The County Jail

A county jail stood across from the courthouse on Church and Market Streets from 1814 until 2007 when the mid-1900s version was demolished and a new facility built on Sycolin Road in Leesburg. The new courthouse is being constructed on the old jail site. Two lynchings are associated with the 1800s-era jail. In 1889, Orion Anderson was pulled from the jail by an angry mob and hung a few blocks away. The horror occurred again in 1902 when Charles Craven was seized from the jail and lynched several blocks east of the courthouse complex. During segregation, White and African-American prisoners lived in separate areas and shared few facilities. More information on the jail’s history can be found in the 2021 issue of the Historic Records newsletter: Historic Records Newsletter | Loudoun County, VA - Official Website.

1888 Jail, photograph ca. 1955 (Image courtesy of Thomas Balch Library)
During segregation, White and African-American prisoners lived in separate areas and shared few facilities. The blueprint for the jail expansion, shown below, designates the areas where White and African-American men could go during the day.

Blueprints for 1954 Jail Expansion-segregated section