

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

## 1. Name of Property

Historic name Glenvil Fire Hall and Town Jail

Other names/site number CY06-015

Name of related multiple property listing NA

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

## 2. Location

Street & Number Block 6, Lot 19 Winters Ave

City or town Glenvil

State Nebraska

County Clay

Not for publication  Vicinity

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:  national  statewide  local

Applicable National Register Criteria:  A  B  C  D

SHPO/Director

Signature of certifying official/Title:

Date

History Nebraska – State Historic Preservation Office

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of Commenting Official

Date

Title

State of Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.
- determined eligible for the National Register.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

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**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property** (Check as many boxes as apply)

- Private
- Public-local
- Public-state
- Public-federal

**Category of Property** (Check only one box)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

**Number of Resources within Property** (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	Buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	Sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	Structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	Objects
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions** (Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT: Fire Station  
GOVERNMENT: Correctional Facility  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT: Not in use  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER: Western False-front  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials** (enter categories from instructions.)  
Principal exterior materials of the property:

FACADE: wood, brick; ROOF: wood, corrugated tin; FOUNDATION:  
Brick

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## Description

**Summary Paragraph** (Briefly describe the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Located in Glenvil, Nebraska, the Glenvil Town Jail and Fire Hall are both false-front style buildings at the end of Winters Avenue. Winters Ave functions as a main street for Glenvil, as many like shops in terms of function litter the street. The Fire Hall is a 1.5 story western false-front wood building built in 1905 with an attic while the town jail is a 1-story brick building built in 1899. Both buildings retain their windows, but lay glassless as the windows are boarded with wood, and in the jail's case, also covered with metal bars. Lying side by side, the buildings jointly represent a prior time in which Glenvil had aspirations of becoming a much bigger town. Flanked on all sides by road, the road in front being Winters Ave and the roads behind being gravel, they appear isolated from the rest of Winters Ave as relics of a bygone time.

**Narrative Description** (Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable.)

## Site

The Glenvil town Jail and Fire Hall sit at the end of Winters Ave in Glenvil, a town on the western edge of Clay County in southeast Nebraska, lie perpendicular to 2<sup>nd</sup> street and sitting just behind the railroad tracks that sit just beyond the town's outer limits on the east side. The building itself is flanked on its four sides by the Union Pacific tracks to the east, by Leroy St to the north, the Fire & Rescue building to the west, and Winters Ave to the south. Winters Ave itself has many alike buildings, as the one-story false-front is common for the street with the exception of the nearby newer Fire Hall which is a pre-war aluminum and brick style building built in 1938.<sup>1</sup> To the west of the site lies the original bell the town used for fire alarms.

## Fire Hall: Exterior

The Glenvil Fire Hall is a wood frame two-story Western False-Front style building with a rectangular form, has a wood parapet on the primary facade (south elevation), and a front gabled roof (not visible from the front except for the eave reveals on the edges of the south elevation on the second story) of metal. The building is wrapped in five-inch horizontally laid clapboard siding, with thin wooden corner post trim running the height of the building on all four corners. The foundation is soft red brick with concrete/concrete blocks put in place where brick has deteriorated. The structure is painted white. The parapet on the south elevation has a wide vertical flat top cornice, flanked by lower steps with the same depth of wooden cornice. The second story contains two evenly spaced window openings with flat trim and drip edges on top, and both have a thin wooden sill. The window opening on the left has been boarded over from the inside and is painted white like the facade, while the opening on the right still has its two-over-two wooden sash window, despite the glass being painted white and the lower right pane being broken, with a piece of plywood behind it. The placement of the windows on both sides of the building is curious, as this means a window on the right side of the building is facing directly towards the Jail, which again sits directly east of the Fire Hall. The first story contains a centrally placed garage opening with similar trim to the windows, with a taller header trim piece with a drip edge. In the center of the header trim is a wooden board plaque with the hand painted words "FIRE HALL - 1905" visible on it. The garage door is of vertical plank construction with some deterioration towards the base where it meets the concrete.

On the west elevation the roof is visible with slight overhanging eaves. A red brick chimney sits in the middle at the rear of the structure along the north elevation, also deteriorated and broken off at the roof line. Towards the front of the building is a protruding square platform that straddles the roofline and butts up to the parapet. Four square posts on each corner are cut off towards the base. This was once the area that housed the historic bell for the Fire Hall. The canopy is missing. The reverse side of the parapet is also clad in wooden clapboard with chipping paint. Here the front gabled side of the roof is visible. On the west elevation, from left to right, are two evenly spaced openings. The first is a door opening on the first

<sup>1</sup> "News and Notes about People at Glenvil", *The Morning Spotlight*, June 29, 1938, 2.

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floor that sits slightly elevated off the ground, with similar width trim and drip edge crowning the top of the frame. The wooden door has two elongated panels in the upper portion (roughly two-thirds of the height of the door) with two vertical flat wooden panels in the bottom third of the frame. The upper panels were glass, the right side boarded over, while the left side glass has been cracked in several spots and is painted over. The door retains its original hardware, which are a set of black (interior) and white (exterior) porcelain door knobs on a cast iron shank, with a cast iron rim lock on the interior and cast iron rosette and keyhole on the exterior. To the right of this is a window opening, with similar width trim, sill, and drip edge. The window is elongated and the same size as those on the other elevations. The window is a two-over-two wooden sash window, with the top half of the sash broken and the bottom half remaining intact. Behind the window is a historic one-over-one glass storm window that has been mounted to the frame from the interior of the building, acting as a barrier and window for this opening. The foundation on this elevation, peeking from below the siding at the ground level and behind the sidewalk, is red brick with chunks of concrete where it has deteriorated or needed repair.

On the rear of the building, the north elevation, the gable end is visible revealing a steeply pitched roof with slightly wide overhanging eaves and soffit. The cornice is a flat trim board that runs the pitch of the roof flush with the side of the building. In the gable peak where the clapboard siding begins, there is a small piece of square wood laid in a diamond shape, which may be ornamental or a repair patch. On the second story there are two evenly spaced window openings, with similar sized wooden trim, drip edges, and sills. The opening on the left clearly has the sash removed, with a large panel laid behind it from the interior that has been painted white to guard the opening. The right window opening shows a historic one-over-one glass storm window that has been installed from the interior to protect the opening where the sash window has been removed, but gives the illusion of the window being there. On both window frames the wooden parting beads are still visible, giving ghost lines to where the sashes had been. On the left side of this elevation the outside corner post has deteriorated below the second floor and is missing. Paint is heavily flaking on this elevation along with deteriorated clapboards towards the ground. The chimney is also visible from this angle. But the only thing left is the brick masonry surrounding the flue. None of the flue, cap, flashing, or crown are visible. The only part of the chimney that remains is the part stuck in the roof.

The eastern elevation has a small pathway only a couple of feet wide separating the fire hall and the city jail on the first floor. This elevation closely mirrors the west in terms of evenly spaced opening placement, but instead of a doorway is another window. Both windows had the same sized openings, wooden trim width, sills, and drip edges. Both sets of window sashes have been removed, leaving openings that are covered with panels from the interior. The wooden parting beads from the missing windows are all that remain of their presence aside from the opening.

**Fire Hall: Interior**

The interior of the first floor consists of a large open room with a concrete floor and exposed wooden ceiling joists, studs, furring strips and sheathing for the exterior siding, the floor above, and other structural elements. The wood is bare and a mix of pine and oak throughout, with no finish on it. There is no evidence of previous wall or ceiling coverings. On the interior of this floor, it is visible that the window casings and door had been painted green at one time on the interior. The windows and door have no decorative trim work. On the ceiling joists, an exposed tar wire knob and porcelain insulator tube electrical system runs the width of the building on the east side, with several branches throughout and a single porcelain light socket mounted on a ceiling joist in the middle of the room. At the rear of this room in the northwest corner is a wood staircase lacking handrails. The stairs initially start north, up two steps to a square flat landing, then turn east to go up to the second story garret above. A portion of the underside of the stairway on the right side is enclosed with vertical wood paneling to create a small closet. The interior of the closet is accessed by a narrow doorway enclosed with a vertical board door. The upper floor is a garret with sloped ceilings. The open room is composed of a hardwood floor with walls and ceilings clad in beadboard. Shelving is located on the eastern wall and the windows are visible on the southern and northern walls.

Above the stairs are the window openings seen on the north elevation. In between the window openings is a red brick protruding chimney that starts from the wall and leads towards the roof. A large cylindrical stove venting pipe extends through the middle of the chimney and stops before the partition wall mentioned below, with a circular hole cut to match the size of the pipe to be able to extend further and connect. Up the stairs at the top, pine beadboard walls laid horizontally clad the walls and ceilings. On the left is a wide pine plank that extends vertically to the roof with some shims behind it. It

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appears newer. To the right is a partition wall constructed of vertical wooden pine planks, with a thin square wooden newel post to grab on to past the top step. On the newel post there is a ghost mark of a square handrail having been on the stairs previously. The opening at the top of the stairs leads around to the right, where an unfinished wooden four panel raised edge door greets you, with a similar panel arrangement to the door on the first floor exterior. Inside the door is a garret room with cove ceilings. The ceilings and walls are clad in unfinished horizontal wooden pine beadboard. The floors are vertically laid unfinished wooden pine and oak mix floors. The windows seen in this room are the ones visible on the south elevation. There are low open wooden shelves running the length of the room on the east side. On the ceiling is a single antique porcelain light bulb socket mount from a branch off of the knob and tube wiring system, and to the south of it a small square hatch that leads to the attic crawlspace.

**Glenvil Jail: Exterior**

The Glenvil Jail is a small, single story rectangular red brick structure with grey mortar lines and a shed roof sloped towards the rear of the building and stepped parapets along the sides of the building. It maintains only three openings - a window on the east elevation, and a door and window on the south elevation. The roof is clad in modern corrugated metal, sloping towards the rear of the building with tar flashing on the inside of the stepped parapets that step down twice to meet the pitch of the roof. The chimney is flush with the wall on the east elevation in the center, not rising above the parapet and breaking the roofline. The interior of the building contains its historic two jail cells, and even a small, metal toilet. The ceiling in this room is metal, and the floor is compacted dirt. Overall it maintains its historic integrity.

The south elevation is the primary facade. Towards the top of the building, there is a protruding brick cornice three brick layers from the flat roof line. This protruding brick cornice has been painted black, and in white block lettering reads "1899 CITY JAIL". The two brick layers below it are stepped and recede downwards, meeting the horizontally laid red brick wall. Somewhat evenly spaced on this facade are two openings, a doorway on the left and a window on the right. The doorway is flush with the ground and has a large wooden jamb painted white. The door is a diagonal plank door painted red, which doesn't appear to be historic. This doorway is covered by a large cast iron jail door with many vertical bars and several flat vertical support bars. Above the doorway are two protruding wooden spokes capped with antique teal glass electrical insulators that would have brought electricity into the building. To the right of the doorway, placed higher is a square window opening. The window is a single lite window in a wooden jamb, clad with a cast iron vertical bar frame. The sill for this window is matching red brick to the body of the window, laid on their vertical ends and protruding slightly. The window has a flat cast iron lintel supporting the brick above the opening. The window glass is plexiglass, installed from the interior to weatherize the opening.

On the east elevation we see the roofline parapet steps downward towards the north, the rear of the building. The last and first steps are the same length, with the middle step being shorter than the other. Under the first parapet step on the left side of this elevation is another square window opening with an identical description to the one on the south elevation. The horizontally laid red brick has several showings of mortar line repair and failure throughout.

On the north elevation, the rear of the building, the corrugated metal roof and tar paper flashing along the sides of the parapets is visible sloping downwards towards this elevation with a white aluminum drip edge resting underneath the metal roof along the span of this line in between the parapets. This side of the building contains no openings, and consists of layers of the red brick horizontally laid, with mortar joints in several stages of repair or failure. The west elevation cannot be seen due to the amount of space, but from the interior it can be determined that there are no openings along that elevation, and it is identical to the east elevation, with the exception of the window opening being absent.

**Glenvil Jail: Interior**

The interior of the building is an open room with dirt floors containing two identical jail cells constructed of latticed iron slats riveted in the intersecting joints. There are two cell doors one on the far left and the other on the far right with opposite door swing. They match the pattern of the latticed cell walls, with the exception of large square metal plates being in the middle of the doors to protect the locking mechanisms from being tampered with from inside the cell. Both cells dominate the room and are located in the northwest corner. They are mirror images of each other, with a floating metal cot flanking either side of the interior shared solid iron wall that spans the length of the cell. All the metal on these cells have

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been painted black but are flaking heavily or worn down to a patina finish. The walls are brick and have been painted white or limewashed, with the finish flaking or scratched off. The ceiling is clad in thin metal panels pressed to look like beadboard that match the pitch of the slanting shed roof. The windows and door opening reveal wooden lintels on the interior, painted white. On the left side of the interior of the door frame is an antique circular rotary light switch, with knob and tube junction leading to a porcelain light bulb base at the top left corner of the frame as the lone lighting source. A toilet is provided in the northwest corner of the interior. The bowl is cast iron coated in porcelain-painted black with white porcelain seat, while the high tank above is a nickel painted cylinder cast iron tank riveted at the top and bottom, mounted vertically. An interior water spigot is mounted under the window opening on the eastern wall. To the left of the window opening on this wall is a protruding brick chimney, with a circular hole for venting a stove present towards the top, with a square piece of galvanized metal at the base that could be an ash clean-out for the chimney.

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**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** Removed from its original location.
- C** A birthplace or a grave.
- D** A cemetery.  
A reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- E** A commemorative property.
- F** Less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Politics/Government  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1899 - 1938  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1899- Jail built  
1905- Fire Hall built  
1938- New fire hall built

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)  
N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Glenvil Fire Hall and Town Jail are nominated at the local level of significance under Criterion A: Politics and Government for their contribution to the politics/government to Glenvil. The Fire Hall and Town Jail are tied together via similar events that occurred just after the turn of the century that illuminate both how small town municipal buildings operate. Additionally, the building pair highlights the unique characteristics that caused Glenvil, a town that has never

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surpassed 400 people, to have both a Fire Hall and Town Jail- something no other town of similar size in Clay County could have claimed to have. The period of significance for these two buildings stretch from 1899 when the Jail was built to 1938 when the new Fire Hall was built.

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Around the turn of the century, Glenvil was gaining a reputation. The Hastings Daily Tribune wrote in 1905- "Glenville is the seat of many factional differences, rivalries, and jealousies. Competition among merchants and professional men is so [strenuous] that the town is practically divided, with but very few occupying neutral position. The feeling upon the part of some reaches to the point of enmity."<sup>2\*</sup>

Competition among "merchants and professional men" is nothing new for Clay County and early Nebraska. Notably for Clay County, there was a big scrap over which city should be the county seat. Merchants and property owners from Sutton and Harvard competed to make their town the county seat. In order to prevent Harvard from becoming the county seat, people from Sutton rounded up all the other towns and created a "paper town" at the center of the county that they would all vote on to be the county seat.<sup>3</sup> This paper town was called Clay Center, and after an election in which "thousands of fraudulent votes were cast", it became the county seat of Clay County.<sup>4</sup> Soon after, the people who had campaigned for Clay Center raided all of the administrative buildings in nearby Sutton bringing all of the records back to Clay Center, thus cementing its status as the county seat.<sup>5</sup> A county judge refused to recognize this, and was impeached by the county for not following this order.<sup>6</sup> Until the rest of the county banded together, Harvard had the best claim to be the county seat. Even among these towns, the groups were factional, divided, petty, and driven.

This is the kind of environment Glenvil became a nascent town. Situated between Hastings and Clay Center, it lies on the fringes of the Hastings, Nebraska micropolitan area. A consummate Nebraska railroad town, it owes its existence to the St. Joseph and Grand Island tracks that run just on Glenvil's outskirts. J.W. Sturgis built the first storehouse in 1873 and different buildings grew up around that, including a blacksmith shop in 1878, a grain elevator and coal/lumber yards, and a hotel all by 1882.<sup>7</sup> This small town continued to grow slowly and kept gaining more and more amenities, culminating with the building of the Town Jail in 1899 and the Fire Hall in 1905.

But turn of the century Glenvil also allegedly became notable for alcoholism. In describing the temperance movements of respective towns, *The Edgar Post* notes how the temperance organization in Glenvil was doing noticeably good work despite the fact that "almost anyone knows the difficulty that is likely to be in the way of a temperance organization in Glenville".<sup>8</sup> In addition to bickering merchants, Glenvil gained a reputation for alcohol consumption. An example of this kind of crime can be seen in the curious case of Henry Lewellyn, a blacksmith who was caught shooting just over the wife of his half-brother. Not normally known for this kind of behavior, Henry was charged with carrying concealed weapons and proceeded to be tried under the dipsomania [alcoholism] law.<sup>9</sup> Or the case of John Itzen and Barney Bruns, whose argument over making change after a night of drinking resulted "in an effort to change each other's physiognomy".<sup>10</sup>

<sup>2</sup> "CONFLAGRATION AT GLENVILLE: An Early Morning Fire Destroys Property to the Value of 75,000\$ at Glenville", *The Hastings Daily Tribune*, October 17, 1905, 1.

\* Of note- the town originally went by the name of Glenville, but attempted to change their name to Glenvil sometime in the mid-thirties. The name change did not officially change until the 80s. As such, the rest of the document will refer to the city as Glenvil, even though historical sources will not reference it as such. "Glenvil's the name, G-l-e-n-v-i-l", *The Lincoln Journal Star*, June 20, 1984, 28.

<sup>3</sup> R. G. Brown, "A Sketch of Sutton Prepared for Court House Dedication by R. G. Brown, Gives a Birds-eye Perspective of Sutton's Growth", in *A History of Hamilton and Clay Counties*, S.J. Clarke Publishing Co, 1921, 673.

<sup>4</sup> R. G. Brown, "A Sketch of Sutton Prepared for Court House Dedication by R. G. Brown, Gives a Birds-eye Perspective of Sutton's Growth", in *A History of Hamilton and Clay Counties*, S.J. Clarke Publishing Co, 1921,674,

<sup>5</sup> Dale P. Stough, *History of Hamilton and Clay Counties*, S.J. Clarke Publishing Co, 1921, 621.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> Dale P. Stough, *History of Hamilton and Clay Counties*, S.J. Clarke Publishing Co, 1921, 662.

<sup>8</sup> "W.C.T.U. Convention", *Edgar Post*, June 7, 1910, 1.

<sup>9</sup> "BLACKSMITH RUNS AMUCK IN TOWN OF GLENVILLE" *The Hastings Daily Tribune*, January 12, 1906, 1.

<sup>10</sup> "MORE TROUBLE IN GLENVILLE", *The Hastings Daily Tribune*, August 18, 1906, 1.

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John Itzen was the village marshal at the time, and considered putting out a warrant for Bruns' arrest.<sup>11</sup> John Schmidt, the Glenvil village marshal in 1907, was tried at Clay Center for assaulting Fred Freitag, which resulted from a previous day's transaction where Schmidt accused Freitag of preventing an arrest.<sup>12</sup> These brief news bits headlined the prevalence of constant drinking and feuding in Glenvil. Administering such a city, even one in which the population has never exceeded 400, proved challenging. Out of the 14 Clay County cities surveyed in the Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey, only three of them had jails. Those were Harvard, Clay Center, and Glenvil. Both Harvard and Clay Center had populations in 1910 of over 1,000, Glenvil had a meager population of 304.<sup>13</sup>

As such, having a jail and fire hall meant Glenvil represented one of the larger administrative centers of Clay County and nearby Adams County despite the smaller population. Of note is that 1899 is the same year the town was incorporated and the same year it got a bank.<sup>14</sup> Glenvil at the turn of the century had a growing population and likely had aspirations of growing bigger- which would have necessitated these administrative and economic buildings.

Small towns like Glenvil that have jails often use them for petty crime or to deter crime. What little that does exist in the historical record for the Glenvil Jail indicate this was the case. Jails would have been both symbolically and tangibly important for apprehending wrongdoers. In 1912, Glenvil law enforcement found five men who got caught stealing a pair of trousers and some jewelry. To save Clay County money from having a trial and to avoid having to go through the full legal procedures, two were released from jail without breakfast and given just 5 minutes to leave town.<sup>15</sup> The idea here is that the jail functions primarily as lodging for criminals until they can be tried in Clay Center. This is further evidenced by events that took place in 1901 as four men were arrested in Glenville and then transferred from the Glenvil jail to Clay Center, this time for stealing an overcoat.<sup>16</sup>

In addition, considering the newspaper-notable alcohol consumption that was taking place in the town, the town jail likely also was the place that drunk people would get placed for the evening. The expense of having to send criminals all the way to Clay Center already noted, an opinion piece about the future of Clay County appears in the Harvard Courier with an interesting section- "The population of Bixby and Spring Ranch will remain constant. No one will be locked up overnight in the Glenvil jail. The Bohemians down around Deweese..."<sup>17</sup> Even as late as 1975, the jail was in use as a holding cell for public intoxication.

The Glenvil jail may have been built to be a public intoxication cell and petty crime deterrent, but the Fire Hall may have been built for a far more sinister reason. On April 18, 1904, the house of Dr. H. M. Bailey caught fire reportedly due to kerosene-soaked corn found on the property.<sup>18</sup> Glenvil, possibly in response to this and to a close call from a cellar fire that occurred in June of 1904,<sup>19</sup> founded its own volunteer fire department and ordered a fire engine in June of 1905.<sup>20</sup> That fire engine arrived on October 12, 1905 due to an order that the board had placed "some weeks ago".<sup>21</sup>

The residents of Glenvil had a reason to be suspicious. The frequency of these fires couple with the small radius by which these fires were located raised plenty of suspicion. But the worst was yet to come. On October 17, 1905, a 4:30am fire destroyed about 7500\$ worth of property in Glenvil.<sup>22</sup> It was only due to the "heroism of the Glenvil volunteer firefighters", led by John Goldstein, that the fire was put out just before reaching Goldstein's own house.<sup>23</sup> The 7500 comes mainly from three buildings- Dr. H.M. Bailey's building, Elmer Frey's residence, and the butcher August Heye's residence.<sup>24</sup> The townspeople again suspected the fires resulted from arson. As for which properties the arsonists were aiming for was

<sup>11</sup> "MORE TROUBLE IN GLENVILLE", *The Hastings Daily Tribune*, August 18, 1906, 1.

<sup>12</sup> "Marshal Faces Trial.", *Central City Record*, September 5, 1907.

<sup>13</sup> Dale P. Stough, *History of Hamilton and Clay Counties*, S.J. Clarke Publishing Co, 1921, 660.

<sup>14</sup> L.L. Brandt, "Glenville" in *A History of Clay County*, S.J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1921, 801.

<sup>15</sup> "CHASE OF GLENVILLE THEIF LEADS TO CAPTURE OF FIVE", *The Hastings Daily Republican*, August 28, 1912, 5.

<sup>16</sup> "Nebraska Notes", *The Elmwood Leader-Echo*, December 6, 1901, 2.

<sup>17</sup> Mr. Ed, "From the Horse's Mouth", *The Harvard Courier*, March 6, 1975, 14.

<sup>18</sup> "Fire at Glenville", *The Hastings Tribune*, October 20, 1905, 6.

<sup>19</sup> "Glenville Items", *Adams County Democrat*, January 22, 1904, 5.

<sup>20</sup> "Glenville", *The Clay County Sun*, June 2, 1905, 1.

<sup>21</sup> "Fire at Glenville", *The Hastings Tribune*, October 20, 1905, 6.

<sup>22</sup> "Fire at Glenville", *The Hastings Tribune*, October 20, 1905, 6.

<sup>23</sup> "CONFLAGRATION AT GLENVILLE: An Early Morning Fire Destroys Property to the Value of 75,000\$ at Glenville", *The Hastings Daily Tribune*, October 17, 1905, 1.

<sup>24</sup> "Fire at Glenville", *The Hastings Tribune*, October 20, 1905, 6.

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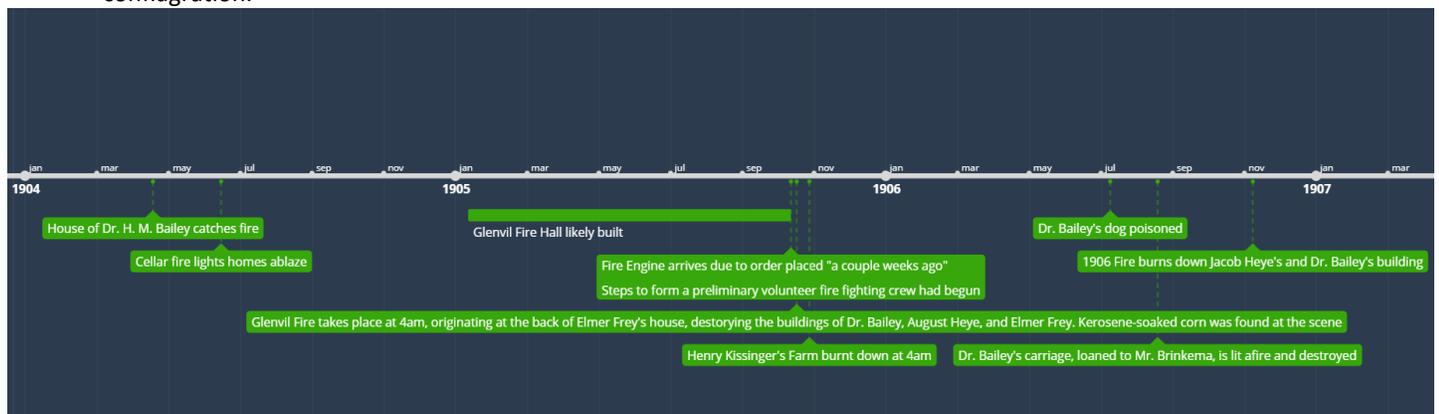
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not clear, but this sent Dr. Bailey into a resigned sadness, "They've got me at last."<sup>25</sup> The repeated burning of Dr. Bailey's property, be that carriage or house, shows a true animosity some in the town show him, highlighting the distrust and anger town merchants shared with one another.

The fallout over the week following the October 17 fire or so is notable. The townspeople were so fed up that they raised over 500\$ in just two hours and joined with the insurance companies in looking for the arson(ists), with the insurance company Farmer's and Merchants offering to send their own private investigator to "hunt down the firebugs".<sup>26</sup> For the townspeople to join up with the insurance companies to look for the arsonists tells exactly how serious this was for the small town of Glenville. Insurance companies, probably wary of having to insure Glenvillians countless thousands of dollars for destroyed property and goods, needed to act. The article notes that "it was at first thought that only one man was responsible but recent disclosures have served to convince that there are at least two and possibly more". Because a week later, on October 28 Henry Kissinger's farm was burnt down, with the cause of the "4:00 o'clock" fire also unknown.<sup>27</sup> The exact same people in this story keep getting their houses burnt down, again highlighting the fact that arson is likely the culprit due to so many repeated burnings.

November 8, 1906- another "fire of incendiary origin" takes place in Glenvil.<sup>28</sup> The Hastings Tribune noted that Dr. Bailey had their carriage torched and their dog poisoned some time in 1905 as well. The exact section reads,

It is considered significant that the same man who sustained a loss through the fire of a year ago should be the victim of last night's fire. Fires of supposedly incendiary origin occur with frequency in Glenville. Before the fire of a year ago two attempts are said to have been made to destroy Dr. Bailey's store. Some weeks ago, some evilly disposed person set fire to Dr. Bailey's carriage, in front of a livery stable. The fire was discovered after it had burned the cushions and part of the top. A few weeks before that Dr. Bailey's dog was mysteriously and fiendishly poisoned. It is believed that the person who killed the dog is the man who set fire to the carriage, and that he is also the man who started the disastrous fire of last year and perhaps the one who caused last night's conflagration.<sup>29</sup>



In addition to Dr. Bailey's house being burnt down, Jacob Heye's meat market was also burnt. He had just opened it up just a week earlier.<sup>30</sup> This is the last major "incendiary" blaze that takes place in Glenvil according to the newspaper record. A full timeline is above.

<sup>25</sup> "CONFLAGRATION AT GLENVILLE: An Early Morning Fire Destroys Property to the Value of 75,000\$ at Glenville", *The Hastings Daily Tribune*, October 17, 1905, 1.

<sup>26</sup> "BIG FUND FOR THE SEARCH: Citizens of Glenville Raise Over 500\$ in Two Hours-Insurance Companies Will Help." *The Hastings Daily Tribune*, October 26, 1905, 1.

<sup>27</sup> "ANOTHER FIRE AT GLENVILLE", *The Hastings Daily Tribune*, October 28, 1905, 1.

<sup>28</sup> "Glenville Has Another Fire of Incendiary Origin: Man Who Suffered in Incendiary Fire of a Year Ago is Again a Victim--- Prompt Work of Firemen Checks Spread of Flames", *The Hastings Tribune*, November 9, 1906, 8.

<sup>29</sup> "GLENVILLE HAS ANOTHER FIRE OF INCENDIARY ORIGIAN", *The Hastings Tribune*, November 9, 1906.

Dr. Bailey's dog being poisoned also noted has having occurred on July 9, 1906 by the Hastings Daily Tribune, published on August 23, 1906, 8.

<sup>30</sup> "Glenville Has Another Fire of Incendiary Origin: Man Who Suffered in Incendiary Fire of a Year Ago is Again a Victim--- Prompt Work of Firemen Checks Spread of Flames", *The Hastings Tribune*, November 9, 1906, 8.

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While the histories of Glenvil never reveal a culprit or culprits for these various accounts of arson, the Glenvil Fire Hall was built to protect the citizens of the city from events like this. It is important to note that these narratives were compiled through newspapers. While far from the most reliable resource, they do paint a picture of how other communities, particularly Hastings, would have viewed Glenvil at the time. The majority of the newspaper sources coming from Hastings highlight how destructive and petty the people of Glenvil were, while unsurprisingly the few sources coming out of Glenvil were presented a much kinder view of things. In "A History of Hamilton and Clay Counties", L.L. Brandt gives a much prouder description of the town and its businesses:

What do you think of that? Try in the best state of the world, in the best county of the state, and in the best village of the county, and if Glenville and its surrounding country is as good to its future inhabitants as it has been to its pioneers and present people, we shall all be glad.<sup>31</sup>

While other opinions are hard to come across, this paints a good picture of the landscape of the time. These communities had varied motives, and opinions between people likely varied. The amount of discussion on the town of Glenvil though shows the sites are significant. The jail and fire hall would have been chiefly responsible for handling any problems that did arise, even these likely rather exaggerated events. These sites are significant for that reason.

The Fire Hall did acquire some added contexts over time as well. The volunteer fire department in Glenvil became a source of entertainment, as in the absence of an entertainment organization, the Fire Hall and fire department assumed the entertainment responsibilities for Glenvil. For example, the "Glenville Fire boys" sang songs and performed "exceedingly funny" plays at the opera house in 1906. This tradition of the Glenvil Volunteer Fire Department hosting and performing various different forms of entertainment continued at least until 1976, where the "Glenvil Fire Boys" had a role to play in Glenvil's centennial, during the dedication of the newest Fire Hall. This social life that developed around firefighting was likely due to their status as a volunteer fire department. Putting on entertainment like this was a great way of raising funds for new materials or to honor the firemen who had served the city. The Fire Hall represents the efforts of the volunteer fire department who served as an entertainment patron in the absence of other such organizations, assuming entertainment and general city duties.

This is nothing new for Fire Halls as well. "The need to acquire improved equipment meant that volunteer companies began requesting subscriptions from area residents, or holding balls or other social events to fundraise for new engines, hoses, other gear, or the construction of firehouses."<sup>32</sup> This is very likely what was happening here. By organizing social events, the community of Glenvil was able to finance their firefighting. In doing so, they became an important community resource inside and outside of the firefighting realm.

The Glenvil Jail received much less press than the Fire Hall. Comparing it to other, similar, Nebraska jails, it appears that as the county seat got bigger and more solidified, Glenvil's responsibilities in terms of enforcing and taking care of the law dwindled. The National Register nomination for Union Jail in Union, Nebraska highlights this difficulty. It notes that "After 1940 Union's population began to decline, and common wisdom in the community indicates that the jail was rarely used after 1940."<sup>33</sup> This both fits the timeline and period of significance for the Glenvil jail. The only other jail of a similar type to achieve National Register status in Nebraska, the Winnetoon jail, almost directly mirrors that of the Glenvil jail. These properties represent a rare and unique type among the Nebraska built space.



Figure 1; Union Jail, from Union Jail National Register of Historic Places Nomination

The Glenvil Town Jail and Fire Hall are an excellent representation of administrative law and order attempts in Glenvil and Clay County history. Both sites,

<sup>31</sup> Stough, Dale P. A History of Hamilton and Clay Counties, Nebraska, Edited by George L. Burr and O. O. Buck, S.J. Clarke Publishing Co, 1921, page 798.

<sup>32</sup> Jim Bertolini, "Fire Stations of Nevada" in conjunction with the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office, December 19, 2017, section E, pages 4-5.

<sup>33</sup> Greg Miller, "Union Jail" National Register of Historic Places Form, in conjunction with the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office, May 24, 2006, section 8, page 1.

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sitting directly side by side, exemplify the dangers, administrative needs, and unique history of Glenvil at the turn of the century. The town clearly had a need and desire to protect its citizens, and invested accordingly in public safety with the construction of these two buildings. As such, the Glenvil Fire Hall and Town Jail are recommended for listing under Criterion A: Politics and Government due to their proximity and their joint administrative duties they contributed to the city of Glenvil.



Figure 2; Winnetoon Jail, from Winnetoon Jail National Register of Historic Places Nomination

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## 9. Major Bibliographic References

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**Bibliography** (Insert bibliography here – cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form.)

“Glenvil’s the name, G-l-e-n-v-i-l”, *The Lincoln Journal Star*, June 20, 1984, 28.

“Glenville”. *The Clay County Sun*. June 2, 1905, 1.

“Glenville Items”. *Adams County Democrat*. January 22, 1904, 5.

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“Nebraska Notes”. *The Elmwood Leader-Echo*. December 6, 1901, 2.

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Stough, Dale P. *A History of Hamilton and Clay Counties, Nebraska*. Edited by George L. Burr and O. O. Buck, S.J. Clarke Publishing Co, 1921.

“W.C.T.U. Convention”. *Edgar Post*. June 7, 1910, 1.

*The Hastings Tribune*

“ANOTHER FIRE AT GLENVILLE”. October 28, 1905, 1.

“BIG FUND FOR THE SEARCH: Citizens of Glenville Raise Over 500\$ in Two Hours-Insurance Companies Will Help.” October 26, 1905, 1.

“BLACKSMITH RUNS AMUCK IN TOWN OF GLENVILLE”. January 12, 1906, 1.

“CONFLAGRATION AT GLENVILLE: An Early Morning Fire Destroys Property to the Value of 75,000\$ at Glenville”. October 17, 1905, 1.

“Fire at Glenville”. October 20, 1905, 6.

“Glenville Has Another Fire of Incendiary Origin: Man Who Suffered in Incendiary Fire of a Year Ago is Again a Victim--- Prompt Work of Firemen Checks Spread of Flames.” November 9, 1906, 8.

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“MORE TROUBLE IN GLENVILLE”. August 18, 1906, 1.

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other (Name of repository)

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): CY06-015 & CY06-106

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property 0.06 USGS Quadrangle Hastings, NE

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

- |    |          |                  |           |                   |
|----|----------|------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| 1. | Latitude | <u>40.504170</u> | Longitude | <u>-98.255830</u> |
| 2. | Latitude | _____            | Longitude | _____             |
| 3. | Latitude | _____            | Longitude | _____             |
| 4. | Latitude | _____            | Longitude | _____             |

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The property is described as lot 19 on Winters Ave. The parcel is bordered by the railroad tracks to the east, to the north by a gravel road which loops around the back of the property, to the west by a road which separates the bank between the newer fire hall and the old, and to the front by Winters Avenue.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

This land has been historically associated with the Fire Hall and town jail since their construction. The area was chosen so that only the land surrounding the two buildings is included in the nomination. In part because that is the physical space in which the two buildings were built, but also because the borders should not include anything that is not a government building.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Joe van den Berg  
organization Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office date 04/07/2021  
street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Lincoln state NE zip code 68508  
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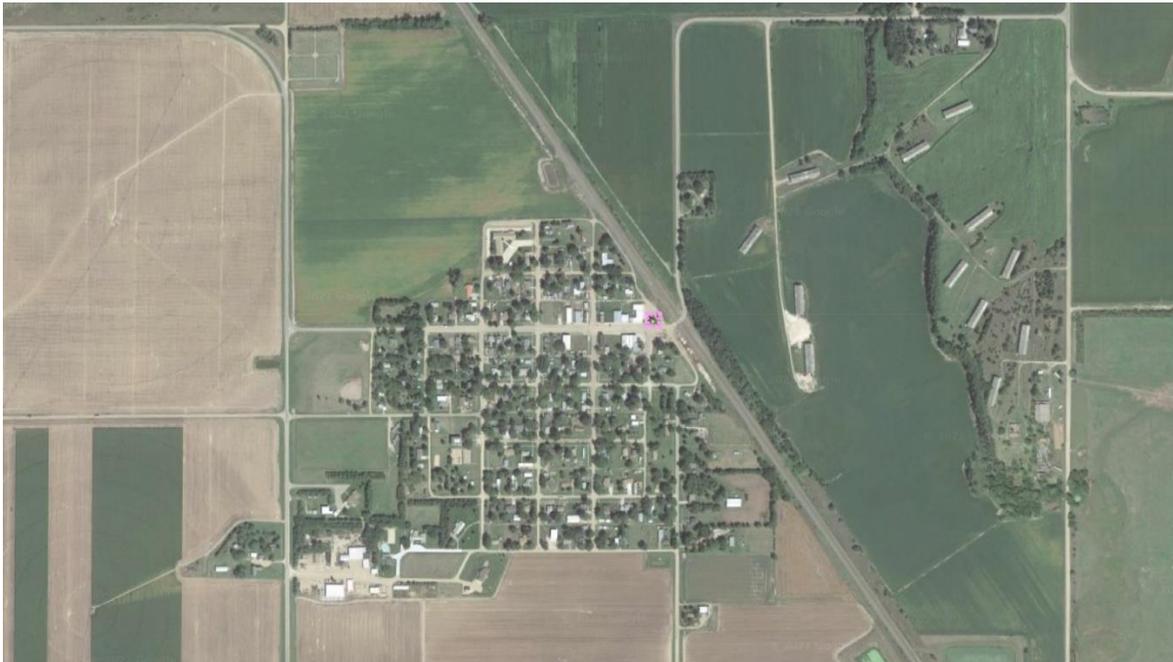
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### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to map.
- **Additional Items:** (Check with the SHPO for any additional items)



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**Photographs**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

**Photo Log**

Name of Property Glenvil Jail and Glenvil Fire Hall

City or Vicinity Glenvil County Clay State Nebraska

Photographer Kate Hewling & Joe van den Berg Date Photographed 3/27/2021

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera.

- Image 1: Glenvil Fire Hall (left) and Glenvil Jail (right) exterior, south façade; view north.
- Image 2: Glenvil Fire Hall (left) and Glenvil Jail (right) exterior, east façade; view west.
- Image 3: Glenvil Fire Hall (right) and Glenvil Jail (left) exterior, north façade; view south.
- Image 4: Glenvil Fire Hall exterior, west façade; view east.
- Image 5: Glenvil Fire Hall (right) south and east exterior façade, Glenvil Jail (left) south and west exterior façade; view north.
- Image 6: Glenvil Jail exterior, close-up of tin roofing, north façade; view south.
- Image 7: Glenvil Fire Hall interior with stairwell to second story; view north.
- Image 8: Glenvil Fire Hall interior with vehicle entrance; view south.
- Image 9: Glenvil Fire Hall interior with stairwell and doorway; view east.
- Image 10: Glenvil Fire Hall interior second floor with windows, shelving; view south.
- Image 12: Glenvil Jail interior with cell, hygiene facilities; view north.
- Image 13: Glenvil Jail interior with barred windows, cell; view east.
- Image 14: Glenvil Jail interior with ceiling detail, two cells; view northwest.
- Image 15: Glenvil Jail interior with interior of most eastward cell with cot; view northwest.



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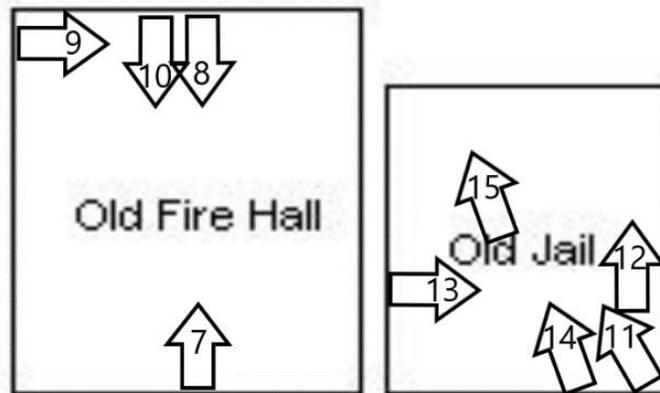


Image 1: Glenvil Fire Hall (left) and Glenvil Jail (right) exterior, south façade; view north.

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**Image 2: Glenvil Fire Hall (left) and Glenvil Jail (right) exterior, east façade; view west.**



**Image 3: Glenvil Fire Hall (right) and Glenvil Jail (left) exterior, north façade; view south.**

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**Image 4: Glenvil Fire Hall exterior, west façade; view east.**

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**Image 5: Glenvil Fire Hall (right) south and east exterior façade, Glenvil Jail (left) south and west exterior façade; view north.**

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**Image 6: Glenvil Jail exterior, close-up of tin roofing, north façade; view south.**



**Image 7: Glenvil Fire Hall interior with stairwell to second story; view north.**

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**Image 8: Glenvil Fire Hall interior with vehicle entrance; view south.**

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**Image 9: Glenvil Fire Hall interior with stairwell and doorway; view east.**

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Image 10: Glenvil Fire Hall interior second floor with windows, shelving; view south.

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Image 11: Glenvil Jail interior with two cells, toilet; view northwest.



Image 12: Glenvil Jail interior with cell, hygiene facilities; view north.

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Image 13: Glenvil Jail interior with barred windows, cell; view east.



Image 14: Glenvil Jail interior with ceiling detail, two cells; view northwest.

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Image 15: Glenvil Jail interior with interior of most eastward cell with cot; view northwest.

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**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.