

Visit Notes: Lyon County, Minnesota July 23rd 2015

The Codington County Justice Advisory Committee's (CCJAC) basic task is to recommend solutions to the county's court and jail facility problems. To do this better, the CCJAC visits other recently constructed jails and courts facilities. This helps the CCJAC to understand the different options and variables to consider for modern court and jail facilities. On July 23rd, 2015, the CCJAC visited the facilities in Lyon County, Minnesota.

Project Delivery

About ten years ago, Lyon County began working to solve the need for a new jail due to overcrowding and deterioration of the old jail's physical plant. The old jail had 37 beds, but the average inmate population was 50 inmates. This meant that from 20-25 inmates were usually incarcerated in other counties. The expense of transportation and boarding cost Lyon County anywhere from \$300,000 to \$500,000 annually. Rather than build the jail on a completely new site ("green site") The county chose to limit the new jail footprint to an area (previously a courtyard) between the old jail and current courthouse. Had they used a new site, there would have been the possibility of a new courthouse and eventually a new sheriff's office over time.

With the choice to keep the jail on the same site made some years ago, when the need arose to address court facility needs, it made more sense to add to or renovate the existing courthouse (as opposed to building a new one). As a result, Lyon County just broke ground (Summer 2015) on an addition to their current courthouse, which is connected to the new jail.

Vetter Johnson is the architect for both the jail and court addition/remodel. The construction manager is Contegrity Group from Little Falls, MN. Lyon County officials believe that using an agency construction manager has probably saved money compared the use of a general contractor or even a construction manager at risk.

In Minnesota, county commissions can authorize these construction projects without a popular referendum. However, the county still expended much effort to educate the public on the project. This was done with several public meetings, old and new jail tours as well as local television (similar to GovTV) information spots. The use of a construction manager also allowed the project to maximize the use of local subcontractors, which was appreciated by the local community.

Visit Notes: Lyon County, Minnesota July 23rd 2015

New Jail

From 2007 to 2009, Lyon County, Minnesota built a new jail. This new jail was built between an existing old jail and existing courthouse. The old jail (12000 square feet), was integrated with the new jail and used for administrative and jail support spaces (as opposed to space for incarceration). The new jail also connects directly to the current courthouse. The 20,000 square foot jail has 87 beds and uses the modern podular design employing indirect observation¹ for constant view of inmate areas. The jail roof and exterior walls are pre-cast concrete while most of the interior walls are cinderblock. The overall layout allows proper control of different processes such as handling work-release inmates. The jail doesn't separate sentenced from unsentenced, but based on risk level of inmate. Juveniles are only kept in booking cells for a maximum of 24 hours then sent out of county (Kandiyohi usually, at about \$150/day) to a juvenile facility. The current ADP is about 45 inmates.

Courts Addition/Renovation.

The courthouse addition will include two new jury courtrooms and a hearing room with a secure passage and holding area for inmate witnesses as well as new judges' chambers, witness waiting areas and attorney client meeting rooms. The current courthouse will be completely remodeled to better integrate and arrange other court and county offices and to establish secure/separate circulation patterns (public, inmates, judicial personnel).

Architect: Vetter Johnson

Construction Manager: Contegrity Group, Little Falls, MN

Basic Evaluative Criteria

Construction Costs for basic components

Component	Cost in Millions	Rough Cost Per SF	Rough Cost Per Bed
Jail	9.8	\$306	\$112,643
Courts Reno/Add	9.5		
Total	19.3		

The county sheriff's office had been renovated in the 1990s.

¹ Indirect supervision means that the correctional officer is not in the same physical space with the inmates, but can directly observe the inmates without the aid of cameras.

Visit Notes: Lyon County, Minnesota July 23rd 2015

Operating Costs/Issues

- Direct connection to the courthouse saves on transport costs.
- There are 20 jail staff personnel. This includes 13 correction officers (2 of which are transporters), 5 shift sergeants (which include an administrative sergeant, and a program sergeant), a medical coordinator and the jail administrator. The medical coordinator plays a key role in ensuring proper medical care for inmates. This mitigates liability. Each shift consists of three officers (one of which is usually a shift sergeant).

Design Efficiency

Overall

- Having the jail connected to the courthouse eases transportation time and costs.

Jail:

- Old jail building was well integrated as office and jail administration space to create an efficient integration of workspaces with the new podular jail.
- Indirect observation design allows all pods to be easily observed from a single control point. This allows the jail to function safely with three correctional officers on duty. To mitigate the lack of a direct observation design, a correctional officer enters each pod's common area every 15 to 20 minutes.
- The need to build on a very specific, limited footprint required some compromises. The vehicular sally port has a single entry (as opposed to a drive through design) and there are no access chases behind the cells.
- For inmates that must be restrained during intake, the jail has a special restroom off of the booking vestibule between the sally port and the booking area. The restroom has a flushable floor drain.
- The work release area has a dirty room – clean room layout to process inmates returning from work.
- Inmate property area is spacious and well organized.
- Jail video visitation saves work for jail staff.
- One pod is a dedicated recreation area. This allows constant observation during recreation, but correctional officers must escort inmates from their dwelling pod to the recreation pod.
- Toilets & plumbing can be controlled/shut off remotely from the control desk to prevent (or minimize damage from) inmate mischief.
- There are two showers in each pod.
- Central water controls and having only two showers per pod allow jail to have a smaller water heater. This saves construction cost.

Visit Notes: Lyon County, Minnesota July 23rd 2015

- Jail kitchen is well laid out and adequately sized. Staff would prefer stainless steel refrigeration units for ease of cleaning and durability.
- The medical area in the jail is wired for telemedicine should it become available/needed.
- Jail hardware can be expensive to maintain. Due to the small number of suppliers, the specifications can vary and many items are not interchangeable between manufacturers.

Court

- Planned addition/remodel includes separate circulation for inmate witnesses and takes advantage of the existing connection between the new jail and current courthouse.
- The addition is fully integrated with the remodel of the existing courthouse to rearrange court and county offices for maximum efficiency.

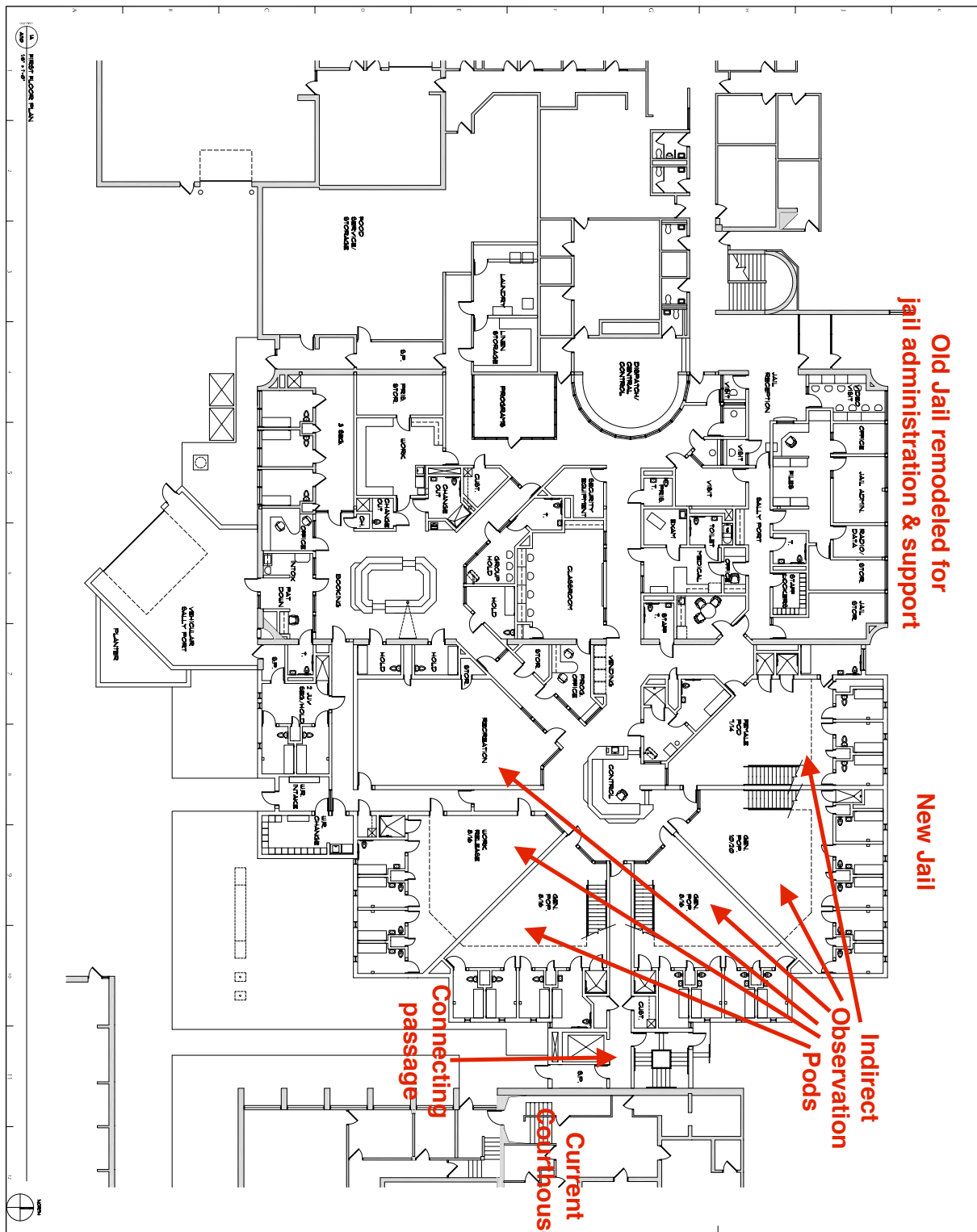
Right-Sizing

- Architect did 20-year projections for inmate population (county population was 25,857 in 2010). Appears to provide for inmate population growth well into the future.
- Support spaces (kitchen, laundry, storage rooms, work release lockers, staff lockers) are sized amply for jail capacity.
- At times there is a need for more booking/holding cells, but multi-purpose cells in and near the booking area help.
- Two medium-sized jury courtrooms and a hearing room are planned to replace the current courtrooms.

Expandability

- The current location may limit jail expansion if there is a need decades from now.
- Courthouse plan allows for the repurposing of a large boardroom into a large, third courtroom if needed in the future.

Visit Notes: Lyon County, Minnesota July 23rd 2015



PROJECT NO. 0601 | Copyright 2006
A110



VETTER JOHNSON
ARCHITECTS

FIRST FLOOR PLAN

I certify that this plan, specification, or report was prepared by me or under my direct supervision and that I am a duly registered Architect under the laws of the state of Minnesota

Date 06/01/01 Page No. 15/21

Revisions

Lyon County Jail

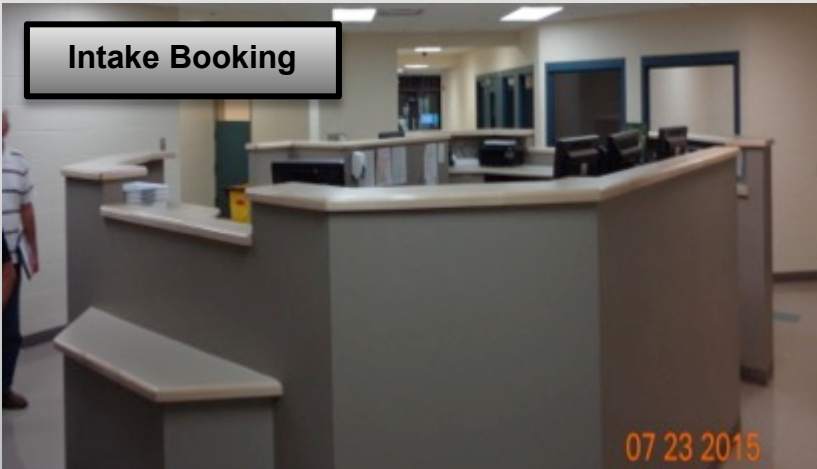
Marshall, Minnesota

NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

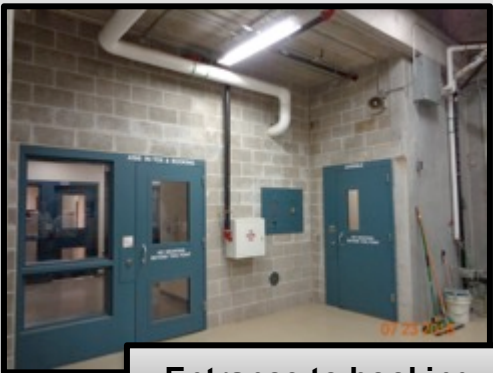
New jail floor plan

Visit Notes: Lyon County, Minnesota July 23rd 2015

Jail



Intake Booking



Entrance to booking from sally port

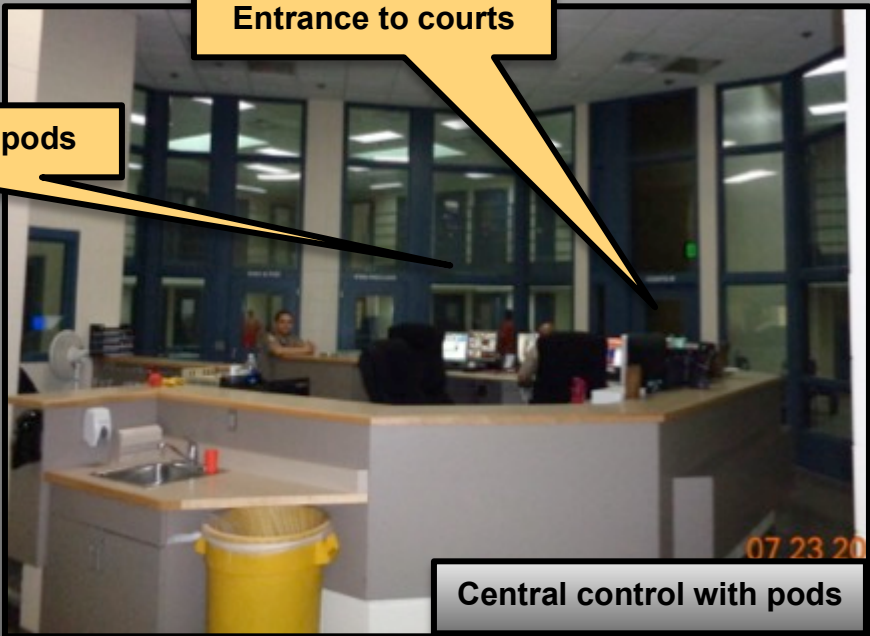


Booking Area Restroom

Large flushable floor drain



Inmate personal property storage room



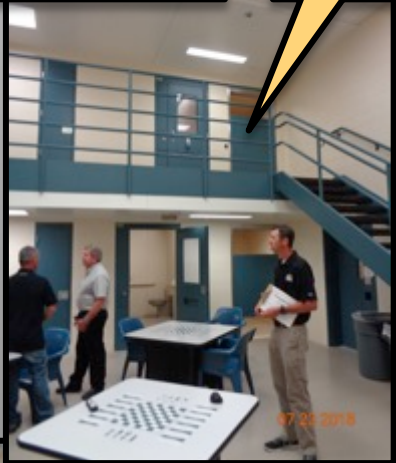
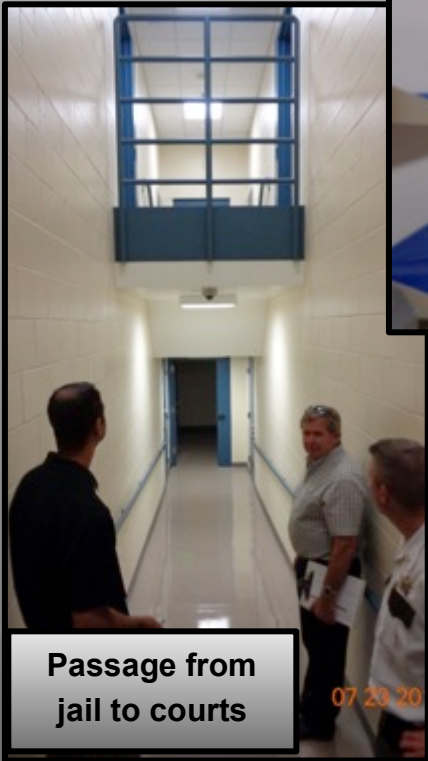
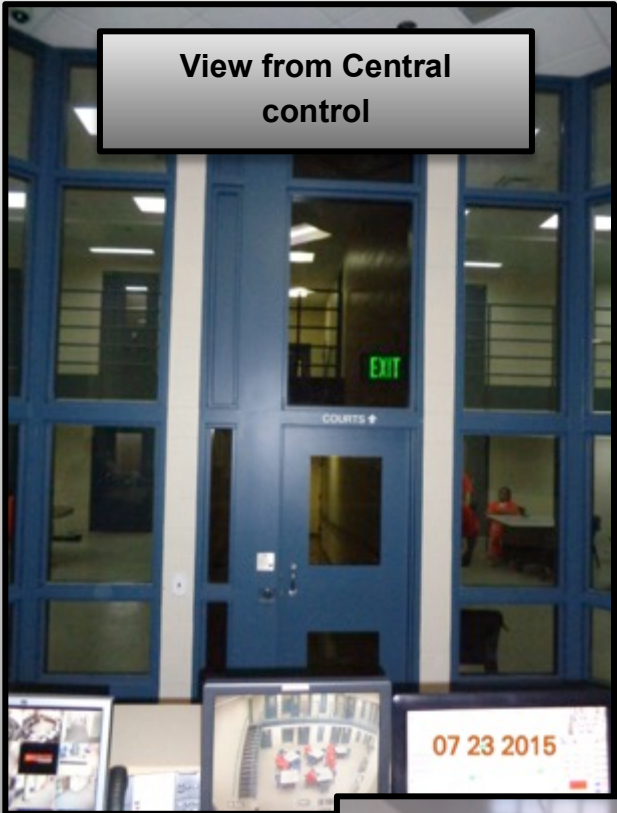
Entrance to courts

Indirect observation pods

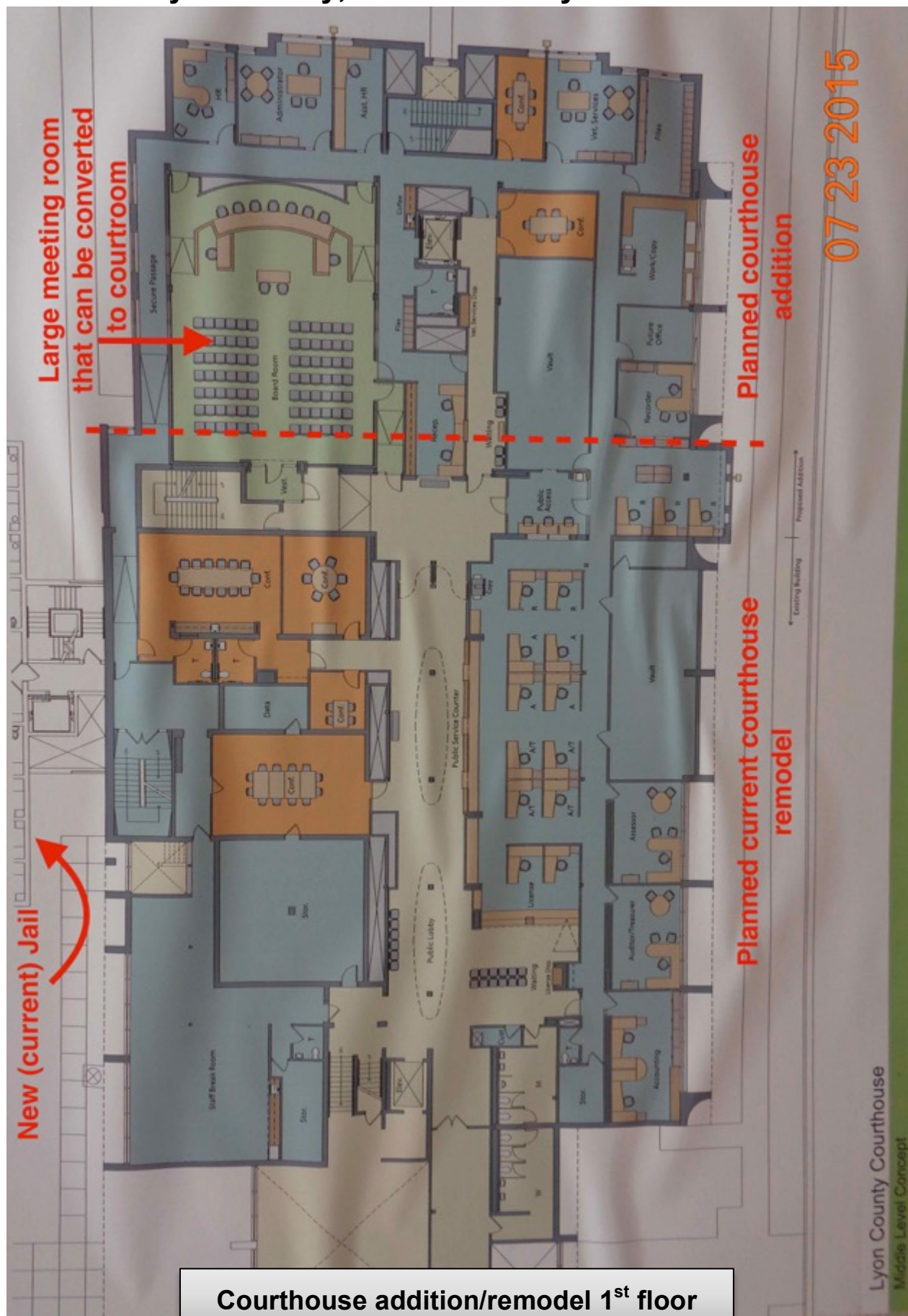
Central control with pods

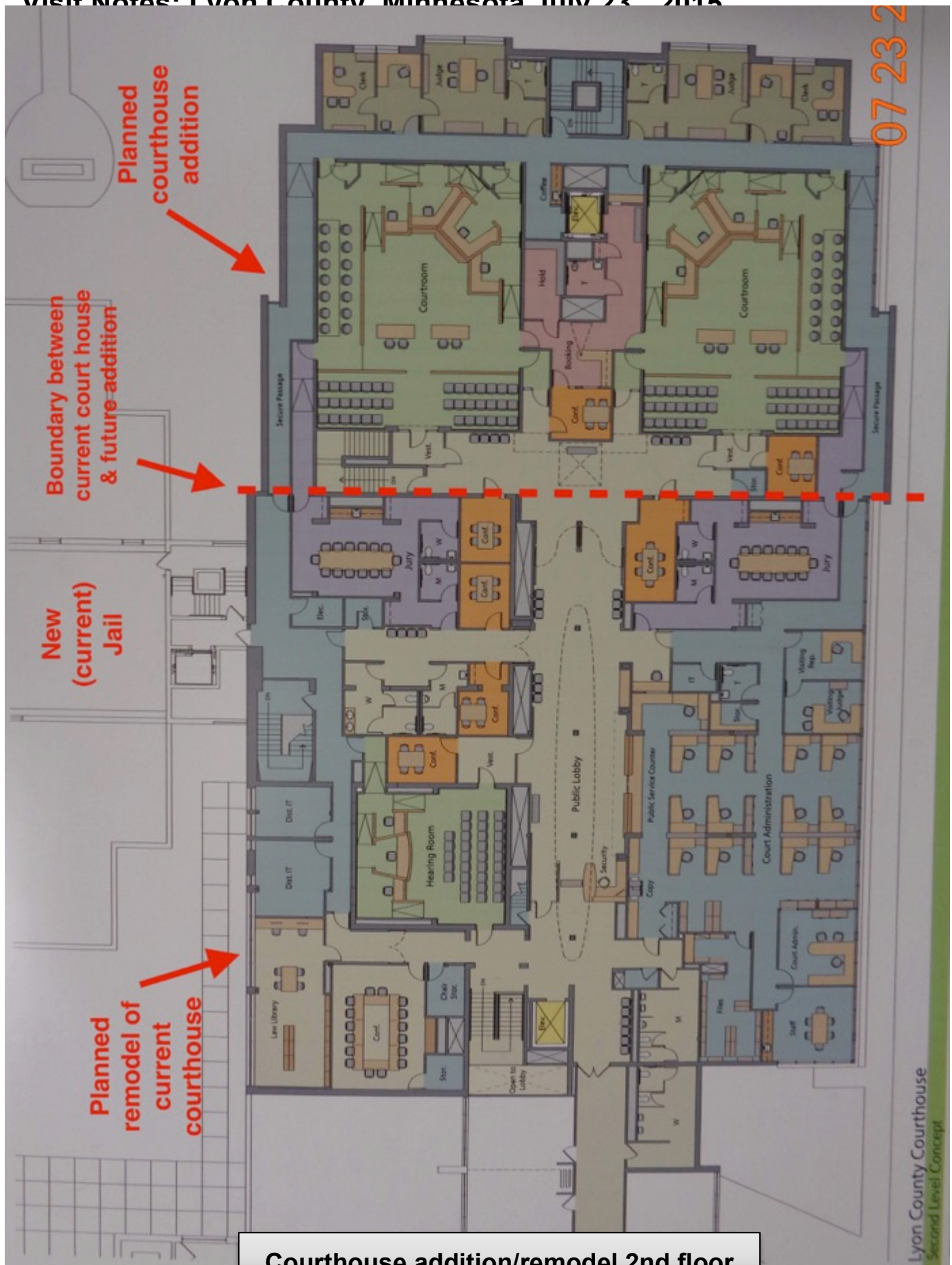
Visit Notes: Lyon County, Minnesota July 23rd 2015

Jail



Visit Notes: Lyon County, Minnesota July 23rd 2015





Courthouse addition/remodel 2nd floor

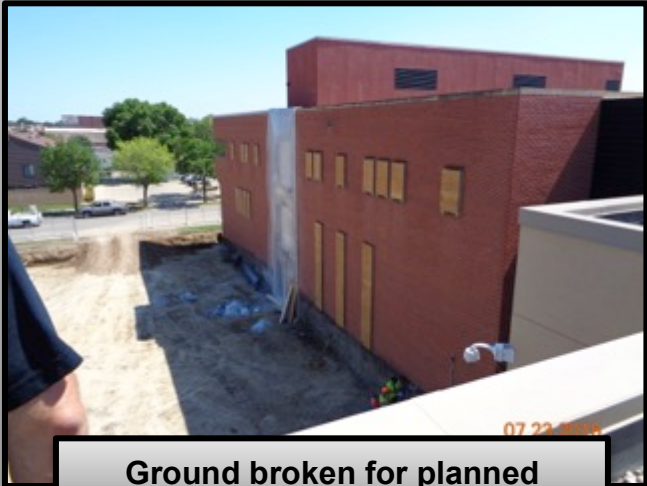
Visit Notes: Lyon County, Minnesota July 23rd 2015

Court Addition/Reno

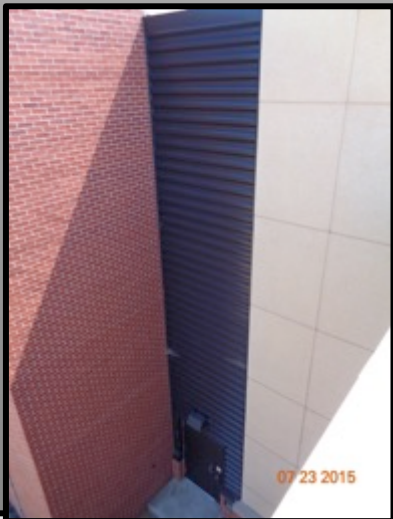


Note how new jail is situated

Planned Courthouse Addition



Ground broken for planned courthouse addition



Connection from new jail to current courthouse