

GROUP 3

- AUBURN CORRECTION FACILITY –
'AUBURN PRISON', NEW YORK (1821)

- EASTERN STATE PENITENTIARY –
'EASTERN STATE', PHILADELPHIA. (1829)

This is an analyses about the Auburn Correctional Facility and the Eastern State Penitentiary. Those two prisons are mainly known for their regime and in this essay we explain how it works.

		Auburn Correctional Facility – 'Auburn Prison', New York (1821)
Typo-morphological analysis	6	1. Project description
	6	1.01 General information
	7	1.02 Basic drawings
	10	2. Context
	10	2.01 Situation
	10	2.02 Morphology
	10	2.03 Street Pattern
	11	2.04 Access
	12	3. Exterior
	12	3.01 Access
	13	3.02 Thresholds
	13	3.03 Facade composition
	20	3.04 Facade materials
	23	3.05 Ornaments
	24	4. Interior
	24	4.01 Concept plan
	24	4.02 Routing
	25	4.03 Construction
	25	4.04 Use of spaces
	26	4.05 Types of spaces
	xxx	4.06 Sequence of spaces
	xxx	4.07 Thresholds between spaces
	xxx	4.08 Spatial hierachy
	xxx	4.09 Materialization and cladding
	xxx	4.10 Interior elements
Conclusions	xxx	Concluding drawings
Literature	xxx	Literature
Scale model photographs	xxx	Scale model photographs

		Eastern State Penitentiary
		'Eastern State', Philadelphia (1829)
Typo-morphological analysis	xxx	1. Project description
	xxx	1.01 General information
	xxx	1.02 Basic drawings
	xxx	2. Context
	xxx	2.01 Situation
	xxx	2.02 Morphology
	xxx	2.03 Street Pattern
	xxx	2.04 Access
	xxx	3. Exterior
	xxx	3.01 Access
	xxx	3.02 Thresholds
	xxx	3.03 Facade composition
	xxx	3.04 Facade materials
	xxx	3.05 Ornaments
	xxx	4. Interior
	xxx	4.01 Concept plan
	xxx	4.02 Routing
	xxx	4.03 Construction
	xxx	4.04 Use of spaces
	xxx	4.05 Types of spaces
xxx	4.06 Sequence of spaces	
xxx	4.07 Thresholds between spaces	
xxx	4.08 Spatial hierachy	
xxx	4.09 Materialization and cladding	
xxx	4.10 Interior elements	
	103	Concluding drawings
	xxx	Scale model photographs
	121	Literature

Conclusions

Literature

1. Project description

1.01 General information

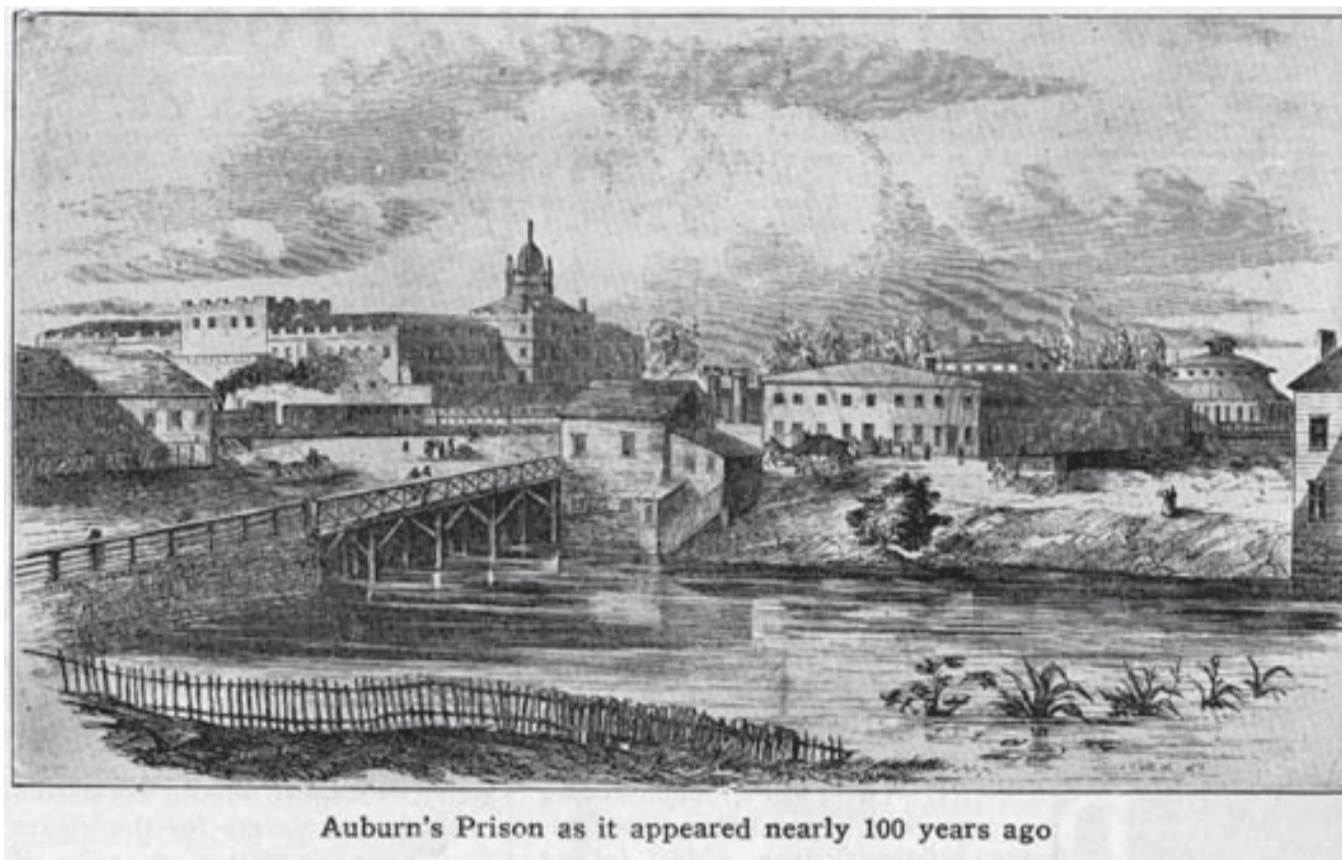
When the first prison in the state of New York became overcrowded the public began to call for a second state prison. In 1816, just a year after Auburn was named 'village', the act authorizing to build a new prison was passed. The space for the new facility was donated by four men living in Auburn. In 1816, when a part of the prison was done, the first prisoners arrived and the State granted the authority to use inmates to build the rest of the prison to make more space in the prisons, saving money on workmen.

The master carpenter at the time was William Brittin, who was later appointed by the State as the first "agent and warden" of the prison in 1818. At the time the prison solely consisted of solitary cells and became the first prison where prisoners were housed in separate cells. When an experiment to keep prisoners continually in solitary confinement failed, a new penal system began to develop in Auburn. A system where prisoners are working together during the day and sleeping individual at night later became the Auburn System. In this system it was very important to strictly enforce complete silence. The prisoners were not allowed to talk nor make

eye contact with the guards or the other inmates. They also had to wear striped uniforms and had to march in the famous lockstep method. The main goal of the Auburn Prison was to isolate the inmates and forcing them to work for the prison's profit. To maintain order in the prison, a lot of torturing was done by the guards. When this became illegal, the lockstep, striped uniforms and enforced silence were abolished, the main goal of the system changed into making the prisoners pay for their own captivity by making them work for the prison. This goal also benefited the State with revenue and the companies with cheap labor. Later, only the state was allowed to use the inmates for labor. In 1847 it became legalized to get educated in the prison and by 1900 there was a program to Americanize foreign prisoners. In 1958 the old women's prison was turned into the Osborne School, providing even college programs for the inmates. In the 1970's, it was even possible to get a Master's degree behind bars. In June 1988, the Auburn Prison also became the first prison to use electricity to carry out death sentences. In 1894, the asylum for the criminally insane closed and became the only women's prison of the State until 1934. On July 28

1929, six buildings were destroyed by fire during a riot. The reasons of the riot were the loss of hope by the routinely longer sentences and the decrease in early release for good conduct. On December 11 the same year, there was another riot. This time there was no damage to the prison. After the riots, the residents of Auburn were terrified of a prison break during riots. Many of them wanted the prison to disappear out of the city. The State however, concluded moving the prison was too expensive and decided to enlarge the existing site. However, when Auburn was hit by the Great Depression, hundreds of workers were employed to expand and reconstruct the prison for more than ten years. Construction of the high cement walls surrounding the newly enlarged prison grounds began in 1930, which gave the residents of Auburn a slightly safer feeling. In 1970, Auburn Prison name was changed to Auburn Correctional Facility, to reflect a change in the philosophy of the penal system in New York State. Nowadays the facility still is a walled, maximum-security prison for only male inmates.

Fig 3.1.1 An early picture of the Auburn Prison [1.3]
Fig 3.1.2 Symbol of the Auburn regime



Auburn's Prison as it appeared nearly 100 years ago

Fig 3.1.1

As described in the essay 'Typological Evolution of Prison Types' we found out that there are several main prison types in the evolution of prisons. There are three different categories: regime, building type and kind of inmates. The Auburn Correctional Facility belongs in two of those main categories. It has a really clear building type, the

U-shape, and it is the first prison with the Auburn regime. With the Auburn regime, which is known for solitary confinement, working in groups and no speech, the back to back cell construction was introduced. In this construction the prisoners can't have any eye contact with each other which improves the regime.

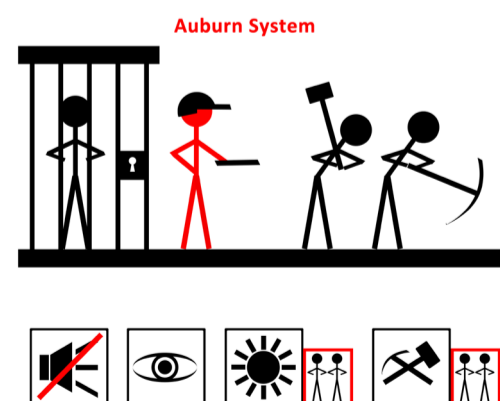
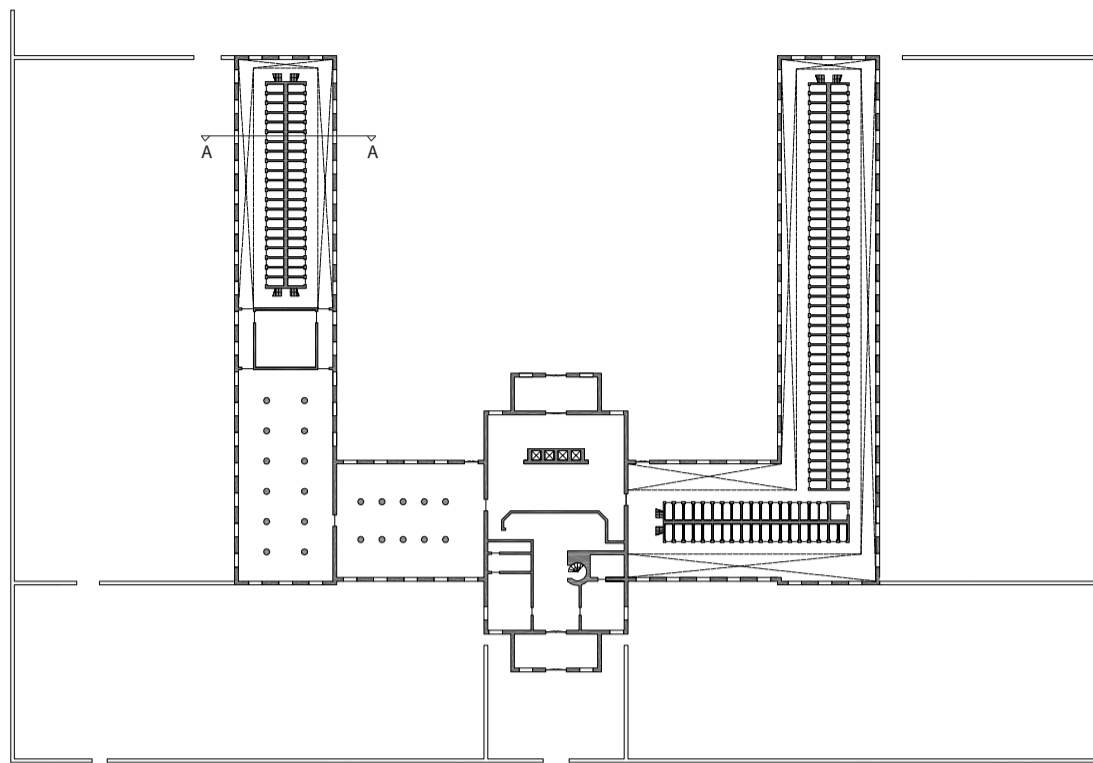


Fig 3.1.2

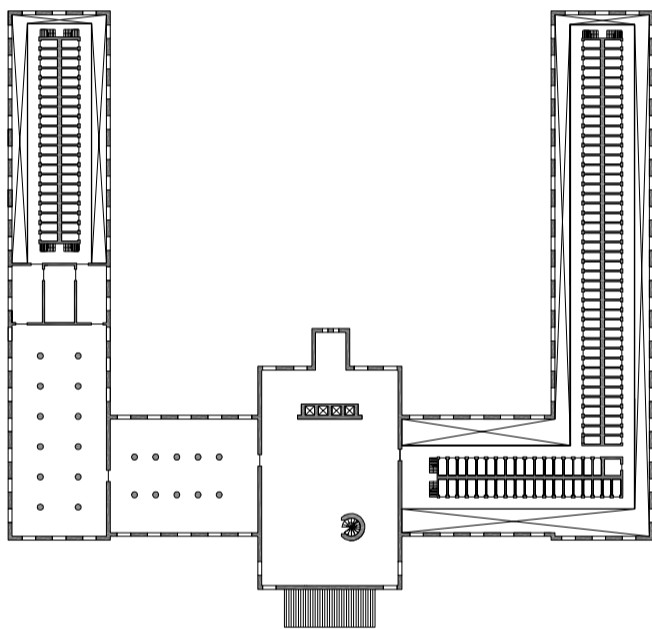
1. Project discription

1.02 Basic drawings

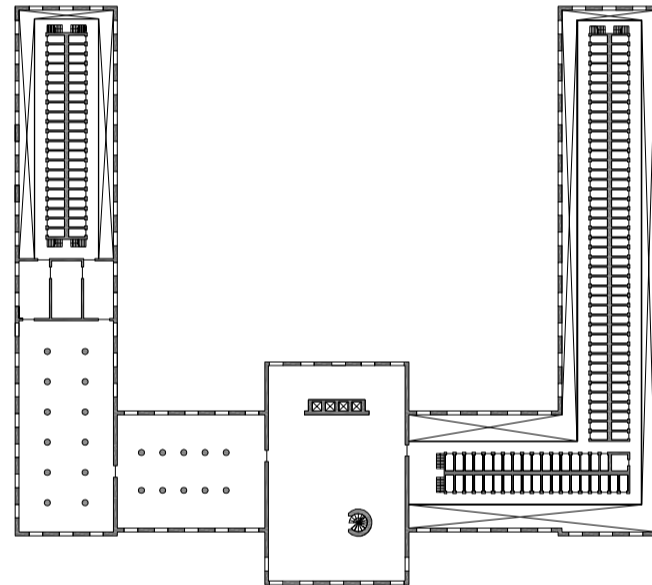
Plans scale 1:1000



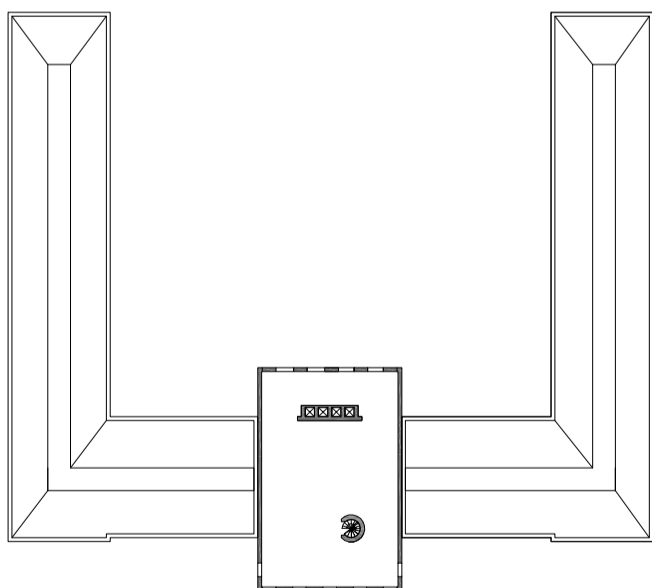
Ground floor



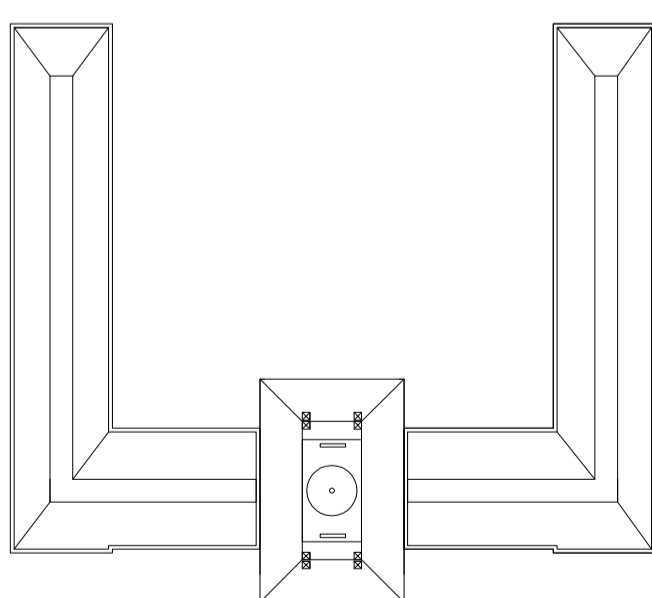
Floor 1



Floor 2



Floor 3

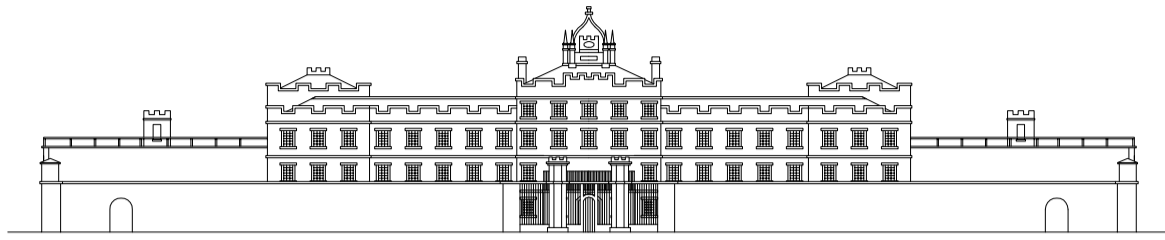


Roof

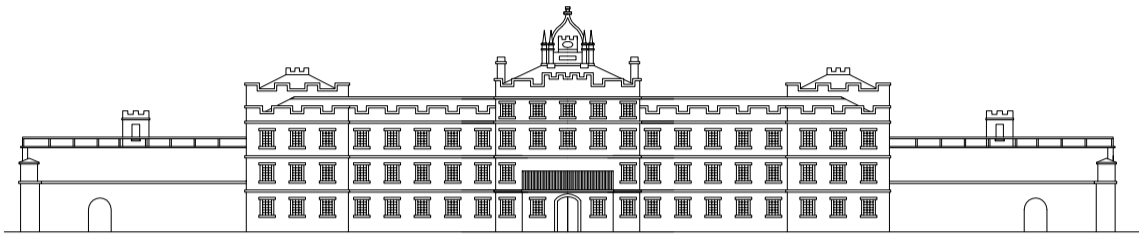
1. Project description

1.02 Basic drawings

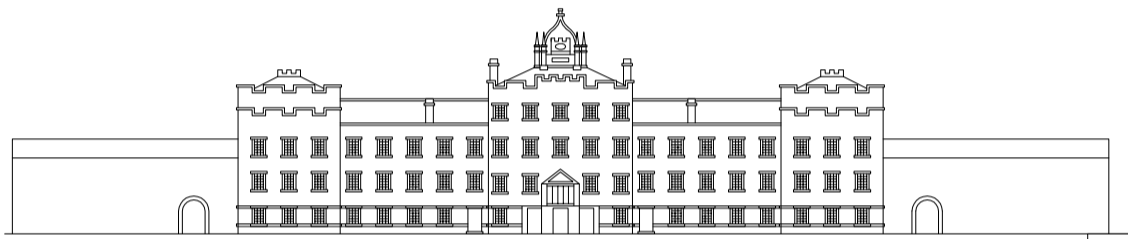
Facades and section 1:1000



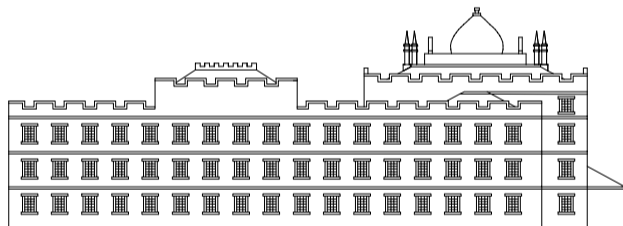
Front view



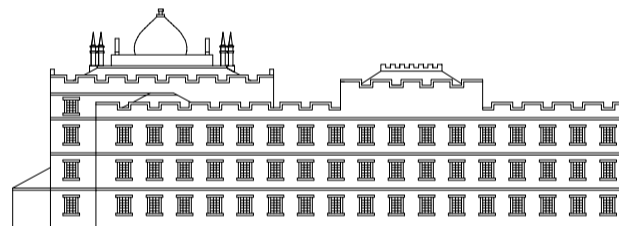
Front view behind entrance wall



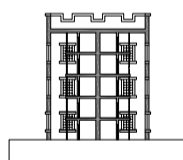
Back view



Left side view



Right side view

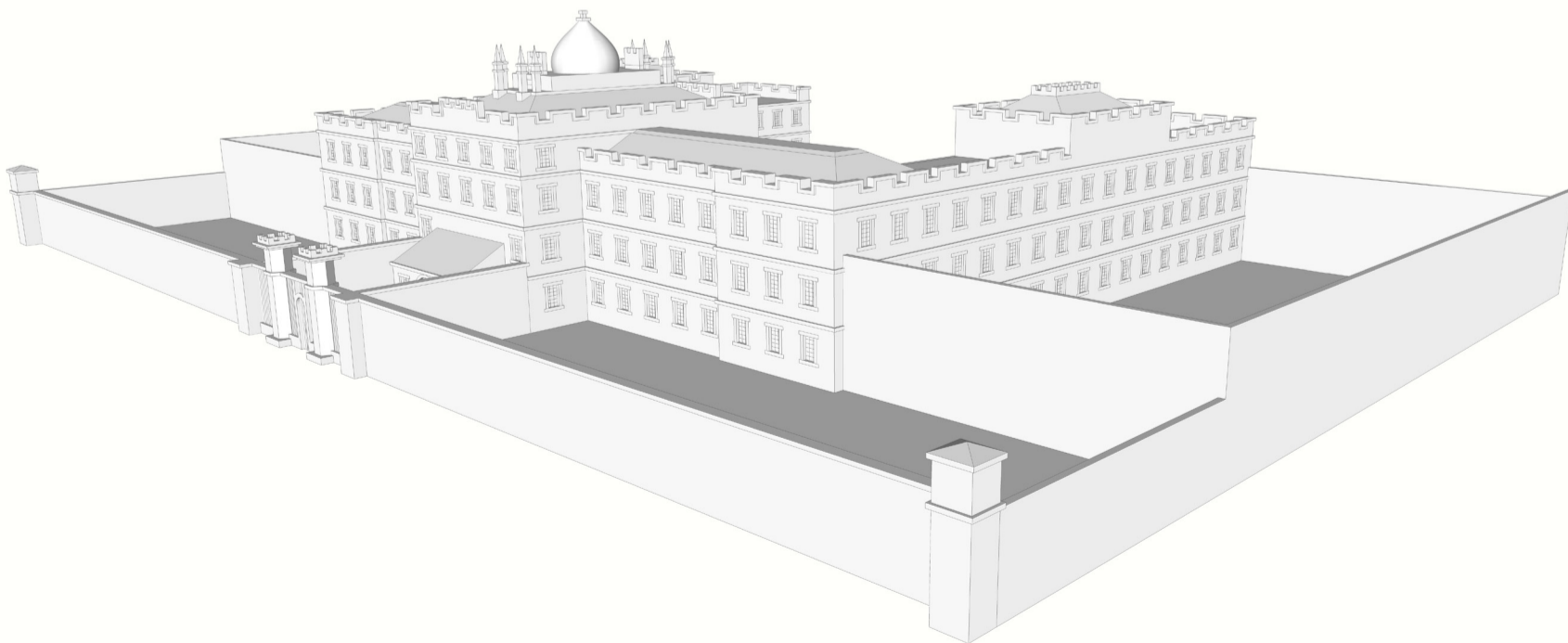
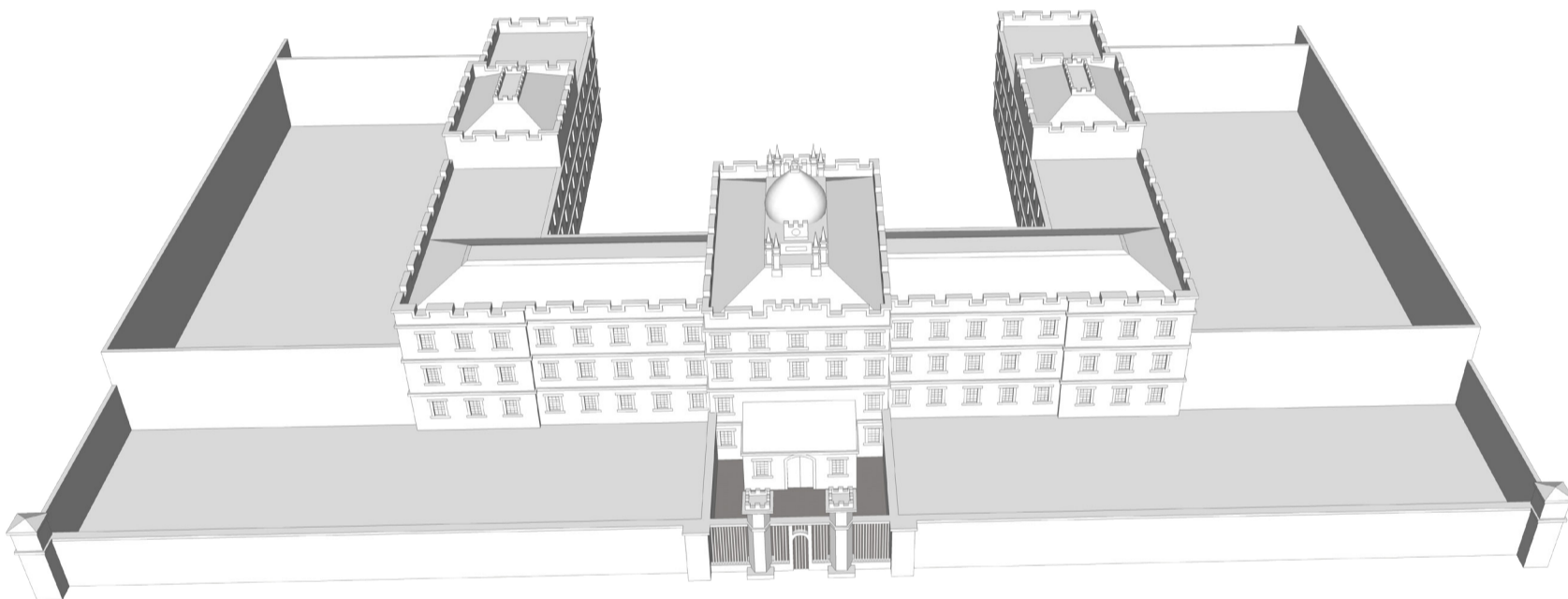
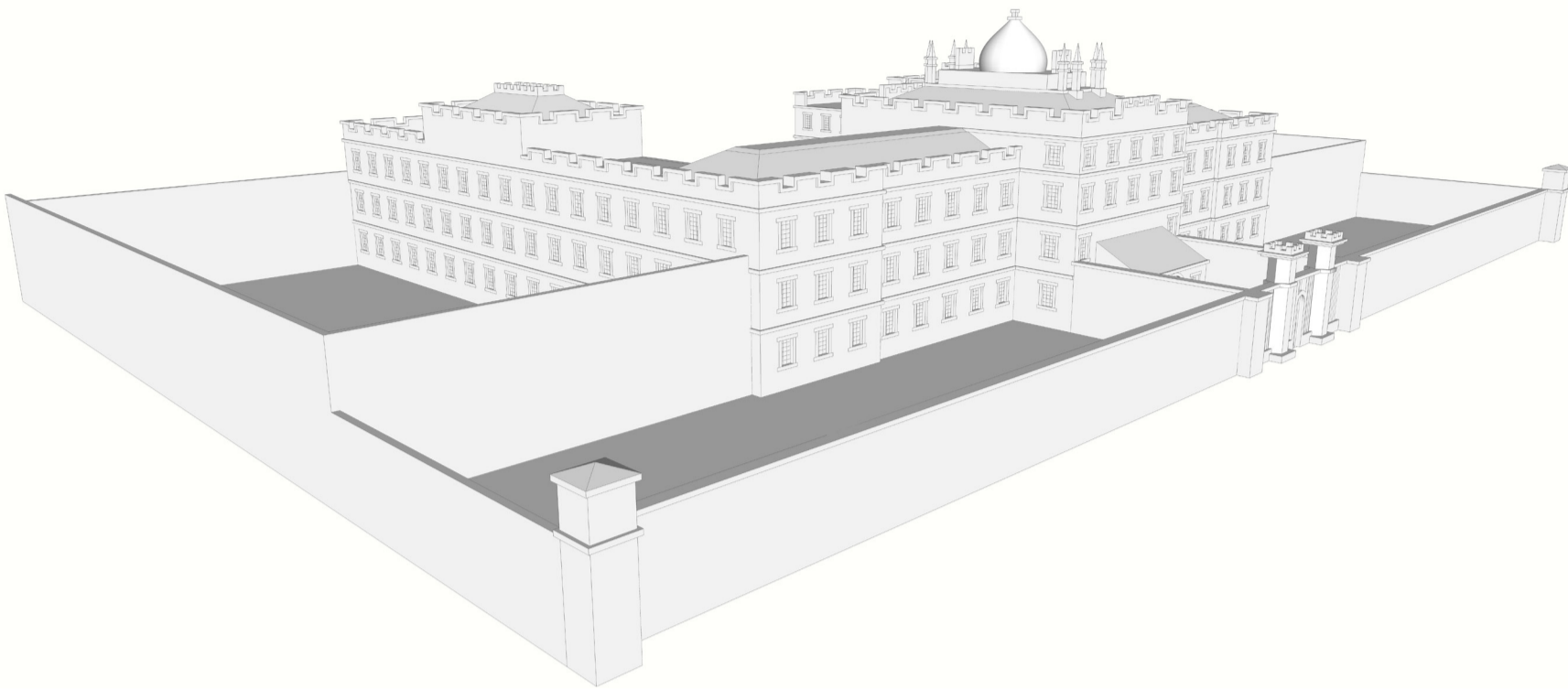


Section A-A

1. Project discription

1.02 Basic drawings

Axonometries



2 Context

2.01 Situation

The relation of the building with its environment is subjected to changes over time. Initially, the prison was built at the border of a town called Auburn. In the outskirts of the town were factories. Because there was hardly any housing around the prison did not have to take its surroundings into consideration too much. As the factories grew larger during the 19th century, there was need for more houses for the employees and workers. The factories in the northwest of Auburn had to

move further out of the center to make place for housing. Around 1920 the growth of Auburn stalled and in the 1930's the number of residents started to decrease.

Auburn Prison was at first only surrounded by factories but later houses were built around the prison to facilitate the increasing number of residents. Also roads were paved, new roads were added and a railway was added right in front of the prison. At the front of the prison are still almost no houses.

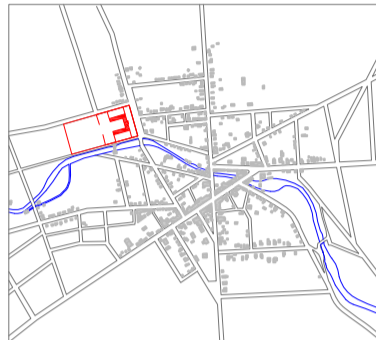
The prison itself has grown from a single building to a cluster of many buildings. The main building still has the same footprint as when it was initially built. The facades and the inner layout have changed a lot due to fires, destructions and small changes in the implementation of the regime. The buildings that were added were mostly to increase the capacity of the prison. Also a women's prison was built on the plot of the Auburn prison, to the west of the main building.

3.1.3 Evolution of the city Auburn, scale 1:20.000

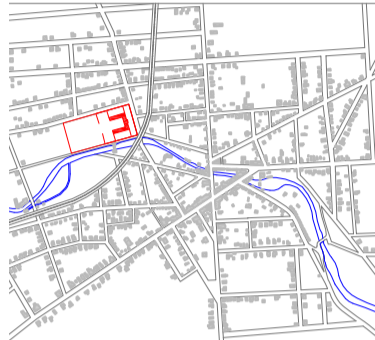
3.1.4 U-shape of the Auburn Prison

3.1.5 Infrastructure and negative infrastructure in 1837, scale 1:20.000

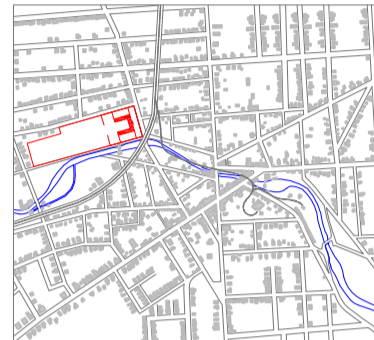
3.1.6 Infrastructure and negative infrastructure in 2008, scale 1:20.000



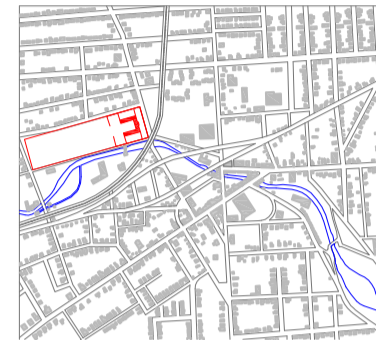
1837



1853



1904



2008

Fig 3.1.3

Fig 3.1.3

■ Auburn Prison
■ Surrounding buildings

2.02 Morphology

The Auburn prison has a very clear morphology. The prison is built in a U-shape with a square wall around the entire complex. The main U-shape is built up from three rectangular buildings; the main building and the two wings on either sides.

The program for the main building is larger than the rectangular building in the U-shape, that is one of the reasons why in the middle the building is sticking out to the front and the back.

The expansions also have an esthetic value. The attachments in the middle are also rectangular, as is the rest of the building. The stepped narrowing of the attachments draws more attentions to the entrance of the prison.

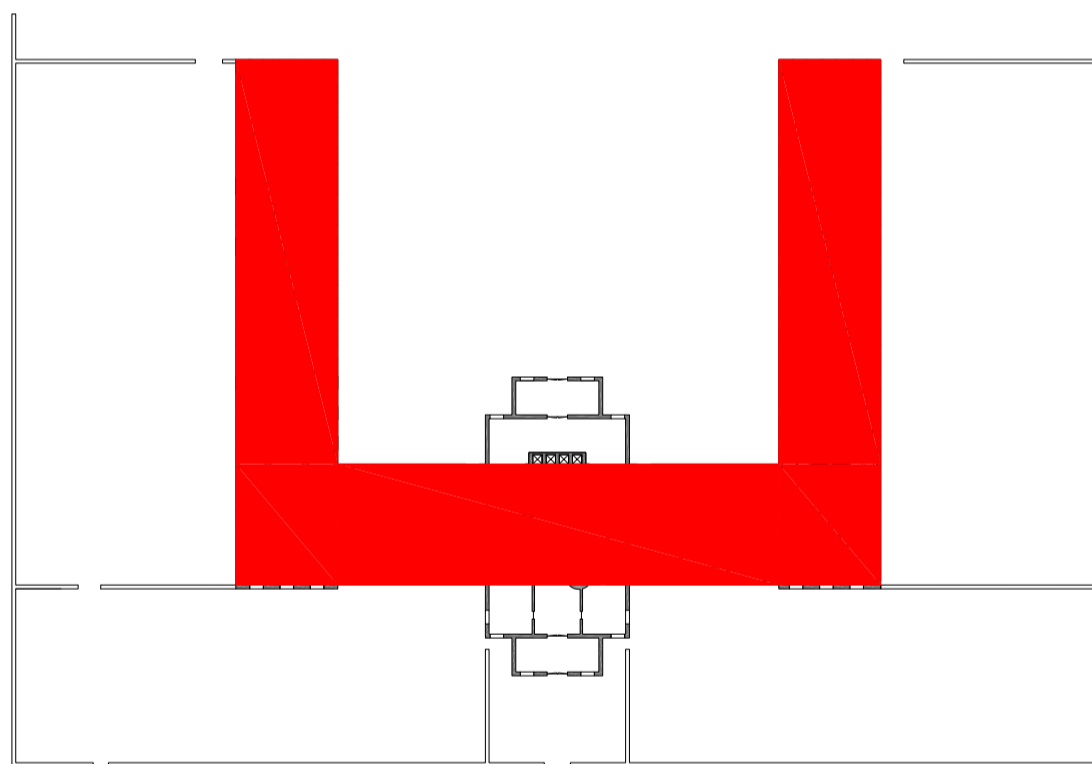


Fig 3.1.4

2.03 Street Pattern

When Auburn prison was built in 1837 Auburn was a small village. The village's center was simply the crossing of the two main roads that made Auburn an interesting place to settle.

As Auburn grew and the industries expanded, more and faster infrastructure was needed. A highway and a railway were added and many roads were built to allow the growth of Auburn.

In the present time the number of roads have decreased a little to make room for larger plots in the village. The remaining roads are mostly wider and better paved, allowed faster traffic to move in and out of Auburn.



Fig 3.1.5

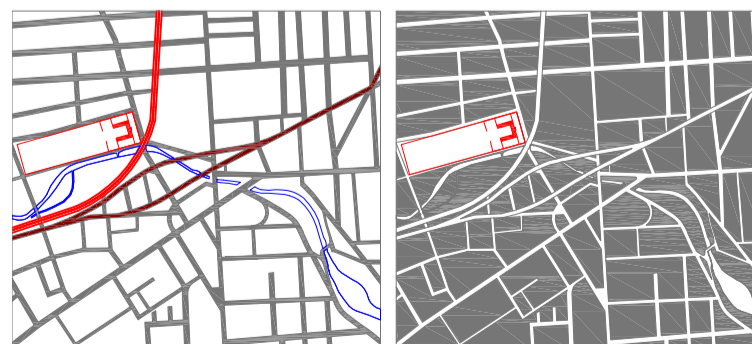


Fig 3.1.6

Fig 3.1.5

■ Auburn Prison

Fig 3.1.6

■ Auburn Prison

■ Railroad

■ Highway

2. Context

2.04 Access

Auburn has had the same main roads since the prison was built. From north to south and from east to southwest are the main roads into Auburn. The prison can be reached from the village via access roads from the south.

The access road in front of the prison has almost no houses alongside, only the prison and some industries are settled alongside the road.



3.1.7 Access to the building in 1837, scale 1:8,000

Fig 3.1.7
■ Auburn Prison
■ Main roads
■ Access road
■ Surrounding roads

Fig 3.1.7

3. Exterior

3.01 Access

The entrance of the building is placed in the center of the building. There are different thresholds to go through before entering the actual prison. First there is a large fence in the wall around the prison and the courtyard. As a second threshold there is the actual entrance of

the building. Behind that door is a second door that opens up to the entry hall. From the entry hall the actual cells not yet visible. To actually reach one of the wings of the building, two thresholds have to be passed. The first is a wall perpendicular to the walkway with an opening on the left. The second is a door for each of the

two wings. This adds up to a total of four doors and one wall as a barrier. These thresholds are intended to make it as difficult as possible to leave the prison. For a visitor or inmate it is immediately made clear that once they have entered it is impossible to leave the prison without authorization.

3.1.8 Access to the building, scale 1:1.000

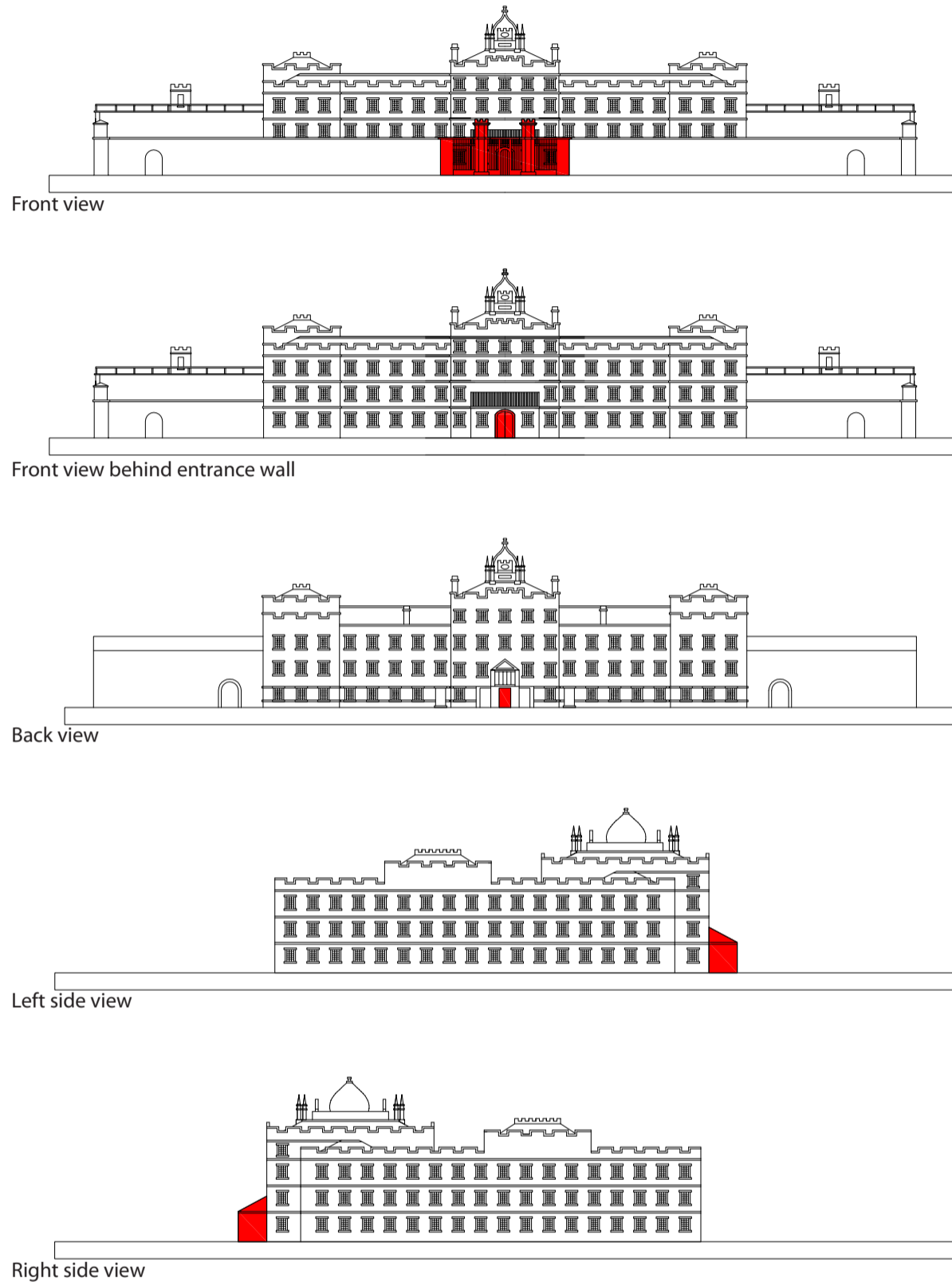


Fig 3.1.8
Entrance to the building

3. Exterior

3.02 Thresholds

In order to enter the building every visitor, guard or prisoner has to pass a few thresholds, these are described in 3.01 Access.

3.1.9 Thresholds for entering the building, scale 1:1.000
3.1.10 Analysis of Depth, scale 1:1.000

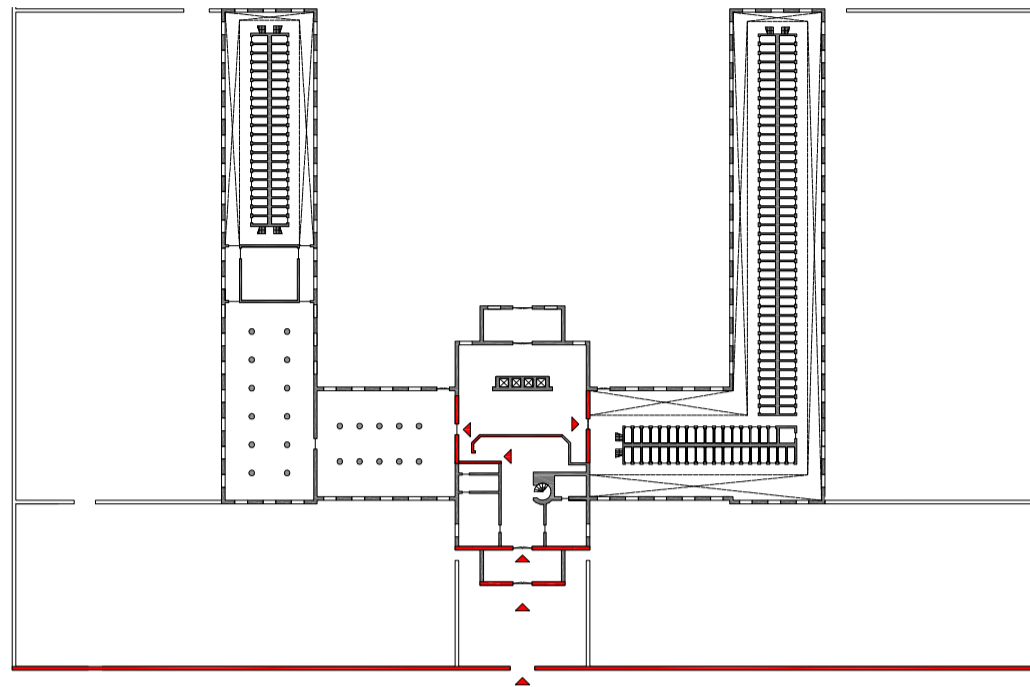


Fig 3.1.9

Fig 3.1.9

Thresholds

Begane grond

3.03 Façade composition

Depth

From the front the prison building is almost invisible due to the high wall around the complex.

The wall is very dominant because the building is set back quite far behind the wall and because the wall has few openings. The prison building has a U-shape. The front façade is mostly flat and the wings on the sides extend far to the back.

the front façade are only minor changes in depth, mostly to make the entrance more clearly visible. In the rear façade the center part of the building also sticks out to mark the center as the most important part of the prison.

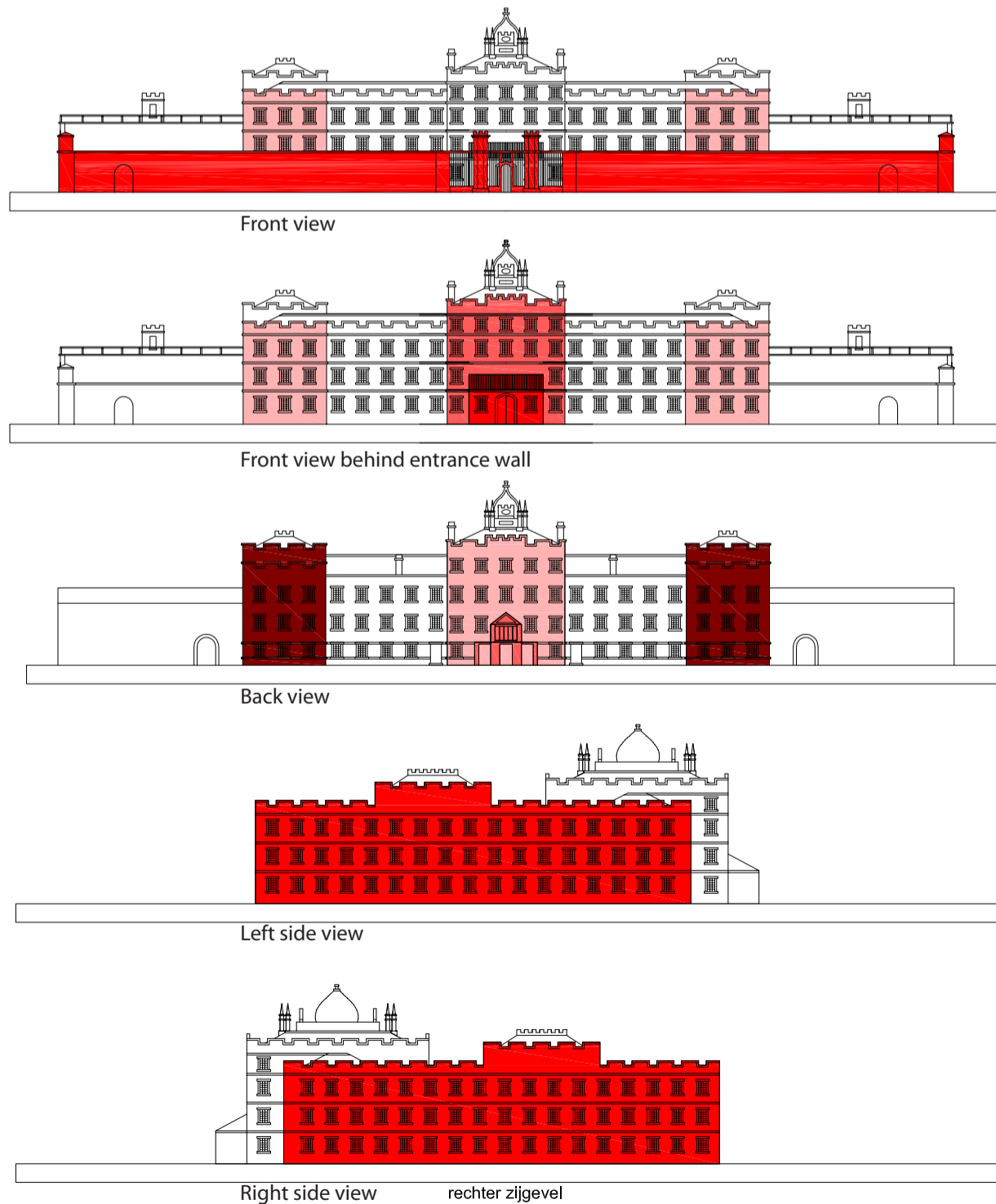


Fig 3.1.10

Further to the back
Further to the front

Fig 3.1.10

3. Exterior

Rhythm

Rhythm is very dominant in the facades. Both the windows and the battlements on the roof give a very clear and monumental rhythm to the facades. The strict rhythm gives the building a very authoritative appearance. Nobody will mistake the building for anything but a prison because of the strict appearance, manifested by the rhythm and of course the large wall around the prison. The wall itself doesn't show a clear rhythm. In the interior the cells are aligned on the corridor in a clear rhythm. It gives the interior a cold and strict appearance, as intended so when the building was designed.

Repetition

The windows in the facades do not only show a clear rhythm, they also show a clear repetition. The windows on the ground floor, first floor and second floor are all the same elements. On the third floor are smaller windows. These are only used in the higher center part of the building. Around the facades are horizontal lines of outstanding brickwork to make the vertical repetition of the building clearer. The lines are all around the building, except for the rear façade. This is a remarkable inconsistency in the design of the facades.

Variation

There are only a few elements used in the facades so there is not a lot of variation. The center part of the building with the entrance is designed to stand out from the rest of the building. That is why this part is one story higher than wings on either side. The windows on the top floor are a little smaller than the rest. Also the battlements are narrower and higher, to emphasize the middle of the building. On about half the length of each wing is also a 4th floor added. In this compartment are the staircases to reach the roof, from where the outside space is supervised. The rear facades are different from the other facades. The outstanding horizontal brickwork is left out in between the windows, but is applied on the ground floor windows. Also the battlements are missing in the rear façade.

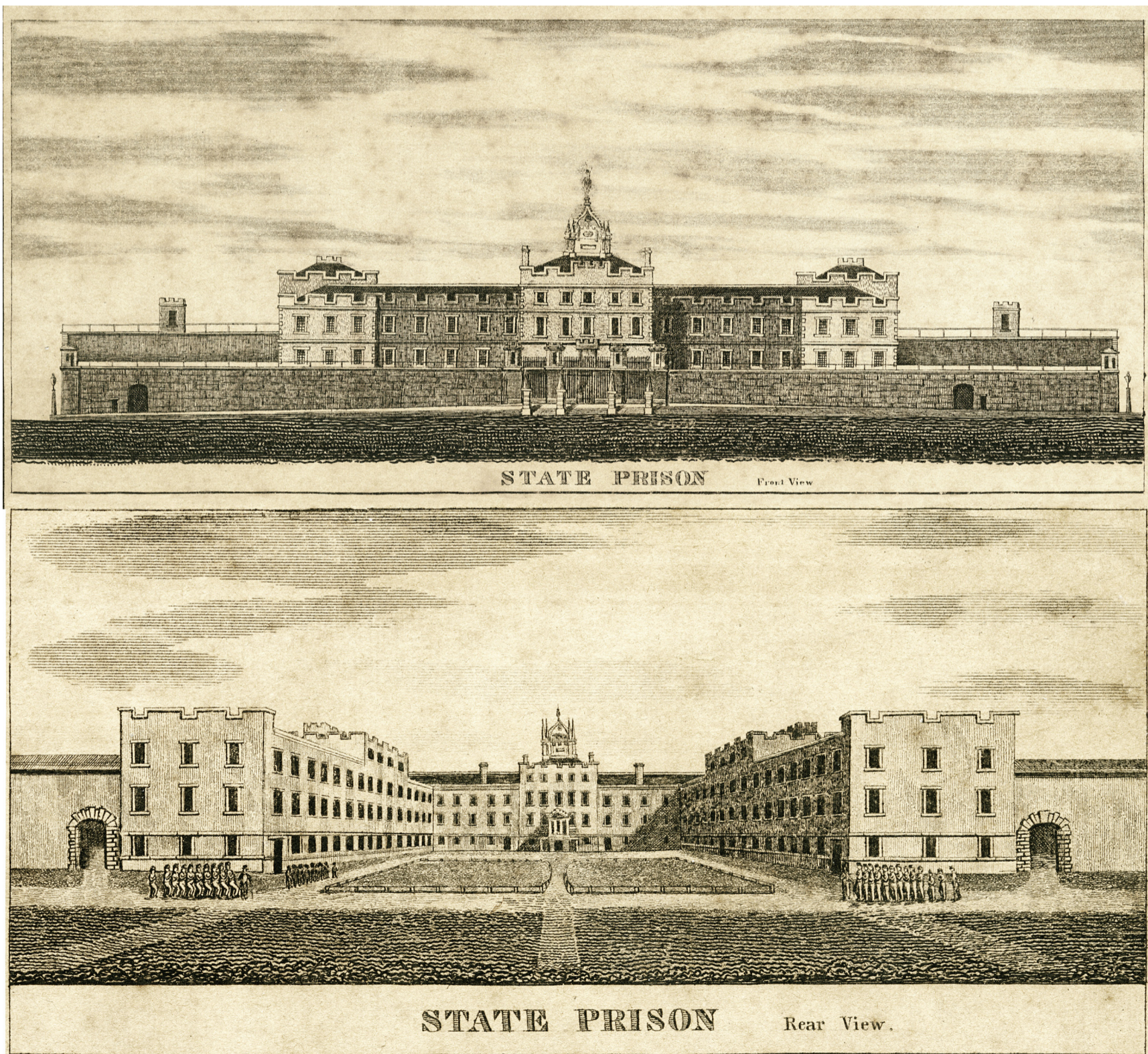


Fig 3.1.11

3.1.11 Front and rear view
Auburn State Prison [1.4]

3. Exterior

Rhythm

3.1.12 Analysis of the rhythm in the facades and plan, scale 1:1000

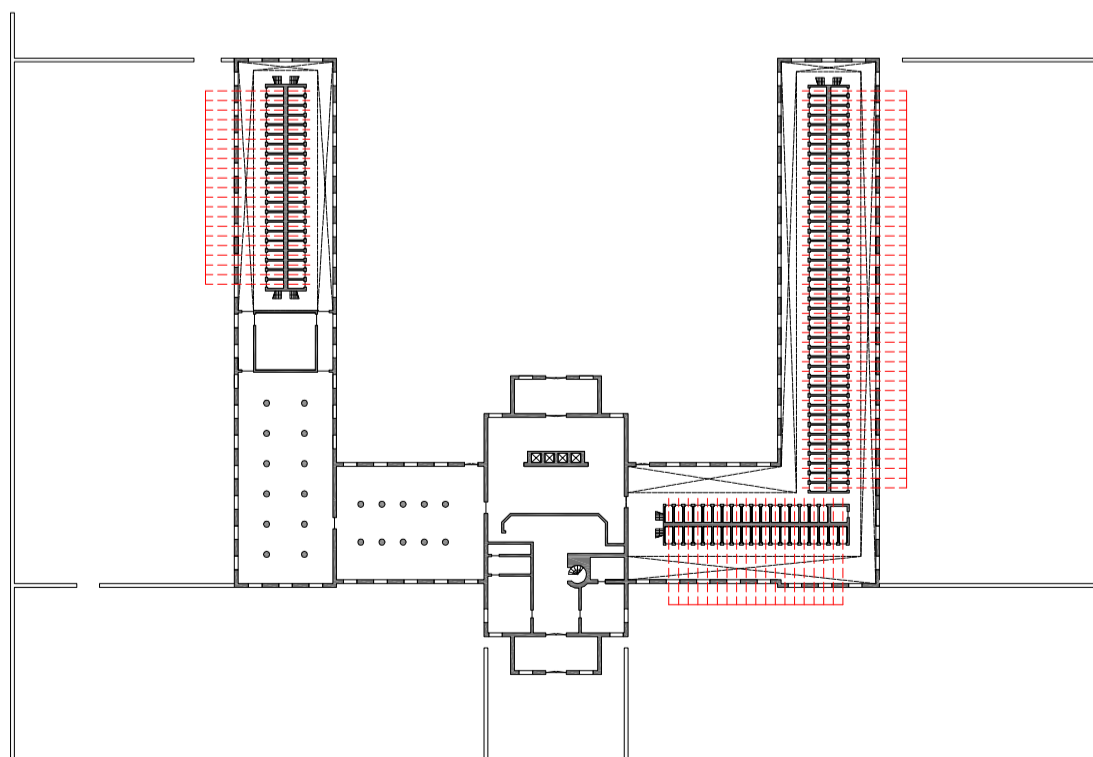
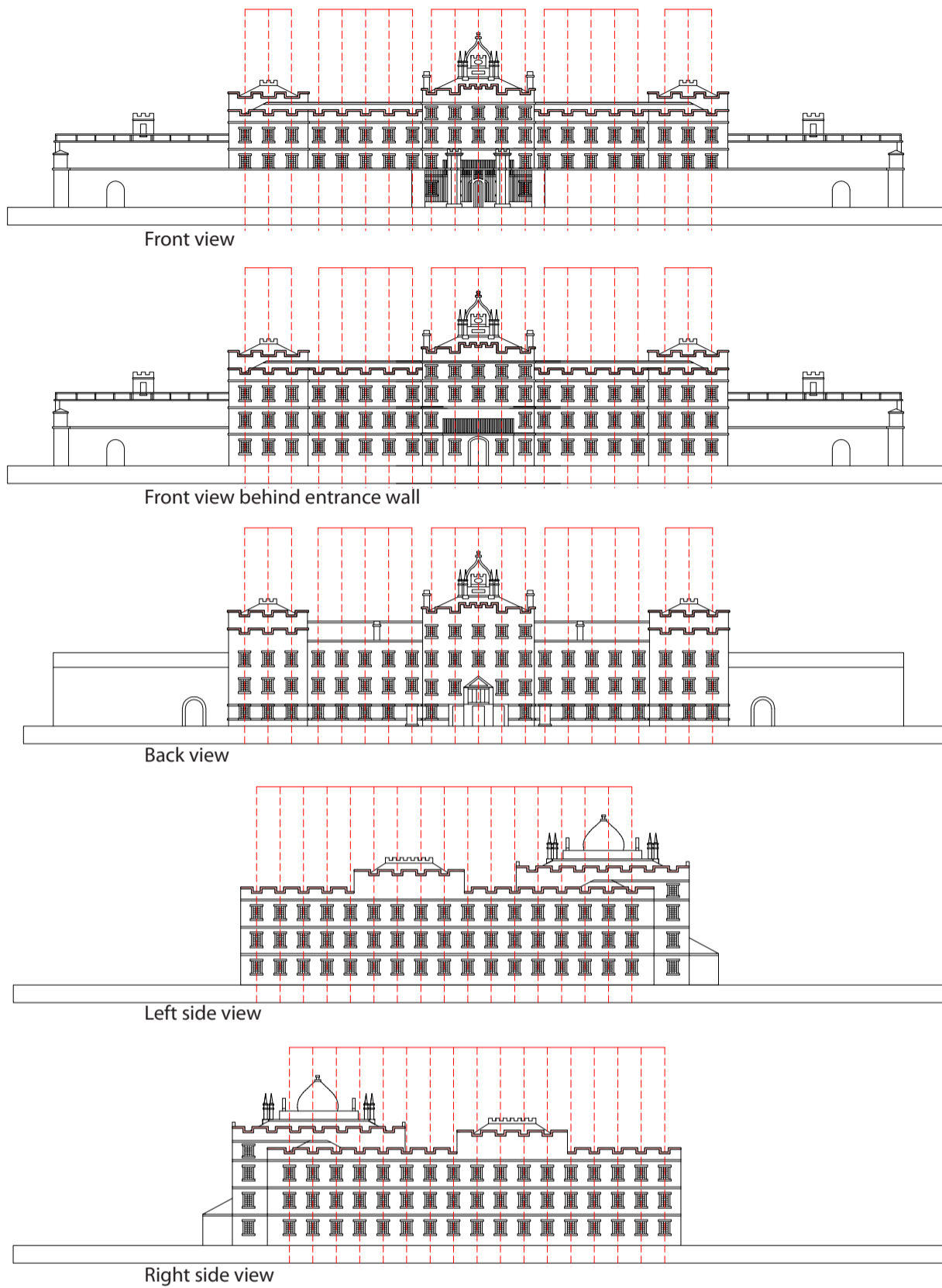
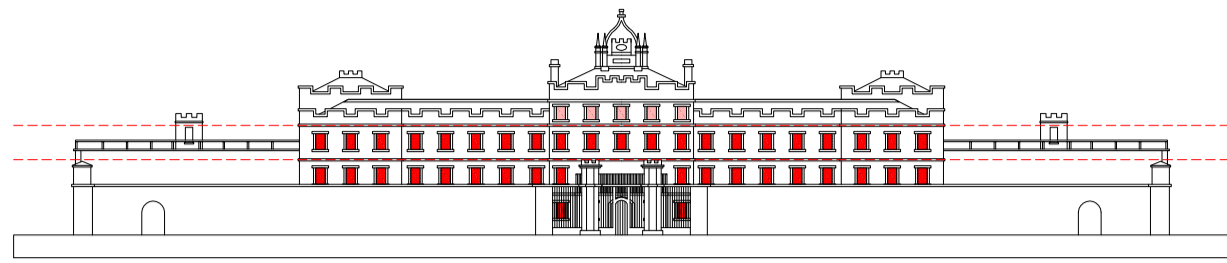


Fig 3.1.12

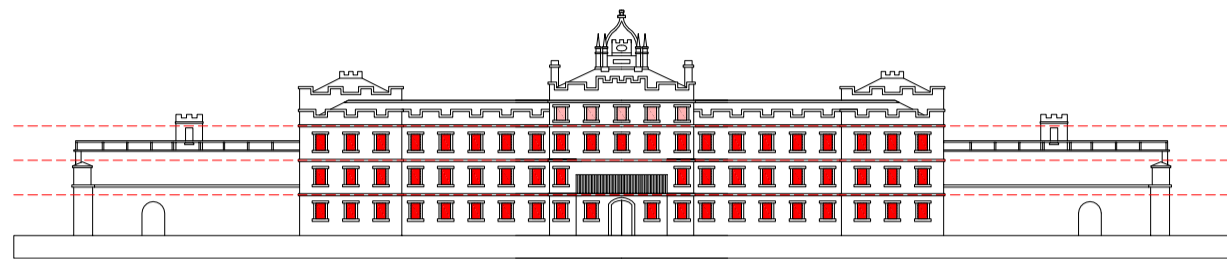
3. Exterior

Repetition

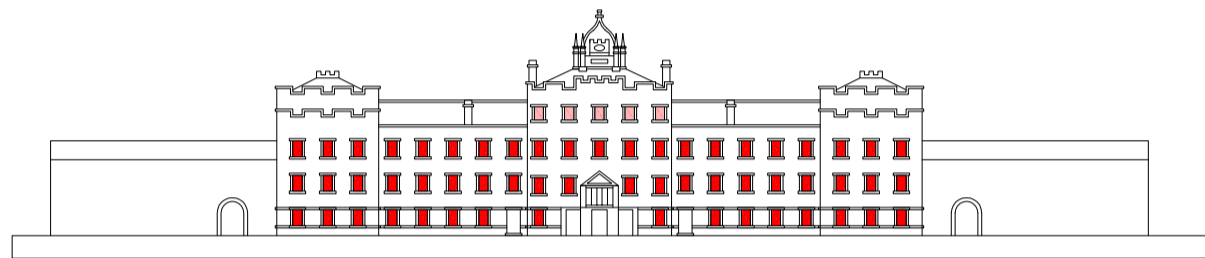
3.1.13 Analysis of the repetition in the facades and plan, scale 1:1000



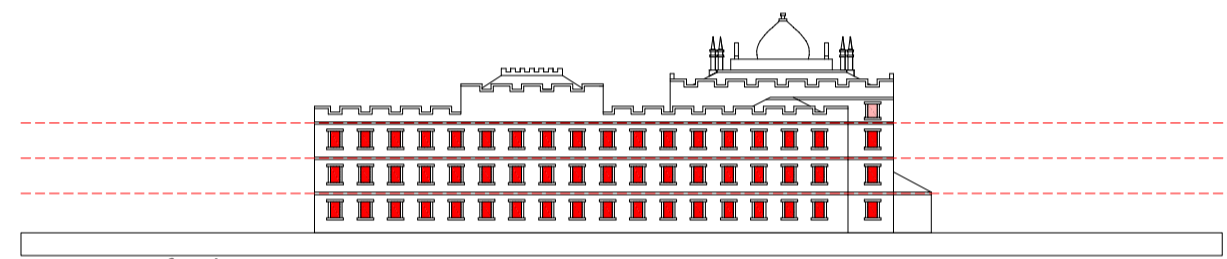
Front view



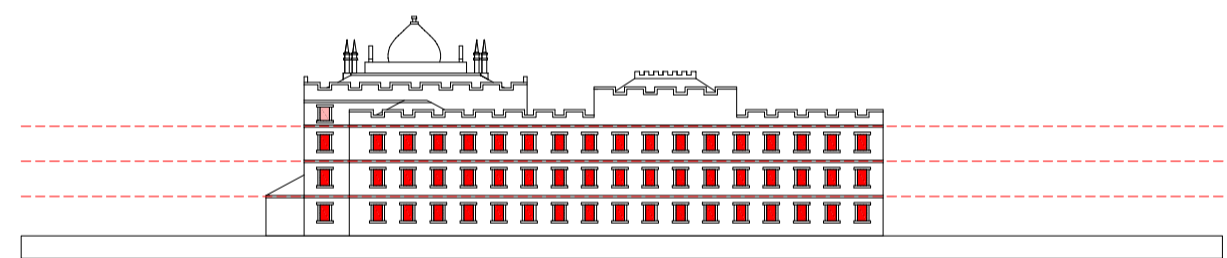
Front view behind entrance wall



Back view



Left side view



Right side view

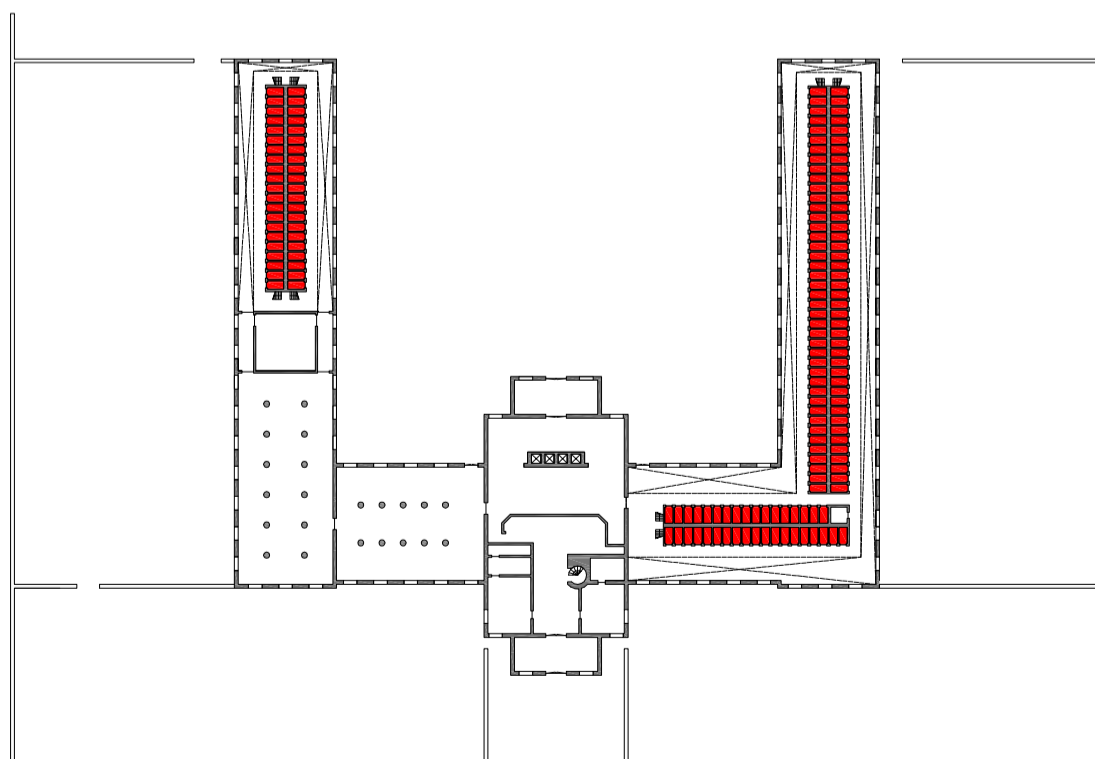
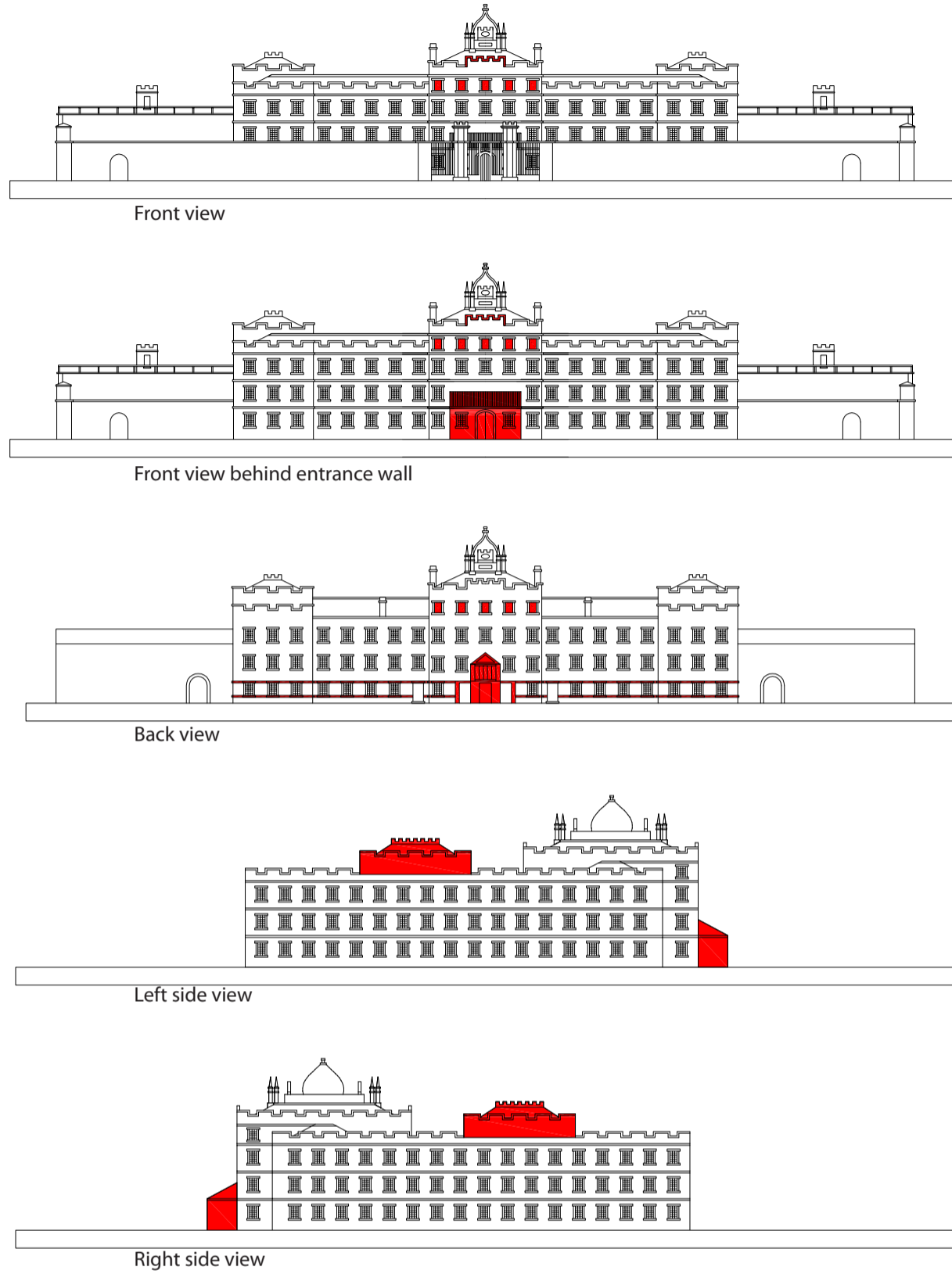


Fig 3.1.13

3. Exterior

Variation

3.1.14 Analysis of the variation in the facades, scale 1:1000



3. Exterior

Transparency

Most prisons have few windows to keep inmates as detached from society as possible. The Auburn prison building is relatively 'open' when it comes to transparency. The inmates are still detached from society because of the thick wall around to building. From the ground floor and from outside the inmates can't see past the wall. Between the cells and the windows is no limitation of the view, so if a cell is placed behind a window the inmate can look outside. The windows in the facades are very rhythmic and repetitive as aforementioned.

Symmetry

Both the outside wall and the facades of the prison building are very symmetrical. The windows, doors, brickwork, battlements and the entrance are all mirrored from the middle of the facades. The left and right wing of the building are also mirrored from the middle. The floor plan is less symmetrical than the facades. The left wing has a different infill than the right wing of the building. However, the wings are symmetrical around their own middle. The cell blocks are placed in the middle of the space and are mirrored from the middle of the wing.

3.1.15 Analysis of transparency in facades, scale 1:1.000

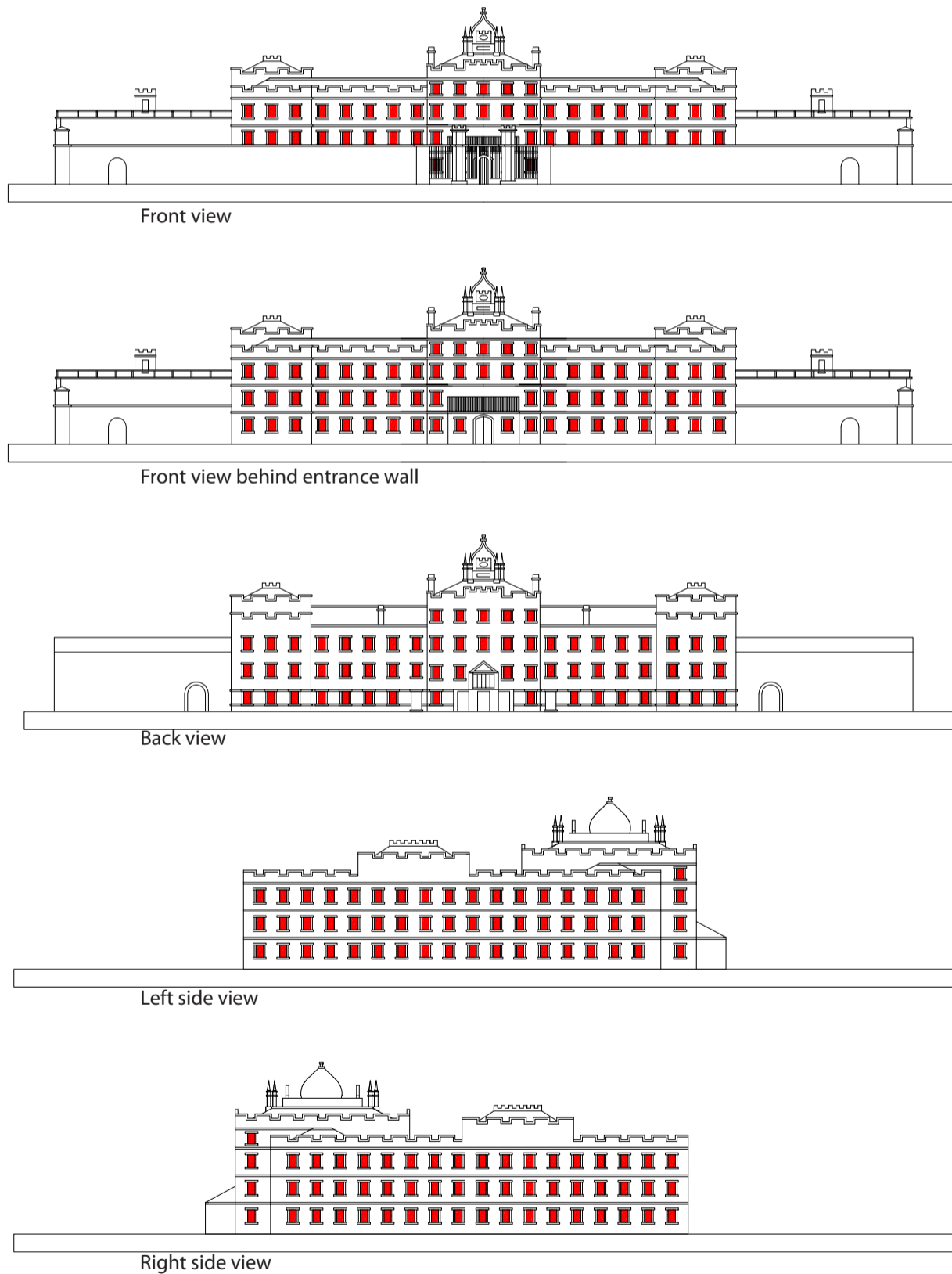


Fig 3.1.15

3. Exterior

4.4 Symmetry

3.1.16 Analysis of symmetry in facades and plan, scale 1:1.000

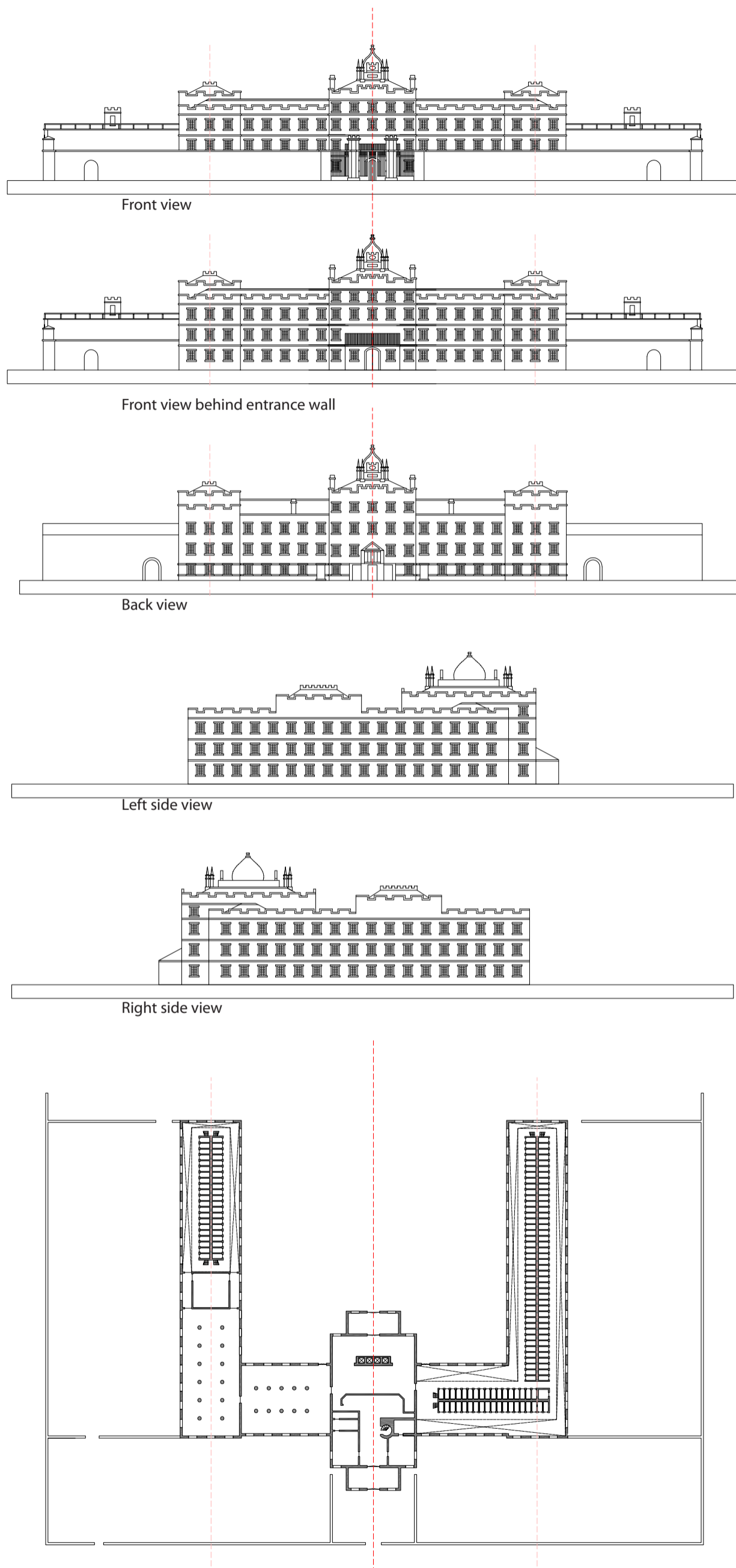


Fig 3.1.16

3. Exterior

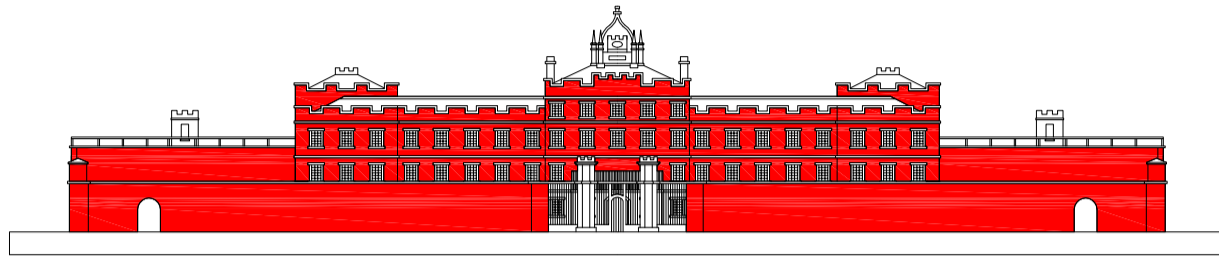
3.04 Façade materials

Auburn prison's facades are entirely made out of large bricks of limestone. The horizontal lines of outstanding brickwork and the frames around

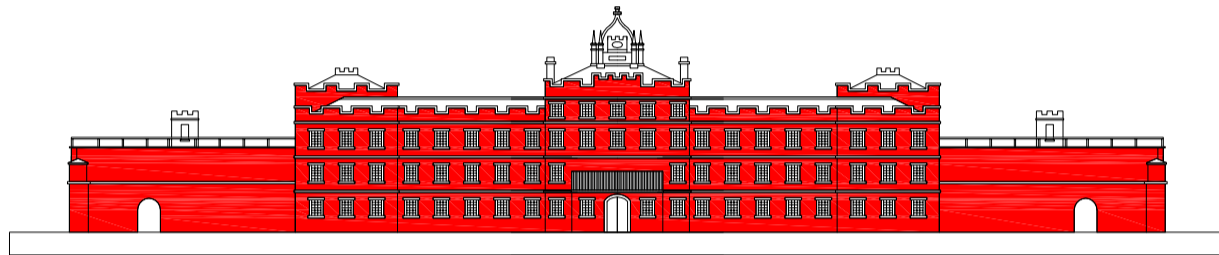
the windows are also made out of the same material. The window-frames are made of wood and are filled with a single layer of glass, which was common in the 19th century. The doors in

the building are made of wood and the fence in the surrounding wall is steel. There is hardly any variation in the materialization.

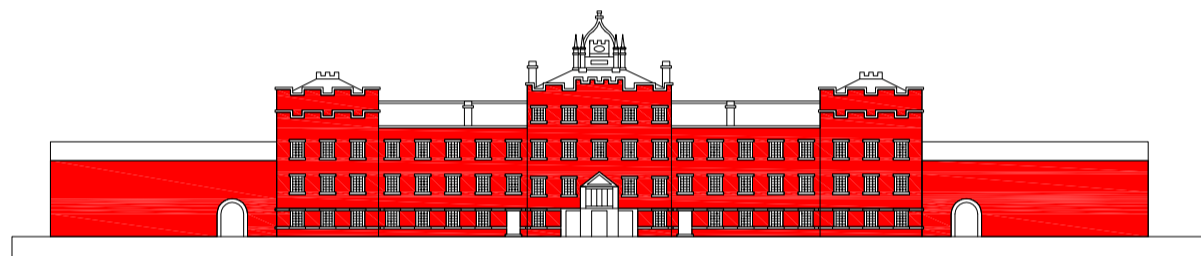
3.1.17 Analysis of lime stone in the facades, scale 1:1.1000



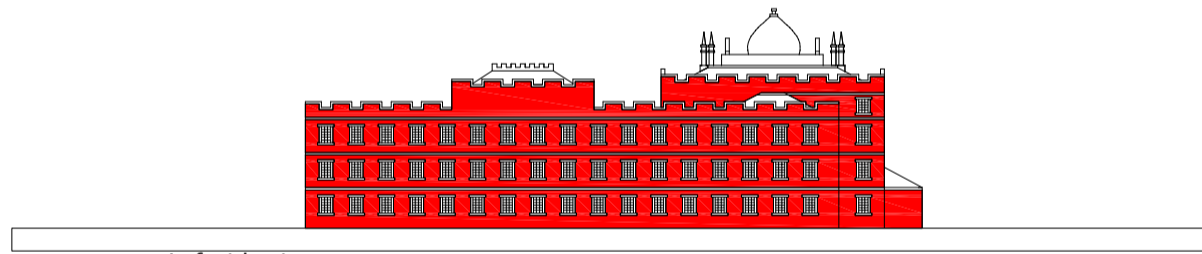
Front view



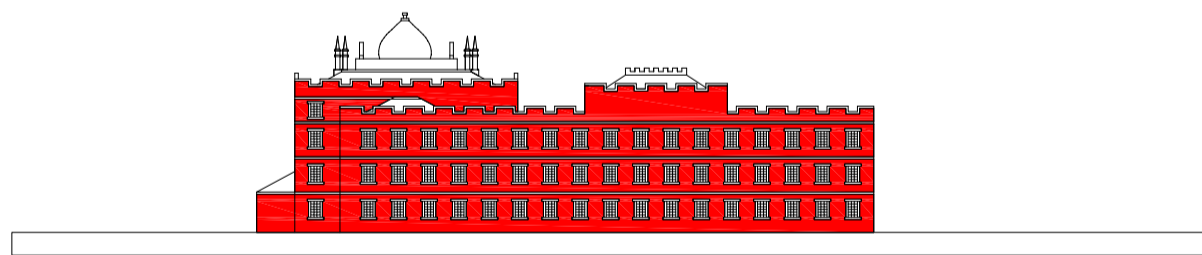
Front view behind entrance wall



Back view

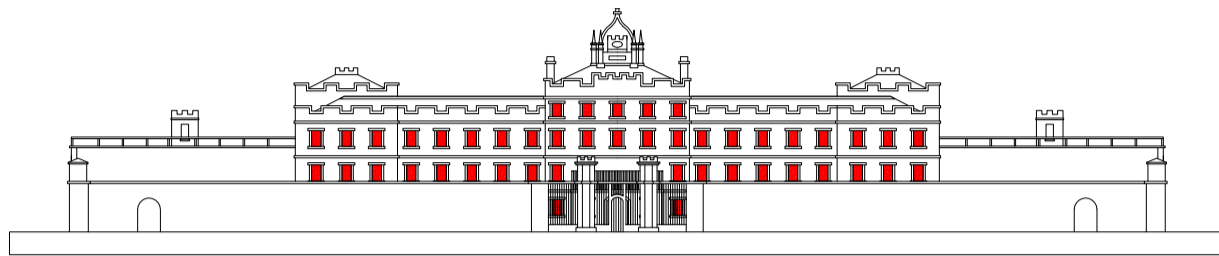


Left side view

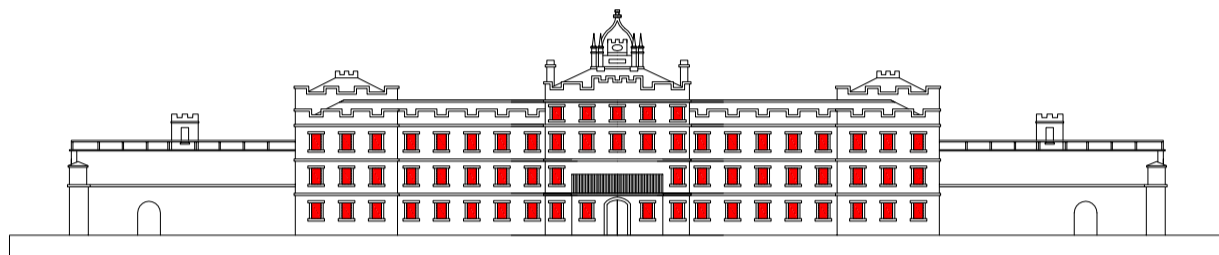


Right side view

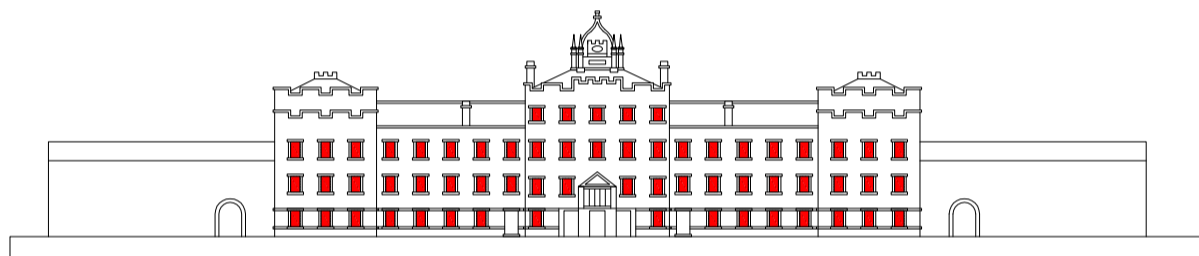
Fig 3.1.17



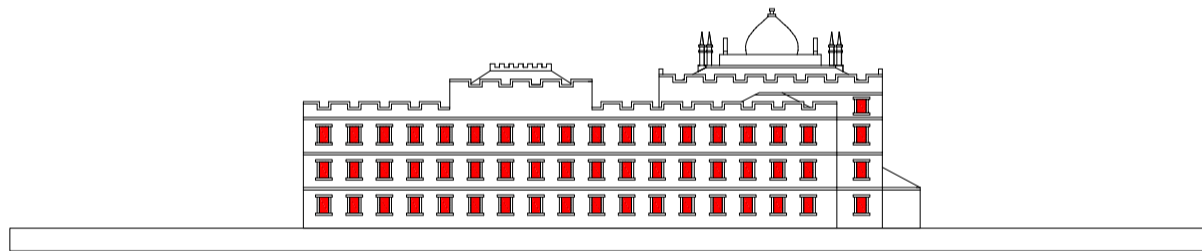
Front view



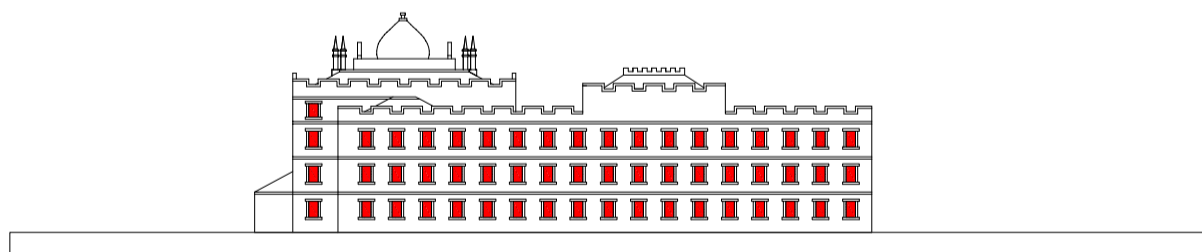
Front view behind entrance wall



Back view



Left side view



Right side view

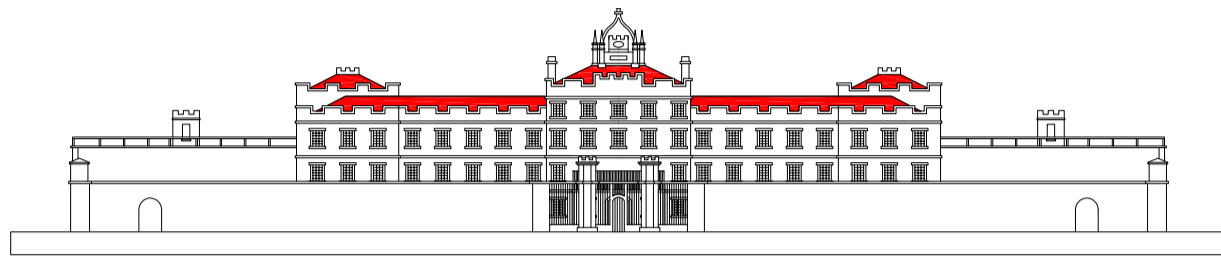
Fig 3.1.18

3. Exterior

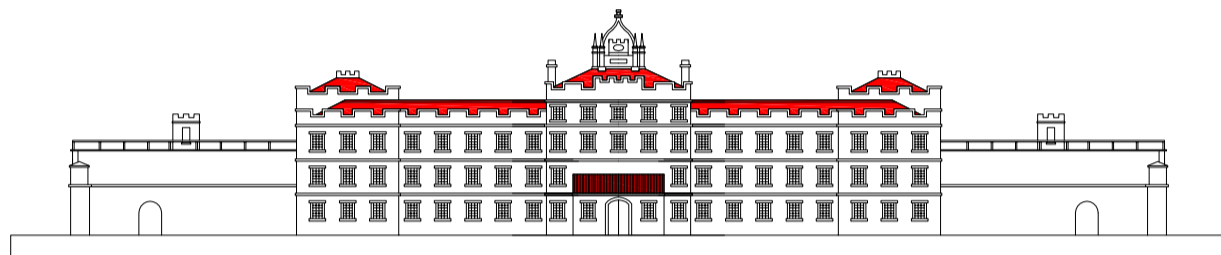
Roofing

The roof of the Auburn prison is made from a different material than the facades. The roofs seem to be made of shingles or roof tiles in anthracite.

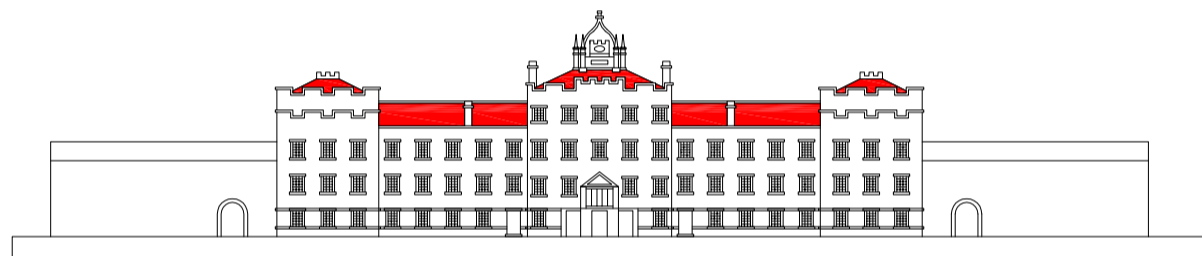
3.1.19 Analysis of roofing in the facades, scale 1:1.1000



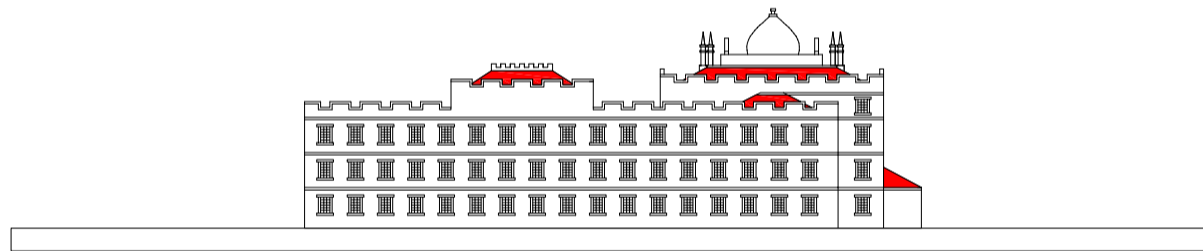
Front view



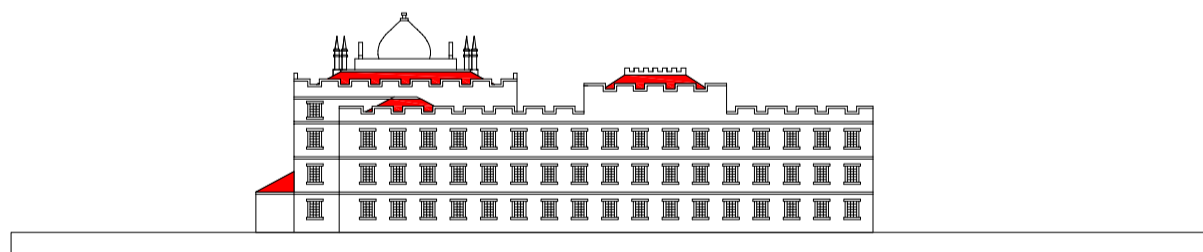
Front view behind entrance wall



Back view



Left side view



Right side view

Fig 3.1.19

3. Exterior

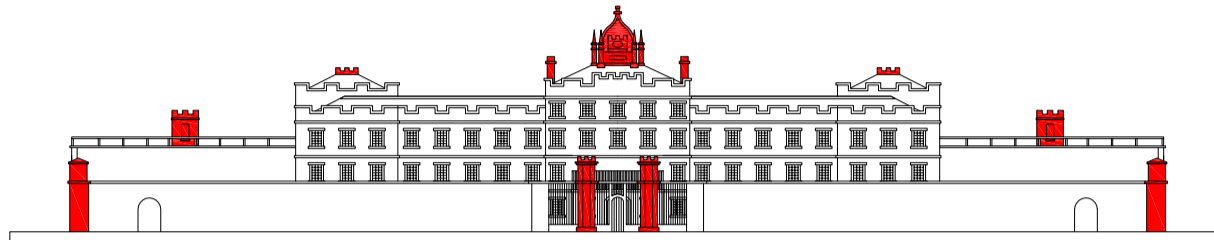
3.05 Ornaments

The outside wall around the building and the prison building itself are quite sober, strict and repetitive in their architecture. Around the doors

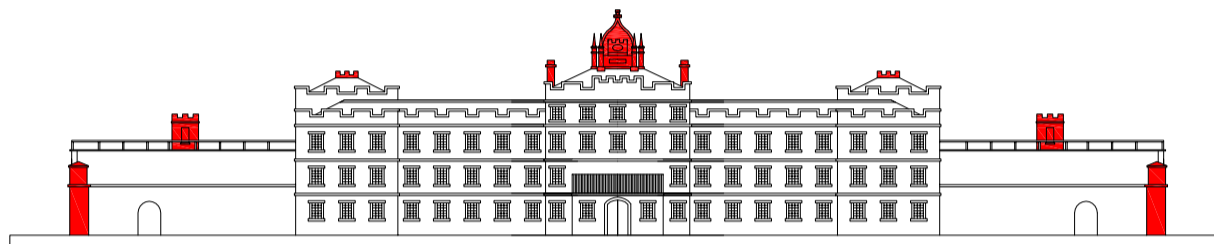
and windows aren't very many ornamental decorations. On the outside wall are turrets to mark the corners and the main entrance. The prison building has ornaments on the roof.

The ornaments give the building more stature and draw the attention to the middle part of the building.

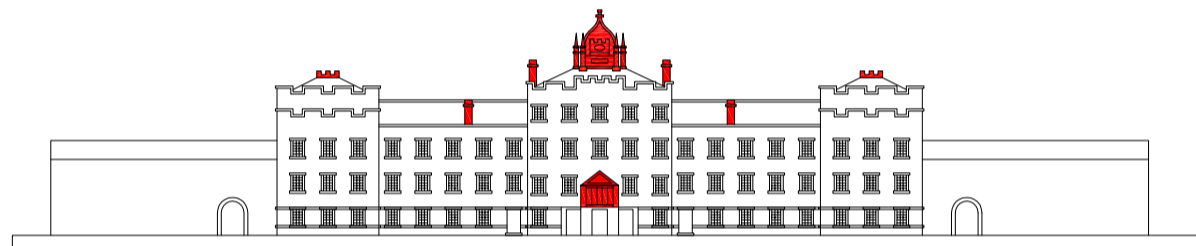
3.1.20 Analyses of ornaments in facades, scale 1:1.000



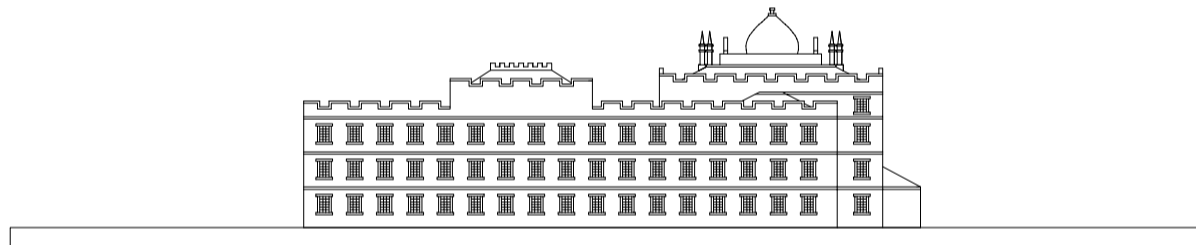
Front view



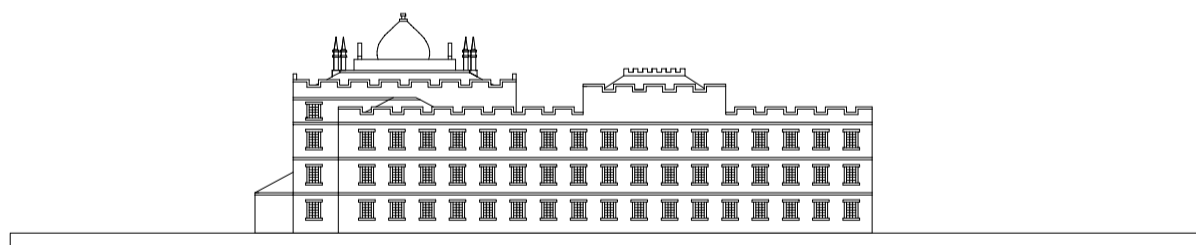
Front view behind entrance wall



Back view



Left side view



Right side view

Fig 3.1.20

4. Interior

4.01 Concept plan composition

This is a simple display of the concept of the building. The building is clearly U-shaped with a dominant block in the middle where the warden and the administrative staff is located. The cells are serially placed with their backs to each other in two different wings. It's clear to see that in the beginning the idea was to keep two kinds of inmates in the prison, because of the two different wings.

4.02 Routing

When getting transferred to the Auburn correctional facility, there is a particular route to the cells. First the prisoner has to go through the large gate to get inside the walls. Then he/she will have to go through a large door to get in the building, where they are stripped from any personal belongings. Then they will either go directly to the right cellblock or to the left cellblock through the dining room and the

fabrication hall. So when the prisoners go to the left cellblock, they will see almost the entire building before they get to their cell.

3.1.21 Concept plan, scale 1:1.000
3.1.22 Routing of the prisoners

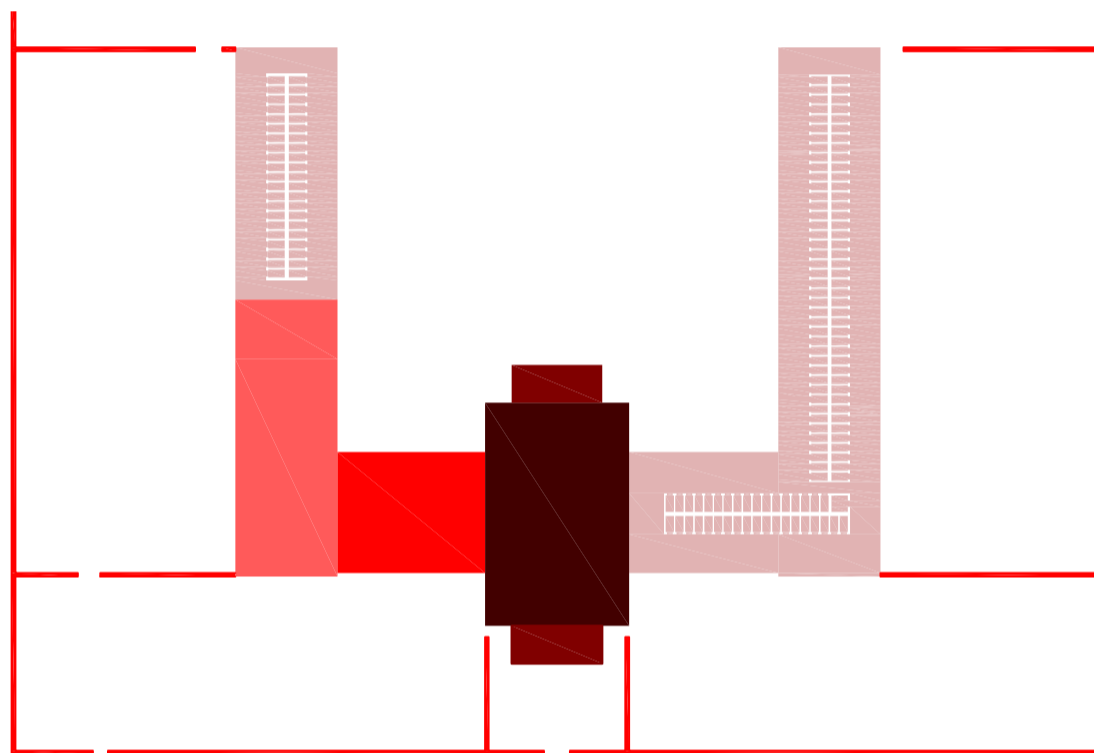
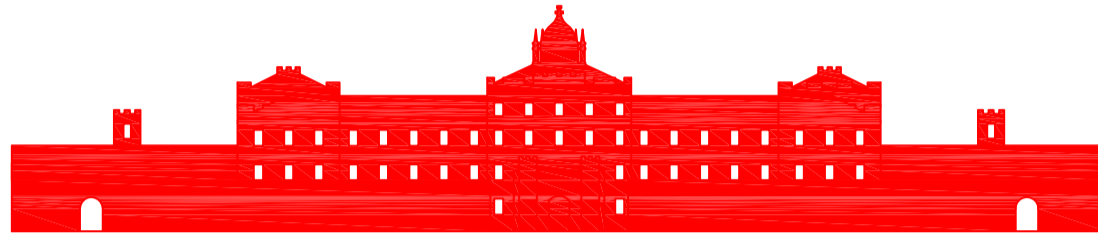


Fig 3.1.21
Cellblocks
Dining room
Working room
Attachments
Administration/office

Fig 3.1.21

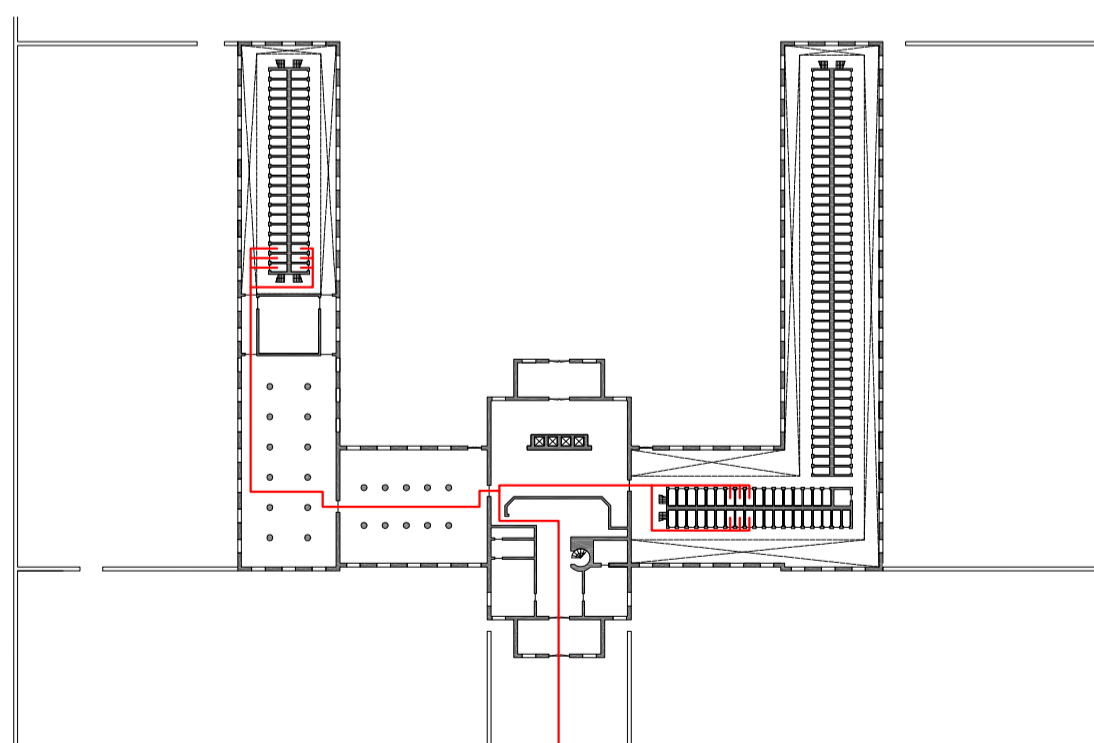


Fig 3.1.22

4. Interior

4.03 Construction

The whole construction consists of limestone. The outer walls are definitely load bearing and the cellblocks probably too. Columns are supporting the building in the dining room and the fabrication hall. The partition walls are not load bearing and only have the function to separate spaces.

4.04 Use of spaces

It is hard to find out what is what in the Auburn Prison, because it is still in use. Therefore it was hard to find accurate plans of the building. Some assumptions had to be made about the interior design. By reading a lot about the prison we found out that there are two wings, one for the male and one for the female prisoners. Also the big block in the middle of the prison is designed for the guards.

The one thing we know about the prison is what regime is applied: The Auburn System. Thanks to this regime there were some logical things to discover, like the guard control. Because of the cell construction belonging to the regime, guards were able to walk along the cells to control the prisoners. Also the big block in the middle of the prison is designed for the guards.

3.1.23 Construction analyses, scale 1:1000
3.1.24 Guards control

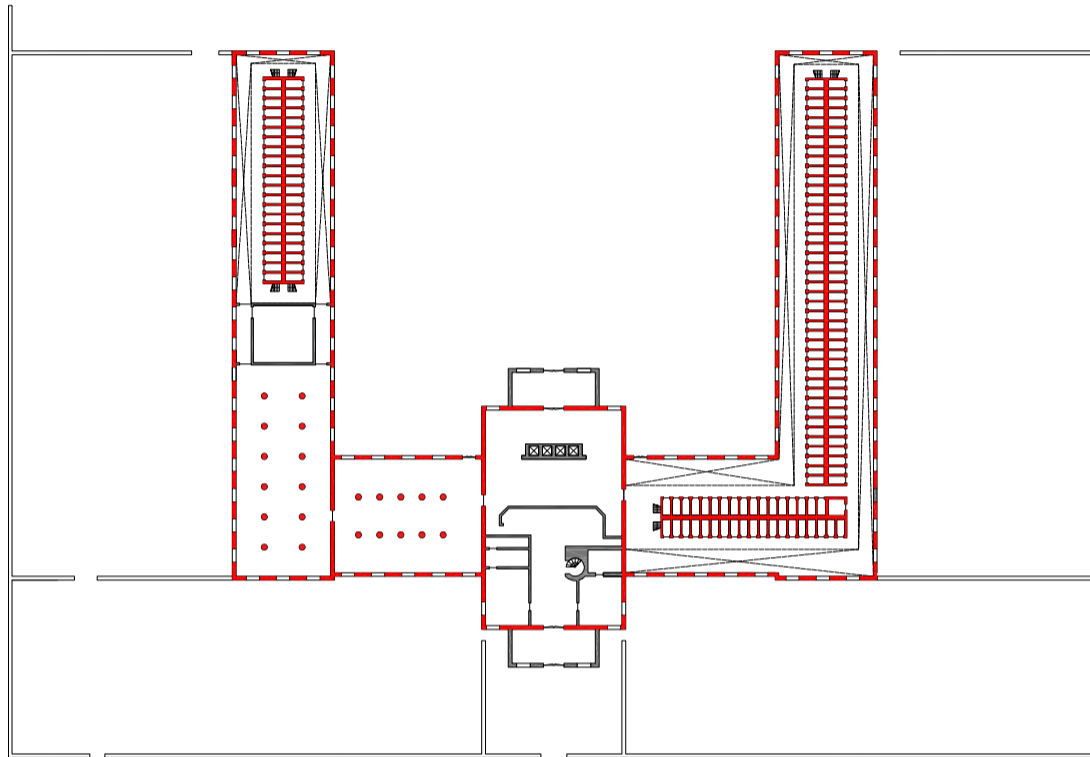


Fig 3.1.23

Fig 3.1.23
Construction walls

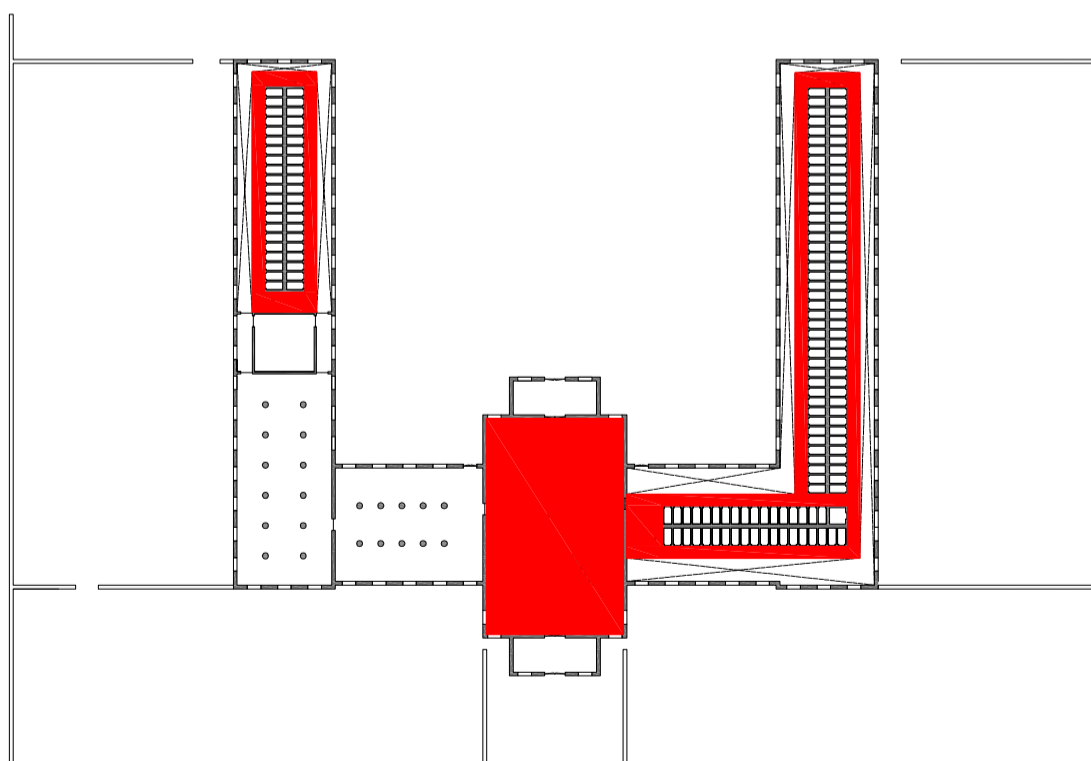


Fig 3.1.24

Fig 3.1.24
Area for the guards

4. Interior

4.05 Use of spaces

Sleeping is the only function of the cells. The functions washing, eating and working are centralized in the building between the two cell wings. This is probably because one wing was assigned to women and one to men. The

administration was done around the reception. This is in the front of the building. This is also the part where the director has his office.

3.1.25 Use of spaces
3.1.26 Women and men cell blocks

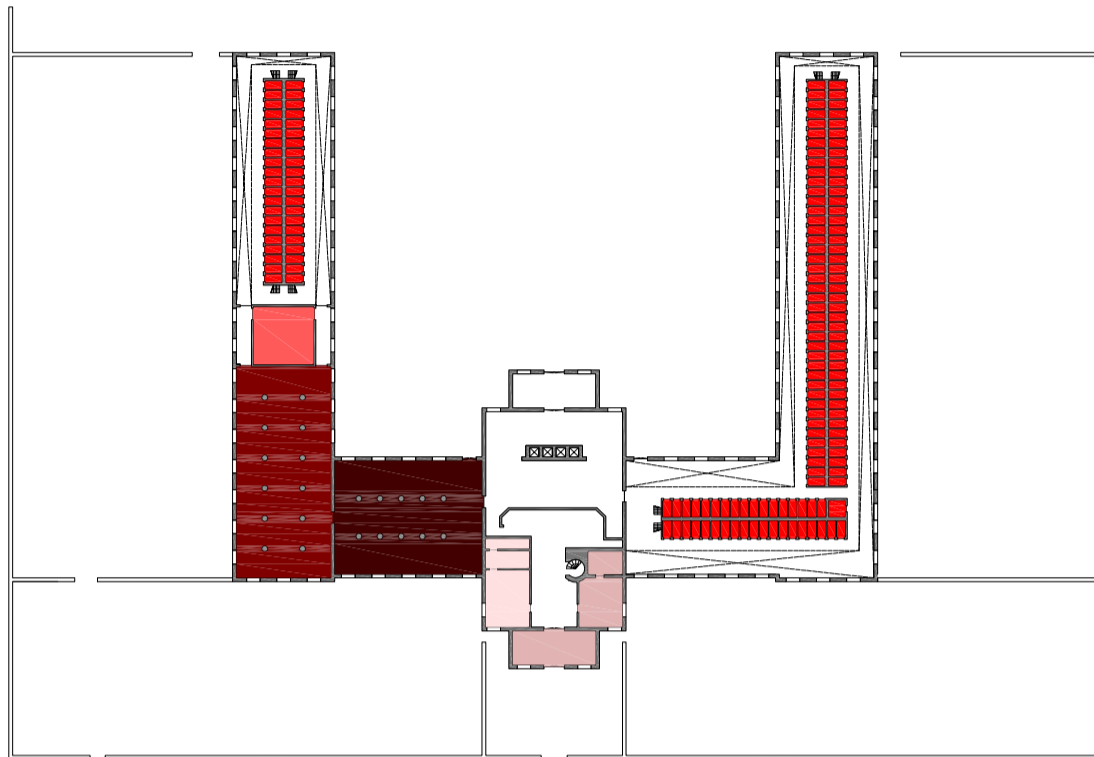


Fig 3.1.25

Fig 3.1.25

- Working
- Eating
- Sleeping
- Washing
- Reception
- Administration

4.05 Types of spaces

There are two wings of cell blocks in the building. One is just for male inmates and the other is for female inmates. The cells in both wings are placed back to back to minimize all contact between prisoners from within their cells.

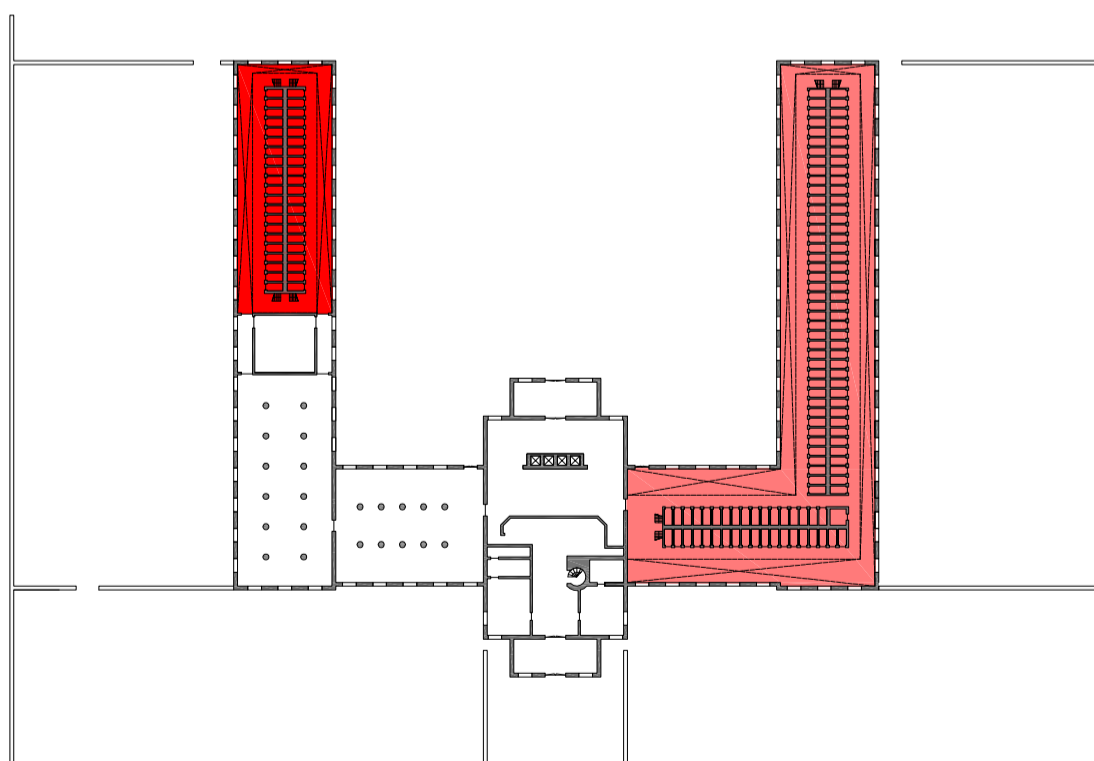


Fig 3.1.26

Fig 3.1.26

- Womens cell block
- Mens cell block

3.1.27 Analysis of the back to back cell construction
 3.1.28 Thresholds, scale 1:1000

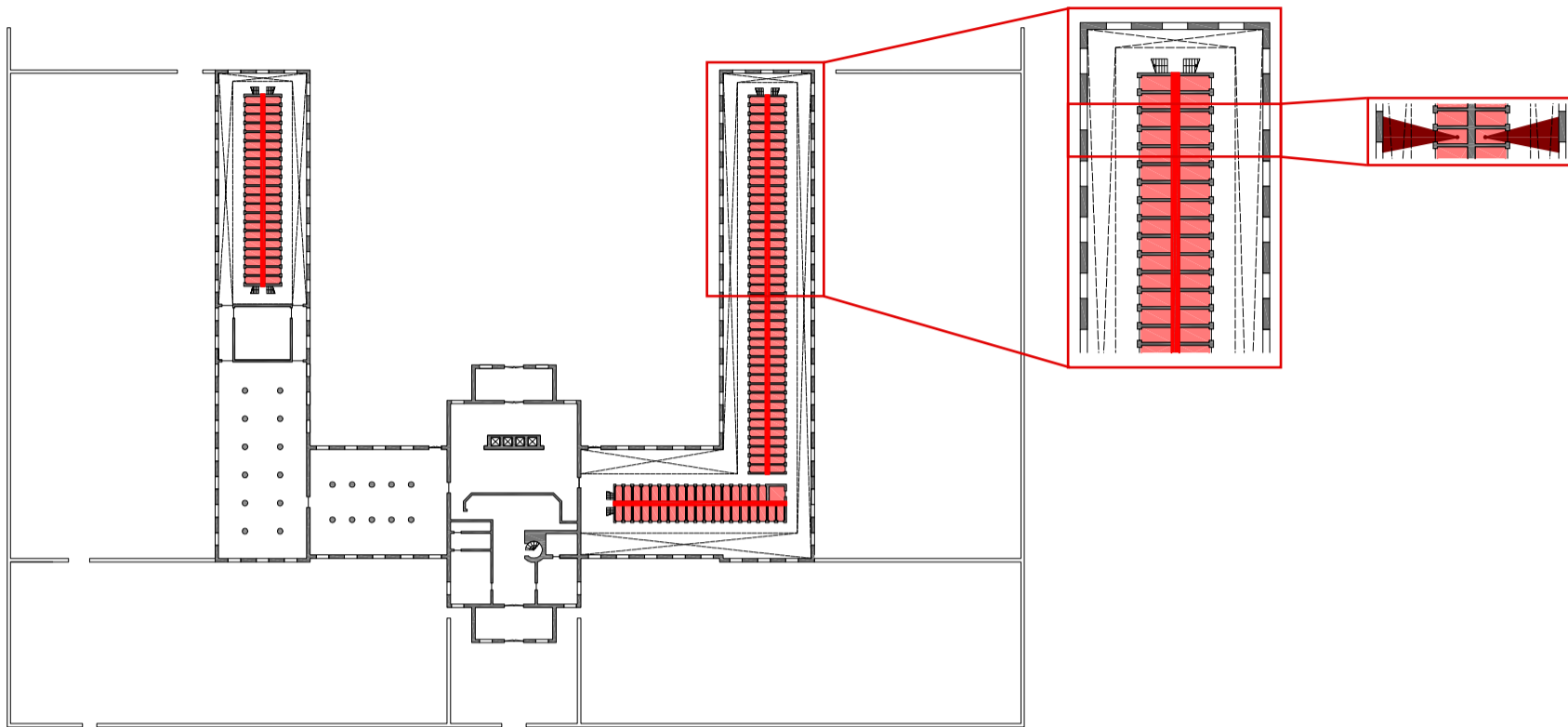


Fig 3.1.27

Fig 3.1.27
 Cells
 Back to back construction wall
 View of the prisoners

4.06 Sequence of spaces

The sequence of space is recognizable in the hall of the cellblocks. The five floor high cellblock and the corridor next to it show a nice sequence.

4.07 Thresholds

In the Auburn prison are two distinct thresholds these are the hallways between the production hall, the shower area and the open space to the cells.

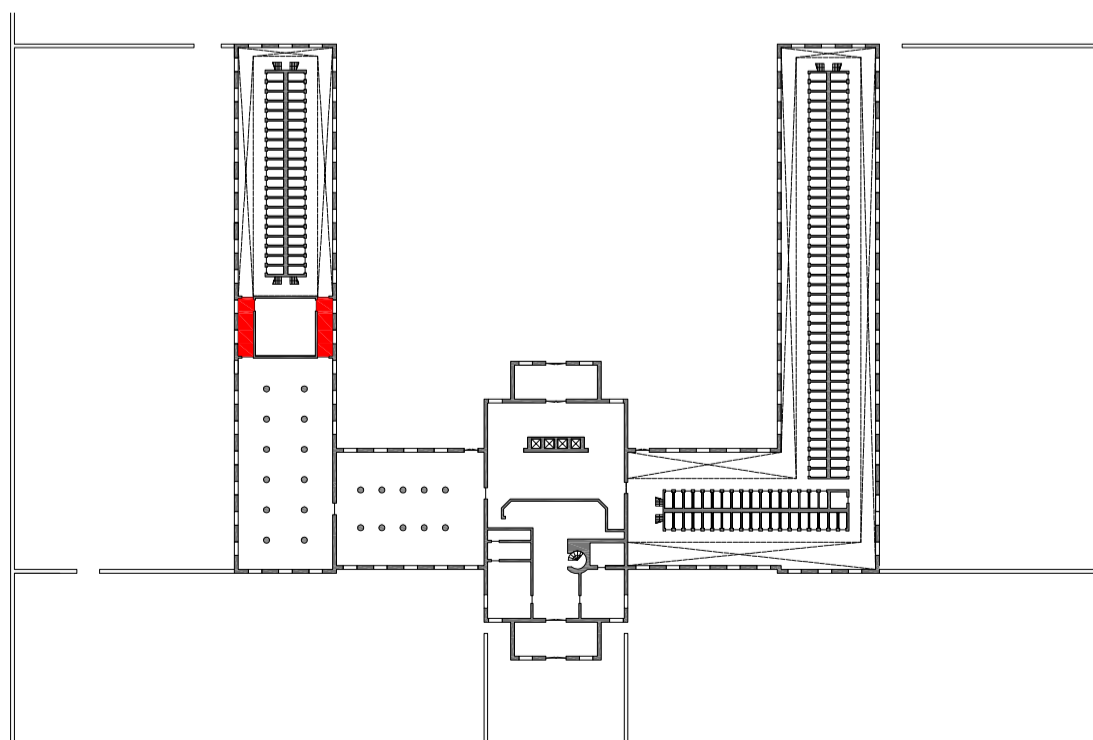


Fig 3.1.28

4. Interior

4.08 Spatial hierarchy

The prison cells are very small, approximately 2 by 1,2 meters. They give the prisoner a real captive feeling. It is in really large contrast with the large open space around the cellblock. This space is four stories high and gives the prisoner a greater feeling of imprisonment.

The hallway between the cellblocks, dining room and the shower area is very small and compact in comparison to the rest of the building. The dining room and fabrication hall are quite large spaces and the shower area is

somewhat more compact.

The main building is full of small rooms and is experienced as oppressive by the prisoners. The courtyard is very spacious of course.

Social hierarchy

Socially, the prison is very weak. In the whole facility it is not allowed to talk to another inmate. The only way for inmates to make contact is with eye contact. But in the cells and when they are being transferred in lockstep it isn't possible and in the main building are normally no inmates. In

the fabrication hall, the shower area, the dining room and the courtyard the prisoners can have eye contact, but the guards will interfere when the prisoners want to communicate.

3.1.29 Analysis of the spacial hierarchy, scale 1:1000
3.1.30 Analysis of the social hierarchy, scale 1:1000

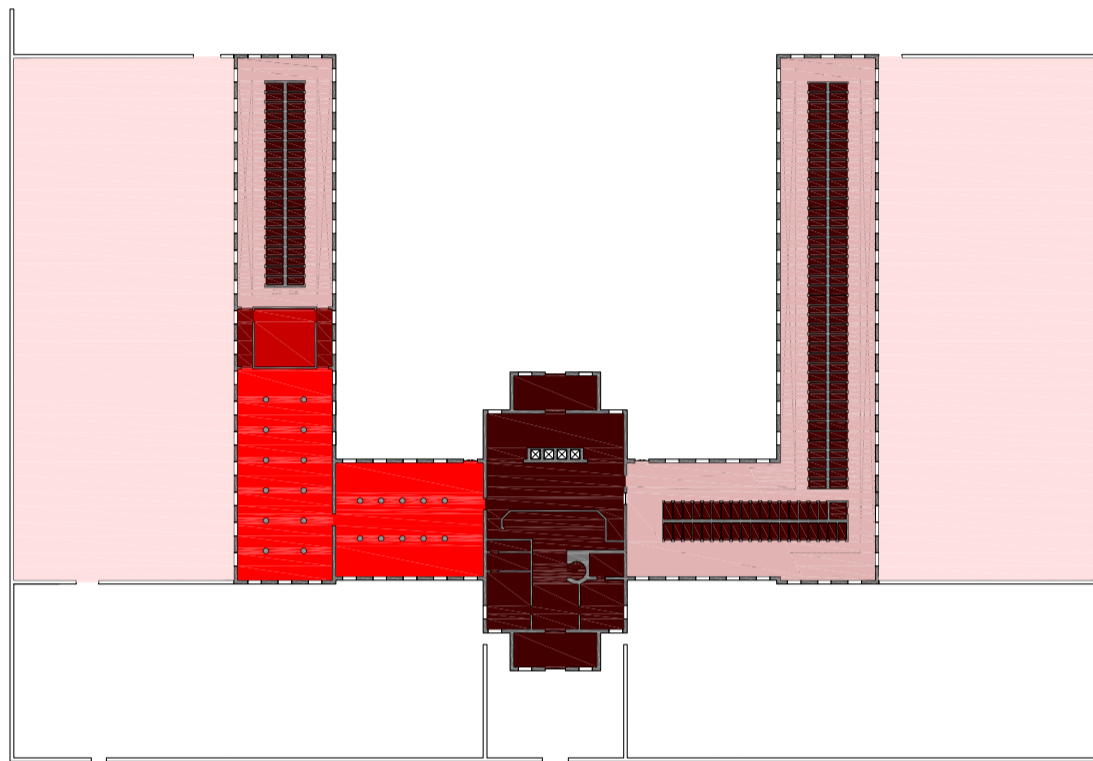


Fig 3.1.29

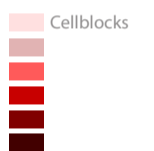


Fig 3.1.29

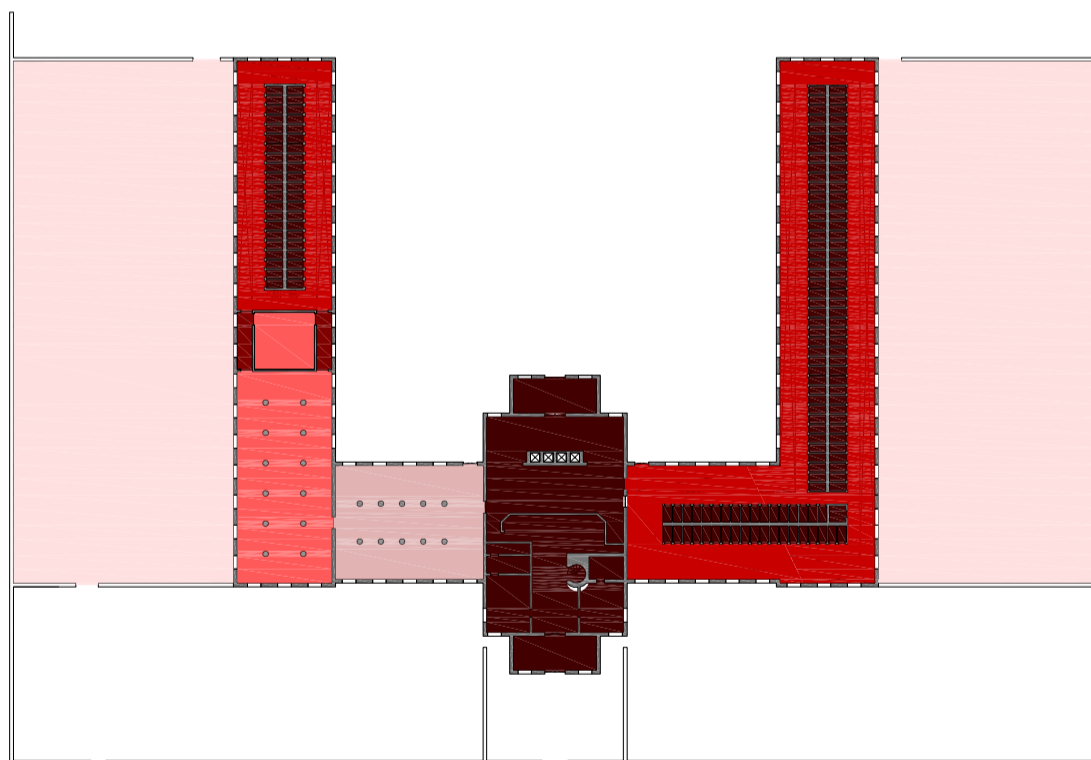


Fig 3.1.30

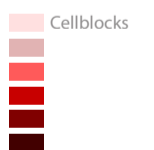


Fig 3.1.30

4. Interior

4.09 Materialization and cladding

The limestone walls and columns of the prison are finished with white paint. The cell doors are made of steel with square holes in them. The galleries to the cell are also made of steel. As mentioned before, the window frames are made of wood and filled with single glazing.

4.10 Interior elements

All the furniture was made of wood, but there is not much known about what kind of furniture was available for the prisoners. The cells are so small, that there probably was only room for a bed and a toilet.

3.1.31 The five floor high cellblock with the corridor

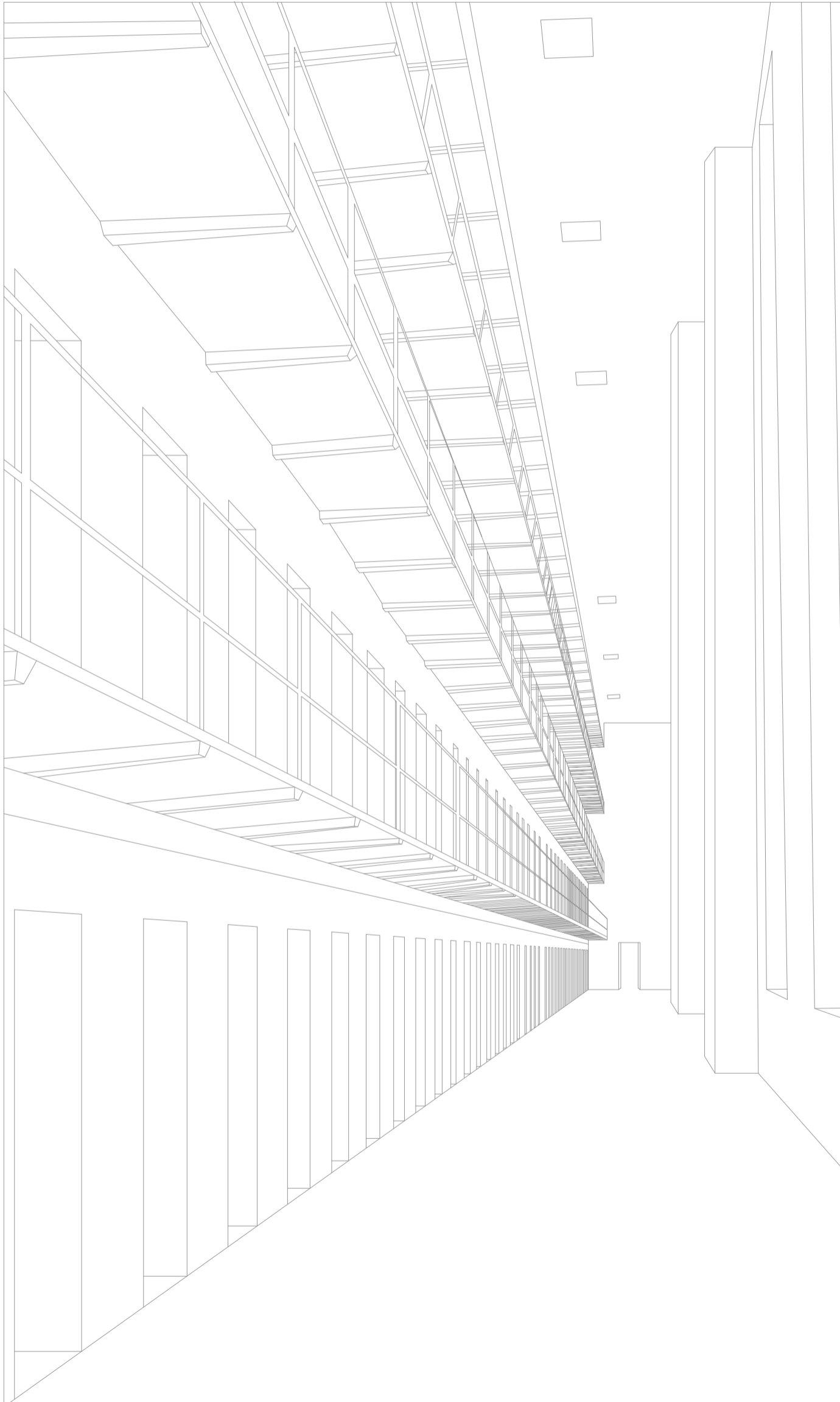


Fig 3.1.31

Concluding drawings



3.1.32 Inside of the cell
nowdays [1.5]
3.1.33 Workplace around
1930 [1.6]

Fig 3.1.32



Fig 3.1.33

Concluding drawings

Conclusion

The Auburn Correctional Facility is a prison that is still in use. Therefore it is really hard to find any plans or drawings of the building. To do the analyses about this prison there had to be made some guesses. The most important information

we have about the prison is the regime that was implemented. The drawings in these analyses are an interpretation of this regime, based on the limited drawings we were able to find. The conclusion drawings are mainly about the regime, about where prisoners could speak and

where they had to be silent.

3.1.34 Analyses of the back to back cell construction
3.1.35 Thresholds
3.1.36 Routing

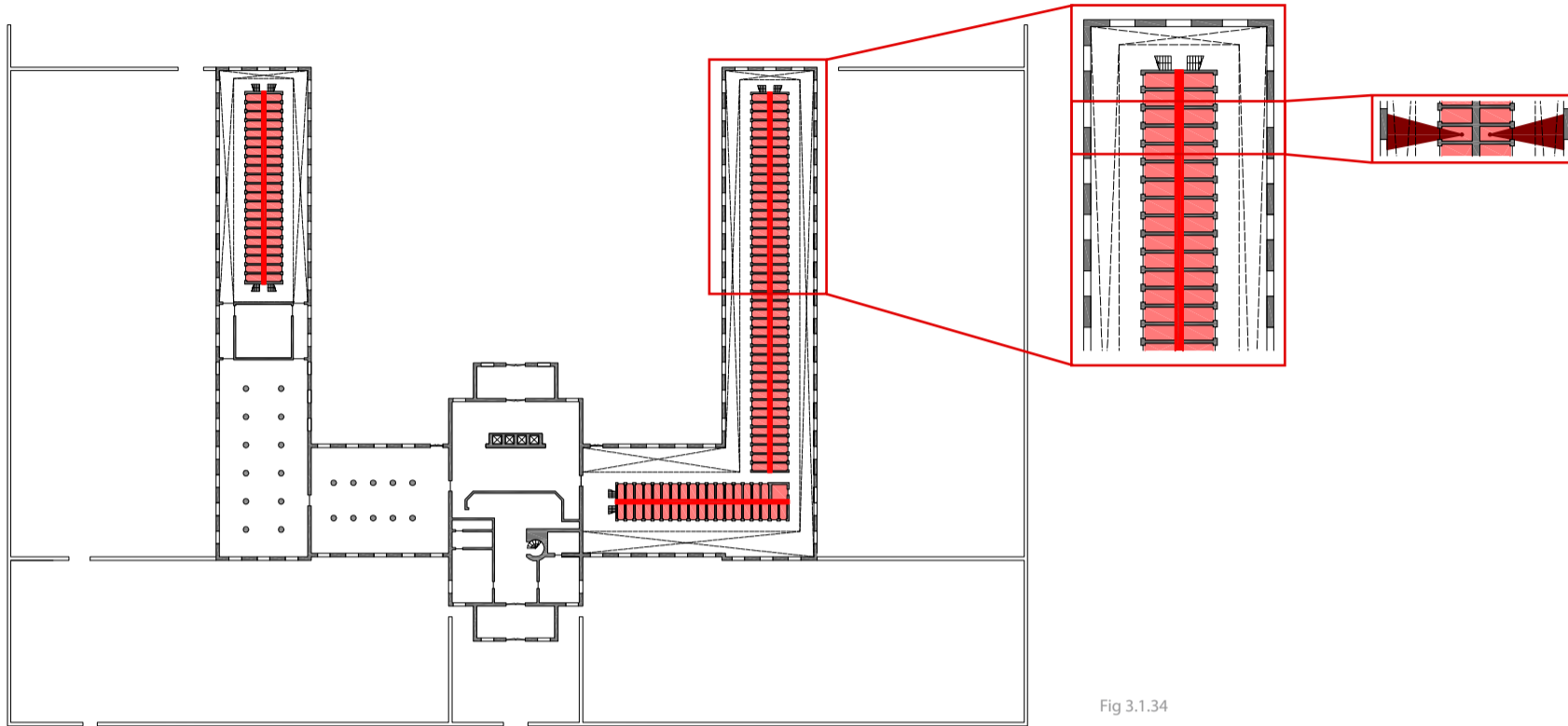


Fig 3.1.34

Fig 3.1.34
Cells
Back to back construction wall
View of the prisoners

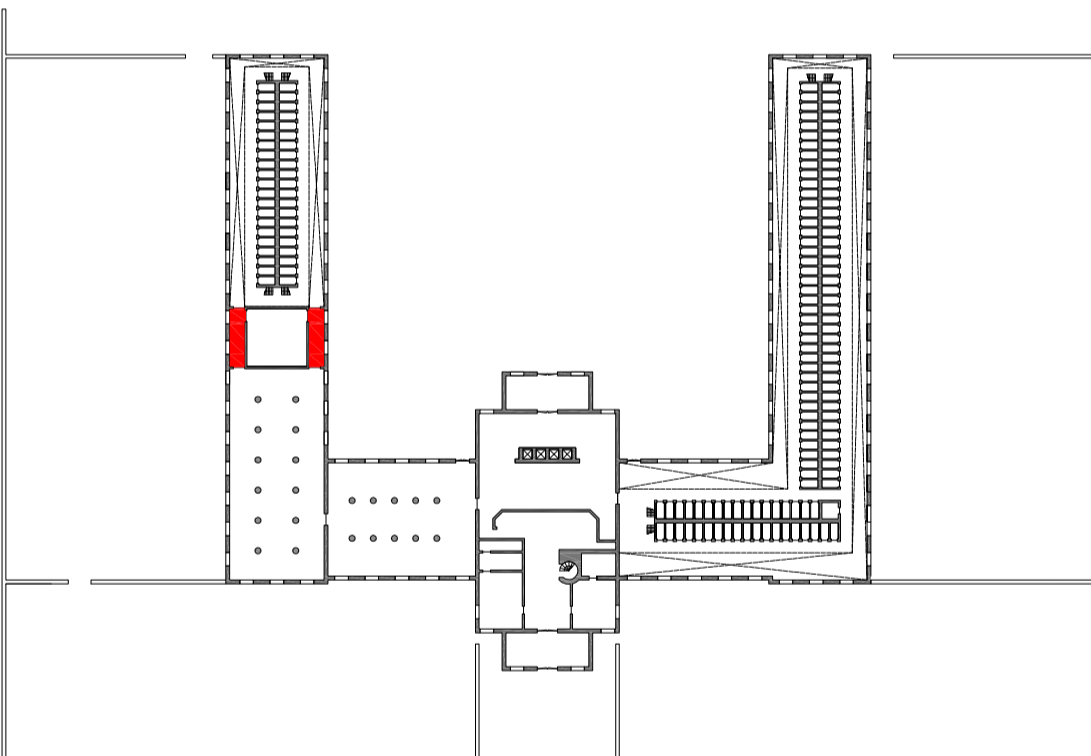


Fig 3.1.35

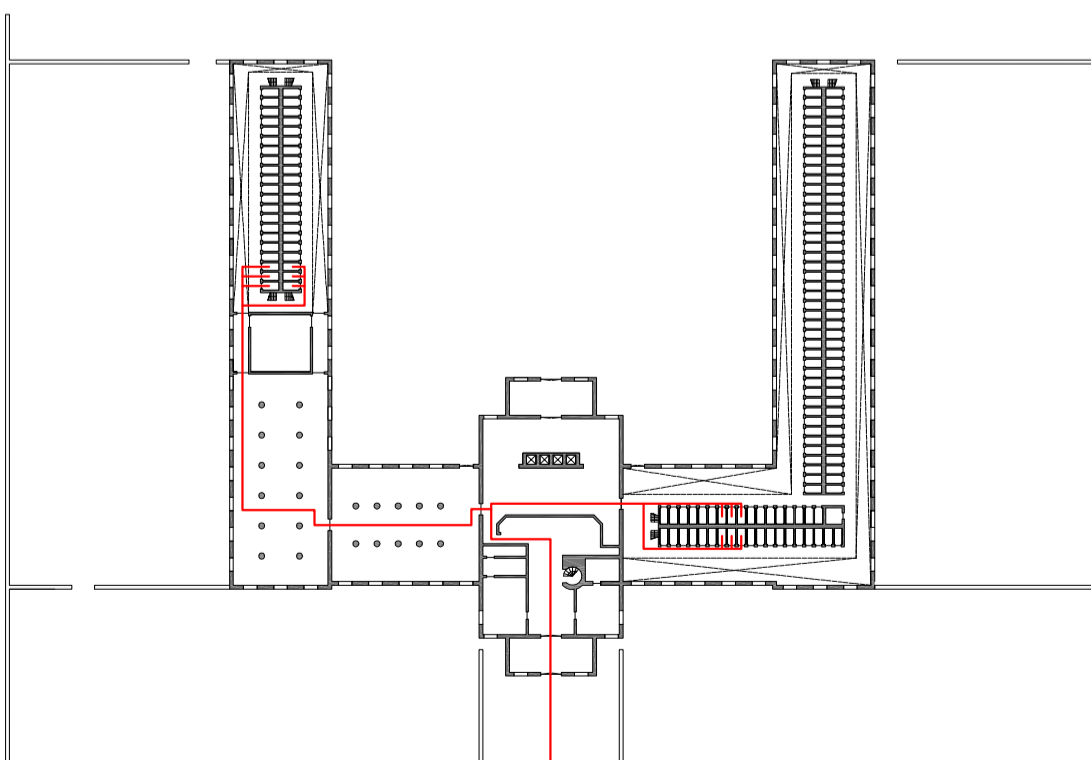


Fig 3.1.36

LITERATURE

Literature

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1.5 <http://media.syracuse.com/>

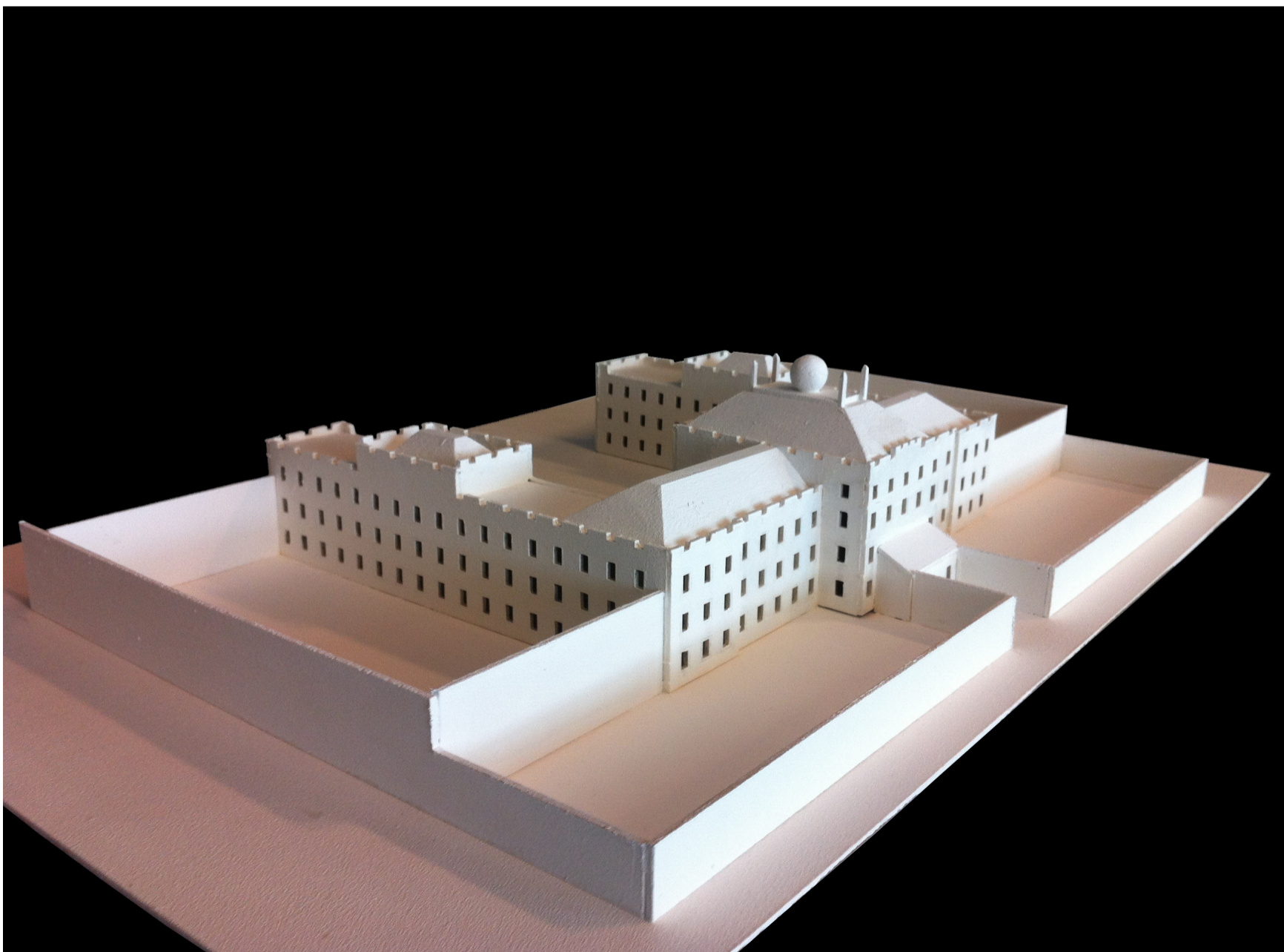
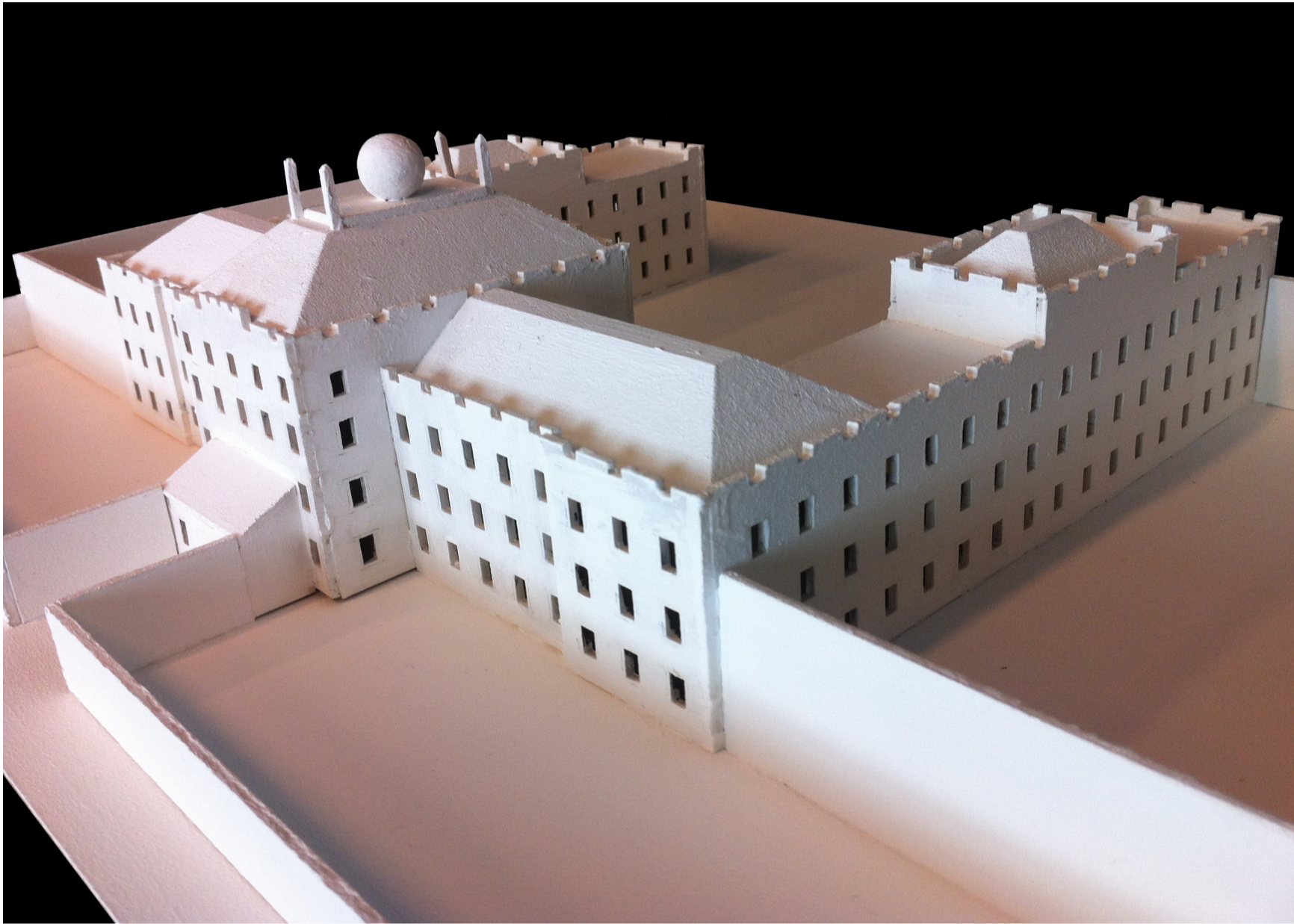
1.6 <http://www.correctionhistory.org/auburn&osborne>

1.7 McHugh, E. (2010) Images of the Auburn Correctional Facility. Arcadia Publishing, Charleston.

Scale model photographs

1.03 Scale model photographs

Pictures of the Auburn scale model, scale 1:333



1.03 Scale model photographs

