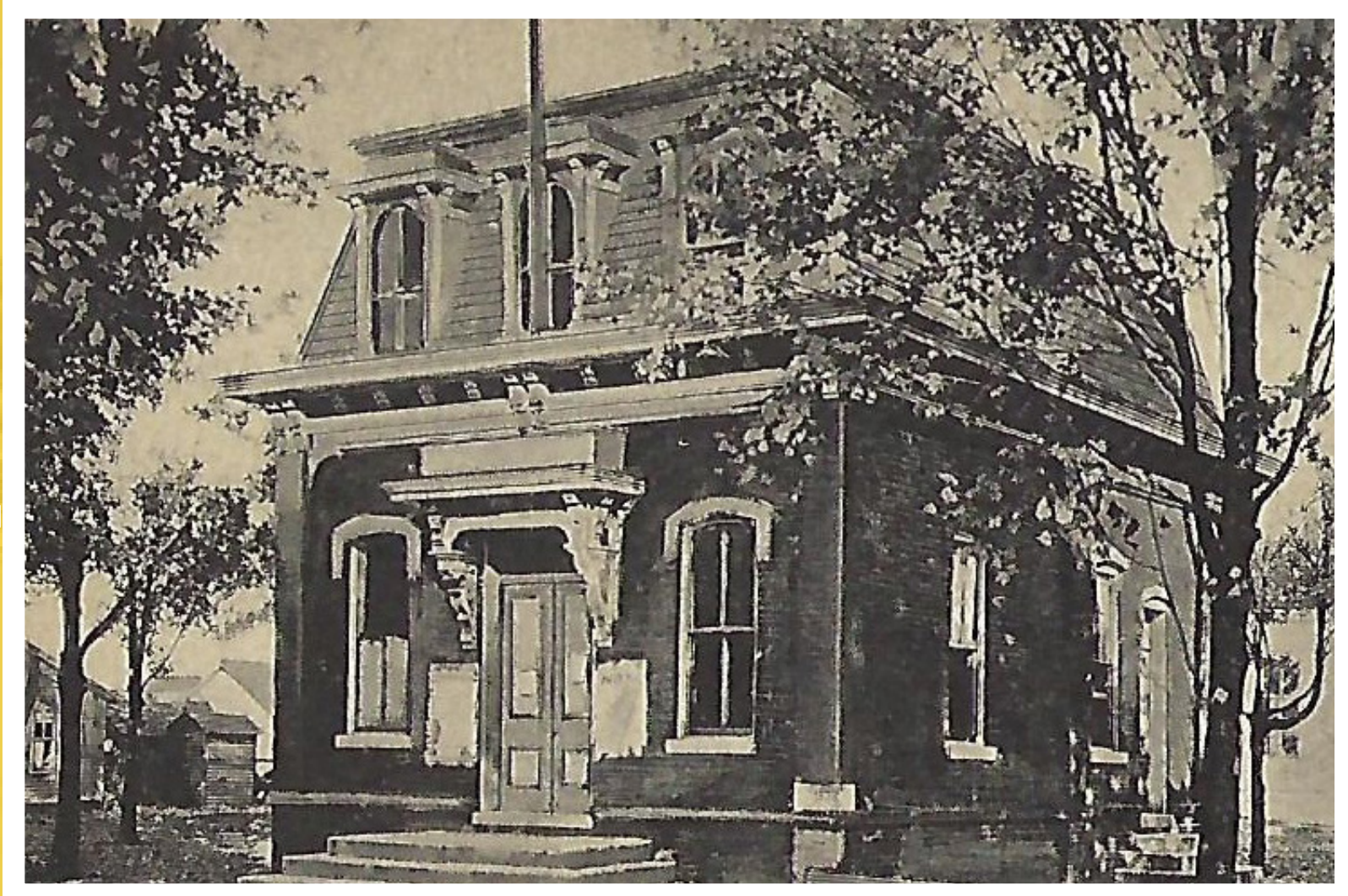


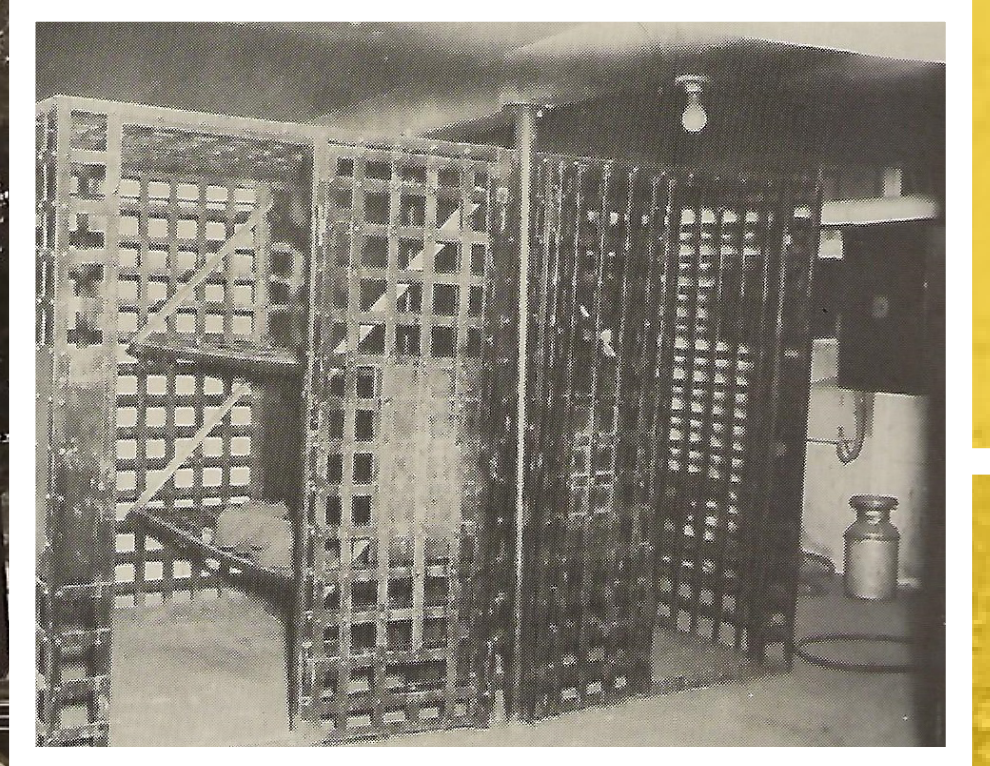
The Village Hall: A Changing Place



In 1869 Wayne officially became a village and need arose for a place to meet and do government business. In the late 1870s a design by James Lewis of Detroit was chosen, and it consisted of a two-story brick building built in the second empire style. In 1878 the building was finished and became the offices of the mayor, constable and justice of the peace. There was a small jail cell on the first floor and the village council met in the large room upstairs.



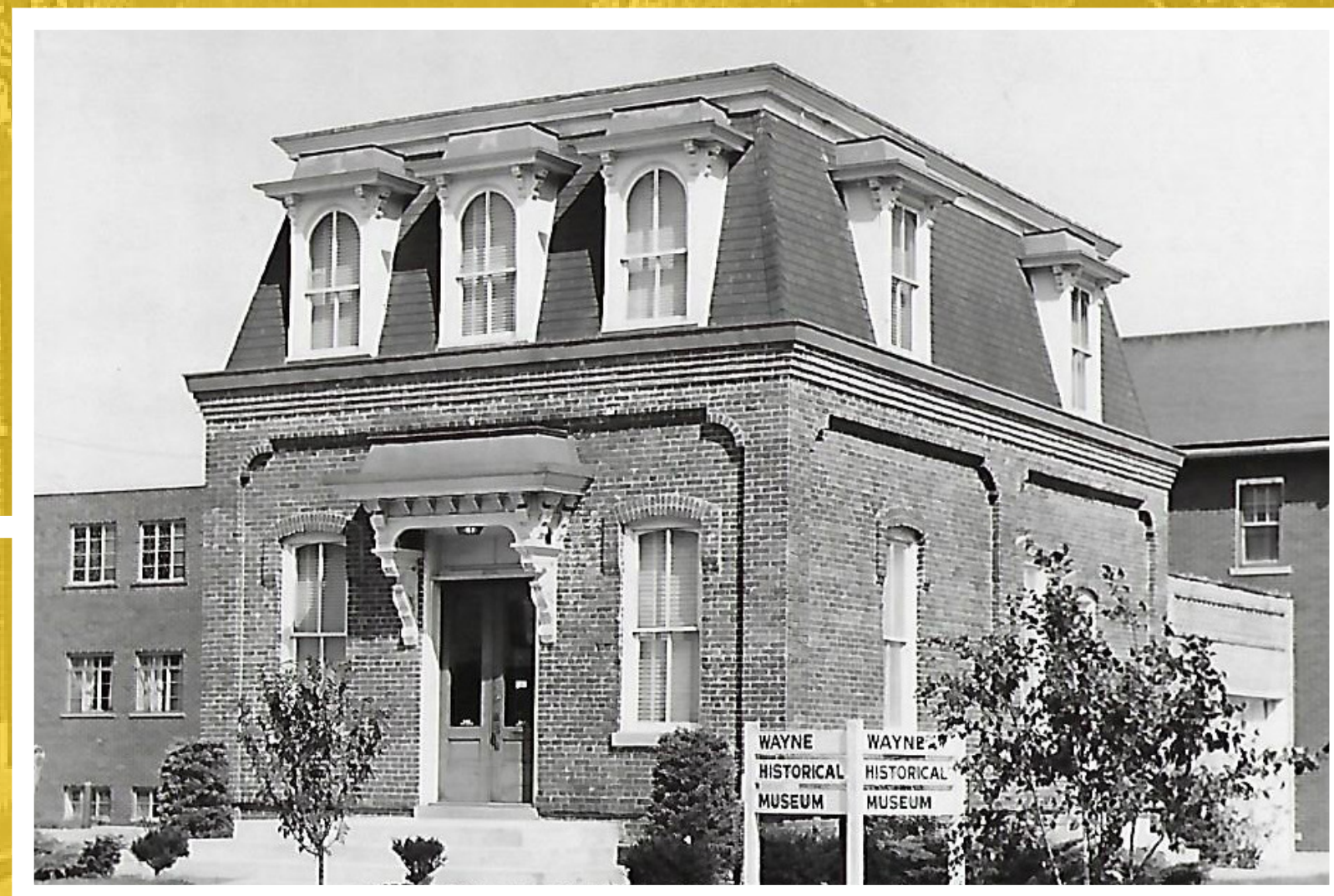
In the 1920s the building was converted to house the police and fire department. In 1924 a basement was dug under the building and jail cells were added, and in 1929 a fire pole was added from the second floor. Additions were made to the rear and side of the building to house two fire engines.



Jail cells in the basement



By the 1950s the police and fire departments had moved into their own new buildings. Before they left the building was featured on the cover of LIFE magazine in November, 1952, bringing Wayne national fame. The building was then used by the Chamber of Commerce and Junior Achievement.



In the 1960s an appreciation for Wayne's history began to develop, and it was decided to turn the old village hall into a town history museum. The building underwent a cleanup and remodel, and opened in 1965 as a museum.



In 1986 the Wayne Historical Society (with no taxpayer money) paid \$170,000 to build two additions onto the building and update all the mechanical systems. That same year it was listed on the Michigan historic buildings register.