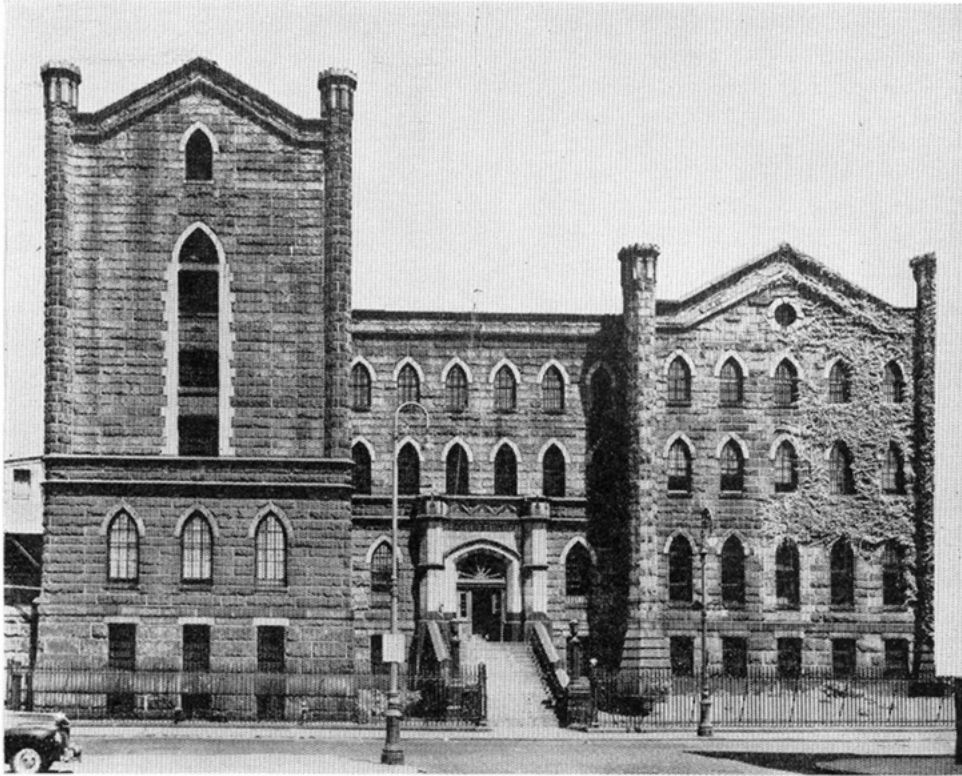


cupola. Like the former building the court room was on the second floor and was used for school exhibitions, town meetings and other public gatherings. Representing no penological advance, it had the additional disadvantage of inadequate security. Prisoners so frequently escaped from this jail that it was often facetiously remarked “. . . prisoners were in great danger of falling out of the Flatbush Jail.”

On November 30, 1832, the building took fire and was burned to the ground. From that time until the erection of the Raymond Street Jail in Brooklyn, prisoners arrested in Kings County were sent to the old Bridewell Prison located in New York's City Hall Park. At this time Flatbush ceased to be the County Town of Kings County; its courts and all its judicial and other business were transferred to Brooklyn.



“Raymond Street Jail” 149 Ashland Place, Brooklyn, N. Y.

The cornerstone of Raymond Street Jail for male prisoners was laid with appropriate ceremony on August 27, 1836 in the Fort Greene Park district of Brooklyn at Raymond and Willoughby Streets (Raymond Street is now Ashland Place). An addition for women prisoners, later known as the “Annex”, was completed in 1839. Forty years later, Brooklyn, now a separate city with a population of 750,000, expanded its prison facility, until in 1879, the prison was renovated into the greystone bastille known as the Raymond Street Jail which is now relegated to the pages of history and supplanted by the new Brooklyn House of Detention for Men.

Although Brooklyn officially became part of the City of New York in 1898, this jail, operated jointly with

the Kings County Penitentiary until 1907, was under the jurisdiction of the Sheriff of Kings County. The Brooklyn City Prison, as it was then known, was not taken over officially by the Department of Correction until January 1, 1908 and in the Official Report for the Department of Correction for 1908, we find the following description of the institution at the time: “Males were confined in dark, smelling cells with no light whatever, except that furnished from a flicker of a candle, a luxury to be enjoyed by those who had the means to procure this and at an exorbitant price. The odor arising from the cells was almost unbearable”.

“In the female’s prison, some eighty years ago, the conditions were largely the same.”