

PH0280321 DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED AUG 29 1975

DATE ENTERED

NOV 12 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Garrett County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

Garrett County Courthouse

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Third Street at Alder Street, SE corner

--NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Oakland

-- VICINITY OF

Sixth

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Maryland

24

Garrett

023

**3 CLASSIFICATION****CATEGORY** DISTRICT BUILDING(S) STRUCTURE SITE OBJECT**OWNERSHIP** PUBLIC PRIVATE BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION** IN PROCESS BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS** OCCUPIED UNOCCUPIED WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE** YES: RESTRICTED YES: UNRESTRICTED NO**PRESENT USE** AGRICULTURE COMMERCIAL EDUCATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL MILITARY MUSEUM PARK PRIVATE RESIDENCE RELIGIOUS SCIENTIFIC TRANSPORTATION OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Commissioners of Garrett County

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Garrett County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Oakland

-- VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Garrett County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Third and Alder Streets

CITY, TOWN

Oakland

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Situated on the western slope of a hill with retaining walls around it and two falls in the lawn, the Garrett County Courthouse stands at the intersection of Third Street (U.S. Route 210) and Alder Street, southeast corner, in Oakland, Maryland.

The Courthouse is a 1907-1908 neo-classical Renaissance Revival masonry structure in the form of a Latin Cross with a central rotunda. It is three stories high and has a low metal covered roof and dome. The south, west, and north wings are equal in length with the larger fourth wing projecting to the east or the uphill side. The equal length wings have tetrastyle Roman Ionic porticos (four columns) in front of the second and third floors. The ground floor serves as a rusticated base with three archways below each portico. The archways of the front or west side are open and form an entrance porch. The north and south archways are closed with windows. The sides of the east wing have Ionic pilasters of brick between the windows. The second and third stories are built of yellow brick. The building is encircled by a broad, dentilled cornice.

The principal windows of the upper levels have double-hung wooden sashes with one-over-one lights. The second story windows have classical pedimented entablatures supported by scroll brackets. The third story windows extend into the cornice except for the inner windows along the east wing which have flat arches with keystones. The windows on the ground level have fanlights of one pane above casement windows.

The tetrastyle porticos have stone balustrades with crossed balusters. The pediments above the porticos have raised floral sculpture with a center circular window in the south and north porticos and a clock in the front or west portico. The west portico has the name "Garrett County Courthouse" in applied letters above the open arches. The letters were added in recent years for they do not appear on early photographs of the building.

The low dome has an octagonal base with anthemions around it and is surmounted by an eagle with his wings spread. The metal covering on the dome has a crisscross pattern.

On the interior, the rooms radiate out of a central rotunda that has a marble floor and is open to the top. The upper level rooms are arranged in galleries around the open space. The courtroom is located on the third floor of the east wing. The trim through the interior is symmetrical in form and that in the rotunda and galleries is grained in simulation of "golden oak."

The Garrett County Courthouse is structurally sound and basically unaltered since its erection in 1907-1908.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

James Rieley Gordon

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Garrett County Courthouse, a 1907-1908 Renaissance Revival structure, is the second courthouse erected in Garrett County since its formation in 1872.

The first courthouse was built about 1877 and stood at Fourth and Green Streets in Oakland. It was a two and a half story brick structure of which part is included in the present Board of Education Building. Until its construction, the county government was housed wherever available office space could be found.

By the early 1900's, the county government had outgrown its quarters and plans were prepared for constructing a new courthouse. The present location at Third and Alder Streets, was purchased by the County Commissioners in 1905. (Garrett County Deed Book 49/396). At the November elections of the following year, the voters approved a bond issue for \$75,000 for building the new structure. (Radoff, p. 91). The contract for construction with a price of \$60,962 was awarded to W. A. Liller of Keyser, West Virginia. (Weeks, p. 27). The cornerstone was laid in 1907 and the building was completed by November, 1908.

The Courthouse was designed by James Riely Gordon (1863-1937), a New York architect who had a reputation as a specialist in designing government buildings. Gordon was a native of Winchester, Virginia, and studied architecture in San Antonio, Texas. Included among his works are the state capitol buildings of Arizona and Mississippi, nearly seventy courthouses, and a number of churches, hotels, and hospitals. While working on the Garrett County Courthouse, Gordon was associated with the New York architectural firm of Tracy and Swartout. (Withey and Withey, p. 241-242).

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Commissioners' Proceedings, Liber D, Garrett County Courthouse, Oakland, Md.  
 Garrett County Land Records, Courthouse, Oakland, Md.  
 Morgan, William. Garrett County Inventory, Notes. Files of Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, Maryland.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA (See continuation sheet No. 1)

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 132 feet by 165 feet  
 UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>1,7</u>	<u>6,3,7</u>	<u>1,6,0</u>	<u>4,3</u>	<u>6,2</u>	<u>9,8,0</u>	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING				
C							D			

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property measures approximately 132 feet along Third Street by 165 feet along Alder Street.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Ronald L. Andrews, Historic Site Survey

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Tri-County Council for Western Maryland, Inc.

4/24/75

sao

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Algonquin Motor Inn, Suite 510

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Cumberland

Maryland

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Jim Pearce*

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

Aug. 21, 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

11/12/95

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

NOV 11 1975

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED

NOV 12 1975

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

Garrett County Courthouse  
Garrett County

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Weeks, Thekla Fundenburg. Oakland Centennial History 1849-1949.  
Oakland, Maryland: Sincell Publishing, 1949.

Withey, Henry F. and Elsie R. Withey. Biographical Dictionary of  
American Architects (Deceased). Los Angeles: New Age  
Publishing Company, 1956.