

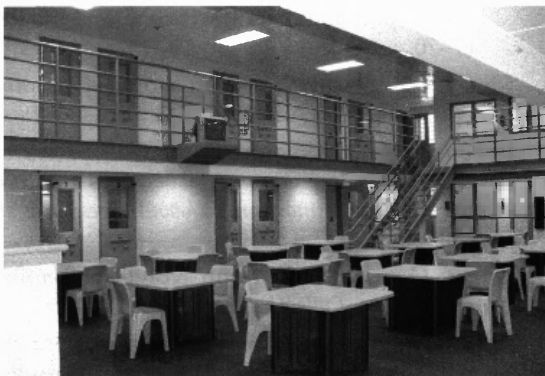
Inmates at Work: A Scrapbook

In keeping with the theme of physical plant operations and administrative issues, this column explores the range of physical settings in which inmate work and industries programs operate.

A national survey sponsored by the National Institute of Justice (National Jail Work and Industries Center, 1998) identified the extent to which inmates work inside, near, and away from jails:

Inside the jail	93%
Adjacent to the jail (same site)	73%
Away from the jail	63%

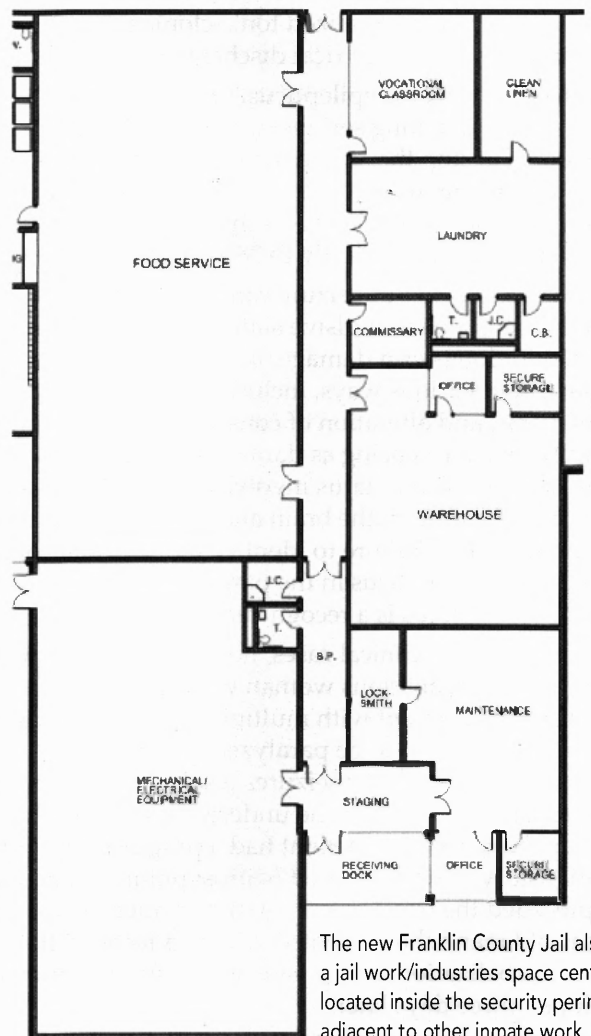
The following photos provide a sample of the spaces used by jail work programs inside the jail, along with photos of work adjacent to and away from the jail.



Franklin County, Pennsylvania, designed its direct-supervision housing units to accommodate intermittent inmate work activities.



Montgomery County, Maryland, also started its jail industries program in a direct-supervision dayroom. Based on its success, their new correctional facility included two centrally-located jail industries shops, and their dayrooms were designed to accommodate inmate work activities.



The new Franklin County Jail also has a jail work/industries space centrally located inside the security perimeter, adjacent to other inmate work areas (laundry, food service) and the



Citizens tour one of the two industries shops in the new Montgomery County Correctional Facility.



Somerset County, Maine, also designed its direct-supervision housing units to accommodate inmate work activities.



Arapahoe County, Colorado, started its ambitious jail industries program in a direct supervision housing unit.



Arapahoe County used the revenues from its initial dayroom-based program to build this jail industries shop inside the jail, along with a loading dock and freight elevator.



Philadelphia's jail industries print shop (above) and engraving program.



Belknap County, New Hampshire, used Federal education grants to set up computerized training and education programs for its inmate-workers in a multipurpose room in their small jail. Their private sector crutch assembly program is operated in unused space on the

Creative Solutions and Strategies for Finding Space To Expand Jail Inmate Work Activities.

- Create the demand for space first—outgrow your space.
- Classify inmates. For example, place working inmates in the same direct supervision dorm and use the day space and program areas for work.
- Get a toehold and expand from there (an unused space, or find a space that you can use during off hours such as a multipurpose room).
- Make better use of existing space:
 - Have multiples uses for each space.
 - Extend hours of operation for some spaces.
 - Consider spaces that have specialized capabilities of space (e.g., kitchen, voc/ed, commissary, shops, chapel, etc).
- Convert space for industries/work uses (inside the jail, adjacent, or even away from jail).
- Move buildings onto the site (adjacent or near jail).
- Look for government surplus (Federal, State, local):
 - Nonmoveable (you go to it).
 - Moveable (not designed to be moved, but can).
 - Mobile (designed to be moved; don't forget the full range of government and quasi-government sources, such as schools, hospitals, etc.).
- Use warehouses (such as the first program developed in Hampden County, Massachusetts, using a rented warehouse in the community).
- Consider privately-owned space (especially in depressed areas).
- Build space utilizing:
 - Vocational-technical crews.
 - Inmates (your own inmates and/or others).
 - The National Guard.
- Build industries/work space into new construction or major addition.
- Use seasonal structures (tents, light buildings).
- Use buildings that are available seasonally (e.g., summer camp in off-season).
- Make temporary use of facilities (e.g., weekends).
- Look into enterprise zones, free trade zones.
- Consider industrial parks.
- Look for incubator programs that often provide space.
- Watch auctions and foreclosures.
- Share space with others (e.g., vocational-technical school at night).

Source: National Jail Work and Industries Center. (2007). *Finding Resources for Jail Work and Industries Programs*. Gettysburg, PA: Author.

jail industries

Inmates at Peumansend Creek Regional Jail in Virginia work in the large free-standing work/industries building constructed inside the secure perimeter.



Hampden County, Massachusetts, started their program in rented space in an industrial park because the old jail was so crowded. The program was so successful that a large industries shop was built in their new facility.



Arapahoe County, Colorado, inmates work outside the jail when weather permits, in a yard adjacent to the loading dock.



Inmates in Davidson County (Nashville), Tennessee, deliver meals to facilities within the jail complex.



The Strafford County (New Hampshire) Jail Work/Industries program started in a closet in the old jail and then expanded to use a multipurpose room. Further expansion was provided by bringing an adjacent barn within the security fence and renovating it (with inmate labor, of course) for use as jail industries shops.

The success of the program prompted officials to build an even larger jail industries complex inside the secure building in their new jail.



A Los Angeles County inmate grooms a dog as part of the pet grooming vocational training program that also provides services to the local animal shelter and to staff. The program is housed in its own building, outside of the security perimeter.



Another L.A. County vocational training program provides welding products and services, also located outside of the secure perimeter.



Many counties operate greenhouses and nurseries such as this one in Los Angeles County. Most of these programs are located offsite, or outside of the security perimeter.



More than half of all U.S. jails operate some sort of inmate work program offsite. There are dozens of examples of such programs, ranging from maintaining government building and grounds to picking up litter on roads and highways.

Peumansend Creek Regional Jail (Virginia) inmates maintain a local cemetery.

References

- National Jail Work and Industries Center. (1998). *Work in America's Jails*. Gettysburg PA: Author. www.jailwork.com.
- National Jail Work and Industries Center. (2007). *Finding Resources for Jail Work and Industries Programs*. Gettysburg, PA: Author. www.jailwork.com.

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