The Hall of Justice aka "The Tombs." 

The Women's Prison was served by the Sisters of Charity.

Female inmates' tiers. Courts. Two judges constituted the Special Sessions Court, but its sessions were often presided over by a single judge. Prisoners were defended there by counsel, and allowed to introduce witnesses in their own behalf. The Court had jurisdiction over all misdemeanors. There was no jury trial in this Court, so the accused had the choice of a trial here before the judge, or a trial in the Court of General Sessions before a jury. The defendant's decision had to be made in writing, and could not be retracted once made. Capital cases, burglaries, and other more serious charges were sent to the higher courts for trial. The Boys' Prison was also located in the Centre street side. The Women's and Boys' Prisons were served by the Sisters of Charity seeking to minister to the inmates' spiritual wants. One room of the prison was fitted up as a chapel and religious services were regularly held in it. The week was divided among various religious denominations as follows: Sunday and Tuesday mornings, Catholic; Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, Episcopalians; Monday, Methodist, and remaining days for other denominations.

A Wardens, two Deputy Wardens, and a Matron supervised Keepers guarding the prisoners. Kitchen work, cleaning chores and light work were done by about 30 boy prisoners. Besides the plain basic food provided by the prison, inmates were permitted to have provisions purchased for them outside and to receive them from their family or friends. Changes of clothing also were supplied by their families. Where families were too poor to make such provision, or where there were no families, the prisoners furnished the necessary clothing at city expense. Prisoners were allowed visits from family and friends. These were to be restricted to provide books and other reading matter. Inmates were required to exercise in the yard for an hour every day around the gallery of the tier on which their cell was located. They were allowed to smoke and to occupy themselves as they pleased during the day in their cells. But they were constantly kept locked in their cells, except when out for exercise. As a safeguard against fire, no lights were allowed in the cells at night.

The Tombs was a prison for detention where persons accused of crimes were confined until trial and sentence, if any. About 50,000 prisoners were annually admitted in it. As soon as they were sentenced, the convicts were sent to the institutions where they immediately started serving their terms, except those sentenced to be hanged. These remained at the Tombs for execution.

The Tombs granite came from old Bridgwell in City Hall Park, a pre-revolutionary prison torn down in 1838.

Toms Police Court.

The Hall of Justice featured a small jail on the site of a British gallows. Filling in the marshland was a job project designed to give work to the poor. Halls of Justice evacuation workers encountered the pond and put down humble logs as a platform on which to build. Five months after it opened the building began to sink, warping the walls and robbing them of their foundations. Masons and carpenters were forever on call, mending, patching, shoring up the structure. The low site's dampness contributed to the building being condemned by Grand Jurors as unhealthy and unfit for its purposes. Originally designed for about 200 inmates, more than twice that number were housed in it by the 1890s. Two smaller prisons of yellow brick were built in 1885 to relieve overcrowding.

The Tombs gallows yard.