PRISON TYPOLOGY

Typological evolution of prison types.

Introduction in typological evolution in prisons.
In the ancient history prisons have changed from a cage to lock up convicted persons until the penalty has been carried out, towards an institution where prisoners get educated. The goal was the return of the prisoners to society by rehabilitation. This essay is about the major shifts and changes in prisons and penitentiaries over time. To analyze these changes we made different criteria to be able to categorize different types of prisons. Prison types can be divided into three different catagories:
- Regime types
- Building types
- Types of inmates

In this essay we analyzed these different features and studied the relations between them. Because the changes in prisons are an evolutionary process, timelines are a very important part of the analysis.

Introduction in the structure of the essay.
Three different catagories are used to give the essay structure; Regime types, buidling types and types of inmates. The individual types within these catagories are describes first in the essay. The cohesion and the relation between them is mentioned after, in the chapters 'relations' and 'conclusion' .

In order to mark the differences between the types we used specific icons in the timelines. The icons show different features of the prisons. In regimes for example: solitary or group confinement, allowed to work or not, etc.

Similarities and differences between different types are easy to recognize with these icons. In the text after the icons, more is told about the history and charasteristics of the type.
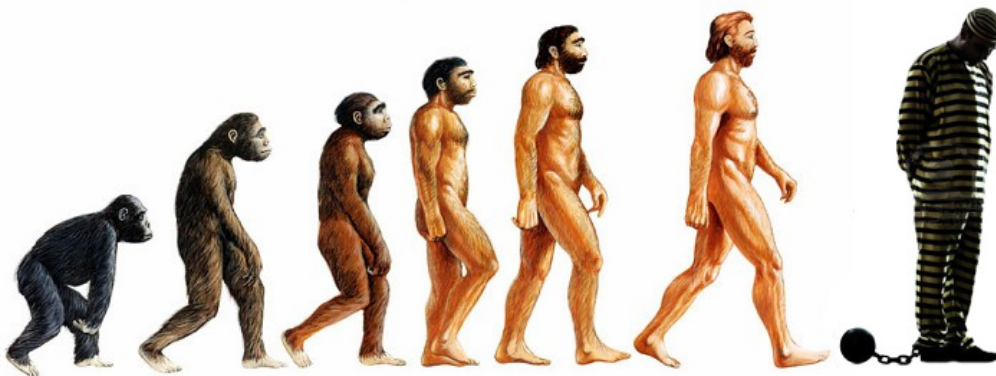
Fig 1.1.1

Regime types

Regimes are the different types of supervising systems used in prisons. A regime indicates what inmates are allowed or forbidden to do and how their daily schedule looks like, but also about how the guards do their work and how guards and inmates relate to each other. A regime is the complete set of rules and standards of a prison. Over time, different regime types were evolved. They were mostly an evolution or a contradiction to their predacessor. The evolotionary process is displayed in the timeline of figure 1.1.4.

For every regime type is abstracted summary of the main activities. In figure 1.1.2 are the icons that are used to further elaborate the regime types. These icons clarify what is and what is not allowed.
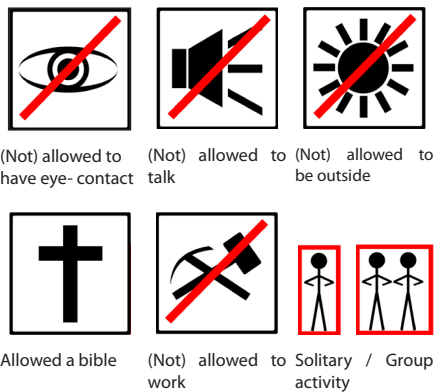

(Not) allowed to have eye- contact | (Not) allowed to talk | (Not) allowed to be outside

Allowed a bible | (Not) allowed to work | Solitary / Group activity

Fig 1.1.2

- Centralized System (1773)

fig 1.1.3

The centralized system is the earliest standardized regime for American prisons. Before 1773, prisons existed, but there were no universally used regime types to organize a prison. The centralized system originated alongside with the building types needed to make this kind of regime possible. In the centralized system all prisoners can be observed from one point in the center of the prison. These prisons were therefore round or had corridors that originate from the middle. The supervision in these prisons was very efficient because few guards could supervise all prisoners. However, when something would happen in these prisons, the guards would be greatly outnumbered by the prisoners. This is why a very strict regime was implemented. Prisoners were

not allowed to talk, communicate, work or even go outside. This does not mean that they never did make contact, but they were punished if they did.
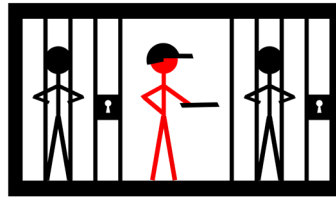
- Quaker System (1775)

fig 1.1.4

In the 18th century prisons were mostly just a place to keep prisoners to await there trials, where they would be sentenced to death or torture. The implementation of the Quaker system has shed new light on prison systems. The Quaker system was developed by a religious community called the Quaker's. They were strongly opposed to the death penalty and wanted to punish and (most importantly) rehabilitate prisoners with solitary confinement and helping them find God. The first prison based on the Quaker system was built in the courtyard of the Walnut Street Jail in Philadelphia. The only activity prisoners were allowed to do was a reading the bible. Reading the bible was considered a privilege and was only allowed if the prisoner showed good behavior.
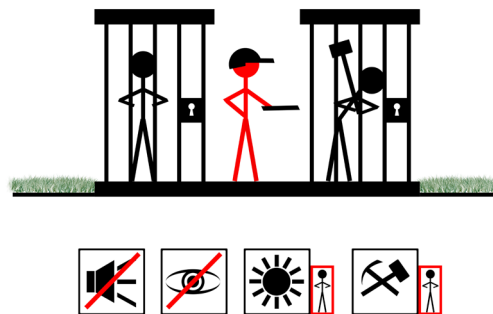
- Pennsylvania System (1821)

fig 1.1.5

The Pennsylvania system is an evolution of the Quaker system. It was first implemented in the Eastern State Penitentiary in Philadelphia in 1830. After 1904 the Pennsylvania system started to become less strict. Until 1904 prisoners were brought into the prison wearing a black hood so they would not see other inmates. From there on they would never have contact with anyone, until they would eventually be released. Prisoners were now allowed to go outside, but only for a limited time and only in their own small terrace. Sometimes they were also allowed to work, as a privilege for good behavior. The working still took place in complete solitude.
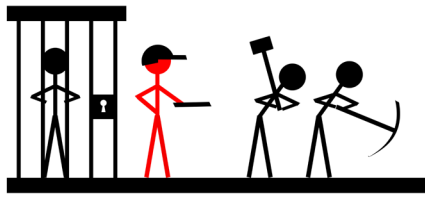
- Auburn System (1821)

fig 1.1.6

As opposed to the focus on solitude in the Pennsylvania system, the Auburn system focuses on rehabilitation by labor and hard work. The prisoners should get a sense of responsibility and know how they actually should earn their money. Prisoners were allowed to go outside for a few hours a day and were allowed to communicate there, as long as they would not form groups or gangs. Labor was mandatory and only the criminals with mental instability, aggressiveness or a high flight risk were kept in their cell during working hours. The Auburn system, first used at the Auburn Prison in New York, gained popularity amongst prisons and states because of the good results in terms of rehabilitating prisoners. The system would eventually be applied in prisons that originally worked under a different regime.
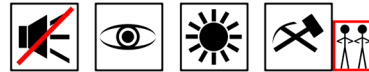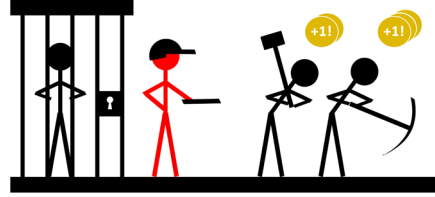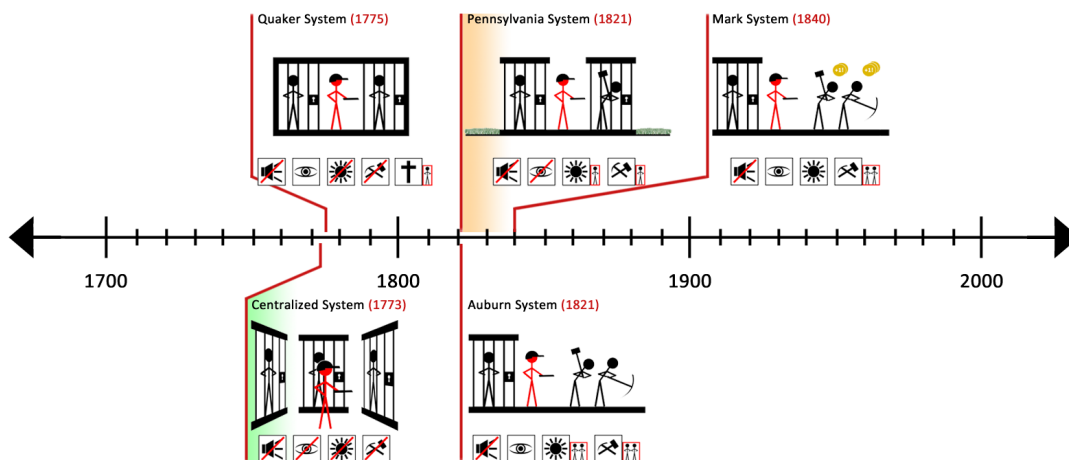
- Mark System (1840)

fig 1.1.7

The Mark System is a completely different regime than the previous ones in terms of punishment. Normally, a judge or jury would sentence a criminal to a number of years in prison. However, in the Marks system a prisoner would not get a number of years in prison, but a number of points (or marks) to gain in prison. Prisoners would have to do chores and labor to gain points. Point would be deducted for bad behavior or attempts to escape. This way the prisoners would learn the value of hard work and good behavior, it would eventually get them freedom. The system was developed by Mr. Maconochie on the Norfolk Islands, a small British colony by the coast of Australia in 1840.

fig 1.1.8

Building types

In the prison architecture there are different types of shapes recognizable. There are various clear building types as described below. There are also hybrid building types. The hybrid types are contractions of two or more building times. From the 20th century on more hybrid types emerged to meet the demands of modern prisons.

- Rectangular shape

fig 1.1.9

The rectangular shape of prison is recognizable as the first clear building type for prisons. This shape was first used in 1704 as the St. Michaels Prison in Rome (fig 1.2.7), designed by the architect Carlo Fontana. In this rectangular shape cellblocks are placed right and left of a large passage. San Michele inspired prison reformers to pursue a variety of reform initiatives, particularly in hygiene. Much planning went into the placement of wall latrines in the cells between two windows to allow the free passage of air. Similar regard was given to the importance of bathing and cleaning clothes. Another principle favored by the architect Fontana was the desirability of adequate lighting and visibility for supervision. The building structure allowed guards, priests, and officers to monitor the convicts from their quarters even when off duty.
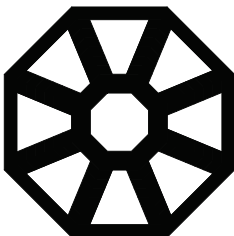
- Octagonal shape

fig 1.2.0

The octagonal shape was first designed in 1773 as a villain's penal workhouse at Ghent (fig 1.3.0). It was designed with cell-blocks radiating out in eight spokes or wings from a central court toward the octagonal containing wall. Although the building structure at Ghent was never implemented as planned, it is believed to be the first utilization of the inside-cell construction, with the cells back to back in the center of each wing. They were presumably so designed to give additional security by eliminating all contact of inmates with the outer walls of the wings. The Ghent concept of inside cells was later adopted in the famous 'Auburn system' of prison architecture.

- U-shape

fig 1.2.1

'The Walnut street Prison' in Pennsylvania (fig 1.2.8) was the first U-shaped prison. The building was designed to keep groups of inmates in large rooms. It was designed by Robert Smith, one of the most prominent architects in Philadelphia. The building was designed in the typical U-shape to keep large numbers of inmates. Because large groups of prisoners were kept in large rooms and were brought outside to a large court yard there was a lot of contact between the inmates. This contact often resulted is lots of violence. The prison was overcrowded and dirty, and inmates attacked each other regularly. Prisoners who served their sentences often came out more violent and less adapted to society than before their incarceration. In a later period, an addition to the jail was made. The new wing included a series of small cells designed to hold individual prisoners. The cells and the corridors connecting them were designed to prevent prisoners from communicating with each other. This part of the prison is the first prison with the auburn regime.
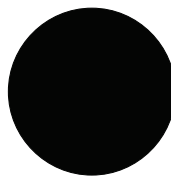
- Panopticon

fig 1.2.2

The panopticon is a design by Jemery Bentham and is the first thoughtful design of a prison (fig 1.2.9). The concept of the design is to allow a watchman to observe all inmates without them being able to tell if they are being observed. A circular structure with the inspection house in it allowed the guards to watch the inmates, who are stationed around the perimeter. There is more information about this prison form in essay 5 Panopticism.
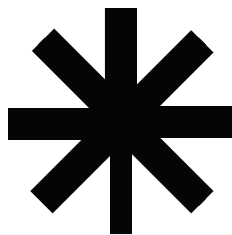
- Star shape

fig 1.2.3

The star-shape is a variant of the octagonal shape. It has cell placed opposite to each other and has multiple courtyards. The first design of a prison form like this is the prison of Eastern state designed by John Haviland (1.3.1). The complexes consist of cell wings radiating in a semi or full circle array from a center tower from where the prison could be kept under constant surveillance. The plan consisted of an octagonal center connected by corridors to seven radiating single-story cell blocks, each containing two ranges of large single cells.

1.1.9 Symbol of rectangular shape
1.2.0 Symbol of octagonal shape
1.2.1 Symbol of the U-shape
1.2.2 Symbol of the Panopticon
1.2.3 Symbol of the Star shape
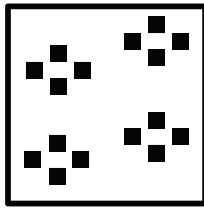
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- Campus shape

fig 1.2.4

The campus design is characterized by freestanding buildings surrounded by a large open space, often in the shape of a rectangle (Johnston, 2000). Campus-style prisons were originally developed for housing women and juvenile inmates and were first seen in France beginning in 1840. Such prisons typically consist of several small housing and operations builds, sometimes referred to as "pods," that allow for more direct supervision of inmates. Campus facilities are also much less expensive to build than facilities relying on high walls and guard towers, which are design features found in many telephone pole prison facilities.
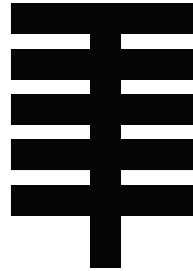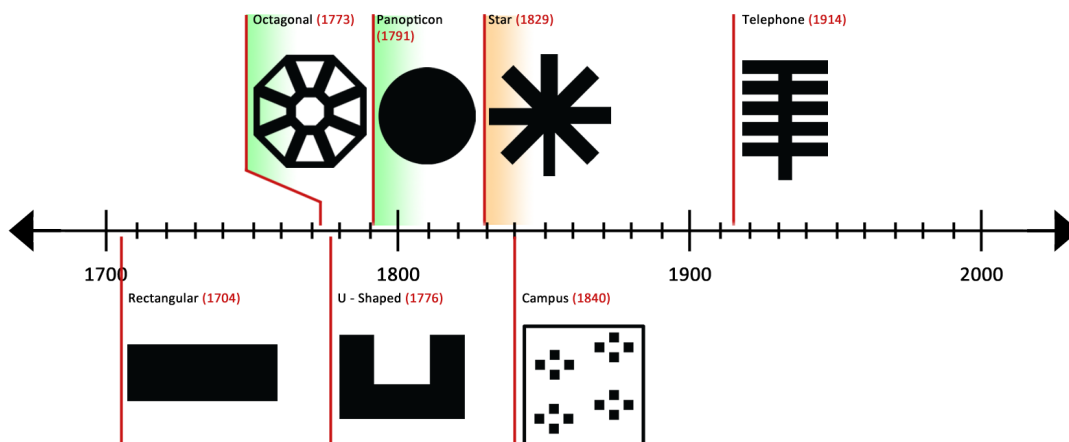
- Telephone pole shape

fig 1.2.5

The telephone pole design is characterized by several rows of parallel multistory buildings, or pavilions, connected by one or two main corridors. From above such buildings resemble the rungs of a typical above-ground telephone pole. The first prison of this type in the United States opened in 1914 (Johnston, 2009). The telephone pole layout grew in prominence in the United States between the two World Wars, especially in Texas. The idea behind the telephone pole design was increased security and restricted movement of inmates outside of the corridors (Johnston, 2000). Many telephone pole cellblock corridors were notorious for being dramatically long, making it difficult for guards to observe all inmates all the time. Though the design was intended to overcome security problems and make it easier for administrators to classify agricultural work squads during times of racial segregation, the design actually amplified problems for prison administrators. An example is that telephone pole prisons may cause difficulty in controlling riots, particularly when such prisons were built to house large numbers of inmates.

fig 1.2.6

1.2.4 Symbol of Star shape
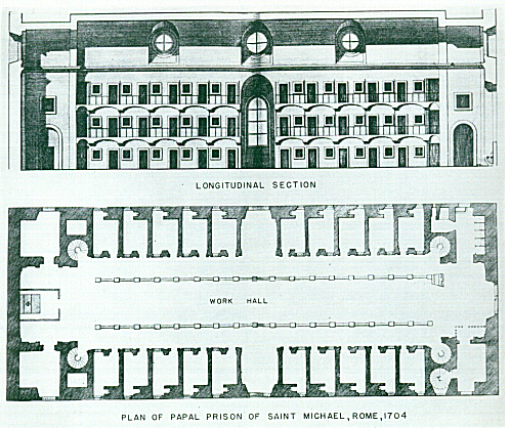1.2.5 Symbol of Campus shape
1.2.6 timeline Prison Shapes

LONGITUDINAL SECTION

WORK HALL

PLAN OF PAPAL PRISON OF SAINT MICHAEL, ROME, 1704

fig 1.2.7

WALNUT STREET JAIL
PHILADELPHIA PENNA. 1790

fig 1.2.8

fig 1.2.9

ELEVATION OF THE CRIMINALS WARD

EXERCISE COURT

CENTER COURT

ENTRANCE COURT

WOMENS COURT

COURT FOR MEN

COURT FOR VAGRANT MEN

PARTIAL DETAIL FLOOR PLAN
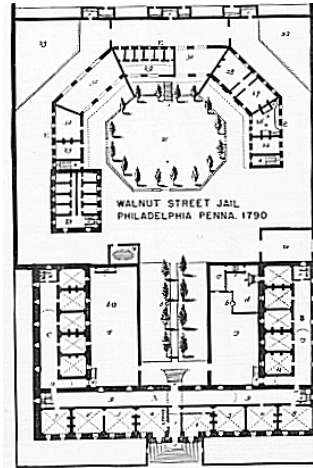
fig 1.3.0

fig 1.3.1

1.2.7 St. Michaels Hospital
Rome
(www.sciencedirect.com)
1.2.8 Walnutstreet Jail
(www.sheldensays.com)
1.2.9 Panopticon design by
Jeremy Bentham
(http://en.wikipedia.org/)
1.3.0 Villains penal
workhouse Ghent
(www.sheldensays.com)
1.3.1 Pensylvania Eastern
state Prison
(www.opacity.us)

7

Types of inmates

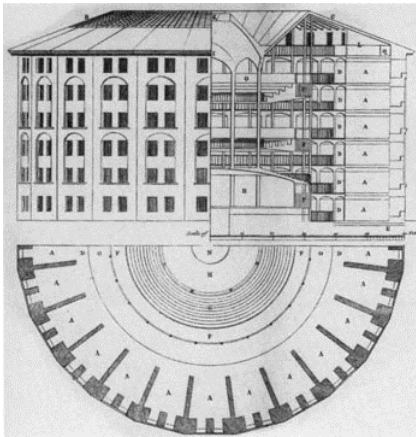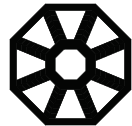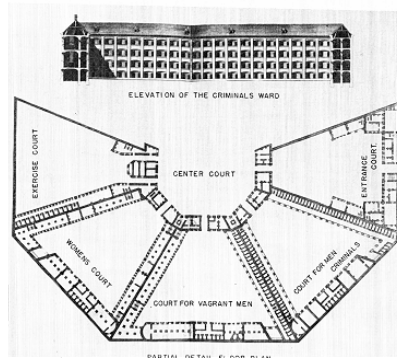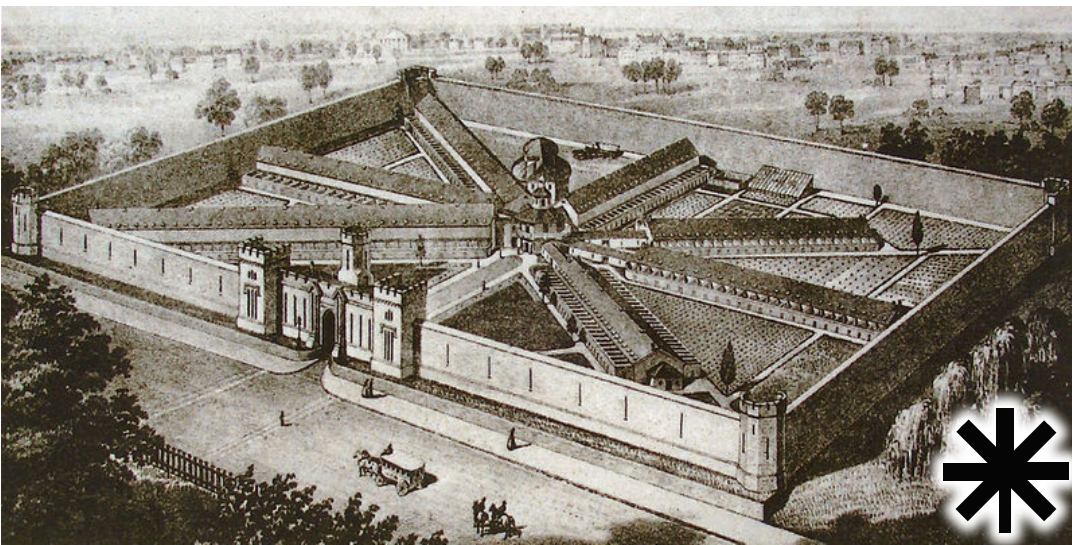There are many different types of inmates. There are different sexes, ages, backgrounds, ethnic diversities and different kinds of crimes. However, not all diversities result in a different kind of prison. Over time, prisons were introduced for different kinds of people, mostly to protect them from other prisoners or to protect other prisoners from them. The first group to be separated was the mental patients. Later children and women were separated for their own protection. Finally, the military prisoners were separated to be able to introduce military security.
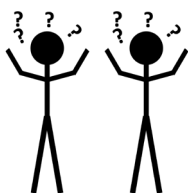(fig 1.2.0)

- Mental Institution

fig 1.3.2

'Houses for the insane' have been around for centuries. The Egyptians were the first to create a facility to imprison only the 'insane' in the year 872. However, specialized treatment and therapy was introduced in these facilities in the nineteenth century, upgrading the 'house for the insane' to a mental institution. Whereas the 'insane' were mostly kept in cells and treated like ordinary prisoners, the patients in the mental institutions are treated more like patients in a hospital. The focus shifted from punishment to treatment and care. The sentencing time is not a number of years prescribed by a judge, but the time it takes to complete a certain treatment.

- Juvenile Institution

fig 1.3.3

In 1825 the first juvenile institution was opened in New York, "House of Refuge", as a result of concerns about the influence of overcrowding prisons on children. The House of Refuge was the first institution only for children. Not only children who committed a crime were brought here, it was also a home for orphans, poor children and other children not wanted by society. In 1899 the juvenile court was established in Cook County, Illinois. Children would get a different (shorter) sentence and there was now more focus on the rehabilitation and upbringing of the children. More states followed shortly and juvenile institutions started to focus only on juvenile delinquents, rather than all children with no place in society.

fig 1.3.4

1.3.2 Symbol for the Mental Institution
1.3.3 Symbol for the juvenile institutions
1.3.4 Juvenile prisoner (http://justice4juveniles.files.wordpress.com/)

- Women's Prison

fig 1.3.5

Women's prisons were founded as a result of concerns about an increasing amount of cases of molesting and rape. Before women were in separated prisons, they were often the victim of aggression and sexual abuse by other (male) prisoners. In 1870 the state of New York decided to put an end to this and established the first women's prison in Mount Pleasant, New York. The women got a different treatment because of their higher vulnerability for stress and there were extra facilities like MBU's (Mother and Baby Units). At first women's prisons were very unforgiving for pregnant women. If they refused to work they would not get their medication or other treatment. Until 1964 women's prisons were only guarded by women to protect them from being abused by male guards.
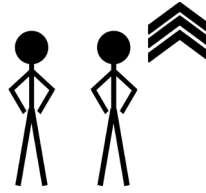
-Military Prison

fig 1.3.6

Military prisons were first introduced in 1875 in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, USA. Having a prison for prisoners of war during a conflict has been common for centuries, but it wasn't until 1875 that military personnel from the native country would be locked up separately from normal prisoners. Because military personnel is trained in a very strict and disciplinary way, the prisons would also treat them in that way. Not only the different kind of treatment was a reason to separate military personnel from ordinary civilians, it also enables the prison to be guarded in a different and heavier way. Military prisons are always guarded by the military to make escaping impossible. Sometimes criminals who tend to form a risk for national security are also kept in a military prison. A famous example is Guantanamo Bay in Cuba.

Mental Institutions (872)

Women's prison (1870)

1700   1800   1900   2000

Juvenile Institution
(1825)

Military Prison (1875)
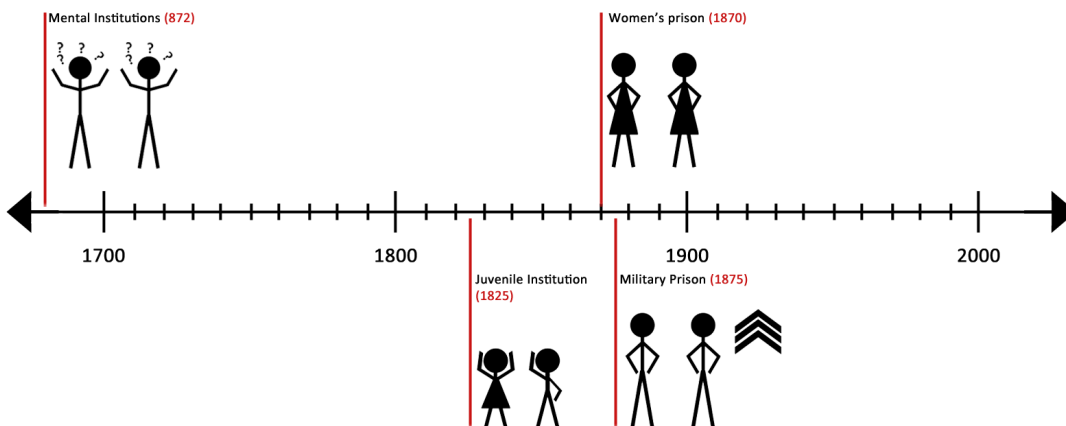
fig 1.3.7

1.3.5 Symbol for Womens
         Prison
1.3.6 Symbol for Military
         Prison
1.3.7 Timeline Kind of
         Prisoners

Relations between regime types, building types and types of inmates
- Regimes:

The Quaker System was a pioneering regime type mostly because in the Quaker System prisoners would almost always be in solitary confinement. It formed an inspiration and example for other prisons and prison reformers.

The Pennsylvania System was in many ways derived from the Quaker System. Both of the systems were developed by the Quaker's and both originated in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The Pennsylvania System enhanced the parts that seemed to be working and discarded the ones that didn't. Solitary confinement and repentance were still the key components of the regime, but it became more humane.

As an opposing reaction to the Quakers System and the Pennsylvania System, the Auburn system was developed in Auburn, New York State in 1821. Whereas the Quaker and Pennsylvania System both thought labor to be a distraction from the process towards remorse of the prisoners, the Auburn System thought otherwise. Work was thought to be an important tool for prisoners in order to rehabilitate.

After the Auburn System was introduced, it became clear that it was much more effective in rehabilitating prisoners. In the following years the Auburn System became the dominant regime and over time most of the prisons operating under the Quaker or Pennsylvania System were either closed or switched to the Auburn System.

- Regime types & Building types:

Between the regimes and the Building Types some cohesion can be found. The earliest cohesion between regime and building type is found at the octagonal prisons (1773). The prisons were intended to provide a 360 degree view in order to guard all prisoners from center of the prison. The regime in the octagonal prisons became known as the Centralized System and was later also implemented in the Jeremy Bentham's Panopticon (1791).

The difference between the Panopticon and the octagonal prison was that there were corridors in the octagonal prison, preventing guards to be able to look into every cell from the center of the prison. The Panopticon was an improvement on the basic principles of the octagonal prisons. The prisons became exactly circular and provided a view directly into the cells of the inmates.

Later, in 1821, the latest evolution in the centralized building types was introduced. It was the star shape, which looked like the octagonal prison in many ways. It had a central place for the guards and a few long corridors that stem from the middle. The biggest difference between these types was the regime. The star shape was developed alongside the Pennsylvania System and together they formed a new standard in prison types. The Pennsylvania system was developed eight years before it was implemented into the star shaped building type. The building type was developed for the Pennsylvania system.

In the transition from the octagonal to the star shaped prisons, they experimented with some hybrid types, such as the flower shaped type (1862) as illustrated below.
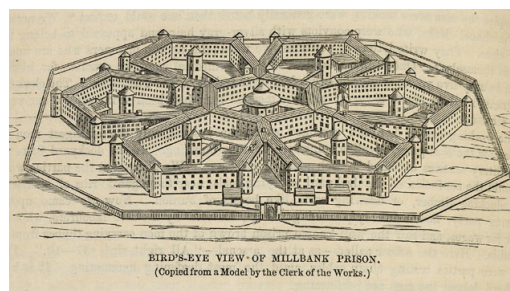
- Types of inmates:

Introducing prisons for certain kinds of inmates was not common for a long time, except for mental institutions. Until the 19th century, all kinds of prisoners were placed in the same prisons. At a given moment society demanded more humane circumstances in prisons, which made it necessary to separate different kinds of prisoners such as men and women, black, white and Hispanic etc.

It is remarkable that it's not possible to link different kinds of prisoners to a specific building type or regime. It seems that it is not that important for different prisoners in what kind of prison they are confined.

However, when different kinds of prisoners are confined in the same prison, it's necessary to be able to separate different ethnic groups or sexes for their own safety. An octagonal or star shaped prison is very useful in such a case, because you can assign different wings to different kinds of prisoners.

[1] http://legal-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/walnut+Street+Prison

BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF MILLBANK PRISON.
(Copied from a Model by the Clerk of the Works.)

Regime

Quaker System (1775)

Pennsylvania System (1821)

Mark System (1840)

Centralized System (1773)

Auburn System (1821)

1700   1800   1900   2000

Shape

Octagonal (1773)

Panopticon (1791)

Star (1829)

Telephone (1914)

1700   1800   1900   2000

Rectangular (1704)

U - Shaped (1776)

Campus (1840)

Inmates

Mental Institutions (872)

Women's prison (1870)

1700   1800   1900   2000

Juvenile Institution (1825)

Military Prison (1875)
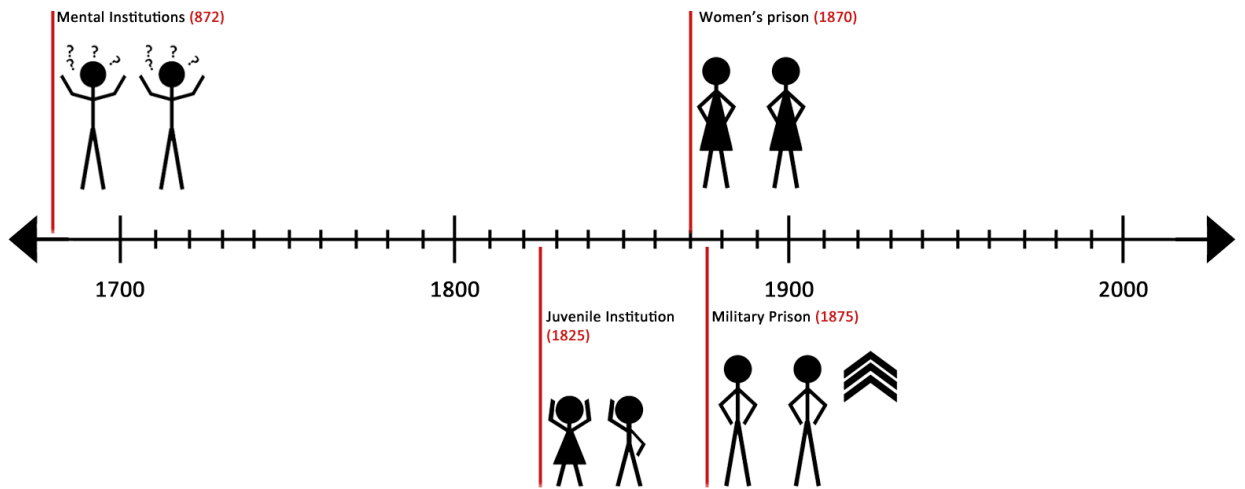
fig 1.3.5

1.3.5 Timelines

Conclusion

The analysis focused explicitely on three criteria to catagorize the prisons. During the analysis it became clear that it was not possible for all criteria to make a link to the other two.

It appears that within the analysed prisons there is very little cohesion between the different regimes, forms and kinds of inmates.

It is unknown if there would be more visible results if different criteria would have been chosen, such as the country/region of the prison, political climate and/or crime commited. At the start of the analysis these criteria seemed the most logical to base the analysis on.

However, what does become clear in the analysis is that the evolution of clear-cut prisontypes stalls in the mid-19th century, except for one building types (telephone pole). After the mid-19th century the evolutionary process in prison types becomes less clear. Different features of certain shapes and regimes get implemented in other types, creating hybrid types of prisons, thus improving and perfecting the prison types by adapting them to the needs of the individual regions and prisons. Hybrid prison types are becoming more common in the modern time, because prisons are becoming more specialized institutions, tailored to the specific needs of the local community and the society.

Due to these developments the regime types, building types and types of inmates become more linked to each other than before.

The development of prison types is much more an evolutionary process than a revolutionary process. New insights obtained from previous types were used to implent or avoid aspects from a certain type into a new regime type or building type. In most regime types you can see the influence of one or more previous types.

There are no fixed connections between regime types, building types and types of prisoners. Only the Centralized system is always connected to either the circular shape or the octagonal shape. Also the Pennsylvania system is mostly inplemented in a star shaped building, but not without exceptions.

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