

The County Jail

WHERE NAT TURNER WAS HELD

**NAT
TURNER
TRAIL**

1831
Southampton
Insurrection

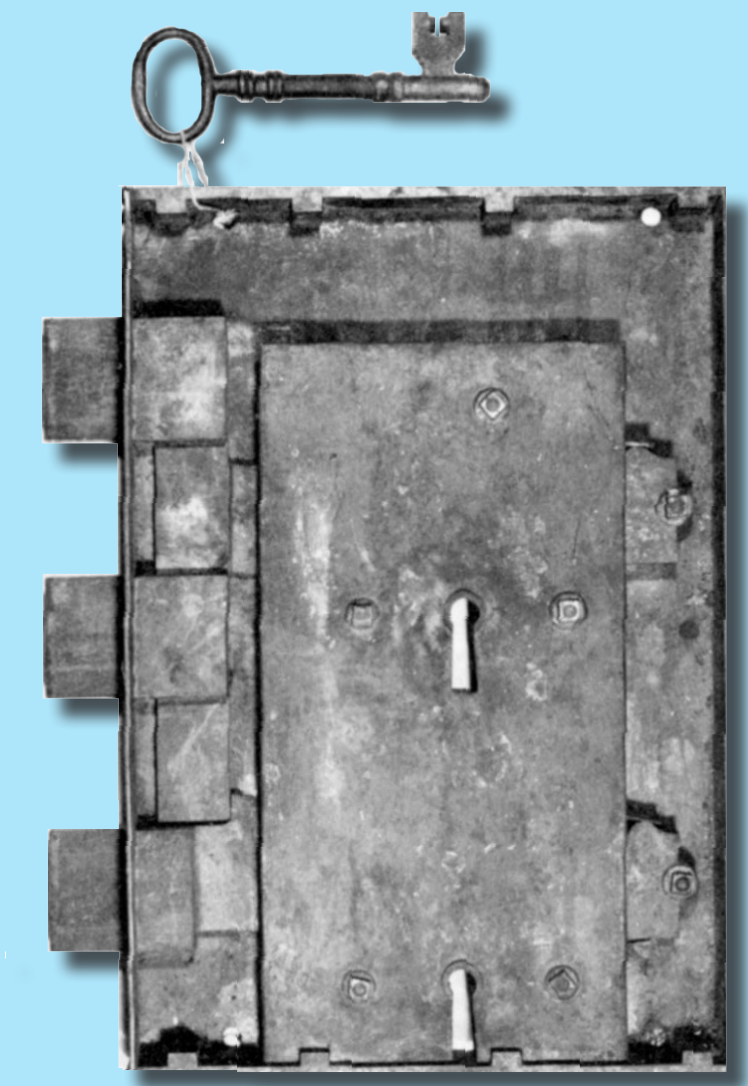
In 1831, a simple wooden structure stood here, next to the Southampton County Courthouse. Built as a jail, the small building held Nat Turner and many of his followers before trial and during the time between their sentencing and executions.

Nat Turner's Capture

When his rebellion collapsed, Nat Turner returned to the insurrection site on Cabin Pond Road. He hid for more than two months in makeshift "caves" until Benjamin Phipps captured him. Turner was delivered to the jail on October 31, 1831. Governor John Floyd had authorized a \$500 reward for Turner's capture. Edward Butts, deputy of Southampton County's sheriff Clements Rochelle, signed the receipt.



County Jail, Jerusalem, Va., site of Nat Turner's incarceration.



Lock and key from
Nat Turner's jail cell.

Courtesy of the Southampton County Historical Society

Speech and Photographs Relating to Nat Turner's Insurrection,
Accession # 10673, University of Virginia Library, Charlottesville, Va.



"The Capture of Turner," illustration,
Richmond Dispatch, July 23, 1835.

Speech and Photographs Relating to Nat Turner's Insurrection,
Accession # 10673, University of Virginia Library, Charlottesville, Va.

Jail and Judgment

Turner was chained and shackled upon his arrival. An extra militia guard ensured that no plot occurred to allow the escape of the insurrection's leader. From November 1 through 4, 1831, lawyer Thomas Ruffin Gray sat with "General Nat," recording *The Confessions of Nat Turner*. Turner was tried on November 5 by Southampton County's court of oyer and terminer. Justice of the Peace Jeremiah Cobb sentenced Turner to be "hanged by the neck until he be dead." Turner remained in jail until judgment was carried out. He was executed on November 11, 1831.



Drawing of Nat Turner, artist unknown.

Speech and Photographs Relating to Nat Turner's Insurrection,
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