

May 8, 2023

To the Honorable Judge Britton and Brown County Commissioners,

This is to provide you with an update, and bids on some of the repair work needed at the Old Jail. Also attached is the letter with photos that was given to you when you toured the building.

As you know, the Old Jail is a **Recorded Texas Historic Landmark**, on **the National Register of Historic Places**, and is designated as a **Texas State Antiquities Landmark**. Built in 1903, it is 120 years old this year. Significant repairs are needed at this time.

The Old Jail building is owned by the County and operated and made available to the public by the Brown County Museum of History.

Update on items immediately needed for preservation of the building and public health and safety:

- 1. **Window Repair:** There are 15 windows that either have broken panes, missing panes or frames so rotted beyond repair that they will not hold the glass. These windows let in wind and rain, which further damages artifacts and the structure itself.
Attached are bids for labor, materials and plexi/glass replacement for a total of **\$5,168.**
28 additional windows have non-urgent repair needs, **no funds requested at this time.** -0-
 - 2. **Termite Damage:** The County placed the Old Jail on its regular rotation for termite control. Since the interior damage is not considered critical, **no funds requested at this time.** -0-
 - 3. **Electrical:** bid attached: to replace the 7 exterior uprights that were destroyed by vandalism. . . **\$3,825.**
 - 4. **Steps at portico:** repair not deemed immediate, **no funds requested at this time.** -0-
 - 5. **Flagpole repair:** **completed by volunteer board member, no funds requested at this time.** -0-
 - 6. **ADA Accessibility:** **project will need additional planning, no funds requested at this time.** -0-
- Total to repair 15 windows and 7 uprights \$8,993.**

Over 2,000 visitors tour the Old Jail each year. Proper maintenance is required to continue to preserve the building, and its appearance is a reflection of the care Brown County gives to this important and historically significant piece of Texas history.

Funds requested here are Old Jail repairs alone, separate from any request for Museum operating expenses.

Sincerely,

Beverly Norris
Museum Board Vice President (325-647-7879)

Dennis Maynard
Board Member (972-342-1325)

May 8, 2023
(Exhibit #4)



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.

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:

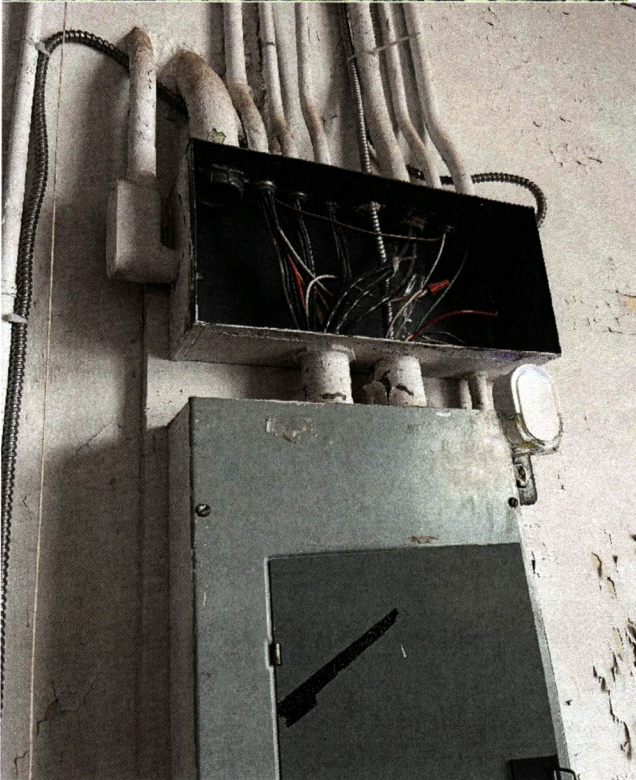




2. Termite Damage:



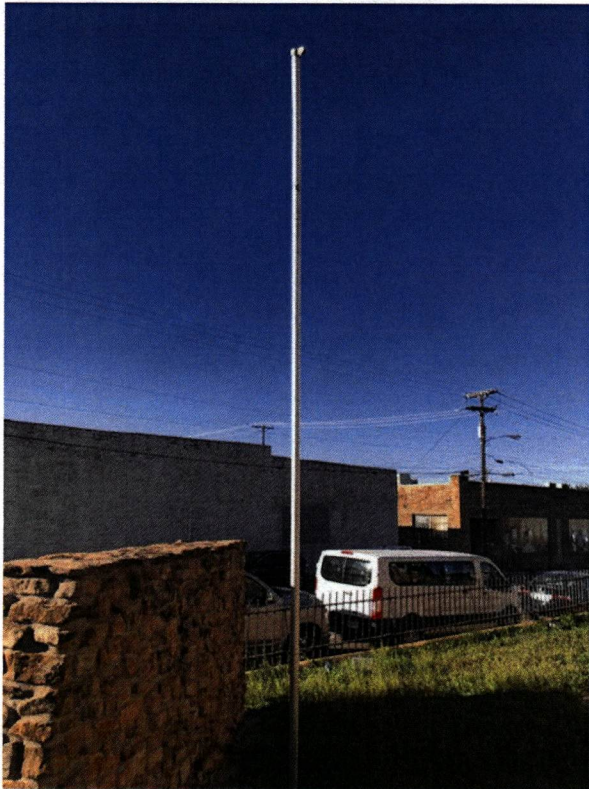
3. Lights and Junction Box:



4. Step Damage:



5. Flagpole:



6. Current ADA Accessibility Ramp:

