

CHARLES STREET JAIL COMPLEX, SOLITARY CONFINEMENT
(Suffolk County Jail, Solitary Confinement)
215 Charles Street
Boston
Suffolk County
Massachusetts

HABS No. MA-1259-F

HABS
MASS
13-BOST,
143F-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
Northeast Region
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

HABS
MASS
13-BOST,
143F-

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

CHARLES STREET JAIL COMPLEX, SOLITARY CONFINEMENT
(Suffolk County Jail , Solitary Confinement) HABS No. MA. 1259-F

Location: 215 Charles Street (northeast corner of Charles and Cambridge Streets)
Boston, Suffolk County, Massachusetts

USGS Boston South Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:
19.329520.4691820

Significance: The simple solitary confinement building is built into the perimeter wall on the southwest corner of the property. The building is also referred as the "Gate House." It has minimal significance as a later component of the early jail complex.

Description: The two-story, flat-roofed brick structure has extremely small first floor windows with larger second floor windows on all elevations. A white limestone band wraps the building at window lintels. The building contained solitary confinement cells as well as a large shower area for showering and de-licing new prisoners. Offices were on the second floor.

History: The building was constructed circa 1931. The designer/builder is unknown.

Source: Boston Landmarks Commission.

Historian: Wendall C. Kalsow
McGinley Hart & Associates
March 23, 1992