1. NAME
   COMMON: Allen County Jail
   AND/OR HISTORIC: 

2. LOCATION
   STREET AND NUMBER: 204 North Jefferson St.
   CITY OR TOWN: Iola
   STATE: Kansas
   CODE: 20
   COUNTY: Allen
   CODE: 001

3. CLASSIFICATION
   CATEGORY (Check One):
   - District
   - Site
   - Structure
   - Object
   OWNERSHIP:
   - Public
   - Private
   - Both
   PUBLIC ACQUISITION:
   - In Process
   - Being Considered
   STATUS:
   - Occupied
   - Unoccupied
   ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC:
   - Yes:
   - No:
   PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate):
   - Agricultural
   - Commercial
   - Educational
   - Entertainment
   - Museum
   - Scientific
   - Government
   - Industrial
   - Military
   - Private Residence
   - Religious
   - Transportation
   - Other (Specify)
   - Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
   OWNER'S NAME: Allen County Historical Society
   STREET AND NUMBER: 204 North Jefferson St.
   CITY OR TOWN: Iola
   STATE: Kansas
   CODE: 20

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
   COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Register of Deeds
   STREET AND NUMBER: Allen County Courthouse
   CITY OR TOWN: Iola
   STATE: Kansas
   CODE: 20

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
   TITLE OF SURVEY: Survey of Historic Sites and Structures in Kansas
   DATE OF SURVEY: 1957
   DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
   Kansas State Historical Society
   STREET AND NUMBER: 120 West Tenth Street
   CITY OR TOWN: Topeka
   STATE: Kansas
   CODE: 20
The Allen County Jail is a two-story limestone block building, solidly constructed with walls two feet thick. The front of this rectangular rubble-stone structure has two barred windows on the second floor and one double door in the center front at ground level.

Steel cages were installed on the lower floor which was underlaid with rock. The second floor was intended as jailer's quarters, but in the last years of operation, most prisoners were confined there rather than the lower floor.

This building now serves the Allen County Historical Society as a museum.
Citizens of Allen county voted a $10,000 bond in August, 1868, to build a jail. It was completed by October, 1869, by White and Hays, contractors, for a price of $8,400. Allen county had long needed a jail but quarreling factions from different parts of the county couldn't agree which town should have it.

The jail is claimed to be the first building in Allen county erected with county funds, and in 1869 it was said to be the finest jail in southeast Kansas. Apparently it was not very escape-proof. Local papers over the years report a sizable number of inmates escaping, usually by cutting a hole in the roof or by removing a bar or two from a window.

During the 1870's two neighboring counties also used the facilities of the Allen county jail.

In April, 1957, contracts were let for a new Allen county courthouse which would have a modern jail. The new structure was dedicated January, 1959. Many people of Iola and Allen county wanted to preserve the old jail so a bill was introduced in the 1957 session of the state legislature authorizing the county commissioners to transfer the title to the Allen County Historical Society. After passage of the bill the transfer was made the building is now a museum.

The building has significance for its long usage as a jail, almost 90 years, and it was the first building erected with county funds in Allen county.
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Duncan, L. Wallace, and Charles F. Scott, editors, History of Allen and
History of the State of Kansas (Chicago, A. T. Andreas, 1883), v. 1, p. 671.
Iola Register, January 12, 1959.
State of Kansas Session Laws, 1957 (Topeka, State Printer, June 29, 1957),
pp. 371, 372.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Defining a rectangle locating the property</td>
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<td>NE</td>
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<tr>
<td>SE</td>
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LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES
Defining the center point of a property of less than ten acres

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<tr>
<td>95 24 10</td>
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</tr>
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</table>

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Richard D. Pankratz, Planner

ORGANIZATION: Kansas State Historical Society

DATE: 9/4/70

ADDRESS: 120 West 10th Street, Topeka, Kansas

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☑

Name: Nyle H. Miller
Title: 

DATE SENT TO NR: 10/12/70

* U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1973-729-147/1442 5-1