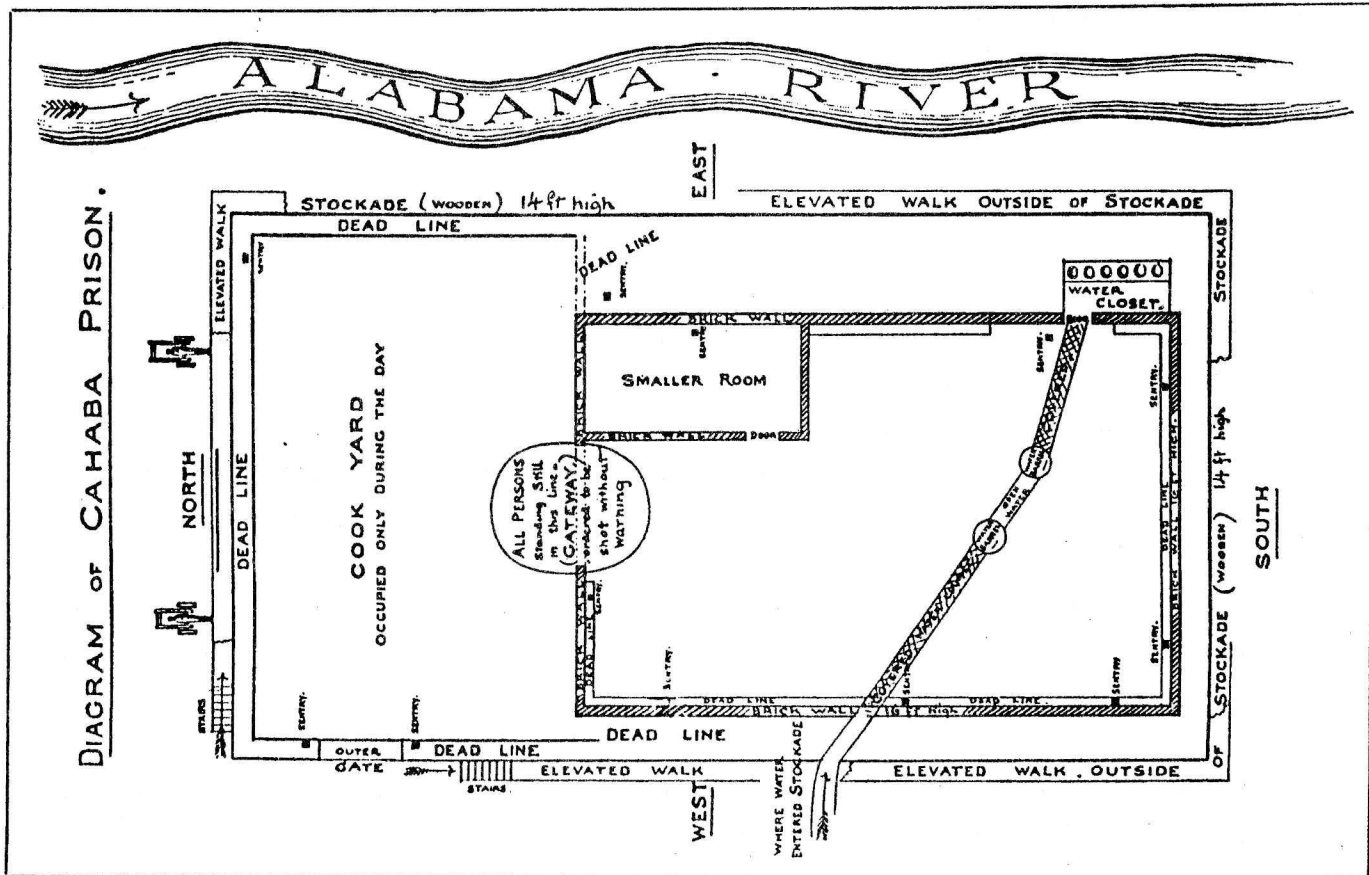


feet and was only partially roofed with the whole center area without overhead shelter.

Approximately 5000 men had been held in this small area from 1863 to 1865, with little protection from the elements, but it was perhaps the lack of sanitary conditions which caused the most disease and illness.



One Surgeon **Whitfield** wrote:

The supply of water for drinking, cooking, and bathing, as well as washing, was conveyed from a artesian well along an open street gutter for 200 yards, then under the street into the prison. In its course it was subjected to the washings of hands, feet, faces, and heads of soldiers and citizens. In it were rinsed buckets, tubs, and spittoons of groceries, offices and hospitals; in it could be found the filth from hogs, dogs, cows and horses, and filth of all kinds from the street and other sources.

The prisoners were given a daily ration of corn meal and few ounces of meat. In warm weather months, the meat was so rotten smelling that many could not eat it.

In February, 1865 the nearby Alabama River, flooded the prison grounds and the prisoners were left standing in waist deep freezing water. Eventually they were allowed to collect driftwood to pile high enough to allow some to escape the high water and finally approximately 700 were taken to nearby Selma while the remaining