

PH0062596

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Maryland
COUNTY:	Washington
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	DEC 24 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
Washington County Court House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
West Washington Street at Summit Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Hagerstown

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Sixth

STATE: Maryland CODE: 24 COUNTY: Washington CODE: 043

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PUBLIC ACQUISITION: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered			
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Board of County Commissioners of Washington County

STREET AND NUMBER:
Court House

CITY OR TOWN:
Hagerstown

STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Washington County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:
West Washington Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Hagerstown

STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

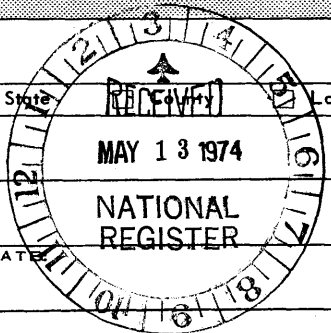
TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Maryland

COUNTY: Washington

ENTRY NUMBER: DEC 24 1974

DATE: _____

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	<i>(Check One)</i>					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	<i>(Check One)</i>			<i>(Check One)</i>		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Washington County Court House is located at the corner of Washington Street and Summit Avenue in Hagerstown, Maryland. It fronts on west Washington Street, facing north.

The Court House, dated 1872, is a two-story red brick structure with white trim and decorative work in brownstone. Its overall dimensions are 91 feet along Washington Street by approximately 119 feet on Summit Avenue. The building is seven bays in width with projecting end bays and a central tower on the facade. The foundations of coursed limestone are from an earlier Court House which burned. Walls are laid in all stretcher bond except for ornamental header brickwork. The mansard roof is covered with shingles.

The wall surface is broken by projecting corner towers faced with pilasters and a higher central tower which holds the main entrance. These vertical elements are complimented by horizontal recessed brick and projecting brownstone ornamentation. A white beltcourse, apparently of wood, runs between the first and second stories and rises to form a decorative gable over the main entrance. The expanse of the mansard roof is interrupted by the face of the central tower which carries an indented archway with the state seal of Maryland. Above the arch is a decorative circular opening.

Windows of the first and second stories have arched heads which hold fan lights. The second floor openings are wider and longer than those at the first story.

The main entrance to the Court House is located in the center bay of the facade. Above the door is a semi-circular fan. Other entrances in the facade are present in the end bays.

The eaves are finished with a broad frieze decorated with medallions above each window and brackets over each pilaster. According to J. Thomas Scharf, the cornice is of galvanized iron worked to look like stone.¹

The cornerstone of the Washington County Court House was laid on October 9, 1872. It was built by Robert C. Thornburg from plans submitted by H. A. and J. P. Simms of Philadelphia. The building is in excellent condition having recently undergone considerable restoration work. The property contains 123 feet by 240 feet.

An annex to the Court House was built in 1963.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

¹ J. Thomas Scharf, History of Western Maryland, Vol. 2, Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company, 1967, p. 1106.

3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1872

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

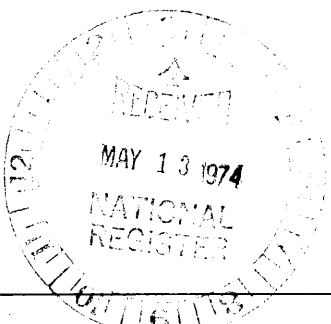
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The major significance of the Washington County Court House is its architecture. Dating from 1872, it is Italianate in style, examples of which are unusual in western Maryland. Although it was built during the Victorian period and is younger than many of Washington County's buildings, the Court House is an excellent example of later nineteenth century architecture for a public building.

The present Court House is the third such structure to be erected since 1776 when Washington County was carved from Frederick County. The first Court House was built of brick and stood in the center square of Hagerstown. It was a market house with county business being carried on in the second story. Small and unsafe as well as being an obstruction to the two main streets of Hagerstown, it was abandoned.

In 1816 a commission was appointed to select a lot and make preparations for the building of a new Court House. A site was chosen at the corner of West Washington and Jonathan Streets, the present location. The second Court House was designed by Benjamin H. Latrobe, architect for the U. S. Capital. General Samuel Ringgold, a distinguished citizen and influential land holder in Washington County was probably responsible for Latrobe's designing the building. (Latrobe also designed Ringgold's house, "Fountain Rock," now St. James School.) The Latrobe Court House consisted of a square hall topped with a dome and flanked by symmetrical wings. Architectural drawings for the building are in possession of the Washington County Historical Society. On December 6, 1871, the Latrobe building was destroyed by fire.

The form of the present Court House was chosen from designs submitted to a committee of the Washington County Bar by H. A. and J. P. Simms, architects of Philadelphia. Dedicated in 1874, the Court House, having completed a century of use, is an outstanding building in Washington County and western Maryland.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hamlin, Talbot, Benjamin Henry Latrobe, New York: Oxford University Press, 1955. (Second Court House.)
 The Historical Records Survey, Division of Women's and Professional Projects, W.P.A., Inventory of the County and Town, Archives of Maryland, Baltimore: Historical Records Survey, December, 1937.
 Scharf, J. Thomas, History of Western Maryland, Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1967.
 Williams. T.J.C., History of Washington County, Hagerstown: Mail Publishing Co., 1906.

(see continuation sheet)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

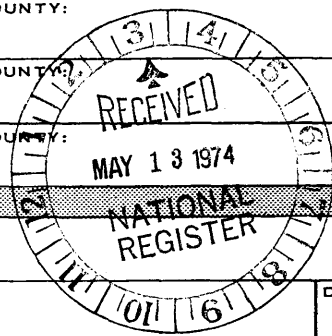
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		39 ° 38 ' 34 "	77 ° 43 ' 23 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

UTM
18/26636
4371440
C2

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Paula Stoner Dickey, Consultant

ORGANIZATION: Washington County Historic Sites Survey

STREET AND NUMBER: Court House Annex

CITY OR TOWN: Hagerstown

STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

DATE: January 1974

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Orlando Ridout IV

Orlando Ridout IV
State Historic Preservation Officer

Title _____

Date May 3, 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

[Signature]
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 12/24/74

ATTEST:

[Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date 12.24.74

State

STATE	Maryland
COUNTY	Washington
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY BY	DATE
DEC 2 1974	

**RECEIVED NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

DEC 16 1974

(Continuation Sheet) #1

NATIONAL REGISTER
(Number all entries)

Washington County Court House

7. DESCRIPTION, continued

Minor alterations have been made to the exterior of the Washington County Court House since it was built in 1872. The original brick surface was painted white some time near the turn of the century, probably between 1900 and 1910. The trim was painted a contrasting color. Photographs show that the building was painted red during the early 1950's.

About the time the annex was constructed in 1963, some of the original Victorian window frames were replaced. The original windows were pairs of single-pane sashes separated by a thick vertical mullion. Side entrances of the facade and the west wall of the building were bricked up at the same time. Other alterations included the replacement of the slate roof with modern asphalt shingles and the removal of decorative dormers and iron work on the towers.

The 1972-73 restoration work was completed under the direction of Jeff Chapman, architect. The work included the removal of paint from the bricks by means of chemical solvents and sandblasting. The bricks were sealed with silicone. The "modern" metal entrance doors were replaced with heavy wooden doors and the doors at the ends of the facade were restored although they are not workable.

The interior of the building has received substantial alterations. Because of the county office requirements, few interior changes are being considered at this time. Some restoration work is planned, however, for the entrance hall.

The 1963 annex to the Washington County Court House is attached to the main structure by a narrow enclosed stair tower which connects the north elevation of the annex to the center of the south elevation of the main court house. The principal entrances to the annex are in its west elevation. It is a three-story structure of brick and reinforced concrete. Long plate glass windows trimmed with small variegated tiles are present at all elevations.

8. SIGNIFICANCE, continued

The major significance of the Washington County Court House is its architecture. It is also important for its role as the seat of Washington County's government. Dating from 1872 the court house is an example of a public building constructed in the second empire style which was at its zenith during the 1860's and 1870's. The Washington County Court House with its distinctly three-dimensional appearing

(See continuation sheet No. 2)

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet) #2

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Washington	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	DEC 24 1974

(Number all entries)

Washington County Court House

8. SIGNIFICANCE, continued

walls, its arched windows and its mansard roof accentuated with projecting towers distinctly reflect the second empire style. Examples of this type of architecture, particularly as evidenced in public buildings are rare in the Cumberland Valley. Many second empire buildings are almost encrusted with decorative trim in the form of archways, classical orders and elaborate roof curbing. The Washington County Court House is a less ornate example of the style but does appear pure in form and is an excellent representative of late 19th century architecture for a public building.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES, continued

(Other information on file with the Washington County Historical Society, Hagerstown, Maryland).

