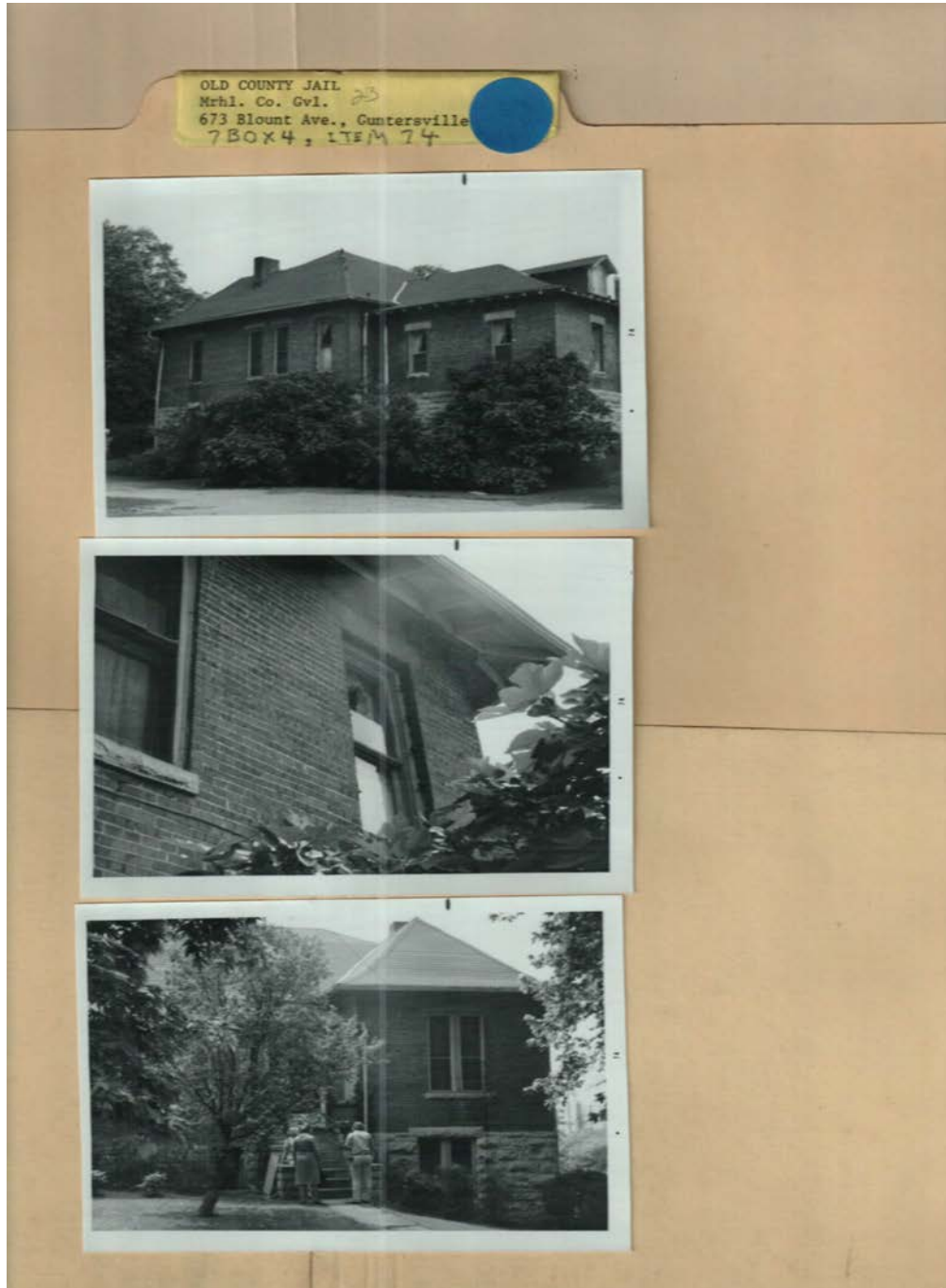
**Dates:**

Mar 24, 1974

**Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 7, Box 4, Item 74**

**Old County Jail, built in 1890 - Marshall Co. - Site #23, 673 Blount Ave., Guntersville**

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**Places:**

Marshall County, AL

**Types:**

photo

**Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 7, Box 4, Item 74**

**Old County Jail, built in 1890 - Marshall Co. - Site #23, 673 Blount Ave., Guntersville**

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**Places:**

Marshall County, AL

**Types:**

photo

**Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection:    Series 7, Box 4, Item 74**  
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# Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection

**Preferred Citation:** Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection, Archives and Special Collections, M. Louis Salmon Library, University of Alabama in Huntsville, Huntsville, AL.

**Collection Scope and Content:** The Collection of 114 Linear ft. includes a total of 156 Archival Boxes. The Frances Cabaniss Roberts collection covers the historical records of the Cabaniss Roberts family. This collection contains extensive correspondence records of the Cabaniss Roberts family circa 1830 to 1930.

**Archives/Special Collections Access Restrictions:** None

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**Provenance:** Gift of Johanna Shields on October 28, 2006.



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