



February 27, 2023

To the Honorable Judge Britton and County Commissioners,

We are very pleased that the County Commissioners Court agreed to join us for a tour of the Old Jail property to review our repair requests. We deeply appreciate the County Commissioners' support of the Brown County Museum of History in its mission to both preserve local history and provide educational opportunities for children and adults of this County. One of the successful draws to visitors and residents of Brown County is the ability to tour the Old Jail building. The Old Jail is an iconic architectural treasure that reflects the rich history of Brown County and has been designated a state landmark by the Texas Historical Commission.

As stewards of the Brown County property, we feel compelled to report items that are in need of repair that affect the health and safety of our visitors as well as the preservation of artifacts that are housed in the structure. It has come to the point that certain repairs need immanent attention:

Items affecting public health and safety:

1. Window Repair: There are 18 windows that either have broken panes, missing panes or frames that have rotted beyond repair. These windows let in rain which damages the structure and artifacts and make it extremely difficult to control interior temperatures to A) properly preserve artifacts and B) control costs on heat and air conditioning. There are 28 additional windows in the structure that will at some time in the future require repair or replacement, but these 18 are critical. This historic structure requires all the preservation efforts we can provide, and water/weather damage is costly to repair.
2. Termite Damage: The door casings of first floor rooms have extensive termite damage. To prevent further damage, we are requesting the Old Jail to be added to the pest control/termite contract that the County has on its other structures to prevent further damage, and repairs be made to prevent visitors from breaking through the door frames.
3. Electrical: The up lights for the building are obsolete and cannot be repaired (we had the County Maintenance staff check to be sure). We have experienced vandalism since the lights do not provide security for the structure at night. Replacement fixtures will also be much more energy efficient, and the cost savings will be a benefit to all of us. We also need a cover for the junction box above the breaker box in the historic office inside the Old Jail. These open connections could cause a visitor great harm if touched.

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(Exhibit #9)

4. Step Repair at Portico: We host several field trips to students each month as well as elderly visitors and are concerned for their safety upon exiting the building due to the crumbling steps. These are a hazard for staff and visitors.

Items affecting visitor accessibility and experience:

5. Flagpole Repair: The mechanism holding the flag onto the pole is in need of repair. We currently cannot fly our state or national flags.
6. ADA Accessibility: There is currently no ADA - accessible parking at the Old Jail, or accessibility through the front door. The ADA ramp is at the back door of the Old Jail, and is non-compliant since the approach is through grass. In addition, there is no means of ADA access, such as a concrete walkway, from the current ADA ramp to the front door. This does a great disservice to visitors who need such access.

We have attached example photos of the above-described repair requests.

Thank you for joining the State of Texas' goals for counties to preserve historically significant buildings.

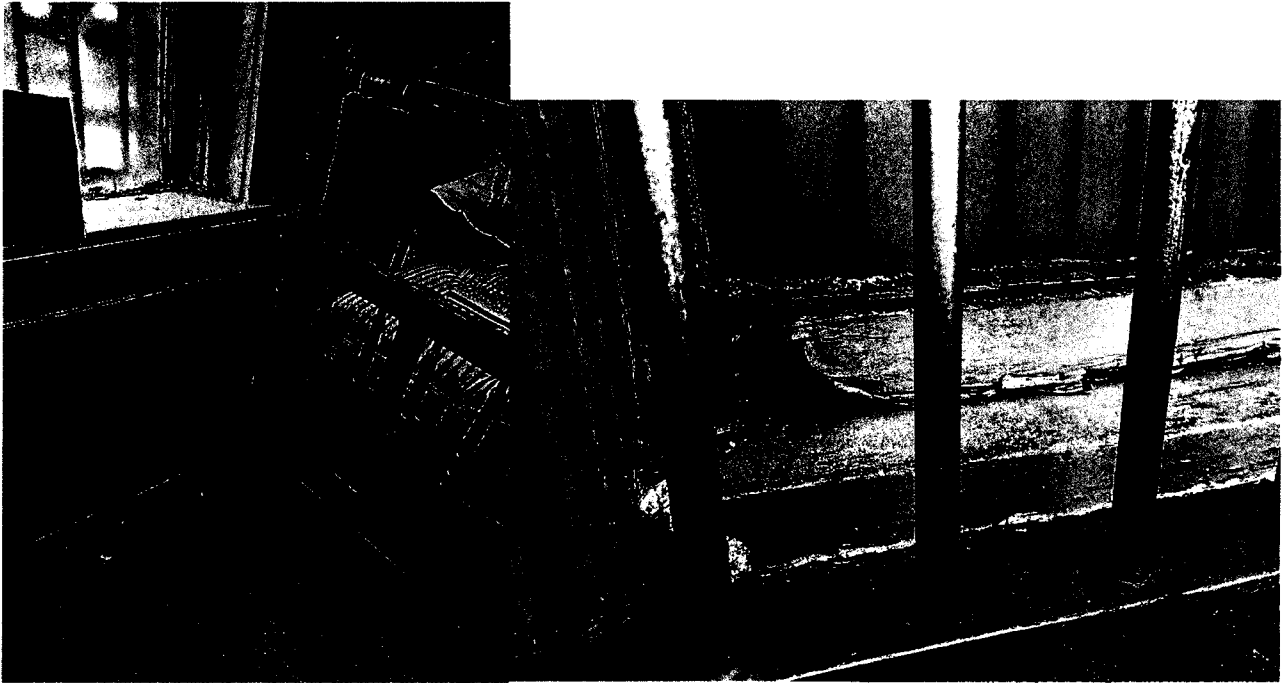
Best regards,

Beverly Norris

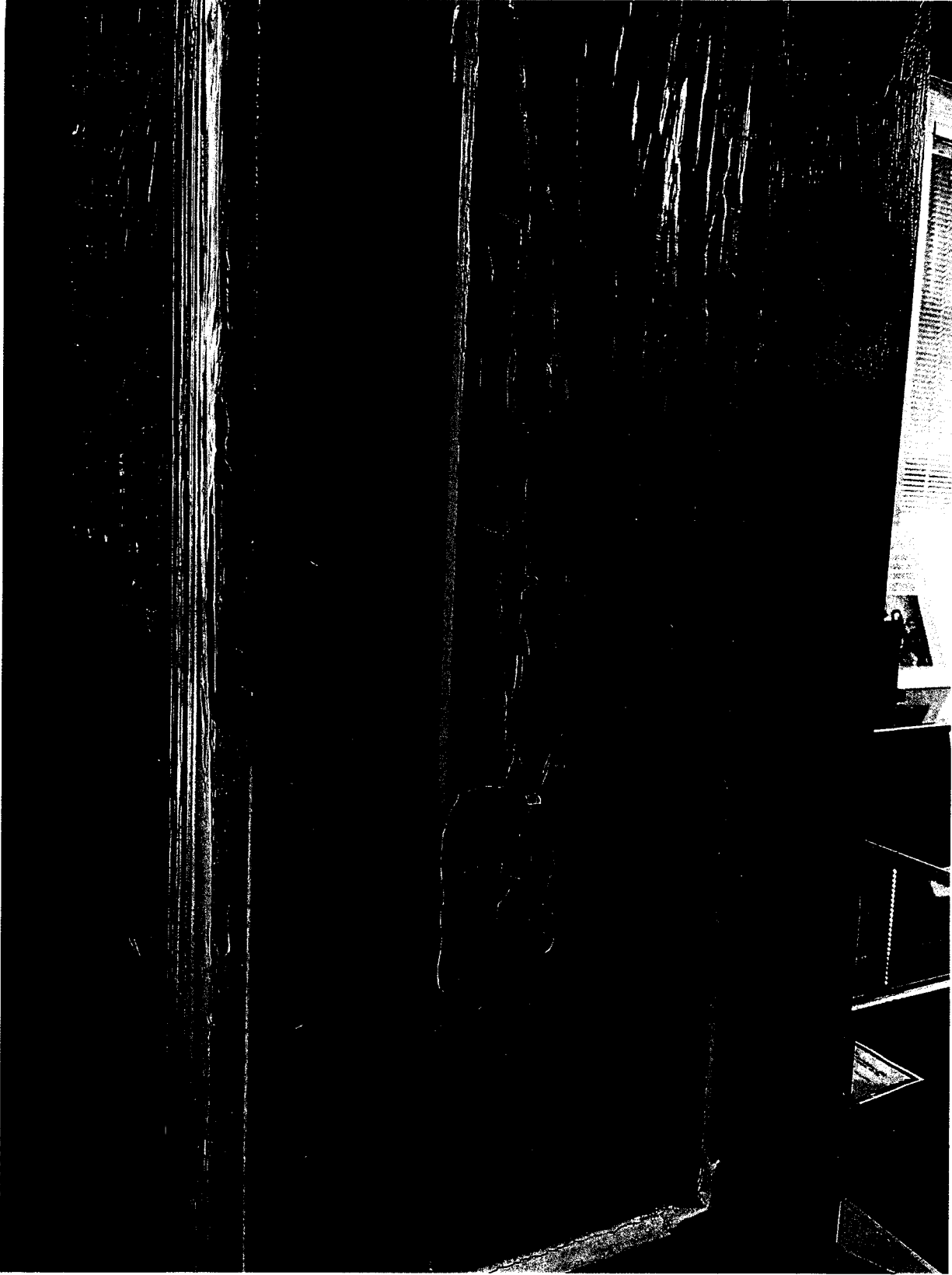
Museum Board Vice President

Old Jail Repair Photographs

1. Window Damage:



2. Termite Damage:



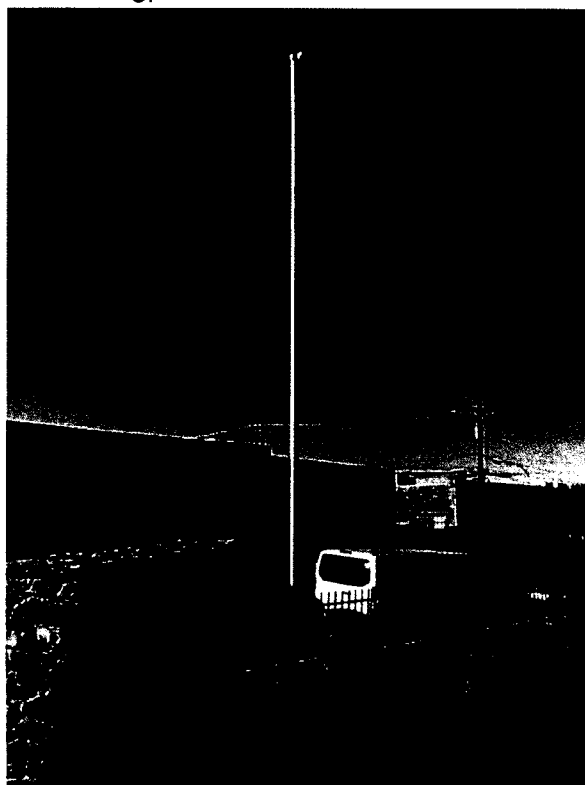
3. Lights and Junction Box:



4. Step Damage:



5. Flagpole:



6. Current ADA Accessibility Ramp:





October 10, 2021

To the Honorable Judge Lilly,

We deeply appreciate the County Commissioners' support of the Brown County Museum of History in its mission to both preserve local history and provide educational opportunities for children and adults of this County. As you know, one of the successful draws to the museum is the ability to tour the Old Jail building. The Old Jail is an iconic architectural treasure that reflects the rich history of Brown County and has been designated a state landmark by the Texas Historical Commission. As this is a County-owned property, its maintenance falls under the Brown County umbrella, and as managers of the Museum it is our duty to report its condition to the County Commissioners.

As of late, a few items need repair:

1. Water pipe leaks: While this damage occurred during the unprecedented cold weather this last spring, it was not discovered until we turned on the water for our grand re-opening at the end of May. Since this will most likely be covered under the County's insurance policy, we knew you would not want to delay in getting this repaired.
2. Termite damage: While we do not anticipate that the County will repair the extensive termite damage, we would like the Old Jail to be added to the termite contract that the County has on its other structures to prevent further damage.
3. Window repair: With the fall and winter rains fast approaching, we are concerned about the number of missing/broken windowpanes. This historic structure requires all the preservation efforts we can provide, and water/weather damage is costly to repair.
4. Outdoor lights: The up lights that showcase this iconic historical gem are in need of replacement. The existing fixtures cannot be repaired due to their advanced age (we had the County Maintenance staff check to be sure). Replacement fixtures will also be much more energy efficient and the cost savings will be a benefit to all of us.
5. Crumbling steps into portico on front façade of Old Jail. These are a hazard for staff and visitors.

Attached are photos of the areas that need repair. We would also be happy to give you a personal tour if you would like further clarification. Please call me personally if you have any questions: 325-647-7879

Thank you for keeping this historically significant County building preserved from the ravages of time.

Best regards,

Beverly Norris

Museum Board Vice President

CC: Dion White

Maintenance Person at Courthouse TBD