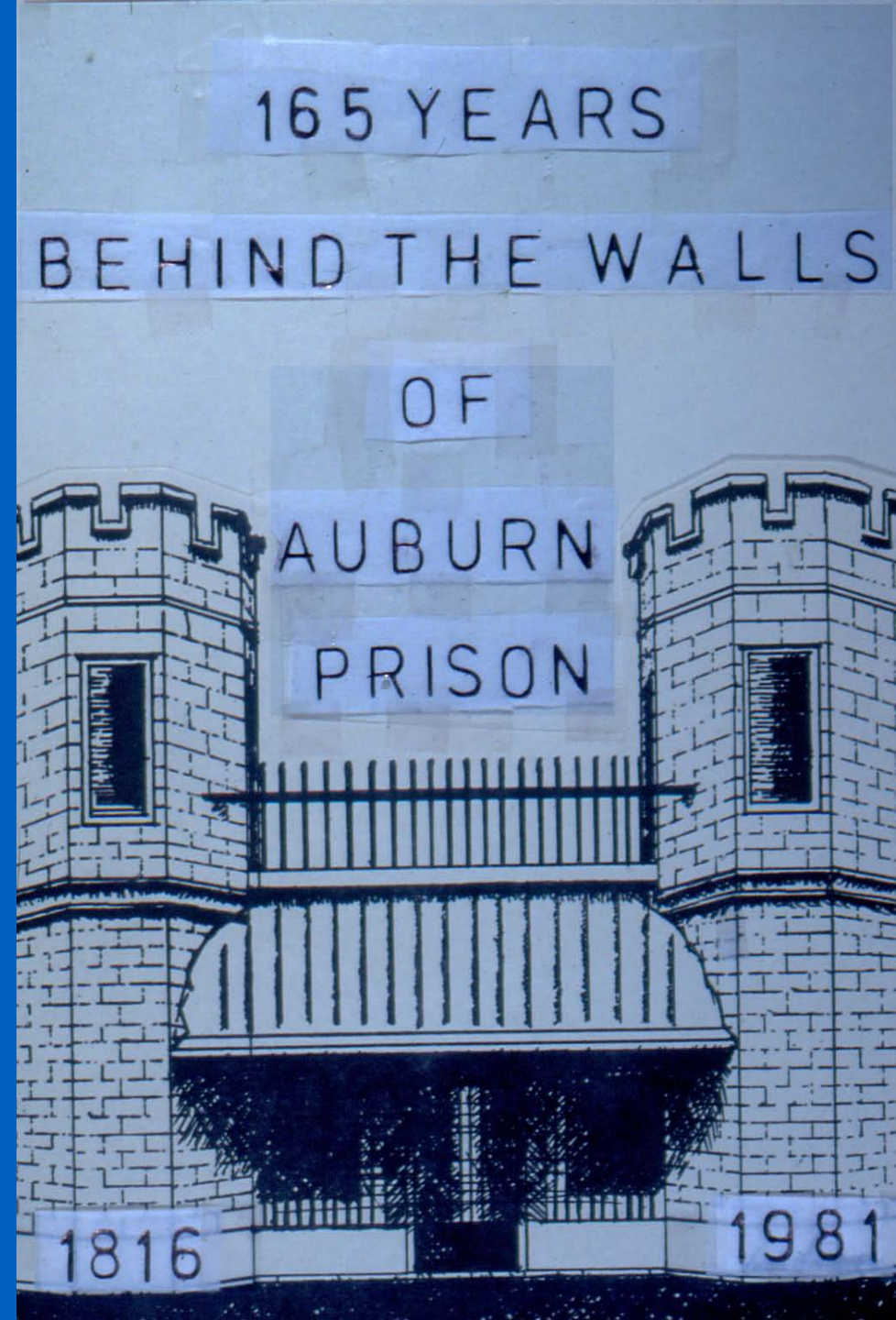
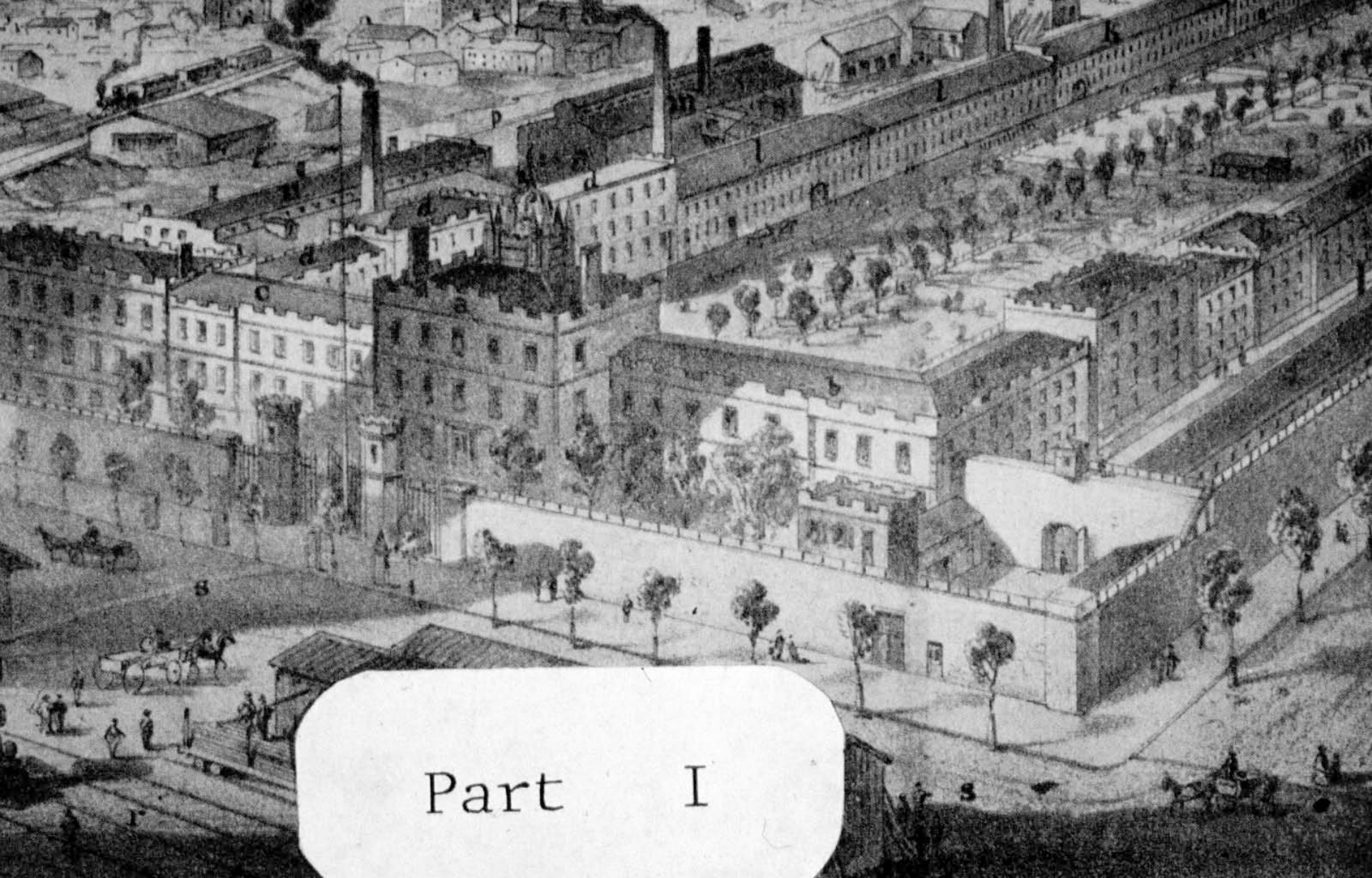


A Power Point
adaptation of
John N. Miskell's
1993-1994
carousel
slide show & script



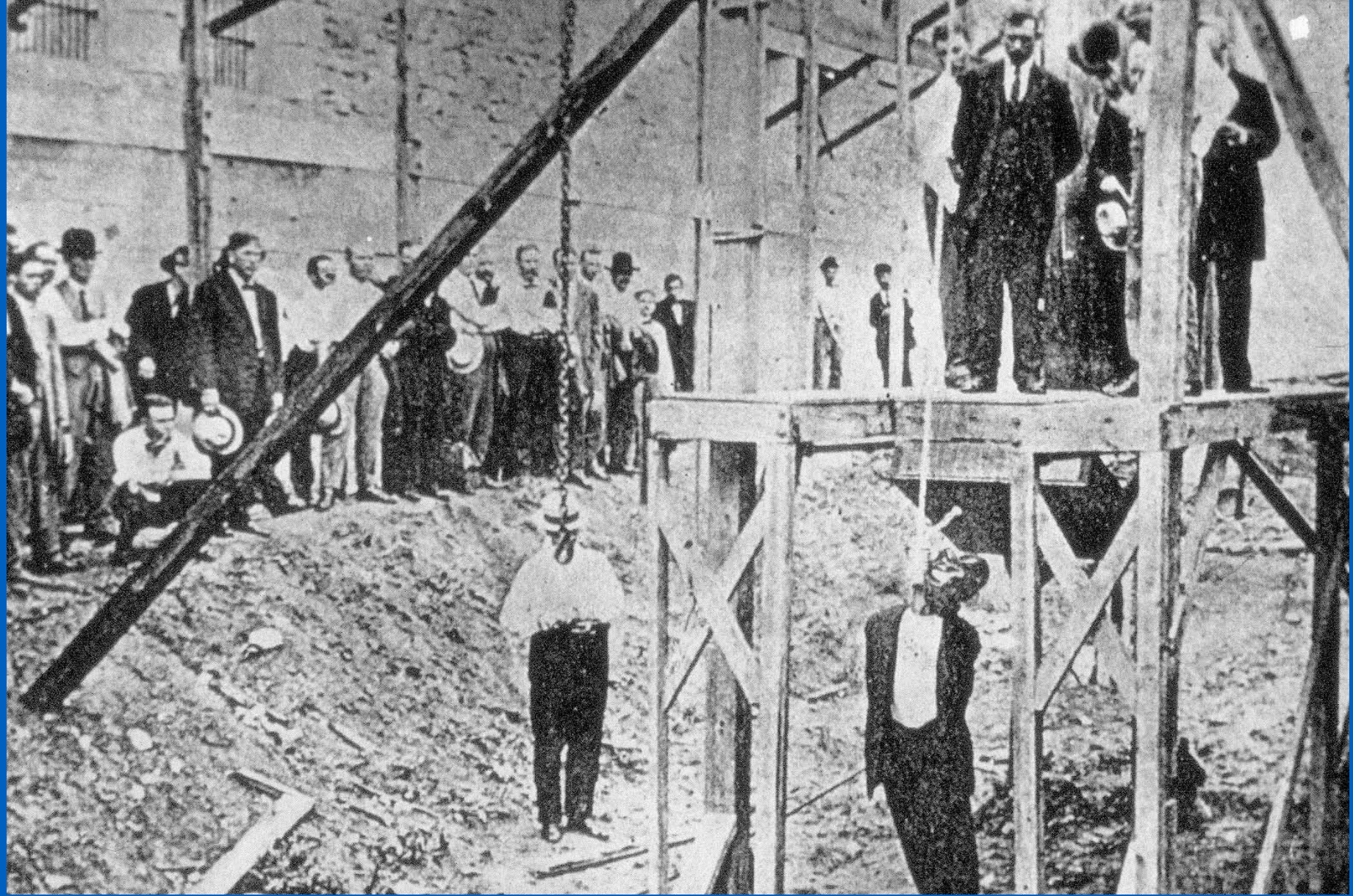


Part I

All images used in this PowerPoint are from Part 1 carousel of Miskell slide show.



Before Independence, crime penalties were fines or corporal: lash, stocks, branding, or worst. Long incarceration thought too costly.

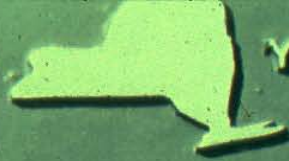


16 crimes punishable by death until a 1796 law cut that list to 2: murder and treason.



New nation's humanitarians made reform of the criminal the goal of the gaol. In 1797 NY's 1st penitentiary, Newgate, opened.

NEW YORK



AUBURN PRISON

ERECTION COMMENCED 1816

FIRST PRISONERS 1817

ASSISTED IN CONSTRUCTION

FIRST ELECTROCUTION

IN THE WORLD 1890

STATE EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT 1932

Newgate didn't deter crime. 1816 law OK'd setting up a new prison in Fingerlakes. 4 in Auburn donated 6 acres for the site 6/22/16

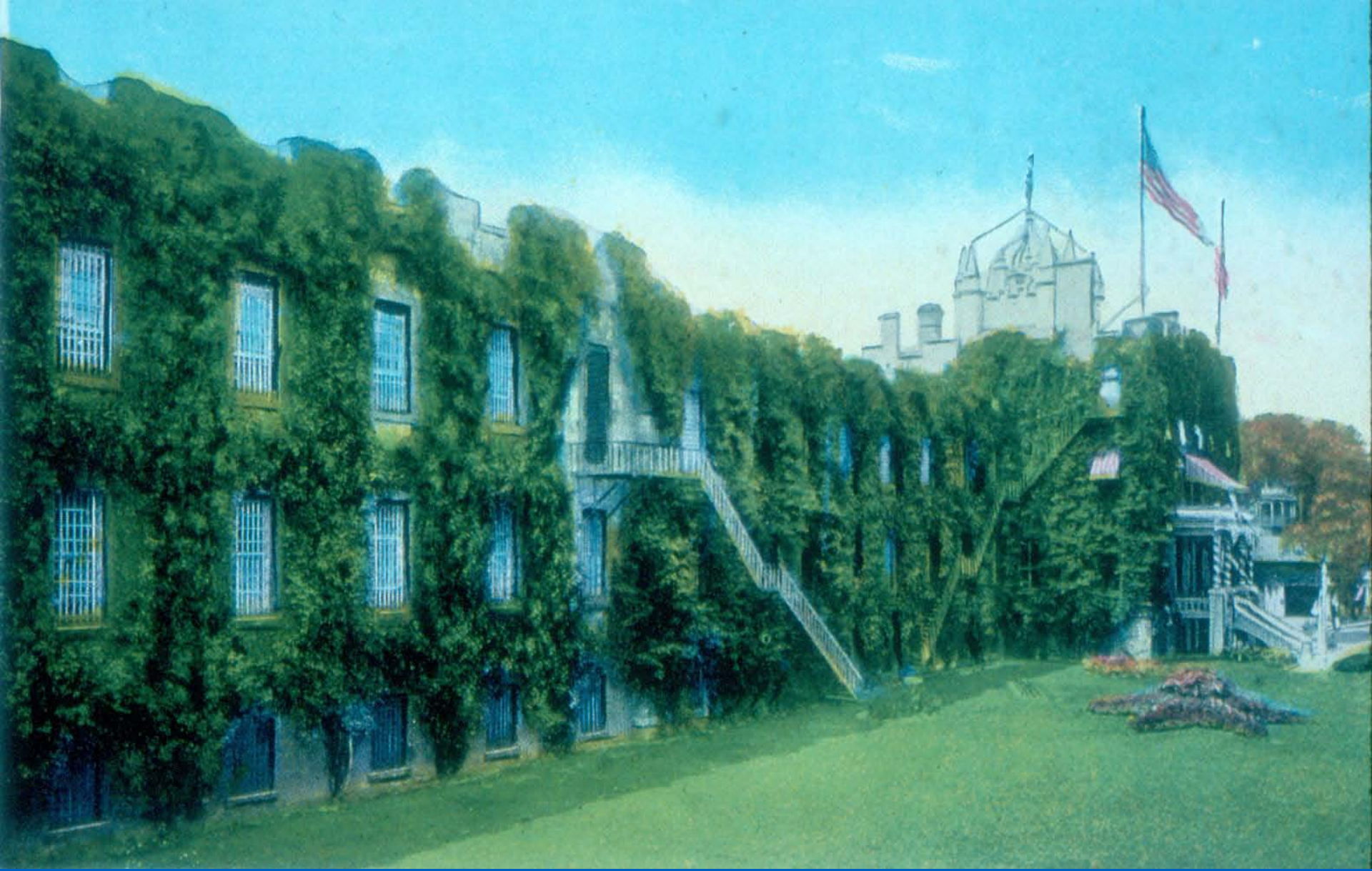


**Auburn began with same goals as failed Newgate:
To reform inmates thru habits of work & sobriety.**

Auburn, N. Y. — Auburn State Prison.



Prison planned as self-supporting. Wm Britton builder/1st warden. J. O. Daniele was architect.



As main building shows, it didn't deviate from the conventional buildings of that era.

**Onondaga limestone
from local quarries
was used throughout
the prison.**

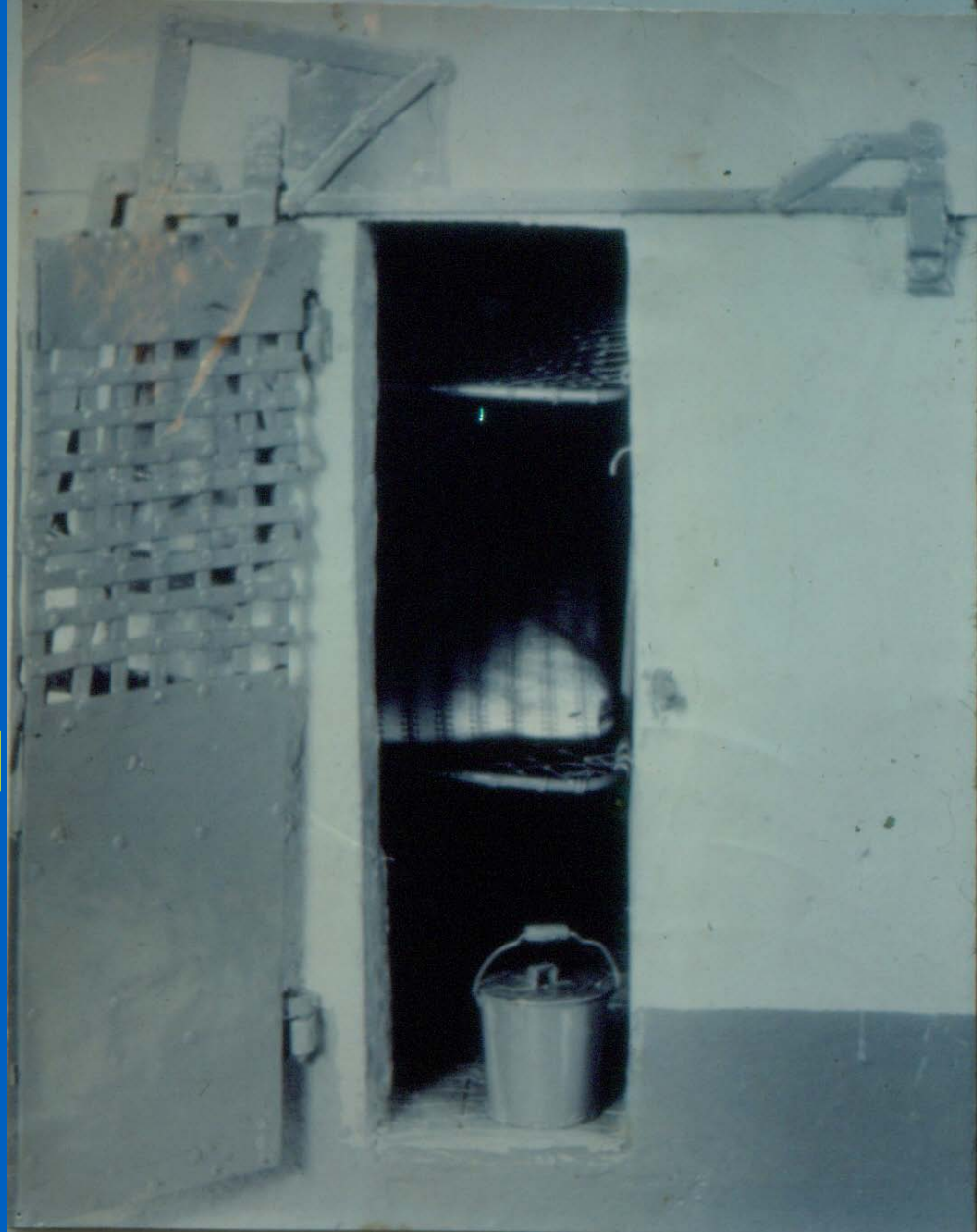
**58 prisoners were
received at the site in
1817 to aid in the
construction. Their
arrival constitutes the
actual beginning of
custodial operations at
the penitentiary they
helped build.**





**The south wing was built between 1816 – 1819.
28 rooms holding between 8 - 10 inmates each.**

Only 61 cells in the south wing for single occupancy, or double when necessary. Apartment-size rooms were a source of discipline problems and corruption that led lawmakers in 1819 to order a new wing be built with only solitary cells.



Every cell in either wing came with handy plumbing: an iron bucket for personal needs.

**The
north
wing
finished
in 1821
became
the
model
for
future
prisons
in the
U.S.**



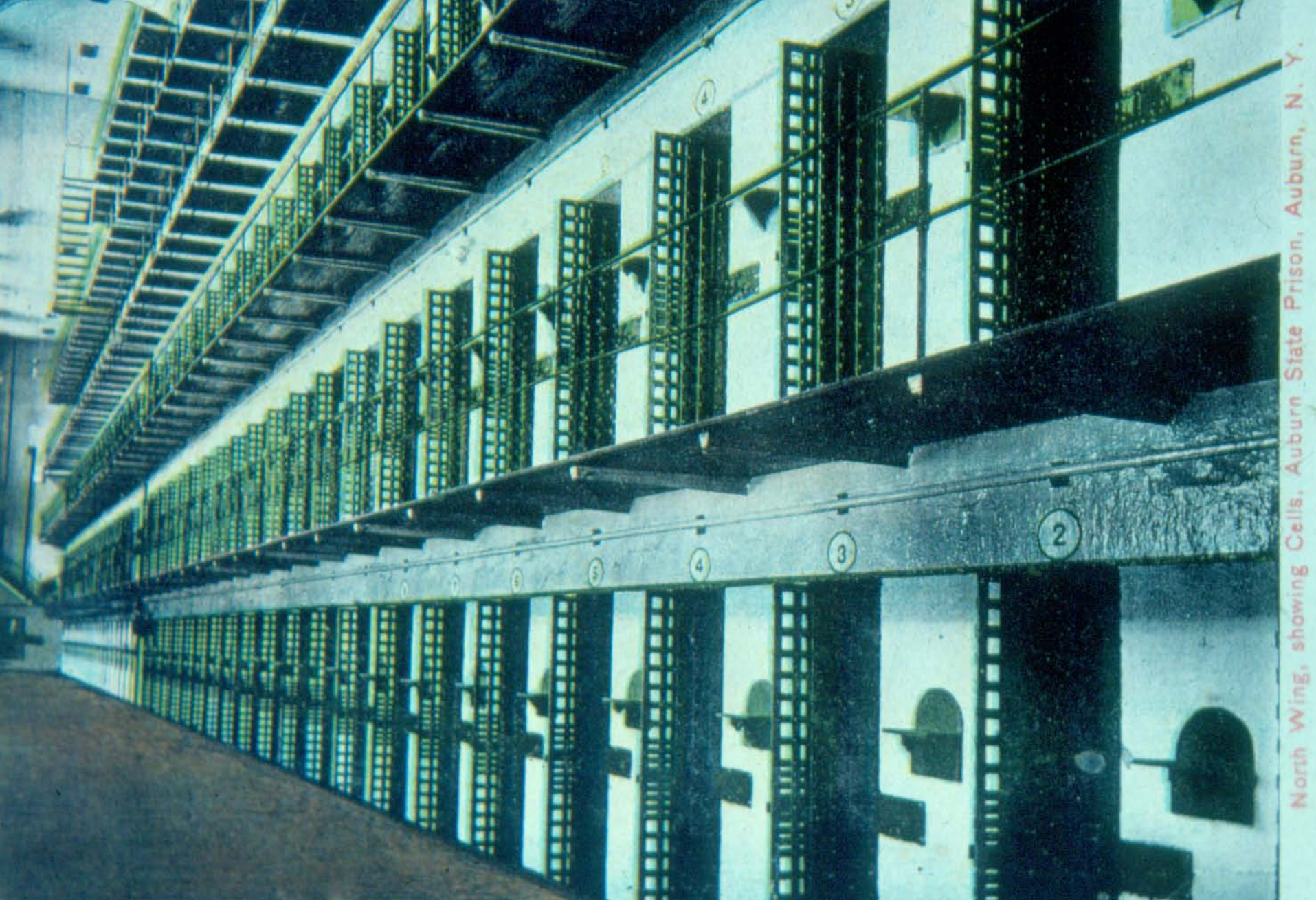
No longer were inmates lodged together but each locked in his own cell at night: 7 feet long, 7 feet high and 3 ½ feet wide.

In the so-called “Auburn Plan,” cells are enclosed within a great containing structure, cells back-to-back in a block.





Since the cells were arranged back to back in tiers, there was no way for an inmate to tunnel through his cell wall to the “outside,” only to an adjoining cell still inside the cell block. Thus the design was designated “inside cell construction.”



North Wing showing Cells Auburn State Prison, Auburn, N. Y.

Advantages of inside cells: security & economy

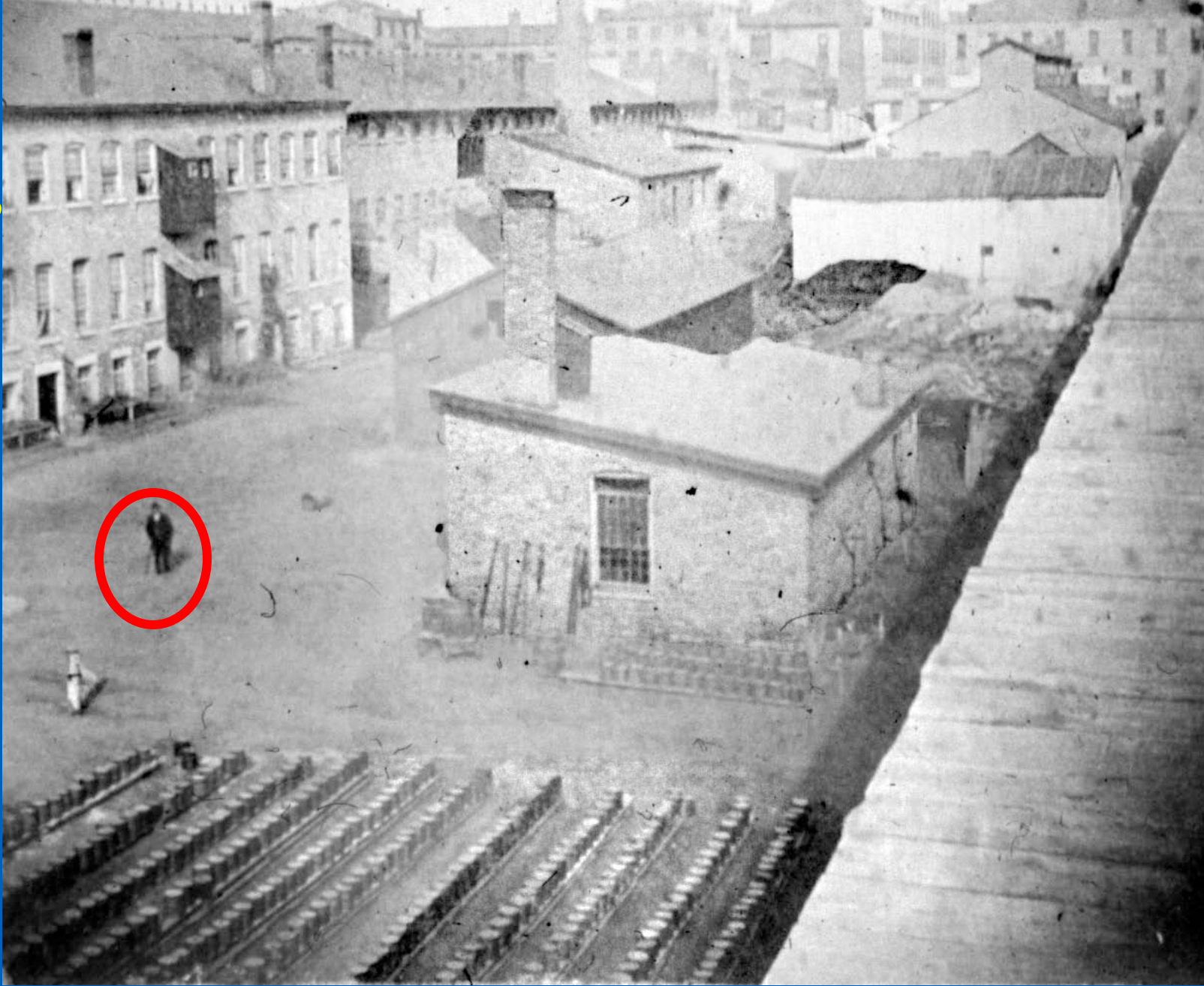


Security obvious; economy self-evident: no frills.

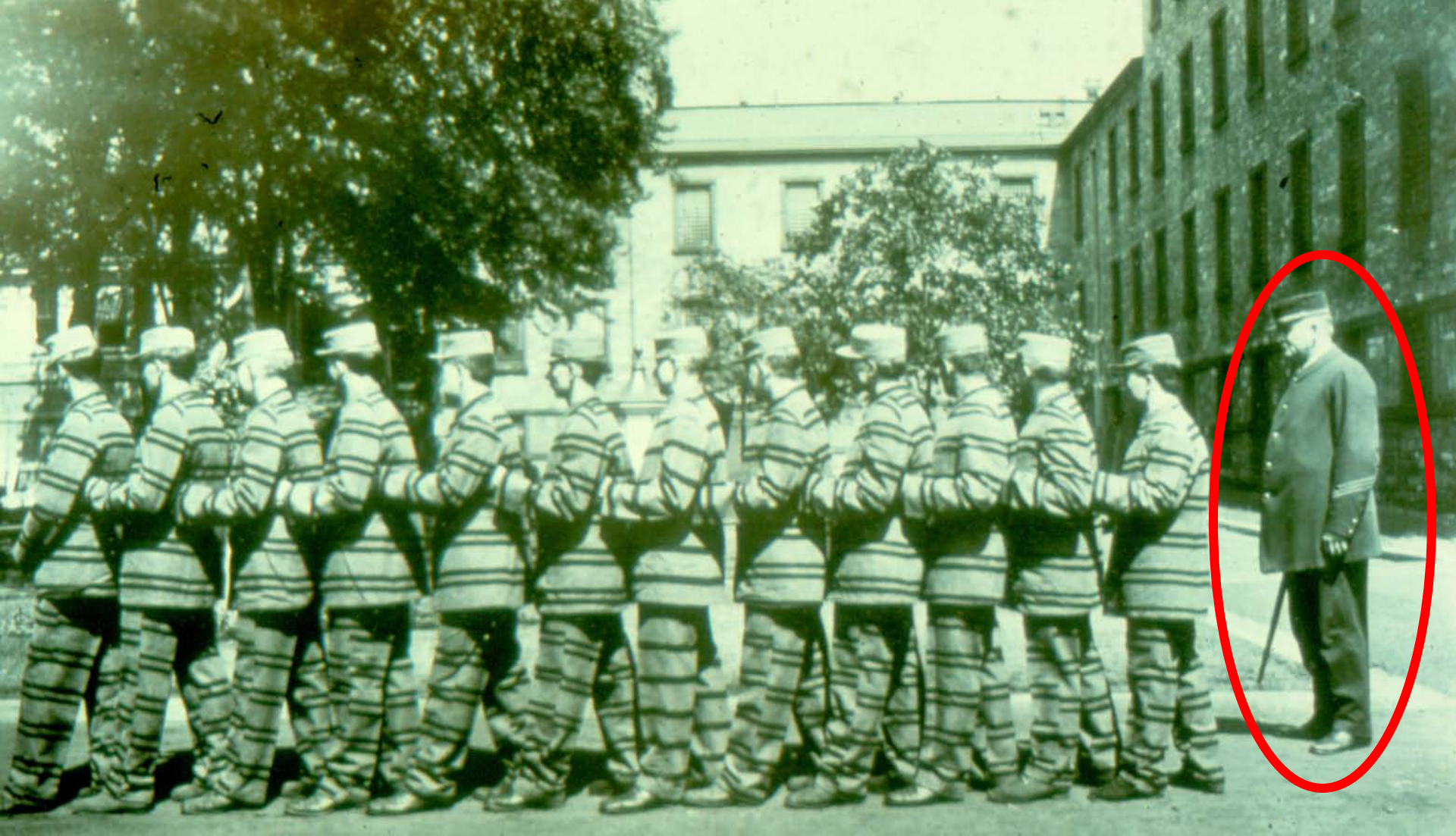


Well-known feature of Auburn system: “Strict silent.” Each inmate silent in solitary cell at night, silent at congregate work during day.

The buckets & the bucket house under eye of keeper with his cane. An inmate



morning ritual before workshop, then breakfast



Whether to bucket house, workshops or meals, inmates marched, in a half-shuffle lockstep, the keeper rapping out orders with his cane.

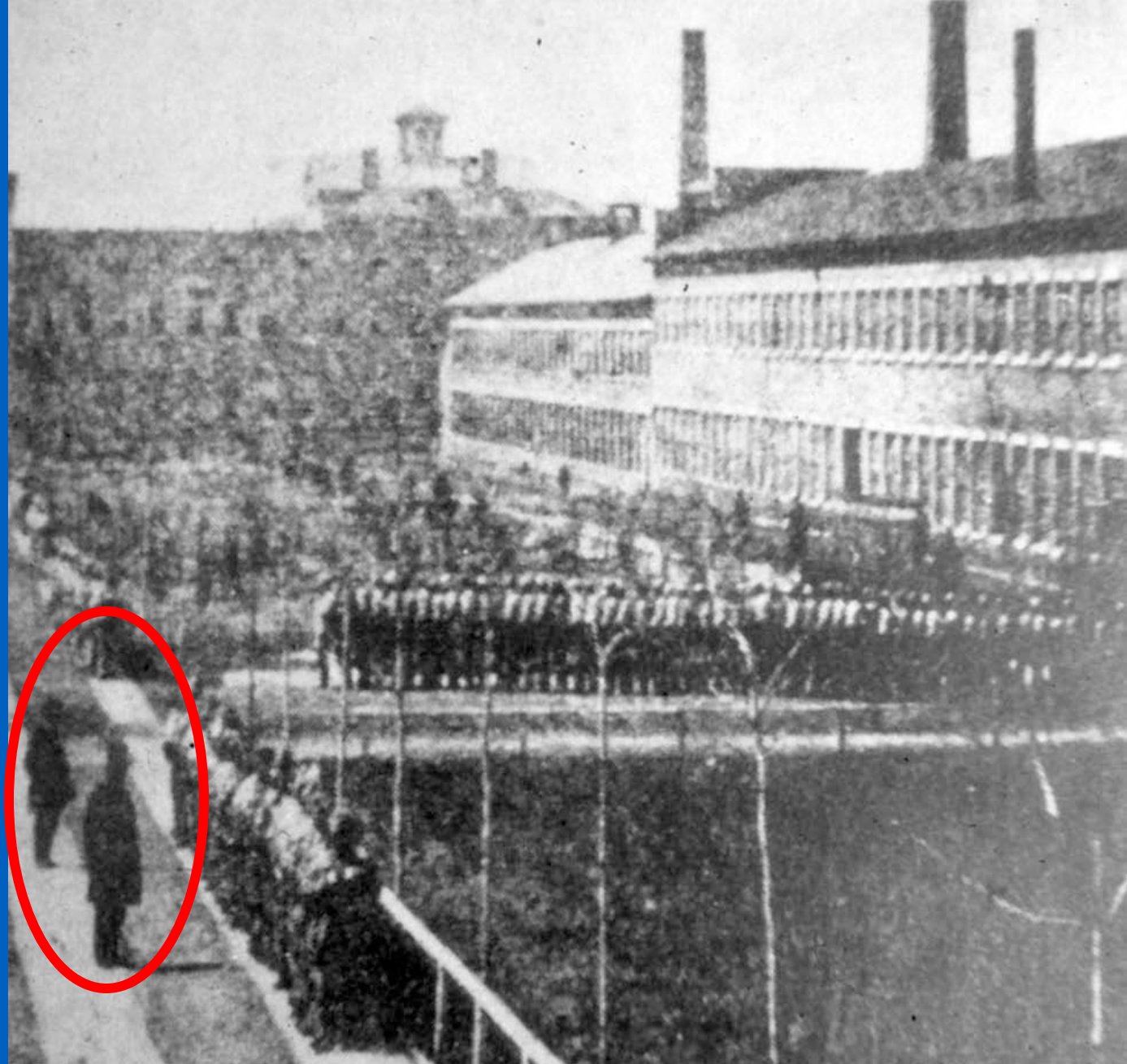


The striped uniforms were meant to make inmates more aware of their subordinate status & more identifiable if they escaped.



Keepers rapped orders with canes rather than break silence speaking. Unless an emergency, all other kinds of communication were banned.

**The
lockstep
formation
was
invented to
make easier
detection
of moving
lips, eye
blink codes,
hand sign
language,
facial**

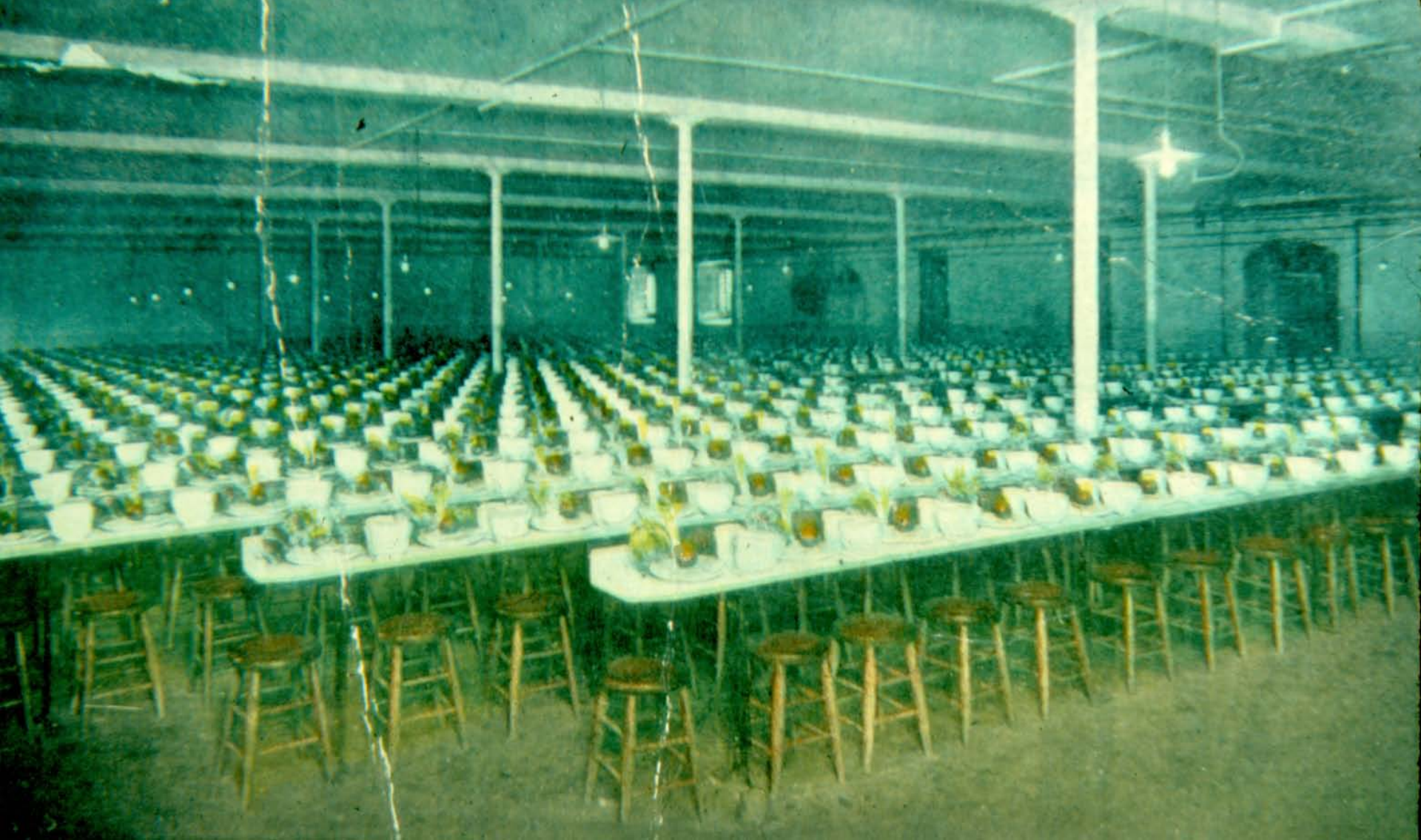


signals as well as general supervisory aims.

Kitchen, Auburn Prison,
Auburn, N. Y.



To keep inmates fit to work plain food was cooked in huge drums: hash, mush, coffee.



The menu rarely varied, although vegetables & fruit were served in season. Molasses at night was served to help prevent constipation.

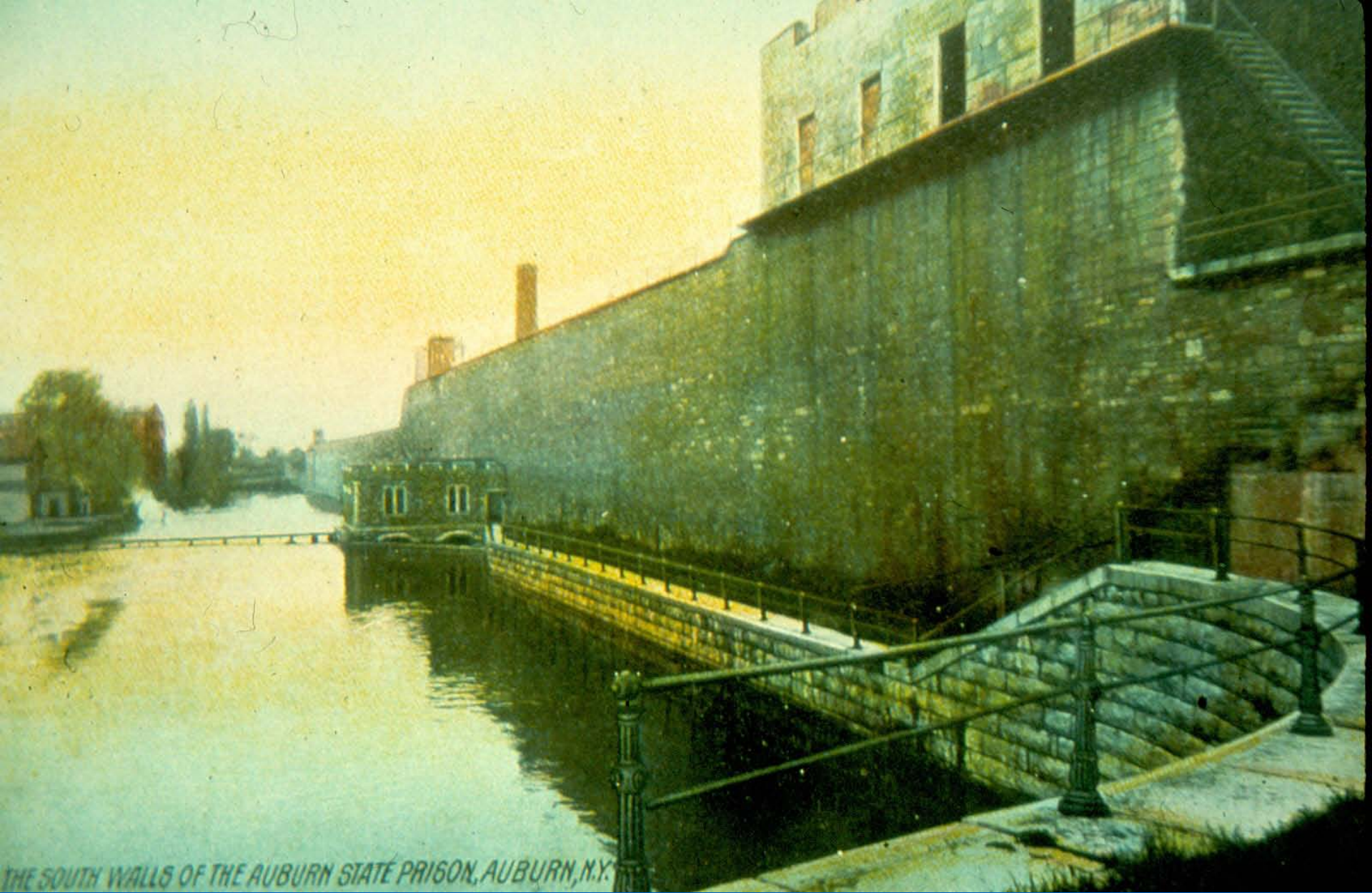


Places at tables were so arranged that keepers could immediately spot anyone's absence. Inmates sat facing forward on just one side of the table to minimize opportunities to signal.

Bath Room, Auburn Prison,
Auburn, N. Y.

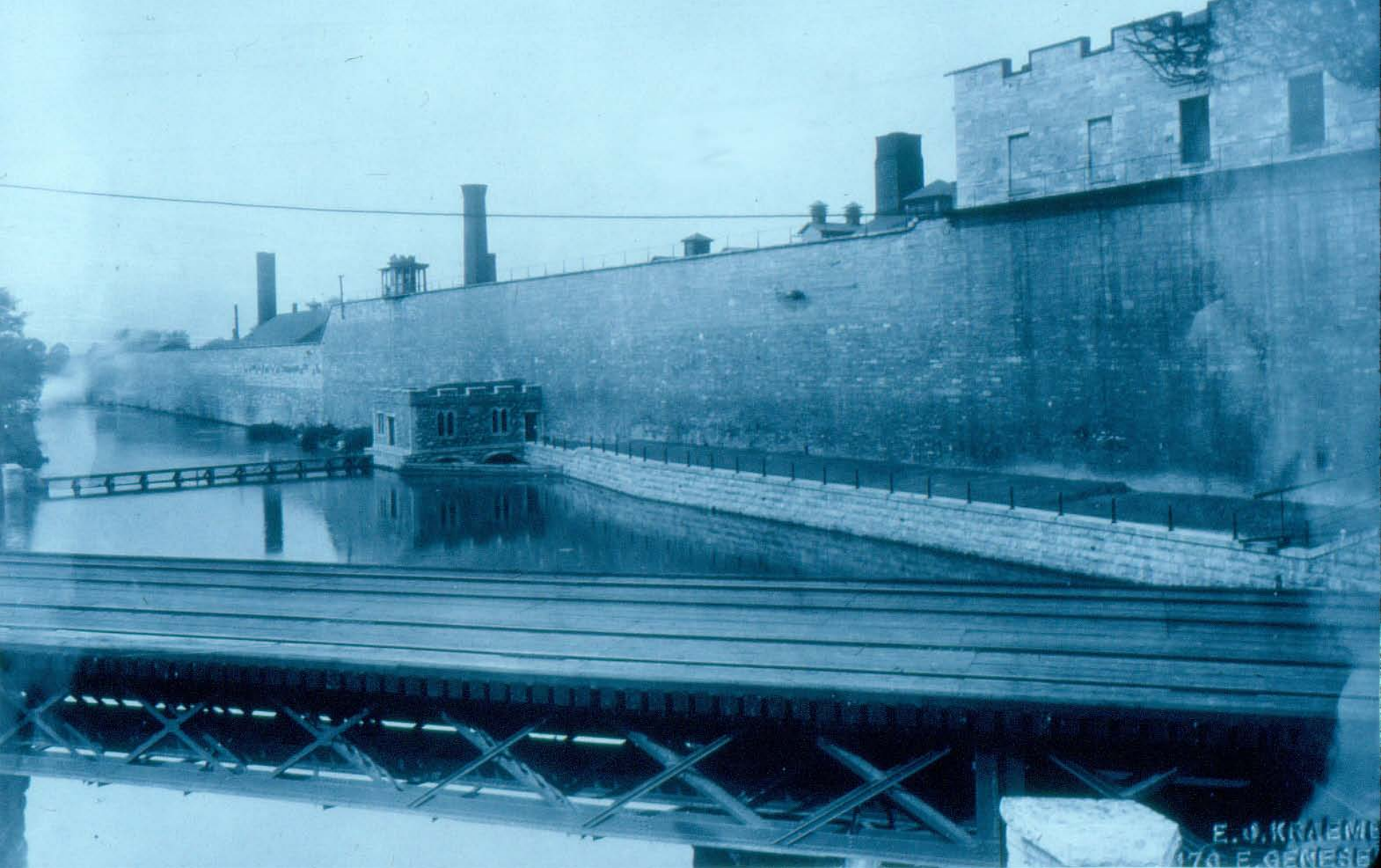


Housing hygiene was poor, but work areas provided sinks, tubs, showers. Use mandated.

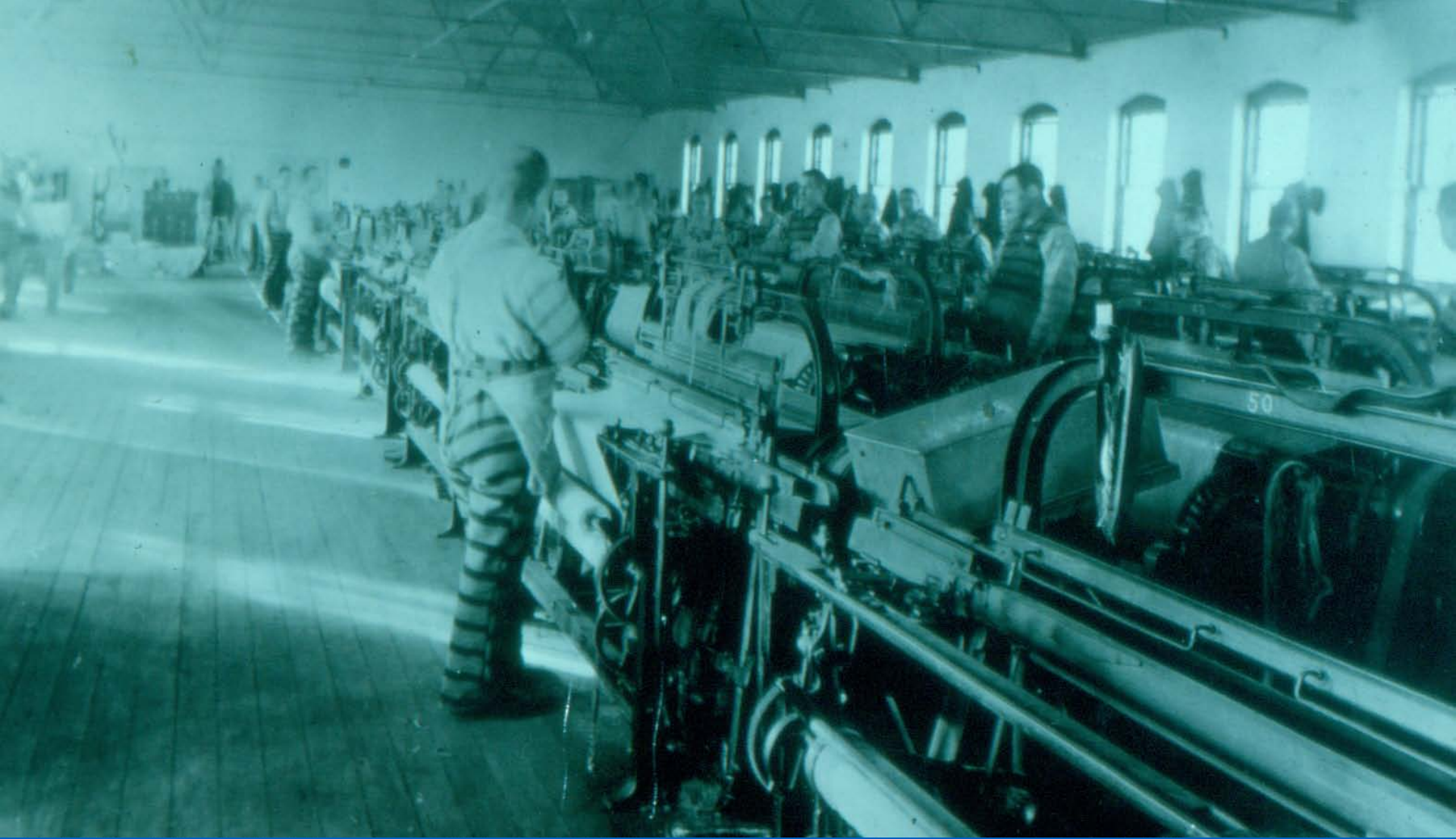


THE SOUTH WALLS OF THE AUBURN STATE PRISON, AUBURN, N.Y.

The prison dam across Owasco Outlet was erected by inmates in 1818 – 1819.



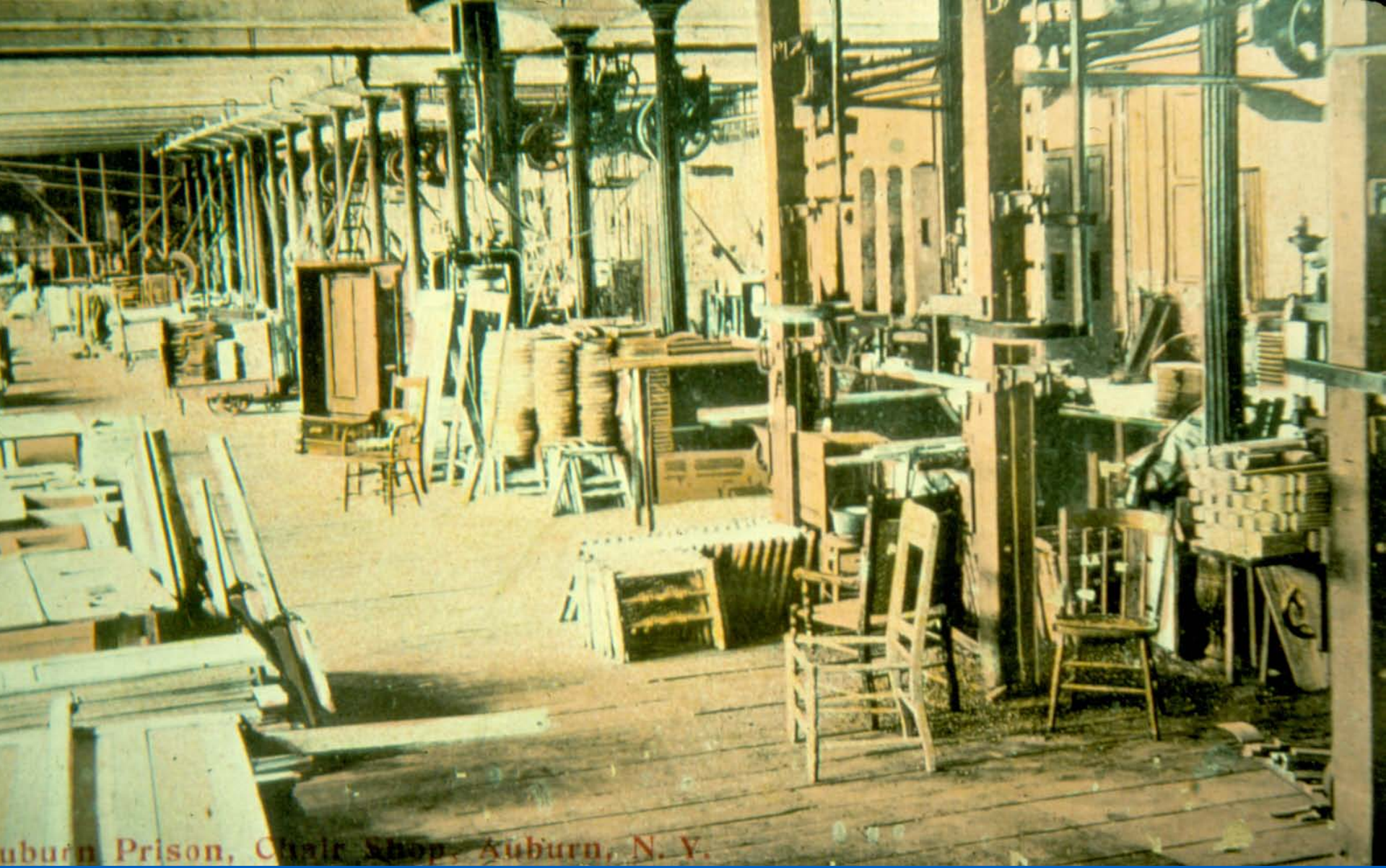
At first, the state used the power for prison's own shops and leased rest to nearby mills.



But in 1821 to cut prison operating costs the 1st outside contract let Samuel D. Dunham manufacture tools in prison using inmates.



Contractor paid fixed sum per day for convict labor and supplied machines, materials and foremen and responsible for sale of the goods.



Auburn Prison, Chalk Shop, Auburn, N. Y.

Prison supplied keepers, shops, heat & power. Soon other contractors followed.



Ossining, N.Y., Sing Sing Prison & Hudson River.

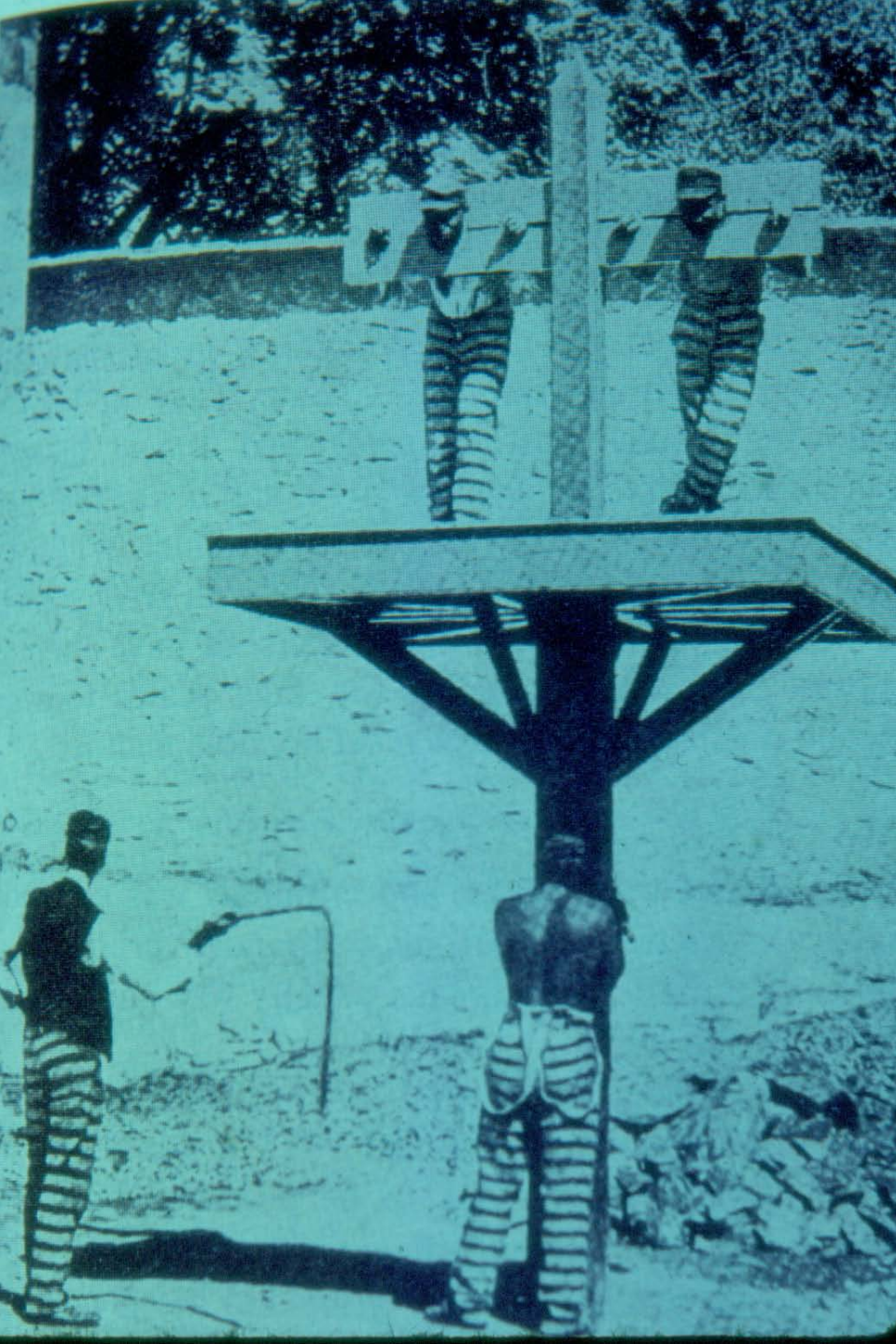
In 1825 Elam Lynds took 100 inmates by canal & river to Sing Sing to start erecting a new prison modeled after Auburn. Construction completed in 1828.



Under the Auburn System at both prisons, “hard labor” was key to cut operating costs & reform convicts, for life outside was hard too.



To force men to do the work, Auburn System used horror, assault, breaking of spirit. Shaved heads humiliated, symbolized subjugation.



Those who rebelled were quickly punished with no recourse or defense. Whippings up to 39 lashes were permitted until a 1847 whipping ban except in “self-defense.” But some keepers on occasion ignored the rule because they knew the “whistling cat” struck fear in the hearts of the prisoners.



Medical services to keep men healthy enough to work were needed because sickly inmates, like above in MD wait room, were a costly drag.



Dispensary “medication” often just dose of salts & order to return to work.

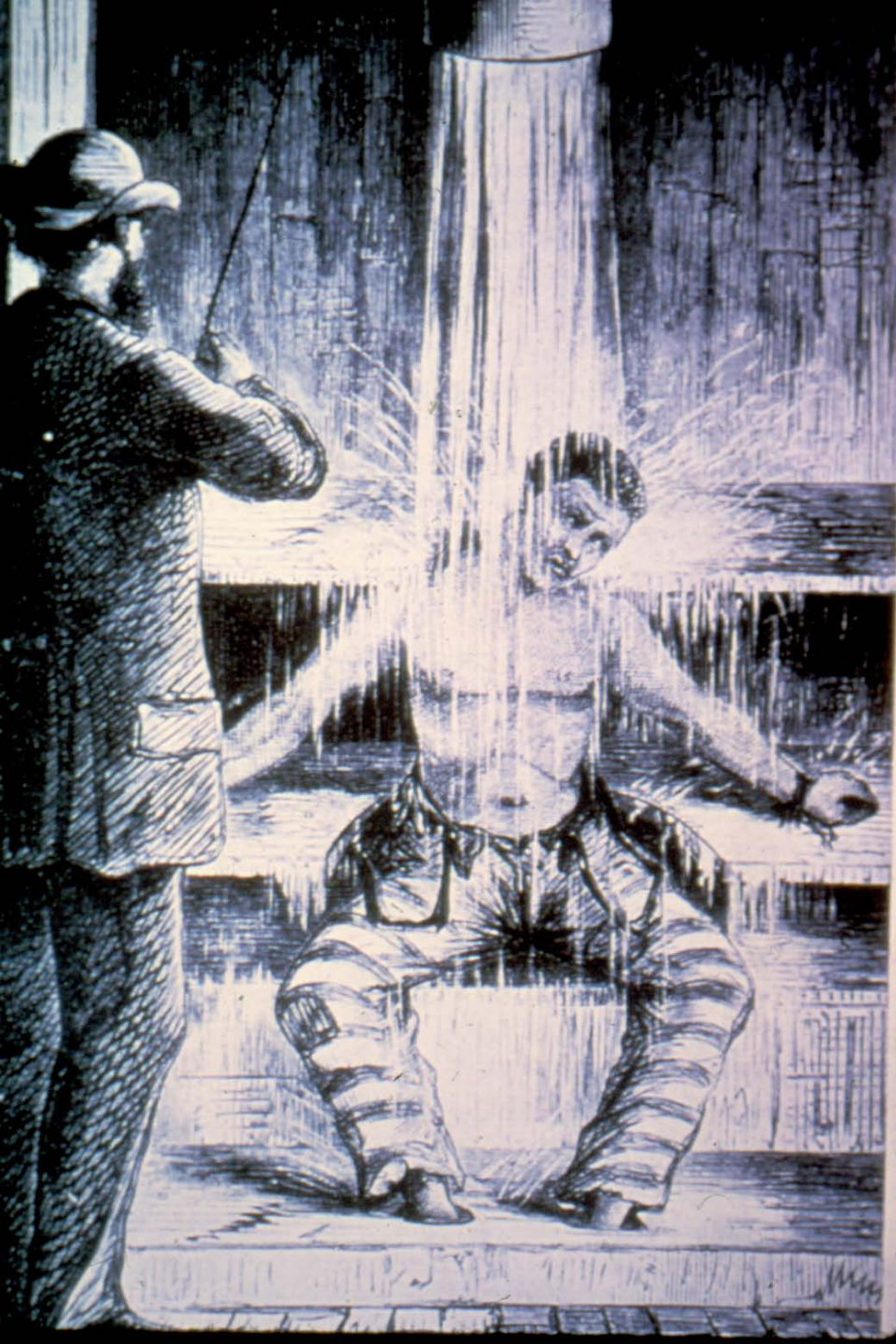


Auburn, Prison, The Hospital, Auburn, N. Y.

Convicts needing further treatment might be kept in prison hospital few days, only brief “escape” from daily dull hard-labor grind.



Malingering, however, was frowned upon & often punished when discovered or suspected.



The Shower Bath, introduced in 1842 as a substitute for whipping, was an Auburn original.

The inmate, usually stripped naked, his feet & hands secured, sat under a 4-foot high, 30-to-40 gallon barrel of cold water. Death of inmate from shock in 1858 ended practice. Replaced by paddle. It ended 1892.

Assaultive or insubordinate inmate would be put in “solitary confinement” on bread & water *aka* “cakes & ale.” Heavy metal yoke rarely used. Injuries might disable inmate worker.



Men's Chapel, Auburn Prison, Auburn, N. Y.



Singing prohibited but students from Auburn Theological Seminary allowed to conduct Sunday services in chapel. Could teach religion, reading, writing. Only book: Bible.



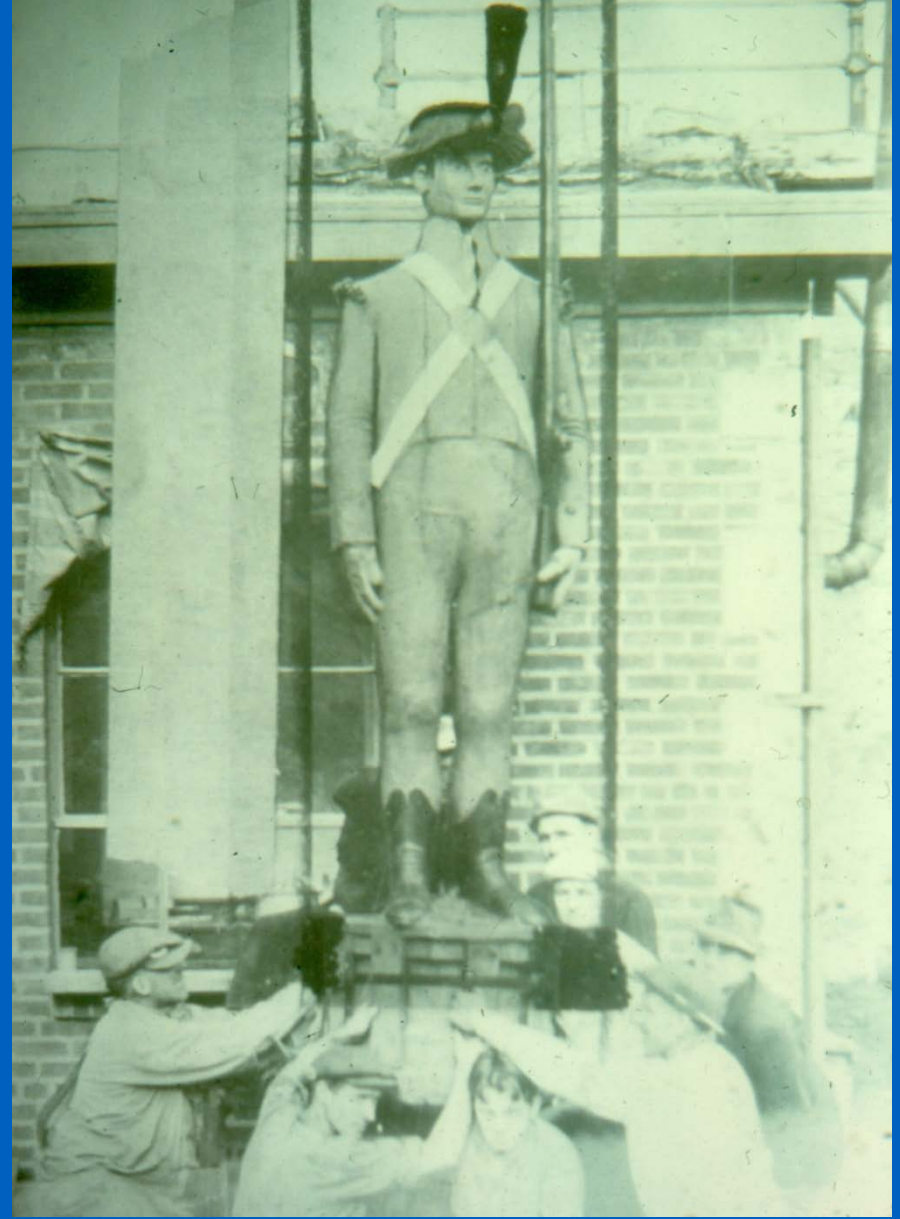
Prison profitable 1828 – 1842, helped Auburn prosper, but merchants protested inmate-made-goods. Clinton Prison opened in 1845 to divert inmate labor to mining & making iron.



In 1857, the Legislature ordered housing for the “criminally insane” be built at Auburn Prison, making NY 1st state to provide a separate facility for this type of offender. It opened Feb. 2, 1859. But by 1884, it had become overcrowded and was closed on April 25, 1895.



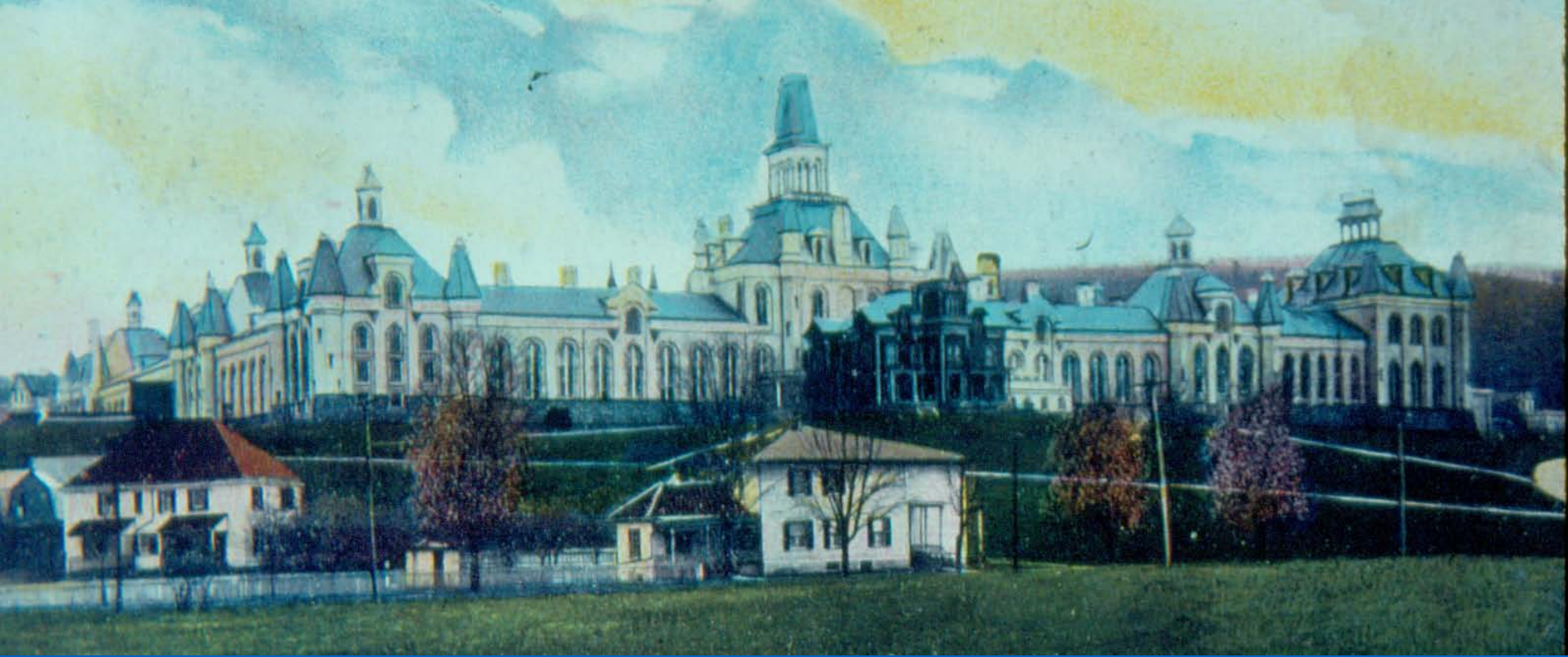
Since 1823 a silent witness has surveyed the scene at Auburn Prison and has watched the Auburn System of silence evolve, flourish and eventually die. His name: "Copper John."



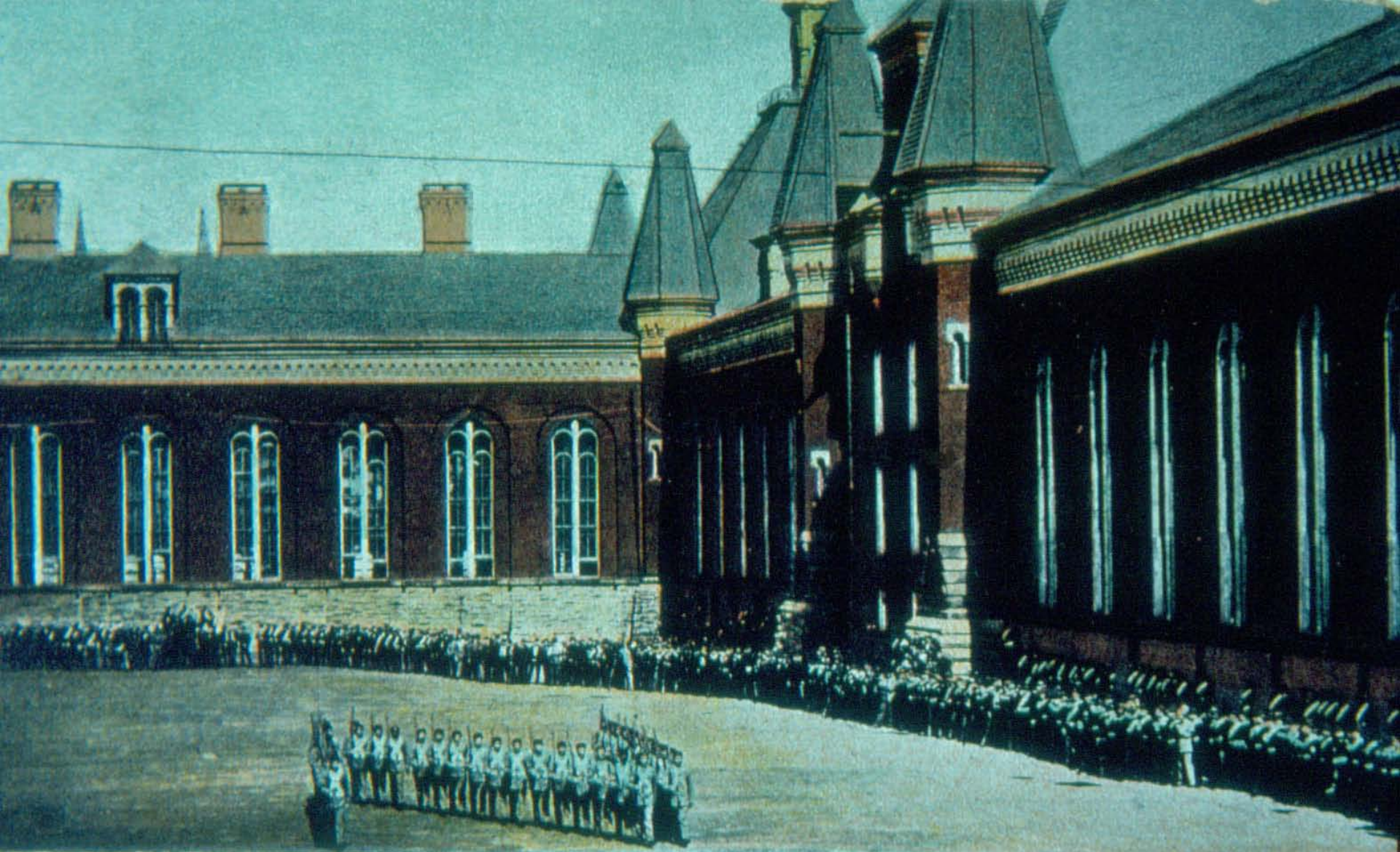
The colonial soldier figure first stood atop the 1st administration bldg, now tops the new one.

Carved by Dep. Keeper John Cray, the original wood figure decayed. In 1848 inmates under foreman John Gaylord hammered out a copper replica from a sheet of that metal which gave the figure its name. Weighs 600 lbs, has ¼ inch “skin,” stands toe to tassel tip 8 ½ feet. His rifle: 100 lbs, more than 11 feet long.



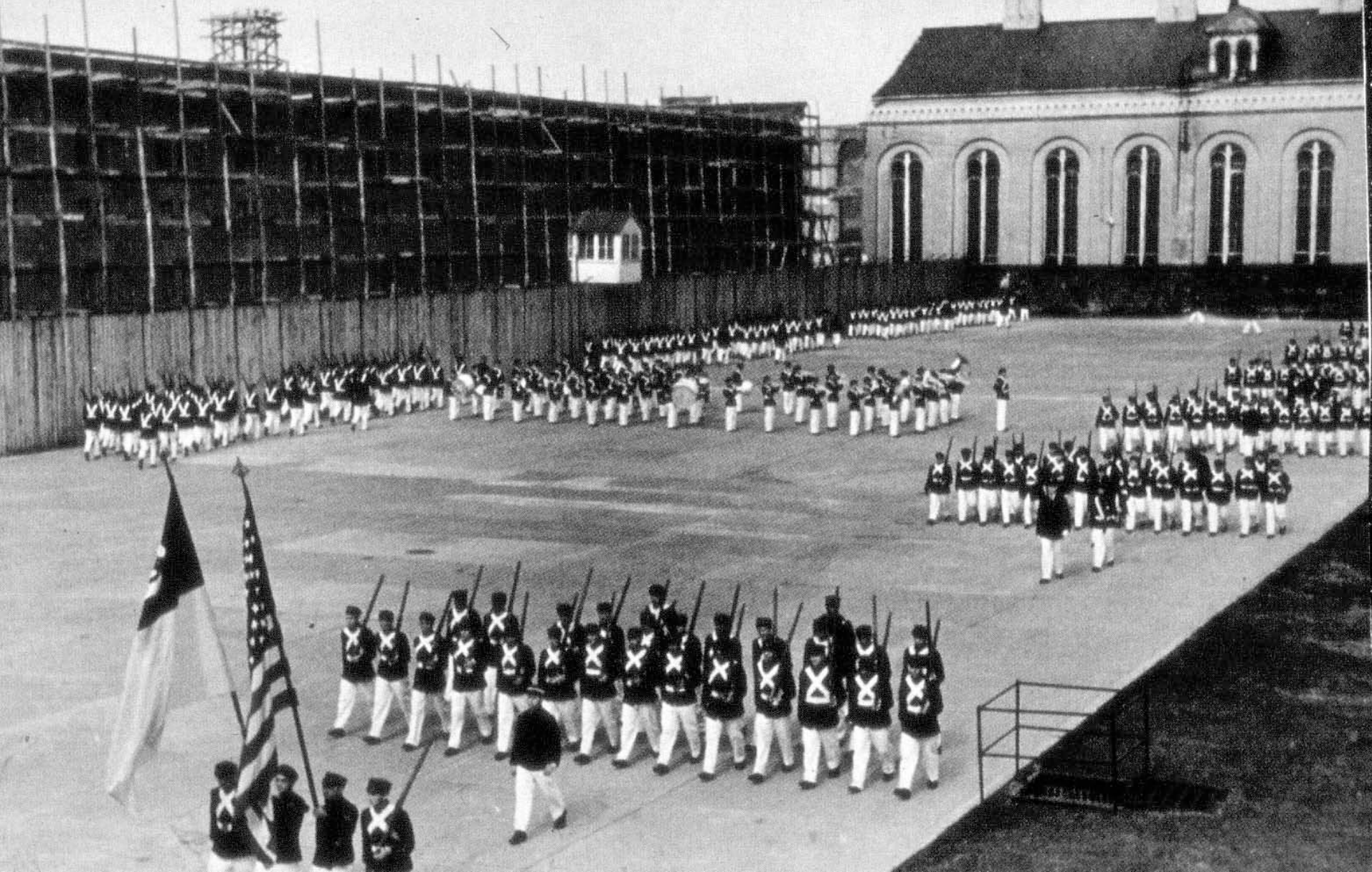


In contrast to Auburn's hard labor approach, Elmira Reformatory received its first young inmates (30) from the prison in 1876, the goal being their reform through total personality re-education and their possibly being paroled before serving the fixed limit of their sentence.



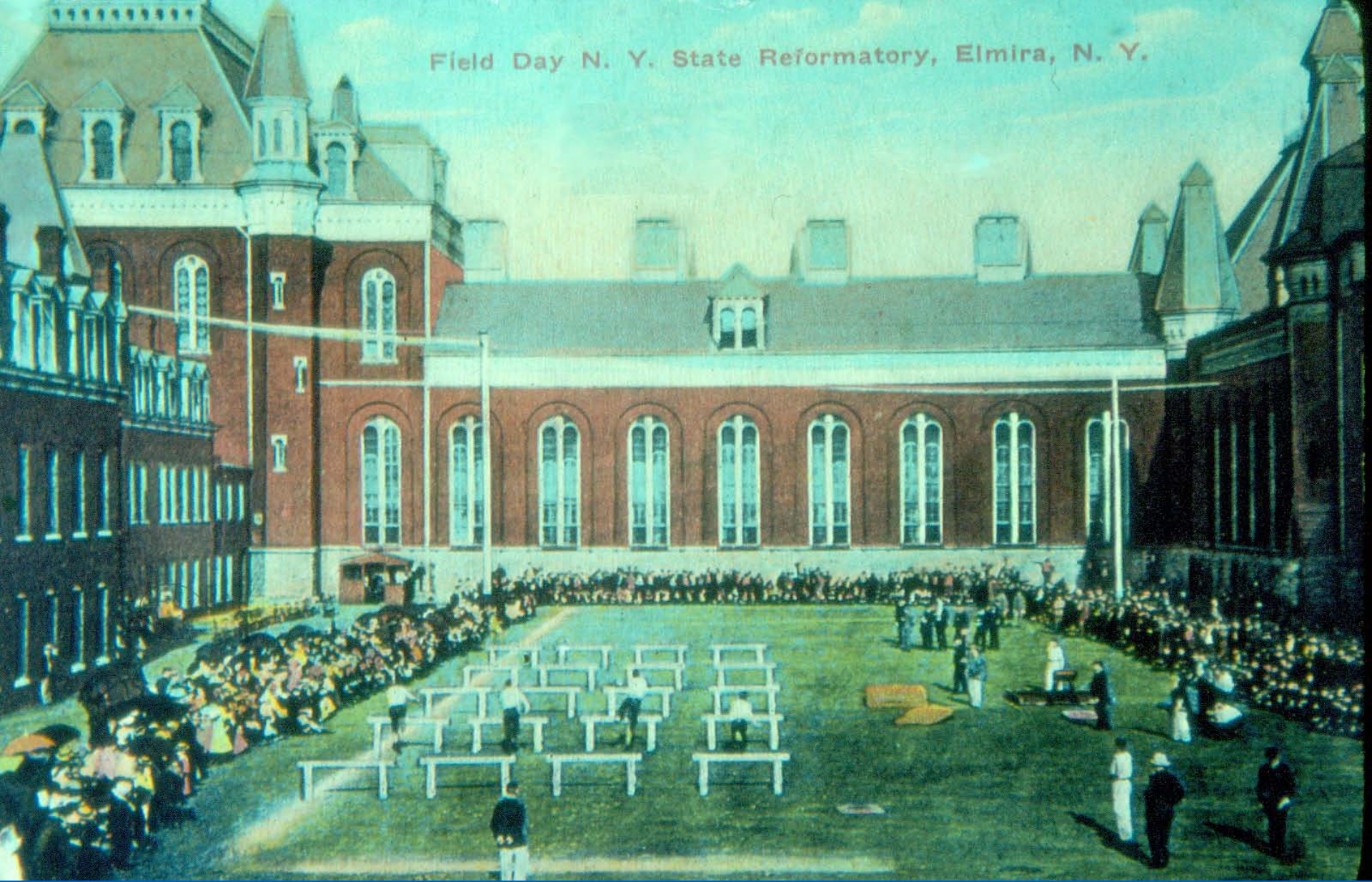
48 Elmira N. Y. Special Drilling N. Y. S. Reformatory.

The most publically visible educational practice was its marching drills which drew crowds.



Beyond showy drill marches, Elmira provided its inmates a total educational program.

Field Day N. Y. State Reformatory, Elmira, N. Y.



Elmira's program included athletics, vocational shops, and academic subjects.

Inner Court, showing North side, Auburn
State Prison, Auburn N. Y.



By 1860s, Auburn's system lost some glamour. Still did contract work. Inner court got facelift.

Inner Court, showing South side, Auburn

State Prison. Auburn N. Y.



Evidencing that even Auburn felt the more humanizing trend in penology, the prison made an effort to beautify its inner courtyard.



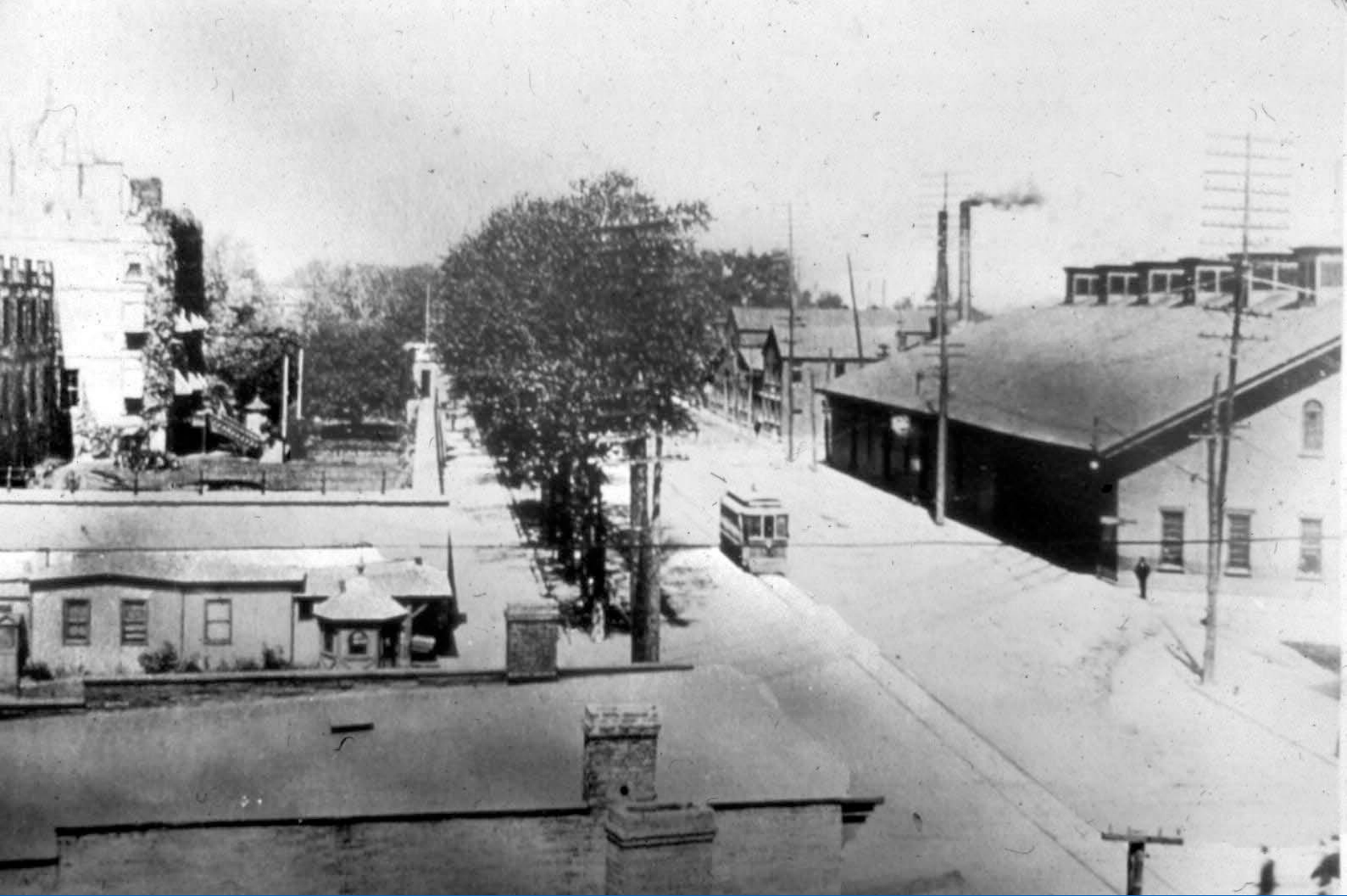
In 1880s as unions gained legislative support, inmate-made goods were barred from open market. Contract labor was not seen as reform.



An unfortunate result of opposition to prison industries was enforced inmate idleness.



In 1890 to mitigate increased inmate idleness, the prison adopted a state-use policy, selling inmate-made goods only to public agencies.



Looking first north along State Street . . .

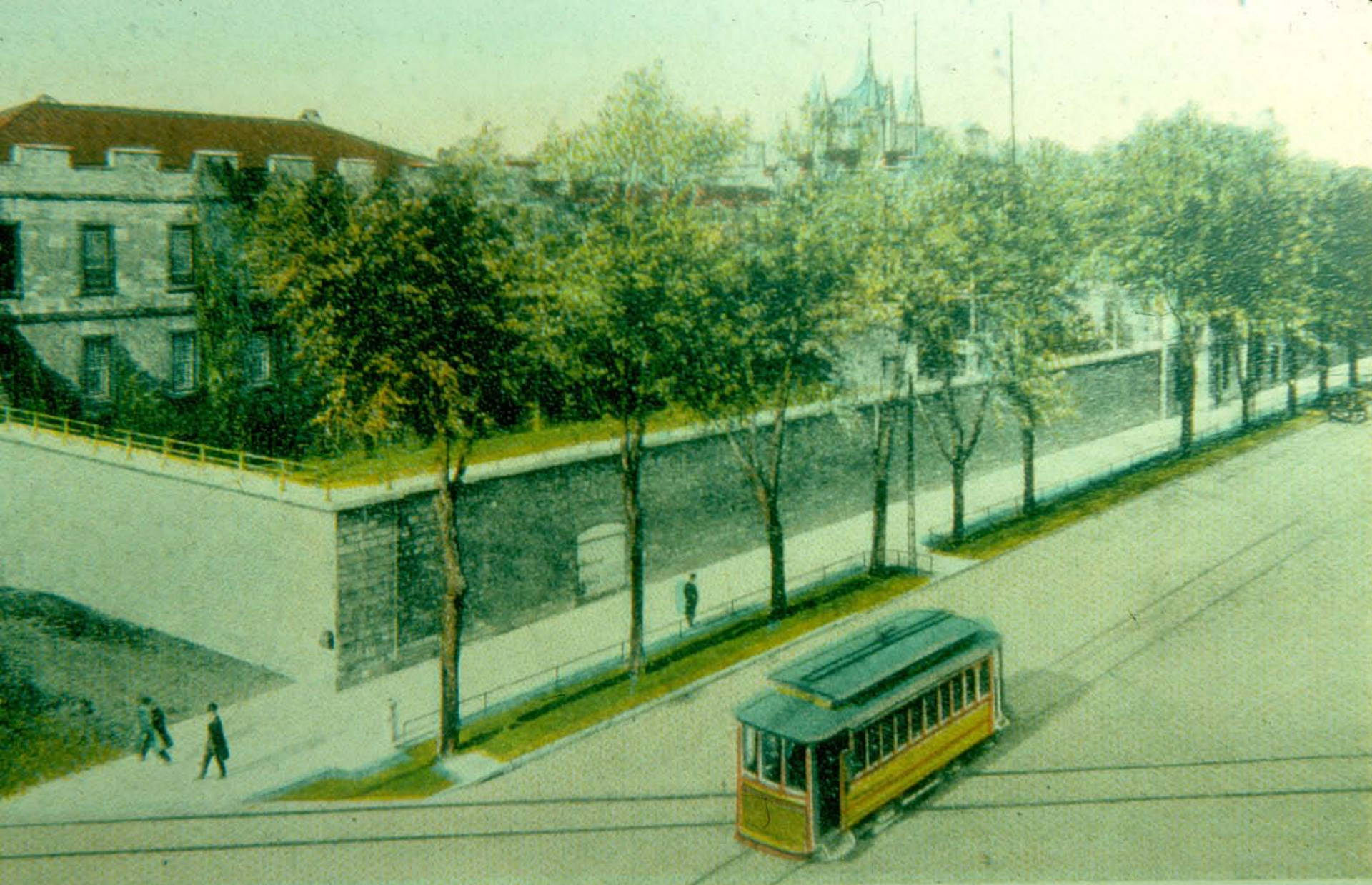


... then looking south along State Street, it was apparent near the turn of 19th Century that Auburn had grown up around the prison.

UBURN, N. Y. STATE ST. FROM GENESEE STREET.



In this trolley era post card, prison can hardly be seen looking down State St. from Genesee.



FRONT VIEW SHOWING ENTRANCE, STATE PRISON, AUBURN, N. Y.

In 1890s, prison housed 1200+, employed 200+.



Visitors interested in this room; less so locals.



It's the room of world's 1st electric execution.



On Aug. 6, 1890 Wm. Kemmler, 39, peddler from Buffalo, who killed girl friend with ax, was 1st of 55 executed in Auburn's electric chair.

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