Historical Marker - S178 - First State Prison (Marker ID#:S178)





Significant Date:

Statehood Era (1815-1860)

Registry Year: 1958 Erected Date: 1958

Marker Location

Address: North end of Mechanic Street

City: Jackson

State: MI ZipCode:

County: Jackson

Township: Blackman

Lat: 42.25682800 / Long: -84.40698200

Web URL:

Front - Title/Description

First State Prison

This was the original site of Michigan's first state prison, approved by the legislature in 1838. A temporary wooden prison, enclosed by a fence of tamarack poles, was built on sixty acres donated for that purpose here. In 1839 the first thirty-five prisoners were received. A permanent prison was built three years later. Beginning in the 1880s under Warden H. F. Hatch a greater emphasis was placed on the education and rehabilitation of prisoners. After 1934 the inmates were housed in the new prison north of Jackson.

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