



# Old prison and former district court

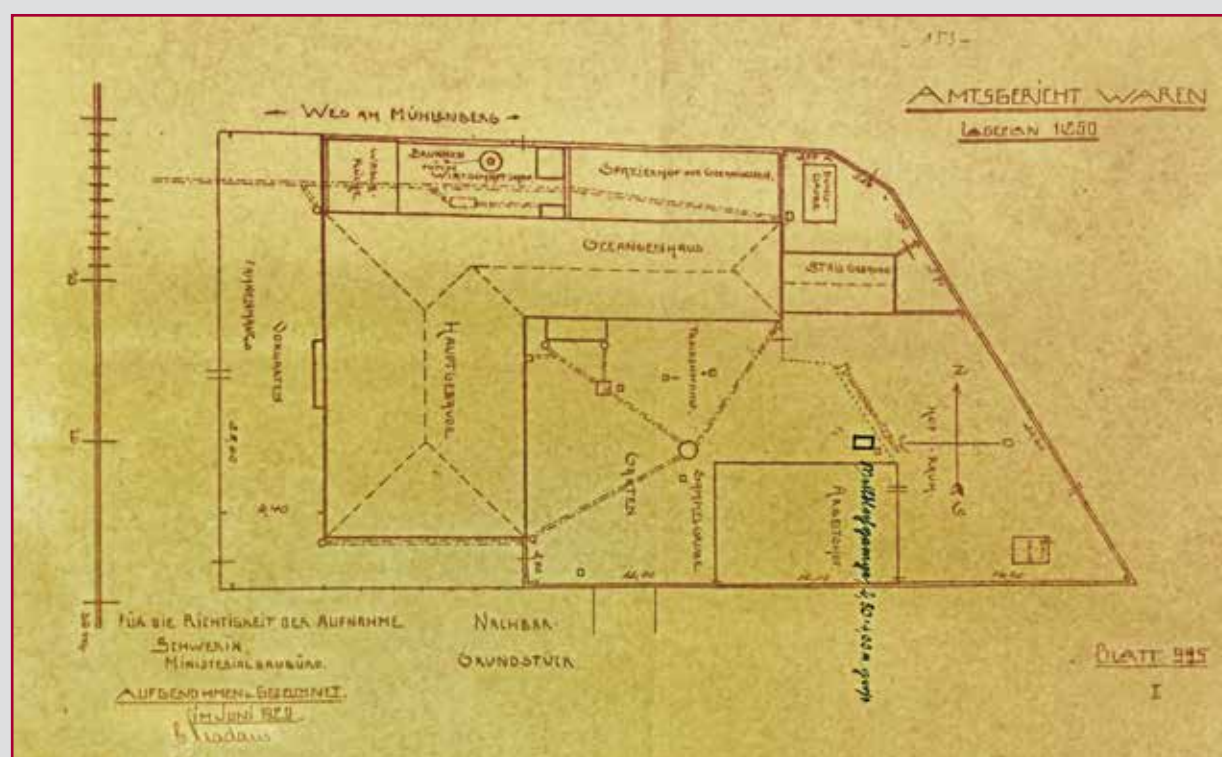
(formerly: Güstrower Str. 30 & Friedensstr. 30, today: Gerichtsweg 1 & Güstrower Straße 1)



Looking down what is today Güstrower Straße around 1910

## 1878

Ludwig Fehmer builds the district court building. The need for a courthouse arose after Mecklenburg-Schwerin acceded to the German Reich and adopted the Courts Constitution Act in 1879. District, county, and higher regional courts were formed across all German states. The representative district courts were allocated remand prisons which were required to have individual cells for detention, a kitchen and laundry room, a hospital and work room, a pantry, and living quarters for the guards. In Waren (Müritz), the „jail-house“ was located behind the courthouse. The entire complex was surrounded by high stone walls.



Ground plan of the building around 1920



This arrow was found in an old cell during the building works. It was quite likely intended to be used as a means of escape.

## 1880

The town court is converted into a district court.

## 1919

The district court submits applications for planning permission to build two pigsties in the court's sheds to assist with the prison warden's finances to both the town council and the State Commissioner for Demobilisation in Schwerin, including applications for delivery of the necessary volume of cement. „The erecting of the pigsties is in the interests of feeding the population and is a matter of urgency. It shall enable the prison warden to keep a sufficient number swine such that he can put the waste created by feeding the prisoners to good use and not let it go to waste.

## 1938

The district court building receives a fresh coat of plaster. The façade and roof are also simplified. The semi-arch adorning the top of the central risalit with the coat of arms of Mecklenburg disappears, as does the Lady Justice that was stood atop it. The house is coated with an ivory shade of lime sandstone. The iron fence running along Güstrower Straße is scrapped and replaced by a lower fence.



View of the courthouse around 1958



The old prison was surrounded by high walls



## 1945

In March 1945, parts of the prison cellar are re-purposed as an air raid shelter.

## 1949

The archives in the courthouse attic are converted between 1949 and 1951 in order to create two urgently necessary offices.

## 2005

After the district court is relocated to a new-build in the administration centre „Zum Amtsbrink“ in 2005, the house is sold to private owners.

## 2021

Because of its function, for a long time this historically important and well-preserved section of the old jail-house (which was approved for conversion into flats in 2021) appeared sealed off and impenetrable. The openings were fortified with criss-crosses of iron bars and an iron fence ran around the entire perimeter. While the original core structure of the inside of the building, with its cells and rooms, has already been converted, many elements of the old prison have been retained. Cell doors and window bars, for example, have been integrated into the residential block as a reminder of what the building was historically used for.



Corridor in the „Old Prison“ before and after the conversion in 2021

Quelle: Waren (Müritz) History Museum